

Snow and slush can’t stop Ducks Unlimited banquet

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Slushy streets and driveways didn’t stop more than 100 people from dropping in at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise for the annual Ducks Unlimited banquet and auction.

The event Saturday, Feb. 4, and was hosted by the Wallowa County Ducks Unlimited chapter.

Ducks Unlimited describes itself as a hunter-friendly organization with a mission to conserve water-fowl wetland habitat.

Member Marge Bieraugle said she was surprised by the attendance.

“If they could get out of their driveway, then they came, and we were pretty happy about that,” Bieraugle said. “This isn’t a real ‘ducky’ place, you know.”

Bieraugle noted that although many attendees were local, including some new people, the event also attracted DU members from the west side of the state.

DU takes great care to make sure kids are welcome at the event.

“We take good care of the kids under 18; we call them ‘green-wings.’ We had contests and prizes for the kids like decoy painting and duck calling. The audience just loves stuff like that,” Bieraugle said.

She also had high praise for the Chuckwagon Sisters, who catered the event.

“They even made cookies shaped like ducks. We can’t tell you how much we loved it,” Bieraugle said.

Although totals aren’t in for the amount of money raised by the event, Bieraugel said the DU members were astounded by community contributions to the event.

“We can’t believe the community is so generous. Hancock (Timber) gave us two cow elk tags to auction off. Guys from down in Troy gave us a weekend at the Fogerty Cabin (it once belonged to rock legend John Fogerty). The neat thing is that the person who bid on it and got it got a real good deal because it normally rents for \$300 a night,” Bieraugle said. She added that many local artisans contributed pieces to the evening while Les Schwab underwrote some of the guns given out as prizes.

“We feel really good about that,” she said.

According to Bieraugel, newcomers to the event came away with two positive impressions: 1. That DU takes good care of the younger generation by teaching them practical conservation. 2. The food is very good.

PUSHES

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Reagan Bedard and Sarah Aschenbrenner led the scoring, pouring in nine points each with Reece Christman adding six points to the cause.

“I thought we had a nice weekend. We won both nights, and I thought we played both games soundly. We know we’re in the top three going into District,” said coach Mike Crawford.

Tiffanie George was the Max-Preps player of the game.

Saturday’s game saw more cruising as the girls came out on the top end of a 44-22 score against Union. Tiffanie George led the scoring with 10 points while Christman followed with nine and Bedard contributed six points.

“If we win both our games this weekend, we could tie for first place. At this point it’s all in front of us, what we have to do,” Crawford said.

Joseph, Wallowa:

The Eagles girls soared to easy victories, defeating both Wallowa and Pine Eagle over the weekend. Friday’s home game saw the lady Eagles deliver a 58-35 drubbing to Wallowa’s lady Cougars. Despite the lop-sided score, the Cougars fought to the very end, always playing as though they had a shot to win.

“After a slow start, I was proud of our girls and how they responded. Our intensity picked up and they were able to feed off each other. It

was nice to see that six different kids were able to score,” said coach Lance Homan.

Leading Eagles scorers were Alexis Sykora with 13, Emma Hite with 10 points and Lauren Makin with seven points. Leading scorers for the Cougars were Savannah Nobles and Jamie Johnston with a dozen points apiece followed by Grace Pendarvis with four points.

Saturday’s game for the Eagles proved a repeat of Friday’s with a 53-19 blowout of Pine Eagle. Sykora knocked in 18 points with Hite close on her heels with 17 and Ally Cooney and Makin each delivering eight points.

“We started off slow, but we were able to pick it up in the 2nd quarter again outscoring Pine Eagle 26 to 2. I’m happy with the way our girls competed and played. We’re getting better defensively, which has really helped our offense. Overall it was a good weekend and we are looking forward to having two home games this weekend,” Homan said. The weekend left the Eagles 8-4 in league play and 18-5 on the season.

The Eagles boys also romped through the weekend with twin victories as well. Friday’s game against Wallowa was a 53-27 win for the boys.

“We got to play the bench a bunch, and that’s a good weekend for me,” said coach Olan Fulfer. He complemented the Cougars for the tenacity in their play. Caevan Murray led the scoring with 20 points. Cayden DeLury poured in 14 and

Jake Chrisman followed with nine. Gus Ramsden led the Cougars with 11 points.

Saturday’s game at Pine Eagle saw another beating administered with the Eagles on top of a 52-34 score. Murray led the scoring with 12 points followed by Tyler Homan with 11 and Chrisman with nine. The weekend left the Eagles 9-3 in league play and 15-3 overall.

Wallowa Cougars

The Cougars boys came out in Saturday’s game delivering a merciless scouring to Cove, 65-31.

“Everything went right for us on Saturday. We rebounded, (the) fast break was working, executed in the half court, handled their pressure and played great defense. We were definitely hitting on all cylinders Saturday night. We had a big crowd which helped with our energy and effort ... We played together and we put four quarters of basketball together. Our best game this year by far,” said coach David Howe.

Ramsden led the scoring with 30 points while Christopher Nobles knocked in 23 points for the team. The weekend left the Cougars 5-7 in league play and 5-15 Overall. They next play Echo and Powder Valley on Feb. 9-10 respectively.

