



by Mark Baggett

### Ground Squirrels Offer Ideal Training for Budding Shooters

When forced to look back upon my steady (indeed, miraculous) progression of scholastic grades 1-12, perhaps the most vivid are the memories associated with spring break. How slowly the weeks would pass between Christmas and spring vacations, an agony further intensified by the reliably gorgeous weather that would appear sometime between those two periods.

Not until after I had been out of school for more years than I attended did I learn that most school systems set the dates for their spring vacations by consulting springtime weather patterns over the past 100 or so years, heinously choosing the week most apt to offer a strong Arctic frontal system occurring right in the middle of several weeks of sub-tropical weather.

Spring break meant, for the incurable young outdoors enthusiast, a full week of uninterrupted ground squirrel hunting. The wait became toughest in high school. Each day for several weeks before vacation I would gaze out the second-story window of my creative writing class and watch as a profusion of the skittish, brown "rats" gorged on the succulent green grasses emerging from the nearby hillside. Occasionally, the ultimate trophy would appear among the boulders—a fat, lazy rockchuck. If anything was more difficult than concentrating on my studies during that class, it was explaining why my work was sprinkled with such action verbs as "dusted", "popped" or "ventilate."

As a rule, teachers are generally unsympathetic of the springtime longings of confirmed squirrel hunters. One P.E. coach of mine, a recent transplant from the nether regions south of the Oregon border, enjoyed awarding "demerits" for misbehavior. As I had been largely unsuccessful in convincing him of my obvious angelic qualities, sunny afternoons after the final bell would find me out on the track, running off his sinister reprimands at the rate of one lap per black mark. Usually Wes, my loyal hunting comrade, would wait, snickering patiently from the sidelines until I was free to go chase some squirrels.

"You may have noticed, Mark, that I've been kind of rough on you these past several months," the coach said one day after watching me run something more than 137 miles in record time. "That could all change if I had you on my track team."

"No thanks," I panted. "Spring is for squirrel shooting."

"Don't be ridiculous; nothing can taste that good, to justify your taking what I put you through."

"Well, you don't actually ea..." I felt the sharp pain of Wes' elbow in my ribs. "You mean you never had 'em?" I did my best to appear apalled. "Best you ever tasted!"

"Yeah," Wes chided. "Fry 'em up just like you would a trout—with the heads off and the tails on. If you're gonna live around here, you better not let anyone know you haven't eaten ground squirrel."

"Yeah, well, I'll have to try it," the extortionist-turned-teacher said, adding that he intended to ride me harder than ever for having turned him down.

For younger aspirants, perhaps no other activity can offer better hands-on, actual field experience than can a hillside or field full of ground squirrels. With proper adult instruction, nearly all aspects of safe hunting can be covered—from responsible gun handling to marksmanship to hunting etiquette—in a way that provides plenty of action to keep interest levels up. And since the rodents are damage-causing pests for most ranchers, it usually isn't difficult to secure the required permission to hunt them on private agricultural lands—another valuable lesson for the youngsters.

Above all, don't take Wes' advice to the coach too seriously about cooking and eating the squirrels—by all means, cut the tails off as well.

## Junior high students chip in for community

March 16 marked the third annual Community Service Day sponsored by the students and staff of Columbia Junior High School. Twelve homerooms were organized into work groups with projects to improve the communities of Irrigon and Boardman.

This year work groups include Mrs. Powell's homeroom who will be hosting a two-hour day care free-of-charge to the citizens of Irrigon. The day care will be in Room 8 at Columbia Junior High. Children may participate in water colors, crayon coloring, games in the gym, story hour and snack time. Mr. Martin's group will be involved in cleaning, digging, cutting and repairing the grounds around the Irrigon Lions Club. Mr. French's eighth grade homeroom will be sponsoring a car wash beginning at 8:30 a.m. until noon at Rod's Market. Donations received from the wash will be given to the Senior Citizen Center.

