

# Tokyo Olympics officially postponed until 2021

Associated Press

The Tokyo Olympics were postponed until 2021 on Tuesday, ending weeks of speculation that the games could not go ahead as scheduled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The International Olympic Committee made the decision after speaking with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and local organizers.

The IOC said the games will be held "not later than summer 2021" but they will still be called the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"In the present circumstances and based on the information provided by the WHO today, the IOC President and the Prime Minister of Japan have concluded that the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community," the IOC said in a statement.

Before the official announcement, Abe said Bach had agreed with his proposal for a one-year postponement.

"President Bach said he will agree '100%,' and we agreed to hold the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in the summer of 2021 at the latest," Abe said, saying holding the games next year would be "proof of a victory by human beings against the coronavirus infections."

On Sunday, Bach said a



The Olympic Rings are displayed at the entrance of the IOC, International Olympic Committee headquarters during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Lausanne, Switzerland, Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

(Jean-Christophe Bott/Keystone via AP)

decision on postponing the games would be made in the next four weeks. But pressure grew as national federations, sports governing bodies and athletes spoke out against having the opening ceremony as planned on July 24.

The decision came only a few hours after local organizers said the torch relay would start as planned on Thursday. It was expected to start in northeastern Fukushima prefecture, but with no torch, no torchbearers and no public. Those plans also changed.

"For the time being, the flame will be stored and displayed in Fukushima," organizing committee president Yoshiro Mori said.

The Olympics have never before been postponed, and have only ever previously been canceled in wartime.

Organizers will now have to figure out how to keep things running for another

year, while making sure venues are up to date for possible another 12 months.

"A lot can happen in one year, so we have to think about what we have to do," said Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the organizing committee. "The decision came upon us all of a sudden."

The IOC and Tokyo organizers said they hope the decision to postpone will help the world heal from the pandemic.

"The leaders agreed that the Olympic Games in Tokyo could stand as a beacon of hope to the world during these troubled times and that the Olympic flame could become the light at the end of the tunnel in which the world finds itself at present," the IOC statement said. "Therefore, it was agreed that the Olympic flame will stay in Japan. It was also agreed that the Games will keep the name Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020."

tion (MLC) completed its February transfer of \$11,618,730 in net proceeds to the Lottery Proceeds Fund in the Mississippi State Treasury. This brings the total amount deposited to the state to more than \$27 million since launch on November 25, 2019.

In accordance with the Alyce G. Clarke Lottery Law, the MLC is required to transfer net proceeds within 20 days following the close of each calendar month.

## Mississippi nets over \$11 million in lottery proceeds

Press Release

On Friday, March 20, the Mississippi Lottery Corpora-

## Governor Tate Reeves requests disaster assistance for February severe storms

Press Release

On Friday, March 20, Governor Tate Reeves announced his request for disaster assistance for Mississippians impacted by the Pearl River flooding and severe weather hopefully later this year," Briggs said.

Updated plans to celebrate MVSU Spring 2020 graduates will be announced at a later date.

on February 10-18, 2020.

Working to help Mississippians recover from the devastation of the historic flooding and storms in February, Governor Reeves is requesting a Federal Declaration for Public Assistance.

"Mississippians are strong and resilient, but the historic flooding and severe weather we experienced is more than anyone should have to

# Families find themselves unexpected homeschoolers

By Bonnie A. Coblenz  
MSU Extension Service

COVID-19 turned millions of families into homeschoolers who suddenly must decide how to structure learning for their students.

Anita Webb, a Mississippi State University Extension agent in Scott County, said parents have a long list of questions about the long-term impacts of missing traditional school, including its impact on graduating seniors, state testing and the length of the academic year.

"There are many things over which parents have no control, but there are also many things they can control for their kids," Webb said. "Many young parents are creating extra art and craft opportunities for their children, and also getting their kids outside more to help with the garden or to go fishing or walking in the woods."

Courtney Crist, an assistant Extension professor of food safety, encouraged parents to explore family and consumer sciences skills with a focus on food while at home with their kids.

"Cooking and baking are processes that demonstrate the scientific method," Crist said. "Many common sciences -- such as biology, physics, chemistry and mathematics -- are involved in the process of preparing and cooking foods. Food can be an easy, fun and tasty way to learn some of these principles."

For example, Crist said baking cookies is an easy process to experiment with. Create a hypothesis for what will happen when using different ingredients, and explore the impact on sensory properties, such as color, aroma, appearance, flavor and texture.

Beth Bell, Extension agent in Tallahatchie County, said some structure is key to keeping students' lives normal and their education moving forward. She emphasized the importance of creating a routine, which does not mean a day has to be rigidly scheduled.

"Being organized is extremely important when



Although the setting is now home instead of school, parents can take steps to see that their children's education continues. (Photo by CanStock)

students have lessons and assignments from their teachers that must be downloaded, completed and then uploaded," Bell said. "It is also important to have a positive attitude no matter how inconvenient the whole situation becomes. Children of all ages respond to the negativity and complaints that they hear the adults in their lives express."

Bell said parents who typically limit their children's screen time may be tempted to ignore those limits for the sake of sanity or to create a quiet space for them to work from home.

"I worry that this new normal will lead to too much screen time, and that is not good regardless of the situation," she said. "Children's brains can stall when they get into screen mode, and that is not healthy."

Samantha Laird of West Point has a young son who is missing preschool. She is working from home while trying to keep him engaged and learning.

"Encouraging students to read frequently during this period may be helpful," Laird said. "Being organized

makes it easier for parents to keep up with assignments from teachers and help their children follow lesson plans and activities."

Kellie Gartman, a first-grade teacher at Sudduth Elementary School in Starkville, is now homeschooling her third-grade daughter. Gartman said parents should focus on reading, quality conversations about material read or viewed, and encouraging imagination.

"With young kids, ask how the story made them feel and why, or explain whether or not you've ever done something like a character in the story or had something similar happen," Gartman said.

She also encouraged parents to be creative with learning opportunities, realizing that learning does not have to come from a book or a screen.

"Design and build a fort, design and create a game board to practice math skills, plant some flowers from seeds and then keep a journal with drawings of your observations," she said. "Visit museums virtually. Many are putting up new material due to quarantine."

recover from alone. When disaster strikes and a fellow Mississippian is in need, we lend a helping hand. I want to thank all the hardworking men and women who helped complete these damage assessments to ensure every community hit can receive the necessary assistance to recover," said Governor Tate Reeves.

Joint Public Assistance damage assessments were conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Mississippi

Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance personnel, along with local governments. Assessments began on March 9, 2020 in the following counties: Attala, Carroll, Claiborne, Clay, Copiah, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Leflore, Warren, and Yazoo.

After the completion of all damage assessments, it was determined that each of those eleven counties met the threshold to receive assistance.

Issaquena and Sharkey

Counties were also included in the Joint Damages Assessments, but due to ongoing flooding the damage could not be assessed. The damage in these areas will be assessed at a later date.

More counties could be added to this request.

Governor Reeves is also requesting disaster assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for Central Mississippi communities hit by the Pearl River flooding on February 10-14, 2020.