

BRIEFS

2020 First Citizen Banquet

The public is invited to attend a tribute to this year’s outstanding community volunteers at Silverton’s annual First Citizen Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Those being recognized are Becky Ludden as First Citizen; Erica Rumpca and Mindy Duerst for Distinguished Service; Judy Schmidt for Lifetime Achievement Bill & Sylvia Long; Business of the Year is Silverton Pill Box; and Future First Citizen is Zahra DeShaw.

Silver Falls School District will recognize classified employees and teachers of the year while service clubs and non-profits salute their outstanding members. The banquet takes place at the Festhalle in Mt. Angel beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and are available at the Silverton Chamber of Commerce, 426 S. Water St. and online at www.silvertonchamber.org.

The Chamber is looking for sponsors for the event. More information: contact the Chamber, 503-873-5615.

Free 7-Week Positive Discipline Parenting Series

Parents can learn many tools that are empowering and encouraging to you and your children in this series facilitated by Ashley Yokota, a Parenting Education Coordinator at Options Counseling and a former elementary school teacher. Classes are held at Scotts Mills Elementary School, 805 1st St. Scotts Mills, 97375.

Classes run Thursdays through March 5, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Dinner at 5 p.m., childcare, & parent workbook provided. Register online: bit.ly/smparent or contact Amanda Sloan (503) 873-4394

Appeal Tribune

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Head coach Keegan Davis is about to be put on the mat by wrestler Cooper McCullough, a junior, as members of the new Corban University wrestling team work out during their practice at the Courthouse Club Fitness in Salem Jan. 23, 2020. This is the first season that Corban University has had a wrestling team.

KELLY JORDAN / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Wrestling

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Building a culture at Corban

“It’s pretty amazing. I never thought that I would be able to create a culture on a team,” said Dallas High School graduate Nick Nelson, a sophomore who is certified at 174 and 184 pounds and has a 10-11 record this year. “We are all working together to create a team, and hopefully create a positive culture that will carry the program throughout its lifetime.”

Starting a culture from scratch was a solid selling point when recruiting wrestlers into the program, even wrestlers with college experience.

“Going from high school to college, even just in school, is a big step,” said Cooper McCullough (157/165), a junior who has a 24-12 record this season, and previously wrestled at North Idaho College. “Seasons are a lot longer, practices are harder. Having college experience, I’m trying to step up and be a leader.”

Davis said it was important for the new program to recruit wrestlers who already had college experience to help provide leadership for the younger guys.

“They came in and have done a really good job of showing the rest of the team what kind of work it takes to be a college wrestler,” Davis said. “They have been a blessing in leading by example.”

Familiar faces on coaching staff

Among the coaching staff at Corban are Davis’ brother, Stryder; longtime Sprague wrestling coach Kary Hadden; and volunteer assistant Bryan Rozo.

Keegan Davis said having a staff of people close to him was key to getting the program off the ground.

“I didn’t do any of it alone, which is a huge blessing,” Davis said. “Right away, I had the help of my brother Stryder and coach Hadden. That first hurdle of getting your name out there, once I pulled Hadden in with me, it was super easy.”

Corban’s wrestlers have noticed Davis grow into his role as a college head coach throughout this first season of competition.

“He’s starting to turn it on more lately, which is good,” McCullough said. “He needs to be more in our face and I think he’s starting to learn that, which is going

to be good for us toward the end of the year. He’s an awesome coach, and he knows a lot.”

Religion is a part of the draw to Corban

While the goal of Corban’s wrestling program includes what happens on the mat, Davis said the bigger goal is to develop the wrestlers into responsible, community-conscious adults.

“Our goal is not just to make a bunch of national champions,” Davis said. “The bigger goal is the guys that come out of our program are the kind of guys who will give back to the community, the kind of guys who are going to be good fathers and husbands.”

Levi Perry (174/184), who has a 32-2 record this season, said he was interested in Corban because he needed a life change.

“Coming to a Christian university, coming to Corban, has been a blessing and has been everything I wanted,” said Perry, a junior ranked No. 7 in NAIA and who previously wrestled at North Idaho College. “It’s been tough because it’s a complete lifestyle change, but overall, morally and religiously it’s been amazing. It’s helped me open my eyes and keep a better mindset throughout the year.”

Looking ahead

Corban’s next match is at 7 p.m. Friday against Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at C.C. Jeffers Sports Center.

After that, Corban will compete at the Eastern Washington tournament Feb. 2, then host Eastern Oregon at 1p.m. Feb. 7 to complete the regular season.

The Warriors then will prepare for the Feb. 21-22 Cascade Collegiate Conference championships in Atherton, California.

The NAIA national championship are set for March 6-7 in Park City, Kansas.

“My goal for this season was for each guy who came here, it was my job to get them to a point where they were making the most of the talents they were given,” Davis said. “It’s a very challenging thing to pursue. But for the most part, the growth I’ve seen in these guys has been pretty dang impressive.”

Contact reporter Pete Martini at pmartini@statesmanjournal.com or (503) 399-6730, or follow him on Twitter at @PeteMartiniSJ

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