

Pheasants Forever provides food source for bird population



(L-R) Jamie Helfrecht, Green Feed; Misty Bennett, Pheasants Forever Banquet Chair; and Skip Matthews, Pheasants Forever President.

Rooster dogs, Emma and Chesa Bay are predicting an excellent upland bird season for next fall. The newly formed Pheasants Forever Chapter, Columbia Plateau, intend to make their dreams come true. The chapter is offering bird blocks to County residents in an effort to bring attention to their developing chapter and provide food to local bird populations. Pheasants Forever has found a good source for the blocks in Jamie Helfrecht, of the MCGG Green Feed store. The chapter is providing the first two blocks free and more blocks can be obtained through Helfrecht for \$8.95 per block.

The pheasant blocks are most valuable to bird populations when snow cover makes it difficult for the birds to find food and increases their vulnerability

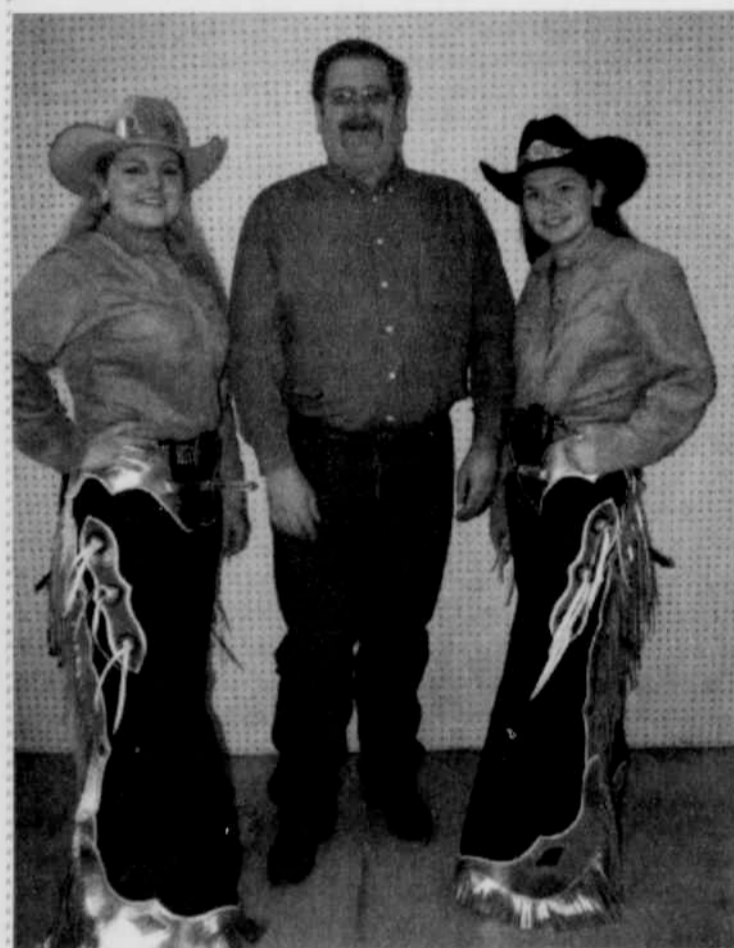
to predation. As spring approaches and the chances of snow cover diminish, the hen pheasants will still benefit by having one more source of nutrition to increase their reproductive success. Other bird populations are expected to benefit from the food blocks. When you pick up your bird blocks, help yourself to an information sheet describing how and where to place the blocks and a leaflet on how to join the organization.

There will be a banquet to raise funds for this chapter at the Heppner Elks Lodge on Saturday, April 8. With the Ducks Unlimited banquet not being held this year, it is hoped that many outdoor-minded people and their families will now attend the Pheasants Forever social function. John Kilkenny, membership

chairperson, has already found 25 sponsors that have committed to supporting the banquet activities. If you have items or services to donate to the auction contact Kilkenny at 676-9910. Co-chairs for the banquet are Misty Bennett and Judy Barber. Call Bennett at 676-5798 or Barber at 676-5037 if you want to help with the banquet.

