



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Knappa School Board is deciding what to do with 13 acres of forested land the district owns at the corner of Grand View Lane and U.S. Highway 30, north of its main campus.

Knappa schools mull future of timber property

Land could be logged or developed

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — North of Knappa School District lies a 13-acre rectangle of forested land the district owns.

Last sold to the Columbia School District in the 1960s and left to Knappa when it split with Clatskanie in 1998, the property is on the same lot as the main campus but cut off from the schools by U.S. Highway 30.

With few options to utilize the land, the Knappa School Board is deciding what to do with the property, directing Superintendent Paulette Johnson on Monday to seek the advice of a local retired forester on the value of the timber, while exploring with the county a possible partition of the land from the main campus.

Johnson said one forester commented he would not want to log around a ravine on the property, but that a Realtor determined there could be six buildable lots in the parcel. The school district had recently taken bids to log the land, but the school board was underwhelmed with a lone response valuing the district's timber at \$35,000, and declined.

Board member Cullen Bangs, a forest roads coordinator with the state Department of Forestry, suggested contracting Bud Henderson, a retired forester with Hampton Affiliates, to help the district determine the value of timber on the land and oversee any bidding process. "He'd be looking out for the interests of the school district," Bangs said.

Bangs said the last cruise of the timber stands was finished in 2012 by employees with the Department of Forestry. The department had worked with Knappa High School's forestry class and former student Kevin Tilander, who for his senior project helped cruise the timber and create a forest stewardship plan. Bangs said the cruise showed 231,000 board feet on the parcel north of the highway, and another 199,000 around the main campus to the south.

Board member Tammy Goozee said the school district could have Henderson help decide if logging is the best route, and if not, approach the county about the partition to make the property a separate lot. Bangs said the district could log the land and use the proceeds to help pay for a partition.

Board member Ed Johnson said he wants to know the value of the trees and of the property as is, considering potential buyers for residential property probably don't want the land clear-cut.

The school district is also deciding how best to deal with trees around campus potentially endangering buildings, fences and other infrastructure. Business Manager Nikki Fowler said the district's maintenance head, Bob Brockey, feels confident he can take most of the

trees down, aside from some precariously leaning toward buildings and other infrastructure.

In other news:

- The school board voted to accept a bid by Portland firm DOWA-IBI Group to perform a facilities assessment and public outreach campaign. The school district recently received \$55,000 in state Department of Education grants for the assessments. Johnson said the firm will determine the district's infrastructure needs and projected growth, which will help inform the district as it prepares for a possible bond measure to fund improvements. Fowler said the district's most recent bond — \$5.5 million passed in 2001 for various campus improvements — will be paid off in June 2021.

The state Legislature in 2015 passed legislation which created a matching state grant program for up to \$8 million for school districts that secure voter-approved bonds for capital improvements.

Good weather expected for eclipse

Patchy clouds predicted for the North Coast

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — Mostly sunny skies are expected next Monday in Oregon. Except for two minutes.

At a press conference Tuesday about the total solar eclipse that will come to Oregon, one of the rainier states, before moving across the country, perhaps the most anticipated news came from weather forecaster Tyree Wilde of the National Weather Service.

He predicted good weather on eclipse day, but said patchy clouds might appear, especially along the coast. The weather in Astoria is predicted to be mostly sunny.

"We really see no major weather systems coming our way," Wilde said.

He added that forecasters are keeping an eye on a weather system due to arrive on Tuesday, the day after the eclipse.

Up to 1 million people are expected to visit Oregon to see the eclipse, a quarter of the state's normal population.

Officials have been preparing for worst-case scenarios — roads jammed with traffic, cellphone services disrupted with people unable to call for

help, wildfires breaking out — with law enforcement, firefighters, ambulance services and other first-responders beefing up staffing.

The Oregon National Guard is also ready to help deal with the influx. Traffic could be the heaviest in the state's history, officials said.

Authorities, who have used response drills for a massive earthquake as a template for eclipse readiness, are hoping the worst case scenarios will not happen, like the Y2K computer bug that was projected to set off chaos at the beginning of the year 2000 but ended up causing few problems.

"We are working together diligently," Gov. Kate Brown said. "So we are hoping that folks use common sense as we move forward, that people will have a great time for the 2017 solar eclipse, particularly in the path of totality, and that everyone stays safe."

The eclipse will last only about two minutes in the total eclipse belt that includes Oregon, but visitors will start arriving days earlier. Tourism boosters hope they stick around for a while.

August is peak fire season in Oregon, and a forestry official said there have been more than 400 fires to date, including some in the total eclipse belt. Rains earlier this week helped clear the smoky skies that have limited visibility in many parts of the state, Wilde said.



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky

Gov. Kate Brown speaks in Salem Tuesday about the coming eclipse that will cross Oregon on Monday.

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A: The only effective method available to clean a mattress is to spot clean any soiled areas. The most effective method is to prevent soils or stains happening in the first place. The best way to prevent this from happening is to purchase a water-impermeable/air-breathable mattress protector.

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