

Calendar

Feb. 7

- CGHS girls wrestling: Southern Div. Girls State Regional @ Thurston HS
- CGHS swimming, North Bend dual meet @ Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center, 3 p.m.
- CGHS bball vs. Marshfield (girls @ 5:45 p.m., boys @ 7:15 p.m.)
- NDHS girls bball vs. Pacific/Powers @ 6 p.m.
- Elkton bball @ Riddle (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30 p.m.)
- Yoncalla bball vs. Camas Valley (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30 p.m.)

Feb. 8

- CGHS girls wrestling: Southern Div. Girls State Regional @ Thurston HS
- NDHS bball vs. Glendale (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30 p.m.)
- Elkton bball vs. New Hope (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30 p.m.)

ODFW RECREATION REPORT

www.dfw.state.or.us/RR

BEST BETS FOR FISHING

- Ana Reservoir offers a unique fishing experience for hybrid bass throughout the winter. Fishing has been fair. See 12 tips for catching wipers.
- Fishing for native redband trout has been fair to good in the Klamath River between the Powerhouse and CA state line.
- The trout bite continues to be good in the Holy Water, the stretch of the upper Rogue between the hatchery and the Lost Creek Lake spillway.
- AND IF YOU'RE AFTER WINTER STEELHEAD...
 - Almost all west side locations are reporting high flows in popular steelhead rivers thanks to recent rains. These flows will put fish on the move, but can make fishing challenging. However, many of our biologists report some rivers might be in shape for the weekend - depending on how much rain we get.
 - The best steelhead fishing on the mid-coast continues to be the bank fishery on the North Fork Alsea.
 - In the Coos and Coquille basins, there are steelhead in the systems and some locations could be fishable by the weekend.
 - Before the last week's bump in river flow, anglers were starting to run into winter steelhead in the Galice area of the middle Rogue.
 - The South Umpqua and Smith rivers have been running high, but should be falling back in shape for some weekend steelhead fishing.

Lions sit alone atop Sky-Em

By NICK SNYDER
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The Cottage Grove girls' basketball team had won their first four Sky-Em games by an average margin of nearly 25 points. A game at Marist — in a hostile away environment, against a team perennially at the top of most sports standings — was shaping up to be a solid test of the girls' mettle.

As the buzzer sounded last Friday, Jan. 31 in Eugene, the Lions (14-5, 5-0) had once again won a league contest by double digits, beating the Spartans (9-7, 4-1) 47-37 and — after an earlier win in the week against Junction City — taking over sole possession of first place in the Sky-Em league standings.

"Marist played really, really hard. We knew they would. They always do," said Lions' head coach Steve Eastburn after the game. "It was just two teams battling for first place, which makes it even more exciting."

However, the relatively comfortable final margin of victory belies how close the game truly was.

See **LIONS 3B**



PHOTO BY NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

From the tipoff to the fourth quarter, junior **Matty Ladd** used her height advantage against the Spartans.

Wrestlers ready for regionals



PHOTO BY NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove High School senior **Levi Boitz** (black top) was one of hundreds of wrestlers to take to the mat over the weekend at CGHS. Boitz is seen here against McKay's **Melvin Gonzalez**. Boitz would go on to win the match by fall.

CG wrestling impresses as hosts, competitors with regionals looming

By NICK SNYDER
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It was quite the crowded scene last weekend at Cottage Grove High School (CGHS), though thanks to the local wrestling community, it was a decidedly controlled chaos.

On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 CGHS played host to the Cottage Grove Invitational wrestling tournament, a 31-team event that featured some

of the best high school wrestlers across the state of Oregon. The Lions' boys team finished 11th overall and the girls took an impressive third behind three total first-place finishes, but the event in itself was a logistical and community-wide accomplishment for the world of Cottage Grove wrestling.

"I think first and foremost, we as a staff work together to make sure all the moving parts come together," said wrestling

coach Christina Kent. "Between accounting for how many teams are coming, knowing when we set up mats, that all comes together with the team itself, not just the coaching staff."

The scene over the weekend at the high school was one awash with hundreds of wrestlers, parents, volunteers and spectators. Both gyms were packed to the brim, lined wall-to-wall with all

See **INVITE 2B**

Warriors set for final stretch

By NICK SNYDER
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Last weekend, the North Douglas girls' basketball team may have done just about all they needed to wrap up the Skyline league.

After handily beating Yoncalla on Fri., Jan. 31 67-23, the Warriors (18-2, 8-0) took down their Highway 38 rivals, Elkton (15-5, 7-2), the very next night by a final of 39-33. It was the Warriors' second win over Elkton this year, their seventh victory in their last eight games, and gave them a two-game cushion atop the

Skyline standings with just three league games remaining.

"I talk a lot about faceless opponents," said North Douglas head coach Jody Cyr about looking forward to districts and state playoffs. "If we can do what we want to do, it doesn't really matter who we play, so really just gotta stick to what we know and get better at that."

As evidenced by the final score — a much tighter margin than the two teams' initial Jan. 18 meeting in which North Douglas won 54-39

See **SKYLINE 3B**



PHOTO C/O BECKY GERRARD

North Douglas head coach **Jody Cyr**, seen here doing some late-game coaching, preaches an intense defensive philosophy to his team.

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is Cottage Grove High School senior basketball player **Ema Gardner**. As one of only two seniors on the team, her experience and leadership are invaluable.



The Lions may not have gotten the win against Marist last week if not for Gardner's four clutch, game-sealing free throws in the final minute.

PHOTO BY NICK SNYDER/CG SENTINEL

LMS Wrestling Places Third At Regionals

Team success buoyed by titles for Bengtson, Abrams

By BEN DEATHERAGE
 GUEST CONTRIBUTION

After a successful season of dual meets - and an impressive second-place finish at the Central Linn Invitational on Jan. 25 - the Lincoln Middle School (LMS) wrestling team headed into the Valley League South Regionals tournament on Saturday, Feb. 1 and finished third overall.

The tournament was held at Pleasant Hill High School and pitted the Tigers against competition from Crow, North Douglas, Oakridge, Thurston, Pleasant Hill, Creswell and Lowell.

The team walked away with seven grapplers in the finals and had two emerge as champions. Carter Bengtson (104-pound class) and Nathan Abrams (265) both went undefeated in their matches. Earning second-place honors were Jeffrey Conklin (70), Seazar Ibarra (74), Micah Spear (136), Rogelio Soto-Cruz (187) and Zane White (265).

Shawn McKinnon (165) was the lone third-place finisher while Sunni James (92), Cian Merz (98), Cameron Manderscheid (108), Luke Fery (119), Jack Barr (130), Johnny Reilly (149) and Joe Bortorff (265) all earned fourth-place in their weight classifications.

Fifteen representatives from LMS will head to the Valley League District Championships on Sat., Feb. 8 at Creswell High School. In other news, the LMS Wrestling team will be having a special fundraiser with a Father/Daughter Dance and Mother/Son Video Game Tournament at the Cottage Grove Armory on Sat., Feb. 15. Admission is \$12 for Adults and \$10 for Kids.