

## Calendar

### Feb. 13

• Yoncalla boys bball vs. Oakland @ 6 p.m.

### Feb. 14

• CGHS bball @ Junction City (girls @ 5:45 p.m., boys @ 7:15 p.m.)

• CGHS swimming: Special District 4 District Meet @ Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center @ TBD

• NDHS bball @ Riddle (girls @ 6 p.m., boys @ 7:30 p.m.)

• Yoncalla girls bball @ Pacific/Powers @ 6 p.m.

### Feb. 15

• CGHS swimming: Special District 4 District Meet @ Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center @ TBD

• NDHS boys bball @ Life Christian (Aloha, Ore.) @ 6 p.m.

• Elkton boys bball vs. Crow @ 6 p.m.

• Elkton girls bball vs. Dufur (@ Falls City H.S.) @ 5 p.m.

### Feb. 18

• CGHS bball vs. Marist (girls @ 5:45 p.m., boys @ 7:15 p.m.)

## CG swim preps to host districts



NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The deck at the Daugherty Center was full on Dec. 20 with five teams present. This weekend's districts will include 12 schools.

By NICK SNYDER

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The grand reopening of the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center happened over four months ago. This weekend, the revamped facility will be hosting its largest event since its reintroduction to the Cottage Grove community.

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14-15 the Daugherty Center and the swimmers of Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) will host the Special District 4 state qualifying meet, fulfilling the pool's promise of being not just a home for the Lions, but a central hub of swimming events for athletes all around the state.

"It's probably one of the biggest sporting events that Cottage Grove has ever hosted," said CGHS head swimming coach Tyson Pilling. "So it's really good for the community."

See **DISTRICTS 2B**

## Q&A with the Lady Lions of CGHS

In the midst of a currently undefeated league season, The Sentinel sat down with six members of the Cottage Grove Lions (16-5 overall, 8-0) girls basketball team — sophomore Gracie Arnold, juniors Alexia Riggs, Matty Ladd and Mikaela Blomquist and seniors Megan Schatz and Ema Gardner — to get to know them better and discuss the success they've had thus far in the 2019-20 season.

**Q: What makes this season special?**

*Mikaela Blomquist:* We played sports together when we were younger, we've been on the same basketball teams multiple times and last year was kind of a hot mess, so this year we actually came together. Everyone has really good chemistry and everyone has a really good bond, just in a positive place.

*Alexia Riggs:* The chemistry between us is strong on and off the court. No matter what, we're always close.

*Matty Ladd:* Last year was definitely the year where we learned how each other played and how to work with each other. So, this year we're just having fun, just playing basketball. This year, if one person scores, it's the whole team scoring. It's a whole different environment.

**Q: Was there anything preseason that gave you an idea of the success you're having this year?**

*Riggs:* Summer ball we got really excited and just went out there and played. We didn't worry about anything, our record or getting to state. We just went out there and played then, at one point, we're like, 'Hey, we're kinda good!'

*Megan Schatz:* I would say it was our last tournament up in the Portland area last summer. I feel like that tournament it kinda clicked with us that we can actually show that we're good and we can win and go on to state.

**Q: Have you achieved your goals yet this year?**

*Blomquist:* We're starting to. We lost our main scorer, main rebounder from last year, but I feel like losing her opened up a spot for all of us. We relied on her a lot, but this year Ema's in there, Matty's in there, Gracie's in there. We're all just doing our best and it opened up a lot.

*Ladd:* I feel like losing her kind of made us have to come together more. It gave us a challenge we

See **LIONS 4B**

## Herzog tops podium at regionals



NICK SNYDER/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

CGHS' Raina Herzog stands atop the podium at last weekend's OSAA Girls South Regionals at Thurston High School. Next to her in second place is Elkton's Tayla Swearingen.

By NICK SNYDER

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Cottage Grove High School (CGHS) junior wrestler Raina Herzog has three primary goals for the 2019-20 wrestling season: be the OSAA state champion, be named an All-American and never get pinned. After last weekend, she's one step closer to one of her goals: a second consecutive state championship.

On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7-8 Thurston High School welcomed hundreds of girls wrestlers from around the state — all of whom were looking to cement their place in the state tournament — for the second annual OSAA Girls South Regionals.

The Lions entered eight wrestlers in the two-day event and while six made it to day two, Herzog ended up as the

lone CGHS wrestler on the podium, defeating Elkton's Tayla Swearingen by fall (1:57) in the 235-pound championship match and locking her down her place at state.

"I feel like it was a lot more eventful than last year just because I had a full bracket," Herzog said referring to the fact that she only needed to win two matches in 2019 to ad-

See **WRESTLING 2B**

## ODFW announces big game hunting survey

ODFW wants to hear what resident big game hunters think about current hunting seasons in Oregon. Tell the ODFW what you think by commenting at <https://www.oregonbiggameforum.org/> through March 3, 2020.

For the last several years, ODFW has been working to review and improve big game hunting seasons and associated regulations.

"This year we are planning on reviewing our primary deer and elk hunting seasons, which includes general archery and rifle (any legal weapon) seasons," says Nick

Myatt, the ODFW watershed manager leading the review for the agency.

"Before we start developing proposed changes to 2021 hunting seasons, we want to collect input from Oregon resident hunters on what their current experiences are with these seasons, what changes they would like to see considered, and what other issues are important to them," Myatt added.

ODFW is working with Responsive Management, a survey research firm specializing in attitudes toward natural resource and outdoor

recreation issues, to host the online forum and conduct additional research including surveys of hunters. While survey respondents will be randomly selected, all Oregon resident deer and elk hunters are encouraged to comment at <https://www.oregonbiggameforum.org/>.

Information from this forum and the surveys will be used to inform proposed changes to the 2021 big game hunting seasons. Additional opportunities for public comment will be provided once proposed changes have been developed.

## Athlete of the Week



This week's athletes of the week are the members of the CGHS wrestling team, whose girls competed last week at the regional championships.



While just the girls competed, the boys helped them prepare. Now, the roles reverse as the boys prep for their regionals.

COURTESY PHOTO

## ODFW RECREATION REPORT

[www.dfw.state.or.us/RR](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/RR)

### GO STEELHEAD FISHING THIS WEEKEND

The winter steelhead season is well underway. Recent rains have dispersed fish throughout the basins on the coast and in the Willamette Valley. The key to winter fishing is to keep an eye on water levels and fish when they are dropping.

• In the north coast, rain Tuesday night spiked water levels but several rivers should be fishable, if high, by the weekend.

• Fishing has been picking up on the Siletz and Siuslaw, which should be in good shape for the weekend

• On the south coast, check out the Applegate, Illinois, Rogue and Umpqua for some good weekend fishing.

• In the Willamette Valley, the Sandy and Clackamas may still be running high this weekend, but the Molalla might be just right. OTHER GOOD BETS FOR WEEKEND FISHING

Steelhead aren't the only fish biting. Trout anglers, too, will