

## SCHEDULE

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10**  
**Boys basketball:** Crescent Valley at Central, 7 p.m. South Albany at Dallas, 7 p.m.  
**Wrestling:** Central at Crescent Valley, 6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEB. 11**  
**Boys basketball:** Livingstone Adventist at Falls City, 7 p.m.  
**Girls basketball:** Livingstone Adventist at Falls City, 5:30 p.m. Columbia Christian at Perrydale, 6 p.m.  
**Men's basketball:** Western Washington at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.  
**Women's basketball:** Western Oregon at Montana State Billings, 6 p.m.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 12**  
**Baseball:** Western Oregon at California State University, East Bay, 2 p.m.  
**Boys basketball:** Central at Lebanon, 7 p.m. Dallas at Corvallis, 7 p.m. Falls City at C.S. Lewis, 7 p.m. Perrydale at Crosshill Christian, 7 p.m.

**Girls basketball:** Lebanon at Central, 7 p.m. Corvallis at Dallas, 7 p.m. Falls City at C.S. Lewis, 5:30 p.m. Perrydale at Crosshill Christian, 5:30 p.m.

**Softball:** Western Oregon vs. Western New Mexico at Dixie State Tournament, 9 a.m. Western Oregon vs. Dixie State at Dixie State Tournament, 2 p.m.

**Track and field:** Western Oregon at Husky Classic, all day.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 13**  
**Baseball:** Western Oregon at California State University, East Bay (DH), noon.

**Men's basketball:** Simon Fraser at Western Oregon, 7 p.m.

**Softball:** Western Oregon vs. University of Hawaii at Hilo at Dixie State Tournament, 9 a.m. Western Oregon vs. California Baptist at Dixie State Tournament, 11:30 a.m.

**Track and field:** Western Oregon at Husky Classic, all day.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 14**  
**Baseball:** Western Oregon at California State University, East Bay, noon.

**Softball:** Western Oregon vs. Dixie State at Dixie State Tournament, 11:30 a.m.

**Track and field:** Western Oregon at University of Washington Indoor Open, all day.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 16**  
**Girls basketball:** Silverton at Central, 7 p.m. Dallas at Crescent Valley, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17**  
**Boys basketball:** Central at Silverton, 7 p.m. Crescent Valley at Dallas, 7 p.m.

Schedules Subject to Change

## QUICK HITS

### Polk Pedalers to meet on Saturday

POLK COUNTY — The Polk Pedalers bicycle club will meet Saturday at 8 a.m. at the Courtyard Coffee House, 156 SE Mill St., Dallas.

A 20-mile ride near Airlee will take place. There is no cost to attend. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Helmet required, and carpooling is available. For more information: 503-623-6533.



## DALLAS SWIMMING

# Ford focused on districts

Junior looks to claim another MWC title

LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

Dallas junior Jolie-Rae Ford hopes to book a return trip to the state swimming championships this weekend.

By Lukas Eggen  
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

DALLAS — There was a time when Dallas junior Jolie-Rae Ford may have ended her swim career in favor of a very different direction.

"I was actually into gymnastics," Ford said. "I think I was 8, maybe 9, and I was doing both gymnastics and swimming. I'm not sure if I had quit basketball yet. My mom told me that the practice times were running into each other and I had to make a choice right there."

Ford enjoyed her time as a gymnast, although she was far from the most talented.

"I was very bad," Ford said. "I learned how to walk the balance beam and learned how to do a cartwheel on it and that was

### Battle For State Berths

**What:** Mid-Willamette Conference District Swimming Championships.  
**When:** Friday, 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Osborn Pool, Corvallis.  
**Who:** Dallas, Central, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Lebanon, Silverton and South Albany.

**Admission:** Adults, \$6; students (with I.D.), \$4; children, \$4.

**What's at stake:** The winner of each individual and relay event automatically qualifies for the Class 5A state swim meet, scheduled Feb. 19-20 at Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center in Gresham. Available wildcard spots are given to the fastest competitors, up to 12 participants.

about it. Like most land things, I'm not very good at it."

It turns out Ford was most at home in the water. "Running is about all I can do because you don't have to worry about land

skills," Ford said. Ford chose swimming. As she found success competing with the Blue Dolphins Swim Team, Ford began to look ahead to high school.

