

Through glass

Meeting great-grandson for the first time, **A3**



Canceled event

No Music on the Bay this summer, **A2**



PARTLY CLOUDY 63 • 46

FORECAST, A9

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

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\$2

Restoration continues

AMANDA LINARES
The World

NORTH BEND — The Liberty Theatre, Home of Little Theatre on the Bay, will soon have a number of new features as construction work continues.

According to a press release from the LTOB, the multi-phase restoration project is currently in its fourth phase of work, which includes a 2,268-square foot addition on the southwest side of the theatre.

The new space will be used to house a workshop area, a green room and restrooms for the cast and crew.

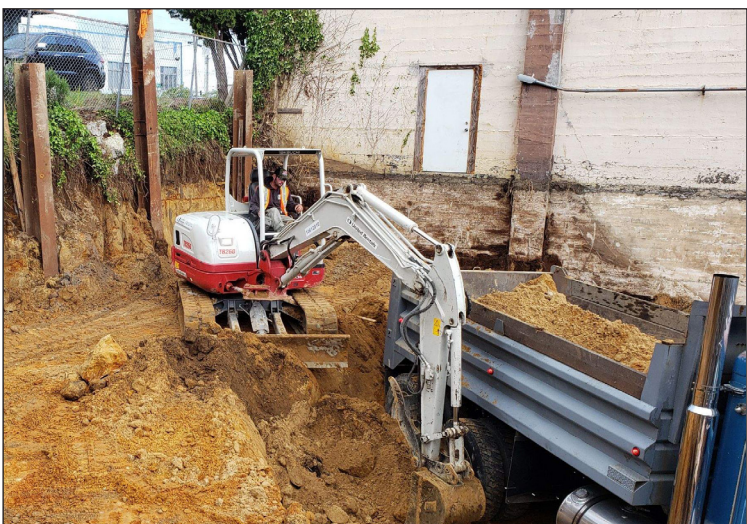
“Set pieces will be able to be constructed on site, and moved

directly to the stage without weather issues or stairs to navigate,” said the press release. “The cast, crew and musicians can also move from the front doors to the backstage area and then right onto the stage all on one level and with no stairs, a blessing for those with mobility issues.”

With a slight delay earlier this spring as building supplies from China did not arrive on time, Jeanne Woods, the restoration chairperson for LTOB, said the team is hoping to make its deadline and have the fourth phase completed by September.

“Phase four has been in the works for about a year and a half,” said Woods. “Right now,

Please see **Restoration**, Page A9



Phase 4 renovations continue on at The Liberty Theatre in North Bend.

Contributed photo

Republicans hit ‘pause’ on new aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Businesses are going belly up, tens of millions have been laid off and, by some measures, the U.S. seems headed for another Great Depression. But Republicans surveying the wreckage aren’t ready for another round of coronavirus aid, instead urging a “pause.”

It’s a position based on a confluence of factors. Polls show GOP voters think the government is already doing enough. Republicans on Capitol Hill are divided over the best approach. Billions approved by Congress have yet to be spent. And it’s also unclear what President Donald Trump wants to do next, if anything, to juice the economy — his payroll tax cut idea hasn’t gained any traction on Capitol Hill.

For these and other reasons, GOP leaders see an unfolding crisis that does not yet cry out for further action.

“There’s just a pragmatic piece to this, which is, if we’re going to do another bill, let’s get into June and July so we know how people are re-emerging,” said Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., who gave up his leadership post last year to take the top GOP job on the Financial Services Committee.

The political balancing act comes as the long-dormant deficit-hawk wing of the GOP lumbers back to life, recoiling from the House Democratic proposal to spend another \$3 trillion in taxpayer money. Yet many Republicans concede there

Please see **Aid**, Page A9

Reopening the South Coast



Zach Silva, The World

Frank Williams shows off his signs urging the reopening of businesses along the South Coast. Williams has been driving around the area over the past two weeks promoting his message. If approved by the state Coos County could see select local businesses open up as soon as Friday.

Flyover to salute healthcare workers

JILLIAN WARD
The World

COOS COUNTY — In a nationwide display of appreciation for healthcare workers fighting on the front lines of the pandemic, fighter jets will soar over local hospital campuses Friday.

These flyovers will cross the South Coast that morning, including Coos Bay, Bandon, and Gold Beach.

“We received word (Tuesday) from the 173rd Fighter Wing that they will do a flyover with two F-15 Eagles,” said Kelli Dion, public information officer at Bay Area Hospital.

The flyover will be at 10:25 a.m., though the hospital is cautioning the public not to come to its campus to watch.

“We still have the social distancing



Contributed photo

173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagles.

requirements we’re trying to meet,” Dion reminded.

As the fast-flying “thank you” is held across the United States, some have criticized President Donald Trump for spending millions on these displays rather than in bol-

stering needed medical supplies.

But when asked how Dion feels about the flyover, she said she is excited to see the display.

“...I hope the weather is good so we can go out, wave and participate,” she said. “We’re appreciative

and excited to see it.”

The 173rd Fighter Wing is at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls and saluting healthcare workers from as far as Medford and Ashland.

The following is an anticipated schedule for the flyover:

10:05 a.m.: Asante Ashland Community Hospital, Ashland
10:07 a.m.: Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center, Medford
10:09 a.m.: Providence Medford Medical Center, Medford
10:25 a.m.: Bay Area Hospital, Coos Bay
10:28 a.m.: Coquille Valley Hospital, Coquille
10:31 a.m.: Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center, Bandon
10:39 a.m.: Curry General Hospital, Gold Beach

The World

COOS COUNTY — As Coos County prepares to slowly reopen, Coos Health & Wellness wants to remind businesses, organizations and community members that the county is still under Executive Order 20-22 until there is approval from the state to move forward.

“We have all had to make significant behavioral changes to reduce the spread of COVID-19,” said Cynthia Edwards, public information officer with Coos Health & Wellness. “While we prepare for reopening, we will need to continue these practices:”

- social distancing (specifically, staying 6 feet away from others when you must go into a shared space)
- frequently washing hands or use alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- wearing cloth face coverings
- avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- staying home when sick

Please see **Reopen**, Page A9



Photo gallery: The Face of Coronavirus

Photo gallery: Marshfield Junior High School construction

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No Music on the Bay this year

ZACH SILVA
The World

COOS BAY — Minus Park will be a little quieter this summer. In accordance with Governor Kate Brown’s

executive order, which included the cancellation of large gatherings through September, the annual concerts titled Music on the Bay will not occur this summer. “Yeah, it’s very sad.

We bring anywhere from 500 to 750 people there for every concert that we do and it’s going to be sad for the whole community. It’s really a community based program,” said Jim Ring, who helps put on the shows. For the past 20 years, according to Ring, there have been concerts taking place in the late summer at Minus Park. What once started as three concerts a year then became six weekly shows that stretched into September. The goal was to have

a little of something for all tastes in music. “We bring in acts from all over the United States. Try to do different genres every week. We do country, we do blues, we do rock and roll, we had an alternative rock band, we’ve had jazz bands, all that type of thing,” said Ring. The free concerts cost around \$50,000 to put on with that money coming in from donations around the community. Free lodging at a local hotels, dinner and drinks from restau-

rants, security provided and trailers donated all went along with a local sound and light crew. With all these facets coming together, Ring said the bands enjoyed it. “They seem like when they learn it’s a community event and the community is supporting this great program big time, they seem to go a little extra effort on the show they put on,” he said. While there will be no large gatherings, Ring is hoping that there can be a small concert of around 50 donors for

one of the musicians who has plans to fly out to the area. “We do have one coming, or possibly still coming. I need to talk to their booking agent but in September that we might do a very small show if they allow us to have it. We’re going to pay her anyway if we pay her for a 700 (person show) or 50 or whatever,” said Ring. After that possible one show, the concert series looks to be back in action next summer. “The plan is see us in 2021,” said Ring.

