



THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Kathryn Outwater

redmondspokesman.com @RedmondSpox

COVID-19: Redmond schools

Board passes new mask resolution

Decision came hours before Gov. Brown announced state would lift its indoor mask mandate March 12

BY BRYCE DOLE
The Bulletin

The Redmond School District on Monday passed a resolution making masks optional in schools when Oregon lifts its indoor mask mandate,

nullifying a previous and controversial decision to defy the state's mask mandate.

The board's unanimous decision, approved during a special meeting, came just hours before Gov.

Kate Brown announced that Oregon would join California and Washington in lifting its indoor mask mandate March 12.

That means Redmond students can shed their facial coverings in the classroom March 14.

Board members welcomed the state's recent decisions to move up the end of indoor mask mandates in Or-

egon, which comes during a steady statewide decline in coronavirus cases.

But the board's latest move came amid mounting pressure from state agencies, and employee unions, after the board passed a resolution Feb. 16 that would take pandemic mitigation from the district's control and hand it to the discretion of parents and guardians.

That resolution, in effect, would have made masks optional starting Wednesday, well ahead of the state's previous March 31 deadline for lifting masks.

Superintendent Charan Cline told the board during the Feb. 16 meeting that the district was asking teachers to break the law.

See **Masks** / P5

'PASSION PROJECT'

Junction Roastery and Social Club now open in historic Patrick building



Gerry O'Brien/The Spokesman

Mitch Thisius and Bo Olson, from left, opened the Junction Roastery and Social Club in Redmond two weeks ago. It is located in the Patrick building, 708 SW Deschutes Ave. in Redmond.

BY GERRY O'BRIEN • The Spokesman

Reviving hospitality is the key ingredient at the heart of Junction Roastery and Social Club in Redmond.

The coffee shop in the historic Patrick building opened two weeks ago to crowds of folks in downtown Redmond seeking coffee and conversation. But plans are to make it so much more.

Owners and operators Bo Olson and Mitch Thisius have been looking for the right venue to put their vision into action — bring people back together again in person, post pandemic that is.

"All of it boils down to hospitality," said Olson. "It's human nature to socialize, and we've seen over the

last couple of years how pent-up people are. We want to provide a place for coming out of the pandemic, getting people back together again to socialize. It's sort of our passion project."

"That's the idea of the name, Junction," said Thisius. "We want people to experience a place where

there's a meeting of the minds, lower their guard, getting together over a cup of one of the world's oldest beverages — coffee."

And not just any coffee, but a specialty brew closely monitored by the baristas. (Barista training takes up to 40 hours to ensure it's right).

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REDMOND

Council OKs bond measure for police station

\$40M measure will be on May 17 ballot

BY JOE SIESS
The Bulletin

The Redmond City Council voted to put a \$40 million bond measure on the May 17 election ballot, asking taxpayers if they are willing to fund the construction of a new police station.

The resolution passed 5-2 Tuesday night at the council's regular meeting, with councilors Ed Fitch and Clifford Evelyn voting against it. The two councilors expressed their desire that the council commit to a \$49 million budget cap for the project, which is the amount it is expected to cost when it is completed by 2024 or 2025.

The resolution states the general obligation bond, which will be used to fund only the construction of the building, is "not to exceed \$40 million." The rest of the \$9 million funding will come from the federal government and the city's general fund.

Keith Witcosky, Redmond city manager, said discussion about the \$49 million budget cap question will be revisited during the council's meeting March 8.

If accepted by voters in May, the city will have the authority to tax Redmond homeowners an average of around \$12 a month, or \$148 a year to help cover the costs of building the new police station.

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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 3/2

Toast & Jam: The roots band will perform; 5-8 p.m.; free; Wild Ride Brewing Co., 332 SW Fifth St., Redmond; wildridebrew.com or 541-610-2520.

Thursday 3/3

Thrive Central Oregon Walk-In Consultations: Walk-in social services assistance that connects you with resources; 1-4 p.m.; Redmond Public Library, 827 SW Deschutes Ave., Redmond; deschuteslibrary.org or 541-312-1050.

Parks Committee Meeting: A regular meeting will be held; 3:30-5:30 p.m.; free; Redmond City Hall, Online; redmondoregon.gov or 541-923-7710.

Paint the VFW Pint Night: The brewery will be donating \$1 per pint sold to help buy the paint. There will also be a silent auction and an opportunity to make a direct donation; 5-8 p.m.; Wild Ride Brewing Co., 332 SW Fifth St., Redmond; visitredmondoregon.com or 541-610-2520.

The Ballybogs: The Irish traditional music band will perform; 6-8 p.m.; free; Porter Brewing Co., 611 NE Jackpine Ct. 2, Redmond; porterbrewingco.com or 541-504-7959.

Friday 3/4

First Friday: Art will be on display at participating businesses as well as local musicians and makers playing music and

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