



County elk tag year a success

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Hunters in Wallowa County had a successful year filling tags, according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife District Biologist Pat Matthews.

The most popular tag applied for was the Wenaha bull elk hunt.

"It's right up there with Bighorn Sheep and mountain goats," Matthews said.

Despite the numerous deer in the area, more hunters apply for elk tags because of the different types of elk hunts the ODFW offers.

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PREP ROUNDUP

Cougars claim 1st win of season

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Wallowa boys got their first taste of victory this season on their home court Saturday in an Old Oregon League matchup with Griswold.

Koby Frye led all scorers with 15 points in Wallowa's 41-29 win.

The Cougars led 10-9 after the first quarter before building an eight-point halftime lead.

Travis Haga scored eight points for the Cougars, followed by Cole Hafer (7), Christopher Nobles (6) and Noah Allen (5).

Boys Basketball

Powder Valley 57, Joseph 32: The Eagles took a loss Saturday in their Old Oregon League opener at Powder Valley. No game details were available at press time.

Nixyaawii 77, Wallowa 31: The Cougars opened league play Friday at Nixyaawii, where the Golden Eagles were in control from the start. Nixyaawii got 21 points from Ira Ashley and 20 points from Fredy Campos. Christopher Nobles led Wallowa scorers with 13 points and Koby Frye added eight.

Girls Basketball

Powder Valley 59, Joseph 54: Ally Cooney scored 17 points and Alexis Sykora added 11 points and 16 rebounds, but it wasn't enough as the held off Joseph Saturday in both teams' league openers at Powder Valley.

The Eagles scored 20 points in the fourth quarter but couldn't complete the comeback bid following a sluggish start.

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BACKYARD beauty



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Falls Creek Falls juxtaposed against the immense Wallowa landscape from about halfway up the valley.

A HIKE TO NEARBY FALLS CREEK FALLS WON'T EAT UP YOUR ENTIRE DAY

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Eagle Cap Wilderness is the largest and among the most popular wilderness areas in the state. As such, the summer months of hiking its trails are not necessarily the best way to obtain quietude in nature. However, you can hike many Eagle Cap trails in winter, and with proper preparation enjoy its beauty with some measure of solitude.

One of the closest and accessible hikes from Enterprise and Joseph is the Falls Creek Trail, which offers



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Though the valley recently had relatively mild temperatures, much of the area's water remained sheathed in ice.

a beautiful waterfall vista less than a mile from the Hurricane Creek Trailhead.

Though Falls Creek is a short hike,

winter is no time to fool with the elements. Read the harrowing account of Michelle Hileman of Wallowa, who lost both legs to exposure after what was intended to be a 45-minute elk hunt in 2002, if you're thinking otherwise.

Regardless of the time of year, I always carry matches, kindling, water, a compass, whistle, survival blanket, poncho, flashlight and lots of power bars — and generally the dog. Well-behaved dogs are allowed off-leash throughout Eagle Cap.

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Rockets fend off Outlaws

By Eric Singer
East Oregonian

PILOT ROCK — For the second time this season, the Pilot Rock Rockets got the best of the Enterprise Outlaws.

The two teams met the previous weekend at the Enterprise Winter Classic, with Pilot Rock rolling to a victory. But on Friday night, the game was far different as Pilot Rock hung on to defeat Enterprise 38-34 in front of a packed gymnasium of orange-clad fans at its Rocket Invite.

Rockets (4-3) coach Butch Wilson wasn't surprised at how the game played out on Friday.

"I knew Enterprise was going to bring it," said Wilson. "We beat them last week and they're not an easy team to beat twice. Nobody really is so I knew they would come well-prepared for us."

The game turned into a sloppy defensive battle, as both teams shot below 30 percent from the floor on the night.

But one area where Pilot Rock dominated was in getting to the free throw line, highlighted by its 22 attempts compared to just nine for Enterprise.

Junior Bekah Roe was a big reason for that aggressiveness, as the point guard attempted 11 free throws — sinking eight of them. Roe finished the game with a team-best 10 points and was named as the Rockets most outstanding player following the game.

