

Youth hunters participate in sponsored pheasant hunt

Fifteen youth hunters, with their parents, took advantage of a Columbia Plateau Pheasant's Forever and Oregon Department of Wildlife sponsored pheasant hunt Monday, November 17, on welcome to hunt land out of Lexington. "We had a very successful clay shoot earlier in the year," said Skip Matthews, Chapter President. "It was a logical next step to get these kids on some live birds and let them experience something they may have never done before."

The youth hunt was prescheduled before it was known that the Heppner Mustangs were going to be in playoff games.

"This was a learning experience for us," Matthews said. "We will definitely sponsor one of these hunts again in the future, hopefully with more kids being able to participate."



Pictured are back row: Andrew Hatfield, Cameron Day, Ryan Bennett, and Patrick Collins. Bottom Row, Bailey Bennett (and Buck), and Maggie Collins.

Pheasants Forever offering bird blocks

Once again, the Columbia Plateau Chapter of Pheasants Forever is offering bird blocks to improve bird populations in Morrow and Gilliam Counties. The blocks can be found at MCGG Green Feed store. The first two blocks are free and more blocks can be ob-

tained for \$9.95 per block.

The pheasant blocks are most valuable to bird populations when snow and ice make 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 from having one more source of nutrition to increase their reproductive success. Other bird populations are expected to benefit from the food blocks.

Along with the bird blocks, there will also be an information sheet describing how and where to place the blocks and a leaflet on how to join the organization.

The chapter's spring banquet will be held at the Heppner Elks Lodge on April 19. Chapter profits from the banquet are used to improve habitat, hunting opportunities and to provide hunter education. In August, they held their first Ring-neck Youth Clay Shoot and Barbecue and in November, they worked with ODF&W to sponsor their first Youth Hunt.

During the last fiscal year, 14 landowners were assisted in developing food plots. This year they intend to expand this effort and help install guzzlers in areas where water shortages are limiting bird populations. Progress in these efforts should be accelerated with the hiring of the new wildlife habitat technician, Dennis Newman. This position is with the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with ODF&W and the Columbia Plateau Chapter.

For more information about habitat projects, call Dennis, 676-5452 x 115, Skip Matthews, 676-5490, or Bill Ewing, 676-9119.

Ag students take on project offered by ODFW

Students in Beth Dickenson's Ag I class have been learning first hand the difficulties of rearing the young, fish that is. Students undertook a project offered by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife called Salmon Trout Enhancement Project (or STEP.)

"Students were responsible for the entire project," noted Dickenson. "They were in charge of checking water pH, temperature and paperwork- which gets sent to the state office. The kids have had a great time learning about the life cycles of various fish-hatchery and native trout and have a better understanding of survival challenges in their habitat." There were 200 rainbow trout eyed eggs delivered.

Part of the requirements involve tracking average daily temperatures and then calculating the "temperature units" (average temperature minus 32 degrees F.) The temperature units are important in estimating the number of days until the fry are ready to



be released and their belly seam is "buttoned up" a.k.a. their yolk sac (which provided nourishment) is been depleted; they need to be allowed access to zooplankton

and microorganisms at this point, which isn't part of the classroom program. The fry have to be released without being fed.

Pendleton Faith Center Foursquare Church to perform annual Living Nativity

One of the can't miss Christmas events of Eastern Oregon is the Living Nativity performed annually at the Roy Raley Park on Sunday, December 16, beginning at 6 p.m. with a one hour walk through and finishing with a drive through from 7-9 p.m.

In 1990 the Pendleton Faith Center Foursquare Church produced their first living nativity, a still acting production of the story of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. In the beginning the people of Faith Center desired to present a gift to the citizens of Pendleton to illustrate the true meaning of Christmas. Initially the production focused on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. The production has grown from 9 scenes to 13 scenes with live actors, animals, props, music, and scripture verses illuminated

Kinzua Ladies Luncheon to be held

The Kinzua Ladies Luncheon will be held Friday, December 14, at Service Creek at 11:30 a.m. Men are also invited to this luncheon.

with strobe lights.

Starting in 2003 the new scenes illustrate the crucifixion, resurrection and return of Jesus Christ. The final scene represents the only event yet to happen in scripture, the victorious return of Jesus Christ to gather his very own from every tribe, tongue and nation of the world.

The total production requires about 150 people with approximately 100 actors and 12 animals. Individuals from many different churches help Faith Center stage this production. The event could not continue without the full support of the City of Pendleton which provides the use of Roy Raley Park and police traffic control. In addition the Round-Up association provides use of the Helper's Room under the stadium and Gordon's Electric gen-

erously donates electrical services for hooking up all lighting for the scenes.

The living nativity presently draws an audience from many surrounding communities of over 3,000 people of all ages who walk or drive through the park. A walk though only opportunity is offered from 6-7 p.m. and a walk or drive through from 7-9 p.m. on Sunday evening close to Christmas. This year the event will be produced on Sunday December 16, starting at 6 p.m. The price is free to the public, just like the price of eternal life that Jesus Christ continues to offer to all mankind. Faith Center Church projects a hearty invitation to the citizens of Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington to experience the gift of Christmas first hand this year as a love offering from the citizens of Pendleton.

BEO Bancorp declares annual cash dividend

BEO Bancorp, parent company of Bank of Eastern Oregon, announced that its Board of Directors declared an annual cash dividend on its common stock of 55 cents per share for 2007. The dividend is payable on or before December 14, 2007, to shareholders of record at close of business as of November 30, 2007.

E. George Koffler, President and CEO, commented, "This dividend marks the 22nd year, without interruption, that the company has paid a dividend. The dividend, totaling \$484,362, is the largest annual dividend the organization has ever paid and a strong signal of the Board's commitment to shareholder value."



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