



# The Baker County Press

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## Rising police, fire needs focus of presentations

**• CITY COUNCIL HEARS STAFFING WISH LIST AT GOAL SETTING SESSION**

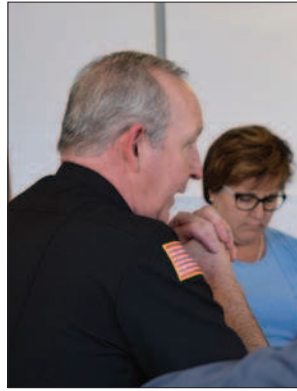
**BY KERRY McQUISTEN**  
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On Monday evening, about a dozen attendees including several City Council members, City Manager Mike Kee, and department heads, gathered in the City

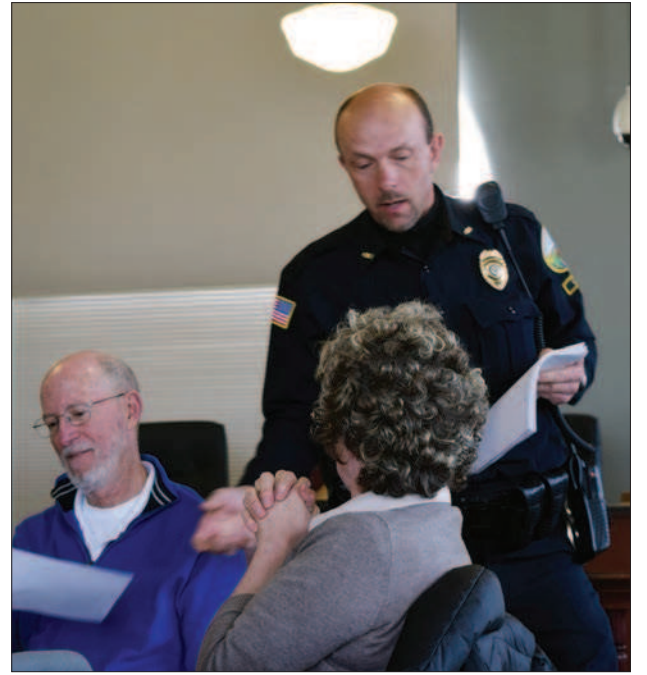
Hall Council Chambers to begin outlining Council goals for the coming year. The meeting lasted just under four hours and focused on goal-setting for streets, government and administration, water and wastewater, public parks, economic development, and public safety. While the prevailing sentiment in the room was that personnel costs should continue to be kept to a minimum for the sake of

local taxpayers, and most City departments were currently adequately staffed, the area of public safety was the singular exception. Baker City Police Chief Wyn Lohner and Baker City Fire Chief Mark John each pointed to a sharp and continued increase in community needs and demands on their respective departments.

**SEE GOAL-SETTING PAGE 2**



*Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press*  
Fire Chief Mark John hopes for additional staffing.



*Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press*  
Police Chief Wyn Lohner says while reports, responses and arrests have risen significantly, staffing and overtime remain at a decreased level.

## 'Pinocchio' comes to Pine Eagle



*Carmelita Holland / The Baker County Press*

The Missoula Children's Theatre of Montana brought a classic play to the Panhandle last weekend.

**BY CARMELITA HOLLAND**  
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In the original old fairy tale, Geppeto, the wood carver, fashioned a puppet he named Pinocchio in the image of a small boy, unaware the wood under the chisel had come from an enchanted tree. The story was re-written and brought to the Panhandle by the Missoula Children's Theatre of Montana.

On Saturday afternoon, students of Pine Eagle Charter School, from grades K through 12, demonstrated to a hall filled with families and friends, their version of the story.

Adding to enjoyment was pianist Dona Schmidt accompanying the performances, and frequently providing an exciting, suspense-filled setting for the drama.

Introducing the first act was theatre actress, Mandy Corbett, who verbally set the stage with Pinocchio, played by Vincent Goracke beginning as a wooden puppet.

An energetic Jimmy Cricket was played by Hunter Simpson.

