

# FBI monitors event decrying pandemic mandates

BY BRYCE DOLE

The Bulletin

REDMOND — The FBI monitored local members of the far-right People's Rights group as they planned for what has become an ongoing 10-day protest against pandemic rules outside of Redmond High School.

The bureau's concern, expressed in an update to Redmond Police on Jan. 19, prompted Chief Devin Lewis to inform Redmond School District Superintendent Charan Cline that officers would be present at the school, according to documents obtained by The Bulletin. The FBI told police that the protest group is expected to grow to as many as 200 participants next week.

In an interview, Lewis said police are not concerned about the protest nor the people involved, noting that they have not yet broken any laws. The FBI would not provide further comment.

"The FBI does not comment on what may or may not be an investigative matter," said FBI spokesperson Beth Anne Steele. "However, we regularly exchange information with local, state, and federal partners concerning potential threats and public safety matters, especially when there are possible threats in a school setting."

Both Lewis, and the FBI, acknowledged the group's First Amendment rights. But there is a line they can't cross, Cline said Tuesday.

"People have a right to protest in America. But they don't have a right to disrupt school operations," he said. "So we've asked them to stay off our campuses, because that's not OK."

Scott Stuart, a Deschutes County Commission candidate and Redmond resident who sent vaguely threatening email to the Redmond School District in recent months, organized the protest, he said in an interview Wednesday.

"It was my idea," Stuart said, laughing. "I'm having fun."



A group against wearing masks rallies Thursday as students walk by at Redmond High School.

Stuart said the group will gather at the Nolan Town Center from Jan. 24-Feb. 4 and give students literature that they claim shows that pandemic mandates are lawless. The group will also hand out gift cards for free lunches at local fast food establishments to entice students into rebelling against things like masking and vaccines.

Stuart, who sparked community concern last year after wielding a Confederate flag in a local Fourth of July parade, described the gift cards as a counter to state-run vaccine incentives meant to encourage students to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The protest has only involved small groups of people daily. On Wednesday, they went home early because it was too cold, Stuart said.

And the protest has had little to no impact on students, except for making some students late to class due to long lunch lines at McDonald's, said Redmond High School principal Audrey Haugan.

"The kids just seem most interested in the gift cards they're getting over there," Haugan said. "I don't know what their messaging has been verbally to our kids. But all the kids have come back and said they got a free lunch."

Haugan said it has seemed to her that there has been an increased police presence around the school and nearby town center this week, but Lewis said that's not true.

Haugan said she doesn't mind protests. Her only concern is if the group provides misinformation about the constitution, student rights, or mask requirements, she said.

Redmond Police are not concerned about Stuart's comments, Lewis, the chief said. "We hear lots of things," Lewis said.

But Redmond City Councilor Clifford Evelyn said he is concerned about Stuart and the protest.

In the emails, obtained by The Bulletin and published this week, Stu-

art said he is "praying God will allow the public gallows to return" for Gov. Kate Brown and others who create pandemic rules. He also sent vaguely threatening messages to the district's school board members and Cline, describing a "day of reckoning" for public officials if pandemic rules are not removed.

Evelyn, a former commander of the Clark County Sheriff's Office in Washington, said Stuart's messaging raises "red flags." While Stuart said earlier this week that he wouldn't personally inflict harm upon a school board member, emphasizing a goal of "peaceful noncompliance," Evelyn said Stuart's comments run the risk of inciting violence.

"Someone with a mental illness could sit back and take (Stuart's comments) as a signal to, 'We need to do something about this, and we need to do something bad,'" he said. "And we don't want to take that gamble."

As a former law enforcement offi-

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cer who served on boards focused on issues related to mental illness, Evelyn said "when people like Mr. Stuart say the things that he says, it's very simple to spark somebody in the wrong direction or cause a problem."

"When we start dragging kids into it, that becomes more problematic," Evelyn said. "We don't want some young teenager to get so pressured by what he believes this man is saying that he takes up arms and goes to a school and does something harmful to our children."

Stuart's email to Redmond educators also drew concern from state and local officials earlier this week. Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel said Stuart's messages "should disqualify him from serving as an elected official" but were not crimes because they were not directly threatening. A spokesperson for the governor said that although Brown encourages free speech, "it is disheartening when disagreements are expressed as threats — especially when coming from a candidate for political office."

People's Rights is an extremist group founded in 2020 by Ammon Bundy, an activist who was the leader of the 2016 armed takeover and standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The group pushes back against what it calls government overreach, and decries pandemic restrictions.

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## PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

# NONLEAGUE 'DOG FIGHT' FOR 32 MINUTES

Mountain View Cougars overtake Ridgeview Ravens with late-game heroics from Quincy Townsend in 54-49 victory

BY BRIAN RATHBONE

The Bulletin

REDMOND — A non-league, inter-classification basketball game between two teams destined for the postseason seemed like the perfect opportunity to take it easy before gearing up for the final stretch of the regular season.

Wrong.

