



Chelan Goat's Skyler Gordon fourth best in state



Photo by Erin Rossell

Junior Classman Skyler Gordon (green singlet) attempts to shoot one leg for a takedown on his opponent during an initial bout at the 2018 Classic XXX State Championship tournament, Friday, Feb. 16 at the Tacoma Dome in Tacoma. Gordon moved through the brackets, completing the tournament with fourth in state.

See story and photos on page 6 and at www.lakechelanmirror.com

Mayor proclaims Feb. 27 World Spay Day

Chelan councilmembers, staff updated on Woodin Avenue Bridge project

By ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – Agenda items for Council, Tuesday, Feb. 13, included a mixture of consent items and presentations.

Beginning the night's agenda, Mayor Mike Cooney announced the appointments of Barb Koenig to the Library Advisory Board and Tara Lautiki to the Parks and Recreation Board, as well as proclaiming Feb. 27 as World Spay Day, which will fall on a Tuesday this year.

World Spay Day is intended to bring awareness to the dire need of reducing the presence of homeless animals. "This is part of my work that I do with the Humane Society of the United States," City Clerk Peri Gallucci began, "as a district leader volunteer, we really try and do a lot of work for spay/neuter clinics, so it's near and dear to my heart because I believe that we can't rescue our way out of things, so I think that the more animals that we spay and neuter, the less that go into the shelters." In 2017, Wenatchee Valley Humane Society boasted a live release rate of 90 percent, and sheltered 4,543 animals. Of those sheltered, Gallucci announced that 2,954 were adopted, "which is a five percent increase from 2016." Looking ahead, the Humane Society will be sponsoring its third annual Spay-ghetti and No Balls fundraiser June 3 at Blueberry Hills. "For those who don't know it," Mayor Cooney stated, "if there's a lose animal anywhere downtown, Peri (Gallucci) goes

running out the door, gets it and brings it into the office," then on a serious note, expressed to Gallucci, "I think it's really special, and your passion for this is really special." In reading of the proclamation, Cooney calls "upon the people of Chelan to observe the day by having their own pets spayed or neutered, or by sponsoring the spaying or neutering of a pet in need."

In the final administrative report for the night, City Engineer Jake Youngren and SCJ Alliance's Dan Ireland updated councilmembers and city staff on progress made with the Woodin Avenue Bridge restoration project with the 90 percent design review. "The last time we were here with council was at the 60 percent design level," Youngren communicated, "and now we're hitting our 90 percent level."

Ireland began by displaying excitement at the progress made so far, "we're getting really close, weather is getting warmer and there's a smell of construction season coming near and to us." He began with an overview of topics to be discussed, including funding sources for the project and efforts that will be made to minimize disruption in the community from work on the transformation of the bridge.



Dan Ireland, SCJ Alliance

"This is a balanced solution project," Ireland emphasized, "this is where we are taking a lot of different things and doing them at the same time, it's not just a traffic project, it's not just a safety project, there's a lot of other things." The bridge, which is currently open to traffic in both directions, will be reconstructed into a one-way road with south-bound access only. The bridge will also be restored, updated and revamped during this time, as well as walking points on and around Columbia Street and Woodin Avenue. "The goal," Ireland pointed out, "is to try and do all of these things without disturbing any of our citizens, businesses, and recreational and seasonal traffic."

In project funding, the addition of the \$250,000 grant from Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) is an exciting addition to the project, said Ireland. "We had a strategy and by golly we got it," he emphasized. With different funding options, such as city funding and federal funding, there are obstacles that arise with the use of a mixture of financial sources. Some of the funding comes with required conditions that conflict with other

Bridge Design and Construction Schedule on page 2

SEE BRIDGE ON PAGE 2



Photos by Erin Rossell

Andy Wendell, Chelan County PUD shows Chelan City Council members a piece of electrical housing that was melted by a fire in an unauthorized Bitcoin operation.