Skip Mathews, president of the chapter hopes for a big banquet turnout. Pheasants Forever allow 100 percent of the net gain from fund raising events to stay at the local level. The Columbia Plateau chapter intends to use their profits to improve the local habitat for the birds and increase their population. Bill Ewing, co-chair of the habitat committee, expects the committee to make information available on seed mixtures and planting techniques. The chapter hopes to do at least one local habitat project this year.

MCGG donates chaps to Rodeo Court



Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Court Queen Heather Yocom and Princess Josie Miller wearing the chaps donated by Morrow County Grain Growers, represented by John Ripple, MCGG general manager.

MCSB to hold community meetings

The Morrow County School District Board of Directors in cooperation with Oregon School Board Association's "Bridges Project" will be hosting a series of community meetings coming up soon. This project will be a process for gathering information from constituents about import issues relative to students and their learning environment, scholastic achievement and direction for the future.

Since it is possible that a majority of the board could be present at any one or all of these meetings, this will serve as official notification of the following meetings: Heppner at Heppner Elementary School library on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.; Boardman at Port of Morrow Riverfront Center on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.; and Irrigon at Stokes Landing Community Center, Wednesday, March 8 at 12:45 p.m. (during the Chamber of Commerce meeting).

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

Heppner Christian Church will provide volunteers for the senior noon meal on Feb. 22. Serving begins at 11 a.m., following announcements and opening ceremony. The menu of the day is BBQ pork chops, potatoes au gratin, peas and carrots, cake and ice cream and fruit juice.

Grace Drake, Tom Wilson and Ed Baker attended the quarterly meeting of the advisory committee for the Area Agency on Aging. The Hermiston Senior Center hosted the meeting on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 1 p.m., following lunch. After the usual reports, Eva Mabbott, executive director, overseeing the operation of senior meal sites in Umatilla and Morrow counties, discussed a recent survey of customer satisfaction, which was circulated during January at each center. Among the comments written on the survey sheets, were questions about the \$5.50 charge for those who are younger. A federal grant, under the Older Americans Act, which provides funds with which meal sites are able to be organized, defines seniors as "those persons 60 years and older and persons with disabilities, any age."

Because the grant for services is for those 60 and over, and those disabled, the amount of the grant is determined by the number of persons in the over 60 or disabled bracket. The meal site provides a meal for less than cost only to those defined as 60 or over or disabled. Under the terms of the grant, a meal site cannot offer meals at less than cost to those not defined as "seniors." Meals for others are provided for full cost.

The federal grant contact provides 40 percent of the cost for the meal operation. The remaining 60 percent is provided by local sources. Factored in the total cost are food, staff salaries, supplies and other items. The amount of \$5.50 has been calculated from these figures as a full cost charge for persons under 60.

It was stated that those persons under 60 do assist the centers financially by their attendance. Their tab of \$5.50 contributes to the 60 percent of the cost, which the local Umatilla-Morrow AAA group must raise to meet the matching requirement. All centers extend words of appreciation to our younger participants, especially for your company at our tables.

Justice Court report

Christian Danyl Kennedy, 29, Heppner, Failure to Register Vehicle, fine \$84.

