

Killdeer uses broken-wing trick



A killdeer puts on its famous broken-wing trick to lure danger away from its eggs.

Very few birds are as widely distributed as the killdeer. They can be found from the Pacific to the Atlantic and from the Gulf of Mexico to most of Canada. They breed from northern British Columbia to Mexico and they like open country on beaches and farms. They sometimes winter as far south as South America. Killdeers return to their breeding grounds early in March along with the robins and bluebirds.

They don't actually build a nest. Rather, they lay their eggs in a depression on the ground. They lay four pear-shaped eggs and arrange them with the small ends together.

Whenever a trespasser gets too close to a killdeer's nest they put on their famous broken-wing trick, which you can see in this photograph. This is to lure the trespasser away from their nest, but a greater danger is when they lay their eggs on the shoulder of a gravel road and quite often get their eggs crushed by a road-grader. It takes almost a month to incubate the eggs and they are tended by both parents.

The youngsters leave the nest as soon

as they are born and have long legs to help them go with their parents to find insects. These young babies have the ability to dive underwater to escape from predators, and that's good as they don't get their flight feathers until they are as big as their parents. Very few spe-

cies of birds have the ability to find their own food as soon as they are born like these baby killdeers.

They are welcome by farmers as they eat enormous amounts of insects and are one of a few birds that can pronounce their own name.

Show adjusts to changes as director bows out

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

MidValley Theatre Company's Spring 2016 production of "Our Town" has met a few more obstacles on the way to the theatre — but they're in hand, said MidValley President Kate Loftus.

Loftus has had to bow out as director due to a family emergency. There are several options for director available Loftus said, and a new director/directors will be announced soon.

Casting continues; the show still needs one male actor for a secondary role. Women cannot be disguised as men to fill in the position, according to Loftus, because the publishing company that manages Thornton Wilder plays specifically prohibits changes of this kind.

A final change may be made

in the presentation of the play to make it easier for a new director to come in at this late date, however.

"We're considering making it a reader's theater," Loftus said.

No memorization, costumes, blocking or special lighting is needed in a reader's theater, as actors are allowed to carry scripts. Additionally, the audience may be seated all around the players.

If the reader's theater option is adopted, rehearsals may be pushed back to February, Loftus said.

The production is being planned in conjunction with Fishtrap as part of the 2016 Big Read, which kicks off Jan. 21 with a lecture by Thornton Wilder's nephew and literary executor Amos Tappan Wilder at 7 p.m. in Hurricane Creek Grange Hall.

Wallowa FFA brings home top honors



2015 Wallowa State Ag Sales Team in Ontario. From left to right: Robert Delancey, Ashley Starner, Emily George, and Jordan Ferré. Emily George placed first in Customer Relations.

After bringing home a first place at the District State Ag Sales Competition, the Wallowa FFA Advanced Ag team has gone on to win at state.

The Ag Sales Competition events tests students' skills in areas of sales and selling, dealing with customer concerns, prospecting for new customers, understanding advertising and telephone ordering.

The top placers on the Advanced team at District were: Emily George, who took first in customer relations and second in sales presentation; Jordan Ferre who took second in order taking; Caitlin Robb who took second in advertising and Robert Delancy who took third in prospecting.

Other members of the team were: Teagan Miller, Bryce Melville, Ashley Starner, Megan Jones, Oriana Wandschneider and Maddi Tracy.

The Wallowa FFA Greenhands also brought home a

fourth at district. Team members were: Riley Ferre, Rylee Goller, C.J. Horn, Michael Diggins, Katelynn Diggins, Ashley Wilson and Zane Hermens.

George, along with Robert Delancey, Ashley Starner and Jordan Ferre went on to state where Emily George took first place in customer relations.

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THE SCENE

- Thursday, Dec. 24:** Heidi Muller, Bob Webb (Americana), 5-7 p.m. at Silver Lake Bistro.
- Friday, Jan. 1:** Open mic, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity
- Friday, Jan. 8:** Fishtrap Fireside, 7 p.m. at Fishtrap. Three select authors read, followed by a literary open mic. The open mic is limited to five minutes (including introductions) and a maximum of four performers. First come, first served.
- Saturday, Jan. 9:** Seth Kinzie, an impressionist piano composer, will be performing his new album accompanied by Linton Wright — a percussionist from Alabama — as well as trumpet, saxophone and modern dance, 7 p.m. at Odd Fellows Hall in Enterprise. \$12 by donation, kids free. There will be free wine at the event.
- Sunday, Jan. 10:** Open mic, 4-6 p.m. at Josephy Center

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