



# RUN, RIBICH, RUN



Courtesy of Jenny Reinhardt  
David Ribich cruises to a fifth-place finish in the 1500 meters at the NCAA Division II championships.



Hector Del Castillo/Chieftain archives  
In this 2008 photo, David Ribich and his father Mike Ribich share a moment with the gold medal David won at his first competitive race in Elgin.

## Imnaha Chinook fishing opens June 15

Moderate run of salmon expected, ODFW says

Wallowa County Chieftain

The Imnaha River will open June 15 for hatchery spring Chinook fishing from the mouth upstream 45 miles to Summit Creek Bridge.

Anglers may retain hatchery spring Chinook adults and five adipose fin-clipped jacks per day, with two daily jack limits in possession. Chinook jacks are salmon between 15 and 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. Wild fish must be released immediately and unharmed. A valid Columbia Basin Endorsement is required for this fishery.

"We are expecting a relatively modest return of salmon to the Imnaha River this year, just enough to provide harvest opportunities", said Jeff Yanke, ODFW district fish biologist in Enterprise. "Depending on how good fishing is, anglers should be prepared for sudden fishery closures".

ODFW will conduct regular fishery monitoring to determine how catch and harvest compares to annual sport fishery quotas.

Much of the area open to fishing is bordered by private lands, and anglers are reminded to obtain permission before entering private land and to pack out any trash. Anglers also are asked to be respectful and provide adequate space for any tribal members they may encounter who are fishing for Chinook using traditional methods.

### ALL-AMERICAN ACCOLADES KEEP ROLLING IN FOR ENTERPRISE GRAD DAVID RIBICH

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The boy was small. He wandered around the Elgin High School cross-country course as fellow competitors explained the lay of the land. The

seventh-grader recently had opted for cross-country as Enterprise schools stopped offering competitive soccer beyond the sixth grade.

The boy didn't really even understand what he was doing. Suddenly a gun went off and he ran, winning the race. The win gave him confidence, and he kept

running — and winning.

That boy was David Ribich, a 2013 Enterprise High school graduate.

"I just kept running because I didn't want to get beat," Ribich said. "It was pretty cool to win my first-ever competitive race when I was in seventh grade."

He now runs both track and cross-country as a sophomore at Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

Ribich's mother Jenny Reinhardt remembers him as an active boy.

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## The silky-voiced, ground-nesting Meadowlark



**BIRD-WATCHING**  
EH Van Blaricom

I got a chance to take a trip out to Buckhorn Springs a few days ago. I hadn't been out there for about 10 years, but things hadn't changed much since I was there last. Perhaps the road was in better condition than it used to be. The only people we saw were bear hunters on their 4-wheelers as the spring bear hunt was on. Outside of the spectacular scenery, it was a bird watcher's paradise. There were dozens of meadowlarks sitting on fence posts singing their notorious songs. Meadowlarks are not truly a



Courtesy of EH Van Blaricom

The melodious meadowlark.

lark as they belong to the family of blackbirds and orioles. Besides their songs, they also can be identified by

their flight pattern, which is several yards of flapping followed by gliding.

The thing that I have always thought was the most clever survival tactic was their nesting habits. Meadowlarks are ground-nesters, and they build their nests under a canopy of tall grass that cannot be seen from the air and have a tunnel leading up to it so when danger approaches they escape for 15 or 20 feet before they fly. And when they come to feed their young they light several yards from the nest.

Most of this is a protection from magpies and ravens who will wipe out their eggs and/or their nestlings. If a human walks close to their nests they won't fly until they are almost stepped on. Our western meadowlarks nest from southern Canada to Baja California and Mexico. The young meadowlarks leave the nest

long before they can fly and scatter out to where their parents have a hard time keeping track of them. The adult meadowlarks are like robins and bluebirds, and sometimes they come back too soon even here in Wallowa County and get caught in snowstorms where they have to spend the nights under a snowdrift and find it difficult to find food.

I'm sure that everyone who reads this column knows that the meadowlark is our state bird. And it is a well-chosen candidate for their beauty and their song, to say nothing of the thousands of grasshoppers and beetles that they consume. If anyone wants to see them, it's less than an hour drive out the Zumwalt Road. Be sure to shut off your motor and roll down the windows and you will get to hear their most pleasant songs.

# Drawn to beauty at Alpine Meadows

Two months into the golf season and Alpine Meadows is looking good.

Management inside the clubhouse and on the course has been working tenaciously to help golfers get the most from their seasonal membership and to make local and out-of-town guests feel welcome. The group effort seems to be working well.

"We got our first taste of the tourist season," Clubhouse Manager Jimmy Bivens said. "We had our biggest day of the year on Sunday, May 29. All golf carts were rented throughout the

## tee time

Rochelle Danielson

day, and the golf course was full of happy, happy people."

AMGC is a happy place, buzzing with life and color. Hanging baskets of flowers and large planters adorn the entryway to the clubhouse and the patio out back. Snap dragons bloom along the No. 1 tee box, and now with warmer weather and less chance of a

freeze, the flower beds at each tee box have been weeded and replanted with an array of perennials.

Inside the colorful clubhouse happens abundantly, too. Always smiling and helpful, Jimmy B will take your money and an aproned Sherri C, cooking up a storm, will take your order.

Check out the decorative metal bench situated near the main door to the pro shop. The bench and plaque is in honor of the late Gayle Beck, who truly loved Alpine Meadows and golf. For the clairvoyant and those who

had the privilege of knowing Gayle, pause a moment and you'll surely hear Gayle's laughter.

Also, check out the new bridge across Trout Creek. It is sturdy and trustworthy. The greens crew did a great job of engineering the project.

Here's the list of winners from the Triple 6 Tourney (6 Holes Best Ball, 6 Scramble, 6 Chapman):

- 1st Low Gross, John Decker/Lance Homan; 2nd Low Gross, Dean Duquette/Harlan Menton; 1st Low Net, Dan Cornett/Howard Talbot; 2nd Low Net, Jerry Cornett/Dick Ander-

son. Twenty-two entrants, 11 teams and fun had by all.

A BIG thanks to Terry Lamb for processing entries and numbers, along with new course marshal Jerry Hook.

"Jay Butts and James Johnson LOOOOVE the Chapman format — not really," said Bivens.

Scotchball winners: Carol and Gary Marr and Mac and Nancy Huff.

Rochelle Danielson is an Alpine Meadows member who resides in Enterprise.

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