

# Redmond's police chief reflects on a 35-year career

BY NICOLE BALES • The Bulletin

When Dave Tarbet joined the Redmond Police Department in 2008 as a captain, he had already retired from the Logan Police Department in Utah after 22 years in law enforcement. He was excited to resume police work, a profession he has known he has wanted to join since he was 9 years old.

Tarbet was appointed to interim chief in 2011 when Chief Ronnie Roberts moved to lead the Olympia Police Department in Washington state, and was named the police chief later that year.

Now, after what he calls the best years of his career, Tarbet plans to retire as Redmond's chief. In June, he announced his plans to retire at the end of December. Devin Lewis, who has been the department's captain since 2019, is the only finalist to replace Tarbet.

"Working at Redmond has been one of the most rewarding jobs I've ever had," Tarbet said. "The 14 years here have been the best of my law enforcement career. I hired some outstanding people and leave it in good hands, that's for sure."

During his tenure, Tarbet worked to im-

prove outreach, improving partnerships with schools, businesses and mental health partners.

He created the Street Crimes Unit, which is deployed to address property and drug crimes, launched an online crime reporting tool, initiated and became the first department in the region to use body cameras and worked to get the department properly staffed.

Tarbet created a forensic computer position, a role similar-sized departments often do not have, to handle an increase in digital evidence. In the last two years, the department also added a training sergeant to oversee the in-service training in the department and enhance the quality of the training, an idea initiated by Lewis, Tarbet said.

He was proud to promote the first female sergeant in the department's history a couple of years ago. Tarbet said the department has continued to expand its diversity at all levels, becoming the most diverse in Central Oregon.

He also put in place a succession planning strategy that led to his replacement being in-

house and built his current command staff.

In his time at the department, calls to help people in crisis have grown enormously. When he started, there were about 120 to 240 calls per year. Now, police are responding to more than 700 crisis calls per year.

Tarbet said most of the staff has crisis intervention training, which has become a critical skill for law enforcement officers.

He also initiated the planning for the relocation and expansion of the police station. The facility is expected to include a mental health triage center and the city plans to ask voters to approve a general obligation bond to help fund the project in May 2022.

Tarbet said working with his team and providing mentorship and advice when needed has been his greatest satisfaction. Tarbet is proud to be leaving the department better than he found it, and he credits his team for building and moving the department forward.

Lt. Jesse Petersen, a spokesman for the department, said Tarbet "has been a foundational leader, instrumental in steering the ship

of progress at our agency.

"His steadfast leadership and mentoring has been invaluable," Peterson said. "We are grateful for his commitment to this department and our community. We wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement."

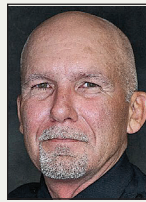
City Manager Keith Witcosky said he was fortunate to work with Tarbet for most of his time as chief.

"As he heads into retirement, he has left his indelible traits within the department: integrity, honesty, and compassion," Witcosky said. "You can walk anywhere in the community and his reputation is legendary."

Mayor George Endicott praised Tabet's tutelage at the department.

"We have maintained a professional workforce and seen our officers and staff keep their morale, even in the face of national upheavals in policing, and the impact of the pandemic," Endicott said in an email. "Chief Tarbet is quite the fisherman, especially for steelhead on the Deschutes River. I have gone fishing with him a couple of occasions. He is just as gracious out of work as he is at work."

Reporter: 541-617-7854, nbales@bendbulletin.com



Tarbet

# A TOUR OF FOOD TRUCKS

BY BILL BARTLETT

For the Spokesman

REDMOND — There is a good possibility that Redmond's food truck share of the city's total dining market exceeds that of the national market on average. Redmond has no fewer than 20 food trucks offering broad menus with diverse cuisines — BBQ, Asian, tacos, pizza, seafood, Italian being the most prevalent.

In Redmond, 11 are clustered — seven at General Duffy's Waterhole and four at Wild Ride Brewing. The others are scattered about, such as Hock & Jowl who are parked outside Rimrock Tapahouse on SW 17th and Highland Avenue.

