

FISH: Chemical not harmful to other animals at the low concentration used in ponds

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fishery over with a clean slate, Duke said.

“You can’t control (goldfish) once they get in here,” he said. “They overpopulate and stunt themselves out.”

The same treatment will be done at nine other ponds across northeast Oregon, including: Keyhole, Granite Meadows, Goldfish, Yellow-jacket and Windy Springs ponds in Umatilla County; Luger and Peach ponds in Union County; Kinney Lake in Wallowa County; and Balm Reservoir in Baker County. The ponds will be restocked with trout and ready to fish again by next spring.

“That’s the whole goal of our program, to get better recreation and better opportunities,” said Kyle Bratcher, assistant fish biologist for ODFW in Enterprise.

Bratcher and Kevin Drake, of Pendleton, wore bright yellow Tyvek suits and respirators Wednesday as they rowed across Boundary Pond spraying rotenone over the entire surface of the water. Within minutes, dozens of fish could be seen gasping and struggling before going belly-up.

Bratcher said all the fish should be dead within a day. They will return Friday to check the pond and gather up as many of the dead fish as they can in nets, which they will bury at an ODFW site.

Two pesticide investigators from the Oregon Department of Agriculture were also on scene to make sure Drake and Bratcher followed instructions on the rotenone label, sprayed at the correct concentration and put up signs around the

pond to alert the public.

Rotenone is a naturally occurring substance found in the seeds and stems of certain plants. It has been used successfully before in Oregon to remove unwanted Tui chub at Diamond Lake on the Umpqua National Forest, and goldfish at Mann Lake in the Alvord Valley.

The chemical is not harmful to humans and other animals at the low concentration applied to the ponds, Bratcher said.

“It’s not possible to consume enough water or fish to get a lethal dose (of rotenone) for a small animal,” Bratcher said.

However, the ponds will remain closed to all recreation for at least four weeks until the rotenone naturally breaks down enough to meet drinking water standard. That should happen in three or four weeks, Bratcher said.

In all, it will cost ODFW about \$10,000 to treat all 10 ponds, Bratcher said.

“It’s all coming from license dollars,” he said.

Releasing live fish is illegal in Oregon without a license. Duke said he realizes people might have the best of intentions when transporting fish into new bodies of water, but it only creates problems moving forward.

“Let us be the fish managers,” Duke said. “Don’t be the Johnny Appleseed biologist and spread a whole bunch of fish around.”

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.



Kevin Drake and Kyle Bratcher, with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, use a rowboat to spray the pesticide rotenone to kill the fish in a pond Wednesday in the Umatilla National Forest east of Meacham.



Cannisters containing the pesticide rotenone sit in the back of a truck in the Umatilla National Forest on Wednesday east of Meacham.



District Fish Biologist Bill Duke posts a sign warning of the presence of pesticides at a pond in the Umatilla National Forest east of Meacham.

MARIJUANA: 55.7 percent of Pendleton voters rejected Measure 91

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Though marijuana sales would be banned, consuming, possessing and growing of small amounts of marijuana will still be legal under Measure 91.

If the council failed to ban marijuana sales before Dec. 24, a ban could only come through a voter approved referendum.

Kerns said she was concerned about the timeline with a voter referendum, which would appear on the November 2016 ballot at the earliest.

The city currently bans all marijuana-related businesses through its business license code, which prohibits any business that’s in violation of federal law. A city’s ability to do that is currently being contested by the state in a case against the city of Cave Junction, which is before the Court of Appeals.

Kerns said the case could be decided before November 2016, and if the court rules against Cave Junction, it could open the city to litigation.

Many councilors had no problem bypassing Pendleton voters to enact a ban.

Councilman Chuck Wood said the council has seen virtually no public support for recreational marijuana sales despite having “gobs”

of meetings about them.

And although the council had seen some support for medical marijuana, Wood felt there were still “kinks” that needed to be worked out in the dispensary system and favored banning both forms of marijuana sales.

Councilman Neil Brown said local voters had already made their choice against allowing marijuana sales during the November 2014 election, suggesting the city didn’t need to hold a second round of elections on the issue.