"She's been playing like that the last few games, super aggressive," Wilson said. "I have a handful of girls who will take it to the basket if anyone tries to guard them one-on-one, which is nice and it opens up the posts."

After holding an 18-15 lead at halftime, Pilot Rock made a bit of a run in the third quarter, when Jaycie Wilson drilled Pilot Rock's only 3-pointer of the game with just over four minutes left in the quarter.

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E.J. Harris/East Oregonian

Pilot Rock's Rhyanne Oates goes up for a rebound flanked by Enterprise's Tiffanie George and Eliza Irish (23) in the Rockets' 38-34 win against the Outlaws on Friday in Pilot Rock.

SCOREBOARD

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

Girls Basketball
Joseph vs. Orofino (ID) canceled

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

Girls Basketball
Pilot Rock Tournament
Pilot Rock 38, Enterprise 34
Nixyaawii 67, Wallowa 10

Boys Basketball

Pilot Rock Tournament
Pilot Rock 52, Enterprise 40
Nixyaawii 77, Wallowa 31

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

Girls Basketball
Pilot Rock Tournament
Condon/Wheeler 40, Enterprise 32
Powder Valley 59, Joseph 54
Griswold 42, Wallowa 14

Boys Basketball

Pilot Rock Tournament
Enterprise 63, Condon/Wheeler 53
Powder Valley 57, Joseph 32
Wallowa 41, Griswold 29

MONDAY, DEC. 21

Girls Basketball

La Grande Optimist
Imbler 53, Wallowa 3

Boys Basketball

La Grande Optimist
Wallowa vs. Imbler, 9:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 22

(Results unavailable at press time)

Girls Basketball

Wallowa Girls vs. TBD, 10 a.m. (La Grande Optimist)
Joseph Girls vs. lone, 3 p.m.

Boys Basketball

Wallowa Boys vs. TBD, 10 a.m. (La Grande Optimist)
Joseph Boys vs. lone, 4:30 p.m.

SPORTS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23

Girls Basketball

Wallowa vs. TBD, 10 a.m. (La Grande Optimist)

Boys Basketball

Wallowa vs. TBD, 10 a.m. (La Grande Optimist)

MONDAY, DEC. 28

Girls Basketball

Joseph vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m. (Driftwood Classic, Neah-Kah-Nie)

Enterprise vs. TBD, 7 p.m. (Oregon Trail Classic, Pendleton)

Boys Basketball

Joseph vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m. (Driftwood Classic, Neah-Kah-Nie)

Enterprise vs. TBD, 7 p.m. (Oregon Trail Classic, Pendleton)

TUESDAY, DEC. 29

Girls Basketball

Joseph vs. Willamina, 10 a.m. (Driftwood Classic, Neah-Kah-Nie)

Enterprise vs. lone, 5 p.m. (Oregon Trail Classic, Pendleton)

Boys Basketball

Joseph vs. Neah-Kah-Nie, noon (Driftwood Classic, Neah-Kah-Nie)

Enterprise vs. TBD, 7 p.m. (Oregon Trail Classic, Pendleton)

Wrestling

Enterprise and Joseph at Pomeroy (Wash.) Christmas Tournament, 10 a.m.



SKI REPORT

FERGUSON RIDGE

Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekends and holidays. Open Dec. 24 and Dec. 26 through Jan. 3 (if snow cooperates); The Chuckwagon Sisters will be at Fergi the weekend of Dec. 19-20.

Snow levels: Unavailable

Early Season Conditions: Tree skiing not recommended. A winter storm advisory was issued Dec. 18 with an expectation of six to 12 inches of snow in the mountains.

For latest info, visit <http://www.skifergi.com>.

ANTHONY LAKES

Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. pen daily through Jan. 3 (closed Christmas Day).

Snow levels: 4.5 inches last 48 hours, as of Monday morning; 43-inch base; 110.5 inches season total

For latest info, visit <http://anthonylakes.com>.

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