

■ **Cottage Grove:** The boys team took home its second-straight Sky-Em League title, beating Marshfield by three points. Senior **Brennen Murphy** earned three second-place finishes and one first-place. Murphy took second in the 200m (22.15), 400m (51.63) and high jump (5' 10), and was first in the triple jump (41' 7). **Maddison France** had the highest girls finish – second in the 3000m (11:38.48). ■ **Creswell:** The girls took sixth at the district championships, led by four state qualifiers: **Vika Gabrio** in first of the triple jump (32' 1), **Samairah Quinones** in first of the javelin (107' 0), **Kylie Leonard** in second of the high jump (4' 10) and

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Kaitlyn Machado in second of the shot put (30' 3). The boys were seventh, with **Lance Risdal** leading the way in third in the javelin (135' 9). ■ **Pleasant Hill:** The girls took fifth, although they were one point from third. **Soleis Jones** took second in the 200m (27.50), **Dakota Hyland** grabbed second in the 400m (1:01.30) and the 4x100m team of Hyland, Jones, **Kolbi Hampton** and **Ryan Thomas** took first (52.06). The boys were fifth as well, led by **Jackson Weller** taking second in the long (19' 7.5) and triple jump (41' 3). ■ **Springfield:** The Springfield boys took second at the Midwestern

League Championships. **Kian Lamb** was first in the 300m hurdles (42.47) and 4x100m (43.56), and second in the 400m (51.02) and 4x400m (3:29.67). The girls team grabbed third overall, led by **Kylie Rankins** who took first in the discus (125' 3), second in the shot put (35' 2) and fourth in the javelin (97' 0). ■ **Thurston:** The girls won the Midwestern League title last week-end. **Breanna Raven** won first place in four events: the 200m (25.53), long jump (19' 6), triple jump (37' 6) and 4x100m (49.45). The Thurston boys finished fourth, with **Ammon Gallup** earning the highest finish – second place of the long jump (21' 7).

Thurston takes fourth at state golf

CRESWELL – The Thurston boys golf team took fourth place at the State Championships last week. The tournament was held at Emerald Valley Golf Course in Creswell on Monday and Tuesday, with the Colts taking fourth in the team standings for the second straight year.



Pierre Weil
Notebook

its Class 5A State Championship. The Millers were honored at the most recent City Council meeting. The Millers took home the state title with a 44-29 win over Crescent Valley on March 10. The win secured the Millers their first state basketball championship since 2012.

Pleasant Hill choir places third at state

The Pleasant Hill Billies choir team took home third place at the Class 3A State Championships on May 4. Pleasant Hill outdueled Sisters and Sutherlin for the third and final podium spot. The Billies ended with 257 points, behind McLoughlin with 282 points and Westside Christian with 297. Pleasant Hill's choir program is led by **Kyle Ludwig** and consists of: seniors **Autumn Smith, Cassidy Perkins, Elijah Brenn, Jillian Placko, Lorena Albright** and **Sage Campbell**, as well as juniors **Addie Bahen** and **Deanna Helvie**, and freshman **Peyton Myers**.

Thurston LB, kicker announce commitments

Two Thurston Colt football players announced commitments to colleges this month. Senior line-backer **Romynn Schaeffer**, a Churchill transfer, announced his commitment to George Fox University, a Division III school located in Newberg, just outside of Portland. Schaeffer earned first-team all-league and second-team all-state honors this season for Thurston.

Also announcing his commitment was Thurston senior **Connor Nevin**, who committed to Southern Oregon, an NAIA program in Ashland. Nevin was the kicker and punter for Thurston, earning first-team all-state honors as a punter and second-team honors as a kicker.

Junior **Peyton Wiedenmann** led the Colts, finishing tied for 11th overall at +18. Junior **Trison Hedges** finished 21st with a +24, junior **Owen Lester** finished t-28th with a +30, freshman **Lincoln Wiedenmann** finished 32nd with a +32, and senior **Corren Hester** finished t-47th with a +44.



Grandberry

Thurston entered day two in fifth place, shooting 52-over par as a team. After a tough start to day two, **Peyton Wiedenmann** led a late comeback on Tuesday, scoring birdies on holes 13, 15 and 16 to end the day +6, tied for the fourth-best score on day two. Thurston finished day two at +52, with a team score of +104 overall. Summit finished first at +64, Wilsonville took second at +80, La Salle Prep grabbed third at +97, and Mountain View took home fifth at +107.

Meanwhile, at the girls state championship at the Quail Valley Golf Course in Banks, Thurston junior **Olivia Grandberry** took fourth place overall. Grandberry was the only Colt at the event, finishing +17 overall while shooting +4 on day two, tied for the best round-two score.

