

Rehabbed and released

Bald eagles take flight in McKay Creek Refuge

By George Plaven
East Oregonian

A cold and steady rain fell Tuesday afternoon at McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge where Lynn Tompkins and Samantha Castoldi arrived with two bald eagles in plastic carriers.

After months of rehabilitation at Blue Mountain Wildlife, the birds were set to be released back into the wild. They took flight without any hesitation, and in seconds were soaring effortlessly over the reservoir south of Pendleton.

“Two less mouths to feed,” said Tompkins, executive director of Blue Mountain Wildlife, as she watched the eagles fly.

It has been an unusually busy winter at the wildlife rescue, where Tompkins said they have received more than twice as many birds so far in 2017 as they did at this time last year. She figures it has something to do with the extreme cold and snow, though it is difficult to tell just how much of a role the weather has played.

“I’m sure the weather one way or another has had an effect,” Tompkins said.

Blue Mountain Wildlife cares for sick, injured and orphaned animals from across Eastern Oregon and Washington. About half of what they get they can’t treat, Tompkins said, which is why they are so excited when they are able to return native species to their natural habitat.

The eagles released Tuesday were initially brought to the center last summer, including an adult male and immature female. The female was discovered in July by hikers around Jubilee Lake, which they wrapped in a coat and placed in a cooler until it could be collected by wildlife officials.

Tompkins said the bird had a dislocated hip and shoulder, and was unable to fly. She figures there had to be a collision of some kind to sustain those injuries.



Samantha Castoldi, with Blue Mountain Wildlife, releases an adult male bald eagle at McKay Reservoir on Tuesday in Pendleton.



Samantha Castoldi, with Blue Mountain Wildlife, releases a female juvenile bald eagle as Lynn Tompkins records video on her phone Tuesday at McKay Reservoir in Pendleton.

The male, however, was more of a mystery. Tompkins said they received the eagle from around Ellensburg, Washington, and though the bird was emaciated and dehydrated, they could not figure out why.

“He was really thin, and he wasn’t eating,” Tompkins said.

Both eagles received weeks of supportive care, in-

cluding fluids and Tompkins’ famous “mouse slurry,” which doesn’t contain any actual mice but rather contains the same ratio of fat, carbohy-

drates and protein as a mouse.

Tompkins initially planned to release the eagles at the McNary National Wildlife Refuge across the Columbia River, but weather kept interrupting those plans. Instead, arrangements were made to bring the birds to the nearby McKay Creek Refuge, where Tompkins said they should have plenty of food.

“The winter has been especially hard on our deer and elk,” she said. “Bald eagles are essentially scavengers.”

As Castoldi opened the doors to each carrier, the eagles burst out with a whoosh and quickly maneuvered out of sight.

“They flew very well,” Tompkins said. “They’d been ready to go for a while.”

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

Former Cheiftain editor Gwen Coffin spoke truth to power

MAIN STREET
Rich Wandschneider

Historians on Feb. 19 marked the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II. The military then defined the entire West Coast, home to the majority of Americans of Japanese ancestry or citizenship, as a military area.

Gwen Coffin, then editor of the Wallowa County Chieftain, rose to challenge President Roosevelt. From his far outpost in Wallowa County Coffin spoke to remind people of who we are and why we were fighting.

Here is what Coffin wrote on April 8, 1943. “Much of the resentment on the West Coast toward the Japanese was not the outgrowth of the war but arose during peacetime as the Japanese achieved some success and prominence in their pursuit of agriculture and trade. Many employers preferred to see the Japanese remain in the ranks of the low paid wage earners. Others were resentful at the sight of Japanese prospering....

“It is foreign to our conceptions of democracy, however, to distinguish between peoples on the basis of color or nationality. There should be only one test for the right to share in the opportunities which this country provides, and that is the test of belief in our democratic ideals and government, and a willingness to work with other Americans to further those ideals and to support this government.”

I remember Coffin saying with a chuckle that the local barber would not cut his hair. In 1994, the theme for the

It is foreign to our conceptions of democracy to distinguish between peoples on the basis of color or nationality

Gwen Coffin of the Wallowa County Chieftain

seventh Summer Fishtrap Gathering at Wallowa Lake was World War II. My vivid memories of that July involve three people: Jean Wakatsuki Houston, Richard White, and Alvin Josephy. Houston had grown up during the War in a Japanese Internment camp in California.

And I remember historian Richard White telling us that the Japanese in America were not a threat—any with dangerous ties to the Japanese government were known to our government.

Finally, I remember Alvin Josephy playing his recording of the Marine landing at Guam. Alvin, a Marine Corps Combat Correspondent, had walked the last quarter mile with a microphone covered by a condom against the seawater, tethered to the recording machine in the belly of a halftrack by a 40-foot cord. On the day in 1994, tears in his eyes, he rose and said that “some of us felt guilty about coming home alive.”

