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TESTS

Continued from page 1A

under the state averages for math (up to six percentage points). But Assistant Superintendent Kyle Tucker said the results aren't overly concerning, though the District still strives to improve the numbers all around.

"Many of our smaller schools' percentages will fluctuate in great capacity because two students not meeting the expectations can significantly affect the percentages," Tucker said.

In all grades, the Academy for Character Education (ACE) is consistently the highest scoring school in the District, followed by London in middle and elementary school grades and Cottage Grove High School for grade 11. In grade three and grade 11, ACE scored 100 percent in ELA, and the school's grade three students also scored 100 percent in math.

The School District overall is seeing a steady increase since the adoption of the Smarter Balanced assessment system.

BRIDGE

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of outer wood remaining."

Larsen wrote that compromising support for the suspension cables poses "a serious risk that could result in a catastrophic failure." He added that OBEC will continue calculating a load rating of the bridge that will help determine whether "replacing in-kind is the appropriate repair method" or if the capacity of the bridge members will need

MINE

Continued from page 3A

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality assessed the risk the mine's tailings — the remains of the mining process that still contain mercury that wasn't extracted during the process — in the 1990s, and the EPA conducted a cleanup

to be increased.

City Manager Richard Meyers said Monday morning that the bridge's load rating will be used to help determine next steps for its repair. Contrary to recent comments on social media, Meyers said that the City is not planning on removing the bridge but rather finding a way to fix it as soon as possible.

"We're trying to determine what we can do, what is the

fastest way to get it back open?" he said. "It's a major pedestrian passageway, and we want to get it open. There are no plans to tear it out."

Repairing the bridge was not included in the City's 2016-17 budget, and Meyers said the City is exploring delays to other projects that could allow the bridge repairs to proceed. He said the City is also attempting to determine just how old the bridge is.

that involved removing tailings above Dennis Creek near the mine in 2007.

According to the EPA, much of the mercury that appears in the watershed downstream comes from Furnace Creek, and the mercury in the reservoir has prompted a warning about consuming fish caught there since 1979. Much of the release of mercury corresponds with storm events there, according to the EPA's presentation given at its Sept. 14 public meeting.

The EPA hopes to reduce the mobility of the mercury at Furnace Creek by removing some of the mine tailings there, according to representative Judy Smith, who said the removal was chosen from a list of three alternatives. Smith added that the cleanup, which should be similar to the efforts undertaken in 2007, is "still a year or so out."

Comments offered at last week's meeting included the hope that local employees be in-

Drawings from the 1960s and 70s appear to showcase a bridge that was already standing, he said, and there is no definitive proof of its age. Still, anecdotal evidence indicates that a swinging bridge could have spanned the Coast Fork as early as the 1920s.

Meyers asked that anyone who witnesses trespassers on the bridge call 911 to report the action to police.

involved in the cleanup, and concerns about the health of those living around the mine site were also spoken.

Comment on the proposed cleanup will be accepted until Sept. 26. Comments can be mailed to Dave Tomten, Project Manager U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 950 W. Bannock, Suite 900 Boise, ID 83702 or sent via email to tomten.dave@epa.gov.

PESTICIDE

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to a selective type of broad leaf on a lot of the playing fields along with specific irrigation systems and extensive mowing.

"It's not that we want to spray," Allen said, "but we can't let our fence lines grow too tall because of city codes." The codes include the afore-

mentioned fire hazards, where weeds are not allowed to grow beyond 8-12 inches depending on the location, and also the requirement to prevent the growth of noxious weeds.

The School District is also bound by law to use certain chemicals that are on the "Low Impact Pesticide" list.

There is still wide debate among organizations such as the EPA and the Department of Agriculture about what chemicals are dangerous. But for now, the School District maintains that it needs to use limited spraying, though the ultimate goal is to keep reducing the use of chemicals.



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