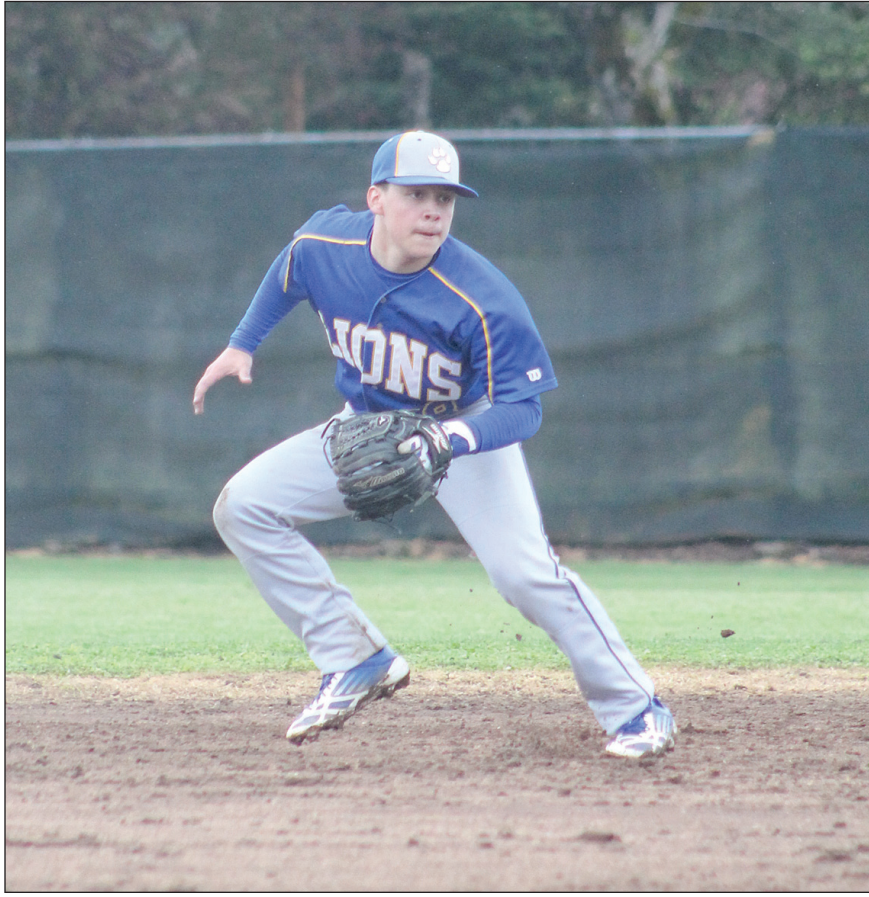


# BASEBALL



file photo

Cottage Grove junior Payton Presley was a second-team all-Sky-Em selection in 2014. Presley will team with Hunter Harris, TJ Bellamy and Brett Ollivant to form a talented group of infielders for the Lions.

Continued from 1B

"It was amazing to find out we had the type of kids who can give up a five-run lead at the end of the year and come back like it's nothing. That says a lot about your team," Geizler said.

The driving force to Cottage Grove's finish — as many on the team have said — was its seniors: Bodey Allen, Quentin Buckland, Brody Gipson and Kwan Thithong. While Gipson and Thithong were honorable mention all-state players, Geizler said that it's more critical that the Lions replace their leadership than their on-field production.

Thomason said that this process has already started to happen as more players than usual participated in off-season workouts.

Cottage Grove brings back a wealth of proven talent from 2014. Juniors Payton Presley and Hunter Harris were all-league infielders; Lucas Ward was an all-state player in the outfield, and Thomason was a first-team all-league pitcher. Seniors Tristan Mihan and Elias Stock will bring additional experience to the outfield.

Other players have shown strong potential to move into starting roles. Sophomores TJ Bellamy and Brett Ollivant and junior Bryce Allen had outstanding summer-ball seasons, and Hunter Gipson has demonstrated thus far to be a strong utility player.

Geizler said that the team rarely talks about goals in terms of wins but focuses on individual improvement. One way they have tried to do that this year is by making things measurable, such as a player's time from first base to second, or the time it takes for a throw to get across the diamond.

"It's something we haven't done, but it's been huge because the players want to see those times improve, and those things result in wins," he said.

The Lions open at Cascade on March 16 and will play in two tournaments over Spring Break.

"Biggest thing I'll be looking for is leadership," Geizler said of the non-conference slate. "Physically, I think I know what everybody can do on the field."

Cottage Grove begins league play against Elmira on April 6, before taking on defending champion Sisters two days later. The Outlaws went undefeated in the Sky-Em a year ago and played for the state championship. And despite losing all-state players Joey Morgan and Jardon Weems, once again they appear to be a juggernaut.