In the troubled times of 2017 – when religion and national origin are again topics of the day – it is worth carefully reading Gwen Coffin’s courageous words of April 8, 1943. *Rich Wandschneider is director of the Josephy Library of Western History and Culture*

NATURE’S LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHICS

Images & Publications

FAMILY & INDIVIDUAL PORTRAITS

WEDDINGS, ENGAGEMENTS, & EVENTS

COMMERCIAL & REAL ESTATE

Serving all your photographic needs with care and artistry at affordable prices in studio or on location.

paleobishop@gmail.com

www.natureslightphotographics

Ellen Morris Bishop

541-398-1810

P.O. Box 352

Joseph, Oregon 97846

Studio in the Josephy Center

Wallowa Mountain Chapter

19th Annual BIG GAME BANQUET

When: Saturday, March 11, 2017

Where: Enterprise Cloverleaf Hall (Hwy 3)

Catered by Chuckwagon Paradise Rose back by popular demand!

Time: Social Hour/Admission 5:00pm

Proceeds benefit elk and other wildlife

The Wallowa Mountain Chapter invites you to A GREAT TIME FOR A GREAT CAUSE.

YES, your dollars do work locally!

In Oregon alone (thanks mostly to individuals like you and our dedicated volunteers) we have completed over 835 projects, covering over 786,802 acres and increasing 28,383 acres of public access, with a total investment in elk and wildlife habitat of over \$55.2 million dollars.

Register online at events.rmef.org

Or for more information call:

Sharon Wilson 541-398-1238

Brad Peterson 503-805-3629

Volunteers Welcome!

M. CROW & CO.

L O S T I N E , O R

Wallowa BUSINESS

Serving 973 entrepreneurs creating new jobs since 2001

Supports Free and Confidential Business Counseling and Services through Blue Mountain Community College

Wallowa County Small Business Development Center

Rick Bombaci, Small Business Advisor

To begin your free and confidential business consultation contact Rick at

541-426-9095

Wallowa Business is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation

ROGERS TOYOTA

CALL Jeff Courtney 541-379-6400

NEW 2017 COROLLA IM MANUAL

STK # 17TL389

\$189^{MO} on approved credit

\$0^{DOWN}

NEW 2017 COROLLA LE

STK # 17TL379

\$179^{MO} on approved credit

\$0^{DOWN}

NEW 2017 RAV4 LE

STK # 17TL339

\$245^{MO} on approved credit

NEW 2017 TUNDRA DOUBLE CAB SR5 5.7L V8

STK # 17TL438

\$399^{MO} on approved credit

BUY A VEHICLE AND THE FIRST TANK OF GAS IS FREE

0% FINANCING UP TO 60 MONTHS ON SELECT NEW TOYOTAS!

STK # 17TL389 2017 TOYOTA COROLLA IM MANUAL. WAS \$16,615. NOW \$17,189. AFTER \$887 ROGERS DISCOUNT AND \$1,000 REBATE FROM TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. 36/42/38 MILES/YEAR LEASE. PLUS TAX, TITLE & DOC FEE. NET CAP COST \$16,637.35. 3YR LEASE. \$1 DOWN - \$179/MO. ON APPROVED CREDIT.

STK # 17TL379 2017 TOYOTA COROLLA LE. WAS \$16,895. NOW \$17,285. AFTER \$1,000 ROGERS DISCOUNT AND \$1,000 REBATE FROM TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. 36/42/38 MILES/YEAR LEASE. PLUS TAX, TITLE & DOC FEE. NET CAP COST \$17,285.35. 3YR LEASE. \$1 DOWN - \$179/MO. ON APPROVED CREDIT.

STK # 17TL339 2017 TOYOTA RAV4 LE. WAS \$22,394. NOW \$24,094. AFTER \$1,000 ROGERS DISCOUNT AND \$300 REBATE FROM TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. 36/42/38 MILES/YEAR LEASE. PLUS TAX, TITLE & DOC FEE. NET CAP COST \$24,094.35. 3YR LEASE. \$100 DOWN - \$245/MO. ON APPROVED CREDIT.

STK # 17TL438 2017 TOYOTA TUNDRA DOUBLE CAB SR5 5.7L V8. WAS \$31,284. NOW \$34,734. AFTER \$1,000 ROGERS DISCOUNT. 36/42/38 MILES/YEAR LEASE. PLUS TAX, TITLE & DOC FEE. NET CAP COST \$34,734.35. 3YR LEASE. \$1,000 DOWN - \$399/MO. ON APPROVED CREDIT.

ON SELECT NEW TOYOTA MODELS. ON APPROVED CREDIT. FOR ALL OFFERS, NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED. A DOCUMENTARY SERVICE FEE OF \$150 MAY BE ADDED TO VEHICLE PRICE ON CAPITALIZED COST. DOES NOT INCLUDE TAXES, LICENSE, TITLE, PROCESSING FEES, INSURANCE AND DEALER CHARGES. NO PAYMENTS UNTIL 2017. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFERS VALID THROUGH 03/31/17.

ROGERS TOYOTA

We Care About What You're Driving!

208.743.5577 | 1.800.769.5654

2203 16th Ave

Lewiston, ID 83501

toyotaoflewiston.com |

SERVICE HOURS: MON-FRI 7 am - 5:30 pm SAT 8 am - 5 pm SALES HOURS: MON-FRI 8:30 am - 6:30 pm SAT 9 am - 6 pm SUN 10:30 am - 5:30 pm