Seems that food trucks and beer are married at the hip. When asked, all the food trucks we visited said that during lunch, food is ordered first followed by beer. It's the reverse for dinner.

The lunch market is heavy on construction and blue collar workers while dinner patrons run the gamut of workers and families. That's not to say that Redmond mom groups with little ones in strollers don't take in the scene for mid-day meals.

There are as many food trucks in Redmond as national and regional franchised chains like McDonald's, Burger King, and Pizza Hut. Google "burgers" in Redmond and you'll get about the same number as the number of food trucks. In other words, street food is a big deal in Redmond.

Nationwide there were 24,602 food trucks in the U.S. as of January according to market analysts IBIS World. The number of food trucks are growing annually at 7.5% but



Bill Bartlett photo

Noon time celebrants at General Duffy's cheering to the sunny weather as they await their food truck orders.

took a huge hit in 2020 — the year of Covid-19 — dropping from \$1.4 billion in volume in 2019 to \$1.24 billion. But that is a much smaller percentage loss than all restaurants taken as a whole whose sales declined

22% last year. Food trucks are more resilient and with their small, mobile operations, they are by definition nimble and more flexible.

Mask mandates and other Covid-19 abatement measures have hit indoor dining establishments hard. As every food truck diner eats either outside or takes the food home, government restrictions have not been so painful to their bottom line.

When watching a stream of diners last Friday at three lo-

cations, The Spokesman observed that Redmond street food followed national characteristics. IBIS reports that 18- to 34-year-olds make up 47% of customers followed by the 35-44 age group.

*Seems that food trucks and beer are married at the hip. When asked, all the food trucks we visited said that during lunch, food is ordered first followed by beer. It's the reverse for dinner.*

The Redmond Food Truck Scene is influenced by Portland which is considered the best place in the country to own a food truck according to Food Truck Nation. Unlike Portland, getting a food truck up and operational in Redmond is comparatively easy with fewer regulatory barriers to entry.

It's primarily millennials who are at the helm of Redmond food trucks. Chris and Emma Leyden typify the young entrepreneurs. Both worked at 900 Wall, a popular Bend eatery.

Chris, who hails from Charleston, South Carolina, works 12 hours a day, 6 days a week making Feast Food Company a success.

Their menu can best be summed as eclectic, from snacking to vegan to full throated protein dishes. Sure, you can get a cheeseburger, but the line this day is more interested in pork belly and veggies or a charred veggie salad or corn ribs.

"Redmond might be thought of as a burger town," Chris says, noting its Western roots. "Our customers not only expect but return in large part because we local source. That gets around."

"Besides, fresh, organic is just plain better," said Emma Leyden. They update their chalk board daily to show which area farms are supplying that day's eats.

Feast Foods is in the General Duffy Waterhole campus. Comprising 1.4 acres bound by SW Canal, SW Forest Avenue

and SW 4th Street, the property is home to seven food trucks, the "Angle", a live music stage, a tap house and a soon-to-open "Annex" that will serve as a second tapahouse with indoor seating and two patios.

The section of 4th Street that runs through the campus is actually owned by Duffy's and is closed to traffic. Likewise, the proprietors also own their half of Canal Street under an easement agreement with Central Oregon Irrigation District.

What do you get when you combine a stockbroker, a registered nurse of 34 years at St. Charles and a Redmond High School alum who graduated from West Point? General Duffy's Waterhole. Dick and Susan Robertson and their son Tanner are the trio who are turning the multi-use venue into Redmond's destination music and dining experience.

The Waterhole has live music about three times a week.

Earlier this summer they featured the band Everclear with special guests Floater and Dive Bar Theology. Robertson said the 1,500 tickets sold-report showed that 80% of the attendees were from Portland, illustrating the potential for Redmond to draw distant visitors.

General Duffy's with 20 taps also has weekly bingo and line dancing and occasional cornhole tournaments. "Bands bring crowds and the food trucks share in the rewards," Dick said. Indeed, every one of the food truck operators spoke highly of the symbiotic relationship with the Waterhole.

It's a similar bond at Wild Ride Brew where food truck vendors Food Fellas, Red Pizza, Shred Town and Wild Catch sing the praises of their landlord. With outdoor heating technology and hearty Redmonders as your market, the food truck scene can please your appetite year round.

