

'Would you like a straw?'

New Oregon law restricting single-use plastic straws in full effect as of Jan. 1

By Emily Fitzgerald
The Hood River News

Food establishments in Oregon are no longer allowed to automatically provide single-use plastic straws; customers have to ask for them.

Senate Bill 90, which became effective on June 13, 2019, and fully operative on Jan. 1 of this year, prohibits food and beverage providers, such as restaurants and convenience stores, from providing single-use plastic straws unless the consumer specifically requests one.

The restrictions don't apply to healthcare facilities or residential facilities that provide straws to patients.

Under the law,

convenience stores can still make plastic straws available in an unattended location, such as a bin or a straw-dispenser, and plastic straws can be sold in bulk or separate from a food/drink item; a plastic straw just cannot be automatically included in the purchase of a food or drink.

Single-use straws made of a non-plastic material, such as paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood or bamboo, aren't subject to the law.

The State Department of Agriculture is responsible for inspecting food establishments and enforcing the new law. After the second violation, businesses will be fined \$25 per day that the prohibition is violated, with a cap at \$300 per calendar year.

The bill officially declared an emergency, citing the necessity of the act for "the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety."

While many cities, including Portland, have passed local "plastic straw bans" since Seattle enacted

a ban in July 2018, Oregon is the second state to pass legislation restricting single-use plastic straws statewide — California was the first, with a law that went into effect January 2019.

Just months after Oregon passed SB 90, the State of Vermont adopted a law restricting plastic bags, straws and expanded polystyrene (EPS), to go into effect in July 2020.

Following the House vote on SB 90, Gov. Kate Brown told Associated Press reporters that the decision to ban plastic straws is about raising public consciousness of plastic's effect on the environment and to encourage comprehensive lifestyle changes.

"Every action makes a difference," Brown is quoted in a May 30, 2019, Associated Press article. "When we start thinking of a path to a plastic-free life, it's really challenging, and I think we all have to start moving to that mindset."

SWIMMERS Girls relay wins two straight

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"This was a great meet for us to compete in," assistant coach Shortt said. "We were able to see how we stacked up against a lot of the teams we will be swimming against at districts."

On the boys side, Will Evans continued his solid senior-year performance by placing second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.52, just missing a first-place finish by 2/100ths of a second to Redmond sophomore Caden Bolic (24.50).

Evans placed third place in the 200-yard freestyle (2:05.75). Bryce Harris, a senior, put in work for fourth in the 50-yard freestyle (25.04) and garnered fifth place in the 100-yard freestyle (54.29).

Harris, Skyler Coburn, Michael Cole and Will Evans churned out a 1:40.59 to secure third place in the 200-yard freestyle relay, and Jacob Comini, Coburn, Xander Kirby and Drew Evans matched forces for fifth place in the 200-yard medley relay (2:18.27).

The 400-yard freestyle relay squad of Harris, Kirby, Michael Cole and Will Evans carved out a 3:58.24 to grab another third-place rush, and in the same race, the 'B' relay group of Grant Loughmiller, Jose Reyes, Drew Evans and Comini scored 18 team points following their sixth-place time of 5:11.67.

"We tell the athletes that swimming is a team sport," assistant coach Shortt said. "I was really impressed at how well they came together and swam as a team. We had kids step up into events they didn't ask to swim, but that we needed them in. The men

and women on the 'B' relays really helped carry the day for points. Without those relays, we wouldn't have ended up where we did. Those kids on the 'B' relays really need a shout-out for their contribution to the team score."

Coburn finished sixth in the 200-yard individual medley (2:44.95), then added a seventh in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:23.03), and Kirby claimed seventh in the 200-yard individual medley (2:45.72) and reeled off seventh place in the 100-yard butterfly (1:15.90).

Cole wound up as a sixth-place finisher in the 100-yard butterfly (1:14.43) and was ninth in the 50-yard freestyle (26.58), while Loughmiller was fifth in the 500-yard freestyle (7:40.23) and 11th in the 200-yard freestyle (3:02.54), and Comini landed seventh in the 100-yard backstroke (1:20.01) and topped out in 17th place for his efforts in the 100-yard freestyle (1:05.48).

TD boys and girls net 15 firsts at Thursday dual

Ahead of Saturday's lights-out performance, The Dalles girls tallied 11 wins to earn a 101-64 dual meet triumph against St. Helens High School, and the boys secured four firsts, but narrowly missed out on a dual victory with an 84-77 loss.

Helping propel the Lady Riverhawks were top finishers Lydia DiGennaro, Kennedy Abbas, Kendall Webber, Maisie Bandel-Ramirez and Hannah Haight.

DiGennaro did her damage in the 50-yard freestyle (26.78) and 100-yard butterfly (1:09.92), Abbas dominated in the 200-yard individual medley (2:47.91) and the 100-yard backstroke (1:15.11), Kendall Webber set her victory march in the 200-yard freestyle (2:17.25) and the 500-yard freestyle (6:05.60),

Hannah Haight won the 100-yard breaststroke (1:24.89) and Bandel-Ramirez launched to a 1:04.75 in the 100-yard freestyle.

