

LOCAL SCHEDULE

**Saturday
PREP GIRLS
BASKETBALL**
Union, Powder Valley, Cove, Elgin at Union Christmas Classic, 9 a.m.
Wallowa at Lone/Arlington, noon
Joseph at South Wasco County, noon
La Grande vs. TBD, Today's Dentistry Elite Eight, Nampa, Idaho, TBD
**PREP BOYS
BASKETBALL**
La Grande vs. TBD, Today's Dentistry Elite Eight, Nampa, Idaho, TBD
Union, Powder Valley, Cove, Elgin at Union Christmas Classic, 10:30 a.m.
Joseph at Sherman, 3:30 p.m.
Wallowa at Lone/Arlington, 1:30 p.m.
Imbler at Four Rivers, 10 a.m.
PREP WRESTLING
La Grande at Tri-State Meet, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 10 a.m.
Elgin, Enterprise, Imbler, Union/Cove, Joseph/Wallowa at John Rysdam Memorial Invite, Elgin, 9 a.m.
Enterprise at Mac-Hi Christmas Tournament, all day
PREP SWIMMING
La Grande at LHS December home meet, noon
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE
BASKETBALL**
Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, Klamath Falls, 5:30 p.m.
**MEN'S COLLEGE
BASKETBALL**
Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech, Klamath Falls, 7:30 p.m.
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE
WRESTLING**
Eastern Oregon at Olympic Qualifier, Fort Wayne, Texas, all day

— Subject to change

ROUNDUP

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fourth quarter to fend off the Lumberjacks.
Powder Valley (4-3 overall) faces Crane Friday in the tournament semifinals.
BOBCATS EASE PAST TIGERS
The Union Bobcats an easy win over the hapless Dayville/Monument Tigers Thursday, 46-5.
Callie Glenn led the way with 16 points for the Bobcats, who jumped out to a 20-1 first-quarter lead, led 33-3 at halftime and coasted from there.
Audrey Wells added seven points for Union (5-1 overall), which faces Jordan Valley Friday in the tournament semifinals.
CRANE RUNS PAST COVE
The Crane Mustangs built an early double-digit lead and never let up Thursday on the way to a 60-27 win over the Cove Leopards.
Kelsie Siegner had 18 points for Crane, which was up 15 after one quarter and 27 at halftime, 39-12.
Austin Kendall and Maggie Frisch scored seven points apiece for Cove (3-2 overall) which faced Council Friday in the consolation semifinals.
HUSKIES FALL TO JORDAN VALLEY
The Elgin Huskies dropped their second game in a row Thursday, losing to the Jordan Valley Mustangs, 48-34.
Tymra Anderson and Jayden Palmer led the Huskies' offense. Anderson had 15 points and Palmer followed with 11.
Elgin (4-2 overall) faced Dayville/Monument Friday in the consolation semifinals.
LHS boys fall in Nampa
The Skyview Hawks built a double-digit lead during a big second quarter Thursday on their way to a 73-53 win over the La Grande Tigers at the Today's Dentistry Elite Eight in Nampa, Idaho.
Kaleb Myer led all scorers with 21 points and Cristian Mendoza added 13 for the

Tigers.
Skyview outscored La Grande 24-12 in the second quarter to take a 35-18 lead at the half, and built as much as a 50-23 lead.
The Tigers (1-4 overall) face Fruitland Friday in the tournament.
LHS girls drop second game
The La Grande Tigers saw a halftime lead slip away Thursday as they fell in their first game at the Today's Dentistry Elite Eight in Nampa, Idaho to the Skyview Hawks, 47-41.
The Tigers were up 24-22 at the half. Skyview inched ahead 34-33 after three quarters, then held on the fourth. Skyview did most of its damage in the final period at the free-throw line, going 9-for-13.
Camryn Collman scored 14 points and Ella Dunlap had 11 for La Grande (2-2 overall), which faces Fruitland Friday in the tournament.
Enterprise girls rout Imbler
The Enterprise Outlaws ran over the Imbler Panthers Thursday on the road, 63-16.
Zari Bathke and Asiya Salim scored 11 points apiece for the Outlaws, who had 12 players score. Claire Farwell added nine points.
Kenna Whitmore scored 10 points to lead the Panthers.
Enterprise (6-1 overall) is off until Dec. 27 when it visits Nixyaawii, while Imbler (0-7) visits Notus, Idaho, Friday.
**Wednesday
COUGAR BOYSTOP LHS JV**
Tristin Bales continued his high-scoring effort of late with 31 more points Wednesday as the Wallowa Cougars built a big early lead on their way to a 60-36 home win over the La Grande junior varsity.
Quinten Tillery added 13 points for the Cougars, who outscored the Tigers by 15 points in the first quarter and stretched the lead to 37-17 at the half.
Wallowa (3-3 overall) visits Condon/Wheeler Friday.

