

Cougars pressed out of state tourney action

Swallows are bug control



BIRD-WATCHING
EH Van Blaricom

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

A full-court press by a talented, platooning team in a small gymnasium was more than the Wallowa girls' basketball team could handle Feb. 25 when the Lady Cougars fell by a 50-21 score at Adrian in Round No. 1 of the 1A OSAA State Playoffs.

Wallowa's leading scorer, Taylor Harshfield, made a steal and converted it into a lay-in early in the first period to close Adrian's lead to 4-2, but by the end of the first quarter the Antelopes led 11-2 and the romp was on.

"They played 10 or 11 girls and are a really good team," said Wallowa coach Greg Oveson of the No. 5-rated 1A girls' quint from Adrian that proceeded three days later to bounce Echo, 60-39, the champion of the Old Oregon League. Wallowa had placed third in the league to qualify for state.

On Thursday, March 5, Adrian will compete among the elite eight schools that have qualified to play in the season-ending state tournament held in Baker City. Their first-round opponent there will be Damascus Christian, the No. 1-rated 1A team in the state with an unblemished 27-0 record.

Of Wallowa's loss to Adrian, Oveson said, "It wasn't our day for sure. We made a lot of mental mistakes and were in too big of a hurry. A lot of our wounds were self-inflicted."

Adrian enhanced its chances of achieving success in a small gymnasium by full-court-pressing Wallowa and

applying an effective double-team strategy that pressured members of the Cougar team at every turn.

Harshfield, a senior playing her last high school basketball game, led WHS in scoring with 11 points, more than four points below her season average. Only three other WHS players dented the scorebooks. They were sophomore Lauren Makin, whose five points were more than 50 percent off her season average of 10-plus points. The only remaining WHS players who scored points were Callie Miller, with three, and Cheyenne Hall, with two.

Although the ending was not pretty, the Wallowa team concluded the season with some notable achievements under their belts.

After a slow start to the year that left WHS smarting with a 3-7 record, the Lady Cougars reeled off eight successive wins at one point, posted an 8-4 league record, garnered a third place at the district tournament that earned them a ticket to Adrian, and concluded the 2014-2015 season far better than originally expected with a 14-11 overall season record.

Years from now, the 2014-2015 WHS girls' team might best be remembered for a pair of near-miracle come-from-behind victories over the Nixyaawii Eagles, the latter one propelling the Cougars into state-level competition versus Adrian.

Graduating seniors from this year's Wallowa team include Harshfield, Miller, Hall, and Macey Frei.

Of the seven species of swallows in the United States and Canada, the one that is the most common here in Oregon is the tree swallow. These small cavity-nesting birds usually nest in woodpecker holes in dead snags, but as the starlings have taken over these snags, the tree swallows have learned to nest along the eaves of buildings and are quick to utilize birdhouses.

They are very efficient nesters and return to the exact area where they were born. Once they take possession of their nest, they will chase away larger birds such as crows or magpies. They nest from Alaska to Southern California. They lay from four to seven eggs and feed their young solely on insects that they catch on the fly.

Our tree swallows winter in Southern California, Arizona and New Mexico.

When the breeding season is over, all of the swallows tend to gather together in huge flocks. They can be seen on telephone wires, too numerous to count. Once the southward migration occurs, they fly only in the daytime and their numbers increase as they fly leisurely to their wintering grounds. We won't see another tree swallow until about the middle of April at this latitude.

When you consider the large number of swallows and the huge amount of insects they consume, I can't think of any insect-repellent that can equal the benefits of these acrobatic swallows. Their wide beaks are lined with sticky stuff that makes it impossible for any flying insect to escape. Sometimes they skim along on a pond catching mosquitoes and other times they will be flying so high we can barely see them.

If you really want to watch them up close, put up a birdhouse in your back yard.



Courtesy photo

One of the easiest ways to observe tree swallows is to build a birdhouse in your yard.

Community Calendar: FFA dance; sculptor's barbecue

Thursday, March 5

Free screening of movie, "Monumental," a film about America's "true national treasure." 7 p.m. at OK Theatre in Enterprise. Sponsored by Stewards of the Wallowas.

Friday, March 6

World Day of Prayer observance, 2 p.m., St. Pius X Catholic Church, 407 S. Pine, Wallowa. More info: Marietta Herinckx, 541-240-0714, mariettaherinckx@yahoo.com; www.wdp-usa.org.