The World

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Oregon reports four new COVID-19 deaths, 55 new confirmed cases

The World

PORTLAND — COVID-19 has claimed four more lives in Oregon, raising the state’s death toll to 134, the Oregon Health Authority reported Wednesday. Oregon Health Authority reported 55 new confirmed cases and four new presumptive cases of COVID-19 as of 8 a.m. Wednesday, bringing the state total to 3,416. The new confirmed and presumptive cases reported Wednesday are in the following counties: Clatsop (3), Columbia

(1), Coos (1), Hood River (1), Linn (1), Malheur (1), Marion (23), Multnomah (13), Polk (1), Umatilla (1), Washington (13). Oregon’s 131st COVID-19 death is a 91-year-old man in Polk County, who tested positive on May 2 and died on May 8 at Salem Hospital. He had underlying medical conditions. Oregon’s 132nd COVID-19 death is a 100-year-old woman in Polk County, who tested positive on May 2 and died on May 11 in her residence. She had underlying medical

conditions. Oregon’s 133rd COVID-19 death is a 90-year-old woman in Polk County, who tested positive on May 1 and died on May 12 at Salem Hospital. She had underlying medical conditions. Oregon’s 134th COVID-19 death is a 91-year-old woman in Washington County, who tested positive on May 11 and died on May 12 at Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center. She had underlying medical conditions. To see more case and county level data, please

visit the Oregon Health Authority website, which OHA updates once a day: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus. **Stay informed about COVID-19:** Oregon response: The Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Office of Emergency Management lead the state response. United States response: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention leads the U.S. response. Global response: The World Health Organization guides the global response.

STIMULUS CHECK | REAL ESTATE

Make a Move

If you’ve been thinking about moving to a new house, your stimulus check could help you turn that dream into reality.

With many Americans spending time isolated at home, they have plenty of time to think about where they live and whether they might be happier in a different situation. There is a long list of reasons moving might make sense, such as wanting a more peaceful lifestyle in the country, a shorter commute in the city, or a more affordable home to give peace of mind in stressful times.



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IDEAL TIMING

Whatever your real-estate goals, there’s no better time than now for making a move if you’re in a good position to do so. More houses will likely be coming on the market as the economy slows and changes, which means greater selection for buyers and potentially a softening in prices after years of record gains. Interest rates also are unusually low right now. If you’ve got decent credit, you can qualify for spectacularly low mortgage rates by historical standards, making your new home even more affordable.

STOP RENTING

If you’re currently a renter, buying a home could let you pay yourself instead of a landlord. Home ownership can be a good way to start building up equity as you own property instead of just leasing space. Depending on your situation, you may be able to buy a home with very little money down. But the more you’re able to pay now, the more benefits you’ll get, often including lower principal payments, no private mortgage insurance and lower interest rates.

SIMPLIFYING

Another trend is for people

to use real estate to simplify their life. This is epitomized by the “tiny house” movement, but that’s not the only way a new house can make your life simpler. Whether you want to downsize in space, downsize in price, or upsize in natural beauty by moving to a more rural home, a move could give you peace of mind that is especially valuable at times like the current pandemic.

BUY A RENTAL

Even if you’re happy where you currently live, the same combination of factors that makes now a good time to consider moving — low inter-

est rates and a potentially better selection of housing inventory — also makes it a good time to buy investment properties. Using your stimulus check from this short-term crisis as an incentive to invest for the long term could turn out to be a wise move.

REMOTE HELP

Many real estate agents aren’t stopping their jobs during this pandemic. They are still working from home, where possible, to keep up their important task of connecting buyers with sellers. Home listings have added more digital content for years,

ranging from virtual tours and video tours to extensive still photography. The coronavirus outbreak has only underlined the point that online shopping is important, and the best agents know this. They’ve already gathered the information to help you shop for a home, or list your home for sale, while taking precautions to minimize the risk of spreading viruses. The closing process, too, is becoming more digital. Many home transactions are continuing to take place either through digital signatures on documents or by keeping people isolated while still signing papers in person.

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Local grandmother meets great-grandson for first time

COOS BAY — A moment of pure joy captured, a moment she never thought would happen, a moment that Hilda Wuethrich, 96, said she'll cherish forever.

Wuethrich, a resident at Ocean Ridge Assisted Living, was able to meet her great-grandson, 6-month-old Mason, for the very first time earlier this month.

"I was thrilled to see my great-grandson Mason," she said. "I never thought that I would actually met him."

Like so many others living in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, Wuethrich has been quarantined from visitors outside the center as a way to limit her exposure to the novel coronavirus.

With visitations being limited, Wuethrich hasn't been able to see many of her family members directly in-person or face-to-face for the past several weeks.

However, a visit from her granddaughter, Jennifer Wuethrich, and ex-daughter-in-law, Janet Cole, marked a very special moment for Wuethrich, who was able to say hello to her great-grandson for the very first time.

Unaware at the time of the new visitation restrictions, Jennifer and Mason, who were on vacation to visit the whole family, found a way to connect with Wuethrich through a room window.

"(Jennifer) came up from Texas to visit her mom and the whole family," said Ernie, Wuethrich's son. "Well it didn't turn out the way she had planned and hoped, but we made it work. This was the next best thing."

According to Ernie, his niece, Jennifer, who was



Ocean Ridge resident Hila Wuethrich, 96, meets her great-grandson Mason for the very first time.

in town longer than she had originally planned as her flight back home was met with cancellations and other challenges, was able to connect with her grandmother and other family members while in town.

"We are on the phone a lot with mom now," he said. "We just make sure we communicate with her as much as we can to let her know we're still here."

Ernie, as well as other family members, recently celebrated Mother's Day with Wuethrich, by participating in a drive-by parade at Ocean Ridge. The family honked their car horn and swung giant homemade signs from their vehicle wishing her a happy Mother's Day.

"We always celebrate Mother's Day with a big family dinner at home," said Ernie. "This was the first time we weren't able to do that, but we did get to see her ... it was quite touching for people to par-



Hilda Wuethrich, 96, reaches out her hand to her 6-month-old great-grandson, Mason.

ticipate and give residents something to be happy about and something to enjoy when they look out of their window."

While it's hard not being able to see her family in-person, Wuethrich said it's a blessing that every-

one is doing well and that she's happy to still be able to connect with them via telephone.

"One of the staff made a copy of the picture of me and Mason," said Wuethrich. "I'll have it to cherish always."

Presumptive positives added to virus totals

ZACH SILVA
The World

COOS COUNTY — In addition to recording positive cases of novel coronavirus in each county, the Oregon Health Authority has also started adding presumptive positive cases to the list.

This change, made last week, means OHA's website shows Coos County with 30 positive cases. Meanwhile, Coos Health and Wellness has that information broken down to show 28 positive cases along with two presumptive cases.

"Essentially what it boils down to is, someone that we believe has COVID-19 even though they haven't tested positive for COVID-19," said Coos Health and Wellness epidemiologist Brian Leon earlier this week.

"Basically if they have

symptoms and they have, to the best of our understanding, close contact with a confirmed case that has tested positive, then we are treating them as a presumptive case."

In Coos County the first positive cases of coronavirus occurred at Shutter Creek Correctional Institution. The virus spread through a portion of the institution and there were 25 inmates who tested positive and two employees.

