

School District bond projects start up, Obsidian near completion

BY NICK ROSENBERGER
Redmond Spokesman

Parents and students across Redmond School District will see changes in their schools as the Redmond School District's \$27.5 million bond program takes flight.

With nearly every school in the district receiving renovations, including security and safety upgrades, many of the buildings will look a little different as the number of district students and schools continue to grow.

Obsidian Middle School in Redmond will be the first to cross the finish line. Its extensive remodeling and upgrades are set to be complete by the time students return in September.

"Only a couple weeks away," said Chad Frankie, the HMK Company program manager for the Redmond School District bond.

According to Frankie, the overall bond timeline was to have everything complete within a three-year window. With most of the school projects starting in 2021, they're currently about halfway through that plan.

And, despite supply chain issues and a "tremendously difficult" time acquiring supplies, HMK, Griffin Construct and BBT Architects have focused on trying to stay ahead. These tactics have paid off as construction on Obsidian wraps up and Tom McCall Elementary School and Elton Gregory Middle School come under-budget.

"We're doing really good on that timeline," Frankie said.

The goal, he said, was to check off the really important things first: Obsidian Middle's renovation, a new building with six classrooms split between Tom McCall and Elton Gregory, and six more classrooms for Vern Patrick Elementary.

"Redmond is growing," he said. "The construction was an understanding that the district needed additional classroom space."

According to Frankie, current class sizes sit around 27 students per classroom. The new building for Tom McCall/Elton Gregory aims to lower that number and the student to teacher ratio down to 20-25 students.

And, since Tom McCall and Elton Gregory share the same campus, the new building is designed to be flexibly used between the two schools as needed.

"There was ample need for various classroom space," Frankie said.

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LOCAL



National Night Out

Redmond parties with the police department **A3**

EVENTS



The fair in photos

Sights of the Deschutes County Fair **A11**

DESCHUTES COUNTY FAIR



Nick Rosenberger

Katelin Baldwin brushes her boer goat, Lipstick, before an FFA competition at the Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo in Redmond on August 5.

Fair is finale for 4-H, FFA

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There is no sound like a youth livestock show and auction. Goats bleat at the Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo, massive pigs squeal as competitors thwack them into position and lambs scream for no particular reason. Each competition is unique and vibrant as livestock and competitors vie to top their category.

The shows and squeals are the culmination of months of hard work, passion and dedication, both from kids to adults.

"I just ... I really like it," said Cash Fred, a young 4-H member from Tumalo. Cash won ribbons for champion junior showman with his seven-month-old goat named Opal and reserve champion market goat named Rip. "I just really love goats. They're one of my favorite animals. I love taking care of them."

His mom, Debbie Fred, said it was awesome to be able to watch Cash thrive. She said he's always smiling and excited when around livestock. He also knows he's there to do a job.

"He's really competitive," she said.



Nick Rosenberger

Competitors leave a session of judging with their goats at the Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo in Redmond on August 5.

PREPARATION

This competitiveness is a common theme in 4-H and FFA members, but raising livestock is by no means an easy feat. Hanna Perkins, a 14-year-old 4-H member from Crooked River Ranch, is in her sixth year

and raising three breeding gilts (pigs) this year: Nyxi, Voodoo and Gidgit.

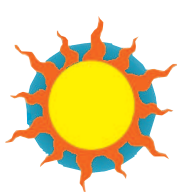
She pampers them in advance of their big moment.

"They all have their own fans, their own rooms," she said. "They have AC and then the

process of keeping their skin and hair together and looking lively is I have to buy what we call 'show shine' and 'show conditioner' and then they get baths on the daily."

One particular gilt didn't want
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