



THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Carol Wolfe

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File photo
Former Marine Dane Prevatt, right, one of the organizers for this year's Honor Flight, sports and Honor Flight T-shirt at previous organizing events for this past week's trip to Washington, D.C., war memorials.

Honor Flight returns to Redmond

BY ZACK DEMARS
The Bulletin

REDMOND — Two dozen Central Oregon veterans got a hero's welcome over the weekend.

After two years stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic, an Honor Flight took 24 veterans from the Vietnam and Korean wars to the nation's capital last week to visit memorials, tour museums and meet with Congressman Cliff Bentz. "A lot of guys said this was a very healing trip," said Dane Prevatt, the organizer of Honor Flight of Central Oregon.

The group, one of over a hundred local chapters, coordinates free flights and tours for area veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The trips are designed to show veterans the national memorials honoring their service that they might not otherwise be able to visit.

The organization's last flight was in May 2019, and organizers had to "gamble" a bit by making plans for this September's flight without knowing if the COVID-19 pandemic would allow them to go until a few weeks in advance. That gamble paid off

when the national Honor Flight organization gave the Central Oregon chapter the green light to make the trip.

"It was tough, but those guys, they were awesome. It was exactly what the honor flight should be," Prevatt said.

One highlight included an early morning visit to the National Archives.

"We got to see the original documents — the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and several original articles," Prevatt said. "When you join the military, you take an oath to defend the Constitution."

See Honor Flight / P4



CLEARING THE AIR

BasX doubles down on manufacturing expansion in Redmond, where it first set up shop in 2014

BY MICHAEL KOHN • The Bulletin
Driving into Redmond from the south along U.S. Highway 97, one will surely wonder — what is that massive new building going up on the east side?

In what looks like an airport hangar, sporting a huge BasX sign, is actually a manufacturing facility for HVAC systems specially designed for data centers, clean rooms and other high-tech facilities.

Matt Tobolski and Dave Benson, the founders of BasX LLC, are capitalizing on tech boom times, creating space-age systems for customers that are themselves growing like gangbusters. Their clientele list includes some of Silicon Valley's largest tech companies.

That's good news for the city of Redmond, which is making a name for itself as a manufacturing and light industry hub. BasX has been recently joined by Wild Mike's Pizza, which is

in the process of building a 270,000 square foot food processing plant in Redmond. The city is also home to medical supplies company Medline, dairy products producer Eberhard's, and jet aircraft manufacturer Stratos.

Rapid expansion

But with its new facility on Highway 97, BasX is emerging as a major player in the city of 30,000 people. The new building adds 90,000 square feet to the existing 110,000 square foot facility.

Inside, workers are busy building cooling solutions for data centers. They also churn out environmental control systems for cleanroom applications to be used at semi-conductor plants, pharmaceutical companies and operating rooms.

The company has come a long way since 2014 when Tobolski and Benson purchased an abandoned Walmart on Redmond's south side. At the time the pair spent \$6 mil-



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin photos

ABOVE: Construction is nearly complete on the 75,000-square-foot manufacturing floor expansion of BasX in Redmond. AT TOP: Employees build HVAC cooling and clean room systems at BasX.

lion to transform the Walmart into a manufacturing plant. Over the past 18 months, they've spent \$23 million on the new building and equipment.

Tobolski, who previously worked

as a consulting engineer, said it was a challenge to remake the Walmart building. But since the new facility is purpose-built, it has increased their efficiency immeasurably.

See BasX / P4

Bend pastor to run for County Commission

BY BRENNA VISSER
The Bulletin

Morgan Schmidt, a pastor with the First Presbyterian Church of Bend, is running for a seat on the Deschutes County Commission.

Schmidt, 36, is a Democrat and if she is successful in the primaries next May, will challenge Commissioner Patti Adair. Adair, a Republican, was elected in 2018. Adair told The Bulletin she is planning to seek reelection.

This is Schmidt's first run for public office.

Schmidt said she began considering a run for office after watching a county commission meeting in May, when Adair proposed an ordinance that essentially stated the county would not enforce capacity limits for churches for public health reasons.

"I couldn't believe our elected officials would be working against the good of the people," Schmidt said. Schmidt said she is disappointed in the way Adair has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by shooting down ideas, like incentivizing county employees to get vaccinated, and said the county needs leadership that is "not willing to listen to public health misinformation."

Near the beginning of the pandemic, Schmidt launched a Facebook page called pandemic partners, which connected people in the community who needed help with those who could provide it. Over the past year, she also has become a vocal advocate for Bend's homeless population, and helped coordinate emergency shelters for extreme weather events, like cold and smoke.

See Commission / P4



Schmidt

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 9/29

Know Des(s)erts — Dessert at Home With Ahja King: Learn how to make your own fruit pie crumble bars by following along with the virtual program; 6-7 p.m.; Free; Deschutes Public Library, online; deschuteslibrary.org

How to Start Running this Fall: Beginner runners looking to get outside, relieve stress and get some much-needed "me" time can learn more with this talk led by training group coach Michell Poirot; 6-7 p.m.; Free; FootZone, online; ceilingunlimitedhealthcoaching.com or 541-317-3568.

THURSDAY 9/30

Zoom in on Drying Fruits and Veggies: The class will teach participants how to dry fruits and vegetables safely. Register by noon

Sept. 29; 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Free registration required; OSU Extension Service, online; extension.oregonstate.edu or 541-548-6088.

All About Otters: Join Deschutes Land Trust and Jen Zaleski to learn about the river otters that call Central Oregon's streams and waterways home; 4-5 p.m.; Free; Deschutes Land Trust, online; deschuteslandtrust.org

Live at the Vineyard — Melody and Dave: The local duo will perform original Americana, blues, country and Southern rock, with covers from Patsy Cline to Tom Petty and everything in between; 5-8 p.m.; \$10 adults, children under 12 free; Faith, Hope and Charity Vineyards, 70450 NW Lower Valley Drive, Terrebonne; faithhopeandcharityevents.com or 541-526-5075.

Author Event — Dani and Hava Dennenberg: The authors of "Mirrors and Closets: Author The Complex Journey of LGBTQ Twins & Their Siblings" will discuss their book. This event will be held in person

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The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

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