

PERRYDALE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Perrydale earns a spot at Class 1A state playoffs

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

PORTLAND — It took until the final seconds, but Perrydale's girls basketball team clinched a spot in the OSAA Class 1A state playoffs.



McGill



Newton

The Pirates overcame a slow offensive start to defeat Willamette Valley Christian 30-27 on Friday in the Casco League Tournament.

"I'm excited," senior Anna McGill said. "This has been our one goal throughout the entire season." Perrydale battled more than just WVC. Multiple players missed practice during the week due to illness, including freshman starter Shylar Halverson. Two players, freshmen Alyssa Lux and Hannah Hallock, stepped into the starting lineup.

Playoff picture

- Perrydale played Southwest Christian in the first round of the Class 1A State Playoffs Tuesday after press time.
- The winner advanced to the second round of the state playoffs on Friday.
- Head to www.polkio.com to find out updated results from Tuesday's matchup.

"Alyssa and Hannah stepped up," senior Telaney Newton said. "They both did an excellent job."

The Pirates held a 30-27 lead with five seconds left in the game and WVC could not get a potential game-tying 3-pointer off before time expired.

Perrydale, which lost to Country Christian 62-19 on Saturday in the tournament title game, earned the league's second seed at state.

The Pirates hosted Southwest Christian in the first round of the state playoffs Tuesday after press time.

The winner advances to the second round on Friday.

"We want to (succeed at state) in basketball because it's an incredible feeling," Telaney Newton said.

For the team's youngest players, this experience sets the Pirates up for future success once the team's four seniors graduate, Terry Newton said.

"Fortunately for us, this is a top 10 program," coach Terry Newton said. "Maybe not this year, but we are Perrydale. We've been here. These (older) girls have been through it. Anna and Telaney, they know what to do at the end. Now, when we lose the seniors, we'll have five or six girls who have been through this experience."



Telaney Newton (20) goes for a steal as teammates watch on Friday afternoon.

WESTERN OREGON ROUNDUP

Men's basketball clinches conference championship

Itemizer-Observer staff report

ANCHORAGE — Western Oregon's men's basketball team clinched the Great Northwest Athletic Conference title after a 64-58 win over Alaska Anchorage on Saturday.

Julian Nichols scored a team-high 17 points and had seven assists. Devon Alexander scored 14 points and Tanner Omlid added 12 points for the Wolves. WOU bounced back from an 87-78 loss to Alaska Fairbanks on Thursday.

WOU swept Alaska Fairbanks for the first time since the 2004-05 season.

The Wolves will earn a bye in the first round of the GNAC tournament. WOU closes out the regular season at Montana State Billings on Thursday. The GNAC men's basketball

championships begins March 3.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD TAKES SECOND

Western Oregon's men's track and field team placed second at the GNAC Indoor Championships on Friday and Saturday.

Warner finished second in the 60- and 200-meter runs, finishing in 6.95 seconds and 21.78 seconds, respectively. David Ribich took second in the mile (4:10.14), Kaleb Dobson finished second in the 60-meter hurdles (8.33 seconds) and Badane Sultessa took second in the 800 (1:55.95).

Stephanie Stuckey took fifth in the women's mile in 5:08.05 to lead the women's team, which placed eighth in the team standings. WOU will compete at the Seattle Pacific Final Qualifier on Saturday.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL DROPS TWO

Western Oregon's women's basketball team lost a pair of conference

games, falling to Northwest Nazarene 61-57 on Thursday and Central Washington 61-46 on Saturday. WOU (4-22 overall, 3-15 GNAC) closes out its season at home against Saint Martin's Thursday at 7 p.m. and Seattle Pacific Saturday at 2 p.m.

SOFTBALL WINS FOUR AT INVITE

Western Oregon's softball team won four of six games at the West Texas A&M Lady Buff Invite last weekend. WOU defeated Newman 2-0 and 4-3 on Friday before

falling to host West Texas A&M 9-1 and 7-6 on Saturday. The Wolves closed out the Invite with a pair of wins over Lincoln University of Missouri (12-1 and 10-1) on Sunday. Destiny Kuehl had a home run against Lincoln as the Wolves racked up 23 hits over the doubleheader. WOU opens conference play by hosting Saint Martin's for a doubleheader on March 5.



Warner



Nichols



Kuehl

Pirates: Perrydale on the road against Triangle Lake

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Triangle Lake went 12-13 overall and 8-4 in Mountain West League play.

The winner advances to the second round on Saturday.

Lowry said he expects several players to be ready to make some important contributions, including Brant Barnes, Devin Cruickshank and Keenan Bailey.

"I think if we can keep



Bailey

focus on what we do well, then we can be successful," Lowry said. "I think the fourth quarter (against WVC) reminded us of that."

It wasn't the seed they imagined, but Perrydale achieved what mattered



Barnes

most — extending its season. "The goal was to secure a playoff spot," Lowry said. "While it would have been nice to be the No. 1 or No. 2 seed, bottom line is we are in and still playing."