Mayor honors Springfield girls hoops

The Springfield Millers girls basketball team was honored by Mayor **Sean VanGordon** last week for

■ **Cottage Grove:** The Lions head to state on Friday and Saturday after grabbing the boys league crown. Senior **Brennen Murphy** qualified for the 200m, 400m, high jump and triple jump, and **Jaden Owens** will compete in the 1500m and 3000m. **Maddison France** in the 3000m and **Taylor Bentley** in the discus are the only girls who qualified. ■ **Creswell:** Four girls are competing on Thursday

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and Friday: **Kylie Leonard** in the high jump, **Samairah Quinones** in the javelin, **Kaitlyn Machado** in the shot put, and **Vika Gabrio** in the triple jump. ■ **Pleasant Hill:** For the girls side, there are two individual athletes and two relay teams who will compete. **Soleis Jones** in the 200m and **Dakota**

Hyland in the 400m are the individuals, and both Jones and Hyland will also compete in the 4x100m and 4x400m. For the boys, **Jackson Weller** will compete in the long jump on Thursday and triple jump on Friday. ■ **Springfield:** The Millers are the Class 5A state championships on Friday and Saturday. **Alexi Morgan** will compete in three events on the girls side: the 400m, long jump and triple jump. **Kian Lamb**

competes in four events for the boys: the 300m hurdles and 400m as an individual, and the 4x100m and 4x400m relays.

■ **Thurston:** **Breanna Raven** leads the girls, who will compete for the team title. Raven defends three of her titles – the 200m, long jump and triple jump, and is on the 4x100m team. **Ammon Gallup** leads the boys team, competing in the long jump and 4x400m.

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like: No. 11 Glide (16-6), No. 3 Burns (25-0, defending champs), No. 2 Yamhill-Carlton (23-4) and No. 1 Scio (21-1). A tall task, but one Williams is excited to face.

“Going into the playoffs is always a big thing. It's one and done, so if you don't show up and perform, anybody can take it from you. The big thing for us is to believe that we deserve to be there,” Williams said. “I think just getting that first-round win and building that confidence is going to be big, especially if we have to travel to Burns and face probably the best pitcher in Class 3A.”

That ace pitcher is junior Ayla Davies of Burns, who as of May 11 led the state in strikeouts-per-inning with 2.5 (239 total in 97 IP).

For Pleasant Hill's round one game, Williams gets to face off against his former team in Glide. Williams was at the helm at Glide from 2016-19, amassing an overall record of 76-31 while leading the team to the postseason all four years and the quarterfinals three times.

Glide's current head coach, Sam Moyers, was Williams' assistant during his time at Glide.

“Sam was my assistant all four years. He's also the assistant on my summer team, so we're really good friends,” Williams said. “We probably run almost the same system, or as close as you can get, although we each have our own opinions and variations. Many of the girls still in that program, I coached at the club level or at the high school level, so it'll be a fun day, but it'll be very weird.”

Pleasant Hill hosts Glide on Wednesday, May 24 at 5 p.m., with the quarters Friday, May 26.

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thing missing and that's four wins away.”

Something that's sure to give the team a boost heading into the postseason is the return of Maddox Molony, the reigning Class 5A Player of the Year. Molony hadn't played in two weeks due to an injury, but made his return during the double-header on Friday.

“In my opinion, he's the best player in Class 5A baseball, and maybe even in the state of Oregon,” Minium said. “Having him back in our lineup completely changes our team at the plate, as far as the depth in our lineup.”

On Friday, Molony showed exactly why Minium believes in his talent so much. After a pop fly in his sole at-bat in Game One, Molony stepped up to the plate in the first inning of Game Two and smacked a two-run home run over the Hamlin field wall.

“It feels good, but it was definitely a little surprising,” Molony said afterward. “That first at-bat I lined out, but I felt good so I said let's see what happens. My second at-bat I got my pitch and the rest is history.”

Molony only had one other plate appearance in the game, a

walk in the second inning, but said he felt good health-wise and the team would play it by ear in terms of him playing shortstop or designated-hitter to start the postseason.

Molony, a senior, has been a part of three league championships after not having a season his freshman year due to Covid.

“It's great, and it's no coincidence. The coaching staff is great, the players are great, and we all work hard. There's a reason we have five straight,” Molony said. “We're a family, we love each other, and that's how we do it.”

This postseason is Molony's last shot at a state title before he heads to the University of Oregon next year, and he echoed his coaches' sentiment about the desire to win that elusive title, especially after last year's defeat, where No. 3 Thurston fell in the quarterfinals to eventual champion No. 11 Crescent Valley.

“There's no room for error. Last year sucked, and everyone that was part of that can agree. But the best team wins, and I believe we're the best team,” Molony said. “Every game is a dogfight, everyone wants to be there, and everyone wants to win.”

Thurston grabbed the No. 2 seed with 24-3 overall record, and hosts No. 15 Hood River Valley on Tuesday.

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