

The News-Review

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School bond likely goes to voters in May



JON MITCHELL/THE NEWS-REVIEW
John C. Fremont Middle School could benefit from a bond measure the Roseburg School District will put forward.

Urine some trouble soon?

Hunters barred from using deer attractants starting in January 2020

HANNAH KANIK
The News-Review

Attention hunting enthusiasts: the use of urine-based deer attractants will be illegal effective January 2020 in an effort to stifle the spread of chronic wasting disease in deer, elk, caribou and moose populations.

House Bill 2294, sponsored by Democratic Rep. Brad Witt and Republican Rep. David Brock Smith, passed in June in a near-unanimous vote to ban the sale and possession of deer attractants in the state.

The disease is most commonly spread through the animals coming in contact with contaminated urine. Deer attractants, commonly used in hunting to mask the scent of a human, contain deer urine.

“(The disease) is a fatal neurodegenerative disease and once contracted, it’s not that the animal might die — the animal will die,” Witt said. “It often takes up to two years for that animal to literally waste away, chronic wasting, before it does die.”

The disease has reached national concern after it has spread to 26 states and four Canadian provinces.

Michelle Dennehy, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the disease has been around for more than 50 years and its origins are unknown.

“It has wildlife biologists across North America extremely concerned. It’s basically untreatable,”

DEER, A3

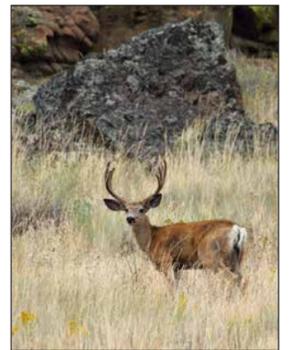


PHOTO COURTESY OF ODFW FLICKR

In an effort to decrease the impact of chronic wasting disease, the use of deer attractants that contain deer urine was banned by the state legislature. CWD is contracted by deer coming into contact with contaminated urine.



MIKE HENNEKE/THE NEWS-REVIEW

Winchester Elementary School librarian Heidi Guyer works in the school library Wednesday. The Roseburg School Board voted Wednesday to put a bond levy on the May 2020 ballot.

District starts exploring ways to upgrade aging facilities

SANNE GODFREY
The News-Review

The Roseburg School Board unanimously agreed to place a bond levy on the May 2020 ballot during Wednesday’s meeting.

The school district will now start the process of polling voters, starting community discussions and working toward a plan to present to voters.

A grant request, which was dependent on the school district going for a bond levy, will be sent off Thursday. Requests for quotes to marketing and polling firms will also be sent off this week.

Board Chair Joe Garcia noted the district had been perpetually upgrading buildings and it was time to do something drastic.

Cooperative Strategies, a firm that specializes in creating complete financial and demographic planning for education, completed a number of assessments to create a long-range facilities plan. The firm identified nearly \$37 million of needed facility



JON MITCHELL/THE NEWS-REVIEW

Joseph Lane Middle School is one of the schools that could benefit from a bond measure in May.

repairs and \$17.5 million of needed educational adequacy improvements.

“The current portfolio of schools is aging and many facilities will undoubtedly require replacements in the coming decade or two,” according to the recommendations from Cooperative Strategies.

Taxpayers within the boundaries of the school district currently pay 54 cents per \$1,000 in assessed property value on a bond that will expire in

December 2020. According to rough estimates by Chief Operations Officer Cheryl Northam, a \$1.54 tax per \$1,000 in assessed property value would equate to a \$110 million bond for the district, where a \$150 million bond would cost taxpayers approximately \$2.10 per \$1,000 in assessed property value. Those numbers are rough estimates and could vary based on a number of factors, including bond credit rating, Northam said.

The board will use community input to determine the amount of the bond, as well as the desired upgrades.

No decisions were made regarding what upgrades the bond levy would pay for, although several options were discussed including consolidating the middle schools, building new schools or continuing to repair all the schools within the district.

Garcia said he wanted to make a big move with the bond. “I’m kind of tired of settling for things,” he said.

“It’s about creating that desire and that energy for folk to feel like they’re making a connection with the community through the school system,” Garcia said. “We have to find what is going to unite and rally and inspire the community. I think, if we simply go for \$37 million without really doing something to inspire the public and community, I think we’re doing a great disservice and selling ourselves short and selling the community short.”

BOND, A3

Derby grants will enhance county fisheries

DAN BAIN
The News-Review

Eleven grants from the Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby have been awarded to Douglas County groups to assist with fishery enhancement, restoration and educational projects in the Umpqua Basin.

The recipients of funds from the 27th annual derby were announced this week by the derby steering committee.

The 2019 derby, held in February, raised more than \$100,000 to invest in projects that aid fisheries in the Umpqua Basin, and \$64,767 was awarded

to applicants this week.

The largest award, \$15,000 went to the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery in Idleld Park for a hatch-house upgrade.

The Elk Creek Watershed received \$12,000 for restoration projects on Jack Creek and Hardscrabble Creek.

The Gardiner-Reed-sport-Winchester Bay STEP (Salmon Trout Enhancement Program) in western Douglas County was awarded \$8,000 for an auto-start backup generator and propane tank.

The Smith River Watershed Council got \$7,000 for Big Creek Instream

Restoration Phase III and a \$6,000 grant for Halfway Creek Instream Restoration.

Eastwood Elementary School in Roseburg, which operates a small fish hatchery, at the school was awarded a \$3,000 grant to help repair the hatchery equipment that

was damaged during the high water in Deer Creek last winter.

Eastwood fifth grade teacher Camron Pope, who conducts the salmon hatchery project at the school, said the grant will allow them to make some

GRANTS, A3



FIRE DANGER: HIGH

NORTH UMPQUA: 71°

HIGH: 86
LOW: 62



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