Chelan County PUD explains cryptocurrency concerns, hazards

Chelan councilmembers ban cryptocurrency/Bitcoin harvesting indefinitely

By ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – Cryptocurrency, or Bitcoin, has been an ever-growing topic here lately. The increased interest of the peer-to-peer electronic cash system, however, also begets an increase in concerns in both safety and financial areas. One of the major concerns of the cryptocurrency is the surging from the unauthorized use of high-density loads (HDL) in homes not wired for such heavy power loads. These concerns were the basis of Chelan County PUD's presentation to Council, Tuesday, Feb. 13 inside Council Chambers.

Chad Rissman, Director of Engineering and Asset Management, along with Director of Customer Service Andy Wendell, led Chelan councilmembers and staff through an educational presentation on the new digital currency and struggles created by the harvesting of the funds in communities.

Rissman began by explaining the extreme growth of high-density loads in communities. "These are high-electrical loads that can fit in a very small area," he began, "and we have two primary concerns with that." The first of the concerns is that the presence of unauthorized HDL usage creates inconsistencies in the projected energy usage for given areas based on certain zoning. "We would like to try and get ahead of this infrastructure," he explained, "but we're having a hard time getting our arms around this cryptocurrency because it throws a little bit of a wrench in the mix, so we're trying to understand what we can do to partner and collaborate and understand what this looks like so we can better plan for it." The HDL cryptocurrency loads can be mobilization in a very small or low-density place, explained Rissman, "or in some sort of electrical service that wasn't designed or planned for this type of load to be installed, and as a result we're seeing some safety related issues." The overload on the electrical service can, and has, be a fire hazard, especially in residential homes whose wiring are only designed for an average of three to five kilowatts (KW), but are ranging upwards of 100 megawatts (MW) with the harvesting of Bitcoins. "We're looking to expand our substations," stated Rissman, explaining that the current substations in the area are already loaded over 80 percent of its capacity, "we're trying to find a way to respond."

Wendell took over, transitioning the discussion into what the cryptocurrency is and how it drives the current electrical demands. "We've



Chad Rissman, Chelan County PUD Director of Engineering and Asset Management explains the extreme growth of high-density loads in communities.

used the term Bitcoin tonight," he began, "and that's probably the most popular and well-known currency ... there are literally hundreds of cryptocurrencies that have popped up over the internet and in the digital world, so we tend to mix cryptocurrencies and Bitcoin, but cryptocurrency is really a broad definition for the digital mining process that we're most concerned with for energy consumption." The value of the Bitcoin has increased from around \$600 and \$800 a year and a half ago when the PUD reevaluated their HDL pricing, as of recently however, that value has jumped tremendously to just at \$18,000, "you can imagine that it drew a lot of interest in the mining process," he expressed to Council, "our phones at the PUD literally were ringing off the hook with people from all over the country, all over the world, because they needed electricity. Electricity is the primary resource for the mining process." When your primary tool for harvesting the cryptocurrency is electricity, where else would you go but to the area with the cheapest and more reliable power service, he explained, "and that's in Chelan, Douglas and Grant Counties." Why is this a concern for Chelan's community? The electricity price in Chelan, Douglas and Grant Counties are five cents per kWh or less, while surrounding counties average seven to nine cents. Between

SEE BITCOIN ON PAGE 2

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BITCOIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

October and December of 2017, when the value of the Bitcoin jumped, Wendell stated they saw over 75 HDL inquiries from individuals across the globe. “We literally had people getting off the plane in Seattle, from Asia, renting a car and were in our office within hours of entering the country, wanting massive amounts of power,” he emphasized on the demand for the county’s power. “When I say massive amounts of power, I’m talking about 100 MW requests,” he continued, “to put that in perspective, our entire Chelan County uses an annual average of 200 MWs, that’s how much energy we use, so we’re getting requests today for 100 MWs, which is half of what is used throughout the entire

county.”

