



LOCAL WRESTLERS TAKE ON THE BIG SCHOOLS



Courtesy of Troy Farwell
Trace Evans of Enterprise and Zeb Ramsden of Wallowa pose together at the Oregon Middle School wrestling tournament held March 12 at Woodburn High School. Neither boy placed, but Evans was 1-2 in the 110 lbs. class, while Ramsden was 2-2 at 95 lbs. Coach Troy Farwell said the boys were wrestling against some of the largest schools in the state. "Just getting there is a big deal; I'm very proud of them," Farwell said.

SPORTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Baseball

11 a.m. and 1 p.m. @ Pilot Rock / Nixyaawii

Softball

3 p.m. vs. TBD (Rocket Softball Tournament at Pilot Rock)

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

Softball

1 p.m. vs. TBD (Rocket Softball Tournament at Pilot Rock)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Softball

11 a.m. vs. TBD (Heppner Invitational)

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Softball

11 a.m. vs. TBD (Heppner Invitational)

Baseball

Noon vs. TBD (Grant Union Tournament at John Day)

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Baseball

Noon vs. TBD (Grant Union Tournament at John Day)

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Baseball

Noon vs. TBD (Grant Union Tournament at John Day)

SKI REPORT

FERGUSON RIDGE

Likely open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 19-20

Annual Fergi Fest is April 2.

Snow levels: unavailable; fresh snow Monday and Tuesday.

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

ANTHONY LAKES

Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday

Snow levels: 3 inches last 24 hours as of Tuesday; 70-inch base; 220 inches season total

Latest info, visit <http://anthonylakes.com>.

SPOUT SPRINGS

Closed pending additional snow

Snow levels: unavailable

Latest info, visit www.spoutspringskiarea.com.

The smooth sounds of the black-headed grosbeak

Bird seems to have no fear of people

I took this photo of a male black-headed grosbeak at my feeder when we lived on Hurricane Creek. Grosbeak means "big bill". Adult birds eat mostly fruits and berries but they also feed their young insects such as beetles. The males sing a very mellow love song that also is a warning to other birds to stay away from their nests. They usually build their nests just 10 or 15 feet from the ground and lay three or four eggs in a sloppily constructed nest of coarse twigs. Their young also have large beaks and an even larger appetite. They have to be fed every 10 or 15 minutes. Here in Wallowa County these grosbeaks especially feed on elderberries and also are fond of mountain ash berries in people's front yards.

Black-headed grosbeaks are found in southern British Columbia and south into California, but they spend their winters in the tropical forests of Mexico. They migrate