Students from Kimberly Ward's fourth-grade class at Monmouth Elementary count the day's coin collection.

THREE CLASSES, ONE GOAL

Students learn about energy, raise money to light up third-world countries

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH/INDEPENDENCE — Not everyone in the world can come home at night, flip a switch and have lights to read, do homework, or cook by.

Students at Monmouth and Independence elementary schools discovered the power to light the world could lay in a soccer ball.

The Soccer Ball stores energy as it is played with. Users may then plug a lamp into the ball to provide three hours of light after 30 minutes of play.

"It works on a pendulum swing device inside the soccer ball," Haven Wenzel, MES fourth-grader, explained. "When you kick it around, it makes the pendulum swing, creating energy."

The service-learning project

was the perfect way to wrap up the lessons designed by Kimberly Ward, Brian Ross and Randy Olsen, learning about different types of energy, including renewable and nonrenewable energy.

"We just finished up on energy, so we decided to buy this \$100 soccer ball for people because a lot of people don't have lights," said Kyson Dodds, MES fourth-grader.

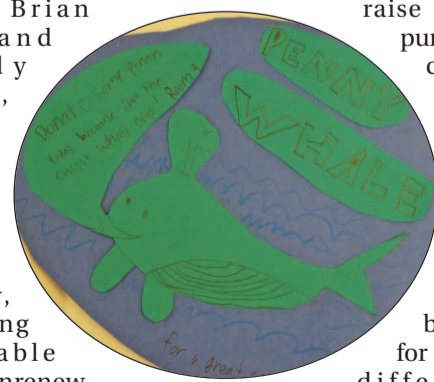
Ward, Ross and Olsen encouraged students to think globally about energy and

what they could do to help.

The fact that all three classrooms decided to raise money to purchase Soccer balls came as a surprise, Ross said.

"We decided that it would be beneficial for us to take different approaches to improve our chances of success," he said.

In Olsen's class, students made homemade items to sell at a school store, open before and after school. Ross' students wrote persuasive essays and presented their arguments to the parent club to request donations.



Ward's class held a penny drive that will continue through Monday.

Maikyla Gorrano, IES fifth-grader, said the Soccer balls are a buy-one, get-one-free kind of thing. For every one purchased, a second one is sent to someone in a third-world country.

"It gives them an equal amount of exercise and education," she said. "If you're doing homework during the day, you're not getting as much exercise."

Students made mugs, duct-tape wallets, scarves and hats and raised more than \$500 in a week of sales, Gorrano reported.

IES fourth-grader Adrian Peterson-Garcia said he and his classmates used the power of persuasion to convince the parent club to donate to the cause.

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MVCA looking for board members

MONMOUTH — Mid-Valley Christian Academy is looking for more board members to help the school grow.

Interested candidates, or those who wish to nominate a person to serve, can write a letter or drop by the school's office, 1483 N. 16th St., Monmouth.

MVCA is hosting its ninth-annual Banquet & Auction on March 5 at Central Baptist Church.

For more information, call 503-838-2818.

Spring break lunch locations noted

POLK COUNTY — Spring break lunches will be available at four sites in Dallas and Independence during the break, March 21-25 from noon to 1 p.m.

SuperFunHappyBreakTime also will offer free activities and books to children during the hour lunches are served.

Lunches will be served in Dallas at Whitworth Elementary School, 1151 SE Miller St. and Lyle Elementary, 185 SW Levens St. In Independence, lunches will be available at Henry Hill Educational Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St. and Colonia Amistad, 30 S. Gun Club Road.

Mr. Dallas seeks families in need

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Mr. Dallas, the annual fundraising pageant put on by Dallas High School's leadership class, is now Mr. and Ms. Dallas.

Those contestants are looking for local families or individuals to benefit for the yearly display of talent and ridiculous antics. Like last year, the pageant coordinators are asking for nominations to help decide who should receive assistance.

In 2015, two families were selected. Both had medical expenses and the pageant raised \$5,000 to split between them.

Leadership class advisor Jessica Lowry said nominations should include an essay about why the individual or family needs help and potential recipients should be willing to share their story.

"That way the kids know who they are raising money for and the community knows who they are donating to," Lowry said.

Nominations are due by March 2 and can be sent to Lowry at Jessica.Lowry@dsd2.org.

Pageant co-coordinators Emma Cromwell and Molly Pefley said "Ms. Dallas" was added to spark more interest in the competition.

"We wanted to get a lot more people involved," Cromwell said.

Ten contestants have signed up to compete and have already started putting together the show.

Otherwise, the pageant, slated for April 9 at the high school, remains much the same, with an opening group dance, a lip sync contest, formal wear, a question and answer session, a talent showcase and an intermission auction.

"I think this year is going to be good," Cromwell said.

In addition to the pageant, a pizza fundraiser will be April 7 at Abby's Pizza. The contestants are selling T-shirts.

Coordinators are still looking for event sponsors. For more information: Jessica.Lowry@dsd2.org.