On Wednesday, Coos Health and Wellness stated that a Shutter Creek employee is also now a presumptive positive.

While the employee is now a presumptive positive, adults in custody are not being added to the county total number of cases as presumptive positives.

"At this time, we will not report presumptive positives on our website,"

said Jen Black of the Department of Corrections.

Black stated that Shutter Creek will continue to test adults in custody who request tests. On Tuesday there were 15 negative tests recorded at the facility.

Leon explained that the congregate nature of Shutter Creek shows that presumptive positives are not as necessary in this setting.

"When you think about the person and the genesis for why we are treating presumptive cases as cases, is to eliminate potential further spread for someone that maybe wouldn't have been on our radar a few weeks ago," he said.

"In the Shutter Creek setting, that's not really the issue. Out in the community, it's absolutely an issue and I can basically now go instead of one person's contacts I can now go to

that person's contacts, it's like hitting that second degree of depth and making sure we have our hands around every possible case that might be out there."

The other presumptive positive in the county was associated with the first positive case that had nothing to do with Shutter Creek. A woman over 60 years of age tested positive and the individual that she lives with was deemed a presumptive positive.

Both individuals who are said to be presumptive positive cases have tested negative for COVID-19.

"We already know they have contact with a confirmed case, they've got symptoms that basically go along with COVID-19 so at that point we're basically going to say yeah, we believe you have COVID-19 so we're going to treat you as such," said Leon.



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MYRTLE POINT POLICE LOG

Monday, May 4

At 7:43 p.m. on Eighth Street, a citation was issued to a subject following a casual contact incident.

At 10:06 p.m. on Sixth Street and Maple Street, a warning was given to a person following a casual contact incident.

Tuesday, May 5

At 12:09 a.m. on Eighth Street and Cedar Street, a traffic stop was handled.

At 8:23 a.m. on Bender Street, suspicious conditions were handled.

At 3:33 p.m. on Ash Street, a mental subject was handled.

Wednesday, May 6

At 1:37 a.m. on Eighth Street, a citation was issued in lieu of custody to a person on theft charges.

At 7:55 a.m. on Eighth Street, a citation was issued in lieu of custody to a person on shoplifting charges.

At 12:06 p.m. on Eight Street, a report of an unlawful entry into a motor vehicle was taken.

At 4:08 p.m. on East Willow Street, a disturbance was handled.

Thursday, May 7

At 2:09 a.m. on Alder Street, a suspicious vehicle was handled.

At 5:14 p.m. on Bender Street and Doborout Street, driver issued a warning following a traffic stop.

At 5:31 p.m. on Roseburg Road, an alarm was handled at location.

Friday, May 8

At 8:59 p.m. on U.S. Highway 42 near Milepost 37, a welfare check was handled.

Saturday, May 9

At 10:58 a.m. on Railroad Avenue, a criminal trespass was handled.

At 2:04 p.m. on East Cedar Street, a suicidal subject was reported.

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BEN KENFIELD Publisher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please vote ‘YES’ for Ballot 6-178

We all know that dialing 911 is for an emergency. How would you feel if this 911 system was not working?

What if you are calling 911 because your house is on fire and the 911 system doesn’t work.... or you need medical help....or someone is trying to break into your house? The current 911 system operates with outdated equipment for 16 fire agencies, 3 ambulance services, 12 police headquarters and the Coos County Road Dept

The system has failed more than 4 times in the last 7 months. In 2019 the entire system was inoperable for 36 hours. The rural agencies using this 911 dilapidated system needs to be replaced.

Yes, a new 911 radio system will cost you and I for a new system BUT a new system will provide additional insurance for our safety. A proposed local option tax is \$0.20 (20 cents) per 1,000 of assessed value of our

properties for 5 years. These taxes will be dedicated ONLY to 911 communications.

Our emergency 911 trained men and women deserve the best equipment to connect with help to save our lives.

Phyllis Wilson
Myrtle Point

A recipe for sick employees

I happen across the story of a restaurant’s defying the governor’s orders, people up in arms. I can understand, to a point. What I don’t understand is local furniture / mattress stores that never closed, never stopped delivering mattresses. One even had their employees removing the old used mattresses. Do the employees they have effective PPE? No. Does any one care? Certainly not the store that defied the Governor’s orders from the first day. This is a recipe for sick employees,

Cindy Ritchie
Coos Bay

What Joe Biden Doesn’t Have to Do Right Now



FROMA HARROP

Joe Biden has not been loudly beating up on President Donald Trump for his pathetic performance during the coronavirus crisis. The pandemic has already killed over 80,000 Americans and cratered the economy. And the United States has become an object of international pity.

“Why is Biden sitting at home?” chronically anxious Democrats ask.

Actually, Biden doesn’t have to do much talking right now. The coronavirus numbers are doing the talking for him. Biden’s rise in key presidential polls suggests that the American people are listening.

The public seems to understand the need for balance between restarting the economy and avoiding more mass death -- about which Trump is just fomenting more craziness.

News cameras can’t keep their lenses off Trump-inspired agitators in front of state houses. And if the number of anti-lockdown, anti-distancing, face maskless protesters rises from 65 to 132, newscasters excitedly proclaim that the angry crowds are “growing.”

More reliable numbers leave a different impression. A recent poll found lower approval ratings for governors who are rushing to reopen their states and higher ones for those acting cautiously.

Older Americans favored Trump in 2016. But polls show this important voting bloc moving decidedly toward Biden. A new Marquette University poll has voters over 60 in the swing state of Wisconsin supporting Biden over Trump by an astounding 18 points.

Why the change? Older people are most vulnerable to the virus. They cannot be pleased by casual talk of accepting many more deaths in return for economic revival -- much less the murmuring about the advantages of culling a population heavily dependent on government benefits.

Now young children are being hospitalized for a COVID-related rash. A few have died, and

parents are scared.

Some numbers speak of the tragedy unleashed by Trump’s early denial of and then flabby response to this threat. Other countries have been hit by the disease, but few have suffered as we have.

On Jan. 21, the U.S. and South Korea each had 1 confirmed coronavirus case and low unemployment rate of about 4 percent. By May 11, the U.S. had 81,285 virus deaths, and South Korea had 256. On that date, our unemployment rate stood at 14.7 percent. South Korea’s was 4 percent and its economy humming along.

The U.S. now has the seventh highest coronavirus death rate in the world -- twice that of Canada. And to think we are the land of superior hospitals, cutting-edge research and heroic health care workers.

It didn’t have to get this bad. Toward the end of January, Trump’s own trade adviser, Peter Navarro, sent the president a high-level warning of the tidal wave coming our way. Our lack of preparedness, he wrote, “elevates the risk of the coronavirus evolving into a full-blown pandemic, imperiling the lives of millions of Americans.”

Trump denied the existence of the virus, and when it became impossible to ignore, he blamed governors for not stopping it.

A safe revival of business activity requires mass testing for the virus. The U.S. is finally making progress on obtaining such tests but still can’t provide nearly enough. This follows Trump’s dismal failure as late as March -- when the number of new cases could have been curbed -- to take the health threat seriously.

As of March 11, the U.S. had tested only 23 people per 1 million. Even countries swimming in their own political chaos did better by large multiples. By March 11, the United Kingdom had tested 347 per million -- and Italy had tested 826 per million.

Politics happens, even in times too sad for it. Biden will eventually have to emerge, but his case for replacing Trump is already out there loud and clear.

