

# Senior center partners with Redmond schools, Meta to clear tech hurdle

From a press release

The Redmond Senior Center is partnering with Redmond School District and Meta to launch Tech Zoomers, a technology support program targeted at helping older adults with technology challenges and training.

Meta provided a \$3,000 grant to support this pilot program, which will be held from March through June. Students from Ridgeview High School's computer science and technology classes have volunteered to be a part of the inaugural program and will be official interns of the Redmond Senior Center.

"We are excited to support technology workshops and learning experiences for seniors across Central Oregon, as well as internships for local

students. Technology is at the forefront of our future, and investing in educational programs throughout Central Oregon is integral to Meta's mission to connect people on and off line and help build community," said William Marks, community development manager at Meta in a press release.

Meta — formerly known as Facebook — has been part of Central Oregon since breaking ground on its Prineville Data Center in 2010.

Students will partner with seniors to help teach them new skills or provide technological support. Not only will the students gain real-world experience of providing resumes and conducting all necessary prepwork for an internship or job, but they will also learn valuable lessons through this in-

tergenerational program. The student volunteers have spent weeks coming up with name for the inaugural program and preparing for their official internship with the help of EDCO's Youth Career Connect Internship Coordinators.

"This new program will be valuable for both our older adults and the students. Intergenerational events and programs benefit everyone involved, and we couldn't be happier with the students that Redmond School District has found to support Tech Zoomers," said Maureen Dooley, Redmond Senior Center Board of Directors President.

"Their eagerness to be part of something new and make it their own speaks volumes to the character and

caliber of these students."

Annually, the Redmond Senior Center provides over 40,000 hot meals and supports thousands of older adults through hundreds of programs and activities. During the height of the pandemic, the senior center continued to provide Meals on Wheels for isolated older adults throughout the greater Redmond area and offered a place where older adults could safely connect, obtain services, and participate in programs both in-person and virtual.

The center is in the process of coming up with intergenerational activities that will involve broader groups in the community.

"I wanted to participate in this program to give back to the community."

These senior citizens have done so much for us; I feel like it's time we give back," said Dhruv Patel, a senior at Ridgeview High School who plans to attend a 4-year university next year to major in industrial engineering and minor in computer science.

The Redmond Senior Center hopes to continue and grow this program in coming years depending on the success of this pilot launch. Josh Davis, a Computer Science teacher at Ridgeview High School, and the school district lead helping spearhead this program stated, "This is a great opportunity for some amazing young adults to share their tech skills and knowledge with others while learning the value of giving back to their community."

# THE LONG ROAD TO KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

BY SHEILA MILLER

Redmond School District Public Information Officer

These days, it seems like guidance and restrictions regarding COVID change daily, if not hourly. Back in early February, Gov. Kate Brown announced masks would no longer be required in schools on March 31. Then, on Feb. 24, the state moved that end date to March 19. On Monday, that date moved back again, this time to March 31.

In February, Central Oregon's superintendents sent a letter to the state, advocating for schools to be able to make masks optional at the same time as the rest of the state, rather than waiting until March 31.

The Redmond School District's Board of Directors has also long advocated for a return of local control, to allow local leaders to decide what was needed in our schools. In February, the board passed a resolution, 4-1, directing district leaders to come up with a plan that would make masking



Miller

optional after March 2.

This created some issues for our district officials, as it asked us to go against state law and to ask our employees to do the same. It also caused state regulatory agencies to begin sending us letters warning of fines and penalties. On Monday, the board reconsidered that directive and issued an updated resolution that directed us to follow state deadlines for masking.

It's been a long road to get to this point — two years ago, our schools closed for what we thought would be a short time to deal with the new threat of COVID-19. Today we're all well-versed in terms like social distancing, contact tracing, and comprehensive distance learning. Back in January and early February, we had dozens of new COVID cases

among students and staff every day. Today, those numbers are dropping fast.

Now, in less than two weeks, we'll have the surest sign yet that our schools are getting back to normal, as masks will become optional for students and staff. We know that this is a reason to celebrate for many, and that for others it will be a nerve-wracking experience.

Masks continue to be recommended in our schools, particularly for those who are unvaccinated or immunocompromised. Our schools will not tolerate any bullying surrounding masks — against those choosing to wear them, and against those who do not.

And making masks optional means asking, once again, that families be sure not to send their kids to school when they are sick. If we've learned one thing over the past two years, it's that we have to come together as a community to keep each other safe and healthy. That doesn't end when masks be-

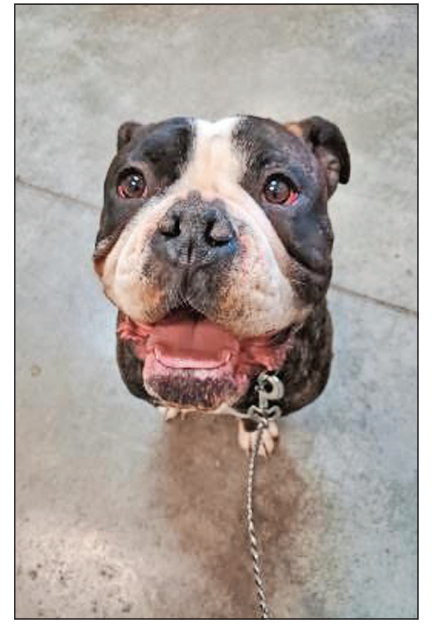
*Now, in less than two weeks, we'll have the surest sign yet that our schools are getting back to normal.*

come optional.

