THANKFUL

Continued from Page BI

horizon. I could feel darkness approaching — an impenetrable cloak meant to shield the world from its own inhabitants.

In years past, I had seen mule deer in the familiar meadows, and packed a buddy's elk on a pack string after clawing our way up from the jagged bowls of the canyon bottom. My only encounter this day was cutting the tracks of a lone cougar and wolf, both on the same trail, and both the diameter of a softball. Worn out and cold, I headed for camp only to suffer the fitful sleep of fall wilderness tent camping.

Awaking the next morning, the sky was incredibly clear with a billion shimmering stars. Within an hour, the warmth of golden sun would breach the eastern tree line, ending my frozen torment for 11 glorious, yet laborious, hours of searching for backcountry bucks. Standing peacefully over the hiss of my pack stove as the soothing aroma of hot coffee curled up, tickling my mustache, I stared wide-eyed at the first twinge of pink kissing the low horizon.

The black silhouettes of surrounding evergreens stood tall and firm like the sentinels of dawn. And unexpectedly, a bull elk let out a single bugle, not 100 yards from camp. His guttural squeal echoing around the edge of the meadow sent a chill down my spine. I prickled with goosebumps.

Emotion spurred by a single, well-timed elk bugle brought a deep appreciation for our nation's wild, public lands. My love of the wilderness, fish and wildlife, and my thirst for these experiences are owed to my grandparents and the heritage they passed on. In that serene moment, I reflected



Fishing with the elk on Yellowstone's Madison River.





Brad Trumbo/Contributed Photo

Marvin Shutters and his mule, Peanut Butter, take a break after unloading camp supplies in the Wenaha Wilderness.

on the teachings of my grandparents while waiting for coffee water to boil and Marvin's awakening. Somehow, his sleep came easy, and apparently sound, based on the rumbling snores that no doubt fended off the wildlife overnight.

Marvin and I packed out with nothing more than our camps on our backs, but there are many rewards to come from a wilderness experience, no tagpunching required.

These are merely two remarkable moments in a sportsman's life, where virtually limitless opportunities are available to all of us — the American public. As we share in our Thanksgiving feasts and late fall hunts, making new memories with friends and family, take a moment to give thanks to those responsible for setting aside our public lands and parks. Thank our military brethren who serve

to ensure our freedom and opportunity to enjoy our nations resources. Thank your friends and family who accompany you in the outdoors, perpetuating America's rich public lands heritage and opportunity.

Brad Trumbo is a fish and wildlife biologist and outdoor writer in Waitsburg, Washington. For tips and tales of outdoor pursuits and conservation, visit www.bradtrumbo.com.



Tom Claycomb/Contributed Photo

The app for the Mantis system displays on a cellphone the shooter's movements. The blue line shows movement before the shot, the yellow line shows movement during the trigger pull, and the red is after the shot movement.

PISTOL

Continued from Page B1

I think we always have to try to improve ourselves or else we flatline. I don't want to say that you can't ever retire and relax, but ... Lol, maybe not, or you will become irrelevant.

My daughter went out shooting yesterday and came home and said "daddy, I think I shot over 300 rounds today." Wow, she too has gone overboard with her momma!

I don't have a clue

where she'd get that from. So, I'm on a quest to finally become a decent shot with a pistol. Here's

my game plan. I left the Mantis X10 with Katy and am on a plane right now flying to South Dakota (hopefully have a pheasant hunting article coming up soon). I've got a Umarex CO2 BB pistol that I'm going to practice dry firing and also doing

I've got to do something. Katy smoked me when we went shooting. I'm scared to fly back home now!

some live firing with.



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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

ROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Lots of laughs 4 One-time Queens
- ballpark 8 Well-to-do
- Freud topic 13 Get better
- 14 Ms. Ferber 15 Baba and
- the Forty Thieves Technical sch.
- Rajah's spouse 18 Despotism
- Copper, in the 20 lab
- culpa Capital of
- Alaska 26 Wisdom tooth
- 29 Dine DVD player's
- predecessor [!]"No way!"
- (hyph.)

33 Honey makers

- 32 Legal matter

18

Tour de force III-favored 3 Roulette color

- 34 Like Dogpatch's
- Abner 35 Table-tennis
- divider 36 Accord maker
- 37 Dangled
- 39 Tweak 40 Harmful ray
- 41 Flip
- 45 Citizen of
- Gdansk Splendor
- 49 Dover's st. 50 Rugged cliff
- 51 Refrigerator stick
- 52 Switch
- positions 53 Fast-food

55 Mauna

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option (2 wds.) 54 Inflates

DOWN

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- 11 "Bali —' 19 Asian nanny
 - 22 Roast beef 23 Deadlocked 24 Made a hole in

20 Piece of china

9 Potato st.

- 25 Sky bear
- 26 Reflect deeply 27 Columbus' home
- 28 Slow time 29 Harden, as
- plaster 32 Primary color

33 Wallops

- 35 Ore. neighbor 36 Zoo heavyweights
- 38 "Hasta 39 Identified
- 41 Fizzy drink 42 Teen hero
- 43 Early stoic 44 "Frozen"
- princess 45 Interest amt. 46 Gold, in Peru 47 Be overdue

48 Fireworks noise

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