Mrs. Edinger's students will be baking decorated cupcakes for the Senior Citizen's Center in Irrigon for

their weekly luncheon. The group also will decorate the center in a spring motif on March 16. Mr. White's homeroom will be in Boardman sponsoring a free car wash at Sentry Market. Donations will be accepted to be given to the Senior Citizen's Center in Irrigon. Mr. Robert's group will clean up the area across from Sentry Market in Boardman. Students will report shortly after 8 a.m. armed with plastic bags. Mr. Killingbeck's seventh grade group will be running a pop bottle drive in Boardman. Monies collected will be donated to a charity in the Boardman-Irrigon area. Mr. Pratt's students will be picking up trash in back of the C & D Drive Inn and painting for the City of Boardman. Mrs. Bowling's homeroom will spruce up the Boardman City Park and restrooms.

Mr. Colvett's homeroom will be weeding, clipping and cleaning up the Irrigon cemetery and Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Leinweber will be taking students to the Boardman Marina to pick up debris.

## Riverside clenches Class A basketball tournament

By Marty Suter

After finishing second to the Imbler Panthers at Regionals the Riverside Pirates advanced to the state playoffs at the Pendleton Army March 7 - 10.

Riverside got burned by the young Monroe Dragons, 62-54, in the first round Thursday. The Pirates deadly fast break vaporized against the Dragons and they couldn't convert using their half court game.

It's been 50 years since a boys team from Monroe has qualified for the state tourney but you wouldn't have guessed by watching the balanced Dragon attack.

"We didn't rebound well at all; we didn't block out well either. Matt Andreason, 5' 11" had seven rebounds at the half and no one else had any," Ray Tracy said.

The Dragon demonstrated a much quicker game than the Pirates have been used to.

"They've got some good quickness and they use it well. We were ready for it, but we were impatient on offense and took ourselves out of our own game," Tracy said. Rebounding didn't work to the advantage of the taller Pirates. "I thought my guards Mike Tallman, Matt Andreason and Timms hit the shots well and they controlled the ball well, but they didn't have any help from underneath," Tracy commented.

On Friday, March 10, Riverside clinched a State Class A basketball tournament victory the first for a Columbia Basin Conference team since Heppner girls took the title in 1986, by beating Riddle, 89-64.

There were no teams from the District 7A Columbia Basin Conference, the Pendleton tournament's host conference, either last year or the year before.

The Pirates hit 30 of 37 free throw attempts, two attempts short of a tournament record. Timms, Riverside's leading scorer, struggled early, missing his first 10 shots. "We reminded him that he's a better shooter," Riverside coach Tracy said smiling.

Riverside played Yoncalla for the boys consolation title Saturday.

Scott Timms ignited the Pirates with 20 first-quarter points. The CBC champs seemed to be coasting to a victory, until the big men, Pat McDonough and Bill Byrd were forced to sit with foul trouble. Yoncalla used this to their advantage and powered in from the inside.

The Eagles got relief from junior Van Loon who sealed the game by a single free throw and rebounding his miss to seal the clock with deuce.

Scott Timms scored an impressive 76 points in Riverside's three tourney games.

## RHS wrestler 4th in state

By Marty Suter

Riverside Wrestler, Jim Kinsey, brought home the fourth place medal from the State Class A Wrestling Championships for the 98-lbs division.

Jim won his opening match with an 11-0 decision over John Patton of Wahtonka, then lost his second match by a decision. In the consolation

bracket he pinned Graham Dean of Elgin, moving him into the match for third and fourth, which he lost by a 2-0 decision.

Riverside's other state qualifier, Rudy Flores, lost his first two matches by decisions.

Both Kinsey and Flores are juniors at Riverside.

## Women's Aglow plans retreat

The Eastern Oregon Area Spring Retreat for Women's Aglow Fellowship will be held March 30, 31 and April 1, at the Red Lion Inn, Pendleton, according to Corrine Miles, Heppner.

This year's speaker will be Connie Baranyai from Cedar Hills, Tx., where she serves on the staff of the Trinity Assembly of God Church. Connie is a Bible teacher and has the "unique ability to make the scriptures come alive, especially those overly-familiar scriptures that we feel has been exhausted," said a

spokesperson.

Besides the guest speaker, there will be several workshops on Saturday. A special feature this year will be a "Family Reunion" on Friday afternoon for all past and present area board officers.