As Mountain View coach Bob Townsend put it, it was a "dog fight" for 32 minutes at Ridgeview High in Redmond on Tuesday night.

In a battle of former — and future — Intermountain Conference foes with a combined 24 wins between them, 6A Mountain View squeaked out a 54-49 win over 5A Ridgeview, taking the lead in the final minutes after trailing nearly the entire game.

The Cougars (11-4 overall, 2-3 Mountain Valley Conference) had two things working in their favor the final two minutes once the Ravens (10-6, 1-1 IMC) took their largest lead of the game of nine points.

The first was a 1-2-2 zone-press defense. The Ravens built a 47-38 lead after a seven-point scoring spurt by Ryan Asplund, but once Mountain View went to its press, Ridgeview had no answer. In the span of 30 seconds, the Cougars forced three turnovers in the backcourt and scored seven straight points to cut the Ravens' lead to 47-45.

"That was the hardest we played," Townsend said. "We are a really good defensive team when we compete and play hard."



Brian Rathbone/The Bulletin photos

Mountain View's Quincy Townsend backs down Ridgeview's Ryan Asplund during the Cougars' 54-49 win over the Ravens Tuesday night in Redmond.

Still, with just over a minute remaining, Ridgeview took a 49-47 lead following a pair of Aidan Brenneman free throws. Then the second prong of Mountain View's comeback came into play — a 15-year-old who has long dreamed about being a varsity player for Mountain View.

Freshman Quincy Townsend scored seven points in the final minute — a

3-pointer to give the Cougars the lead, then closed out the game by going 4-for-4 at the free-throw line — to lift Mountain View to the five-point win.

"I love basketball and that is what I love to do," said Quincy Townsend, who scored a game-high 33 points. "I love those moments when the game is on the line."

The Cougars trailed 27-24 at halftime, and the young Townsend sensed that he needed to shoulder more of the scoring load in the final 16 minutes.

"Tonight I was trying to pass and get my teammates involved, but when I needed to shoot, I shot," said Quincy Townsend, who scored 21 of the team's 30 second-half points.

It would not be surprising if moments like Tuesday night were envisioned in the high school gym in The Dalles — where his dad coached for nine years before the family moved to Bend in 2014.

"He would pick me up from preschool every day and I would try and practice with the players and that is where it all started," Quincy Townsend recalled. "Since then all I've wanted to do is be a varsity basketball player."

It is often a tricky balancing act for a coach who is watching his son blossom into a basketball star from the sideline, as the team's success takes priority.

"You want to be excited in the moment, but you



Ridgeview's Ryan Asplund glides in for a layup during Ridgeview's 54-49 loss to Mountain View on Tuesday night.

season berths. The Ravens are ranked No. 9 in this week's 5A coaches poll and will face The Dalles in an IMC matchup on Thursday.

Mountain View will travel Friday to face Sprague, which is undefeated in MVC play. The Cougars will go into that

game as healthy as they have been all season, according to Townsend.

"I feel pretty good that we are 11-4 through the main stretch," Bob Townsend said. "It will be nice to have all the bullets in the chamber. We have to continue to compete, but I like where we are sitting and the opportunity that is in front of us."

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## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Baptist	Non-Denominational
<p><b>Highland Baptist Church</b> 3100 SW Highland Ave., Redmond 541-548-4161 Barry Campbell, Lead Pastor</p> <p><b>Sunday Worship Services:</b></p> <p>Blended - 8 &amp; 9 am Contemporary - 10:30 am (Worship Center)</p> <p>hbc Español - 10:30 am Acoustic - 6 pm (Youth Room)</p> <p>*9 am &amp; 10:30 am live-streamed on website: <a href="http://www.hbcredmond.org">www.hbcredmond.org</a></p> <p><b>Family Night Wednesdays</b> (January 2 - March 16)</p> <p>5:30 pm - Dinner in Gym (free) 6 pm - Practical classes for all ages</p> <p>See website for a list of classes!</p> <p>How can hbc pray for you? <a href="mailto:prayer@hbcredmond.org">prayer@hbcredmond.org</a></p> <p><b>CHECK YOUR AD</b> On the first day it runs to make sure it is correct. Call 541-617-7823 for corrections.</p>	<p><b>Seventh Day Adventist</b> 945 W. Glacier Ave., Redmond, OR 541-923-0301</p> <p>Sabbath School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am</p> <p><b>Roman Catholic</b></p> <p><b>St Thomas Roman Catholic Church</b> 1720 NW 19th Street Redmond, Oregon 97756 541-923-3390</p> <p>Father Todd Unger, Pastor</p> <p><b>Mass Schedule:</b> Weekdays 8:00 am (Except Wednesdays) Wednesday 6:00 pm</p> <p>Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm First Saturday 8:00 am (English)</p> <p>Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am (English) 12:00 noon (Spanish)</p> <p>Confessions on Wednesdays From 5:00 to 5:45 pm and on Saturdays From 3:00 to 4:30 pm</p>

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