

Pheasants Forever encourages school participation



Students from Erin Heideman's and Beth Dickenson's classes partnered with Pheasants Forever and grew 800 Columbia Basin Ryegrass plugs for pheasant habitat. Top photo pictured (L-R) are Stewart Syverson, Micah Stillman, Sam Irons, Tim Emmel, Jordan Braun and Pheasants Forever director, Bill Ewing. Middle photo pictured (L-R) are Justin Pranger, Josh Bennett, Garrett Gibbs, McKenzie Correa, Justin Bailey, Garrett Robinson, Bill Ewing, Stephanie Schuler. Bottom photo pictured (L-R) are Dave Fowler, Zech Hintz, Ashley Hanson, Simon Rostad, Tate Gentry, Bryce Fowler, Axel Lofgren, and Bill Ewing with guzzler being built for Pheasants Forever. -Contributed Photos

Agriculture students in Ione and Heppner have been helping the Columbia Plateau Pheasants Forever chapter, CPPF, improve wildlife habitat. Basin wild rye seeds were supplied to students in Erin Heideman and Beth Dickenson's classes to grow from seed to seedling size. Last week, the classes turned over 1300 of their healthy 6" seedlings to CPPF for spring planting projects. This wild rye is a native perennial grass not to be confused with the annual rye grass that causes problems for local farmers. The wild rye is an

important bunchgrass that provides food and cover for many species of wildlife. It is especially valuable to pheasants for cover protection and nesting habitat. This team effort between local groups and CPPF benefits both groups. CPPF is able to pay the student groups with funds raised from CPPF's annual banquet and partly through programs and grant monies from federal and state agencies. This year, the CPPF banquet will be held at the Elks Club in Heppner on the evening of April 16.

Morrow County Court weekly meetings held

The Morrow County Court met on March 2 in Irrigon with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance. Following is a summary of the meetings provided by Leann Rea.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes of February 23.

The court reviewed and approved the account payables in the net total amount of \$142,915.27.

Road Report

Ice and Snow: The crew continues with plowing snow on the higher elevation roads, mainly in the Heppner area and south into the mountains, plowing either fresh snow or wind caused drifts. **Ditch Cleaning:** The crew continues to clean the borrow pits and ditches in the Boardman area, where they are currently working along Kunze Lane. **Culverts:** The crew is in the process of installing several culverts along portions of Shobe Canyon Road, Balm Fork Road, and Sanford Canyon Lane. These areas just don't have enough culverts to keep the runoff water from getting into the roads and causing problems. **Road Grading:** When the graders aren't out plowing snow, they have been grading county gravel roads. Currently there are graders working in the Blackhorse Canyon area, Morter Lane area, Lexington area, and the Fuller Canyon area near Heppner. **Crusher:** The crusher crew is in the process of doing final repairs to the conveyors and getting the crushing equipment moved around so it can be moved to the Skinner Creek

pit, where they will start crushing chip rock for the Willow Creek Road project. **Misc:** The crew continues taking care of sign repairs and replacements around the county. **Bid Award:** On the recommendation of the road department the bid was awarded to Doug's Septic Services from Milton-Freewater in the amount of \$1,620. The contract covers 23 standard restrooms, two ADA portable restrooms and on trailer mounted restroom. The contract will begin on March 4, 2011 and will end on March 15, 2012 and will be signed at a future meeting.

Health Dept. Report

Sheree Smith, director, provided the court with an activity report for the health department. Smith also provided the court with information regarding the lack of prenatal care in the county. Morrow County ranks 35th in the State of Oregon and there was one county that was exempted due to small population. That means that Morrow County is last in the state for pregnant women who obtain care early in their pregnancy. Smith will be participating in CAWEM (Citizen-Alien/Waived Emergency Medical) in an effort to expand the program that will include prenatal care for county residents only. Smith stated that most of this program will be funded through grant dollars with the county being responsible for 1.7 percent of the cost.

Sheriff Dept. Report

Contracts: The court approved the Inter-governmental Agreement

(IGA) between the City of Heppner and the Morrow County Sheriff for services provided by two officers, equipment, communications facilities and supplies necessary to perform the job in an amount not to exceed \$181,272.63. The court approved an IGA between the City of Irrigon and the county sheriff for services provided by one officer plus equipment etc. in an amount not to exceed \$82,812.48. Both IGAs will expire on June 30, 2012. **Surplus:** On the recommendation of Under Sheriff Steve Myren, the court declared the 1987 Blazer as surplus and requested that the vehicle be transported to the state surplus for disposal. **New Hire:** The court authorized starting Kyle Pearcey, a newly hired officer, at the basic step three pay range based on his training and experience in Morrow County. Pearcey has been employed by the Boardman City Police for the last three and half years.

