

Lions *from B1*

first slate of disappointing updates that would eventually culminate in the unprecedented.

“With today’s rapidly changing situation,” read a press release from the OSAA, “the OSAA has made the difficult decision to change its spectator policies for state championship events. Beginning Thursday morning, March 12, per guidance from the OHA and the Governor, only participating students and coaches, essential event staff personnel and media with OSAA-issued credentials will be allowed to attend OSAA State Championship events.”

The decision was a blow to fans, parents and the players themselves. Playing in an empty arena typically isn’t a part of the dream that these young athletes share, but games were still slated to continue despite the change.

“I know they took that fairly well individually,” Eastburn said. “But, then they started calling the parents and were pretty upset, of course, that they weren’t going to get to watch. That kind of started having a negative effect on the situation.”

Comments on social media questioned the OSAA’s decision in light of an earlier announcement by the NCAA to allow limited access to family members of players in their own championship March Madness tournament.

However, the following morning Eastburn attended an all-coaches meeting where they were told the entire tournament was canceled, going the way of March Madness and nearly every other live sporting event in all corners of the country, despite initial attempts to limit spectators as opposed to full cancellation.

A further OSAA press release clarified the cancellation of all remaining winter championship events, with OSAA executive director Peter Weber stating, “As this unprecedented public health emergency continues to evolve, we believe that the responsibility to our member schools and



LON AUSTIN/CENTRAL OREGONIAN

The Crook county boys defeated West Albany in the 5A consolation semifinals on the morning of Thurs., Mar. 12. Less than an hour later, the remainder of all OSAA state championship games were canceled.

communities regarding the health and safety of participants remains our highest priority.”

“That’s when things became really problematic,” Eastburn said. “That meeting didn’t last very long ... We were debating on how to tell the girls and I thought it was a good idea to tell them immediately so they could start getting their parents informed and organized.”

That is when, for the members of the Sky-Em-winning Lady Lions and athletes at all levels around the nation, the heart-breaking reality of the situation began to set in. There would be no coronations, no championships, no last-ditch efforts to pull off an upset and no final game for seniors in their last year of school.

“We talked a lot about it,” Eastburn said. “It was really emotional, to say the least, especially for our two seniors. All the girls were emotional, but especially Megan [Schatz] and Ema [Gardner] because they don’t get another year. That really hit home at that point.”

Things can always change, but as people all over the world have seen over the last week or two, it’s sudden, unforeseen jolts to our expectations and plans that can lead to chaos, confusion and a difficulty in mentally reckoning with the current reality.

“It’s hard because it was so sudden,” East-

burn said in regards to how his team took the news. “There’s no real good way to have closure on that immediately. I think it’s just going to take time. The only thing that’s gonna make it any better is time.”

By this time next year, it’s possible this will feel like a distant memory, but for right now, the sting is painfully fresh after a season that provided so much promise for the Cottage Grove girls’ basketball program.

“It’s such an accomplishment just to make the state tournament,” said Eastburn. “It’s hard to do and they might think, ‘Oh, we’ll be back there next year,’ but it just doesn’t always work that way. Every year is a new year.”

The Lions nearly swept the Sky-Em league in regular season play. They boast the league player of the year (Matty Ladd) and a potential player of the year candidate in 2021 (Gracie Arnold). All but two of their current players will return next year. They had lofty goals for this season - mostly achieved, but the biggest left unrealized - and, despite this interruption, Eastburn hopes that can carry over into next year at a time when optimism is at a premium.

“Hopefully the players coming back next year will be motivated, have a renewed passion for the game because, as they saw, it can be taken away from you.”

-Backer DDS
-Birch Avenue
Dental
-CG Physical Therapy
-Chvatal Orthodontics
-Cetera Financial
-Coast Fork
-Emerald Fitness Club
-Dave’s Place
-D&D Auto
-Grocery Outlet
-Cottage Grove
Garbage Service
-Jim’s Point S Tire
Factory



-NW Community
Credit Union
-Oregon West RV
-Patriot Mortgage
-South Lane Fire
And Rescue
-South Valley
Athletics
-Starfire Lumber
-State Farm
-Village Green
-Williams & Mathis
-Cascade Home
Center
-Lane Community
College



PREVENTING *Poisoning*

Household Poisoning Threats Tips to Keep Kids Safe at Home

1. Store medications, vitamins, household cleaners and chemicals in high, secure storage areas that can’t be accessed by children.
2. Never refer to medicine as “candy.”
3. Store food separately from household products, and avoid using food storage containers for household products.
4. Make sure kids know they should never put anything in their mouths unless they know it is safe to eat.
5. If there are no drug take-back programs in your area, dispose of old medications by mixing them with substances like dirt, cat litter or coffee grounds and placing them in a sealed plastic bag, or by flushing them if recommended on the package insert.
6. Store this poison help number in your phone, and post it by every telephone in your home and on the refrigerator: 1-800-222-1222

This information has been adapted from the American Association of Poison Control Centers’ poison prevention tips.

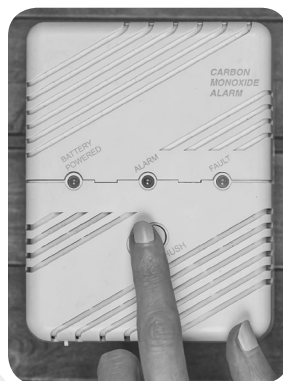


Every day, over 300 children in the U.S. are treated in emergency departments as a result of accidental poisoning, according to the CDC. The National Capital Poison Center reports that cosmetics and personal care products are the most common substances implicated in poison exposures in children younger than 6 years, followed by cleaning substances and pain medications. Medication is the leading cause of poisoning in children in Canada, according to injury prevention organization Parachute Canada.



CO Poisoning “The Invisible Threat”

Carbon monoxide is invisible, odorless and deadly. In fact, carbon monoxide (CO) is the leading cause of fatal poisonings in North America, according to the Canada Safety Council. Carbon monoxide can be released by gas furnaces, hot water heaters, cars, fireplaces, wood stoves and kerosene heaters. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CO poisoning symptoms are often described as “flu-like” and include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. Here are a few steps you can take to safeguard yourself and your loved ones against CO poisoning:



1. Install a carbon monoxide detector, and check the batteries monthly.
2. Have your chimney, furnace and gas-fired appliances professionally inspected each year.
3. If your CO alarm sounds, exit your home immediately and call 911 from a safe place.

Pets&Poisons

6 Popular People Foods That Are Toxic to Pets:

- Chocolate
- Grapes
- Raisins
- Nuts
- Onions/Garlic/Chives
- Xylitol (often found in sugar-free gums and mints)

Adapted from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Other Common Household Poisoning Dangers for Pets:

- Human Medications
- Veterinary Products
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- Insecticides, Rodenticides & Herbicides
- Batteries
- Antifreeze
- Toxic Plants
- Cleaning Products

If you suspect your pet may have ingested a toxic substance, call your veterinarian immediately or the National Animal Poison Control Center (NAPCC) at 1-888-426-4435.

Grace Olson

Little Caesars Pizza
24 N. 9th Street
541-942-2551

Fountain Gutters
Cottage Grove
541-729-9515

IITR Truck School

33817 W. Martin Rd. Creswell
541-895-5525

Adventure! Children’s Museum
490 Valley River Center, Eugene
541-653-9629

Dave’s Pump & Construction
Cottage Grove
541-942-9635

UPS Store

1498 E. Main St STE 103
541-767-0888

Pinocchio’s Pizza
1795 E. Main Street
541-942-5531