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OSAA delays fall sports to the winter

JOHN GUNTHER
The World

The good news is that students who participate in the traditional fall sports of football, volleyball, cross country and soccer will get to have a season this coming school year. The bad news is they have to wait until next winter for that season to begin.

The Oregon School Activities Association Executive Board decided Wednesday to postpone the fall season until after the winter season, which also will have a delayed start.

“The goal was to try to maximize opportunities for students, providing three distinct seasons for later in the year,” OSAA Executive Director Peter Weber said

in a story for OSAA today.

That was welcome news for North Bend athletic director Mike Forrester.

“Everybody gets a season,” Forrester said. “It won’t be a perfect season, but it’s better than no season at all.”

The no-season-at-all scenario already played out in the spring when the golf, baseball, softball, tennis and track and field seasons were wiped out by the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic which led to no in-school learning for the final months of the school year.

The new plan calls for all sports to have a seven-week regular season, followed by one “culminating week.” What that week looks like for the various sports will be determined later,

Weber said, and will be decided in alignment with large group gathering guidelines issued by the state.

“We’ll have to work with our membership on what that would look like,” he said. “In our football contingency groups, they said that maybe that could be a bowl game. And that type of approach could be done in other activities, as well. We definitely wanted to leave room for the opportunity of some type of culminating event.”

The Executive Board’s decision follows one made by Nevada to also have shortened seasons (six weeks each) beginning with winter sports in January.

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John Gunther, The World

Runners compete in one of the district cross country meets last fall at Lane Community College. For the 2020-21 school year, cross country and other fall sports have been moved to the winter, starting in March.

Unemployment

Another 1.2 million seek aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 1.2 million laid-off Americans applied for state unemployment benefits last week, evidence that the coronavirus keeps forcing companies to slash jobs just as a critical \$600 weekly federal jobless payment has expired.

The government’s report Thursday did offer a smidgen of hopeful news: The number of jobless claims declined by 249,000 from the previous week, after rising for two straight weeks, and it was the lowest total since mid-March.

Still, claims remain at alarmingly high levels: It is the 20th straight week that at least 1 million people have sought jobless aid. Before the pandemic hit hard in March, the number of Americans seeking unemployment checks had never surpassed 700,000 in a week, not even during the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, called the drop in weekly claims “a move in the right direction.” But in a research note, she added:

“Repeated shutdowns for virus containment remain a threat to the labor market, which is already weak. The possibility of mounting layoffs that could become permanent is high. Without effective virus containment, the recovery remains at risk from ongoing job losses that could further restrain incomes and spending.”

The pandemic, the lockdowns meant to contain it and the wariness of many Americans to venture back out to eat, shop or travel have delivered a devastating blow to the economy despite the government’s emergency rescue efforts. The nation’s gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic output, shrank at an annual rate of nearly 33% from April through June. It was by far the worst quarterly fall on record, though the economy has rebounded somewhat since then.

On Friday, the government is expected to report a sizable job gain for July — 1.6 million. Yet so deeply did employers slash payrolls after the pandemic paralyzed the economy in March that even July’s expected gain would mean that barely 40% of the jobs lost to the coronavirus have been recovered.

And the pace of hiring is clearly slowing. A resurgence of cases in the South and the West has spread elsewhere and upended hopes for a speedy economic recovery as bars, restaurants and other businesses have had to delay or reverse plans to reopen and rehire staff.

Please see **Jobless**, Page A2



Amy Moss Strong Photos, The World

Something is in bloom almost every day of the year at Shore Acres State Park’s formal gardens. The many dahlias in this portion of the garden are one colorful example. Pictured below are the park’s pond and the rose test garden.

Shore Acres provides colorful opportunity

THE WORLD

SOUTH COAST — Those looking for something close by to do outdoors can find lovely formal gardens and rugged sandstone cliffs right out their back door at Shore Acres State Park.

Once the grand estate of pioneer timber baron Louis Simpson, Shore Acres features lushly planted gardens with plants and flowers from all over the world. Something is in bloom almost every day of the year. In the landscaped area there’s the formal garden, a Japanese-style garden with a lily pond, and two rose gardens which include All American Rose Selections.

