

QUICK HITS

WOU unveils 2016 football schedule

MONMOUTH — Western Oregon's football team unveiled its 2016 schedule on June 22.

The Wolves have road games against Sacramento State (Sept. 3), Montana State (Sept. 17), Humboldt State (Sept. 24), Central Washington (Oct. 15), Azusa Pacific (Nov. 5) and Simon Fraser (Nov. 12).

WOU hosts Central Washington (Sept. 10), Azusa Pacific (Oct. 1), Simon Fraser (Oct. 8) and Humboldt State (Oct. 22).

The Wolves' game against Humboldt State on Oct. 22 will be televised on the American Sports Network.

Western Oregon went 7-4 overall and 5-1 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play in 2015, finishing in a tie for second in the conference standings.

Wolves take part in summer leagues

MONMOUTH — Several of Western Oregon's baseball players are taking part in summer collegiate leagues.

Brady Miller has thrown 10 innings for the Bourne Braves of the Cape Cod Baseball League. He has six strikeouts and has not given up a single earned run.

Jacob Fricke is 1-0 with a 2.70 ERA for the Corvallis Knights of the West Coast League.

Joey Crunkilton (Kelowna Falcons), Justin Wakem (Cowletz Black Bears) and Nick Snyder (Gresham Grey Wolves) are also competing in the WCL.

Outfielder Brock Pradere has played 11 games for the Medford Rogues of the Great West League.

Boog Leach and Jay Leverett are playing for the San Diego Mavericks, and Koty Fallon joined the Colorado Cyclones in the Mile High Collegiate Baseball League.

Jordan Schiefer is also in Colorado, playing for the Arvada Colts.

Registration open for camps

DALLAS — Registration is open for Dallas' youth boys and girls basketball camps.

All camps will run July 13-15.

Girls coach David Brautigam and boys coach Trent Schwartz and their staff will teach fundamental basketball skills, including ball handling, shooting, post and guard breakdown moves and defensive positioning.

The youth camp, for students in kindergarten through third grade, will run from noon to 1 p.m. at Lyle Elementary School. Cost is \$25.

A second camp will be from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Dallas High School gym. Cost is \$50.

Both gyms will open at 11:30 a.m. for parents who must drop off their kids during their lunch break.

For more information: David Brautigam@dallas-sponsor.gov or Trent Schwartz, trent.schwartz@dss2.org.

Watson dies in swim accident

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer



Watson

Watson's body was recovered on Monday morning.

peared beneath the surface of the river.

Multiple agencies began a search throughout the day.

Initial investigations pointed to an accidental drowning.

Watson, a football and basketball player at Central High School, left an indelible mark on all who he met.

"Cody was just like so many other young people that I know in my life," Central athletics director

and football coach Shane Hedrick said. "He lived life every day. He was in his Sunday mode and finishing up a small swim excursion they had gone on at the John Day River. He wanted to get the most out of it and somehow fell into an area he couldn't handle, and it took his life.

"He was a very nice kid.

When he made a mistake, he owned it. He didn't try to blame anyone else. He was a good kid in the classroom and a good teammate."

A vigil was scheduled for Tuesday after press time.

The Watson family released the following statement:

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'Special' moments

Special Olympics trains, empowers its athletes to succeed

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — If there's one thing Shirley Wimer didn't like it was sports.

"The truth of the matter is I'm not a sports fan at all," Wimer said. "I couldn't care less."

It may seem strange then to see Wimer helping to coordinate and coach a bocce ball team. But this is no ordinary team and, for Wimer, like many of the volunteers, this is no ordinary calling.

Wimer is one of several volunteer coaches for Polk County's Special Olympics Oregon — an organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults living with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

"My daughter, Sabrina, turned 30 on Sunday," Wimer said. "She's been participating since she was 7. That's where I got started as a spectator."

She transitioned from the stands to the field when Special Olympics Oregon needed more volunteers. She soon found out that seeing the joy on the athletes' faces when they competed made volunteering worth it.

"I wanted to make sure everyone was able to go to competitions," Wimer said. "I love watching these guys. They get so excited about being able to compete."

Gary Kluber, local program coordinator and co-sports manager, joined Special Olympics Oregon about five years ago.

For him, the chance to affect people's lives in a positive way was too good of an opportunity to pass up.

"Honestly it's fun to see them improve and make a



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Polk County's Special Olympics program fields two softball teams that compete in tournaments.

Special Olympics

- Special Olympics Oregon provides year round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults living with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- The summer season of Special Olympics Oregon is coming to a close, but the fall season begins in September. Sign ups will be in early August.
- The organization is also looking for volunteers in a variety of roles from coaches to fundraisers.
- For more information: www.lsoor.org; or 971-388-6431.

difference," Kluber said. "You see them passing on information and skills that I've learned over the years myself."

Kluber helps coach softball in the summer, which has around 25 players split into two teams.

Bocce ball and track and field each has a handful of

athletes competing. Athletes will compete at the summer state games July 9-10 in Newberg.

The fall season, which features swimming, soccer, volleyball and bowling, begins in September. Sign-ups will be held in early August, Kluber said.

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LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer

Michael Douglas throws a ball during bocce ball practice at Central High School on Saturday afternoon.

44th MONMOUTH-INDEPENDENCE MINI-MARATHON

Mini race offers big time fun

By Lukas Eggen
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH-INDEPENDENCE — The Monmouth-Independence Mini-Marathon has been a staple on the Fourth of July for more than four decades.

Terry Cable has seen firsthand how the event has evolved through the years.

"As a 10 year old in 1972, I ran the

first race," Cable said. "I ran it most years thereafter. It's always been a part of my Fourth of July."

Cable, who took over as race director in 2003, is excited to see the run set for another strong year.

"I think the spirit of Western Days and the Monmouth and Independence Fourth of July celebration makes a run like this attractive with all crowds," Cable said.

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On your mark...

What: 44th annual Monmouth-Independence Mini-Marathon, a 2.6-mile, mostly downhill race that begins in front of Monmouth's City Hall and ends at the Old City Hall building in Independence. The race follows the Grand Parade route.

When: Monday, July 4, 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and younger in advance; \$20 and \$10 on day of race until 10:30 a.m.

For more information: Terry Cable, 503-930-2360; www.electicgedgeracing.com.

www.polkio.com

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