

## Archived Story

### Billings couple tie knot on camera in 'Big Redneck Wedding'

Posted on June 22

By **BECKY SHAY** of the *Billings Gazette*

LAUREL - Eric and Emily Majerus were pronounced rednecks in an outdoor ceremony Saturday at Riverside Park.

Actually, they were pronounced married. A redneck theme was carried through the nuptials to a reception that featured paddlefish caviar served at tables decorated with metal roses made of snuff can lids.

The couple exchanged vows in front of family, friends and television crews from "My Big Redneck Wedding," a program aired on Country Music Television. The Majeruses' wedding is scheduled to air in October. Eric isn't too sure if the show can encompass the glory of the sunlit day at the Laurel Rod and Gun Club. After all, the film crew has been visiting them for a month filming, including a trip to catch paddlefish. Eric told the crew the "caviar" served at the wedding was from the fish, "even though they watched me toss it (the eggs) in the river."

With editing to provide time for commercials, all the video of the Majeruses will have to be cut to about 16 minutes, he said.

"We need an hour-long special," Eric said. "I caught 'em a 'coon and a paddlefish. That's at least an hour right there without the wedding."

The wedding, while meant to be stereotypically rural, was elegant. The groomsmen stayed in their fitted vests of Mossy Oak camouflage material even after the groom changed out of tuxedo and Mossy Oak tie into an oily T-shirt. The bride continued to wear her jewel-studded choker over a tank top while munching fried chicken at the reception.

The centerpieces on the tables used shed antlers that Eric found as a base for silk roses. The arrangements included metal roses that Eric twisted out of chew-can lids donated by friends and placed on stems made of barbed wire from a neighbor. Eric also boiled the small-animal skulls that were among the d0x233cor on the head table.

The couple bought a pig to roast as the main course of a catered dinner. Their wedding cakes were served for dessert. Eric's cake was shaped like an elk mount with rice crispy treats molded to look like antlers. Emily's cake, frosted to look like wood bark, was a three-tier wonder with the tiers held by beer cans.

The Majeruses, who live in Worden, met about five years ago when Eric stayed with Emily's family during a band festival in Glendive. Emily laughed and told how he was wearing only underwear at their first meeting.

As the story goes, Eric was playing basketball outside and the ball went over a cliff. He ran to retrieve the ball, fell in the mud and the woman who would be his future mother-in-law wouldn't let him back in the house until she hosed him off. Stripped out of wet clothes, Eric entered the house and met Emily.

Eric went to Glendive nearly every weekend after that, Emily said, even when he was attending college in Powell, Wyo. She said the couple saw the redneck wedding show while planning their wedding, thought it was funny and her mom called to pitch them as a feature.

"They came out and it was about that simple," Emily said.

Everyone at the wedding and reception was asked to sign release waivers for the television show. Those who didn't want to sign had their photo taken so producers would know to blur their faces in the television episode. The couple will be paid \$2,500 for sharing their happy day with the viewing public. The money will help defray wedding costs, Emily said.

Eric's uncle, Denis Pitman, performed the wedding. Pitman is a Billings city councilman and an ordained minister. Pitman has officiated at some unusual weddings, he said, but this was the first time he had to pause the ceremony so the television crew could get a better camera angle.