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ON THIS DAY in Coos County history

100 YEARS May 14, 1920

J.M. Thomas To Be Fire Warden Resigns As District Game Warden to Take Place North Bend Man Chosen By Carl Davis – Forest Protection Week to be Observed

J.M. Thomas of North Bend, for several years district game warden, has resigned to accept a position as chief fire warden of Coos and Curry Fire Patrol Association. Mr. Thomas’ successor has not been announced but he will take up his new duties tomorrow.

His retirement as game warden will be regretted by many sportsmen but the new position affords better remuneration. Mr. Thomas being very familiar with this entire section will prove a valuable man for master fire warden and Carl L. Davis, secretary of the Coos and Curry Fire Protective Association, who appointed him is elated over his acceptance.

Dairymen Are Given Warning

The organization committee of the Dairymen’s League for Coos and Curry wishes to warn all dairymen against contracting their product to any private corporations at this time; or talking stock in such corporation proposing to establish manufacturing plants within our bounds.

We believe this to be a move to hold up or prevent the proper and expedient organization of a strong marketing association among the dairymen of this district; which they see is sure to be brought about through the Oregon Dairymen’s Co-operative League to which the products for over 7,000 cows has already been contracted up to date by our organization committee.

50 YEARS May 14, 1970

7-Point Plan For Coos Jail

COQUILLE — A state corrections division report released Wednesday called Coos County Jail facilities inadequate in most areas and dangerous in several. The report, seven pages in length, was a summary evaluation following a late-April inspection of the jail by corrections division personnel.

County Commissioner Lonnie Van Elsberg said he agreed entirely with the report, but pointed out the report did not contain any new information. “That the jail is inadequate and a new one badly needed has been known for years,” Van Elsberg said.

The writers of the report admitted time did not permit an in-depth study, but labeled the overall design of the jail as severely limited in providing “safe confinement of prisoners in secure custody.” The jail entrance and booking area were described as potential

trouble spots for jail breaks and disturbances.

Plan Proposed To Resolve Coos Conflict on Policy

A plan to help resolve the current deadlock over budget and program authority in the juvenile department between the Circuit Court and Coos County Commissioners was outlined Wednesday by Don Dils, area member of Governor McCall’s Management 70’s, Task Force.

In talks Wednesday with Circuit Court Judge John Warden and Commissioners William Miller and Lonnie Van Elsberg, Dils called for a non-partisan tasks force to study the existing situation and make recommendations. Dils’ plan called for a six-member team comprised of three in-county and three out-of-county specialists in budget, management and administrative problems. Dils’ plan was accepted by the court and commission that task force members be chose by members of the District 7 Commission on Youth.

15 YEARS May 14, 2005

Boys & Girls Club to honor police officers

Coos County children are invited to meet law enforcement officers Monday afternoon for Police Officer Appreciation Day. The event is scheduled for 4 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club of Southwestern Oregon in Coos Bay.

More than 15 police officers, Oregon State Police troopers and Coos County Sheriff’s deputies are expected to attend the event, according to Jennifer Sharp, a staff member at the club. The appreciation day coincides with National Police Week.

Children who take part in Boys & Girls Club activities have prepared thank-you cards for peace officers and will present them to those appearing at the event. Guests will have the chance to talk to law enforcement personnel and see a collection of police motorcycles and off-road vehicles.

State closing clamming on entire Oregon Coast

Record levels of a toxin found in clams have led to the shutdown of all clam harvesting on Oregon beaches.

In a Friday press release,

the Oregon Department of Agriculture announced the closing of the entire coast to harvests of razor and other clams as well as mussels. A week earlier, the state agency had blocked clamming over the North and Central coasts as far south as the north bank of the Umpqua River in Reedsport.

Levels of domoic acid, which is produced by marine algae, reached the highest recorded levels in mussels retrieved this week from all coastal areas, the agriculture department said. Anyone who has harvested Oregon mussels in the past week is asked to discard them.

Couple surprised to find out home was a former meth lab

By Carl Mickelson, Staff Writer

The Barview house Curtis and Sherrie Hoyle purchased off the Coos County property foreclosure list in 2002 wasn’t quaint.

It didn’t have a picturesque view. It was a double-wide trailer up on cinder blocks on Evergreen Lane. Over the years, neighbors had treated the property like a city dump. But at a real market value of \$41,000, the Hoyles could see beyond the garbage and debris that littered what could become their new yard.

These stories were found in the Marshfield Sun Printing Museum newspaper repository store in Marshfield HS courtesy of Coos Bay Schools and on The World newspaper website www.theworldlink.com.

Write to us and the community with a Letter to the Editor

Write a Letter to the Editor and be part of the community discussion on local topics. Letters should not contain any personal attacks against other community members.

To make a submission to the editor, fill out a submission form at www.theworldlink.com, email worldnews1@countymedia.net or call 541-269-1222 ext. 235.

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107 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-3753
Fax: 202-228-3997
Website: merkley.senate.gov/contact

Sen. Ron Wyden (D)
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001
Phone: 202-224-5244
Fax: 202-228-2717
Website: wyden.senate.gov/contact

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE – CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4 Rep. Peter A. DeFazio (D)

2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001
Phone: 202-225-6416
Fax: 202-225-0032

Website: www.house.gov/formdefazio/contact.html

Study ties ‘Obamacare’ to fewer cancer deaths in some states that expanded medicare availability

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

Cancer deaths have dropped more in states that expanded Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act than in states that did not, new research reveals.

The report Wednesday is the first evidence tying cancer survival to the health care change, which began in 2014 after the law known as “Obamacare” took full effect, said one study leader, Dr. Anna Lee of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

“For a policy to have this amount of impact in a short amount of years” is remarkable, because cancer often takes a long time to develop and prove fatal, she said.

Lee discussed the results in an American Society of Clinical Oncology news conference as part of its annual meeting later this month.

The law let states expand Medicaid eligibility and offer subsidies to help people buy health insurance. Twenty-seven states and Washington, D.C., did that, and 20 million Americans gained coverage that way. The other 23 states did not expand benefits.

Researchers used national health statistics on cancer deaths to track trends before and after the law. They looked only at deaths in people under 65, who stood to benefit from the change because those older already were covered by Medicare. About 30% of U.S. cancer deaths are in people under 65.

The cancer death rate fell throughout the United States from 1999 to 2017 in that age group, but more in states that expanded Medicaid -- 29% versus 25% in states that did not.

Researchers specifically compared death rates from 2011 to 2013, before the

health care change, to 2015 to 2017, after it. In states that expanded coverage, the change meant 785 fewer cancer deaths in 2017. Another 589 deaths could have been prevented that year if all states had expanded Medicaid, researchers estimated.

Having health insurance allows quicker treatment after diagnosis and access to more treatment options so patients can get the best care available, which can improve survival odds, Lee said. Insured people also may have more opportunities for screening to detect cancers at a stage when they’re most treatable.

The new work builds on research from last year’s conference that suggested more patients, blacks in particular, were able to quickly start on treatment after a diagnosis of advanced cancer in states that expanded Medicaid, said Dr. Howard Burris. He is president of the oncology society and heads the Sarah Cannon Research

Institute, a cancer center in Nashville, Tennessee.

“There was so much excitement” when federal statistics showed a big drop in cancer deaths over the last decade, and the new study shows “it was an even better improvement in expansion states,” said Burris, who had no role in the study.

The picture is murky for specific racial groups. States that expanded Medicaid generally had fewer blacks and more Hispanics than states that did not expand. Blacks have had worse cancer death rates than other groups, but that also has been improving at a greater rate than for whites. Expansion of Medicaid seemed to make no difference in cancer mortality rates for blacks, but did seem to improve the situation for Hispanics.

To date, 36 states and Washington, D.C., have expanded Medicaid and 14 have not.

