



Several yellow-bellied marmots, also known as a rockchucks, were found sitting near their burrows at Hugh Hartman Elementary School in Redmond on April 14.

Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos

Rockchucks

Continued from P1

"Now that the students are back, we have found the rockchucks are also back," Miller said.

This year, the rockchuck infestation is more widespread. Their feces and dug-out holes have been spotted at Redmond High School and Ridgeview High School, in addition to the elementary school.

The school district is planning to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services Department, which will have a wildlife specialist exterminate the rockchucks by fumigating their burrows. The specialist places gas cartridges in the burrows, which give off carbon monoxide.

This time, the work will be done early enough in the season to catch rockchucks before they start hibernating again at



"Now that the students are back, we have found the rockchucks are also back."

— Sheila Miller, Redmond School District spokesperson

the end of July, according to wildlife officials.

"Right now is when they all start showing back up," Miller said. "Hopefully, we can get it done early enough that it will be effective this season."

Rockchucks are the largest

squirrels in Oregon and are known for being plump and larger than other marmots. They are often seen on rocks throughout the Old Mill District in Bend.

■ Reporter: 541-617-7824, kspurr@bendbulletin.com

Schools plan scaled-back standardized tests for 2021

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

In a year when many students will only get a few months of in-person learning or less, some Oregon school districts have rebelled against standardized testing.

But Central Oregon's two largest school districts will stay the course. Bend-La Pine Schools and the Redmond School District will still offer standardized tests this year, and families will still have to ask to opt out if they don't want their students to take the tests.

"We're going to stick with it as is," said Chris Morton, Redmond's director of school improvement, who oversees standardized testing for the district.

Dave VanLoo, Bend-La Pine's director of school improvement, said this year's dramatically scaled-back standardized tests mean less class time is lost.

Standardized testing was largely canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and with students barely back in the classroom this spring, it's been scaled back throughout Oregon.

Earlier this spring, the Oregon Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education agreed that instead of Oregon students taking the traditional suite of tests in various subjects, each student would only take one test in one subject this spring. Which subject a student is tested on depends on the grade level.

"We don't really anticipate a detrimental impact on student learning, having kids take one test that takes an hour," VanLoo said.

Other Oregon school districts — like Ashland and Eagle Point in Southern Oregon

— are taking the opposite approach to standardized testing: opt in. That means students won't take any standardized tests, unless their family emails the school district and asks if their child can participate.

Other school districts have decided to not offer standardized tests at all this year, including Oregon Trail School District and Salem-Keizer. Salem-Keizer School District spokesperson Sylvia McDaniel said the school board canceled the tests because students have had limited opportunities for in-person learning during the pandemic.

VanLoo said Bend-La Pine Schools' ability to bring back students earlier than many other large districts means missing a bit of regular instruction for tests isn't as tough for local students. While Bend-La Pine high schoolers returned to hybrid learning in February and full time in-person Monday, Portland high schoolers won't return to buildings until next week, and it will be part time.

Both VanLoo and Morton said they'll respect the wishes of any family that chooses to pull their kid out of standardized testing.

Bend-La Pine and Redmond teachers' union leaders had mixed responses to their schools moving forward with the opt-out method for standardized tests this year.

Sarah Barclay, president of the Bend Education Association, is pushing for her school district to move to an opt-in style. She believes standardized tests are a waste of time when students had to spend more than half the school year learning online.

"We have really precious time with students in-person

this spring," Barclay said. "So even one week (of testing) is just not a good use of time."

Barry Branaugh, board member of the Redmond Education Association, doesn't believe there should be standardized testing this year. But if the district is going to still give the tests, it's still easy for students and families to opt out if they choose, he said.

"I don't think we really should be having it, but given that's what the state wants, it's fine," Branaugh said. "The opt out is not a difficult thing. It's just a matter of filling out a piece of paper or going to a website."

■ Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com

SOLUTION Sudoku on Page 2

5	9	1	4	3	7	2	8	6
4	2	7	9	6	8	3	1	5
3	6	8	1	5	2	7	9	4
2	3	4	6	1	9	8	5	7
8	1	9	2	7	5	6	4	3
6	7	5	8	4	3	9	2	1
1	4	2	3	8	6	5	7	9
9	5	3	7	2	1	4	6	8
7	8	6	5	9	4	1	3	2

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NEWS BRIEFING

OSHA fines Lowe's \$18,100 for COVID-19 infractions

The Lowe's hardware store branch in Redmond was hit with \$18,100 in fines Monday from Oregon Occupational Safety and Health — better known as OSHA — for multiple COVID-19 violations.

The biggest penalty, costing \$17,500, was for not requiring customers to wear face coverings, according to an OSHA press release. State inspections found that Lowe's branch supervisors knew of the state-mask mandate, and willfully chose to ignore it, the release stated.

The Lowe's store in Albany received an identical fine Monday for the same reason.

The store also received two \$300 fines for not creating a risk assessment plan to identify possible employee exposure to COVID-19, or an infection control plan, the release stated.

Kiwanis donate \$17,000 to Rimrock Trails

The Redmond Kiwanis Foundation contributed nearly \$17,000 towards the Rimrock Trails Residential Treatment Program renovations, according to a press release.

Built in 1994, for 27 years the Rimrock Trail's Adolescent Residential Treatment Program Facilities has been a place of safety, comfort and

support for over 4,000 individuals and their families. One of only five adolescent residential treatment programs in the State of Oregon serving teens with severe substance use and mental health disorders, the campus provides a supportive therapeutic environment conducive to learning, empowerment and change.

Recognizing the impact Rimrock Trails has had on the community and the importance of updating the facilities for the teens it serves, the Redmond Kiwanis Foundation donated nearly \$17,000 toward a \$50,000 project to renovate the facility's restrooms.

City sells land for \$2.8M

The city will sell 14 acres of vacant land in Redmond's industrial east side to a construction materials company planning to build a large industrial campus there.

The \$2.67 million sale — unanimously approved by the Redmond City Council — will allow for the eventual creation of 35 to 60 new jobs after the campus is complete.

The company, which manufactures and distributes construction materials, wishes to remain anonymous for now.

Company leaders reportedly hope to break ground on the distribution site by the end of 2021.

the Redmond Spokesman CLASSIFIED

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Jennie Ann Buswell has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Shirley Sullivan Buswell, deceased, Deschutes County Circuit Court Case No. 21PB02535. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same within four months from the first date of publication of this notice to the Personal Representative c/o Janice E. Hatton at 777 High St., #300, Eugene, OR 97401, or they may be barred.

Any person whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the above-entitled Court or from the Personal Representative's attorneys, Luvaas Cobb, P.C. DATED and first published: April 14, 2021. /s/ Jennie Ann Buswell Personal Representative

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