



School News

March 28, 2018

A monthly newsletter covering area schools

HARRISON PROGRESS CONTINUES



The walls at the new Harrison Elementary School have been up for weeks but progress on the interior of the building continues with windows being placed and electricity set to power the school. During the February school board meeting, project manager Matt Allen told the board that construction was about a week behind but that "A week behind is a good place to be." For more on Harrison and the crews' ties to the community, turn to page C3.

Wet weather puts a damper on spring sports schedule



The rainy spring weather has sports teams practicing indoors and canceling games.

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No matter the classification or the sport being played, the spring sports teams across Oregon are brought together by a single common thread: the (often rainy) weather.

"You're watching weather reports constantly," said Cottage Grove boys golf coach Kent Russo.

"I probably check the weather 10 times a day at a minimum. You get to know where it's coming from, what it looks like, how long you have," said Cottage Grove baseball coach Dan Geiszler.

Living in an environment where the weather can flip from 71 and sunny to 48 and rainy in a day (see: earlier this week), coaches who are dependent on dry conditions have become amateur meteorologists as they find out when they can practice. Last season's constant rain still looms in the coach's minds as they prepare for the upcoming season.

"It was a huge issue; it was the big issue. It was by far the worst spring that I've been a part of; it was awful. It really has changed how I am going to go about things practice-wise because we were on the field five times through April," said Geiszler. "That's two months we were on the field five times. That's not including games." Geiszler was not the only one who remembers the rain that came in last season.

"Last year may be the worst weather we've had in a baseball season in my time. In 30 years or something, we were swamped all year. We ended up games backed up," said Elkton baseball coach Bill Shaw.

"But if you're going to play baseball in Oregon, you're going to have to get used to getting wet. That's just how it goes."

For the baseball teams, not getting field time

paired with the new OSAA implementation of strict pitch counts and concurrent rest days put greater pressure on pitchers with less experience.

"Generally, we come in the spring and we say all of you are pitchers. You know, because it's likely if the weather, like last year we had to play five games in three days," said North Douglas baseball coach Jeff Davis. "You're going to have to run somebody out there, particularly with the pitch count rule."

Having never experienced an Oregon spring, first-year Cottage Grove golf coach Jennifer Husk is coming in with a sunny attitude.

"The rain takes awhile to get used to I think, but it's just rain," she said.

"Definitely need some waterproof shoes."

A wet opening week to the spring sports season saw cancelled baseball and softball games across the region.

The Cottage Grove baseball team was able to get in their opening game on Tuesday but saw their home opener last Thursday cancelled and re-scheduled for this Thursday. The Cottage Grove softball team was in a similar boat as their scheduled home opener on Tuesday was cancelled before they were able to play their first game last Friday at Douglas.

The Elkton/Yoncalla teams both saw one game cancelled in the week and the other was playable. For the Warriors of North Douglas, they did not have as good of luck with the weather as both baseball and softball had all three of their scheduled games cancelled last week.

With the forecast calling for 100 percent chance of precipitation today, and a 90 percent chance on both Thursday and Friday, the upcoming week does not look promising for the games that are to come.

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