The requests are what the PUD refers to as a high-load factor, because they run full-speed, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, Wendell explained. “As you can imagine,” he continued, “that far exceeds any load requests that we’ve ever had. The largest industrial customer that we have in our service industry runs just under five MWs ... and we’re getting multiple request for 100 MWs, and everywhere in between.” The gamut of requests is very wide, with a low range of five MWs and high range of 100 MWs. Over 95 percent of these requests are for properties within a leased space, Wendell explained, “they’re not coming here building new buildings with bricks and mortar, they’re essentially looking for existing operating space.” Which can be beneficial to those property

owners looking to lease out a building that may have been sitting vacant, however how to translates to the PUD, he stated, “is we recognize it to be more of a transient load. The business may be here right now, but they may not be here in a month or a year from now.” The concern then, for the PUD, is that any investment in an infrastructure to support the high-demand in electricity may not prove to be fruitful in the end.

A byproduct from these properties is the high amount of heat released from the harvesting operation, as well as the utility supply cables and applicators being at high risk for fire, but so are the leased homes and buildings, as well as surrounding structures.

Bitcoin harvesting is extremely unstable and leaves the PUD in an uncertain position on how to proceed with plan-

ning for the energy usage in service areas. With a number of harvesters using unauthorized load sizes, and the current energy metering in place, the PUD staff is unaware of these locations pulling the excessive energy until nearly a month afterwar. The new Smart Meters from the PUD will help with identifying these properties and safety hazards in real time, explained Rissman. “We’re trying really hard to insulate our customers that exist today from whatever problems exist and whatever from the cryptocurrency,” he expressed, “that’s from a revenue standpoint, from an infrastructure standpoint and a safety standpoint.”

Councilman Tim Hollingsworth voiced his concern for protecting the citizens rates and keeping the community paying some of the lowest rates in the world, which Wendell

then replied, “in my tenure at the PUD, a council like this has a really strong voice with our planning commission,” he began, then stated, “and your voice is heard and you have the ability to influence policy at the PUD.”

As councilmembers concluded the meeting, a motion was proposed by Councilwoman Kelly Allen requesting an “immediate impose a moratorium on the issuance of building permits and/or authorizations of cryptocurrency in high-density load operations for an indefinite period of time or until such time that the planning department has brought forward an appropriate code.” A moratorium can be in place for six months, advised Chelan Planning Director Craig Gildroy. The council unanimously passed this motion, effective immediately.



Graphics courtesy of SCJ Alliance

Schematic design of completed Woodin Avenue Bridge restoration and revitalization project. BELOW RIGHT: Anticipated construction schedule during projects.

BRIDGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

er funding sources, explained Ireland. “What we had to do was get our potential funding partners together and talked it out,” he said, “sometimes what you have to do is bring everyone together to the same conclusion.” This same conclusion results in what is referred to a tied bid method, which allows the combination of projects “that have independent environmental permitting processes into one construction project,” as explained in the presentation provided by Ireland. The financial breakdown of the funding would utilize federal funding on the restoration project, city funding on the water project and TIB grant funding on the one-way portion of the project, allowing a single contractor for the project.

During construction, Ire-

land stressed the effort being put in to eliminate all unnecessary surprises and disruptions during the project. Right from the beginning of construction, the bridge will go to a one-way configuration and will remain that way, he stated, then vocalized that every effort will be made to accommodate the citizens of Chelan, however safety will be the priority during the restoration and construction times.

