



Special Helper

Photo by Gina Perkins

The *Record-Courier* had a special helper this week. Vlad Perkins-Rust, age 5 lives in Pullman, Wash., and was visiting his grandparents this week. He was watering the flowers in this picture.

Annual Poco-Wing Judging Contest Held

There were 35 youth who attended the Practice Livestock Judging Contest, hosted by Poco-Wing 4-H club and held at Thomas Angus Ranch. The Beef judge was Bob Harrell and Sheep judges were Jesse Cook and Tami and Melissa Foltz.

PLACING

Junior Youth:

Third place - Gretchen Morgan
Second place - Tristin Curry
First place - Ty Morrison

Senior Youth:

Third place - Aiden Coomer
Second place - Johnathan Cunningham
First place - Emma Finley

Adults:

Third place - Michelle Coley
Third place - Greg Maddox
Second place - Tami Foltz
First place - Diana Downing

Winner of the weight guessing contest: Diana Downing, who guessed the bulls weight to within 10 pounds.

A special thanks to Sue Danielson who donated her time to help calculate the score cards.



USDA photos

ODFW Recreational Report

Baker County

Bighorn sheep can be seen in the Burnt River Canyon west of Durkee or along the Snake River Road south of Richland. Young lambs can be seen thistime of year with ewes across most of the bigborn sheep range. The best viewing is in the early morning and late in the evening. Please remember to leave wildlife alone. It is crucial for their survival to keep human interactions to a minimum.

Bald and golden eagles can be seen along the Snake River. Take the Snake River Road between Richland and Huntington.

Wallowa County

As we move into summer, many raptors will be feeding young at their nests. Common raptors in the open areas of the county are red-tailed hawks, with occasional ferruginous and Swainson's hawks also present. Most migrating bald eagles have moved north by now, but a resident pair of bald eagles is again using the nest at the south end of Wallowa Lake. Look for them in a large cottonwood tree near where the Wallowa River runs into the lake.

A good place to observe mule deer is along the Wallowa Lake highway between Joseph and the south end of Wallowa Lake. Drive slowly and watch along the moraine on the east side of the lake around dawn and dusk. Be careful to use the turnouts when stopping to watch these animals, as there will be other traffic on the road. White-tailed deer can be found throughout the Wallowa Valley on or near agricultural lands.

Many elk have returned to the Zumwalt Prairie now. Try driving the Zumwalt and Pine Creek Roads and looking carefully at ridge tops. Once you find a herd, use binoculars or a spotting scope to observe the animals.

While most of our migrant waterfowl have already headed north with the advent of warmer weather, some can still be seen flying into Wallowa Lake in the evenings from the county park at the north end of the lake. Canada geese (including new goslings) and several species of ducks can also be seen feeding in agricultural fields and along streams around the county.

Other migrants and summer residents are moving into the area including, western tangers, Say's phoebes, horned larks, killdeer, and robins. Mountain bluebirds are also arrived back from their southern haunts and can be seen in open grassland areas near trees.

Fishing

Brownlee Reservoir: crappie, bass, perch, catfish, bluegill, trout Fishing continues to be good for crappie throughout the reservoir, but the fish are smallish, averaging 7 to 8-inches. Bobber and jigs are working well. As the weather warms the fish will be deeper. Call the Idaho Power Company's recording at 1-800-422-3143 to get information on access at recreational sites.

Oxbow Reservoir: trout, crappie, bass, catfish Fishing has slowed some for trout, but remains good at tributary mouths. Fishing for crappie has slowed some but remains good for fish averaging 10 inches. Bass fishing is good and fishing for channels cats is picking up.

See RECREATION on page 6

Commissioners Hear Weed Management Update, Approve Unity Budget

By Emily Braswell

A Special Commission Work Session to review the City of Unity's 2015-16 budget was held last week. Because the city's budget is written and managed by Nichols and Mitchell, a local accounting firm, no audit is necessary. The Commissioners reviewed and approved the budget unanimously.

Next, Commissioners received an update from the Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area team (Tri-County CWMA).

New to the program which seeks to improve the effectiveness of the current noxious weed programs in Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties, Director Mark Lincoln provided the majority of the update.

Although over half of the funding from the over \$262,000 in 2015 weed project grant money goes to Baker County, Lincoln did not provide a breakdown of those expenditures. Commissioner Bennett was curious to know whether the money was being paid to Baker County contractors or if it was all being spent on contractors out of Union County, as the Tri-County CWMA's Main office is located in La Grande.

Having been present when the program was initiated, Bennett posed this statement to Lincoln, "This program has somehow or another morphed into something that was not initially envisioned and I'm not convinced, or no one has actually explained to me, why

this is a better model than what was initially set up."

Although the answer to Bennett's question was never directly provided, Lincoln was backed up by other administrative Weed Management team members with a promise to produce detailed expense reports to the Commissioners.

During this segment, a conversation between Lincoln and Arnie Grammon, Baker County's Weed Supervisor, made it clear to the Commissioners that communication between the Baker County Weed Board and the Tri-County CWMA was not optimal. Commissioners questioned the 15 percent administrative fee being received when the normal Federally allowed percentage for administrative fees is 3 percent.

Commissioners requested the detailed expense reports be sent to them as quickly as possible so they can be reviewed.

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Gina Perkins, Editor-Publisher
news@theronline.com

Hayden Perkins,
Reporter/Web Designer
hayden@theronline.com

Emily Braswell, Baker Correspondent
emily@theronline.com

Heather Honeywell,
Double H Productions
Graphic Design/Production
heather@theronline.com

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