After seeing the garden, stroll down a trail to a secluded ocean cove at Simpson Beach or skirt the cliff’s edge to see spectacular ocean vistas which often include towering waves crashing against the shoreline after a storm and

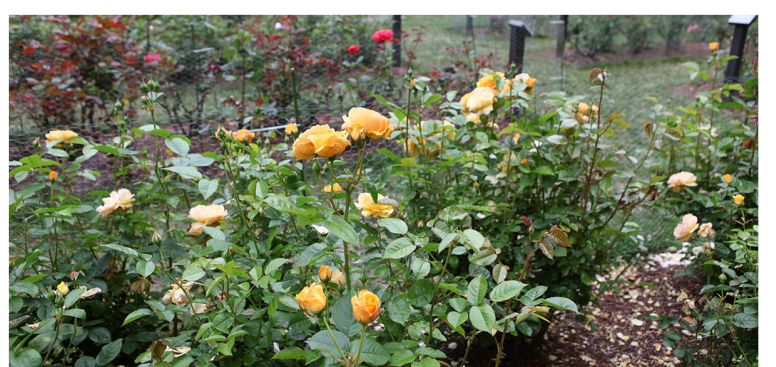
migrating grey whales.

On the site of Simpson’s vanished mansion, a fully enclosed observation building allows visitors to view the ocean protected from the weather. The observation building has interpretive panels describing the history of the Simpson estate.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the day-use area and gardens are open to limited daytime use, until 8 p.m. nightly (buy may close without notice). The gift shop is closed and unfortunately, this year’s annual Holiday Lights display has been canceled.

Shore Acres Park is located on Cape Arago Highway, 13 miles southwest of Coos Bay/North Bend and U.S. Highway 101.

For more to do, find the many hiking trails along Cape Arago Highway, observe sea lions at Simpson Reef or breathtaking views at the end of the highway at Cape Arago.



Virus upends national convention plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the last minute, President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, are searching for places to impressively yet safely accept their parties’ presidential nominations as the spread of the coronavirus adds fresh uncertainty to the campaign for the White House.

Trump said Wednesday he’s considering giving his Aug. 27 acceptance speech on the grounds of the White House, a move that could violate ethics law. Biden, meanwhile, scrapped plans to accept the Democratic nomination on Aug. 20 in Milwaukee, where the party has

spent more than a year planning a massive convention.

Presidential conventions are a staple of American politics and have played out against national traumas as significant as the Civil War and World War II. But the pandemic’s potency is proving to be a tougher obstacle, denying both candidates crucial opportunities to connect with supporters in the final stretch before the Nov. 3 election.

The campaigns are looking for alternative ways to deal with the virus and still reach millions of Americans through television and virtual events. Longtime

convention attendees say they’ll miss the traditional festivities even as they acknowledge public health priorities.

“I was looking forward to going to Milwaukee and having a lot of beer and other snacking,” said Donna Brazile, who managed Al Gore’s campaign in 2000 and served as Democratic National Committee chair in 2016. But “if you ask a majority of voters, they’d tell you they’re more anxious about when the NFL season starts. ... What’s best for the public should be best for the politicians at this point.”

Matt Moore, a former South

Carolina GOP chairman, has enjoyed several Republican conventions as unifying efforts following bruising primary battles in states like his. But the general election audience, he said, doesn’t see it the same way.

“As long as they can watch it on Facebook, most voters don’t care if the conventions are in Siberia or Sheboygan,” he said.

Trump originally planned to accept the GOP nomination in Charlotte, North Carolina, the largest city in a critical battleground state.

Please see **Conventions**, Page A3

Oregon closes in on 20,000 coronavirus cases

THE WORLD

PORTLAND — COVID-19 has claimed five more lives in Oregon, raising the state's death toll to 338, the Oregon Health Authority reported Wednesday.

Oregon Health Authority also reported 299 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19, bringing the state total to 19,979. The new cases reported Wednesday are in the following counties: Baker (1), Benton (2), Clackamas (20), Clatsop (1), Columbia (2), Coos (1), Deschutes (8), Douglas (1), Hood River (4), Jackson (12), Jefferson (9), Josephine (1), Klamath (2), Lane (5), Lincoln (19), Linn (8), Malheur (7), Marion (42), Morrow (10), Multnomah (59), Polk (2), Tillamook (2), Umatilla (26), Wasco (1), Washington (48), and Yamhill (6).

