

COMMENTARY

Looking back on the school year

BY SHEILA MILLER

For The Spokesman

As every reader knows, 2021 was quite a year.

At the Redmond School District, we are hoping for a brighter 2022, but also looking back with pride at the accomplishments of our students and staff.

In 2021, we were able to bring students back to school full time in the midst of an ongoing global pandemic that shows no signs of ending. Our students persevered through a challenging time, and we're so proud of them!

Here's a look back at some of the Redmond School District's highlights of 2021.

Student accomplishments

After a tough 2020-21 school year, in June the Redmond School District held two in-person high school graduations where approximately 400 seniors celebrated the end of one part of their lives and the beginning of the next.

After an extended period of time in which gatherings weren't allowed, our district schools were able to hold band and choir concerts, plays and musicals, as well as athletic events. Our schools have also been able to hold many of their traditional events, including harvest festivals, caroling performances and jog-a-thons. It's been great to see families back in the buildings and students enjoying themselves!

In May 2021, Redmond High's girls golf team won the 5A state championship.

In October 2021, Ridgeview High's girls volleyball team took third at the 5A state championship.

Our school district was able to welcome volunteers back into the buildings.

In the fall, the district implemented the BRYT program in nearly every school, an intensive intervention for students facing



Sheila Miller

mental health conditions and extended school absences who struggle to stay and succeed in the classroom.

Over the summer, more than 1,000 students participated in some form of summer school. That meant kids in our K-5 summer camp, students getting ready for the next step in their education at Camp 6 and Camp 9, and high school students taking elective courses and participating in credit recovery classes. At the high school level, 274 participants, many taking more than one course, earned 286 half credits toward graduation. And 82 students completed a total of 161 credits in the credit recovery program. That's a lot of students getting ahead or getting caught up and ready to graduate.

COVID-19

Our students were able to return to classrooms in person, first in February for the 2020-21 school year, and then full time this fall. This, despite ever-changing mandates and uncertainties because of COVID.

Our school nurses and the COVID Response Team conducted nonstop contact tracing in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID in our schools, to positive results.

Our high schools worked in conjunction with the Deschutes County Health Department and Mosaic Medical to put on vaccine clinics for students in the spring.

Our staff responded to the state's vaccine mandate, with all of our staff members complying by either getting vaccinated or completing a medical or religious exception. Of our staff, 83% were fully vaccinated against COVID (including more

than 90% of teachers), while 17% received religious or medical exceptions.

Facilities and finances

We began planning and implementing facility repairs, additions and safety upgrades as part of our bond that voters passed in 2020.

The district sold a PERS bond, which is estimated to save our district about \$35 million over the next 20 years.

The district sold a piece of land to a company that will eventually bring jobs to Redmond and used the proceeds from the sale to improve the Rotary Community Fields at the David M. Jaqua Athletic Complex. The turf has now been laid and lights will be installed soon. The fields are expected to be playable by spring, and other facilities like bathrooms will be completed by early summer. This project provides opportunities for the entire community, and doesn't use any bond funds.

The district debuted a new website that is more user-friendly, intuitive and up-to-date.

After a two-day meeting with community members and school staff, the Redmond School District came up with a new mission and vision, which will be used to guide the district's work going forward. Vision: Thriving students. Engaged community. Ready graduates. Mission: Providing a supportive, inclusive, empowering and academically rich learning environment that inspires and engages students, staff and community.

A big thanks to our Redmond community for your continued support and goodwill. We look forward to another productive year in 2022 with our wonderful students and staff!

Sheila Miller is the Redmond School District Public Information Officer

Charged

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IHS Markit expects more than 100 models to offer a battery electric option in 2025. EV share could more than triple from 1.8 percent of U.S. registrations last year to 9 percent in 2025 and 15 percent in 2030.

Toyota is particularly bullish: EV sales will grow to as high as one in every six vehicles by 2030, predicts Toyota Motor North America. That would represent greater volume than all of the Japanese company's Lexus division in the U.S. Over at Ford you can get in line — a very long line — for the new 2022 F-150 Lightning, an all-electric pickup. Not your father's truck to be sure.

Tradition and legacy aside, Redmond will find itself in the gravitational pull to EV. Will it be ready? By that we mean will there be enough juice to charge the forecasted growing number of such cars? City managers say "yes."

It's hard not to say "Tesla" when thinking EV. Tesla, the visionary global leader in battery-powered autos, also knew that no matter how cutting edge their vehicles might be, there was no market without filling stations.

Consequently, they built and maintain nearly 1,000 stations that in some "super charger" locations will charge a Tesla enough in just 15 minutes to go as far as 200 miles.

The vast majority of EV's will be charged at home. That fact is itself a need for Redmond's infrastructure planners to get ready for the added electrical demand. Commuters, tourists, and shoppers from nearby communities will also rely on Redmond to get them juiced up from time to time.

Every EV comes with a built-in charging cord enabling it to connect to standard 110-volt household current. Thus, any Redmond campground or RV park with electric hook up will get you juice to recharge, albeit slowly — in the range of 2 to 6 MRH (miles range per hour) — essentially a trickle charge.

