

**SCHEDULE**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**  
**Baseball:** American Legion: Demarini Dirtbags at Florence (DH), 1 p.m. Division I Junior Baseball: Corvallis at Dallas, 6 p.m. McNary at Central, 6 p.m.  
**THURSDAY, JULY 9**  
**Baseball:** Division I Junior Baseball: South Salem at Dallas, 6 p.m. Central at Sweet Home, 6 p.m. Division II Junior Baseball: Dallas at McNary, 6 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, JULY 10**  
**Baseball:** Division I Junior Baseball: Dallas at Central, 6 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, JULY 11**  
**Baseball:** American Legion: The Yard at Demarini Dirtbags (DH), 2 p.m. Division I Junior Baseball: Silverton at Central (DH), 11 a.m. Division II Junior Baseball: Dallas at league play-off vs. TBA, TBA.  
**Recreation:** Monmouth-Independence Tennis Tournament, TBA, TBA.  
**SUNDAY, JULY 12**  
**Baseball:** American Legion: Demarini Dirtbags at Putnam (DH), 2 p.m. Division II Junior Baseball: Dallas at league play-off vs. TBA, TBA.  
**Recreation:** Monmouth-Independence Tennis Tournament, TBA, TBA.  
**MONDAY, JULY 13**  
**Baseball:** Division I Junior Baseball: Philomath at Dallas, 6 p.m. Central at North Salem, 6 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, JULY 14**  
**Baseball:** Division I Junior Baseball: Central at Philomath, 3:30 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**  
**Baseball:** American Legion: Putnam at Demarini Dirtbags, 5 p.m. Division I Junior Baseball: Silverton at Dallas, 6 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

**QUICK HITS**

**Summerfest signups open**

DALLAS — Signups are open for the 2015 Summerfest Run on July 25. There are 5- and 10-kilometer runs available as well as a fun run/walk. Cost is \$10 for the fun run and \$25 for the 5K and 10K races. Races start at 8 a.m. at the Dallas Radio Shack. Online and mail-in registration is due by 5 p.m. on July 23. The Dallas Booster Club will have a booth at Summerfest on July 23 that will accept registration. There will also be day-of registration on July 25. Proceeds from the Summerfest Run go to the Dallas Booster Club, which supports Dallas high school athletics. For more information: [www.runsignup.com/SummerfestRun](http://www.runsignup.com/SummerfestRun).

**STAT SHEET**

**250** The total number of runners who finished the Monmouth-Independence Mini-Marathon's 2.6-mile run on Saturday morning.

**2** The number of years in a row Brady Beagley has finished first overall in the Mini-Marathon. Beagley finished the run with a time of 12 minutes, 54 seconds on Saturday.

**TENNIS**

**SERVING PASSION**

Local players hope to advance at Southern Oregon championships



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Mary Christensen prepares to return a shot on July 1. Christensen will compete at a United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournament on Saturday in Eugene.

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — For Mary Christensen and Petra Cole, tennis has always been more than a way to stay active.

In fact, the pair meets each New Year's Day to play a friendly tennis match — no matter what.

"We've played in rain, snow and sleet," Cole said. "It's been so icy you couldn't move around because it was like an ice skating rink."

The tradition is a testament to the power of tennis, which helped jump start their friendship when they met on the tennis court for the first time.

"There's such camaraderie," Cole said. "In other sports, you don't really have people close by to talk to. In tennis, you're constantly talking to your partner and interacting with your partner so you get close with the people you play with."

Tennis may have brought them together, but once they start playing, it's another feeling that takes over.

Christensen and Cole are part of the Timber Hill Tennis Club 40 and older women's team in Corvallis. The squad competes in a United States Tennis Association (USTA) league — providing a way for all involved to satisfy a burning desire.

"We're quite competitive, and this was our only option (to satisfy that competitive-

**Tennis Time**

**What:** USTA Southern Oregon Championships.  
**When:** Saturday, TBA.  
**Where:** Eugene Swim and Tennis Club.  
**What's at stake:** Dallas residents Mary Christensen, Petra Cole and Alice Bibler and Central boys tennis coach Patti Youngren will compete for the Timberhill Tennis Club team in the women's 40 and older division against the Athletic Club of Bend. The winner advances to sectionals against teams from Oregon and Washington.

ness)," Christensen said. Christensen and Cole play doubles, while the pair recruited Alice Bibler to play singles.

Training hasn't always been easy — Christensen said they travel more than 40 minutes to Corvallis to practice — but the results have been worth it.

The team earned a spot in the Southern Oregon Championships on Saturday in Eugene against the Athletic Club of Bend. Three doubles matches and two singles matches will be played, with the winning team moving on to the next round.

If they advance, they will compete at sectionals Aug. 28-30 in Washington for a chance to go to a national tournament in October in Arizona.

See SERVE, Page 12A

**Youngren excited for tournament**

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Dallas isn't the only community represented on Timberhill Tennis Club's team. Central boys tennis coach Patti Youngren has been a member on the squad for several years and served as team captain on multiple occasions. This

year saw several new challenges.

"Because of coaching, we didn't form a team (during the spring)," Youngren said.

That meant the Timberhill Tennis Club squad is playing in a different division than past seasons.

Youngren's schedule hasn't lightened up now that school is out, though.

Youngren will help run the Monmouth-Independence Fourth of July tennis tournament on Saturday and Sunday along with Panthers girls tennis coach Dave Eble, who plays on a men's team on Sunday in Eugene.

In previous years, Youngren has also taken part in the Gate Golf Tournament. "I finally had to give up on

trying to fit it into my schedule when the USTA switched the (tennis) venue to Eugene," Youngren said.

Playing tennis has remained a priority for Youngren. Just because they have less practice together than in previous years doesn't mean expectations are lowered — Youngren and her teammates except to com-

pete well come Saturday.

"We are a very cohesive group that encourages each other," Youngren said. "I'm playing with a new partner. Our way of playing is contrasting, and I think it will keep our opponents on their toes well. ... For us older folk, it is all about placement, not hitting the ball as hard as you can."

**Becoming Ironman**

Dallas graduate finishes distance triathlon



LU ANN MEYER/for the Itemizer-Observer

Melissa Meyer smiles during the bike portion of the Ironman Coeur d'Alene on June 28.

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-Observer

COEUR d'ALENE, Idaho — Melissa Meyer is not one to shy away from a challenge.

On June 28, she completed perhaps her greatest athletic feat, finishing the Ironman Coeur d'Alene, a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run, in Idaho in 14 hours, 36 minutes and 7 seconds.

**Bright idea**

Midway through 2014, Meyer completed a half Ironman.

See IRONMAN, Page 12A

**On Your Marks ...**



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

A runner gets a head start during the Monmouth-Independence Mini-Marathon on Saturday morning. The annual Fourth of July tradition attracted 250 finishers during the fun run. For more photos, see Page 11A.

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