

**SCHEDULE**

**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.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 28**  
**Boys basketball:** Edyville Charter at Falls City, 7 p.m.  
**Girls basketball:** Edyville Charter at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.  
**Men's basketball:** Northwest Nazarene at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.  
**Women's basketball:** Western Oregon at Western Washington, 5:15 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 29**  
**Boys basketball:** Central at Woodburn, 7 p.m. Silverton at Dallas, 7 p.m.  
**Girls basketball:** Woodburn at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at Silverton, 7 p.m.  
**Track and field:** Western Oregon at UW Invitational, all day.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 30**  
**Men's basketball:** Central Washington at Western Oregon, 4 p.m.  
**Women's basketball:** Western Oregon at Simon Fraser, 5:15 p.m.  
**Wrestling:** Central at Monroe Invitational, TBA.

**MONDAY, FEB. 1**  
**Boys basketball:** Falls City at St. John Bosco, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Country Christian, 7 p.m.  
**Girls basketball:** Falls City at St. John Bosco, 5:30 p.m. Perrydale at Country Christian, 5:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 2**  
**Boys basketball:** South Albany at Central, 7 p.m. Woodburn at Dallas, 7 p.m.  
**Swimming:** Lebanon, Central at Dallas, 4 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3**  
**Boys basketball:** Perrydale at Falls City, 7 p.m.  
**Girls basketball:** Central at South Albany, 7 p.m. Dallas at Woodburn, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Falls City, 5:30 p.m.  
**Wrestling:** Woodburn at Central, 7 p.m. Silverton at Dallas, 6 p.m.

**SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**PERRYDALE GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**Pirates set for showdown with Country**



Perrydale freshman Shylar Halverson (center) looks to pass after recovering a loose ball against St. Paul on Saturday afternoon. The Pirates lost 36-15.

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

PERRYDALE — Perrydale's girls basketball team showed it can be good, even dominant, against some of the Casco League's worst teams. Now, players hope to show they can hang with the league's best — top-ranked Country Christian.

With little doubt, Perrydale has come a long way since its season opener — a 61-point loss to Willamina. The Pirates defeated Jewell 25-23 on Tuesday and C.S. Lewis 52-7 on Friday before dropping a nonleague contest to St. Paul 36-15 on Saturday. Prior to the loss, Perrydale had won eight games in a row.



McGill



Newton

"The younger girls are learning to step up and battle," Pirates coach Terry Newton said. "We focused on defense (early in the season). Then we focused on offense. It takes time to transition from the defensive part to the offense, but the girls are growing."

See SHOWDOWN, Page 11A



Dallas sophomore Grant McFarland will compete with the Junior Wheel Blazers in a tournament this weekend in Fairview.

**The natural**

Dallas sophomore discovers way to experience passion first-hand

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

DALLAS — Throughout his life, Dallas sophomore Grant McFarland has always loved basketball.

During the winter, he's there to cheer his Dallas Dragons on during basketball games. He was there to see his favorite professional team, the Portland Trail Blazers, earn a win against the L.A. Clippers.

But for as big of a basketball fan as McFarland is, he never experienced the thrill of competing on the court.

McFarland was born with spina bifida, a birth defect that affects nerves in his lower back.

"It affects the spinal cord. It just wrecks sensitivity (in the lower body) and my back is real fragile," McFarland said.

He can get around using a walker, but chooses to use a wheelchair so he can get around faster. While he remains mobile, he couldn't play the sport he loved to watch — that is until he found an outlet that allowed him to grow as a basketball player and a person.

McFarland had played around on a basketball court before, beginning in 2014, but never thought he'd get a chance to compete in a team setting.

See NATURAL, Page 12A

**QUICK HITS**

**Central unveils Hall of Fame class**

INDEPENDENCE — Central High School revealed its 2016 Hall of Fame class.

The class will be honored in a ceremony on April 30 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5.

The Hall of Fame will honor the 1982 boys tennis team and the 1983 football team, both of which won state titles.

In addition, athletes Joe Mendazona, Johanna Koch Dillard, Dick Britton, Jordan Pratt, Floyd Graves and Darryl "Mouse" Davis, Meritorious Clyde McMillan and coach John Oliver will be honored.

**STAT SHEET**

**1** The number of Great Northwest Athletic Conference losses Western Oregon's men's basketball team has this year. The setback came against Central Washington on Dec. 31, 2015. WOU and CWU play on Thursday.

**DALLAS WRESTLING**

**Coxen rises to the moment**

Junior learns not to let anyone intimidate him on the mat



Dallas junior Clay Coxen looks to pin his opponent against South Albany on Jan. 20.

**By Lukas Eggen**  
The Itemizer-ObsERVER

DALLAS — When junior Clay Coxen stepped onto the mat for his first high school wrestling match, the moment consumed him.

"I was worried about everything," he said. "I worried about the crowd. I worried about the other guys who looked bigger than me."

This season, Coxen is out to show he won't be intimidated by anyone.

It wasn't until his sophomore year that he began to truly feel comfortable on the mat.

"Last year, I had a different attitude going into the season," Coxen said. "I realized that it doesn't matter. You just have to go out there and perform."

Now an upperclassman, Coxen has his eyes set on winning a district title and placing at state.

Wrestling primarily at 170- and 182-pounds, the junior has a 29-5 mark so far this season, including a first-place finish at the McKay Holiday Classic in December and a third-place finish at the Pacific Coast wrestling tournament on Jan. 2.

"In practice, I'm just trying my hardest every day," Coxen said. "I have some of the best workout partners in the state to help me and some of the best coaches."

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