

# The well-traveled house finch

## STATE

Continued from Page B1



**BIRD-WATCHING**

EH Van Blaricor



A male house finch.

Courtesy of EH Van Blaricor

The male house finch, along with gold finches, makes up most of the birds that visit my sunflower seed feeders here in our courtyard at Alpine House.

These finches belong to the family of seed eaters such as pine siskins, grosbeaks, crossbills and purple finches. They nest from the lower altitudes of British Columbia down through California and on into Mexico. The males help with the nest construction but do not help with the incubation except they bring food to the females who are on the eggs. Although they are seed eaters, they feed their young mostly

insects until they get a little older. And the males also bring food to the nestlings.

House finches are native western birds and live in a variety of habitats. They can even be found in deserts if

there is water nearby such as springs or stock-water tanks. However, they prefer farm land and buildings where there is abundant food. I know, because they used to eat our cherries that we had close to our house when we lived in Clackamas County. And they don't necessarily migrate south if we keep putting out sunflower seeds for them.

I spend about 25 dollars per month to feed the birds but I get a lot of enjoyment out of watching them while we eat our meals. I have been interested in wild birds since I was about 5 years old and there is so much to learn about them that Charles Darwin and the Wright Brothers studied them intensely for many years. I don't think anyone can study bird behavior without being a believer in a Supreme Being. Yes, it is that complex and mind-boggling.

Meanwhile, look out your windows and you might see a few house finches.

second off the school record in the 1,500 meters.

Another piece of good news: "They're all coming back next year," Roberts said. "We're not losing any seniors."

Tyler Homan, Joseph's lone male competitor, placed ninth in the 3,000 meters with a time of 10:03.44.

### Outlaws' Perren claims three medals

In class 2A action, Enterprise's Nathan Perren won silver in the 300-meter hurdles, bronze in the high jump and another bronze as part of the Outlaws' 4x100 relay team.

The Enterprise boys placed 11th in the field of 31 teams, while the Enterprise girls placed ninth.

Coach Dan Moody applauded his squad's effort, which included the breaking of several school records.

"I thought they competed very well," Moody said. "You always expect the best, and I'd like to have seen us win a few events, but that didn't happen."

"Time-wise, my goodness, Eliza (Irish) took 5 seconds off her (personal record) in the 800 and also broke the school record. In the mile relay, the girls were wanting to break the school record, which was 4:12, and they ran a 4:10. It's hard to fault anything they did."

Moody also praised the performance of freshman Karli Bedard, who placed second in the high jump with a 5-01 leap, a mere inch below winner Toni Hall of Bandon. Perren ended up competing in four events in the same day — the 100 meters, 300-meter hurdles, 4x100 relay and the high jump.

"The 4x100 was going on at the same time as the high jump, so it was a little hectic, but he tied his personal best," Moody said.

He also lauded the performance of shot putters Blaze Lepper of Enterprise and Wallowa's Chandler Burns, who were first-timers at state.

- Joseph results (1A)**
- 4x400 relay: 1. Johnelle Suto, Haley Miller, Isabelle Tinglestad, Annie Duncan, 4:22.19
  - 3,000 meters: 1. Isabelle Tinglestad, 10:52.32; 6. Ella Coughlan, 11:55.76
  - 1,500 meters: 1. Haley Miller, 4:58.11; 3. Isabelle Tinglestad, 5:08.21
  - 800 meters: 1. Haley Miller, 2:27.55; 8. Alexis Sykora, 2:32.08
  - 300-meter hurdles: 3. Annie Duncan, 47.95
  - High jump: 4. Ally Cooney, 04-11
  - 400 meters: 4. Annie Duncan, 1:01.88
  - 100 meters: 6. Annie Duncan, 13.34
  - Triple jump: 8. Ally Cooney, 31-08.25
  - 3,000 meters: 9. Tyler Homan, 10:03.44
  - Javelin: 12. Ally Cooney, 80-06
  - 4x100 relay: 1. Johnelle Suto, Courtney Bailey, Addie Kilgore, Alexis Sykora, DNF

## Four-day Chinook season opens Saturday on Lookingglass Creek

Wallowa County Chieftain

Lookingglass Creek, a tributary of the Grande Ronde River at Palmer Junction near La Grande, will open to fishing for hatchery spring Chinook salmon Satur-

day, May 28 through Tuesday, May 31. The open area is from the Moses Creek Lane Bridge (County Road 42) upstream to the confluence of Jarboe Creek.

