

Retired nurse is where she wants to be

Glenda Cummins has lived in Enterprise with her husband, Rob, since 2006 and the retired nurse finds it the right place to be.

After working as a nurse for 40 years – the most recent stint at Wallowa Valley Senior Living – she’s glad to be done with all the bed pans and body lifting.

“That’s why I’m retired; my back is done,” she said.



Cummins

Wallowa County VOICES

By Bill Bradshaw

She answered a few questions for the Chieftain giving her thoughts on living in Wallowa County.

What’s the best place or thing about Wallowa County?

“The mountains, being outdoors, mushroom hunting, huckleberry picking, hunting.” She said the locations of the berry patches vary. “They don’t always

grow in the same place. The last couple of years, we’ve found so many we couldn’t pick them all. We picked 17 pounds in three days.”

What is the greatest challenge facing Wallowa County?

“There’s not (enough) businesses. There’s not enough people to sustain businesses and that the people who’ve been here forever don’t want any development.”

What can people do to make Wallowa County a better place for us all?

“They really need to capitalize on tourism, because that’s the major (source of) income. I think that there should be more places that offer breakfasts during spe-

cial events, extended hours – just during special events, not all the time. I admire the people who have businesses around here because I know they have to put their heart and soul into it to stay afloat. And to keep things here rather than going 65 miles to La Grande. ... (They should be) advertising what is actually available here.”

What have you learned from living in Wallowa County?

“There’s a lot you can do without. But there’s a lot of support; people are very supportive.”

What’s your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

“Don’t expect a lot of luxury.”

Community Bank recognizes outstanding teachers

Contributed by Leah Johnston
Community Bank

JOSEPH, OREGON — During the month of September Community Bank branches collected teacher nominations for their new Apple Appreciation Awards. The award acknowledges current K-12 teachers in the local community while also supporting school clubs. The winning teacher from each Community Bank location was presented with an Apple Appreciation Award trophy and asked to choose a club or student organization at their school to receive a \$200 donation from the bank.

“We were overwhelmed with the outpouring of kind words for so many teachers in the region. They do incredible work educating our youth and we want to thank all the amazing teachers investing in our future,” said Community Bank President, Tom Moran.

The bank congratulates the teachers with the most nominations collected in the branches and online. The winners in Wallowa County were Shari Warnock, Julie Corson and Cody Lathrop.



Enterprise Seventh Day Adventist School teacher (left) Julie Corson with Community Bank Enterprise branch manager, Sara Tippet.



Imnaha teacher Shari Warnock (right) holds the Apple teaching award she received from Joseph Community Bank customer service manager Deena Perin (left).



Wallowa High School teacher, Cody Lathrop. He received an Apple award from Community Bank. This is Lathrop’s first year teaching at Wallowa.

Shari Warnock, the Imnaha School K-8 teacher in the Joseph School District received the most nominations in the Joseph area. “She has a great attitude and is always smiling,” “Shari treats all of the kids as if they were her own,” “She has great respect from parents, students, and the com-

munity,” and “She teaches 8 grades by herself and gives each child one on one attention” are a few of the many reasons noted on the nomination forms. The bank donation of \$200 will go towards the Imnaha School field trip fund.

Enterprise Seventh Day Adventist K-4 teacher, Julie

Corson, earned the Apple Appreciation Award with nomination reasons such as “Ms. Corson is a very caring, creative teacher,” “She’s selfless. She’s kind. She’s genuine. She LOVES kids and wants the best for everyone.” She will select a program at her school for the bank donation funds to support.

Wallowa High School’s new history and economics teacher, Cody Lathrop, chose the boys basketball program to benefit from the bank donation. Cody received the most nominations in that area, “He teaches us more than just stuff in books,” “He is a great teacher and tells a lot

of cool stories,” and “He is very funny and good at explaining.”

The bank plans to continue the Apple Appreciation Awards each fall with plans to expand the nomination radius to include all schools within the counties where Community Bank does business.

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Birds benefit from full feeders in the winter

By Kym Pokorny
Oregon State University Extension

CORVALLIS, Ore. – As we begin the slide into winter and summer’s bounty recedes, birds welcome the extra nutrition offered by backyard feeders.

When putting out a banquet of supplemental food, high quality is essential, said Dana Sanchez, a wildlife specialist for Oregon State University Extension Service. Mixes with red millet, golden millet, flax seed, rape seed and oats are a waste because birds will just kick those fillers out of the feeder, where they’ll fall on the ground and attract unwanted visitors like rats. They’ll also sprout and grow into undesirable plants.

Put black oil sunflower seeds top on the list because they attract so many different bird species, Sanchez said, including chickadees, black-headed grosbeaks, house sparrows, northern flickers and song sparrows. To enjoy finches, offer their favored nyjer seed, also



To help birds the most be sure you provide appropriate foods.

called thistle seed, in specialized feeders with openings small enough to hold the seed in and perfect for their tiny beaks. Many birds — waxwings, grosbeaks, chickadees and robins — love fruit, which can be put out on elevated platform feeders.

People enjoy watching woodpeckers going at suet blocks. The fat-and-seed mixtures are best used in fall and winter when birds need the extra energy to keep warm. In warm weather suet goes bad quickly, which is not good for birds. So, if you want to use suet in summer, check it often and remove it as soon as it starts to smell.

Hummingbirds are a class unto themselves. These high-energy birds need a special diet high in sugar. To make your own, use a 4-to-1 ratio of water and sugar. Bring the mixture to a gentle boil for 1 minute. Let it cool and pour into feeder. Don’t use red coloring, San-

chez said, and remember to make only enough nectar for a few days so mold doesn’t become an issue.

Cleaning all bird feeders once a week is essential. Moisture contributes to mold, which causes diseases transmitted on avian feet after perching on feeders. Discard any feed left in the feeder, scrub inside and out with a long-handled brush and follow with a rinse of bleach solution at a ratio of 10 percent water to 1 percent bleach. Let it dry thoroughly before filling.

How you arrange feeders around the yard doesn’t seem to matter to birds. In patio gardens or apartments, gathering them together in groupings is usually the only option. A larger garden allows for more feeders and more areas for placement.

“You’ll notice no matter how many ports you have, there will be competitions,” Sanchez said. “It’s a matter of ‘Get off that perch;

it’s mine.’ You’ll see a lot of movement around.”

Bird need water, too. Serve it up in a shallow, flat-bottomed bowl with ½ to 1 inch of water. Place it in either sun or shade, clean it often and change the water daily or at least every other day.

To reduce the chance of rats visiting your bird stations, keep seed off the ground, Sanchez said. Choosing or modifying feeders to have a catch pan on the base can prevent most spillage from reaching the ground. If ground-feeding birds like doves, quail and juncos are a favorite, experiment with elevating a platform feeder a bit off the ground and keep the area under it cleaned up. It may or may not work. Rats might still be able to access the feeder and birds might not.

Squirrels drive some people crazy with their tenacious — and often successful — attempts to steal bird food. Others enjoy their antics and put out peanuts especially for them.

“I don’t mind them,” Sanchez said. “But some people find themselves in conflict with squirrels. A feeder is like an Eat at Joe’s sign, a good place to hang out. And while they’re there, they can do other activities like cache their food in the lawn or damage plants. Plus, these voracious little animals eat a lot of expensive food.”

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