

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## Oregon, OSU to require vaccination proof to attend games

*The Associated Press*

EUGENE — Oregon and Oregon State became the first Power Five schools to announce they will require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test for people over the age of 12 to attend football games.

In its announcement Friday,

Aug. 20, Oregon said the decision was made with public health authorities and “peer institutions in the state.”

The mandate went into effect Aug. 23 and came at the end of a week when state officials warned of rapidly filling hospitals as daily reported cases reached record numbers.

Oregon is one of several Pac-12 schools that is requiring students and employees to be vaccinated or apply for an exemption.

The Oregon football team opens its season at 54,000-seat Autzen Stadium in Eugene on Sept. 4 against Fresno State. Oregon State begins its home schedule at Reser Stadium on Sept. 11 against Hawaii.

Earlier in the day, Hawaii became the first major college football school to say it would have no fans in attendance for its opening sports events of the season because of a recent COVID-19 surge. Hawaii’s first home football game is Sept. 5 against Portland State.

The moves come about a week after Tulane in New Orleans became

the first school that plays football at the NCAA’s highest subdivision to require proof of vaccine or negative test to attend sporting events.

Tulane’s decision followed a mandate set by city officials that also impacts the NFL’s Saints, but schools officials said they were moving toward instituting the policy on their own.

## NEW, RETURNING BUCKS CONVERGE ON THE MORROW COUNTY RODEO

The 99th annual rodeo brought record-breaking crowds to the competition

By NICK ROSENBERGER  
*East Oregonian*

HEPPNER — It was anyone’s game at the Morrow County Rodeo on Saturday, Aug. 21, in Heppner. The day brought dozens of rodeo newcomers and old-timers from across the region to watch competitors face off in the 99th annual Northwest Pro Rodeo Association Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo for a shot at prize money in front of a record-breaking crowd.

Kelton Maxfield, a novice bareback rider coming from Nampa, Idaho, was the first winner of the night and was the only bareback rider who managed to stay on for the full eight seconds to receive a score of 81, winning the event in the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo.

“I’m feeling great,” Maxfield said. “I mean I’m having a blast.”

Maxfield, who attends Columbia High School in Nampa, said this is his second year rodeoing but has squeezed in somewhere around 150 rodeos between school in that time. During his summer break from school, he said he’s able to go to a lot more rodeos but that he’s been training every day on the spur board that he built himself.

“Sometimes it just hurts and you’re not having any fun but for the most part it’s just a blast,” he said. “The feelings that come with it are just amazing.”

Brailey Shaye Murray, of Harrisburg, felt similarly about her own path in the rodeo world. Having ridden horses her whole life, Murray really only started to get serious a few years ago and marked this weekend as her first time at the Heppner rodeo.

“I loved it,” she said. “I love the ground, I loved the community.”

Murray said she’s been roping for about three years and barrel racing for about five and rode her horse, Materbug, in both events on Aug. 21.

“Just the atmosphere, the people, you can’t get it anywhere,” she said.

Her parents were familiar faces to the area, however, after being involved in rodeos all over the state for decades. Her father could even be seen helping out inside the arena on Aug. 21, when they were down a volunteer.

But it wasn’t just the competitors that saw the crossroads of returners and newcomers. With red sequins flashing and flags fluttering through the air, members of the Owyhee Nite Dazzlers flew out of the gates, their horses churning the ground into a dusty mist.

Coming from Treasure Valley, the group is comprised of long-time flag fliers and newcomers alike with a grandmother-granddaughter duo while another rode with a current rider’s mother while pregnant with her.

Many of them had grown up around horses



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Kelton Maxfield, of Nampa, Idaho, hangs onto a bronc in the novice bareback competition for a 78-point ride Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo in Heppner.

and it had been a logical jump into the arena; for others, however, it took a little bit more.

“I used to be scared of horses,” said Cami Cullen, who’s only recently got involved. “I just got hit in the head by one and stopped being scared.”

“Everyone here is amazing,” she said.

Billy Gentry, a 92-year-old vet and long-time rodeo fan, has seen generations of newcomers come through the Morrow County Fair. After moving to the Heppner area in 1948 from Missouri and working for Columbia Basin Electric for 35 years, he’s seen his fair share of changes.

His children and grandchildren, now fully grown, have had their own experiences at the rodeo and, according to Gentry, his son won the saddle bronc a while back and all his grandchildren have won the saddle bronc event as well. Although never having competed himself, he said this was one of his favorite moments through his history with the rodeo.

With a gruff voice, a smile on his face and energy belying his age, Gentry recounted helping rebuild the stadium: replacing wood with metal and climbing the poles to fix lights.

“You take away from the community,” he said, “you gotta help put something back.”



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Brailey Shaye Murray, of Harrisburg, rounds the first barrel Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, during the barrel racing competition at the Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo in Heppner.

### SPORTS SHORT



Kathy Willens/Associated Press

New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30) reacts after the Rangers defeated the Washington Capitals on May 12, 2012, in Game 7 of a second-round NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoff series at Madison Square Garden in New York.

### “It’s time”: Star goaltender Henrik Lundqvist retires at 39

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The King has called it a career.

Henrik Lundqvist, one of the greatest goaltenders of his generation, announced his retirement Friday, Aug. 20, less than nine months after heart surgery.

“It’s time,” the 39-year-old Lundqvist wrote in a social media post. “For the last 30 years, I have devoted my life to the game of hockey and now it’s time to walk away from the game I love and begin a new chapter.”

Lundqvist also told the Göteborgs-Posten newspaper he needs a new heart procedure.

“We will see how extensive it will be,” he said. “Treatments are getting better, so we will see if they’ll open up the chest or not. But that will be a problem for the future.”

The Swede starred for years for the New York Rangers, where he piled up 459 wins along with a 2.43 goals-against average and 64 shutouts in 15 seasons.

He is sixth in NHL history in wins, seventh in saves (23,509), eighth in

games played (887), ninth in starts (871), ninth in time on ice (51,816:51) and 17th in shutouts, according to the NHL.

He also helped Sweden win gold at the 2006 Turin Olympics.

The Rangers bought out Lundqvist’s contract in September 2020 and he signed a one-year, \$1.5 million contract with the Washington Capitals in October. He never took the ice after announcing he had a heart condition. The five-time All Star had surgery in January, but didn’t begin workouts until last month.