"A relatively small run is predicted for Lookingglass Creek in comparison to recent years," said Tim Bailey, ODFW district fish biologist in La Grande. "This year's run is expected to be around 500 adult Chinook, the majority being hatchery fish. Even though the season is short, we want to provide an opportunity to fish for the prized spring Chinook whenever we can."

Anglers may retain two adipose fin-clipped Chinook adults and five adipose fin-clipped jacks per day, with two daily limits in

possession. Jack salmon are less than 24 inches in length. Anglers do not need to record jack catch on their combined angling tags but it is illegal to continue fishing for jack chinook once the adult bag limit is met. Unmarked (wild) fish must be released carefully and unharmed.

As with the trout fishery that opens on Lookingglass Creek on May 22, anglers are restricted to artificial flies and lures while fishing for salmon — no bait.

Anglers are reminded to respect private property by picking up trash when leaving.

A Columbia Basin Endorsement is required for anglers who want to participate in this fishery.

## ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B1

### Golf: Suto 10th at state tournament

Tori Suto, playing for the Wallowa/Joseph golf team, placed 10th in the state's 1A-

4A golf tournament at Eagle Crest Golf Course in Redmond.

The Joseph Charter School freshman carded an 89 and 91 for a 180 total during the May 16-17 tournament.

She was the only player in the county who qualified for the state tournament.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

count'em, six running events at the 1A state track meet at Hayward Field in Eugene on May 19-20.

As amazing as that sounds, Duncan placed no lower than sixth in any of her events. To cap off her stellar performance, after five of her events, Duncan ran the anchor leg of the 4x400 relay, starting out 25-30 yards behind the Griswolds anchor. Digging deep within, Duncan closed the gap and won the race going away. 32 of a second faster than second place Griswold. Joseph girls track won the state championship as a result. Duncan is a junior and also competes in cross-country. Her parents are Stefanie Duncan of Enterprise and David Duncan of Wallowa.

This week's athlete of the week is Joseph Charter School student Annie Duncan. The amazing Duncan, 17, participated in six,

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We invite you to the  
**Celebration and Unveiling Ceremony**  
for the  
**Gateway Entrance Sign for the City of Enterprise!**

Ribbon cutting will be at 9:30 am, Friday, May 27th at the sign, located at the top of the hill overlooking Enterprise from the West on Hwy 82.

For safety considerations, please park in the Baptist Church lot and walk the short distance to the sign.

We thank everyone who contributed to this project especially our major contributors:

**Community Bank, Pacific Power, Wallowa County, Glenn Martin, the Wallowa County Cultural Trust, and the City of Enterprise, Ralph Swineheart**

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7

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June 4/Joseph Gallery Art Walk  
June 11/Oregon Mountain Cruise  
July 2/Joseph Mountain Jubilee  
July 9/Bowlby Bash

July 23/Heidi's at Wallowa Lake  
Aug. 13/Bronze Blues and Brews  
Aug. 20/Main Street Show and Shine  
Sept. 3/Juniper Jam  
Sept. 17/Festival of Arts

**Enterprise/Wallowa results (2A)**

- 300-meter hurdles: 2. Nathan Perren, 41.53
- 800 meters: 2. Eliza Irish, 2:20.82
- 4x400 relay: 2. Reagan Bedard, Riley Gray, Karli Bedard, Stacy Douglass, 4:10.19
- High jump: 2. Karli Bedard, 5-01.007
- 4x100 relay: 3. James Madsen, Garret Thorne, Brandon Frolander, Nathan Perren, 45.91
- High jump: 3. Nathan Perren, 6-02
- 4x100 relay: 5. Hero Peters, Reagan Bedard, Riley Gray, Stacy Douglass, 52.72
- 100 meters: 6. Nathan Perren, 11.62
- Shot put: 7. Blaze Lepper, 42-07.25; 9. Chandler Burns, 41-07.
- 100-meter hurdles: 8. Stacy Douglass, 18.19

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