"I feel that Sisters is always in the back of our minds, but in the sense that we want to beat them," said Geizler. "They are the standard of the league and of the state, and they have been for a long time. In order to be the best you have to beat the best."

## Baseball Season Outlook

**2014: 17-11, 10-5 Sky-Em, 2nd Postseason: Defeated La Salle 6-2 in the play-in round; lost to eventual state champion Henley in the first round, 10-0. Key stat: In three games against Sisters, Cottage Grove was outscored 24-4. Against all other opponents, the Lions held a scoring margin of 180-128.**

**Top Returners: Hunter Harris, JR, Third-team all-State – infielder; Lucas Ward, JR, Honorable Mention all-State – outfielder; Zach Thomason, SR, Second-team all-Sky-Em – pitcher; Payton Presley, JR, Second-team all-Sky-Em – infielder.**

**Key Losses: Kwan Thithong, Honorable mention all-State; Brody Gipson, Honorable mention all-State.**

**Top Newcomers: TJ Bellamy, Brett Ollivant and Bryce Allen 2015 will be a successful season if: "Our seniors can lead us in the right direction," coach Dan Geizler.**

# SOFTBALL



file photo

Liz Wiltse was a second-team all-league selection at infielder last year.

Continued from 1B

Overall we were pleased," said Frieze. "But we were a little disappointed as well because there were opportunities to pick up a few more wins down the stretch, but we let those games slip through our fingertips."

While the Lions' final stretch included four games against co-league champions Elmira and Sweet Home, Frieze said her team was not as mentally prepared as they could have been.

Given where the program had been, however, it's understandable why the Lions weren't able to execute down the stretch.

"We all wanted to be in that situation but didn't necessarily think that we could get there," said all-league infielder Liz Wiltse. "We prepared for it, but I think we pretended to be ready for it."

With seven varsity players expected to return, Frieze hopes those lessons will propel the program to greater heights.

"It definitely helps to have that core of strong leadership back. I'm excited to see what

they'll be able to do this year, and how they can help bring the next group of players along," Frieze said.

Among the returning players are all-league performers Wiltse at first base, pitcher Taylor Sayles, catcher Cassidy Whisler and outfielder Kale'a Galbreath.

It is the first time that the current seniors have had the same coach for back-to-back seasons, and Wiltse believes this consistency will be a big advantage over past years.

"It's definitely nice because you know her coaching style more and know what she expects out of returning players. With a new coach, the first couple weeks you're walking on eggshells; you're learning their style, and they're learning about you. This year we were able to get right down to softball," she said.

Adding to Cottage Grove's ability to prepare for this season was that very few returnees participated in winter sports. Frieze said the team used this opportunity to build a stronger base of fundamentals, which she hopes will allow them to develop more diverse skill sets over the course of the season.

The Lions are scheduled to play 10 nonconference games — including their opener against

Springfield on March 16, and a spring break tournament at North Marion.

"I'm looking forward to seeing where we'll be after the pre-season," said Frieze. "The purpose of those games is to let the girls get back into the game, but we'll also want answers some question marks at key positions and in our batting order."

Frieze said that Katie Lyons and Kamryn Orloff, who were utility players on last year's team, could fill vacancies at shortstop and second base.

Cottage Grove hosts the Falcons in its first league game on April 4. While both Elmira and Sweet Home suffered significant losses to graduation, Frieze knows that these programs typically reload with talent, rather than rebuild.

Sayles said the team has goals to beat each Sky-Em opponent at least once and advance to the postseason. However, she also acknowledged that it feels a bit like playing with house money.

"With our record being what it's been, every year our attitude has been 'what do we have to lose', it's not like we've blown a state title. We're playing to have fun and win some games," she said.

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## Softball Season Outlook:

**2014: 10-11, 7-8 Sky-Em, 4th**

**Key Stat: In 2014, the Lions equaled their win total of the previous five seasons. Top Returners: Liz Wiltse, SR, First-team all-Sky-Em – Infielder; Taylor Sayles, SR, Second-team all-Sky-Em – Infielder; Cassidy Whisler, JR, Second-team all-Sky-Em – Catcher; Kale'a Galbreath, JR, Second-team all-Sky-Em, Outfielder.**

