

GOLF

Bulletin invites calendar items

The Bulletin is assembling a golf calendar for the 2021 edition of our annual Central Oregon golf guide. The guide will be published later this spring.

Those who wish to have information included in the calendar — including dates for clinics and classes, public leagues, and other tournaments and events — are encouraged to submit that information by April 30 to The Bulletin (sports@bendbulletin.com).

— Bulletin staff report

MOTOR SPORTS

Wheldon boys sign junior racing deal

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Standing below the monument on Dan Wheldon Way that honors their late father, the two young sons of the two-time Indianapolis 500 winner took a big step in their budding racing careers.

Andretti Autosport introduced Sebastian, 12, and Oliver Wheldon, 10, as the newest additions to a development program as junior drivers.

“Racing runs deep in their DNA,” Susie Wheldon, the boys’ mother, told The Associated Press. “There have been many summer days where I have been sitting all day in the middle of a field in central Florida asking them ‘Are you sure this is what you want to do?’ But they do, they have a passion for it, and now they have a path.”

Dan Wheldon was killed in the 2011 IndyCar season finale, five months after he had won his second Indianapolis 500. At the time, Sebastian was 2 and Oliver 8 months old.

Michael Andretti believes in developing drivers and promoting them through a ladder system into IndyCar.

Their father won 16 races over 10 years in IndyCar, three of those seasons at Andretti. The British driver won the 2005 championship and his first Indy 500 driving for Andretti. He had completed an agreement to return to Andretti for the 2012 season the night before he died at 33 in a crash at Las Vegas.

“Dan was family to us, and we had a lot of on-track success together, we see a lot of Dan in both Sebastian and Oliver and are very proud to officially welcome them into our racing family,” Michael Andretti said.

“No one will ever be able to replace Dan in their lives, but we’re happy to offer a network for mentorship to help the boys grow their careers.”

These days, the mother said, the boys are racing all the time. They were in New Castle, Indiana, last weekend and back home for the Andretti announcement Saturday. Then they headed back to Indiana for more racing.

Susie Wheldon has been guiding their careers since Sebastian began driving shortly before he was 5. “They love this,” she said. “But they obviously have talent, and when you have talented kids, you need to know what to do with them and how to help them do what they love.”

— Associated Press

INSIDE

• Twenty-year-old Harrison Burton is making his NASCAR Cup Series debut at tricky Talladega. Details, **B3**

PREP SPORTS

Let the *real practice* begin

Members of the Mountain View wrestling team grapple in the school's sand volleyball pits while practicing together on Friday.

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Central Oregon wrestling and basketball coaches ecstatic that full-contact indoor sports are now allowed

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
The Bulletin

For the past couple of weeks, the Mountain View High School wrestling team has been spending some time on the sand volleyball courts on its campus.

The team is not preparing for a match against the school's volleyball team, or getting a head start on the popular summer activity. But rather, finding a way to practice wrestling, which has been prohibited indoors.

“A decade ago they started a sport called beach wrestling,” said Mountain View wrestling coach Les Combs. “It was created because third-world countries could not afford mats. We are wrestling in the sand with the masks on so that the kids can wrestle.”

Until the recent addition of wrestling in sand, the past year of wrestling practices without contact

included conditioning, weightlifting and shadow wrestling (wrestling against air). Some Cougar wrestlers traveled to other states where wrestling competition was allowed.

As of Friday, those sand practices are in the rear-view mirror and normal practices can continue.

Last Tuesday, high school sports in Oregon received welcome news when the Oregon Health Authority changed its COVID-19 guidelines to allow full-contact indoor sports, including wrestling and basketball, which had previously been prohibited.

See **Prep sports** / B3

WOMEN'S COLLEGE GOLF | OREGON STATE

Record-setting Ellie Slama aims high

BY NICK DASCHEL
The Oregonian

The Oregon State women's golf record book better make room for a few more entries, as senior Ellie Slama has decided to stick around for another year.

Slama, who along with OSU teammates began play on Friday at the Pac-12 tournament at Stanford, is eligible to return because of an NCAA ruling allowing an additional year of eligibility due to the pandemic.

The owner of many school career and season records,

“I feel like we have a good shot at winning something, so I wanted to give myself an extra year in Corvallis and stay part of Beaver nation.”

— Ellie Slama, Oregon State golfer

Slama says opportunity and goals are her primary reasons for returning.

Slama, who has professional golf aspirations, had her junior year cut short by the pandemic, as well this fall's tournament action. Slama looks at the team surrounding her and believes there's a national tourna-

ment berth and perhaps more on the line in 2021 or 2022.

“It was a hard decision for me,” Slama said. “I feel like we have a good shot at winning something, so I wanted to give myself an extra year in Corvallis and stay part of Beaver nation.”

See **Slama** / B3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | OREGON

Ducks upgrading personnel for special teams this spring

BY JAMES CREPEA
The Oregonian

EUGENE — The days of fifth-string quarterbacks on Oregon's kickoff return and coverage units are over.

Even with all their specialists returning, the Ducks are making drastic changes to their special teams units this spring, particularly in terms of personnel and also adding voices to coaching the various units.

Tight ends and special teams

coach Bobby Williams will continue to oversee the various units, but other members of the staff will be involved in coaching kickoff and kickoff return, punt and punt return, and field goal and field goal block.

“Everything has to be upgraded from the way that we performed and it's happening we feel in a couple of different ways,” Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said.

See **Ducks** / B2



Eddie Pellis/AP

Eve Steffans of the Martial Arts Academy in Billings, Montana, practices judo techniques on Ed Thompson, a retired police officer, during a training session in March in Douglas, Wyoming. USA Judo is holding workshops with police departments across the country to introduce them to judo techniques that could lessen the need for deadly force when officers have to apprehend people on the streets.

MARTIAL ARTS

Gold-medal project: Judo seeks solutions in police training

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

DOUGLAS, Wyo. — The stakes were clear to the two dozen police officers who gathered for a judo workshop with an ambitious and increasingly urgent mission — recalibrating the way police interact with the public in America.

The class took place the same week as jury selection for the trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis officer

who was convicted Tuesday of murder and other charges in the death of George Floyd.

No one attending the conference would deny that the profession failed the day Floyd died with Chauvin's knee on his neck.

They came to the classes with the idea that judo, the martial art with a deep global history and an imprint at the Olympics, but still shallow roots in the United States,

might be able to help fix it.

“The social contract between police officers and the public is degrading a bit,” said Joe Yungwirth, a trainer at the workshop who built his career doing counterterrorism work for the FBI and now runs a judo academy in North Carolina.

“All law enforcement officers I know, we feel we need to bring that back in line somehow.”

See **Judo** / B3