

OSAA Executive Board addresses Culminating Week options for HS sports

The OSAA Executive Board met in a work session Feb. 17 to receive updates from the OSAA staff on recently updated guidance from the Governor's Office and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and to finalize decisions on Season 2 Culminating Week sports events.

During the meeting, the board discussed the current realities associated with conducting large-scale events during a pandemic. Differences between team and individual sports, anticipated issues with establishing equitable qualifying procedures, district adopted travel restrictions, gathering size restrictions based on county risk level capacity limits, and impacts associated with

schools forming regional pods were just a few of the topics discussed.

Ultimately, the board reached consensus that the best course of action to take for Season 2 is to return that week to the schools to coordinate and execute local/regional culminating events at their discretion.

This lengthens the already truncated season and provides additional participation opportunities for all students at all levels in a program.

The board directed staff to support schools as they organize these events at the local/regional level.

"The OSAA Executive Board does not want to put any undue pressure on schools to participate in a statewide event that

"The OSAA believes that this decision is a necessary and reasonable action for our member schools."

— Peter Weber, OSAA Executive Director

could potentially place their students and school community at risk," said OSAA Executive Director Peter Weber. "Recommendations from the OHA advise restricting unnecessary travel between counties, especially when they are at different risk levels. The group felt that requiring schools to travel across the state with the potential for overnight stays for events is not prudent at this time."

The board acknowledged that the decision means some schools will

not be able to start participating on time, others will likely have a fragmented season due to outbreaks, and some may be forced to shift their season as a whole.

"[However], reviewing all of these factors with an equity lens, along with anticipated transportation and travel restrictions set by school districts, led the Board to its decision to let schools determine how they'll schedule that sixth [culmination] week of Season 2," Weber said.

Participation limita-

tions will be adjusted to allow for additional contests in each activity for Culminating Week events.

"Even though there will be no OSAA sponsored statewide culminating event for these Season 2 activities, the Executive Board wants to celebrate the students who have waited patiently to play and to honor them for their commitment, especially the seniors," Weber added. "Board members directed OSAA staff to work with member schools to highlight and promote these events, student-athletes, coaches and stories from around the state."

Decisions on Culminating Week events for Seasons 3 and 4 have not been determined.

The board plans to continue reviewing potential options as each of those seasons draw near, taking into consideration the status of the pandemic throughout the state at that time.

The board also reaffirmed its support for conducting virtual events for cheerleading, dance/drill, solo music, band, orchestra, choir and speech. These events will take place later this year as currently scheduled on the OSAA calendar.

"The OSAA Executive Board believes that this decision is a necessary and reasonable action for our member schools, student-athletes, and school communities as we navigate these unprecedented times," said Weber.

Historic Renovation Grants awarded by Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission

The Cottage Grove Historic Landmarks Commission has announced the award of three Historic Renovation Grants.

This program is designed to assist Historic Downtown business and property owners with needed historic renovations.

The successful applicants for 2020-21 fiscal year include: Craig Companio, 522 E. Main St., for a masonry study for the old Club building; Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, for a new entrance door into their offices in the Holloman Ford Building at 836 E. Main Street; and Cottage

Grove Historical Society, for the restoration of the Buster Keaton Mural on the side of the building at 819 E. Main Street.

A total of \$10,000 in city funds will be distributed between these three projects. Each project must meet a 1:1 match requirement to receive Renovation Grant funds.

Projects must be complete by June, 2021.

This is the eighth year of this grant program. Prior recipients have included the Cottage Grove Hotel (new awning), Burkholder Woods (corbel repair), Mortier building (Coca Cola mural, masonry repair), 802 E. Main St. (new stucco,

roof repair), the Bookmine (awning and siding repair), IOOF (neon sign repair), and the First National Bank (masonry cleaning, windows repair).

For more information on the Historic Renovation Grant Program, contact the Public Works and Development De-

partment at 541-942-3340.

Applications and grant program guidelines are available at www.cottagegrove.org or from the Public Works & Development Department, City Hall, 400 E. Main St.

AOC approves county's application for London Road safety corridor

On Feb. 18, the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) Safety Corridor Advisory Group approved Lane County's application to designate the first seven miles of London Road, between Cottage Grove and the Cottage Grove Reservoir, as a safety corridor in which traffic fines double.

Safety corridors have been available for Oregon's state highways for many years and have proven effective at reducing crashes.

In response to the growing number of fatal and severe-injury crashes on county rural roads, the legislature (House Bill 3213) directed the Oregon Department of

Transportation (ODOT) to create a county safety corridor program.

Lane County's application was sponsored by the Lane County Fatal Crash Investigation Team (FCIT) as another safety initiative in working towards zero deaths on Lane County's transportation system.

At its Feb. 24 meeting,

the FCIT began to develop an implementation and management plan for the corridor, which will include adding roadway signage about the corridor designation and doubling of traffic fines and developing a public education campaign.

The FCIT will provide more information to the Board of County Com-

missioners (BCC) at the March 16 BCC meeting.

Special thanks was extended on behalf of the FCIT Chair Dingle to South Lane Fire and Rescue Chief John Wooten, Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch, Lane County District Attorney Patricia Perlow, Cottage Grove Manager Richard Meyers, Lane

County Transportation Advisory Committee, Oregon State Police, and ODOT Traffic Safety Coordinator Nicole Charlson for supporting the application.

For more information, contact Becky Taylor, Lane County Senior Transportation Planner at Becky.taylor@lane-countyor.gov.



Encourage children to floss

Children should learn that flossing is just as important as brushing.



Learning to brush their own teeth is a lesson all children must master. Although parents ultimately may have children who become proficient at brushing their own teeth, getting them to floss is generally more difficult.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 41 percent of children aged 2 to 11 had tooth decay in their first teeth. Dental caries are common among children, likely because they have not become proficient at taking care of their teeth.

Soft, sticky foods are commonplace in young kids' diets, and these can promote decay. Even well-intentioned gummy vitamins can be sources of dental decay. Oftentimes, these foods become lodged between the teeth or on the surface of molars. If left in contact with the teeth for too long, food particles become a source of carbohydrates for oral bacteria, and cavities may appear as a result.

To remove food particles from between the teeth, children must floss, advises the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists. It is recommended that parents help their children to floss as soon as two teeth are touching and continue to do so until the child is around the age of 8, when a child should have enough dexterity to do it on his or her own.

Flossing is essential to making sure children do not experience cavities at an early age, and it

can establish practices that promote oral health throughout life. Despite being so important, many parents fail to encourage flossing or are at a loss as to how to make it enjoyable and effective.

Although regular dental floss is one of the first tools for flossing, the dexterity required to wind the floss around little fingers and then thoroughly clean the teeth may discourage children. Parents can look into the wide array of flossing helpers available at the store. In fact, many age-appropriate flossers are now available that feature fun designs and smaller profiles to fit into kids' mouths more easily. Flossers may be attached to a handle to make back teeth more accessible and promote more effective flossing. Manufacturers such as DenTek, Butler GUM, Plackers Kids, Dr. Fresh, Oral-B, and Brush Buddies offer children's flossers.

Kids who shy away from flossing may be more likely to use a children's water flosser. In lieu of string floss, a water flosser uses a pressurized stream of water to dislodge food from between teeth. Although a water flosser may be more messy, children may enjoy the opportunity to "play" with water and the cleaning sensation provided.

To prevent the buildup of plaque and the development of dental caries, parents should educate children about proper flossing techniques.

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