

COMMUNITY
SPORTSAdult rec softball
deadline April 19

The Bend Park & Recreation District's adult recreational softball team registration deadline is April 19.

BPRD softball leagues are known for great camaraderie and fun. The recreational softball leagues offer variable game nights and self-umpired games. Standings are not kept in this league and no playoffs are held.

Two divisions will be offered: Men's Rec and Coed Rec. All teams will play a 12-game schedule, with one game a week at 6 p.m. The season runs from May 10 to July 30.

All games will be played at the Pine Nursery Sports Complex and the Skyline Sports Complex. The registration fee is \$375 per team.

League rules and format will be adjusted to comply with the most current local and state COVID guidelines which may include face mask mandates for players and spectators, social-distancing restrictions and field-capacity limitations.

To register a team, visit www.bendparksandrec.org. For more information, contact Rich Ekman, sport program coordinator, at 541-706-6126 or rich@bendparksandrec.org.

—Bulletin staff report

NFL

'Hawks, Lockett
agree on extension

SEATTLE — Tyler Lockett is sticking around with the Seattle Seahawks, and likely as Russell Wilson's favorite target, for the foreseeable future.

The Seahawks and Lockett have agreed to a four-year contract extension that includes \$37 million guaranteed, according to a person with knowledge of the deal. ESPN first reported the deal, which could be worth more than \$69 million over the life of the contract.

The deal locks up Wilson's favorite target from each of the past two seasons and will likely help Seattle in its attempts to ease a salary cap crunch for the 2021 season. Lockett's current contract was set to expire after this season and carried a salary cap charge of just under \$15 million.

Lockett, 28, is coming off a career-best season with 100 receptions for 1,054 yards and 10 touchdowns. He teamed with DK Metcalf to become just the second pair of Seattle receivers to each have 1,000 yards in the same season. The Seahawks had an explosive passing game early in the season that fizzled badly over the second half of the year.

Lockett twice had games last season with double-digit receptions, including a career-high 15 catches for 200 yards and three TDs against Arizona.

Lockett was a third-round pick of the Seahawks in 2015 out of Kansas State and was a first-team All-Pro as a kick returner his rookie season. He quickly grew into one of the most reliable receivers in the league while overcoming serious leg injuries along the way.

Lockett became a bit more of a possession receiver last season with the emergence of Metcalf as a deep threat and had a career-low 10.5 yards per catch. Eight of Lockett's 10 touchdowns were of 12 yards or less.

—Associated Press



Submitted photo

Former Bend resident Lew Johnson drove his RV from New Mexico to Indianapolis to watch the Oregon State men's basketball team's run to the Elite Eight.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | NCAA TOURNAMENT

Former Bend resident drives
1,400 miles to watch Beavs

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

It is a moment that Lew Johnson had been waiting for since 1982, the year after he graduated from Oregon State.

So when the Beavers men's basketball team advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA men's tournament, Johnson, a former resident of Bend for 30 years, hopped into his orange and black RV with "Fear This" and beaver teeth on the back, and made a beeline to Indianapolis just to see how long OSU's magical run would last.

"I might be dead by the time

they get that far again," said Johnson, who has since moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, after three decades of residing in Central Oregon.

The 67-year-old made the more than 1,400 mile trek to Indiana, driving over 900 miles in one day. He made a stop in Chicago to pick up his son Eric — a Mountain View High School and Oregon State grad himself — before making it in time to catch the Beavers' 65-58 upset win over the Loyola Ramblers in the Sweet 16.

That win set up a unique scenario for the Johnson family in the Elite Eight. Lew's

wife, Kathy, is a graduate of the University of Houston, which ousted Oregon State from the tournament with a 67-61 win to advance to the Final Four on Monday. Houston, Johnson said, was just bigger, faster and stronger than the Beavers.

"I was hoping to stay for a week because we wanted us to go to the Final Four," said Johnson on his drive home with a raspy voice from cheering. "It has been a fun couple of weeks. Compared to where we were a month ago, we didn't have a snowball's change of getting to Indianapolis."

See **Beavs** / A6

MLB | OPENING DAY

The fans
are back

Major League Baseball is set to start the season Thursday and opening day brings a welcome change

BY BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

Great to see ya, Buster Posey. Been a while, Tony La Russa. Good luck, Madison Bumgarner and every other National League pitcher toting a bat.