Oregon's 334th COVID-19 death is an 87-year-old woman in Clackamas County who tested positive on July 8 and died in her residence. Date of death is being confirmed. She had underlying

conditions.

Oregon's 335th COVID-19 death is a 74-year-old man in Umatilla County who tested positive on July 17 and died on July 28 at Trios Health Southridge Hospital in Kennewick, Wash. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 336th COVID-19 death is a 74-year-old man in Umatilla County who tested positive on July 12 and died on August 1 at Saint Anthony Hospital. Presence of underlying conditions is being confirmed.

Oregon's 337th COVID-19 death is a 67-year-old man in Washington County who tested positive on July 20 and died on August 3 at Kaiser Westside Medical Center. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon's 338th COVID-19 death is an 83-year-old man in Josephine County who tested positive on July 19 and died on August 3 in his residence. He had underlying conditions.

Note: More information is available about Oregon's 233rd

COVID-19 death. Oregon's 233rd COVID-19 death is an 86-year-old woman who tested positive June 29 and died on July 9 at St. Luke's Medical Center in Boise. She had underlying conditions.

OHA Releases Weekly Report

Today OHA released its COVID-19 Weekly Report, which stated that during the week of July 27 through Aug. 2, OHA recorded 2,278 new cases of COVID-19 infection — up slightly from last week's tally of 2,241. In addition, 39 Oregonians were reported to have died, up from last week's toll of 27. The percentage of tests positive increased from 5.1 percent to 6.4 percent, and hospitalizations rose to 141, up from the previous week's 127. The age group with the highest incidence of reported infection continues to be 20-29-year-olds, with rates decreasing in subsequent decades of life. Most cases continue to be "sporadic," meaning that no

source for the case was identified.

Outbreaks surpass 20 cases

An outbreak of 27 cases of COVID-19 has been reported at Walmart in Umatilla County. The case count includes all persons linked to the outbreak, which may include household members and other close contacts to a worker. The outbreak investigation started on July 9, but the initial case count was below the threshold for public disclosure.

An outbreak of 20 cases of COVID-19 has been reported at the ORI Construction site in Multnomah County. The case count includes all persons linked to the outbreak, which may include household members and other close contacts to a worker. The outbreak investigation started on July 8, but the initial case count was below the threshold for public disclosure.

An outbreak of COVID-19 has been reported at the Lamb Weston facilities in Boardman. The Lamb Weston West location

has 21 cases, the Lamb Weston East location has 31 cases and the Lamb Weston Packing Center has 22 cases. These case count includes all persons linked to the outbreak, which may include household members and other close contacts to a worker. The outbreak investigation started on July 1, but the initial case count was below the threshold for public disclosure.

State and county public health officials are working with these organizations to address the outbreaks and protect the health of workers.

Stay informed

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.

Coronavirus scams have more than doubled since March

THE WORLD

A new study shows coronavirus scammers are about to surpass a milestone of tricking Americans out of \$100 million.

The number of coronavirus scams have more than doubled in nearly every state from March

— when the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic — to July.

In the month of July, Oregon residents filed 1,282 coronavirus related fraud complaints to the FTC. This is up 103% from the month of March when 632 complaints were

filed. Oregon ranks No. 21 for the most complaints among states.

SocialCatfish.com released a study on the State of Coronavirus Scams in America based on data from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

• The five most-targeted states as of mid-July

include No. 1 - California (10,938 FTC complaints, up 110% since March), No. 2 - Florida (7,244 complaints, up 124%), No. 3 - New York (6,677 complaints up 134%), No. 4 - Texas (6,427 complaints up 122%) and No. 5 - Pennsylvania (4,245 complaints, up 201%).

• The five states seeing the largest percentage increase from March to July include No. 1 - Maine: 422% increase with 830 scam reports up from 159 in March; No. 2 - Pennsylvania: 201% increase; No. 3 - North Dakota: 182% increase; No. 4 - Ohio: 171% increase and

No. 5 - Louisiana: 170% increase.

• Nationally, the FTC has registered more than 150,000 reports of fraud costing victims \$98.3 million.

If you encounter a coronavirus scam, contact local law enforcement or file a complaint with the FTC.

OSAA

From B1

Washington and California also have modified what their school sports years will look like.

The new OSAA calendar adopted by the Executive Board on Wednesday calls for the winter season for basketball, swimming and wrestling to start with the first practices on Dec. 28 and the first games on Jan. 11.

