



THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Bret Jackson

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Redmond Airport sees pre-pandemic travel numbers

38,000 people passed through in May — nearly equal to May 2019

BY MICHAEL KOHN
The Bulletin

On a recent walk through the Redmond Airport, Zachary Bass beamed as he pointed out the airport's various new features: a third TSA check-in line, a new parking facility and, to the north, a new operations building.

But what pleases Bass most are the lines. People, many of them, lined up to board planes. Around a thousand luggage-toting travelers sweep through the doors before

8 a.m. For Bass, the director of the airport, it's a welcome sight.

"We think a lot of it is pent-up demand for leisure travel," said Bass, head of the airport since 2015. "We are expecting the summer to be pretty busy."

More than a year after the pandemic decimated the travel industry, the Redmond Airport is again showing promising signs of life. The number of travelers in the month of May was nearly equal to the number in May 2019 — around 38,000 passengers.

The return of passengers to the airport in 2021 is a relief compared to a year ago, when numbers, and revenue, plummeted around 90%. In March and April of 2020, only around 60 to 70 people checked in to flights each day. Now 1,200 to

1,500 passengers a day are flying.

What's the most noticeable change for those who haven't flown since before the pandemic? Masks, said Bass. Masks will be a federal requirement in all 50 states until Sept. 15 even if individual states drop their mask mandate.

Just walking into an airport may feel strange for some if they haven't traveled since the start of the pandemic.

"First-time fliers coming back are hesitant, they don't know what to expect," said Bass, who previously ran operations at U.S. Air Force bases, including a deployment to Iraq. "Then when they come back through, 'Awesome' (they say), you guys are taking all the right precautions."

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Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Travelers line up at the Alaska Airlines ticket counter in the Redmond Airport on June 8.

SAGE ADVICE FROM 2 GRADS

SENIOR PROFILES

BY SHEILA MILLER • Redmond School District
Editor's note: This is part of a four-week series of profiles.

Juliet Bloking

It's easy to take things for granted. Ridgeview High School senior Juliet Bloking knows that just walking across the stage at graduation this week is something she can feel proud of.

Juliet, 18, grew up primarily in Redmond — she went to Tom McCall Elementary and Sisters Middle School before a brief stint in Hawaii. She came back to Redmond as a sophomore, but was enrolled in online classes before returning in person to Ridgeview High School as a junior and senior.

Juliet had good reason to take online classes during her sophomore year. That year, she got "super sick," she said.

She couldn't stop vomiting, dropped 30 pounds off her already-slight 100-pound frame, struggled to even go up the stairs without getting dizzy or passing out. But while she knew something was wrong with her body, she said her doctors misdiagnosed her with an eating disorder — they thought she was lying. Only her mom believed her, she said.

"I knew I wasn't lying," she said. "But I started to think, 'What if I'm just crazy? What if I'm making it up in my head?'"

Turns out, Juliet had Addison's Disease, which prevents

the adrenal glands from functioning. The adrenal glands produce cortisol — without it, your body starts to shut down, including sometimes triggering a heart attack or stroke. A week in the ICU at St. Charles Bend left Juliet with a diagnosis and medicines to control her illness, but it's a lifelong struggle she'll have to keep fighting.

But it hasn't kept Juliet from achieving her goals. This year, she's taken a particular interest in Ridgeview's certified nursing assistant school — she took the exam to earn her certification last week. Juliet plans to move back to Hawaii and work as a CNA before going back to school to get her nursing degree.

BreAnna Pence

When BreAnna Pence receives her diploma at Redmond High School's graduation this week, it will be the result of true grit.

For years, BreAnna attended Connections Academy, an online public school program.

When BreAnna's father died three years ago, her grades, in her words, "plummeted."

The 18-year-old said trying to complete her work at home on a screen became increasingly difficult.

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Juliet Bloking, Ridgeview High.

BreAnna Pence, Redmond High.

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 6/16

Redmond Fire & Rescue Board Meeting: The board will discuss the adoption of the fiscal year budget, the lease agreement for Freightliner wildland FX-3 Pumper and more; 9:30-10:30 a.m.; online; go.evtnt.com/802733-0 or 541-504-5020.

REDI Annual Luncheon 2021 — Redmond Rising, Stories of Resiliency: The annual luncheon will include presentation on topics that apply to Central Oregon's economic development; 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; \$40 to \$55; Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond; eventbrite.com

Willow Springs Restoration: Land Trust restoration specialist Jason Grant and Mathias Perel from the Upper Deschutes Watershed

Council will give an overview of the upcoming restoration project at the preserve; Noon-1 p.m.; registration required; Deschutes County; go.evtnt.com/797364-1 or 541-330-0017.

Redmond Housing and Community Development Committee Meeting: A regular meeting will be held; 4-6 p.m.; online; go.evtnt.com/802399-0 or 541-504-3046.

One Kind of Owyhee: Get to know the unique landscape of the Owyhee Canyonlands, from the rolling rapids to the sagebrush plateau; 5-6 p.m.; registration required; Deschutes County; go.evtnt.com/802664-1 or 541-330-2638.

Mystery Book Club: Discussing "Red Lotus" by Chris Bohjalian; 6-7 p.m.; online; go.evtnt.com/781352-0 or 541-306-6564.

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Submitted and archive photos

The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

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