From Comerica Park to Coors Field to the Coliseum, Major League Baseball is set to roll out a big welcome mat Thursday.

Most of all, this opening day, it'll be for the fans.

When Gerrit Cole throws the first pitch of the season — weather permitting — nearly 11,000 people could be in the stands at Yankee Stadium. Sitting in socially distanced seats and wearing masks, inside a park that will continue to operate as a mass coronavirus vaccination site.

Far from normal. But after a year in which fans weren't permitted at any regular-season game because of COVID-19 protocols, no longer will "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" strangely echo around empty ballparks during the seventh-inning stretch.

"That's how it's supposed to be, I think," said Bumgarner, ready to start for the Arizona Diamondbacks against Fernando Tatis Jr., Manny Machado and the San Diego Padres.



Ted S. Warren/AP

Jessica Sherman, an advanced registered nurse practitioner with Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, plays catch with a colleague in the outfield of T-Mobile Park, the home of the Seattle Mariners, on March 22 in Seattle. The Mariners invited health care workers to play catch so they could experience the ballpark ahead of Opening Day on Thursday and as a way of saying thanks to workers throughout the region who have battled the pandemic in the past year.

"That's what we're doing. It's an entertainment business. We're all playing a game and competing and everyone's got their team they pull for or just likes watching the game in general," he said.

The crowd sizes will vary.

At Fenway Park, where Xander Bogaerts and the Boston Red Sox host Baltimore, 12% of capacity will be allowed. At Globe Life Field in Texas, where the Rangers open Monday, a full 100% will be permitted.

The Rangers didn't have any fans in their \$1.2 billion palace that opened last year during the pandemic-shortened 60-game season. But 11,000 spectators were inside the Arlington, Texas, park when Clayton Kershaw, Mookie Betts, Corey Seager and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Tampa Bay in MLB's first neutral-site World Series.

"It's an entertainment business. We're all playing a game and competing and everyone's got their team they pull for or just likes watching the game in general."

— Madison Bumgarner, Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher

Boosted by signing the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Trevor Bauer, the pitching-rich Dodgers start in Colorado. Kershaw gets the opener against the Rockies, while Bauer goes in the second game.

"I'm pumped up for it. Especially pumped up to get back in front of the LA fans for my first home start," Bauer said.

See **MLB** / A7

Inside

Mariners place
Kyle Lewis on IL
ahead of opener,
A7

COLLEGE SPORTS

Pay student-athletes in college? Oregon's taking up the issue again

BY KEVIN HARDEN

Oregon Capital Bureau

New legislation that landed in late March in the Oregon Senate could allow some college student-athletes to be paid.

Senate Bill 5, introduced March 24 by Senate President Peter Courtney of Salem and Sen. James Manning Jr., a Eugene Democrat whose district includes the University of Oregon, allows student-athletes to "earn compensation for use of their name, image or likeness." That includes royalty payments for college merchandise sold with the athlete's name or image.

"I've been happy to see similar bills pass in other states.

It's time for Oregon to do the same. We've worked with our student-athletes and universities on this issue. Senate Bill 5 makes sure our college athletes are treated with fairness."

— Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney of Salem

The bill also allows Oregon student athletes to retain a professional sports agent while in college, but they wouldn't be able to sign contracts for their images or likenesses that conflict with school or team rules.

The Senate Committee on Rules plans an online public hearing on the legislation at

1 p.m. April 8.

Courtney said Oregon's bill mirrors legislation in about three dozen states, like California's 2019 Fair Pay to Play Act and New York's 2020 Collegiate Athletic Participation Compensation Act. Similar legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate.

"I've been happy to see similar bills pass in other states," Courtney said. "It's time for Oregon to do the same. We've worked with our student-athletes and universities on this issue. Senate Bill 5 makes sure our college athletes are treated with fairness. I hope to see it pass this session."

California's law put the NCAA in a bind, requiring a big change in national rules governing student-athletes. In October 2019, the NCAA Board of Governors unanimously supported changes to allow student-athletes to benefit from the use of their names

and images. The board hoped to have new rules in place by early this year.

In a related legal fight, arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court were scheduled Wednesday to decide whether NCAA rules against allowing student athletes to be compensated violated federal anti-trust laws. The case grew out of the 2015 ruling in a similar lawsuit brought by UCLA athlete Ed O'Bannon. In that case, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed most of a lower court ruling that NCAA rules violated anti-trust laws.

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