Report warns of virus outbreak dangers at cramped wildfire camps

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Outbreaks of the coronavirus could sweep through large camps where crews typically stay as they fight wildfires across the U.S., according to a federal document obtained by The Associated Press, and the problem is likely to get worse the longer the fire season lasts.

The U.S. Forest Service’s draft risk assessment suggests that even in a best-case scenario — with social distancing followed and plenty of tests and protective equipment available — nearly two dozen firefighters could be infected with COVID-19 at a camp with hundreds of people who come in to combat a fire that burns for months.

The worst-case scenario? More than 1,000 infections.

or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially people who are older or have health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Federal guidelines released last week re-imagine how to combat wildfires to reduce the risk of firefighters getting the virus. The guidelines urge fire managers to use small crews that can have the close contact that firefighting and travel often require, while staying away from other groups. The guidelines recommend avoiding the traditional large camps and relying on military-issue ready-to-eat or bagged meals instead of catered buffet-style meals at campsites.

The guidelines could raise one of the greatest risks to wildland firefighters — traffic wrecks, Juvan said.

Even something as basic as sanitizing vehicles proved problematic, with cleaning supplies difficult to find, the report said.

In New Mexico, several agencies responded to a small wildfire last month, with some not practicing social distancing and other virus policies appearing to vary greatly, George Allalunis, a Carson National Forest engine captain, wrote in a report.

For the Forest Service’s draft risk assessment, researchers created scenarios using three actual fires from 2017 and applied disease modeling. They found testing every firefighter before they started work reduced the coronavirus risk most significantly for short, high-intensity wildfires, said Bayham, the professor. But for longer, drawn-out wildfires, initial testing was less important than keeping firefighters spread out in small campsites.

Texas AG asks court to block mail-in voting over virus fears

DALLAS (AP) — Texas’ Republican attorney general on Wednesday asked the state’s high court to order local election officials to reject vote-by-mail applications that cite concerns about catching the coronavirus.

Attorney General Ken Paxton petitioned the state Supreme Court after officials in some predominantly Democratic areas approved measures that would allow voters to claim a disability and request mail-in ballots if they are worried about getting sick at polling places. County officials and Texas Democrats cast the move as an effort to disrupt the election and an ongoing voting case.

It comes as the virus has deepened the partisan divide over mail-in voting, with President Donald Trump claiming it is ripe for fraud and Democrats

embracing the practice as the safest way to vote during the pandemic.

The attorney general’s request contends officials in counties that include Dallas, Houston, Austin, El Paso and the border community of Brownsville have broadened eligibility to vote by mail beyond what the Legislature intended.

“Each misapplication of Texas election law damages the integrity of our elections and increases the risk of voter fraud,” Paxton said in a statement.

In April, a lower state court lifted restrictions on mail-in voting after Democrats sued to at least temporarily expand access. Voting by mail in Texas is generally limited to those 65 or older or those with a “sickness or physical condition” that prevents them from casting a ballot in person. The state is

appealing that decision.

Douglas Ray, an attorney who handles election law for Harris County, said the county’s approach complies fully with the lower court’s ruling and that the counties will vigorously oppose Paxton’s effort to “short circuit” the pending appeal.

“He’s attempting to circumvent the process,” Ray said.

A lawyer for the Texas Democratic Party on Wednesday said “thousands” of people under 65 have already requested mail-in ballots, and accused Paxton of trying to “upset the election process.”

“Whether the state courts or the federal courts resolve the matter, a citizen’s right to vote will be protected,” said attorney Chad Dunn.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

Mom vetoes grandma’s plan to flout distancing rules

DEAR ABBY: My parents have strong opinions. I don’t agree with them in areas such as how to raise or discipline my children. If I try to explain why, they mock me with their tone of voice. Then they get mad if I try to discuss it with them and won’t speak to me for a couple of weeks.

Currently, they are insisting that I am making a mountain out of a molehill because of the coronavirus. I stay at home with my children and run out only to buy food. Abby, my parents are ignoring all the health recommendations. They still go out in public places where people are close to each other.

They now want to have all their grandkids over to play and are upset with me because I refuse. It has reached the point that I don’t answer my phone when I see Mom’s number because I know she’ll lecture me on how I am “tearing the family apart over this nonsense that we’ll just laugh about next year.” How do you get family members to respect your request for social distancing? -- DOING WHAT’S RIGHT FOR NOW

DEAR DOING: Here’s how: Stick to your guns. Remind your mother that your children’s welfare is your sacred responsibility. It is your job to ensure their safety, and it’s no laughing matter. Tell her this is why you have chosen to follow the directions issued by the Centers for Disease Control. You wish she and your dad would be more careful about their own health, but you respect that they are adults making their own choices, and you expect that she will extend to you the same courtesy. Period!

DEAR ABBY: I recently gave a family member a gift. Immediately upon opening it, they exclaimed, “I don’t want this! I will never use this. Can I return it and get something else?” This was followed by repeatedly saying they didn’t want the item and dragging out of the closet a similar item another family member had given them, exclaiming,

“See? I already have almost the exact same thing, and I’ve never used it.”

This relative kept repeating they didn’t ever want anything like this and what I should always get them. This is the same person, by the way, who buys me whatever they want to get me whether I want it or not, and refuses to listen when I state what I would like as gifts. Am I too sensitive, or is this behavior bad manners? -- GIFT HORSE IN WYOMING

DEAR GIFT HORSE: It’s an example of appalling bad manners and lack of gratitude. Because the relative is also unwilling or unable to choose appropriate gifts, why not agree to stop exchanging them? In cases like this, a nice, neutral greeting card would cause fewer hurt feelings.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I disagree about something, and I’d like you to be the tie-breaker. One of us believes it’s proper to keep the title to a vehicle in the glove compartment of the vehicle alongside the registration and insurance papers. The other thinks it’s foolish and dangerous. What say you? -- TIE-BREAKER IN KENTUCKY

DEAR TIE-BREAKER: I say it is better to err on the side of caution and keep the title in a safe deposit box or file cabinet. The same is true for the deed to your home, as well as other important documents.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

					8		6	
			7	2	4	1	8	
	4				6		3	7
9							4	
			8		9		7	
			5					9
3		2		5			7	
			4	6	7	3	9	
	7			8				

5/14

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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
5	8	4	9	3	6	2	7	1
1	2	7	5	8	4	3	9	6
3	9	6	1	7	2	5	4	8
4	6	5	7	9	8	1	3	2
9	7	3	6	2	1	4	8	5
2	1	8	3	4	5	9	6	7
7	4	1	8	5	9	6	2	3
8	5	2	4	6	3	7	1	9
6	3	9	2	1	7	8	5	4

- ACROSS
- 1 Car owner's document
- 6 Landfills
- 11 Audibly
- 12 Trailer rental (hyph.)
- 13 Mixtures
- 15 Cover with graffiti
- 16 Dishwasher phases
- 18 Glove sz.
- 19 Utmost degree
- 21 Caveman Alley —
- 22 Immaculate
- 23 Planks
- 25 Sushi bar selection
- 28 Make laugh
- 30 Fr. holy woman
- 31 Putter's org.
- 32 Deli units
- 33 Frothy brew
- 35 Ogles

- 37 Winding curve
- 38 Boxing locale
- 40 Poor grades
- 41 Name for a lion
- 42 Is, to Fritz
- 43 Way to satori
- 46 Ingenious contrivance
- 48 Foreign
- 50 Familiarize
- 54 Make a mess of
- 55 Pilot's OK
- 56 — up (got in shape)
- 57 Wintry