The 63 percent of Umatilla County residents that voted against Measure 91 was an oft-cited statistic during the meeting, but Pendleton voters didn’t reject the measure by the same margin.

According to the Umatilla County Elections Division, 55.7 percent of Pendleton voters rejected Measure 91. That means that of the 4,856 that cast a vote on Measure 91, 2,141 Pendletonians voted to legalize recreational marijuana while 2,715 opposed.

Although concerned about the administrative costs that would come with marijuana sales, Councilman Al Plute said trying to stop them was like “trying to hold back the sea” and supported putting a ban up

to a public vote.

Councilwoman McKennon McDonald said avoiding a referendum reinforces the top-down style of governing that many citizens dislike about the council.

“I feel something that’s so big, that effects the entire community in a way that people are really passionate about, I really think it should be the individual person’s decision rather than me sitting up here deciding for them,” she said.

Plute and McDonald were joined by Councilwoman Jane Hill in voting against a ban without a referendum, but they were in the minority. Wood, Brown, Councilwoman Becky Marks and Councilman John Brenne voted to direct Kerns to draft an ordinance that would officially ban marijuana sales in city limits.

Kerns said she would draft an ordinance in time for a first reading at the meeting, scheduled for Oct. 20, and final consideration at the Nov. 3 meeting.

Other items discussed at the meeting included:

- Clearview Mediation and Disability Resource CEO Darrin Umbarger gave a short presentation on wheelchair charging stations his organization is obtaining through a grant.
- Working with the Pend-

leton Parks and Recreation Department, Clearview will install charging stations at Museum Park, Community Park, Pioneer Park, Rice-Blakey Park, Roy Raley Park, Til Taylor Park, Brownfield Park and the Union Pacific Shelter.

With increased mobility comes increased responsibility — Clearview will host a training session to tutor wheelchair users on the rules of the road.

- The council unanimously approved a 70/30 split for funding streets.

Under the formula, 70 percent of a street utility fee and the proposed gas tax would go toward residential streets in good condition. The other 30 percent will be used for neighborhood streets in poor condition.

- The council unanimously approved to amend the sign code to remove some outdated references.

City Planner Evan Mackenzie said the Planning Commission will meet in November to discuss more significant changes.

- During the city manager’s report, Robb Corbett said he has been meeting with InterMountain Education Service District spokeswoman Michele Madril to discuss contracting her service to create a communications master plan.

GUNMAN: Investigators have not shared any motive for the killings

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again, went to the front of the classroom and shot and killed himself,” Wesenberg said.

The attack in this rural timber town was the worst mass shooting in Oregon history. Eight students and a teacher died. Nine others were wounded.

A private memorial has been held for Lawrence Levine, who was killed while teaching the class. Another private service was held Wednesday for 44-year-old Sarena Dawn Moore of Myrtle Creek. More funerals are scheduled through Saturday.

President Obama plans to travel to Roseburg on Friday to meet with victims’ families. Obama’s calls for stricter gun laws in the wake of the shootings did not sit well with many people in this conservative region, where gun ownership is pervasive.

Three county commissioners appeared at a news conference Wednesday to try to tamp down any suggestion that Obama was not welcome.

“Regardless of our differences with the president on policy issues, we await the president’s arrival and look forward to his show of support for a community who is grieving and whose heartache is immeasurable, especially the families of those killed,” said Susan Morgan, chairwoman of the Douglas County Commission, reading from a statement.

Investigators have not yet shared any motive for the killings.

They have seized 14 guns — six found at the college and eight at the apartment Harper-Mercer shared with his mother on the outskirts of Roseburg.

ARC: Benefits from reliable source of rent

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station, which has been running out of room at its Main Street location on nights the temperature dips below freezing this winter. She said the warming station benefits from more room and only paying rent for five months out of the year, while the ARC benefits from a more reliable source of rent than trying to fill evenings with private one-night event rentals instead.

Schroth said most of the ARC’s own events don’t go into the evening, and if the warming station opens on bingo nights the homeless clients using the station for the night will have a choice of showing up a little later than usual or sitting and having coffee in the side room while they wait for bingo to wrap up.

The ARC of Umatilla County is located at 215 W. Orchard Avenue in Hermiston.



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