

QUICK HITS

Local team moves to state

INDEPENDENCE — The CYS Senior Junior Baseball team won the Valley League tournament July 23.

The team went 4-0 to clinch the championship. The squad advanced to the JBO State Tournament and placed fourth.

Registration for DHS fall sports

DALLAS — Fall sports registration for Dallas High will take place Aug. 10-13.

Fall practices begin Aug. 17. Those not registered by Aug. 13 will be unable to practice on Aug. 17.

Cost is \$150 for all sports except cheer, which costs \$75.

Those qualifying for free lunch must provide the letter received from the District Office for a reduced fee of \$35.

Paperwork is available online at www.sites.google.com/a/dsd2.org/dallas-high-school-athletics/.

Forms will also be available outside the athletic office beginning Aug. 10.

Incoming freshmen must have a sports physical.

CHS fall sports sign-ups to open

INDEPENDENCE — Fall sports registration for Central High School will open Aug. 10-13 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the main office.

Fall sports practices begin Aug. 17.

All athletic registration paperwork must be completed before practice begins.

Central High will offer a sports physical clinic on Aug. 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the main gym.

Sports physicals are required for incoming freshmen and are due every two years.

For more information: 503-606-2228.

Central to host football camp

INDEPENDENCE — Central High School will host a non-contact football camp Aug. 10-14.

Cost is \$15 and is open to students in grades 3-12.

The camp for 9th-through 12th-grade students will run from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

The 3rd- through 7th-grade camp will go from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Registration will take place 30 minutes prior to the start of camp.

For more information: Shane Hedrick, 503-606-2227.

Central volleyball camp coming

INDEPENDENCE — Central High School will host a volleyball camp for students in grades 4-12 Aug. 10-13.

Cost is \$30 and registration will be taken 30 minutes before the camp begins.

The camp for participants in grades 4-8 will run from 4 to 5:30 p.m. with players in grades 9-12 following from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information: Claudine Mendazona, 503-838-2709.

Esquivel steps up to head Panthers on the pitch

Central High alumni hired to lead soccer team into 2016-17 season

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Carlos Esquivel always thought he'd be a high school soccer coach one day. Turns out, that day has come sooner than he thought.

Central Athletic Director Shane Hedrick announced the hiring of Esquivel, a 2009 Central High graduate, as the Panthers' boys soccer coach.

"Carlos will add to the already up-and-coming soccer program at Central High School," Hedrick said. "We are very excited to have him return home to CHS and guide our boys soccer program on and off the field of play."

For Esquivel, this opportunity is a chance to help leave an even bigger mark on the high school than when

he played.

Esquivel was among the Panthers' top varsity soccer players during his high school career, but he had his eyes set on the coach's job.

"I've honestly always felt the want to coach at the high-school level," Esquivel said. "There are a lot of things I feel I can bring to the soccer field that I can incorporate. Rather than things like

getting into shape, adding things like getting into the weight room, things we didn't do as much (when I was in high school) but that will make them better soccer players and better athletes."

His plan was to try and become

an assistant coach and work his way toward head coach — that is until former coach Mike Lynch stepped down.

"Originally, I just wanted to see if I could get my foot in the door," Esquivel said. "When this opportunity came up, I thought I'd give it a shot."

Esquivel has volunteered as a middle school coach, but this fall will mark his first high school coaching experience.

If one thing is clear, it's that Esquivel isn't afraid of the moment.

"I'm up for the challenge," Esquivel said. "It's important for me to understand all the players. I need to make sure that every player is treated equally and that I get to know my players on and off the field."

Esquivel will get to know his players' abilities over the coming weeks, and he's not shy about his long-term

goals for the Panthers.

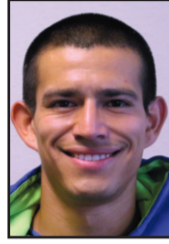
"I'm excited to push my team to be a team that can not only compete, but be a threat to really anybody in the state," Esquivel said.

He knows the Mid-Willamette Conference is a challenging soccer league to compete in.

He's viewing his first season with modest expectations, but he's confident that he can lead the Panthers to be a perennial contender.

"I'm a new coach and I'm young," Esquivel said. "I'm aware I'm going to get a lot of criticism because of that aspect. I'm going to ask something not only from my team, but from my coaching staff and my community as well."