The lady Cougs lost a heart-breaker in Saturday’s game against Cove, 26-20. Johnston led the scoring with seven points while Riley Ferre and Nobles each contributed four points.

The weekend left the ladies with a 3-9 league record and 3-17 overall.

REPORT

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Setting up on a fresh kill or using distress calls can all be productive techniques. Hunters are required to check in the hide of any cougar taken, with skull and proof of sex attached. Remember a 2017 cougar tag and hunting license is needed to hunt as of Jan. 1.

Coyote numbers are good throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

GRANT COUNTY

Cougar hunting remains open. Successful hunters

should remember that check-in of the hide with skull and proof of sex attached is mandatory; see the regulations for details. Remember a 2017 cougar tag and hunting license is needed to hunt as of Jan. 1.

Coyote numbers are good in most of the district. Coyotes may respond to distress calls. Try calling in the early morning and late evening.

UNION COUNTY

Cougars are common in Union County. Focus on game rich areas with long ridgelines or saddles that cats typically travel. Setting up downwind of a deer or elk killed by a cougar can be productive. Nonresident hunters can include a cougar

tag with others tags for only \$14.50. All cougars taken must be checked in within 10 days of harvest; call for an appointment before check in. Remember a 2017 cougar tag and hunting license is needed to hunt as of Jan. 1.

Coyote numbers are high throughout the district. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Remember to ask for permission before hunting on private properties.

WALLOWA COUNTY

Cougar: Populations are moderate throughout Wallowa County. Most lions are taken incidental to other hunting; however, calling with fawn bleat, or locating a cougar kill and waiting for a cat

to return are often successful techniques. Remember a 2017 cougar tag and hunting license is needed to hunt as of Jan. 1.

Coyote: Good numbers of coyotes can be found throughout Wallowa County. Calling coyotes with rabbit distress type calls has been effective for hunters. It is important to choose areas with abundant coyote sign and little human activity.

NORTHEAST ZONE WILDLIFE VIEWING

WALLOWA COUNTY

Common raptors in the open areas of the county in winter are red-tailed hawks, rough-legged hawks, prairie falcons, golden eagles, and

occasionally a gyrfalcon. And a merlin was seen recently in residential Enterprise. Look for bald eagles perched in the larger trees along Wallowa Lake shore or on power poles near water in the valley.

Most elk have left the Zumwalt Prairie now and moved onto the breaks above Little Sheep Creek or the Imnaha River. Try driving the Lower Imnaha River Road and looking carefully on slopes west of the river on Long Ridge. These areas are county roads that run through private property, so please respect the landowner’s privacy and remain on the county road and park out of the traffic lanes while watching the elk. Once you find a herd,

use binoculars or a spotting scope to observe the animals.

The breeding season birds have moved south now, but we have a number of interesting migrants from the north still in the area. Wallowa Lake is frozen now and all water birds there have moved south or to local creeks where there is still some open water. Seen recently on valley creeks or feeding in farm fields were Canada geese, mallards, widgeon, wood ducks, common mergansers, and pied-billed grebes. Other winter migrants include grey-crowned rosy finches, snow buntings, horned larks and a few Lapland longspurs that regularly winter on the prairie areas north of Enterprise.

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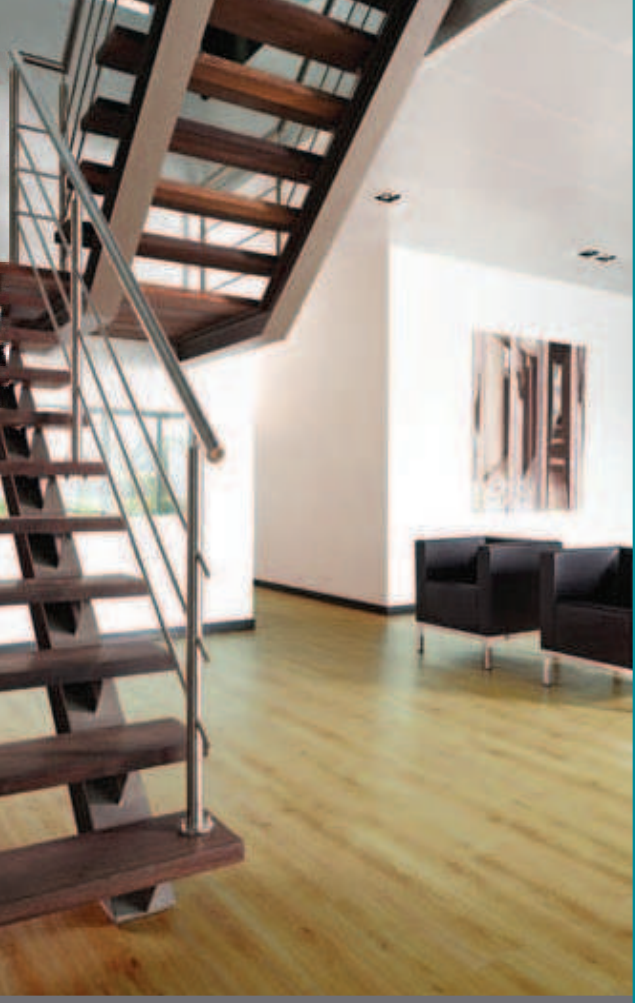
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