We expect that in the coming days and weeks, the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education will announce more changes to COVID-related school rules — around things like quarantine and contact tracing. As those are announced, the Redmond School District will do what it's gotten very good at — nimbly making changes that help keep our school communities safe and healthy, and that keep all our students at school every day.

For now, we are so pleased that COVID seems to be declining in our community, and we look forward to seeing many healthy students with big smiles in just a couple short weeks.

## PET OF THE WEEK



Submitted photo

Meet Joker! Joker was surrendered to BrightSide for some behavioral issues, which leads us to believe he would do best in a home with no other dogs.

Joker is described by his previous owner as very affectionate and knows some basic commands. Joker is a big and sweet boy that would love to meet you.

If you think Joker could be the right fit for you please come to BrightSide!

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### CROSSWORD

Weather Watch

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Neil Mansua

**ACROSS**

- 1 David's partner
- 5 Buzz
- 10 Samoa's capitol
- 14 Type style: abbr.
- 15 Travel pattern
- 16 Fed. mediators
- 17 Protective clothing
- 20 Without limit
- 21 Citizen of 12 Down
- 22 Dryer for malt
- 23 Eminence lead-in
- 25 Not quite
- 28 Natural fiber
- 29 US flying group
- 32 Angered
- 33 Unheralded writer
- 34 Cartoonist Gardner
- 35 Ify forecast
- 39 \_\_\_ was saying
- 40 Fraser, of tennis
- 41 Abate
- 42 Sunday lec.
- 43 Escritoire
- 44 Gave a dime
- 46 British isles
- 47 Famous dog
- 48 Health shrub
- 51 Low wrestling grip?

**DOWN**

- 1 Sentence or line
- 2 Blame \_\_\_ Rio
- 3 A royal family
- 4 British upper house members
- 5 Stylish
- 6 Ridicule
- 7 Not safe
- 8 High degree
- 9 Wide shoe
- 10 Opposite of poised
- 11 Type of bargain
- 12 Farsi spoken here
- 13 Shelter
- 18 Well being
- 19 Theater or bridge
- 23 Either berry or neck
- 24 Beginning in Hebrew

**55** Fair weather indicator

**59** Imitated a monkey

**60** Bellybutton homophone

**61** Pete or tea

**62** Good fits

**63** Hunts

**64** Potential plant

**25** Thatchers

**26** Uneven

**27** Odin's followers

**28** Pimple

**29** Abaft

**30** Brief

**31** Happened to a joint

**33** Composer Philip

**36** Legendary cycle

**37** Shade of red

**38** Rides out

**44** Reels

**45** Fool's creation

**46** Basic neutralizers

**47** Deviate

**48** Midway through QED

**49** Ready

**50** Understanding words

**52** Western tribe

**53** Majeste lead-in

**54** Historic Scott

**56** Leading indic.

**57** Estop

**58** Hail!

Answers on Page 6

### SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9, with no repeats.

3	4							8
1			3	8		5		
					2			
4			7			6	9	
		6				8		
	2	1				8		3
			5					
		5		1	6			7
7						4		1

MEDIUM # 73

Answers on Page 6

### WEATHER

FORECAST	HIGH	LOW	
Wednesday	57	38	Showers
Thursday	47	27	Showers
Friday	47	30	Cloudy
Saturday	46	26	Partly Cloudy
Sunday	47	22	Partly Cloudy
Monday	45	23	Partly Cloudy
Tuesday	43	19	Partly Cloudy

LAST WEEK	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
Monday, Feb. 21	40	22	0
Tuesday, Feb. 22	24	9	0
Wednesday, Feb. 23	26	-6	0
Thursday, Feb. 24	32	9	0
Friday, Feb. 25	46	4	0
Saturday, Feb. 26	54	14	.01
Sunday, Feb. 27	56	38	0

Precipitation to date this year: .74 inches

\* = daily record

National Weather Service broadcasts are on 162.50 mhz.

# THE REDMOND Spokesman

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708  
Office Number: 541-548-2184

**NEWSROOM CONTACT:**  
Gerry O'Brien, gobrien@redmondspokesman.com

**NEWS ASSISTANT:**  
Lena Felt, lfelt@redmondspokesman.com

**ADVERTISING CONTACT:**  
Debbie Coffman, dcoffman@redmondspokesman.com

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
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