Phase one is anticipated to include some bridge closures on either end due to excavation limits in the bridge preparation, scaffolding and water line work of the project, although a minimum of two bays will be open to boats at all times during this phase. During the second phase of construction, short-term closures for concrete pouring should be expected, with work on the restoration, sidewalk, railing and lights on the south end of the bridge and water

	Current Estimate 105 Working Days (Monday – Friday)						
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
BIDDING AND CONTRACTING							
BRIDGE RESTORATION							
PHASE 1 - WATERLINE							
PHASE 2 - SOUTH SIDE							
PHASE 3 - EAST COLUMBIA							
PHASE 4 - WEST COLUMBIA							
PHASE 5 - PAVING							No Paving
PROJECT WRAP UP							

line connections. Third Street is anticipated to be closed during this phase, Ireland advised. Phase three will result in some short-term closures during concrete pouring when working on the curb and sidewalk sections of E. Columbia Street,

moving into phase four which will focus on the west side of Columbia Street. The fifth, and final, phase of the project are anticipated with more short-term closures for grinding and paving as the crews work on the Woodin Avenue median curbing and sidewalk,

asphalt grinding, crosswalks and landscaping.

Chelan councilmembers and staff convene every second and fourth Tuesday at City Hall, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The next council meeting will take place Tuesday, Feb. 27.

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FFA Week

Manson Future Farmers of America (FFA) barrels into celebratory events for National FFA week

By ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

MANSON – With Future Farmers of America (FFA) week taking place this week, the high school students and FFA Advisor Kevin Amsden have a week full of events taking place. “Green Hand Day” kicked off the week’s activities, Tuesday, Feb. 20, which is a special event for all first-year FFA students. Throughout the day, the newest FFA students were able to walk into Amsden’s classroom and have their hand painted green for the day. Events will continue throughout the week with events including competitive tire toss and wheelbarrow races for “Olympics Days” later on in the week.

Something new to the FFA program at Manson this year is the transition to an affiliate chapter, explained Amsden. Being an affiliate chapter “allows any kid that takes a class from me to be in FFA,” he explained, stating that previously it had been an individual membership, if a student wanted to join FFA, they had to sign up. This method alleviates a lot of problems, he said, such as a student’s inability to pay FFA dues for example. The change had been made at the recommendation of

the school district advisory board, which will help these students participate through the use of the vocational

budget to cover any dues that may not be able to be covered otherwise.

The students are getting

ready for their spring contests, said Amsden, which will include leadership activities such as speech and job

interview competitions. This year’s class size is about the same as last year, he added, however next year will be

down a little bit with several of the FFA students set for graduation this year.



Kevin Amsden, FFA Advisor



Manson School District 2018 Future Farmers of America (FFA) participants.

Photo courtesy of Manson School District

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA membership today is comprised of student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to FFA chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

FFA operates on local, state, and national levels. Student members belong to chapters organized at the local school level. Agriculture educators serve as chapter advisors. Chapters are organized under state associations headed by an advisor and executive secretary, often employees of the state department of education. States conduct programs and host annual conventions.

The National FFA Organization is governed by a board

of directors, charters state associations and provides direction, program materials and support for local chapters and state FFA associations.

FFA was organized nationally in 1928 in Kansas City, Mo. In 1950, Congress granted FFA a federal charter, making it an integral part of public agricultural instruction under the National Vocational Education Act. FFA receives no federal funding.

The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs.

Science, Business, Technology

The National FFA Organization has evolved in response to expanded opportunities available in the industry of agriculture. Today’s FFA helps members prepare for careers in agribusiness,

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National FFA Week // Feb. 17-24, 2018

agrimarketing, science, communications, education, horticulture, production, natural resources, forestry and many other diverse fields.

Career Preparation

The agricultural education program provides a well-rounded, practical approach to learning through three components: Classroom education, hands-on supervised agricultural experiences, and FFA, which provides leadership opportunities and tests students’ agricultural skills.

Student Leadership

FFA members elect their own officers and plan and conduct activities with supervision from their chapter advisors. A team of six

national officers, typically college students taking a year away from their studies, plays a key role in planning the annual National FFA Convention & Expo and other events. The National FFA Officer Team travels more than 100,000 miles during its year in office.

Programs and Activities

Local, state and national FFA programs and activities help members develop public speaking skills, conduct and participate in meetings, manage financial matters, strengthen problem-solving abilities and assume civic responsibilities.

