

WRESTLE,

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after placing third or better in the district tournament.

In addition to the top placers – more on them in a moment – Gage Mance took fourth place after losing to teammate Taran Purkey in the third place match-up. William Smith also took fourth. Riley Repp landed in fifth place, and Carlos Vincent, Ryan Edsall and Isaiah Putnam placed sixth.

Putnam pulled off one of the most monumental feats in the Celtic ranks. After Purkey dropped to 170 pounds for the tournament, there was an opening at 182. Putnam was wrestling up 16 pounds and still managed to place.

Overall, McNary placed third as a team.

Joey Kibbey

(106 pounds, second place)
Junior Joey Kibbey dropped weight to wrestle at 106 pounds in the tournament, and had a spot in the semifinals by mid-afternoon the first day.

He ended up losing in the finals to McMinnville High School's Alvaro Flores.

"I wrestled him freshman year and he beat me pretty badly, but this was only one point that gave him the title. I was really happy with the match despite that," Kibbey said.

He hopes to get his hands on Flores again in the state tournament.

Brayden Ebbs

(120 pounds, second place)
Freshman Brayden Ebbs was the No. 1 seed headed into the tournament and won his first two matches with a pin in 15 seconds and a major decision.

He drew Forest Grove's Christian Guerra in the finals.

"It was 2-2 all the way through the third round," Ebbs said. "Then it went into overtime. I shot in, got a leg and was close to taking him down. I flipped my hips, turned around and missed a half-nelson. He flipped his hips and got around on top of me."

That single move gave Guerra the district title.

Jonathon Phelps

(126 pounds, second place)
Jonathan Phelps was disappointed he didn't take first in



Above: Isaiah Putnam finished sixth in the district tournament wrestling 16 pounds above his usual weight class. Left: Wyatt Kessler takes control in his quarterfinals match.

KEIZERTIMES/
Eric A. Howald

the tourney, but his final opponent was Matthew Johnson of Forest Grove, a longtime rival.

"It was a best two out of three this season, I beat him the first time and the second time he won 11-3," Phelps said. "This time, he just kept getting his takedowns."

Johnson won it in a 7-2 decision.

Michael Phelps

(132 pounds, second place)
Senior Michael Phelps turned in his best-ever performance at the district tournament, but ended up forfeiting the finals match due to a lingering knee injury.

"After the first day, it was hurting pretty bad and I decided I wanted to save it for the state tournament," Phelps said.

He said his semifinal match-up gave him the biggest scare of the tournament.

"It was 0-0 the whole time and he locked up a cradle on me, but I got out of it and scored on the reversal," he said.

Wyatt Kessler

(145 pounds, third place)
Sophomore Wyatt Kessler had the toughest route of McNary's top placers. Two wins took him to the semifinals, but a loss there meant he had to

wrestle twice more to get back in the mix. Both opponents were from Sprague. He won both.

"It meant that much more because it was beating them at their own house," Kessler said. "It also meant a lot because I had to sit out last season after knee surgery."

His first match of the tournament, Kessler beat the No. 3 seed in a major decision. He entered the tournament seeded sixth.

Taran Purkey

(170 pounds, third place)
While excited to be going to the state tournament for the second time, senior Taran Purkey was disappointed that his road to placing at state will be one of the tougher ones.

"The first match at districts was actually the toughest one. He was a good wrestler, I was just better," Purkey said.

Purkey dropped 12 pounds to wrestle at 170 in the tournament and said it's both an exciting and nerve-racking situation.

"The nice thing is none of them will know what I bring to the match, but I won't know much about them either," Purkey said.

MHS,

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Morgan Raymond is directing *The Courtroom*. As a dancer, she's putting a lot of focus on the actors' movement.

"I've talked with them a lot about what the horsemen represent and want them to use their voice and body language to inhabit the characters. It's kind of crazy to call myself a director, but I like it more than acting and being up there myself," Raymond said.

Myers said the One Act Festival serves three purposes: it gives freshman and sophomore students their time in the spotlight, lets upperclassmen direct performances and it's relatively low budget.

Producing student work means the drama department doesn't need to pay the sometimes steep royalties for each performance. For the whole run, it will end up costing the department about \$500.

"For *Legally Blonde*, the production rights alone were \$5,600," Myers said. "The good thing was the ticket sales covered it. It was the most successful musical we've had since I started at the school five years ago."

It might come as something of a surprise to learn that McNary's drama department survives on ticket sales alone. Whatever profits it turns finance future productions as well as smaller trips to thespian festivals and outings to other local productions.

"I try not to turn a lot of those costs over to students, but there are times when we have to do it," he said.

McNary's annual Knight of Arts fundraiser – set for Saturday, March 7 – helps provide a cushion in the event of a shortfall, but the Fine Arts Department is also hoping to install a closed circuit camera system that will enhance the ability to record high-quality renditions of every performance on the Ken Collins stage.

The largest costs, year-in and year-out, come from lighting and paint.

"We spent \$500 on paint for *Legally Blonde*. Some of the



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Playwright Aloi Tombleson (standing) and director Morgan Raymond will stage a production of *The Courtroom* next month.



McNary's annual Knight of Arts is slated Saturday, March 7. The event features student work and a play alongside silent and oral auctions. Tickets are \$10 and on sale at the McNary main office.

lumber we use to build sets is special order," he said. "Even things like painter's tape and masking tape add up."

However, there are also some occasions when Oregon's tight-knit high school theatre community can come to the rescue. Last year, McNary put together an extravagant steam-

punk production of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Most of the equipment is now on loan to St. Helens High School.

"We really do try to pay it forward. And, every year, we are putting more and more of an emphasis on making things that we can reuse for future productions," Myers said.

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