

GOLF: No one in favor of privatizing the course

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had in the late 1990s, but increased play could help minimize the amount the city has to subsidize.

The course is open seven days a week, year-round when the weather obliges. Greens fees are \$25.50 for an 18-hole round.

Yet one of the issues with the course is that it is classified as an enterprise fund, meaning that it should generate revenue.

Councilor Ed Chesnut asked why the golf course couldn't be reclassified under the general fund, the city's property tax-funded discretionary fund that covers services like public safety, recreation, facilities and city administration.

While the general fund could help the golf course, City Manager Linda Hall said the revenue derived from the city's low property tax rate is already spread thin.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

The city of Milton-Freewater is looking for ways to fund their city-owned golf course.

Bradshaw said the city should pose a ballot question to voters to see if the course was valuable to the community.

"I don't think it's fair for the utility rate to be raised because we're trying to fund a golf course and there's little old ladies over there who can't even buy a can of soup," he said.

Hall said the city could

propose a general option tax that would support the golf course along with other recreational services like the pool and park playgrounds.

Although a recreation tax would generate more revenue, Hall said it could also create compression, a mechanism that causes taxing districts to collect less money in areas that

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— Dave Bradshaw, public works superintendent

charge more than \$10 per assessed \$1,000 for general government.

Between the council and staff, no one was in favor of privatizing the course, which they believed would leave the course in worse shape than it is now, or closing it.

Hall said she would return to the council with more details on the proposals discussed at the meeting.



Photo contributed by ODFW

Shaun Clements, research scientist with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, tests the waters of the upper Deschutes River for environmental DNA.

eDNA: Could give early warning for presence of non-native species

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which they will release over the coming months into the Alsea River. Once the tracers are captured, they will reveal their own unique code that will tell researchers when and how much was released.

If successful, Clements said the project could expand into a full study on rivers across the state in early 2017, including basins in northeast Oregon. The agency hopes sampling eDNA can come to replace many of the traditional methods of monitoring, such as electrofishing and surveys of spawning areas, which can take a lot of time and money.

ODFW is currently operating on a biennium budget of about \$370 million, and a task force has identified an additional need of \$79.9 million per biennium,

according to a recent report by the EO Media Group's Capital Bureau. Clements said eDNA sampling could be a step toward lowering operating costs in the department.

"I think the potential for cost savings here is very big," Clements said. "We're a very labor-intensive agency, and a lot of that could be replaced with eDNA sampling."

In addition, eDNA could give biologists an early warning for potential invasions by non-native species, such as quagga mussels, which could cause significant damage to fisheries and cost the state millions of dollars.

"eDNA has the potential to revolutionize fish monitoring," Clements said.

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

SKYLIGHT: Owner wants to turn building into event center

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now mostly vacant.

Three panes were missing from the original skylight and Hutchins took it upon herself to not only replace them, but do it in a way consistent with her exhibit.

"I became totally obsessed," she said. "There was no sense behind it, just my self-interest."

Having never worked with stained glass before, Hutchins collaborated with a fabricator to create panes that depicted similar shapes and themes of the seven abstract sculptures she had on exhibit.

The new panes were installed last week and are meant to emphasize the importance of symbols and how people assign value to them, drawing parallels between spirituality and art.

Although the Portland Biennium has been over for almost a month, Hutchins is re-welcoming the public to view the new addition to her exhibit.

The Christian Science building will open its doors



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

An installation by Portland artist Jessica Jackson Hutchins sits on display at the Christian Science building from last summer's Disjecta Contemporary Art Center's Portland Biennium in Pendleton. Hutchins also created three new stained glass window panes to replace broken ones in the building's skylight.

at noon on Saturday with a potluck reception at 5 p.m. DJed by Hutchins' husband Stephen Malkmus, lead singer of popular indie bands Pavement and The Jicks.

Peter Walters, who acts

as a local caretaker for the building, said the longterm future of the replacement panes is still up in the air, but they'll remain in the skylight in the meantime.

The building's owner,

Roger Bisnett, eventually wants to turn the building into an event center.

Contact Antonio Sierra at asierra@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0836.



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