Redmond currently is more than meeting demand with its five — soon to be six — charging stations. The Spokesman has conducted sweeps and in a three-day period last week, we found only one car plugged into a public charging station, a Tesla at

"They don't pay for my gas. And they shouldn't. It irks me no end that I walk by here and see a fancy Tesla getting free gas in effect."

— Mike Dunleavy, Redmond man lives near Centennial Park

Centennial Park parking lot operated by the city offering two chargers.

The city will be adding a second charging location at its parking lot at Fourth and Evergreen. Each "pump" can fuel (recharge) one vehicle at a time. These are Level 3 "rapid" chargers. At the moment the city does not charge for recharging, something that bothers Mike Dunleavy of Redmond who lives near Centennial Park.

"They don't pay for my gas. And they shouldn't," said Dunleavy. "It irks me no end that I walk by here and see a fancy Tesla getting free gas in effect," he added. His walking pal, Todd Holmes, was even more offended by the idea. "Are you kidding me?" he asks Dunleavy.

Fred Meyer has a station, one pump, two hoses. There you can get Level 2 charging, about 14-35 MRH (miles range per hour) costing \$4 per session or a Level 3 charging yielding about 100 MRH for \$7.50 a charge for any brand.

Farther south at Central Community College you will find two Level 2 charger lanes (4 cars) and on the edge of town at the Redmond Air Tanker base is a Level 2 single lane (2 cars) and likewise at the far south end of town at Green Acres Market. All require payment and all are part of the ChargePoint network.

Future plans hope for chargers at the Public Works building, at City Hall and the new Public Safety building scheduled for completion in two to three years. A good amount of federal and state grant money is available for such projects that the City hopes to tap.

Nobody at the Redmond Police Department would go on the record as to if or when some of its patrol cars might be EV, but one officer said with a wink: "You do know that a Tesla will do zero to 60 in under 4 seconds, right?"

By all accounts Redmond can get you charged up just fine.

REDMOND



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

The homeless shelter is at 1350 U.S. Highway 97 in Redmond.

WARMING SHELTER IS OPEN

From a press release

Shepherd's House Ministries will open a daytime warming shelter in Redmond from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, December 28-30.

The daytime shelter will be located at 1350 S. Highway 97 in Redmond, a facility recently acquired by Shepherd's House awaiting renovation in coming months. With extreme cold daytime temperatures forecast for these days, Shepherd's House will provide a safe and warm space for people experiencing homelessness in Redmond.

Extreme cold temperatures pose a risk to the health and life of persons living outside, specifically a risk of frostbite and hypothermia. Shepherd's House is committed

How to help

Shepherd's House will welcome volunteers on site at this daytime warming shelter, and also invites donations of prepared food or snacks as well as bottled water. Financial contributions are welcome at www.shepherdshouseministries.org.

ted to feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless.

Redmond City Director Andrew Hoeksema said, "Our commitment to caring for our most vulnerable neighbors means going beyond overnight sheltering when extreme weather conditions demand it. As

many of us in Central Oregon enjoy the holiday season, our unhoused neighbors are at significant risk in these very cold days. We will partner with Redmond community members to welcome them inside, offering simple food and safety as a way to care those who need it most."

Shepherd's House Ministries has partnered with Redmond churches to provide overnight Cold Weather Shelter since 2014. The overnight Cold Weather Shelter is open from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m., and is hosted by Mountain View Fellowship Church December 16-February 15.

A van will be used to transport guests between the overnight shelter and the daytime shelter.

Zwicker

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She claims to be neutral about development but says "It's inevitable, especially with all that Redmond has to offer."

As a Realtor she sees Redmond's growth and wants to help make sure that smart infrastructure keeps pace with a growing community. She is impressed with the work so far by the city to manage the pace of change.

Commensurate with the rapid rise in population,

Zwicker has concerns with child care availability and unfilled jobs. She laments the decline of affordable housing and would like to see less emphasis on renting and more on ownership.

"People want to have skin in the game, equity in their future," she posits. For example, she hopes that there will be more condominium-style housing on the horizon where younger families can be stakeholders, not tenants for life.

She prides herself in being a good listener, preferring mediated solutions that are win/win.

When asked why she wanted to serve on council she replied: "I love what I do, and I am not afraid to say 'no' when needed. I don't scare. I think I can be a good liaison to all of our citizens."

Zwicker, with a degree in political science, does not find being a self-described passionate advocate or serving on council as political. She sees her role of public service as just plain old-fashioned stewardship, something she learned from her parents, particularly her dad who did three tours in

Vietnam. She credits her mom for her positive outlook that she evokes with every answer.

She admits to public service goals beyond the city council yet fully expects to run for a full term in 2022.

Mayor George Endicott had this to say about Zwicker, one of the three finalists: "She is incredibly smart, very logical, and does her homework. After watching her on the planning commission for a number of years, I was convinced that she was the right person for the position. She will do a great job."

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