Public Hearing

The court held a hearing for the Appeal of the Planning Commission's decision regarding Conditional Use Permit CUP-N-287 for the addition of a pistol and rifle range at the current location of the Hermiston Gun Club located just north of I-84 and west of the Army Depot Exit. Doug Hojem representing Wade Aylett and Rock Solid Sand and Gravel, LLC provided testimony in opposition of the proposed change to the site. Bill Milbrodt, Umatilla Chemical Depot Counsel stated that the U.S. Army

opposes the siting of this facility. Milbrodt introduced Keith Davidson, Range Weapons Safety expert for the Chemical Materials Agency who also provided evidence as to why the purpose of the Gun Club range should not be sited at this location. Then Harvey Childers, applicant and Patty Carson, Hermiston Gun Club Secretary provide a few comments and then requested a continuance to prepare rebuttal comments to the testimony that had been provided. The continuance was granted, with the next hearing to be held at the Port of Morrow in Boardman on March 16.

The court conducted the following business: Approved the payment of \$500 from the court's Discretionary Fund to National Association of Counties (NACo) to be used to support the NACo Annual Conference and Exposition that will be held in Portland, OR July 15-19, 2011; The court approved Amendment Number 1 for Contract No. 26811. The contract is between the State of Oregon, Department of Transportation and Morrow County to cover the realignment or rebuilding of intersections at Shobe Canyon Road, Clarks Canyon Road, Rhea Creek Road, Gooseberry Road, and Porcupine Road. The state will reimburse the county within 45 days of the completion and submission of receipts at 100 percent of cost with a limit of \$500,000.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

The Morrow County Court met on March 9 in Irrigon with Judge Tallman and Commissioners Grieb and Rea in attendance. Following is a summary of the meetings provided by Leann Rea.

The court reviewed and approved the minutes of March 2.

The court reviewed and approved the account payables in the net total amount of \$100,359.52.

Road Report

Ditch Cleaning: The crew continues to clean the borrow pits and ditches in the Boardman area, where they are currently working along Peters Road. **Culverts:** The crew finished the installation of several culverts on Balm Fork Road, Lunceford Canyon Road and Sanford Canyon Lane on the 8th. They are now cleaning up around the project area, as well as moving the equipment. **Road Grading:** The grader

crew is continuing with grading the gravel roads through out the county as weather permits. **Crusher:** The crusher crew is moving the crusher units and conveyors to the Skinner Creek pit, where they will start crushing chip rock for the Willow Creek Road project. **Misc:** The road, parks, and general maintenance personnel are going through forklift. There are also four members of the paving crew that are going to an all day paving course offered by Caterpillar. **Permits:** On the recommendation of Road Master Burke O'Brien, the court approved the following permits: Permit # OIB with Century Link for a buried fiber optic line across S. Main and along Kunze Road in the Boardman area. Permit # OIC with Cascade Natural Gas to bury a natural gas line along the west side of 8th Street in Irrigon area. Permit # OIB with Windwave Commu-

nications to bury a fiber optic line along Toms Camp Road from Canal Road to Kunze Lane SW. Permit # OIP with Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) for an overhead line across Wilson Lane 0.11 miles west of Rippee Road. Permit # OIQ with UEC for an overhead crossing on Wilson Lane near Eastgaard Road. Permit # OIR with Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative for an overhead crossing on Clarks Canyon Road 1.16 miles from Nolan Road. They will also be removing the old existing crossing. Permit # OIS with UEC for an underground line along Wagon Wheel Loop between two existing vaults near the Depot Lane intersection.

The court conducted the following business: Heard a request from Amy Kollman, board member for Heppner Day Care, Inc. and after a lengthy discussion the court approved the payment of \$1,000 from the

court's Discretionary Fund. The court reviewed and signed a contract between the county and Doug's Septic Service for portable restrooms for an amount not to exceed \$1,620 per month. The court reviewed the proposed budget for the court for the 2011-2012 fiscal year which had been prepared by Karen Wolff, executive secretary/personnel director. The court declared the 2003 Chevrolet Impala as surplus and authorized Wolff to sign the title once sold. Discussed the possible disposal of the 1954 Cadillac Ambulance, more research will be conducted before any final decisions will be made.

Various correspondences and upcoming meeting notices were reviewed and discussed.

If you would like to be placed on the list to receive county minutes, contact Karen Wolff at (541)676-5620.

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HES to hold Parent Teacher Conferences

Heppner Elementary School will hold Parent Teacher Conferences on Thursday, March 31, from 4-8 p.m. and on Friday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Teachers will contact parents to schedule a conference time.

Tears of Joy Theatre Puppet Show entertains young Ione students

The students at Ione Elementary and Creative Care Preschool were entertained in early March by the Tears of Joy Theatre Puppet Show. Kate Belden and Mark Dunworth enthralled students, teachers, and parents alike with their puppets.

Dunworth and Belden performed two folktales from Argentina and Mexico. Students were entertained and very excited. Later that day the pair taught 25 elementary students the art of puppet making. Just before leaving, the student group performed a short tale for the rest of the elementary students.

Tears of Joy was brought to the Ione Community School with funds from Ione's Elementary Carnival.

BASEBALL CLINIC
BUCKY'S BASEBALL ACADEMY
March 26th
Heppner High School Baseball Field
Registration @ 9:00 a.m. \$50 per player
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Scholarship available. For more information, contact Corey Sweeney at 541-256-0355.

**ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**