"I am asking for patience. This is a learning year for me and it's a process. Patience is the one thing I ask for. We'll get there."



Esquivel

Rodeo makes a comeback to county fair

Hell on Hooves promises nonstop, fast-paced action on Thursday at fairgrounds

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — It's been more than 15 years in the making, but it's finally happening: the rodeo is returning to the Polk County Fair.

The Hell on Hooves Roughstock Rodeo will hit the fairgrounds Thursday at 7 p.m.

"Wayne White from Wild West Events has been bugging us to put on a rodeo for a long time," Fair Manager Tina Andersen said. "But we just couldn't afford it in the past."

That all changed in 2015, when White sponsored about \$8,000 to help make the rodeo a reality.

"I got together with the fair board and we talked about it," White said. "I told them we would come in and help them and put on a rodeo to help increase attendance. We haven't had a real rodeo here in forever."

The rodeo promises to be one of the fair's highlights with bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, barrel racing and mutton bustin'.

"Instead of roping events, we have bareback riding, saddle bronc riding and bull

Rough and ready

What: Hell on Hooves Roughstock Rodeo.

When: Thursday, 7 p.m.

Cost: Free with paid fair admission.

Of note: The rodeo will feature bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, barrel racing and mutton bustin'.

riding," White said. "We added barrel racing because everyone likes barrel racing."

The rodeo is for one night only, so don't miss your chance to see the cowboys competing, though Andersen hopes this leads to a bigger rodeo in future years.

"It depends on the cowboys," Andersen said. "The reason we have it on Thursday night is because it's hard to get on that (rodeo circuit)."

It's been more than a decade and a half since the rodeo last came to the Polk County Fair.

But this year's fair hopes that the triumphant return of the rodeo will lead to



HELL ON HOOVES ROUGHSTOCK RODEO/for the Itemizer-Observer
The Roughstock Rodeo Hell on Hooves is free with fair admission Thursday night.

smiles and fun for people of all ages.

"Historically, the first day of the fair is the weakest

day," Andersen said. "We're trying to increase attendance there."

"People should come and

watch and see what this is all about. It's fast paced and has nonstop action the whole time."

Dallas serves up friendly game of tennis

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — When the city of Dallas approached Jordan Sollman about running a tennis tournament, he didn't take long to answer.

"I told (David Brautigam) that I would make it a tradition and that I would hold it for him as long as I'm still here in Dallas," Sollman said.

Dallas will host its first tennis tournament Saturday and Sunday at the high school courts.

This year is Sollman's first experience

running a tournament, but the Dallas High girls tennis coach didn't have to far to look for inspiration.

Sollman talked to Ron Warkentin, the longtime organizer of the Monmouth-Independence Tennis Tournament, for tips.

"They had good advice for future advertising and finding out what tournaments are on what days so we aren't trying to double dip," Sollman said.

Sign-ups for the tournament are available through Thursday. There are multiple brackets available based on skill level.

"We want to have players taking part in evenly matched contests," Sollman said. "We want to get people playing locally and have a good time while they play."

The tennis tournament is part of the city of Dallas' plans to expand its adult recreation offerings.

"Tournaments like tennis and things along the lines of dodgeball tournaments are things you will begin to see more of," Brautigam said.

Sollman said he will be happy with 30 to 40 entrants.

He hopes to see a

Ball's in your court

What: Dallas Tennis Tournament.

When: Saturday and Sunday.

Cost: \$15 for singles, \$25 for doubles. Registration deadline is Thursday.

Of note: Playing times will be emailed after 7 p.m. on Thursday. Forms are available online at www.dallasor.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3939.

For more information: Jordan Sollman, 503-686-8120; email to jordansollman@dsd2.org.

large contingent of high school players from Dallas and Central.

"My goal for this year is to be extremely happy walking away with the way the tournament is run and start

to get the word out about the tournament," Sollman said. "I'm not expecting a whole lot in terms of large numbers."

More importantly, Sollman said he hopes this tournament helps

introduce tennis to as many new players in the community as it can.

If this tournament can become the community tradition that Sollman desires, he'll be more than satisfied.

"Tennis has never really been a huge deal," Sollman said. "... This is a good way to get the sport out there and help tennis grow."

"We hope encouraging younger players might influence them to take part in a camp or get involved in the sport when they're older. Tennis is a great sport that you can play for many years."

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