

Calendar

Jan. 2

• CG girls basketball @ Stayton Holiday Tourn. (vs. Seaside @ noon)

Jan. 3

• CG girls basketball @ Stayton Holiday Tourn. (vs. Stayton @ TBD)
• Elkton bball @ Camas Valley (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30)
• Yoncalla bball @ Glendale (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30)

Jan. 4

• CG girls basketball @ Stayton Holiday Tourn. (vs. Stayton @ TBD)
• ND girls bball vs. Rogue River @ 6 p.m.
• ND boys bball vs. Umqua Valley @ 7:30 p.m.
• Elkton bball @ Yoncalla (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30)



PHOTO BY NICK SNYDER/CG SENTINEL
CGHS junior Matty Ladd and her fellow Lions have unfinished business after the volleyball season. They'll look to compete for the Sky-Em crown in 2020.

Area teams finish break well-prepped for league

By NICK SNYDER
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Much like their collegiate counterparts, local basketball players know the season has truly began once the calendar flips to a new year. With much of non-league play now out of the way, and with players (hopefully) refreshed and refocused after a lengthy winter break, area teams are turning their attention to their respective league opponents. Ultimately, it is these league games - and each teams' subsequent league record - that will decide who moves on to the postseason later in the winter.

For a team like the Cottage Grove boys basketball team, the start to

the 2019-20 basketball season could have been a bit smoother, but a plethora of non-league games before January is a boon in the long-run. "Not a lot of these kids have a lot of varsity experience," said head coach Seth Huthison. The goal, then, early in the season for the Lions went beyond wins and losses. "Just kind of getting a feel for the speed of the game and building that team chemistry, just continuing to grow for that first league game," Huthison added. Further team chemistry was built through a pair of three-day tournaments over the holiday break when the team traveled long distances to

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2019: A year in review



PHOTOS BY NICK SNYDER/CG SENTINEL AND ZACH SILVA



(Top left) Winter snow covers the CGHS fields. (Top right) Sofia Alcantar and Nicki Derrick celebrate NDHS' state title. (Left) Mitchell Krokus wins the 4A triple jump title. (Below) Head football coach Gary Roberts left CG after 12 years. (Right) CGHS freshman Jaden Owens took second in the Sky-Em district meet. For more year-end photos, see page 2B.



New boating laws for 2020

The 2019 legislative session was a busy one in which seven bills were introduced by the agency. All of these passed, including the agency's operating budget. Most of the legislative concepts were in response to issues brought forward from stakeholder groups, boating clubs, advocacy groups, and agency partners.

There were also several non-agency bills sponsored by legislators on behalf of interest/environmental groups or private citizens that affect Oregon boaters. One bill allows the Marine Board to consider land use planning (Goal 15) in any future rulemaking on boat operations on the Willamette River (HB 2351). Another, HB 2352, creates a towed watersports education program within the Marine Board and requires an additional education endorsement for anyone engaged in wake surfing and wakeboarding activities on the Willamette River (Newberg Pool, RM 30-50) in Clackamas, Marion and Yamhill Counties.

With all of these program updates and fee changes, the agency is working closely with marine law enforcement and other agency partners, rental businesses, and facility managers to implement these new laws as smoothly as possible and to allow time to coordinate education and outreach. The ultimate goal is not to cite people, but to educate and improve safety for all water users, protect our waterways from aquatic invasive species, and understand the impacts of boat operations on shorelines, sensitive habitats, and property.

For more information regarding new laws and regulations, including fees and fines, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/osmb/info/Pages/Legislative-Concepts.aspx>.

The final year of the decade proved to be one of challenges, surprises and triumphs for local athletes

By NICK SNYDER & ZACH SILVA
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2019 was a tumultuous year of news and changes in Cottage Grove and around the globe. People around the world are looking back not just on a single year, but an entire decade's worth of events, victories, losses, tragedies and all manner of human activity that occupies the memory. The scale of that reflection can be overwhelming. It's easy to focus on the negatives, the anxieties and uncertainties, even in the world of sports. But the sports section is often a place where readers go to find distraction, cause for celebration and local connection in the face of daily difficulties. This doesn't mean that serious issues cannot or will not be discussed

here in these pages. However, for a small, local newspaper like *The Sentinel*, it is the youth of the community that are the primary subjects of coverage and their achievements are never-ending. As 2019 comes to a close, take a walk back through the year to relive some of the biggest sports highlights of the last twelve months. From titles to tragedies, arrivals and departures, surprises and predictions come to fruition, 2019 had it all. Here are ten sports stories worth celebrating and remembering.

1. February 13, 2019: "Swimmers qualify for state meet". Despite being a transient team while upgrades were made to the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center — and despite

a roster comprised of only nine swimmers — Cottage Grove's MJ Raade (so.), Ian Dukes (sr.) and James Kelly (fr.) qualified for the 2019 OSAA 4A State Swimming Championships. Raade went on to finish 11th in the 500 freestyle, Dukes 8th in both the 100 breaststroke and 500 freestyle with Kelly coming up 12th in the 500 free.

2. March 6, 2019: "Snow slows spring sports start". While weather often plays a prominent role during the spring sports season, it was an especially ominous start to the year as local teams faced the cancellation of the first week of practice due to snow. "For a minute there, I thought maybe Mother Nature hated softball," said North Douglas head softball coach Jesse Rice.

The first official day of spring sports for high school teams across the state was Feb. 28 which coincided with over a foot of snow accumulating and setting off a week of havoc around the area.

3. April 17, 2019: "Roberts heading home". Gary Roberts spent the last 12 years serving in various roles at CGHS, such as football coach, athletic director, assistant principal, dean of students and social studies teacher. That tenure came to an end last spring when Roberts accepted the assistant principal position at Marshfield High School in his hometown of Coos Bay. "It was a very tough decision for me, but the opportunity to

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Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is Elkton senior Sadie Olson who has helped the Elkton basketball team to a 7-2 start in her final year as an Elk.



Before beginning her senior year, Olson won the 2A/1A OSAA state discus title last May. PHOTO C/O ZACH SILVA