

THURSDAY | APRIL 8, 2021

**Note:** Game times and dates are subject to change

**Spring openers**

**April 13**

- CG Baseball hosts Siuslaw 5 pm
- CG Softball hosts Siuslaw 5 pm
- ND/Yonc. Baseball hosts Ump. V. Chr. 4:30 pm
- Elkton Softball at Oakridge 4:30 pm
- CG Track & Field at J. City 4 pm

**April 16**

- Elkton Baseball at North D/Yoncalla Noon and 2 pm
- ND Softball hosts Riddle 2/4 pm
- Yoncalla Softball at Oakridge 2/4 pm
- CG Baseball hosts Marist 3/5 pm
- CG Softball hosts Marist 3/5 pm

**Results:**

**April 2**

- Yoncalla Volleyball defeated Elkton: 25-20, 25-20, 25-20
- Elkton Football defeated Siletz Valley: 45-26

**April 3**

- Powers Volleyball defeated Elkton: 25-21, 25-17, 25-14
- Days Creek Volleyball defeated Yoncalla: 25-20, 25-18, 25-14

**Making strides**



NED HICKSON/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

**Cottage Grove junior Piper Youngmayr led the girls cross country team at last week's Sky-Em League districts, finishing with the highest individual finish for either Cottage Grove team after placing 12th in 23:51.80. Her finish earned her Second Team All-League honors.**



COURTESY PHOTO

**Lions head coach Joe Polamalu says the Lions will return to varsity next fall after the successful JV season the team just completed.**

**Lions look to future**

BY ZEAHNA YOUNG  
 COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Some teams have had a more difficult time this athletic season as a result of COVID-19. For the Lions' football program, it was already going to be a rebuilding year with a coach who was new to the school. However, the added stress of the pandemic affected participation, and Coach Joe Polamalu, along with Athletic Director Matt Myers and other school staff, made the decision to play junior varsity for this season.

Rather than compete beyond

See **LIONS 2B**

**Lions finish soccer season with a roar**

BY ZEAHNA YOUNG  
 COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

The Lions' soccer program had a very successful season this year, coming in third place in the Sky-Em League with a record of 5-3-1. Coach Vern Stewart discussed some of the season's highlights, as well as key factors important to him as a high school soccer coach.

"Our season was kind of mixed," said Stewart. "Being a short season, you're trying as a coach to get as much out of it as you can. The seniors, this is their last hurrah, and they were robbed out of their normal season — so you try to make it as normal as you possibly can."

Stewart certainly gave it his all this season as their coach, and the Lions were quite a team to follow this season. However, winning was only a portion of what Stewart spent his time coaching the kids to do.

"One of the main things I always tell my guys is that every game is only 80 minutes, but it's all the other time you spend with your teammates and friends that really makes it something that you're going to remember," Stewart said. "It's the journey as opposed to just that final destination — because if you're making the journey important, that destination is going to be that much sweeter. The people that win games and championships, if they don't enjoy getting there, it's very short-lived."

Team camaraderie is vital to Stewart. For him, the success of the program is dependent upon the enjoyment of the kids in the long run.

"As a high school coach, you don't have the luxury of selection," said Stewart. "You are getting the kids that are coming to your

See **SOCCER 2B**

**Elks buck Warriors at home**

BY ZEAHNA YOUNG  
 COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

On Friday (April 2), Elkton's football team hosted Siletz Valley at home. The Elks played an outstanding game and were able to defeat the Warriors soundly, 45-26.

According to coach Jeremy Lockhart, the Elks were on fire from the get-go.

"We came out of the gates really well, we were flying," said Lockhart. "We got on it early, and we took a pretty commanding lead."

Elkton scored 18 points in the first quarter. Cooper Peters had the first touchdown rushing, followed by Jayce Clevenger throwing the second touchdown to Ben Bowen. Peters then had a 49-yard touchdown.

They only allowed the Warriors one touchdown in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Peters had a five-yard touchdown run. Clevenger then had a 59-yard touchdown pass to Peters, who had a 15-yard touchdown run after that, allowing the Elks to score 20 points in the second quarter, and bringing their score to 38.

They managed to keep Siletz at 12 points, allowing them only one touchdown in the second quarter as well. At halftime, the score was 38-12 in Elkton's favor.

"I was really impressed with our defense," said Lockhart. "That was probably our best defensive game, besides the Jewell game, which was a good game, too, defensively. We tackled really well, we were flying to the ball, and I was really

See **ELKS 2B**

**Lady Lions reach playoffs, fall to Sweet Home**

BY ZEAHNA YOUNG  
 COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Last week, the Lions' volleyball team had the chance to compete for first place in the Sky-Em League, with playoffs being a possibility as well. Although they did not win the game needed to take first place in the league, Cottage Grove did place high enough to compete in the playoffs this week. The Lady Lions' final league

game of the regular season was last Thursday (April 1) at Siuslaw High School. Going into the game, Cottage Grove knew that if they won, they would play against Junction City the next night to determine who would take first place in the league.

It was a very high energy game, but despite the fact that they were able to pull out a win in the first set, the Vikings swept the next three sets to win the match —

putting the Lions in second place overall. Since the Lions had defeated the Vikings in their previous match-up, the loss was definitely an upset. Coach Abby Ladd discussed the possible reasons her team struggled to take the win over Siuslaw this time around.

"I think that we went into the game feeling really confident because we had beaten them before," said Ladd. "We were focused on playing a tiebreaker against Junc-

tion City the next day, and not completely focused and all in on that game.

"Then, when Siuslaw was playing hard and doing really well, individually, the girls all started to shut down. They were frustrated with themselves; they were frustrated with each other; they were struggling to pull it together."

Overall, it seemed that Cottage

See **CGHS 2B**

**Athlete of the Week**

*This week's Athlete of the Week is Cottage Grove High School standout, Piper Youngmayr, who was named to the Sky-Em Second Team All-League girls cross country team*



Piper Youngmayr, a junior, had the Lions' highest finish at last week's Sky-Em League cross country districts, placing 12th overall.

PHOTO BY NED HICKSON/  
 CG SENTINEL