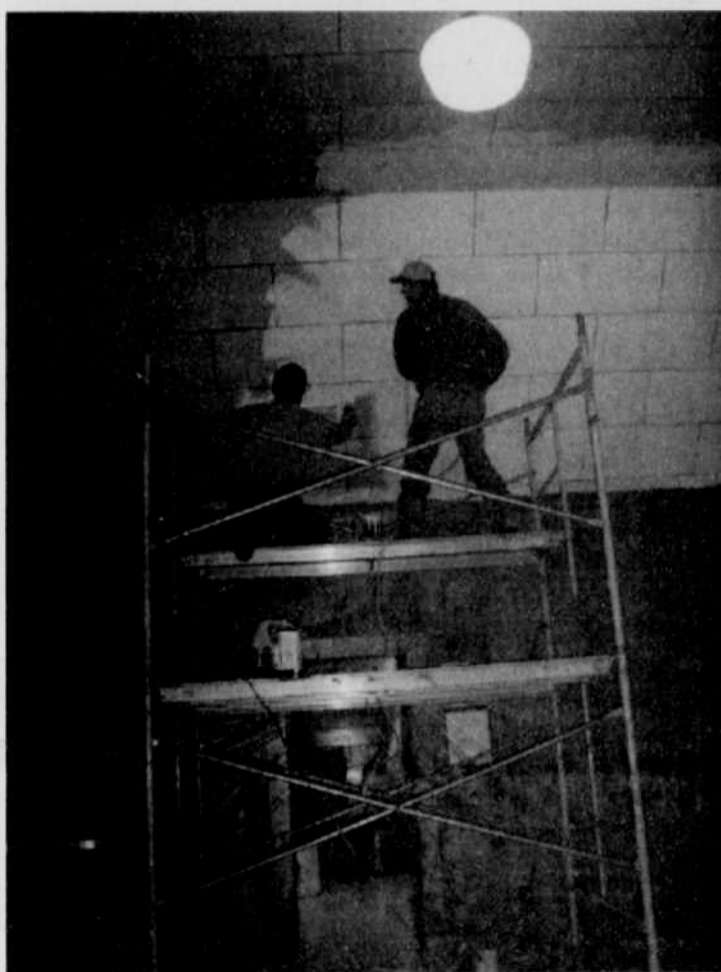
Dwayne B. Losacco, 39, Heppner, Driving while Suspended-violation, fine \$513.

Mark Donald McDonough, 36, San Diego, CA, Speeding, 80 mph in a 65 mph zone, fine \$185.

Restoration continues at Ione Legion Hall



Loyal Burns installs new light fixtures after the paint dries.



Joe McElligott (left) and Joe Rietmann (right) work on painting the Ione Legion ballroom ceiling.

With the help of numerous community volunteers, restoration on the American Legion Hall in Ione has continued. The newest project was the painting of the main ballroom ceiling and the installation of new lighting fixtures. Also repaired was a hole left by the removal of a chimney.

The project was chaired by Jeri McElligott and Bill Rietmann. They were pleased with the amount of community support and greatly appreciated not only the time spent working on the project, but the materials offered as well. John Jepsen was instrumental in the prep work for the project, he placed the plastic on the walls and floors to protect them. Pendleton Grain Growers and Frank Halvorsen donated scaffolding and other community members donated battery operated paint rollers. Many community members also came to help in the actual painting, which required two coats. During the painting, Collier's Market furnished lunch on Monday and the Legion Auxiliary Ladies

made lunch Tuesday. To finish off the project, Loyal Burns installed new lighting fixtures in the ballroom.

The restoration on the hall is "almost done," said Jean Jepsen, original restoration chairperson. There may be other projects in the future.

Marriage Licenses

Feb. 7: Gerald Lee Sandlin, 77, Hermiston and Leilani Jeanne Davis, 63, Hermiston.

Feb. 13: Richard James Seewer, Jr., 20, Irrigon and Sabrina Lynn Cooley, 19, Irrigon; Clifton Brent Shaw, 45, Boardman and Kathleen Marie Martin, 47, Boardman.

Births

Teagan Michael Ramsey - a son, Teagan Michael, was born Sept. 14, 2005, in Klamath Falls to Sarah Baker and Randy Ramsey of Klamath Falls. He joins sibling, Amelia, 2. Grandparents are Steve and Glorine Lesperance of Heppner, William and Vickie Baker of Tillamook and Bill and Donna McBean of Pendleton.

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*APY (Annual Percentage Yield). Minimum opening deposit and balance to receive disclosed APY is \$5,000. Offer good January 17, 2006, through April 1, 2006. Penalty for early withdrawal. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

Congratulations to the
Heppner Mustangs varsity basketball teams
and Good Luck at District!