**Leafy Filter** GLUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & 10% OFF

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-536-8838

**One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel**

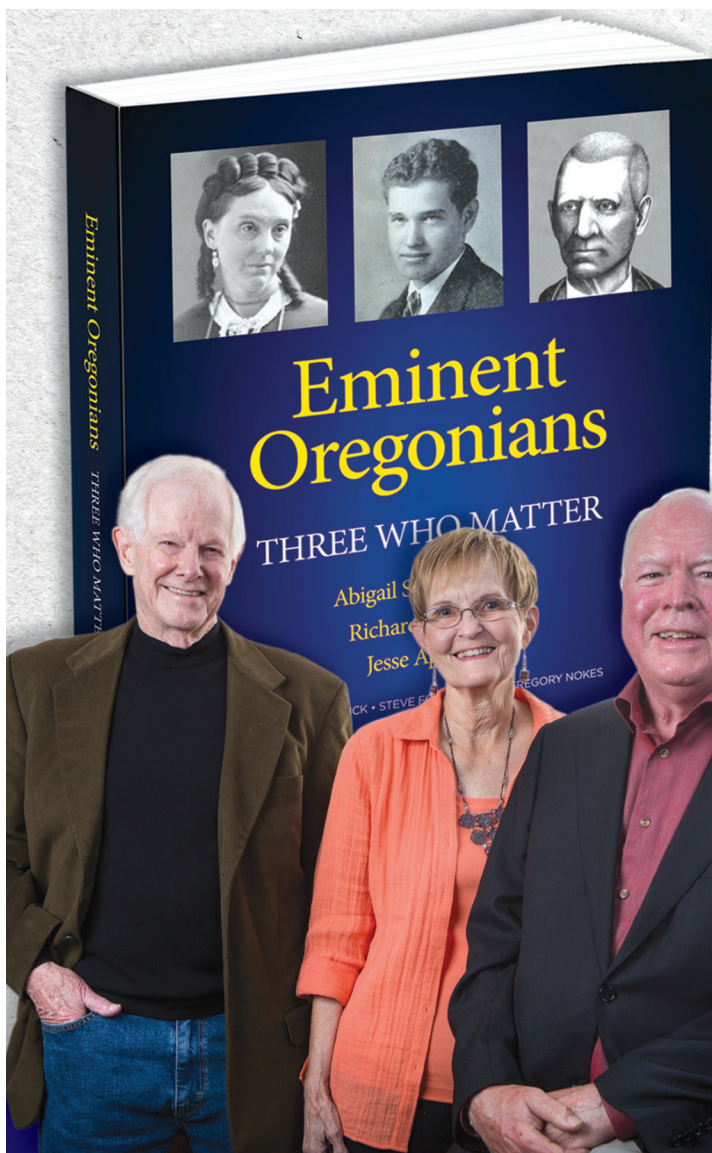
Introducing the INOGEN ONE — It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere — even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!

inoGen

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit 1-855-839-0752



## Live Public Forum

with the authors of Eminent Oregonians

Tuesday, October 12 • 5:45 p.m.

on The Bend Bulletin Youtube channel • [www.youtube.com/bendbulletin](http://www.youtube.com/bendbulletin)  
The public can ask questions during the presentation.

Sponsored by the Deschutes County Historical Society. Museum Director Kelly Cannon-Miller and The Bulletin Editor Gerry O'Brien will host

**"An inspiring and moving account of three people who helped create modern Oregon."**

— Nicholas Kristof, Author, Pulitzer Prize winner, human rights advocate

**Eminent Oregonians: Three Who Matter**  
Abigail Scott Duniway • Richard Neuberger • Jesse Applegate

- By Jane Kirkpatrick, Steve Forrester and R. Gregory Nokes
- Foreword by Chet Orloff • Preface by Steve Forrester
- 196 Pages. Published by Steve Forrester, 2021. Paperback, \$24.85

Order now: [www.emediagroup.com/books/eminent\\_oregonians](http://www.emediagroup.com/books/eminent_oregonians)