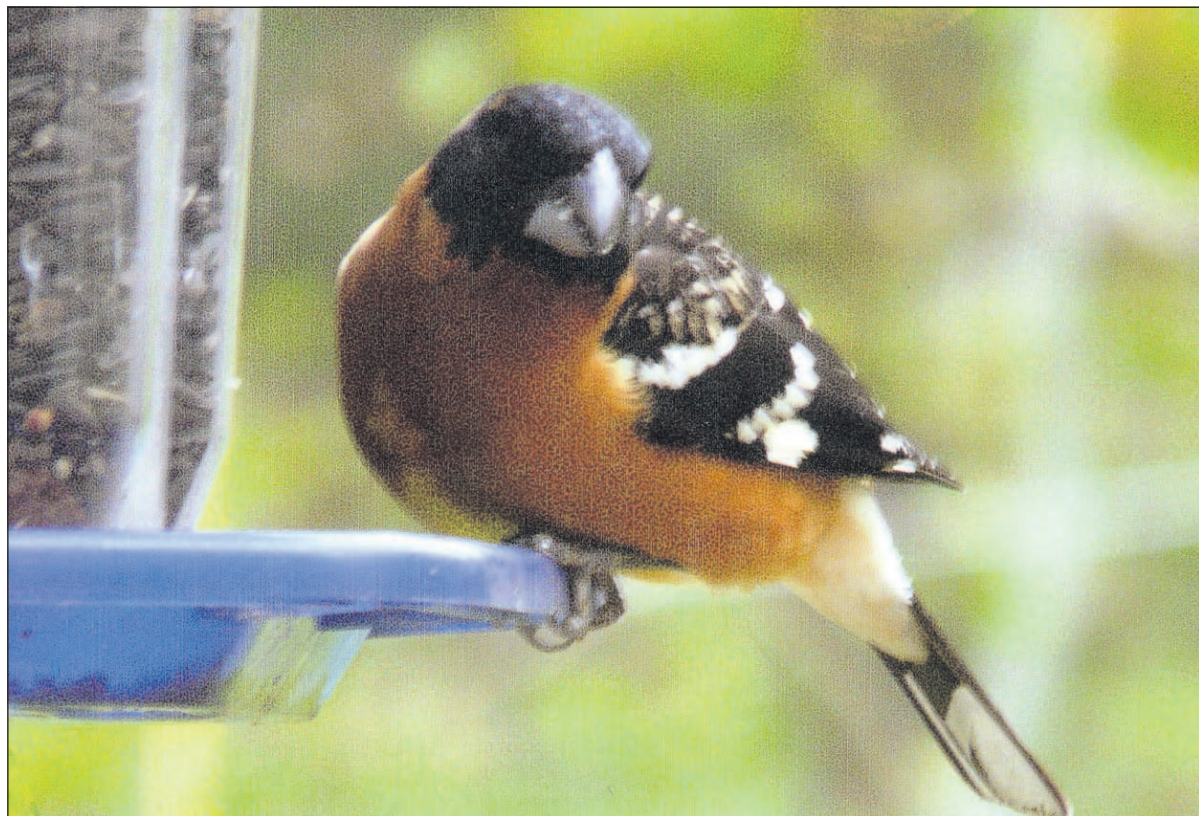


BIRD-WATCHING

EH Van Blaricor

back to their breeding grounds in April in their bright new plumage and the males start singing continuously, even when they take turns incubating the eggs. That is the best way to locate their nests — when the males are singing while on duty. They stop singing in September before migrating and the males lose some of the luster of their bright feathers while turning mostly brown.

I have never seen black-headed grosbeaks in large flocks — they usually came to our feeders in small groups of five or six. They don't seem to have much fear of humans, and they are known to fly down on your picnic tables and help themselves to your butter dish. These birds are a birdwatchers delight, both in beauty and their melodious song.



The Black-headed grosbeak.

Courtesy of E.H. Van Blaricor

New premium hunts available this fall

Wallowa County Chieftain

Some hunters pay thousands of dollars to win special raffle tags that offer the chance to hunt deer, elk and pronghorn during a months-long season. But beginning this fall, it will cost a few lucky hunters just eight bucks.

New in 2016, ODFW is offering Premium Hunt tags for deer, elk and pronghorn. Hunters who draw these tags get a two- or three-month season hunt (Sept. 1-Nov. 30 for deer and elk, Aug. 1-Sept. 30 for pronghorn). The bag limit is either-sex with no antler restrictions. Premium Hunts also are additional hunting opportunities, meaning hunters who draw them can still

get a regular controlled or general season tag.

As with other controlled hunts, hunters need to apply for Premium Hunts by May 15. Apply online at <https://or.outdoorcentral.us/or/license>, or at a license sales agent.

Choose L Series for deer, M series for elk, and N series for pronghorn.

"We are excited to offer this great new hunting opportunity," said Tom Thornton, ODFW game program manager. "We also wanted to keep Premium Hunts equitable and give every hunter a fair shot, so the price is just \$8 and every hunter has the same chance to draw the tag."

Winners will still need to pur-

ONLINE

For more information on Premium Hunts and other controlled hunts available, see the Oregon Big Game Regulations or ODFW's Hunting Resources page:

www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/index.asp

chase the tag, which will cost the same as a regular tag (\$26.50 for deer, \$46 for elk, \$48 for pronghorn for residents and \$414 for deer, \$549 for elk and \$369 for pronghorn for non-residents).



Courtesy of ODFW

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