- DOWN
- 1 Dinner check
- 2 Running a fever
- 3 Bunion site
- 4 Midday meals
- 5 Bandleader — Duchin
- 6 Membership fees

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Q	U	A	R	T		T	H	R	I	F	T
U	N	S	U	R	E		R	E	E	L	I
O	A	K	L	E	Y		U	R	G	E	N
			E	S	E		L	E	E		
G	R	R		L	A	Y		N	B	C	
F	O	O		Z	I	G		S	C	R	A
L	O	C		I	D	A		K	Y	O	T
A	F	O	O	T		T	R	I	O	N	A
G	U	C	I		H	I	D		D	A	N
P	O	E		M	A	V		E	S	P	
			L	O	U		E	P	A		
A	G	E	O	L	D		T	I	T	T	E
R	E	S	T	E	D		S	P	E	E	D
C	L	A	S	S	Y		E	R	A	S	E

- 7 TV band
- 8 Polite address
- 9 Purple shade
- 10 Arctic transport
- 14 Flat-bottomed boat
- 15 Station
- 17 Untied
- 19 Gives Novocain
- 20 Roof beam
- 22 Not rosy
- 24 N.J. neighbor
- 25 Fencing weapons
- 26 Majestic wader
- 27 Glasgow girl
- 29 Sense organ
- 34 Spring fragrance
- 36 Version
- 39 Kind of dancer (hyph.)
- 43 Small strip of citrus peel
- 44 World's fair
- 45 Twelve, maybe
- 46 Coat with gold
- 47 Gets it wrong
- 49 Railroad track part
- 51 Obstacle to humility
- 52 Up-to-date
- 53 Evaluate by experiencing

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13					14			15		
			16			17			18	
	19	20			21					
22					23		24		25	26
28				29		30			31	
32				33	34			35	36	
37					38			39	40	
					41				42	
43	44	45		46			47			
48			49			50			51	52
54						55				
56						57				

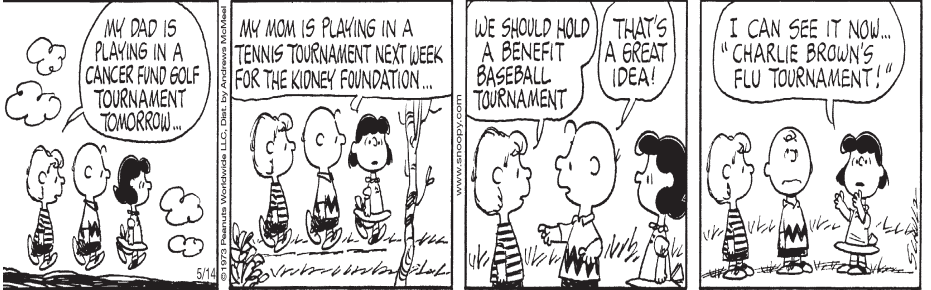
5-14

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DILBERT



CLASSIC PEANUTS



FRANK AND ERNEST

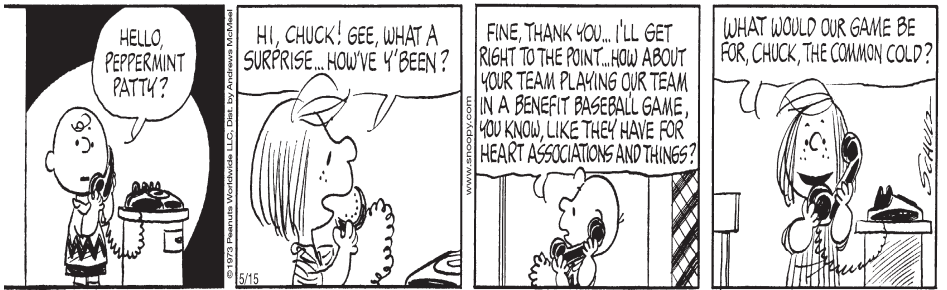


FRIDAY

DILBERT



CLASSIC PEANUTS



FRANK AND ERNEST



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

	6	2		3	1			
	5				4		8	
	7		8	2				
				6			3	5
2				5				9
5	1			4				
				8	2		5	
	8		5				6	
			7	9		8	1	

5/15

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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
2	5	9	7	3	8	1	6	4
6	3	7	2	4	1	8	9	5
8	4	1	9	6	5	3	2	7
9	2	3	5	1	7	4	8	6
4	6	8	3	9	2	7	5	1
7	1	5	4	8	6	2	3	9
3	9	2	1	5	4	6	7	8
5	8	4	6	7	3	9	1	2
1	7	6	8	2	9	5	4	3

ACROSS

- 1 Rough shelter
- 4 Dell wares
- 7 Class
- 10 APB datum
- 11 Aloha tokens
- 13 Treasure hunt aid
- 14 Was in front
- 15 Feed the kitty
- 16 Ethereal
- 17 Amble
- 19 Wild oxen of Tibet
- 20 Wall Street deg.
- 21 Big quarrels
- 23 Broth
- 26 Jet-setters' needs
- 28 Kennel sound
- 29 Kettle
- 30 Get through to
- 34 North Woods animal

DOWN

- 36 Vast stretch of time
- 38 Fan's shout
- 39 Squads
- 41 Astute
- 42 Jug and cooler
- 44 Overly
- 46 Body of water
- 47 Orchestra member
- 51 Spoken
- 52 Mideast title
- 53 Sister of Helios
- 55 Time long past
- 56 Pet adoption org.
- 57 Tell a fib
- 58 Fortify
- 59 Pipe down!
- 60 Gator Bowl st.
- 1 "2001" computer
- 2 Luau strings

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	I	T	L	E				D	U	M	P	S
A	L	O	U	D				U	H	A	U	L
B	L	E	N	D	S			D	E	F	A	C
			C	Y	C	L	E	S		M	E	D
N	T	H			O	O	P					
P	U	R	E		W	O	O	D		E	E	L
A	M	U	S	E		S	T	E		P	G	A
L	B	S		A	L	E			L	E	E	R
E	S	S		R	I	N	G		D	E	E	S
				L	E	O		I	S	T		
Z	E	N		G	A	D	G	E	T			
E	X	O	T	I	C			O	R	I	E	N
S	P	O	I	L				R	O	G	E	R
T	O	N	E	D				S	N	O	W	Y

- 3 Mock fanfare (hyph.)
- 4 Fallback strategy (2 wds.)
- 5 Peso fraction
- 6 Location
- 7 Homer opus
- 8 Skulks about
- 9 Islets
- 12 Medieval laborers
- 13 Horse
- 18 Sports off.
- 22 Be entitled to
- 23 Hammett's Spade

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10				11			12		13	
14				15				16		
	17		18					19		
		20				21	22			
23	24	25			26	27				
28				29				30	31	32
34		35			36	37			38	
		39		40				41		
	42	43				44	45			
46					47	48			49	50
51					52				53	54
55					56				57	
58						59			60	

5-15

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- 24 El Dorado loot
- 25 Sci-fi lander
- 27 Piece of news
- 29 Prepare apples
- 31 Yes vote
- 32 So-so mark
- 33 Chinese dynasty
- 35 Repress
- 37 Big bird
- 40 What embers become
- 41 Colorful carp
- 42 Verdict-giver
- 43 Burglar deterrent
- 45 Ms. Winfrey
- 46 Spanish painter
- 48 Elec. units
- 49 Ego
- 50 Labor
- 54 Whale domain

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Pets



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Acreage



5.88ac FSBO Shelley Ln parcel. Excvtld pad w/elect, wtr, cble, crt septic. Spring wtr to 2500g tank. 3 grnhses. RV hkup. 53'Dry Van. (925)813-4102. By Appt. \$260k