For those unable to attend all three days of the retreat, sessions will be open on a session or day rate.

Aglow is an international interdenominational organization of Christian women.

For further information call Miles at 676-5016.

**2.19 Each**  
**Fashion Scarf** 5001R  
QUANTITIES LIMITED

**Murray's Drug** INC.  
217 North Main Heppner 676-9158

### THANK YOU ONE & ALL

FROM 1990 ST. PAT'S CO-CHAIRMEN DIANA BALL & CLAUDIA HUGHES

May the luck of the Irish shine upon all those who made Heppner's St. Patrick's weekend possible by donating time, talent, food, auction items, and monetary contributions! The following committee chairpersons are to be commended for their hard work throughout the year.

- Bob Kahl.....Parade & Sound System
- George Koffler.....Coffee Hour, Parade, Treasurer
- Jim Farley.....Coffee & Social Hour, Family
- Pat & Tricia Sweeney.....Auction & Clean-Up Crew
- Cara Costa.....Auction
- Anne Spicer.....Auction
- Susan Hisler.....Auction/Youth Participation
- Wm. & Sandra Rill.....Sheep Dog Trials
- David Sykes.....Coffee Hour, Publicity
- Gwen Healy.....Flags, Windsocks, Irish Outfits
- Cheri Lovgren.....'O Ducky
- Joyce Hughes.....'O Ducky, Parade, Publicity
- Susan Johnston.....Teen Dance
- Jerry & Joyce Hollomon.....Air Life, Brackets, Tour
- Tim Adams.....Bed Race
- Ken & Kaydene Bailey.....Behind Scenes Crew, Secretary
- Doug Rathbun.....Parade Preparation, etc.
- Tim Coe....."Behind the Scenes" Activities

Appreciation also goes to:

- KUMA.....Coffee Hour, etc
- Heppner Elks.....Facility, etc
- Healy Family.....Music & Enthusiasm
- Bob Isted & "Company".....Music, Music, Music
- Stuart & Julie Dick.....Jr. Hoop Shoot
- Soroptimists.....Hospitality Committee
- Larry Mills.....Parade Announcer
- Sr. Citizen Center.....Facility & Activities
- Garden Club.....Shamrocks in Planters
- Cub Scouts.....Main Street Clean-Up
- Elementary & Junior High Student.....Decorations & Stories
- Honor Society.....Information Table
- Air Life.....Helicopter Landing
- Merlyn Robinson.....Publicity
- Tom Springer & Heppner T.V.....Hanging Banners
- Columbia Basin Crew.....Wiring, Flags, etc
- Ewe's R Us 4-H Club.....Sheep Dog Trials
- Heppner Volunteer Fireman.....Clean-up & Spuds
- Ron Farrar/Delpha Jones.....Historic Home Tour
- Louie & Betty Carlson.....Courthouse Tour
- Judie Laughlin.....Buttons
- Parade & Bed Race Participants.....Enthusiasm & Creativity
- John Wight & Pettyjohn's.....Shamrock Dash
- Tom & Helen Riehl.....'O Riehl Roller Skating
- Heppner Bowl.....Scotch Doubles
- St. Patrick's Catholic Church.....Dinner & Entertainment
- Morrow County Search & Rescue.....Cleaned Creek Bank
- Gene Hale & City of Heppner.....Installation of Speaker System
- United Methodist Church.....Stew & Entertainment
- Morrow County Fairboard.....Use of grounds

And to the donors and many, many others we'll kick ourselves for missing, a giant pat on the back!

**Rhea Creek Road  
between Keck Canyon  
and Brenner Canyon,  
will be closed between  
March 19th and  
March 23rd. The  
Morrow County Road  
Department will be  
replacing the deck and  
rails on Snyder Bridge.**

**CHEVROLET**

We Stand Behind Our Motto  
**YOU CAN'T BEAT OUR DEAL**  
Find A Better Price • We'll Match It

**SHERRELL CHEVROLET**  
PO BOX 209 HERMISTON, OR. 97838 567-6487

Low Prices & Quality Service For Over 40 Years