

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20
Girls basketball: Central at Lebanon, 7 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 7 p.m.
Wrestling: South Albany at Dallas, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21
Boys basketball: Falls City at Livingstone Adventist, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball: Falls City at Livingstone Adventist, 5:30 p.m.

Men's basketball: Alaska Anchorage at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

Swimming: Central, Dallas at Dallas Invitational, 3 p.m.

Women's basketball: Central Washington at Western Oregon, 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22
Boys basketball: Silverton at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at Crescent Valley, 7 p.m. C.S. Lewis at Perryhall, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball: Central at Silverton, 7 p.m. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 7 p.m. C.S. Lewis at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.

Wrestling: Central at Gary Seaney Memorial, 1 p.m. Dallas at Reser's Tournament of Champions, TBA.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23
Boys basketball: St. Paul at Perrydale, 3:30 p.m.

Girls basketball: Dallas at Redmond, 1:45 p.m. St. Paul at Dallas, 2 p.m.

Men's basketball: Alaska Fairbanks at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

Women's basketball: Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon, 5:15 p.m.

Wrestling: Central Duals, noon. Dallas at Reser's Tournament of Champions, TBA.

MONDAY, JAN. 25
Swimming: Dallas at Silverton, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 26
Boys basketball: Central at Corvallis, 7 p.m. Lebanon at Dallas, 7 p.m. Falls City at Country Christian, 7 p.m. Willamette Valley Christian Perrydale, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball: Falls City at Country Christian, 5:30 p.m. Willamette Valley Christian at Perrydale, 5:30 p.m.

Swimming: Central at South Albany, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27
Boys basketball: Perrydale at Livingstone Adventist, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball: Corvallis at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at Lebanon, 7 p.m.

Wrestling: Central at Silverton, 6 p.m. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 6 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

QUICK HITS

ODFW unveils new fishing regulations

POLK COUNTY — Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced changes in fishing regulations for 2016.

Among them include expanded year-round opportunities across the state for trout; a reduction in the number of special regulations or exceptions, and a change in fees.

A new youth license for \$10 for those aged 12-17 will be offered. The fee includes a hunting, fishing, and shellfish license and Columbia River Basin endorsement.

For more information: www.dfw.state.or.us.



Welty shakes off slow start, comes through with critical free throws in overtime period | *Minahan's miracle three required skill and luck*

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — At the end of nearly every practice, a Dallas boys basketball player steps to the free-throw line.

"If I make both of them, we don't have to run," senior guard Avery Welty said.

On Tuesday, Welty stepped to the free-throw line against Central — this time with the stakes a little higher.

Leading 36-34 in overtime, Welty had a chance to put the Dragons up by two possessions.

See WELTY, Page 11A

INDEPENDENCE — As Central and Dallas clashed on the court, the end of regulation featured a memorable sequence — one likely to go down as one of the season's most dramatic for both teams.

With the game tied at 31, Central set up its half-court offense. Guard Alec Barba hit a 3-pointer with less than five seconds left.

Dallas senior Everett Minahan took the inbound and sprinted up court when a stroke of luck happened.

"I tried to get a timeout called, but the ref didn't see me," Dallas coach Trent Schwartz said.

See MIRACLE, Page 11A



Dallas players celebrate moments after Everett Minahan hit a half-court shot at the end of regulation to tie Central at 34 on Jan. 12. The Dragons won 38-37 in overtime.

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

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See MIRACLE, Page 11A

FALLS CITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Signs of Growth

Mountaineers continue to improve on the court

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Falls City's girls basketball team is growing up.

The Mountaineers defeated C.S. Lewis 34-18 on Friday.

"We set the tone early," Falls City coach Micky Kidd said. "We got up 10-0 and then we tried to rest some girls."

The victory over a team that entered the week 1-12 overall may not seem like a significant marker. The way the Mountaineers secured the win — building a 23-0 lead at the half — showed that a team filled with underclassmen may be ready to graduate to a new level.

"We're not playing to the other team's energy level as much as we used to," Kidd said. "We're playing at our own level. That's exciting to see."

Seniors Allison Kidd, Britany Varney and Tiaunnah Davis remain the squad's leaders, but their load isn't quite as heavy as it once was.

Younger players, like sophomore Sarah Mack

and freshman Gracie Tadlock are beginning to believe in themselves — something the trio of seniors are doing their best to

build on every day as the less experienced players learn the ropes on the court.

See GROWTH, Page 12A



Allison Kidd drives to the hoop against C.S. Lewis on Friday night. The Mountaineers won 34-18.

CENTRAL WRESTLING

Tuipulotu finds success on mat

Central takes fifth at Oregon Classic

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Central junior Marlon Tuipulotu didn't hesitate for a second when deciding if he would wrestle this winter.

Tuipulotu, the *Itemizer-Observer's* 2015 football Player of the Year, has received numerous offers from Division I schools. He remains undecided, but he's not resting on his laurels.

"This is all for football," Tuipulotu said. "It's helping me get a lot better. I'm able to stay balanced more, I've gotten more explosive and it's helped me with all the little things."

It also helps that Tuipulotu is one of the team's top wrestlers.

The junior went 5-0 at the Oregon Classic on Friday and Saturday, helping the Panthers finish fourth in the 5A bracket and clinching the Panthers' 41-33 dual win over South Albany on Jan. 13.

"I've been better at tak-

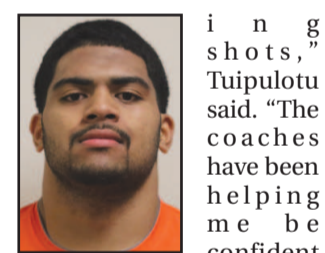
ing shots," Tuipulotu said. "The coaches have been helping me be confident with that."

Tuipulotu isn't the only one making waves. Collin Swinehart went 4-1 at the Oregon Classic, and brothers Manuel and Luis Martinez are both beginning to realize their potential on the mat.

It wasn't so long ago that Manuel and Luis would get tired during their matches. Lately, they've shown fatigue is something they can overcome.

"We don't get as tired as we used to get," Manuel said. "We see other guys getting tired, and I'm still good for the next round. The coaches have pushed us in conditioning. It's helped me to keep on wrestling and to never give up during a match."

See CENTRAL, Page 12A



Tuipulotu

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