"My mom and dad and I

would go to (Dallas High School) basketball games to watch our cousin," Ford said. "We would look up at the record boards and say, 'you're going to get that record Jolie.'"

Ford has certainly lived up to expectations, setting multiple school records during her high school career.

Last year, she qualified for the state swimming championships in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle, including setting the school record in the 200 freestyle.

"It was my first district title and it was a great race against Molly Beamer from South Albany," Ford said. "It made me so much more confident."

The junior blossomed from a talented newcomer to team leader.

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## CENTRAL SWIMMING

# Relay teams look to make a big splash

By Lukas Eggen  
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

INDEPENDENCE — Central swim coach Jennifer Tress hopes for big things from her boys and girls relay teams.

The relay squads will be battling for a trip to the state swimming championships at the Mid-Willamette Conference district meet on Friday and Saturday at Osborn Pool in Corvallis.

The boys 200-yard medley relay team of Daniel Glade, August Thornton, Orion Waight and Wyatt Rochefort, the boys 400 freestyle relay team of Glade, Thornton, Isaiah Compton and Waight and the girls 200 freestyle relay team of Annie Taylor, Kate Taylor, AnneMarie Hasbrook and Julissa Amador all are expected to be in contention to get to state, Tress said.

"If they really buckle down and get focused, we have a chance to go in those relays," Tress said.

Tress said Glade and Rochefort also will battle in the 50 freestyle for an individual spot to state.

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## PERRYDALE BOYS BASKETBALL

# PROVING THEMSELVES

By Lukas Eggen  
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

PERRYDALE — Four games and four wins in six days has Perrydale's boys basketball team on the brink of an outright Casco League title.

The Pirates defeated Country Christian 50-30 on Feb. 1, Falls City 54-38 on Feb. 3, St. John Bosco 67-39 on Friday and Southwest Christian 60-47 on Saturday.

"When we started last summer, we talked about what we could be," Perrydale coach Mike Lowry said. "We worked for it and worked for it, and now



Janesofsky

have to prove ourselves."

Brant Barnes scored 16 points against Falls City and 11 points against St. John Bosco, both team highs, while Haylen Janesofsky scored 20 points against Southwest Christian.

Five different players scored in double figures during the three games: Janesofsky, Barnes, Bailey, Spencer Bibler and Devin Cruickshank.

"Everyone is chipping in a little," Lowry said. "At the start of the year, for us to get to 60 points, Haylen would have to get to 25. He doesn't have to anymore."

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LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-ObsERVER

Perrydale forward Keenan Bailey prepares to shoot a free throw against Falls City on Feb. 3.

## CENTRAL BOYS BASKETBALL

# Panthers keep postseason hopes alive

By Lukas Eggen  
 The Itemizer-ObsERVER

DALLAS — It seemed like déjà vu for Central's boys basketball team on Friday night. Central's late fourth-quarter lead was erased as Dallas senior Everett Minahan's late game heroics sent the game to overtime.

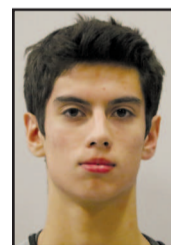
Unlike last time, Central

would have its own storybook ending — a victory that could save its season.

Entering the extra period tied at 35, the Panthers focused on the positive.

"We kept saying we're still in this game," Alec Barba said. "We just need to keep our composure and keep doing what we do."

Thanks to some timely free-throw shooting, Central



Barba

pulled away for a 47-37 win. Add in a 50-23 win over South Albany on Feb. 2, and the Panthers entered the week in a four-way tie for fifth place in the Mid-Willamette Conference with

Dallas, South Albany and Crescent Valley.

The wins snapped a six-game losing streak for the Panthers. It took complete trust from players in what the coaches were preaching to stay the course.

"It takes a lot of trust to believe in what a coach says if you haven't experienced it," Central coach Tim Kreta said. "Now that

they've been on one side of the coin and experienced almost winning and doing it their way, they've slowly gave up the reins and starting doing things for each other."

Barba has been a big part of Central's most recent victories. He hit six free-throws in overtime against Dallas.

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