999
Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF COOS PROBATE DEPARTMENT In the Matter of the Estate of : RALPH DAVID OLSON, Decedent. Case No.: 20PB02447 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Doris J. Olson has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative at P.O. Box 1006, North Bend, Oregon 97459, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorneys for the personal representative, Stebbins & Coffey, P.O. Box 1006, North Bend, Oregon 97459. Dated and first published May 14, 2020.
Doris J. Olson, Personal Representative
Published: May 14, 21 & 28, 2020 The World & ONPA (ID: 284685)

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Reedsport School District #105, Douglas County, State of Oregon, will be held by video conference at the Reedsport Community Charter School Cafeteria to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The meeting will take place on the 21st day of May, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. Members of the public may view/listen to the live budget meeting via the information provided on the district website. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to hear comment from the public on

999
Legal Notices

the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee may take place. Any person may attend the virtual meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on the district website 48 hours prior to the meeting. Pursuant to ORS 294.426 (5) (b) this notice is also posted on the District's Internet website @ <http://www.reedsport.k12.or.us> for at least 10 days before the meeting. Published: May 14, 2020 The World & ONPA (ID: 284740)

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Legal Notices

999
Legal Notices

Bridge

Victor Hugo wrote, "He who every morning plans the transaction of the day and follows out that plan, carries a thread that will guide him through the maze of the most busy life. But where no plan is laid, where the disposal of time is surrendered merely to the chance of incidence, chaos will soon reign."

That is excellent advice for a bridge player, but sometimes you have to try to understand your opponent's plan, so that you can find a successful counter-measure.

What happens in this three-no-trump contract after West leads the heart jack?

South's one-spade response was debatable. The hand's key feature was the good club suit. But, of course, players are brain-

washed into thinking that only major suits are fit for bidding, and if four spades were the only game, it might be missed after South's two-club response. Here, though, five clubs was an excellent contract. Also, South's bid helped him in the play.

Declarer won the first trick with his heart ace and played off dummy's two top diamonds. When the queen didn't drop, South ran the club jack. West won with the king but continued with another heart. South claimed nine tricks: two hearts, two diamonds and five clubs.

"You had six clubs?" asked an incredulous West. "Sorry, partner. How could I tell?"

Suppose South had a guaranteed spade stopper.

North
♠ J
♥ K 2
♦ A K J 10 7 6 4
♣ J 10 4

West
♠ A Q 8 3
♥ J 10 9 7 4
♦ 5 2
♣ K 3

East
♠ K 9 7 4
♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ Q 9 3
♣ 7 2

South
♠ 10 6 5 2
♥ A 3
♦ 8
♣ A Q 9 8 6 5

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Opening lead: ♥ J

Wouldn't he have established dummy's diamonds? South's actual line strongly suggested that he was trying to run nine tricks without losing the lead and was giving himself a chance in both minors.

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YOUR NEWS

Just the Way You Like It



THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Let go of the past and embrace the future. Refuse to let negativity take control or uncertainty lead to a stalemate. Expand your knowledge, rely on experience and forge into the future with vim and vigor. Believe in yourself, and success will come your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Set up a conference call, join an online group that interests you and engage in activities through social media. It's time to change the way you do things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Listen to what's being said or offered to you. Scrutinize anything that sounds suspicious. Offer suggestions, not physical or financial assistance. You'll accomplish the most if you make your responsibilities a priority.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Try something new or do things differently. Change may not be your thing, but keeping up with the times will be essential if you want to get ahead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Figure out a way to barter with people who have services you need. A forum geared toward trading skills and services can help make life easier for you and those in your community.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Get ahead of the game. Focus on how best to stand out and make what you have to offer valuable. Turn a negative into a positive, and success will be yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Keep moving forward without making waves. Avoid people who put demands on you or take advantage of your skills, knowledge or generosity. Your priority should be your health and family.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take the initiative to do the things you do best. Your discipline and hard work will pay off. Take control of your life and follow your heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Plan a social media event. Turn a phone call into a dinner party or romantic evening with someone who lives at a distance. Be imaginative and enjoy it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone bamboozle you into doing something that isn't in your best interest. Your focus should be on home, family and alternative living conditions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Information is heading your way. Digest what you discover and figure out how to use it to your advantage. A slight change can make a big difference.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Don't let depression set in when you should be taking action. Changing the way you handle your money and how you help others will improve your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Stick to the script. If you exaggerate or are gullible, you will end up in an unnecessary predicament. Be smart and verify information before you pass it along.

OSAA adjusts reclassification timeline

JERRY ULMER
OSAAtoday

Even with an historic pause due to the coronavirus crisis, the OSAA has made some “pretty significant changes” in the last month or so, according to executive director Peter Weber.

The association has altered the timeline for its classification and districting process and adopted policies for emerging activities and collective sponsorships between schools.

Unfortunately, the OSAA still can’t answer the big question everyone is asking: Will high school sports get back to normal in the fall? Of course, much of that is out of the OSAA’s hands, but the association is doing its best to stay nimble for whatever terrain lies ahead.

“We’re going to keep trying to figure it out,” Weber said. “Nobody has an answer right now. Certainly we’re going to do what we can.”

The OSAA has formed contingency groups for fall sports and some activities – each composed of athletic directors, coaches and an OSAA staff member – in an attempt to be prepared for what may arise. The groups are meeting online this week.

“It’s just to talk about the calendar, practices, contests, if things start a month late or we can’t have spectators, what things would look like in that particular activity,” Weber said. “It’s to try to get in front of some of those things, instead of flying by the seat of your pants.”

The idea of moving fall contact sports to the spring, and shifting sports that are better suited for social distancing to the fall, has been brought up, but Weber said he “didn’t want to give it too much credence” at this point.

“I don’t know the feasibility of it, but I think at this point, we’re thinking just about anything’s on the table,” Weber said. “I get tired of telling people this, but we

have a lot more questions right now than we have answers.”

Gov. Kate Brown said last week that events with “large gatherings” would be banned through September, but did not define the term. State guidelines for schools – which could include provisions for students such as staggered schedules and elements of distance learning – will be integral to the OSAA’s plans.

“Anything we do has got to flow from that,” Weber said. “There’s a lot being talked about.”

In the meantime, the OSAA is going about its regular business of governance. It made changes during online meetings of the delegate assembly April 23 and the executive board May 4.

The classification and districting process, which occurs every four years, will shrink from 13 months to four months. Instead of starting in the fall and finishing in December of the following year, it will go from August to

December of the same year, starting in 2021, when it will plan for the four-year time block that begins in 2022.

“That way they’re dealing with one set of enrollment numbers,” Weber said. “In the past, we’d do a lot of work, and then there are brand new numbers.”

Enrollment numbers will be based on grades 9-11, rather than 9-12, and will come from a three-year rolling average.

“So many times it’s a one-year blip, up or down,” Weber said. “If it happens at the right or wrong time, it can really affect people. So we’re looking at the three-year average to kind of smooth that out.”

The OSAA has adopted a policy for collective sponsorships in individual-based sports. In cooperative sponsorships – which have been in place for years – two schools combine resources and compete as one team. Collective sponsorships will allow schools to share resources

but give students the option of competing for their own school.

The OSAA also has created an opportunity for emerging activities to be reviewed for sanction by the association.

Under current rules, a sport or activity must have 50 schools participating to be sanctioned by the OSAA. The new policy would allow for a sport or activity with at least 25 schools to be reviewed for a two-year period to evaluate its viability.