National FFA Convention & Expo

The National FFA Convention & Expo is the organization’s premier gathering during which all FFA competitive events and programs are recognized nationally. The event brings FFA members together to learn, be inspired and celebrate their accomplishments in the organization.

National FFA Foundation

The National FFA Foundation is headquartered at the National FFA Center, and works with business and industry, organizations and individuals to raise funds that support FFA activities at the national, state and local levels. For more, visit FFA.

org/Give.

National FFA Alumni Association

Agriculture teachers rely on more than 225,891 FFA Alumni members and countless volunteers to help ease the outside commitments of teaching. FFA relies on alumni members for student recruiting, scholarship funding, advocacy for agricultural education, and support to help stage camps, conferences, conventions and other personal development programs.

The National FFA Organization is headquartered at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., as a part of agricultural, food and natural resources education in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. Its business center is the National FFA Center in Indianapolis.

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Chelan Future Farmers of America (FFA) express impact of program



Richard Heimark



Ashley Oswald



Matt Fitzpatrick



Carlos Vargas

Events planned for National FFA Week

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – Future Farmers of America (FFA) began their celebration of National FFA week this week with “Green Hand Day,” Tuesday, Feb. 20. In addition to the newest members of the Chelan Chapter having their hand dyed, the painted handprints were also used to sign the FFA member’s 2018 poster. Events will proceed throughout the week, according to Advisor Randy Gleasman, with a barbecue lunch, Thursday, Feb. 22 and “Wear Your Shirt Day,” Friday, Feb. 23.



Breanne Hanson, co-FFA Advisor



Randy Gleasman, co-FFA Advisor

Taking a deeper look into the importance of this agricultural program on the growth of its participants, Lake Chelan Mirror staff interviewed four of the Chapter’s members on the importance of the program as individuals heading into the future.

Richard Heimark – Junior
Richard Heimark is in his

third year of participation with the Chelan Chapter of FFA. Of the upcoming events, he is most looking forward to the prepared public speaking, he said. “I’ve been doing prepared public speaking for a while,” he explained, “the reason I like it is because I like to put on a show for people. Even though it’s kind of limited for what I can do, I do a lot better speaking to people about things that I find interesting.” This year, Heimark will be speaking on the future of agriculture after the cultivation of other planets, he said, “I’m a sci-fi dude, I love science and I love astronomy.” The activity that FFA students are encouraged to do and be involved in is important for the student and community, he explained, “it’s really creating a better tomorrow by making citizens and people that can actually go and be productive members of society.” Heimark expressed how these skills have greatly benefited his life, “FFA has helped me get two jobs, I’m working two jobs right now and I have hobbies ... I’ve learned how to speak to people and how to express my ideas, how to communicate ... FFA (programs) have really allowed people to grow.”

Ashley Oswald – Senior
Ashley Oswald is in her third year with FFA. Oswald has shown goats for the past six years, beginning in 4H. She is most looking forward to the competitions, she explained, “it’s a lot of hard work, but I like doing the hard work ... FFA is all about hard work, so I feel like that shows what hard

work is and your accomplishments of getting to state is your reward.” FFA has so many benefits individually and for the community, she stated. “For me, I’ve learned a lot of lessons that I don’t think I could’ve learned doing anything else, a lot of it has to do with the hard work and taking responsibility ... with FFA you’re always learning and growing,” she added, “there’s not really any wrong thing you can do because it’s always going to come out helpful in the end ... FFA has been a huge part of the community, we do a lot of auctions and benefit dinners and it definitely gets the community involved ... they are a big part in everything they do” After graduation, Oswald plans on becoming an elementary school teacher. “I know that I’ll take some of the stuff that I’ve learned into the classroom,” she explained, “I know I don’t want my students to just sit in the classroom all day, I want them to get outside and do science experiments and hands on learning.”