HYBRID

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that would have included La Grande, Baker, Ontario, Madras and Crook County.
“Madras-Ontario would be a pretty big hike,” Goodman said.
Jason Ramos, who recently finished his first year as head football coach at Baker, said he would welcome a change.
“We’ve got to have something other than a three-team league,” Ramos said.
Because of their location relative to other 4A schools, the GOL teams have struggled to schedule games with schools of similar size. The four current GOL schools are among only nine schools in 4A east of the Cascades.
“The teams from the other side of the state don’t want to drive this way,” Goodman said.
The other five Class 4A schools east of the Cascades are several hours from the GOL schools — Sisters and Madras, both near Bend, and Mazama, Henley and Klamath Union, which are all in Klamath Falls.
Madras played down to 3A for football the past two seasons, though it will move back to 4A in 2020. The Dalles and Crook County, both 5A schools, also played down in football. The Dalles will be bumping back up to 5A next season, but Sisters will slip to 3A.
It has been a struggle in recent years for GOL teams to find five or six games to fill a complete schedule for football.
To remedy that, GOL rivals Ontario, La Grande and Baker in 2016 elected to play each other twice. As a result, the schools had to find just three out-of-league opponents, but with Mac-Hi’s decision this season to play an independent schedule, the teams had to scramble to add more contests.

OSAA executive director Brad Garrett said a discussion with Gary Robertson, Mac-Hi’s AD, after the proposal was announced gave him the impression the Pioneers could defect and play an independent schedule again.
“I think based on a preliminary conversation with Mac-Hi they are considering it,” Garrett said.
Even if that happened, La Grande and Baker would still have five league games, and would likely avoid the lengthy trips to fill the holes created by Mac-Hi’s drop in the fall.
“That was a bad situation. They dropped off way too late,” Goodman said.
Baker, for instance, played football games this fall in Bend, 250 miles away, and at Willapa Valley, Washington, a one-way trip of more than 400 miles. La Grande’s longest trips were 388 miles to Cottage Grove and 315 miles to Clatskanie.
In the proposed hybrid special district, by contrast, the longest trip would be about 225 miles (Burns to Mac-Hi). A handful of other trips — Vale to Mac-Hi, Burns to Mac-Hi, Ontario to Mac-Hi and La Grande to Burns — would be around 200 miles. Every other trip would be around or less than 150.
“This proposal would certainly help with the travel issues,” Ramos said. “It’ll be interesting to see if all parties are on board.”
The likelihood of having holes in the schedule would be greatly reduced, if not eliminated entirely, if the GOL/EOL hybrid goes into effect. Each team, if Mac-Hi does stay, would have six league games and would need to lock down just two or three more nonleague contests. La Grande has had Pendleton scheduled each of the past six years, and The Dalles on its nonleague slate the past five.
The hybrid also would bring back together several GOL rivals from 2000-03. La Grande joined what was then a 3A league in 2000, and each team in the proposed hybrid with the exception of Nyssa was in the GOL during that four-year block. At the time, the eight-team league also featured Grant Union and Riverside. Grant Union dropped to 2A in 2002, and Vale followed in 2004.
“I think it’s good for us,” McIlmoil said of the hybrid, adding that Vale, Nyssa and Burns are “three solid teams. They’re like us. They’re small towns. They got solid tradition.”
The move also will help the EOL schools as they, like the GOL, have had several instances in recent years where they’ve been stuck with just four teams in the league, and they were in a three-team league in 2014 like the GOL this year. The EOL would have been looking at a four-team setup next fall.
The top two teams 4A teams and 3A teams in the district would qualify for the playoffs for their respective classifications.
“How they decide those teams is up to the league,” Garrett said.
Garrett added that unless there is a groundswell of opposition against the proposal between now and the final January meeting, he not only sees it being the final one presented to the OSAA, but added, “I see the board adopting this.”
Also in the latest update, the committee said its preference on a proposed idea for 9-man football at the 2A level is to wait and reconsider it for the 2022-26 block. The 6-man pilot also will continue for two more years.