Weber said he heard from lacrosse representatives shortly after the policy was adopted. E-sports and clay target are among other activities to potentially benefit from the policy.

“In some way, it’s like a little runway to getting fully sanctioned,” Weber said.

Editor’s Note: Jerry Ulmer writes content for the Oregon School Activities Association. For more stories about high school sports in Oregon, see the OSAA-today section at www.osaa.org.



The Associated Press

In this 2016, file photo, San Francisco 49ers first-round draft pick DeForest Buckner, left, meets with former University of Oregon teammate Arik Armstead, right, during a news conference in Santa Clara, Calif. Armstead and Buckner have been teammates on the defensive line for seven of the past eight seasons whether in college at Oregon or in the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers. The 49ers signed Armstead to a five-year contract worth up to \$85 million on Monday, March 16, 2020, and then immediately agreed to a deal to send Buckner to Indianapolis.

Armstead preps for life without Buckner

JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

Arik Armstead and DeForest Buckner were teammates on the defensive line for seven of the past eight seasons whether in college at Oregon or in the NFL with the San Francisco 49ers.

So when Armstead got rewarded with an \$85 million, five-year contract in free agency from San Francisco on the first day of free agency this offseason, the news that followed was a little disconcerting.

The Niners had traded Armstead’s long-time running mate to Indianapolis for a first-round pick.

“It was of course an interesting day to say the least,” Armstead said Wednesday. “A lot of excitement of course, signing back with the Niners that definitely was what I wanted to do. Then learning about DeFo being traded was a shock to me. Trying to figure out how that happened and what went on.”

What went on was that the Niners decided they couldn’t afford to keep both their star defensive linemen under the salary cap. With Buckner owed \$12.4 million on the fifth-year option on his rookie deal and looking for a

lucrative long-term contract that he eventually got from the Colts, the Niners decided it made more sense to keep Armstead and get a high draft pick for Buckner that turned into his replacement, Javon Kinlaw.

Armstead said he never thought that his deal could have lead to his friend’s departure and said it will be “weird” to play without Buckner. The only other time he’s done it since the two arrived at Oregon together in 2012 came during Armstead’s rookie year in the NFL in 2015.

“I figured there would be a way we’d be able to continue playing together,” he said. “But things happened how it happened. Losing DeFo, he’s an irreplaceable player, a leader, a fixture of our organization. There definitely will be a void there. That’s not something one person will be able to fill. It’s going to be a team effort.”

The fact that the Niners kept Armstead over Buckner would have been viewed as a surprise a year ago. While Buckner had been a leader on the defense since being drafted in the first round in 2016, Armstead’s career had been a bit of a disappointment until last season.

He played only 14 games combined in 2016 and ’17 before injuries put him on sea-

son-ending injured reserve and he made little impact when healthy.

He had just nine sacks in his first five seasons and many questioned the wisdom of bringing him back in 2019 on the fifth-year option worth more than \$9 million.

But that decision was validated when Armstead led the team with 10 sacks and ranked second with 35 pressures despite playing significant time on the inside. He also was a force against the run.

Armstead believes that’s only the beginning and he expects even more improvement this season when he plays on a talented line that also features defensive end Nick Bosa, speed rusher Dee Ford, the promising Kinlaw, 2017 first-round pick Solomon Thomas and the dependable D.J. Jones and Ronald Blair.

“I made some strides,” Armstead said. “I think I became overall a better player. I got better in every facet. Still a lot to improve on. I want to play faster. I want to work on my get-off. I want to continue to work on my technique and honing in on my skills. You can get better and better every year. There are definitely some things I want to continue to improve on. I got a lot better last year and I think I’m just hitting my stride getting started.”

MLS considers having all teams play in Florida

ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Major League Soccer is looking at the possibility of resuming the season this summer with all teams playing in Orlando, Florida.

Details of the plan are still under consideration, but the league’s 26 teams and limited staff would likely be sheltered in a resort with games played without fans at ESPN’s Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World, a person with knowledge of the plan told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity Wednesday because the plan has not been formally announced. The proposal was first reported by the

Washington Post.

Teams could head to Florida as early as June 1 for training camps. The league suspended play on March 12 after teams had played just two games.

“I think the league is still at a stage, from what I understand, where this particular idea is something that they have in mind and are trying to get feedback from teams about as to what it could look like and how it could work,” Nashville coach Gary Smith said. “Personally, again, we’re in uncharted territory here. I certainly, along with probably most other people, have never seen anything like it before. So therefore, you have to be a little bit more open-minded about

what a season could look like.”

Other proposals have included teams playing a tournament-style competition in four different cities. There’s also the possibility teams could return to their home stadiums for games following the resumption of the season in Orlando.

It was not immediately clear whether any of the plans had been presented to the players’ union.

Earlier Wednesday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said his state was open to leagues looking to restart, or start, their seasons.

“All professional sports are welcome here for practicing and for playing,” DeSantis said. “What I would tell commissioners of leagues is, if you have a team in an area where they just won’t let them

operate, we’ll find a place for you here in the state of Florida.”

The ESPN facility has 17 fields, so it could accommodate multiple teams. MLS held its All-Star game in Orlando last year.

“What I can say if this community is ready to do it, then Orlando is the perfect city to hold an event like that,” Orlando City coach Oscar Pareja said. “The experience, infrastructure, everything. Orlando has everything to hold it. If the league decides to do that, I think it’ll be a great decision to play it here. It’s just rumors right now, but I don’t see any other city that has the experience and possibility to hold such an event like Orlando.”

NASCAR announcers will work from studio

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Jeff Gordon thought his wife, a former model, was kidding when she asked the NASCAR Hall of Famer to color her graying roots. He realized she was serious after the third request, FaceTimed her regular stylist and took a crash course in mixing color.

“Those are the types of things we do when we are in quarantine,” Gordon said Wednesday. “There are things that you do to keep the glue together, to keep everybody healthy and sane. So if having gray hair stresses her out, then I am happy to contribute.”

The adjustments will continue Sunday when NASCAR resumes its schedule at Darlington Raceway in South Carolina. Gordon, now in his fifth season as part of Fox Sports’ broadcast team, will not be at the track. He and Mike Joy will call the race from a studio in Charlotte and Regan Smith will be the only at-track reporter for the broadcast team, working the pits. Larry McReynolds, an analyst, will also work from the Charlotte studio.

NASCAR is limiting the number of people at the track to only those essential to compete and broadcast the race, so Fox will have a dramatically reduced roster and use a high-speed custom-built drone that can offer more perspectives than usual since fans won’t be in the stands. The Fox team is still finalizing its approach, but expects to use instant messaging with crews to glean the critical information Gordon and Joy need to properly call a race.

Gordon and Joy spent the last two months calling iRacing events from a studio, so they have some experience with broadcasting remotely. Still, they will be winging some things as they adapt to watching the race on monitors instead of describing what’s unfolding right in front of them at the track.

“I’m just excited that the opportunity is there for NASCAR and motorsports,” Gordon told The Associated Press. “We are always comparing our sport to others but now we really get to really talk about the uniqueness of our sport and showcase that, because that is what is giving us this opportunity when other sports are going to be more delayed.”

“Motorsports is fortunate to have this opportunity. I am more excited to see that in action, but I think everybody is nervous. Normally in a broadcast we have practice, we have qualifying, we get to work some things. This is going to be ‘Boom,’ just like the drivers and the teams. They are going to get in the car and drop the green flag and it is on, and for us it is going to be the same thing.”

NASCAR’s return will be conducted in just one day, with qualifying and practices canceled for a consolidated schedule. A random draw will be used to help set the field at Darlington.