Matt Fitzpatrick – Chapter President
Matt Fitzpatrick expressed that he is most looking forward to the Agricultural Mechanic (AgMech) competition, which is new to the program here this year, “I’m excited for that,” he expressed, “and we’re going to go compete at state this year for it.” The AgMech competition will focus on welding skills in an agricultural setting and making items out of the metals. “It’s a big contest where every school has a team, and there’s five of us,” he explained, “and you have to identify engine parts, show you arch weld and oxy weld ... it’s pretty exciting.” In his fourth year with FFA, Fitzpatrick served as secretary last year, and is the current chapter president. Being a part of the FFA has really helped Fitzpatrick be more outgoing, he explained, “I wasn’t very outgoing at all as a freshman, I didn’t really talk to anybody and just kept to myself,” he said, “FFA has helped me be more confident

in myself and a lot of my friends I have gotten to know through FFA ... I think it’s definitely helped me grow as a leader too, because I never saw myself as a leader before ... It’s really just helped me grow up ... FFA will help with everything in life, it all relates to working hard.” After high school, Fitzpatrick said that he plans on attending school in Eastern Oregon and will be continuing his education in agriculture through Oregon State University.

Carlos Vargas
Carlos Vargas is in his fourth year of FFA and received Grand Champion with his goats at the Waterville Fair last year. This year, “I think most of us are excited for the cattle judging competition in Okanogan that’s

coming up,” he explained, “I know a lot of people are excited for that. We’re also coming up on our speaking competitions that will prepare us for state.” Being involved with FFA has helped Vargas be more responsible in and outside of school, he said. After graduation, “the main focus will probably be to go to college,” he explained. While uncertain as to what direction he will take after high school, Vargas is certain that he’d like to stay in the field of agriculture. “FFA looks good on your transcript,” he laughed, “but it really gives people a feel for the real world, to see what things are really like. With anything you do in FFA, there’s a lot of things you have to take care of and a lot of preparedness.”



- PROCLAMATION -

Whereas, FFA and agricultural education provide a strong foundation for the youth of America and the future of the food, fiber and natural resources systems; and

Whereas, FFA promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success among its members; and

Whereas, agricultural education and FFA ensure a steady supply of young professional to meet the growing needs in the science, business and technology of agriculture; and

Whereas, the FFA motto- “learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve”- gives direction of purpose to these students who take an active role in succeeding in agricultural education; and

Whereas, FFA promotes citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation.

www.ffanewhorizons.org

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Chelan Goats Wrestling participates at State Championship

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

at the 182-lb. weight division.

As crowds of supporters filled the stands inside the Tacoma Dome, wrestlers from the gamut of weights and schools occupied the wrestling mats with hopes of placing as one of the best wrestlers in Washington State. For Junior Skyler Gordon, that dream became a reality. Moving aggressively through the brackets, Gordon placed fourth at the 182-lb. weight division in 1A league.

See more photos at www.lakechelanmirror.com

TACOMA – Chelan Goats sent three participants and five alternates to the Washington State Classic XXX Wrestling Tournament, Friday, Feb. 16 and Saturday, Feb. 17 in Tacoma, Wash.

Three of the Goat's wrestling captains advanced into the state championship tournament, which included Junior Erik Alcalá in the 152-lb. weight division, Senior Braden Williams in the 160-lb. weight division and Junior Skyler Gordon



Junior Erik Alcalá (green singlet) grapples with his opponent during the Washington State Classic XXX Wrestling Championships at the Tacoma Dome in Tacoma Wash.



Skyler Gordon (green singlet) forces out his opponent from Freeman High School.