**Key losses: Courtney Shipley, Second-team All-Sky-Em – Infielder.**

**Top Newcomer: Samantha Heine**

**First Game: March 16 — Stayton at Cottage Grove.**

**Games of the year: April 21 — Elmira at Cottage Grove; May 15 — Cottage Grove at Sweet Home**

**2015 will be a successful: "If we leave out the drama and just come to play ball," coach Cheryl Frieze.**

# South Lane County Fire and Rescue Calls February 22 - March 5, 2015

Date	Time	Call Location	Chief Complaint	Date	Time	Call Location	Chief Complaint	Date	Time	Call Location	Chief Complaint
02/22/2015	13:37	LONDON RD	EMS	02/26/2015	5:10	SNAUER LN	EMS	03/02/2015	20:28	SWEET LN,	EMS
02/22/2015	16:19	DAUGHERTY AVE	EMS	02/26/2015	11:41	DAUGHERTY AVE	EMS	03/03/2015	1:54	HWY 99	EMS
02/22/2015	17:35	HWY 99	EMS	02/26/2015	14:54	QUAGLIA RD	EMS	03/03/2015	11:57	N DOUGLAS	EMS
02/22/2015	19:33	VILLAGE DR	EMS	02/26/2015	16:54	E CLOVERDALE RD	EMS	03/03/2015	18:56	VILLAGE DR	EMS
02/22/2015	20:31	W SAGINAW RD	EMS	02/27/2015	4:24	DAUGHERTY AVE	EMS	03/03/2015	19:34	LONDON RD	EMS
02/22/2015	23:07	VILLAGE DR	EMS	02/27/2015	5:32	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/03/2015	20:34	S 5TH ST	EMS
02/23/2015	0:21	DAYBREAK DR	EMS	02/27/2015	9:58	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/03/2015	21:01	LONDON RD	EMS
02/23/2015	0:52	W MAIN ST	EMS	02/27/2015	10:55	CURRY AVE	EMS	03/04/2015	1:18	ANTHONY AVE	EMS
02/23/2015	4:06	E VAN BUREN AVE	EMS	02/27/2015	12:01	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/04/2015	4:02	S 5TH ST	EMS
02/23/2015	9:01	E TAYLOR AVE	EMS	02/27/2015	14:57	ELK DR	EMS	03/04/2015	5:23	HWY 99	EMS
02/23/2015	11:19	E MAIN ST	EMS	02/27/2015	16:04	S 10TH ST	EMS	03/04/2015	10:32	VILLAGE DR	EMS
02/23/2015	13:10	RIVER DR	EMS	02/28/2015	11:43	HWY 99	EMS	03/04/2015	15:32	S 8TH ST	EMS
02/23/2015	13:14	W MAIN ST	EMS	02/28/2015	12:59	E WHITEAKER AVE	EMS	03/04/2015	17:36	VILLAGE DR	EMS
02/23/2015	13:54	LONDON RD	EMS	02/28/2015	13:41	VEATCH RD	EMS	03/04/2015	20:02	GETTINGS	EMS
02/23/2015	14:05	VILLAGE DR	EMS	02/28/2015	21:34	ROW RIVER RD	EMS			CREEK REST AREA	EMS
02/23/2015	15:58	GRANT AVE	EMS	03/01/2015	4:56	W SAGINAW RD, HWY 99	EMS	03/04/2015	23:30	VILLAGE DR	EMS
02/23/2015	20:25	E MADISON AVE	EMS	03/01/2015	13:03	ROW RIVER RD	EMS	03/05/2015	0:05	N H ST	EMS
02/23/2015	20:27	N 16TH ST	EMS	03/01/2015	17:47	S 6TH ST	EMS	03/05/2015	14:41	HWY 99	EMS
02/23/2015	21:58	D ST	EMS	03/01/2015	21:23	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/05/2015	16:31	GRANT AVE	EMS
02/23/2015	23:32	S 6TH ST	EMS	03/02/2015	0:52	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/05/2015	17:09	ROW RIVER RD	EMS
02/24/2015	1:24	MAGNOLIA DR	EMS	03/02/2015	4:41	PATRICK LP	EMS	03/05/2015	19:20	ANDREW DR	EMS
02/24/2015	12:07	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/02/2015	7:35	HWY 99	EMS	03/05/2015	19:25	PITCHER LN	EMS
02/24/2015	13:47	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/02/2015	7:46	BOOTH KELLY CAMP RD	EMS	03/05/2015	19:39	VILLAGE DR	EMS
02/24/2015	19:15	E HARRISON AVE	EMS	03/02/2015	11:27	RILEY LN	EMS	03/05/2015	21:33	VILLAGE DR	EMS
02/25/2015	11:46	BRYSONSEARS RD	EMS	03/02/2015	11:54	E MAIN ST	EMS	03/05/2015	23:06	W MAIN ST	EMS
02/25/2015	20:35	SHOREVIEW DR	EMS	03/02/2015	14:03	DAUGHERTY AVE	EMS	03/05/2015	23:12	S 12TH ST	EMS
02/25/2015	23:49	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/02/2015	18:38	VILLAGE DR	EMS				
02/26/2015	4:54	VILLAGE DR	EMS	03/02/2015	19:36	VILLAGE DR	EMS				