The fall season, for football, soccer, volleyball and cross country, will have its first practices on Feb. 22 and the first contests on March 8 — March 15 for football.

The spring season, for the traditional spring sports, will have its first practices on April 19 and first contests on May 3, wrapping up later than usual with the OSAA culmination week June 21-27.

All sports also will have a reduced number of contests in the seven-week regular seasons compared to normal years.

OSAA also set its culmination week for activities including cheerleading (March 8-14), dance (April 12-18), speech (April 19-25), solo music (April 26-May 2), choir (May 3-9)

and band/orchestra (May 10-16).

Two weeks ago, the Executive Board pushed back the start of the fall competition season until later in September, but it changed course Wednesday following last week's announcement by Gov. Kate Brown of new metrics for reopening schools that will result in most schools in the state starting the year with distance learning.

Weber noted that shifting the calendar to later in the year provides additional time for schools to return to a hybrid or on-site learning format.

The new OSAA association year will begin Aug. 31 with what the Executive Board is calling Season 1. Policies restricting out-of-season coaching have been removed for that season, which will run until the start of the winter sports season, allowing schools, at the discretion of their local district, to participate in any OSAA-sanctioned activity permitted by the Governor's Office, Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education. That might include conditioning, practices and even competitions against other schools.

"The big question now is what do you do between

now and Dec. 28," Forrester said.

Some schools in the Midwestern League have already said they won't allow any activities while they are still in a distance-learning mode, he said. Others are hoping they will be able to have some competitions.

He's hesitant to suggest North Bend will go that far.

"I find it hard to believe we are going to have no kids in school and still have competitions," Forrester said.

The South Coast's athletic directors are planning to meet Friday to have a conversation about what the first season might look like and how they might be able to work together.

Weber said the first season provides flexibility around the state.

"The (Executive) Board recognized that a one-size-fits-all approach isn't what's best for students across the state," he said. "By waiving policy to allow regional participation this fall, local school districts will have the discretion for participation in those areas that are able to do so safely per state directives."

The Executive Board's decision at least provides some clarity by delaying the traditional fall season. In the spring, OSAA held out hope

for several weeks for a possible spring sports season until the final decision to keep schools closed to in-school learning was made.

Forrester sympathized with the Executive Board. "The OSAA is in a tough spot, because there are people that are going to think we ought to be playing right now and other people thinking that maybe we shouldn't play at all this year," he said. "I think what they did was make sure everybody has a season. It looks like they are even going to have some type of postseason."

The next step locally will be figuring out what the first season might look like, and then only if it can be done safely.

"The last thing we want to do is put playing ahead of health," Forrester said.

"Right now, the biggest thing is I know our student athletes are chomping at the bit just to get out and play. When it says you are going to start on the 31st, if it's not safe enough for us to have kids in school, is it safe enough for us to have practices?"

The complete OSAA calendar, as well as a story about the Executive Board's decision and release from OSAA, can be seen at www.osaa.org.

Jobless

From B1

All told, 16.1 million people are collecting traditional unemployment benefits from their state. For months, the unemployed had also been receiving the \$600 a week in federal jobless aid on top of their state benefit. But the federal payment expired last week. Congress is engaged in prolonged negotiations over renewing the federal benefit, which would likely be extended at a reduced level.

In the meantime, millions of the unemployed suddenly have less money to pay for essentials. Many of them are among the 23 million people nationwide who are at risk of being evicted from their homes, according to The Aspen Institute, as moratoriums enacted because of the coronavirus expire.

Last week, an additional 656,000 people applied for jobless aid under a program that has extended eligibility for the first time to self-employed and gig workers. That figure isn't adjusted for seasonal trends, so it's reported separately.

The Labor Department said Thursday that a total of 31.3 million people are now receiving some form of unemployment benefits, though the figure may be inflated by double-counting by some states.

A study released Monday by Cornell University found that 31% of those laid off or furloughed because of the pandemic had been laid off a second time. An additional 26% of people who were called back to work reported being told that they might lose their jobs again.

After the springtime lockdowns, restaurants and bars had begun to reopen. Yet many soon had to re-close as viral cases surged, especially in the Sun Belt. In Texas, for instance, just 26% of bars were closed on June 21. Two weeks later, the figure had shut up to 74%, though it has since come down slightly, according to the data firm Womply.

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