

Kristy Merck (right) records sound waves from a French horn played by Kara Blair as physics instructor Ron Caramella monitors the computer screen readout. Spokesman file



# THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Dennis Lisius

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## Low-cost Burbank flights take off starting May 13

An Avelo aircraft at Hollywood Burbank Airport on April 7 in California. Avelo is the first new major U.S. airline in more than a decade.

Joe Scarnici/Getty Images for Avelo



For the introductory price of \$19, you can bypass LAX

BY JACKSON HOGAN  
The Bulletin

For \$19, you could buy two six-packs of craft brew in Bend. Once Central Oregon theaters reopen, that would also get you in to see a movie and get a small popcorn, too. But starting May 13, \$19 will get you all the way to Burbank, California.

Avelo Airlines — the first new major U.S. airline in about 15 years — introduced itself to the public Thurs-

day with 11 new routes, including one from Redmond Airport to Hollywood Burbank Airport. Avelo says the ticket price is part of a temporary, introductory offer.

Local tourism and business leaders see this new option as a win for Central Oregon.

“There’s just more options, which both visitors and locals appreciate,” said Julia Theisen, president and CEO of Sunriver-based tourism nonprofit Central Oregon Visitors Association. “It’s both convenient, and expanding the (Los Angeles) market for us, which is already strong.”

Avelo flights from Redmond to

Burbank will fly on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, according to Zachary Bass, director of Redmond Airport.

Although Redmond Airport already offers frequent flights to Los Angeles, this will be Redmond’s first route to an airport in the region that isn’t the infamously crowded and chaotic Los Angeles International Airport, commonly dubbed LAX.

Not only is Hollywood Burbank less of a mess than LAX, but it is also much closer to certain Los Angeles tourist hotspots, like Hollywood and Universal Studios.

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### SCHOOLS

## AN ‘EXCITED’ MAJORITY

Union leaders say Redmond, Bend teachers more comfortable returning to class post-vaccine

BY JACKSON HOGAN  
The Bulletin

Two months ago, Central Oregon teachers began receiving COVID-19 vaccinations ahead of much of the general population. By now, just about every teacher in Deschutes County who wanted to be vaccinated has been.

Because of this and other COVID-19 mitigation strategies in schools, the teachers’ union leader for Bend-La Pine Schools said most of her union’s members feel less nervous about returning full-time to in-person classes this month.

“Everyone having access to the vaccine if they want to be vaccinated, it ensures the educators’ safety,” said Sarah Barclay, president of the Bend Education Association. “There are a few people who still have concerns about the return to in-person, but the majority are excited.”

It’s a similar story in the Redmond School District, where Barry Branaugh — a board member of the Redmond Education Association — said he hasn’t heard many teachers express concerns about COVID-19 safety recently.

“It’s not much of a factor anymore,” he said.

Both Barclay and Branaugh said that local teachers are itching to see their students full-time again after a couple months of part-on-line school.

“The majority of our teachers are really excited to be back with students,” Barclay said. “That’s where they do their best work, that’s where students learn the most.”

The unusual hybrid schedule



**Carrie Price sets up her socially distanced classroom at Juniper Elementary School as Bend-La Pine Schools prepared for in-person lessons on April 1. Bend students returned to classrooms full time this week.**

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

for Redmond and Ridgeview high schools — two half-days, four days a week — has particularly been a pain for teachers at those schools,

said Branaugh, who teaches social studies at Ridgeview High.

“The consistency of a schedule that they’re used to, where they’re here four days a week full-time, I think will be good,” he said.

In Bend-La Pine, all grades returned to a full-time in-person school schedule on Monday. Redmond schools will do the same on April 19.

Although teachers appreciate Bend-La Pine actually enforcing COVID-19 mitigation rules like

mask wearing and social distancing, they don’t appreciate having to be the ones to make sure students follow those rules, Barclay said. It’s also nearly impossible, particularly at the larger high schools, to enforce distancing rules in cramped hallways, she said.

“When you talk about a high school with 1,500 to 2,000 students, and 75 teachers, there’s not enough people to make sure (rules) are being followed all the time,” Barclay said. “Educators are

spending their whole time being the enforcement police, rather than being able to have time with students between classes, or have a break or go to the bathroom.”

Dave McKae, a math teacher at Cascade Middle School, said Bend-La Pine Schools’ transparency on COVID-19 cases in schools — and the small number of cases since schools reopened — has reassured him about teaching in-person.

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**80%**

Percentage of K-12 teachers who are vaccinated in the U.S., according to a recent nationwide survey by the American Federation of Teachers.

**11%**

Percentage of staff who said their school districts went too far in returning to in-person classes, according to the survey.

**4/19**

The date when all grades go back to full-time in-person classes in Redmond.

## Spokesman Calendar

Events in and around Redmond

The Redmond Spokesman welcomes event information for its community calendar. Submissions are limited to nonprofit, free and live entertainment events. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday for the following Wednesday’s paper. Items are published on a space-available basis and may be edited. Contact us at news@redmondspokesman.com or fax 541-548-3203.

### WEDNESDAY 4/14

**Environmental Pet Allergies — A Deep Dive Discussion:** Join Dermatologist Dr. Jennifer Bentley to learn more about your pet’s environmental allergies and how they contribute to the syndrome of Atopic Dermatitis; 4-4:15 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/765778-0 or 541-210-9200.

**Volunteer Central Oregon Board Fair:** Forty Central Oregon nonprofit organizations will be offering opportunities for community members check out how to serve on their boards of directors and leadership committees; 4-6 p.m.; Central Oregon, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson Counties; go.evvnt.com/756423-0 or 541-280-5757.

**REDI News & Brews:** REDI News & Brews is an annual networking and investor outreach event that showcases the work REDI does for the

Redmond community; 4:30-6 p.m.; \$5 to \$20; Initiative Brewing, 424 NW Fifth St., Redmond; eventbrite.com

**Redmond School Board Special Meeting:** The board will discuss architect fee proposals, potential issuance of pension obligation funds, Jaqua complex and more; 5:30-7:50 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/765746-0 or 541-923-8250.

**Country Dance Lesson/Line Dance:** Award-winning dancer and choreographer Jordan Hunt will be teaching country dances in the outdoor space, dress warmly, no outside food or beverages allowed; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; General Duffy’s Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; go.evvnt.com/765713-1 or 541-527-4345.

**Classics Book Club:** Discussing “House Made of Dawn” by N. Scott Momaday; 6-7 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/753628-0 or 541-306-6564.

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