Joseph FFA fundraiser

dance (for teens, 13-18), 8 p.m. to midnight at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise. Admission \$3 single, \$5 couple. Part of Liv-

ing to Serve project, raising funds for Heifer International to fight world hunger. Info: Claire Beck, 541-263-0726.

Saturday, March 7

Old-fashioned Donut Social, 9-11 a.m., M Crow Store, Lostine. Free handmade donuts.

Blue Mountain Fiddle

Show, 6 p.m. at Cloverleaf Hall, Enterprise. Admission \$5. Dinner at 5 p.m. catered by Apple Flat Catering. More info: 541-432-3195.

Sunday, March 8

Barbecue hosted by sculptor Danek Modzenski, 1 to 4 p.m., east building of Valley Bronze, Joseph. Bring a salad or a dessert.

Wallowa Valley Chorale

Winter Concert, 4 p.m., Lostine Presbyterian Church. Program will combine an edgy collection of '50s pop music with "Climb Every Mountain" from the Sound of Music, also clas-

sic hymns, Irish melodies, and a solo performance by Denny Kolb. Refreshments following the performance.

Thursday, March 12

Enterprise Cemetery Board meeting, 4 p.m. at Community Connection in Enterprise. Continues February meeting concerning implementation of irrigation.

March 13-15

"Anne of Green Gables," performances by MidValley Theatre Company in old Lostine gymnasium, Lostine. Friday and Saturday shows start at 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Admission \$7 general, \$6 student. More info: Kate Loftus, 541-569-2302.

Friday, March 13

Joseph FFA Alumni Dinner/Auction. Doors open 5 p.m., Joseph Community Center. Tri-tip dinner. Tickets \$12, at the door or in advance at Sports Corral. More info: Karen Rinehart, 541-432-0770.

Sunday, March 15

Hurricane Creek Grange will be drawing the winner of the Trophy Elk Raffle (tag awarded by The Nature Conservancy) during the Grange's 7 p.m. meeting. Preceded by a potluck starting at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

March 20-22

"Anne of Green Gables," performances by MidValley Theatre Company in old Lostine gymnasium, Lostine. Friday and Saturday shows start at 7 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Admission \$7 general, \$6 student. More info: Kate Loftus, 541-569-2302.

March 27-28

First Aid/CPR/AED classes conducted by Project Heartbeat in Enterprise. Two offerings of 7-hour class to train lay responders to assist in medical emergencies until ambulance arrives. Two-year certification from American Red Cross upon completion. Cost: \$45. For more info and to register: 541-432-0259.

Here it comes ...



6-8 p.m.
Tuesday,
March 17

Odd Fellows
Hall (above
Soroptimist
Thrift Shop)
in Enterprise

The 'Letter Bee,' Rotary's community spelling bee

Top adult team and top student team win \$250 each for a Wallowa County charity of their choice.

Remaining proceeds benefit Project Heartbeat, the nonprofit that places automated external defibrillators throughout the county, and other Rotary projects.

It's time to assemble your team of three spellers — adults or students. Register at wallowarotaryclub.blogspot.com or Bank of Eastern Oregon. Registration fee: \$75 (or request a sponsor).

Plan to cheer on your favorite spellers and have fun! Admission: \$5 donation suggested.

Info: Marilyn Dalton, rmdalton7@gmail.com.

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BIRTH

A daughter,
Evelyn Ridley Rose Dalton,
was born
December 15, 2014,
in Enterprise to
Jeremy and Esther Dalton
of Lewiston. Grandparents
are Robby and Marilyn
Dalton of Joseph, and
Wes and Katherine
Wotring of Clarkston.

Now in paperback
The Painter
a novel by
Peter Heller
author of **The Dog Stars**

THE BOOKLOFT
Across from the courthouse in Enterprise
107 E. Main • 541.426.3351
always open at www.bookloftoregon.com • bookloft@eoni.com

The Community Calendar lists fundraisers, free local events and those with a nominal fee organized by nonprofit organizations. Submit information to calendar@wallowa.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. To promote for-profit events, contact sales representative Brooke Pace at bpace@wallowa.com.

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541.426.3413
Mon-Thurs 9 to Noon/1-5pm; Fri. 9-1

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Wallowa County Health Department
758 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR
(541) 426-4848
We offer services to all ages and income levels including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, flu shots, restaurant and hotel licensing, community tobacco prevention and education, chronic disease prevention. We provide equal opportunity programs.