

Those wacky nuthatches look for eggs when they’re upside-down



BIRD in THE HAND
EH Van Blaricom

My bird of the month is a white-breasted nuthatch, and I took this photo when we lived on our five acres on Hurricane Creek.

There are three species of nuthatches in Wallowa County: Red-breasted, white-breasted and pygmy nuthatches. The red-breasted nuthatches are the most numerous and the white-breasted are the least common, but are the largest of our nuthatches.

I get quite a few nuthatches that come to my sunflower seed feeder here at Alpine House, but the white-breasted ones are by far the fewest. Of course all nuthatches are insect-eaters and can most often be seen coming down a tree trunk upside-down looking for insect eggs that are in the cracks of the bark.



Courtesy Van Blaricom

The white-breasted nuthatch is fairly rare in Wallowa County.

However, they have learned to grab a sunflower seeds, fly to the closest tree and hold it down with one claw to peck out the nutritious kernel.

Some people call nuthatches “upside-down” birds, but the reason they hunt for their food going upside-down is they can locate small insect eggs or larvae in the cracks in the bark that other birds might not be able to see. I have observed nuthatches traveling with chickadees, brown creepers and kinglets pretty high up in the treetops especially in the winter.

Apparently they don’t mind mixed company unlike many species that only fraternize with their own flocks. So if one is lucky to see a white-breasted nuthatch at your sunflower feeder, get out your camera but you will seldom see one come on your back porch like the one I photographed.

Van Blaricom is an avid bird-watcher who resides in Joseph.

100 YEARS OF LEARNING



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Enterprise Elementary music teacher Leslie Carlsen led her students in a special song to celebrate the Enterprise School Centennial April 13.



Paul Wahl/Chieftain

Neva Forstrom Grover, 101, traveled from Portland to attend the Enterprise School Centennial celebration April 13. She attended Enterprise starting with her sophomore year and graduated in 1932. Wade Isley, president of the Enterprise FFA, pins a corsage on her. A packed house was on hand for the event in the school’s gym.

Bret Uptmor a finalist for open La Grande superintendent spot

Wallowa School District Supt. Bret Uptmor is one of five finalists who interviewed Monday evening for the job of La Grande School District superintendent.

The five finalists, drawn from an application pool of 22 potentials, were interviewed in a marathon similar to the interview process used to select Enterprise School District Supt. Erika Pinkerton.

The process allows both finalists and community to meet just once as they narrow their field.



Uptmor

Three school district panels and a community panel each took turns speaking to individual finalists.

The La Grande School District Board met on Tuesday to discuss the interviews.

They are expected to announce soon if they have chosen their man or intend continue with further interviews.

Other finalists included Brett Baxter, principal of La Grande High School; Michael D. Kay, executive director of operations at Hermiston School District; George Mendoza, assistant superintendent of the Morrow County School District; and Paul Peterson, assistant superintendent of the Northwest Regional Education Service District, Hillsboro.

LETTERS

Continued from Page A4

Because you give only this one example, it is possible that you are obscuring the truth by generalizing too much?

Every example of government wrong doing should be made transparent; but in doing so, please do not besmirch all of the good people in government who are working hard to do what we the people have asked of them.

It is important to recognize that the cemetery board, the city and county workers, the hospital employees, the school employees and all of the boards that oversee them are government workers. In fact, we citizens are the government in this country; and when we carry out our citizenship responsibilities, government will be better.

Evelyn Swart
Joseph

LUCK

Continued from Page A4

Speaking of occupations, it is true that doctors make a lot of money but true also that medical school is very expensive — estimates now hover at \$400,000. Brain surgeons and cardiologists make more than family practitioners, so the post-med-school pull is toward the specialties.

And rural areas like ours must subsidize new docs in one way or another — help with loans, build and lease clinics, etc.

And here we go back to economic principles. An influential book, “Capital in the Twenty-first Century,” argues that “markets,” left to themselves, exacerbate income differences .., the rich get richer ...

