



# The Baker County Press

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## Local police take on 'No Shave November'

• FUNDS RAISED GO TO LOCAL CAUSE

BY KERRY McQUISTEN  
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Things are getting pretty hairy down at the Baker City Police Department (BCPD). Literally.

This year, 11 local officers and staff decided to participate in the national "No Shave November"

event. Started in 2009, the annual fund raiser was first organized by a Chicago-based family with eight children, whose father passed away from cancer, as a new means for cancer awareness.

However, the BCPD decided to use the funds for a local cause this year, but were unable to find a local cancer charity.

Sgt. Wayne Chastain said, "We plan on donating the funds to the Tasha Harrington seizure dog fund

raiser. We wanted to have a fun competition within the department that raised some money for a good cause. We wanted to keep the donation local in our community and thought that Tasha's dog was a great cause to donate to."

So far, the Department has raised \$330 from a \$30 per person entry fee.

Chief Wyn Lohner, also looking scruffier by the day, expressed that while he dislikes the unkempt look, particularly in uni-

form, the cause is worth it.

Joining Lohner and Chastain are: Lt. Dustin Newman; Detective Jay Lohner; Detective Daniel Pelayo; Officers Coleton Smith, Chris Sells, Blake Hawkins, and Ben Wray; Administrative Assistant Phoebe Wachtel; and Evidence Technician Lynn Magnuson.

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Photo courtesy of Wyn Lohner.

Sgt. Wayne Chastain shows off his first week's worth of beard growth.

## 'Serve it up Hot' a success



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Local firefighters and Barley Brown's raised over \$3K this year for local Special Olympics.

• \$3,169 RAISED IN TIPS AND DONATIONS THIS YEAR

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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Last Thursday evening, local firefighters and Barley Brown's held their annual "Serve It Up Hot" fund raiser for the Special Olympics.

All tips made at the event went to Special Olympics local teams for transportation and rentals for the athletes.

Stephanie Tweit, the treasurer and fundraiser for the Special Olympics Oregon, is a ski coach for the Special Olympics.

She and her husband, Bryan Tweit, do fundraising for the Baker County Ski Team of around 30 athletes. Bryan Tweit has been involved for 30 years and Stephanie has for approximately 13.

Tweit explained that they partner with the Fire Department in the fall for "Serve it Up Hot" and they partner with the Police Department in the spring for "Tip a Cop."

"There's this friendly competition to see who can make the most money between the police officers and fire department," said Tweit. "It's pretty fun."

In the past, they have raised around \$2,000 per year, and Barley Brown's donates \$600, as well as feeds the firefighters at the end of the evening.

They have worked with Barley Brown's since 2006 to

have this event.

Tweit explained that the number of firefighters helping with the event depends on what is happening in the City—emergency calls come first.

For the event that evening, she explained they would have around 10 to 15 volunteers from the Fire Department.

The Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities. According to their website, they have more than 4.9 million athletes in 172 countries and over a million volunteers. Their website also states "Sports are a powerful force. Sports can shift the focus from disability to ability, from isolation to involvement. We offer the highest quality Olympic-style sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities all around the world. This changes attitudes and changes lives."

This year, according to Tweit, a total of \$3,169 was raised after all the numbers were tallied: \$2569 in tips and \$600 from Barley Brown's.

Tweit added, "The night was a great success financially but more than that it was fun for the Fire Department and the community.

"Out-of-town guests are always surprised when they walk in to our events and just start smiling. Special Olympics is so appreciative for the support.

"We presented the Department with a fireman puppet that was a hit during the night. Hopefully it can be used for situations involving kids."

## Citizens upset over BMTD bill

• CONTENTIOUS MEETING HELD

BY SAMANTHA O'CONNOR  
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On Tuesday, November 7th, the Blue Mountain Translator District (BMTD) held their regular board meeting at the Baker City Hall Council Chambers. President Tim Wallender and Director April Simpson were present via phone for the meeting and Director Christina Wood and Secretary Alex McHaddad were present.

Security was requested from the Baker City Police Department due to heated communications between the BMTD and citizens who received their tax bills—which contained a surprise \$100 annual fee for BMTD services.

Those attending also voiced concerns regarding being billed after responding to service charge letters.

According to the Board meeting packet, at this point, properties with the following reference numbers have been submitted to the Baker County Assessor to be removed from the 2017-2018 property tax rolls due to improper assessment: 1-007263, 1-007316, 1-007388, 1-007810, 1-008283, 1-008546, 1-008568, 1-009005, 1-009096, 1-009118, 1-009245, 1-016031, and 1-901236.

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Friday Mostly cloudy with some scattered showers. Chance of precipitation is 40%. Highs in the mid 40s. Night: Mostly cloudy with a few early showers possible. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Saturday Mostly sunny and seasonably cool. Highs in the mid 40s. Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows near 30.

Sunday Partly sunny and seasonably cool. Highs in the mid 40s. Sunday Night: Partly cloudy skies. Lows near freezing.

The Fire, Weather & Avalanche Center forecast:

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:

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