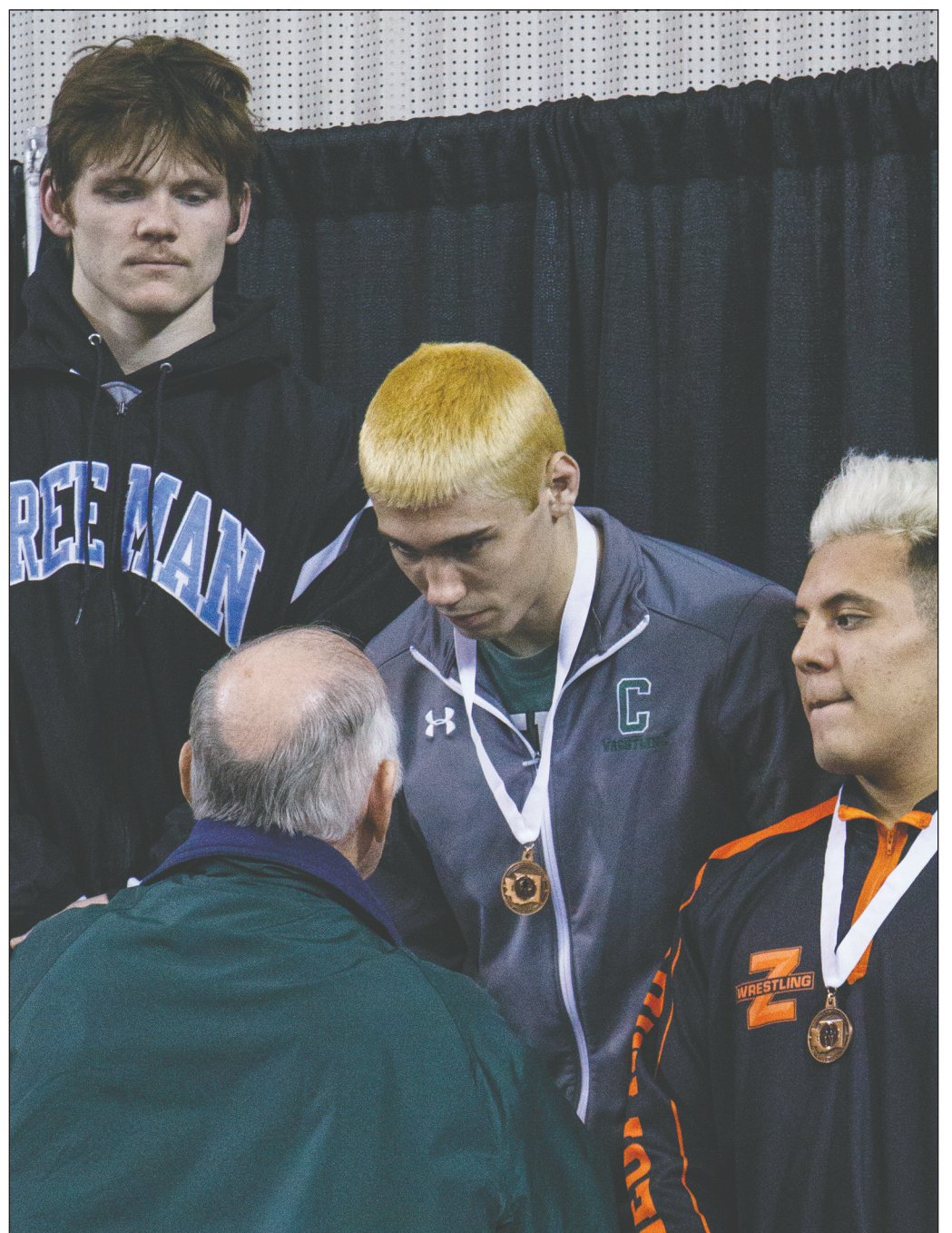
Erik Alcalá (green singlet) flips his opponent in an attempted takedown.



Senior Braden Williams (green singlet) prepares to attempt to overtake his opponent



Junior Skyler Gordon gets bandaged by a couple of the first aid crew members during a bout, Saturday, Feb. 17 in Tacoma.



Skyler Gordon receives his ribbon and certificate, solidifying his standing at fourth in state for the 182-lb. weight division for 1A league.



Skyler Gordon stands on the podium after placing fourth in the state tournament.