The girls 200-yard medley relay group of Webber, Haight, Bandel-Ramirez and DiGennaro grabbed first (2:09.17), and Webber, Abbas, Bree Webber and DiGennaro landed on top with a 1:56.32 in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

"This season is getting more and more exciting," Kendall Webber said. "We have girls getting PRs at every meet and everyone is having fun and has an awesome attitude. We look out for each other and take care of each other. The 200-yard freestyle relay is the most exciting thing for me right now. I think we have a real chance at state."

Two groups participated in the 400-yard freestyle relay, as Bree Webber, Paige Compton, Haight and Abbas scored first place (4:37.63), and the quartet of Izabella Montesanti, Addison Little, Allyson Stewart and Frances Fuller ended up second (5:45.55).

The 200-yard freestyle 'B' relay foursome of Lydia Evans, Maddie Troutt, Hanna Rodriguez and Compton turned out in fourth place (2:21.53).

In the 500-yard freestyle, Haight took second with a personal-record time of 6:44.67 and Paige Compton wrapped up a third-place finish in 7:08.47, with Kendall Webber, Haight and Compton breaking their previous personal records.

Bandel-Ramirez (29.69) and Bree Webber (30.86) were second and third, respectively, in the 50-yard freestyle, Compton was third in the 200-yard freestyle (2:29.25), and Hanna Rodriguez hit for third in the 100-yard freestyle (1:20.37)

#thedalles



Angela Pollard of diamondheartphotography.com, a branding photography business, is doing an #thedalles photo project called "behind the business" featuring business owners holding a "#thedalles" sign, as Pollard is pictured doing above in the lobby of *The Dalles Chronicle* Jan. 10. She will be posting her photographs on social media. The hashtag #thedalles is being encouraged to support The Dalles' bid to be on Small Business Revolution, a small business makeover show, by voting for the city through lovetheDalles.com.



The Dalles' 200-yard freestyle relay team picked up first-place honors at St. Helens Thursday and at the White Buffalo Classic Saturday. In the photo are, from left to right, Kennedy Abbas, Lydia DiGennaro, Kendall Webber and Bree Webber. Pat Shortt/Contributed photo

and fifth in the 200-yard freestyle (2:58.94).

Lydia Evans ended up with a fourth-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke (1:32.89) and sixth in the 200-yard freestyle (2:59.16), Montesanti chalked up fifth place in the 100-yard freestyle (1:26.69) and sixth in the 50-yard freestyle (37.10), Little tallied fifth in the 100-yard backstroke (1:43.63), and Stewart placed sixth in the 100-yard freestyle (1:27.06).

Racking up points for the boys were first-place rallies from Bryce Harris in the 50-yard freestyle (24.29) and 100-yard freestyle (55.39), Jacob Comini in the 100-yard backstroke (1:20.45), and the 400-yard freestyle relay squad of Harris, Xander Kirby, Michael Cole and Will Evans (4:03.92).

After dealing with sickness and the holiday break, Will Evans sees the boys rounding into form.

"I think a great example

of how well we recovered was our first-place victory in the 400-yard freestyle relay," the senior said. "I'm really proud of how they held their ground throughout the race, and I feel like the relay was a testament to how great the work ethic and motivation is on our boys team. I'm excited to see where we will go from here."

Comini, Skyler Coburn, Kirby and Jonathan Snodgrass were second-best in the 200-yard medley relay (2:13.25), and the 200-yard freestyle relay quartet of Harris, Coburn, Cole and Will Evans combined for a 1:43.17 to take second place.

Will Evans was runner-up in the 200-yard freestyle (2:01.47) and 50-yard freestyle (24.74), Coburn placed second in the 200-yard individual medley (2:44.61) and in the 200-yard freestyle (2:01.47.)

There were several other third-place roundups on

the slate, led by Kirby in the 200-yard individual medley (2:47.30) and 100-yard butterfly (1:15.56), Cole in the 50-yard freestyle (26.60), Comini in the 100-yard freestyle (1:06.66), and William Hoover in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:30.89) and Johnathan Snodgrass cut 18 seconds off of his personal best in the 500-yard freestyle (7:25.69).

Grant Loughmiller, Drew Evans, Jose Reyes and Hoover timed out in 5:18.96 to take third place, Snodgrass secured fourth place in the 200-yard freestyle (2:46.34), Cole tacked on fourth in the 100-yard butterfly (1:17.47), and Hoover grabbed fifth place in the 100-yard freestyle (1:13.10).

Up next, the Riverhawks will be heading to the Philomath Invitational on Friday, and travels to Gresham on Thursday, Jan. 30 for the Sam Barlow Invitational.

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