*Baker City Herald editor
Jayson Jacoby contributed to this report.*

MADRAS

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distance of nearly 300 miles, is a good example.
“A lot of people don’t understand how far 300 miles is,” Brown said.
A conference call with the GOLADs spawned the hybrid idea, and Brown presented it in conjunction with his talk about Madras’ mileage concern.
“It seemed like a natural idea,” Brown said of the thought to put the east-side schools together.
He said Gonzales submitted a letter of support signed by the athletic directors of the GOL and EOL.
Brown said he had several conversations with Gonzales following the conference call, and said Gonzales reached out to the EOL schools — Burns, Nyssa and Vale — that would be a part of the proposal.

“We know and understand that a three team-league is not viable. As a state and a 4A class we needed to think a little outside the box for a possible solution,” he said.
OSAA executive director Brad Garrett said OSAA has played with the idea of hybrid leagues in the past, but because the Colley rating system — one of the items used by OSAA in its rankings — previously rated only in-classification games, it wasn’t a popular idea.
A change two years ago allowed the Colley system to include games against teams either a class above or below. For example, rather than a 4A school getting credit only for playing another 4A in the Colley system, it can now get credit for playing a 3A, 4A or 5A.
Because of that change, a hybrid league is now “more feasible,” Garrett said, adding, “It makes sense to me that that probably solved some of the RPI concerns they had.”

TIGERS

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teammates pushing me every day to be the best player I could be.”
Blaine Shaw rounded out the players who received multiple nods as a first-team selection at wide receiver and defensive back.
Robinson was named the first-team quarterback, and gave the Tigers half of the field of the four player of the year finalists.
“I’m very grateful and pleased to be up for player of the year, and I think it is awesome that Nathan is also a finalist,” he said. “It’s amazing to have a teammate like him.”
Rounding out the first-team nods were two of the linemen who helped pave the way for La Grande’s rushing attack — Spencer Gerst and Eli Leavitt.
“I was super excited to see Eli on that list. He was super excited,” McIlmoil said. “Same with Spencer. I knew it was going to be tight

for linemen. It’s so hard to judge them. Not that I was surprised, but I was hoping.”
The second-team all-state winners included Chris Woodworth on the defensive line, Zach Wiggins at linebacker, and Dawson Gaertner at defensive back.
LHS not only dominated the all-state awards — earlier in the season the Tigers were all over the all-Greater Oregon League awards.
Nine members of the team earned a combined 12 first-team all-GOL bids, led by a sweep of the league player of the year honors as Reed was named the offensive player of the year and Shukle was tapped as defensive player of the year.
In all, the Tigers, who twice defeated both GOL rivals Ontario and Baker as part of their perfect season, had six first-team offense selections: Reed at running back, Robinson at quarterback, Gerst and Leavitt as offensive linemen, Shaw as a wide receiver and Shukle at tight end.

Shukle, Shaw and Reed doubled up as first-team players on the defensive side — Shukle on the defensive line, Shaw at defensive back and Reed at linebacker. They were joined on the first-team defense by defensive lineman Woodworth, linebacker Wiggins and defensive back Gaertner.
Several of the first-team athletes also garnered second-team nods on the opposite side of the ball. Woodworth was a second-team offensive lineman and kicker, Gerst and Leavitt were both second-team defensive linemen and Robinson was a second-team linebacker. Also on the second team were center Joel Rogers, offensive lineman Keith Oswald, running back Payton Cooper, wide receiver Justin Frederick, defensive back Josh Zollman, and linebacker and punter Casey Cornford.
Earning honorable mention were Oswald on the defensive line, Justin Jenner at defensive back, and Brody MacMillan at linebacker.

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