The beautiful Blue Fairy who "watched from afar, and gave to the puppet the gift of life" was played by Darby Shouse.

The whole cast wore colorful costumes. Seth Butler played the unsavory fox. Katelyn Thomas played the cat. Chad McCall was Candlewick, and the crew who traveled the road to Pleasure Isle with Pinocchio were Maddie Morgan, Morgan Holton, Liz Cantrell, Will Seggerman, and Chris Millhollin.

The friendly urchins who helped tell the story were Alexis Marshall, Kiley Chetwood, Kerri Stutzman-Rowen, Coy Butner, Jazmine Marshall, Bryce Ransom, Chase Butner, McKenna Olsen, Sammy Pollock and Kandice Holland.

Warming the hearts of the audience were eighteen "school kids" from lower grades, and a dozen "toys" all in full costumes, including a number of toy soldiers in red uniforms.

All of the local actors were chosen from students who volunteered on Monday to audition. They had four days to learn their parts.

This play has been an annual project partially supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, in part by a grant from the Montana Arts Council, and local sponsors including Jacob's Dream, the Pine Eagle Education Foundation, and more.

## Man arraigned on first degree sex abuse charges

On Tuesday, April 5, 2016, Antoine Mulder, born November 30, 1949, of 2306 Church Street in Baker City, was arraigned on a Grand Jury Secret Indictment alleging one count of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a Class B

Felony. The charge is an Oregon ballot measure 11 offense, with a possible maximum 75-month sentence upon conviction, according to District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff. The alleged victim in the

case is a ten-year-old girl known to Mulder. Circuit Court Judge Greg Baxter set bail at \$50,000. An entry of plea date was set for April 26, 2016. Mulder previously resided in Washington State.



*Photo Courtesy of the Baker County Sheriff's Office.*  
Antoine Mulder.

## Rollover kills three

Oregon State Police (OSP) Troopers are continuing the investigation into this Monday morning's fatal crash on Interstate 84 westbound near Baker City, near milepost 306.

Preliminary information indicates on April 4, 2016, at 5:34 a.m., a 2006 Chevy Cobalt was traveling westbound and for unknown reasons, left the roadway and rolled several times, ejecting a child passenger, three-year-old girl.

The child and an adult passenger, Wayne A. Owens, age 35, from Portland, suffered fatal injuries and were pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver, Samantha P. Harper, age 22, from Portland, received serious injuries and was flown by Life Flight to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. Harper was 13 weeks pregnant, and the couple's unborn child also lost his life.

One westbound lane of Interstate 84 was closed for approximately four hours following the crash.

OSP was assisted by the Baker City Police Department (BCPD), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Baker County Fire Department. Due to the early morning time of the accident, BCPD officers Shannon Regan and Blake Hawkins were on duty, arriving first at the scene.

## ORP adopts Transfer of Public Lands resolution

**• TWO BAKER COUNTY DELEGATES ATTEND STATE MEETING**

**BY KERRY McQUISTEN**  
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Baker County Republican Chair Suzan Ellis Jones and Baker County Republican Corresponding Secretary Carole Dyke traveled to Medford last weekend for the Oregon Republican Party's (ORP's) state meeting.

Jones is Alternate Vice Chair of Congressional District 2 (CD-2), composed of central and eastern Oregon counties. Dyke serves as CD-2 Secretary. Jones also heads the state party's Natural Resources Committee.

At the meeting, the party voted to adopt a resolution that came from the Natural Resources Committee—a resolution that supports the Transfer of Public Lands, those lands currently under Federal management—back to state-level control. The idea follows the actions of several states east of the Rockies that have already resumed control of those lands successfully. The resolution is identical to the one adopted in 2014 by the national party.

**SEE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS PAGE 4**

**Friday** Sunny and warm with highs in the mid 70s. Partly cloudy with lows in the low 40s.

**Saturday** Increasing clouds with highs near 70. Mostly cloudy and cooler at night. Lows in the mid 30s.

**Sunday** Mostly sunny and cooler. Highs in the mid 60s. Partly cloudy at night with lows in the mid 30s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:



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