And that occasionally a great leveling happens. It

happens with big wars, in which rich and poor lose lives and loved ones and some people distinguish themselves and earn post-war praise and careers.

And it happens with government interventions. The most prominent in this country: the New Deal of the ‘30s; the G.I. Bill in the ‘40s and ‘50s (which many say created the modern middle class); California’s free education programs ‘40s-’60s; and Medicare in the ‘60s.

Our fine local public hospital, halting state and national moves toward universal health care, and moves in many states to make college affordable — e.g., Oregon’s free community college program — are small efforts aimed at tilting the economic table back towards even.

Rich Wandschneider lives in Joseph and writes a monthly column.

Area scholars make EOU dean’s list

Area students were among the 509 named to the dean’s list for the winter 2017 term at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande:

Kyle Hogg, McKenna Miller and Stephanie Simpson of Enterprise; Shayna

Cooper, Amy Roseberry and Jocelyn Tanzay of Joseph.

Jennifer Harmon, an officer in the Parole and Probation Department of Wallowa County Sheriff’s Office, recently graduated from the

Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. A ceremony was held in Salem April 7. The academy is nationally recognized for its innovative training programs.

Harmon was one of 20 to receive certification.

Wallowa County

HEALTH LINE

Wallowa Valley Eye Care

519 W. North Street, Enterprise
541.426.3413
Mon-Thurs 9 to Noon/1-5pm; Fri. 9-1

MOTIVATIONS Fitness Center LLC

Keycode Entry
Weight Room • Cardio
Women’s Circuit • Tanning
202 W. Main, Enterprise
541-426-0313

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Specializing in Anti-Aging Skin Therapy
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Body Polish-Back Facials
High-Performance Products
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Wallowa County Health Department

758 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR
(541) 426-4848

We offer services to all ages and income levels including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, flu shots, restaurant and hotel licensing, community tobacco prevention and education, chronic disease prevention. We provide equal opportunity programs.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

APRIL 2017

100%

USE YOUR VOICE TO CHANGE CULTURE

CAUSES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT:

- SEXY CLOTHES
- FLIRTING
- ALCOHOL
- GOING TO A BAR
- WALKING HOME ALONE
- SEXUAL ASSAULT PERPETRATOR

Are you a survivor of Sexual Assault?

We are here to help. You are not alone. We offer our support

(Free and Confidential)

How to Report Sexual Assault

If a victim has been sexually assaulted within the last 72 hours, and the victim is at least 15 years of age, they have the option to activate the Sexual Assault Response Team, (SART team).

SART is designed to be Victim Centered. The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a community-based team that coordinates the response to victims of sexual assault. The team may be comprised of a specially trained nurse (SANE), hospital personnel, sexual assault victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and any other professionals with a specific interest in assisting victims of sexual assault. SART Activation will help the victim with evidence collection (SAFEKIT), reporting to law enforcement (only if the victim wishes), talking to a sexual assault advocate, medical exam, STD/STI medication, Plan B, and aftercare services, such as counseling and legal advocacy. With any sexual assault the victim has the options to decide who they want to talk to and what services they require.

SART can be activated any of the following ways:

- By calling 911, if the victim wishes to report to Law Enforcement.
- By going to Wallowa Memorial Hospital for an exam, the victim has the option to get an exam without reporting the assault to law enforcement.

Calling the Safe Harbors Crisis-Line: 541-426-6565
Calling Safe Harbor’s office: 541-426-4004
The Teen Talk-Line: 541-398-1425

For further information on a victim’s options after a sexual assault has occurred please call Safe Harbors, 541-426-4004.

100% FREE & Confidential

SAFE HARBORS

Find us on Facebook

Safe Harbors Safebook
Safe Harbors Teen Talk

Wallowa County SART

Sexual Assault Response Team

Glacier Grill

At Wallowa Lake

2017 Season Opening

The Weekend of Friday April 21st

Early Spring Hours
Thursday thru Sunday
11:00am to 8:00pm

541-432-9292