

Calendar

Jan. 17

- Basketball: Cottage Grove vs. Siuslaw (boys @ 5:45 p.m., girls @ 7:15 p.m.)
- Basketball: Yoncalla vs. North Douglas (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30 p.m.)
- Basketball: Elkton @ Days Creek (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30 p.m.)

Jan. 18

- Wrestling: Cottage Grove @ Siuslaw @ TBD
- Basketball: North Douglas vs. Elkton (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30 p.m.)

Jan. 20

- Basketball: Elkton vs. Cascade Christian (girls @ 5 p.m., boys @ 6:30 p.m.)

Jan. 21

- Basketball: Cottage Grove @ Marshfield (boys @ 5:45 p.m., girls @ 7:15 p.m.)

Jan. 22

- Wrestling: Cottage Grove vs. Creswell dual meet @ TBD

ODFW RECREATION REPORT

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BEST BETS FOR FISHING

- Friday (and maybe Thursday) is looking like the best day of the week to hit north coast rivers like Kilchis, Necanicum, North Fork Nehalem and Wilson. Some of these may fish this weekend, but with more rain on the way conditions may not be ideal.
 - Several Willamette Valley fisheries will be stocked with brood trout this week.
 - Anglers are starting to catch steelhead in the Tenmile, Coos and Coquille systems.
 - Steelhead also are being caught in the Sandy and Clackamas rivers.
 - Steelhead fishing on the lower Deschutes continues to be fair. Though numbers are fewer this year, fish are well-dispersed from the mouth to the angling dead-line.
 - The first winter steelhead are just beginning to return to the Hood River.
 - Anglers have been ice fishing on several waterbodies including Kinney Lake, Lofton Reservoir, Magone Lake, Phillips Reservoir, Unity Reservoir and Yellowjacket Lake.
- TIME TO REPORT YOUR HUNT
- Hunters have until Jan. 31 to report their 2019 hunts. If you purchased a tag, reporting is mandatory even if you didn't hunt or harvest an animal.



PHOTO BY NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL
After a return from injury, junior Matty Ladd scored 21 points for the Lions in their win over Henley.

Lions wrap up non-league play

CG goes 1-1 at Phoenix crossover event, the lone Sky-Em team to earn a win

By NICK SNYDER
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The Lions surely wanted to come home from the Sky-Em/Skyline Crossover with a pair of wins, but after all twelve games concluded, Cottage Grove felt more encouraged than ever heading into the league season.

Phoenix High School played host to the annual event held last Fri., Jan. 10 and Sat., Jan. 11, featuring all six Sky-Em teams — Cottage Grove, Elmira, Junction City, Marist, Marshfield and Siuslaw — as well as their Skyline counterparts.

The Lions (9-5, ranked #9) couldn't snag a victory over #2-ranked Hidden Valley (12-2), falling 39-27, but their 46-25 Friday drubbing of Henley (9-5, #13) proved to be the only game a Sky-Em team won all weekend.

Saturday's matchup held an opportunity — their second of the season against Hidden Valley — for the Lions to take down a top-ranked team and establish themselves as a threat come playoff time.

After getting beat handily, 60-44, in their first matchup of the year on Dec. 12, Cottage Grove made improvements on the defensive side of the ball. In the end, however, they couldn't drum up the offense necessary to stay with Hidden Valley

See **LIONS 2B**

Pirates punish Warriors with press



(Left) North Douglas senior Nicki Derrick matches up with Perrydale's Amity Deters (12). (Top right) Senior Rilie-Jo Olds (right) battles Deters for the rebound. (Bottom right) Warriors head coach Jody Cyr had to make adjustments all game against a swarming Pirates defense.

By NICK SNYDER
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Before the game tipped off, North Douglas head girls' basketball coach Jody Cyr said his team needed a challenge after starting the year 11-0.

On Friday, Jan. 10 the visiting Perrydale Pirates (12-2, ranked #3) brought that challenge to the Warriors' home gym and, at the end of four quarters, North Douglas (12-1, #8) was no longer undefeated, losing 44-40 to the visitors in a physical, closely-contested matchup of two top-10 teams.

"I told the girls before the game, 'Whoever handles the pressure better wins this game,'" Cyr said. "I thought Perrydale did a

tremendous job with continuing the press down the floor."

The Pirates defensive prowess and physicality was on display in the first quarter, holding North Douglas to just six points while forcing multiple turnovers, clogging passing lanes and gobbling up offensive rebounds.

If the first quarter sets the tone — and Cyr was right about handling pressure leading to a win — Perrydale had the clear early advantage. Each time a Warrior touched the ball, there were at least two Perrydale defenders on her almost immediately.

"It's the first big game for a lot of younger girls and I didn't think we managed it very well," Cyr said. "I thought we were very

well prepared for the game, but you never know how you're gonna handle pressure. I don't think Perrydale handled our pressure very well either."

Indeed, each time it seemed as though Perrydale was pulling away, North Douglas found a way to adjust and claw back into the competition. The Warriors found themselves down only one point, 19-18, at halftime and the tension lasted until the final buzzer.

The game remained physical throughout — at times resembling a wrestling match that happened to take place on a basketball court — with a multitude of loose balls,

See **WARRIORS 2B**

CG football looks for new head coach as Smith steps down

By NICK SNYDER
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For the second time in as many seasons, Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) will be searching for a new face to take the reigns of the football team.

Chad Smith, who was hired last July to take over the program from longtime head coach Gary Roberts, resigned from his position in a letter

given to CGHS administrators on Nov. 21, around a month after the final game of the football season. Smith will remain at the school teaching health and P.E. at least until the end of the 2020 school year.

"I hereby give notice of my intention to leave the Cottage Grove football program," Smith wrote in the letter. "I look forward to watching the school in the future and I wish Cottage Grove continued suc-

cess."

CGHS athletic director Matt Myers and other school administrators have already tentatively begun their search for the Lions' next head coach.

"We have been kind of putting our feelers out, nothing formal, but just asking around," Myers said.

While the primary focus will be finding its leader on the gridiron, Myers added that the position is made more at-

tractive to potential candidates if there are available teaching positions on top of the coaching vacancy, allowing them to double up on responsibilities and have a larger presence within the school.

"We do have a window coming up in the next month or so when teachers need to tell us if they intend to return [for next year]," Myers said. "Once we

See **SMITH 2B**

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is Cottage Grove junior wrestler Raina Herzog who finished fourth out of 36 total wrestlers in her weight class at the weekend's all-girls Kelso Invitational in Kelso, Wash.



The Invitational is the biggest girls wrestling event on the West Coast with over 735 participants. Herzog will look to win an OSAA state title this year.

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