



# THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Glen Duncan

redmondspokesman.com @RedmondSpox

## Sellout crowd packs High Desert Stampede

Spokesmen staff report

The High Desert Stampede rodeo drew top professional rodeo riders from around the country and standing-room-only crowds to the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center's First Interstate Bank Center in Redmond.

"It was a real success," said Denis Fast on Sunday, March 26, emphasizing the word "real" with a wide grin.

Fast is the chairman of the young Redmond organization that put on the rodeo for the fifth year.

"It was an action-packed show that was sold out both Friday and Saturday nights ... some 6,500 at-



Team roping is a test of speed and precision.

rodeo in the Northwest this season.

Last year, attendance was limited due to the safety precautions of the COVID-19

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Bareback bronc riders hang on for a wild ride during the High Desert Stampede in Redmond last week.

Bill Bartlett/photos for The Spokesman

tending each night," he said. It was the first, large professional pandemic.

## Central Oregon Ag Show focuses on

# WATER, DROUGHT



Submitted photo

Clint Johnson demonstrates what a working dog can do during the Central Oregon Ag Show.

BY GEORGE PAVEN • For the Spokesman

An estimated 2,100 people from across the Northwest attended the inaugural edition of the Central Oregon Agricultural Show last weekend at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.

The event came as farmers and ranchers in the region face another year of paralyzing drought, with water shortages projected to bring an abbreviated growing season and major economic damage due to crop losses.

Water was a central theme among the show's speakers and guests, who discussed how to get the most out of every drop and what can be done going forward to strike a balance between the

needs of irrigators, fish and wildlife. "I think there needs to be a lot of attention paid to Central Oregon right now," said JoHanna Symons, a rancher from nearby Madras.

"We're in a pretty catastrophic situation." Symons raises cattle and runs a commercial feedlot with her husband, Jeremy. In 2016, the couple co-founded a nonprofit

organization, Perfect Balance USA, in response to litigation over the Oregon spotted frog, which was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

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### REDMOND

## Another COVID-19 variant is confirmed

State officials expect minor upswing

BY GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

A comparatively minor upswing in COVID-19 cases in Oregon is expected to hit this week, driven by infections of the hyper-contagious BA.2 version of the omicron variant, according to a new state report.

The forecast from the Oregon Health & Science University shows a much lower peak for the new wave of cases, topping out at under 300 hospitalizations per day in the first week of May, then resuming a downward trend until reaching current levels again by late June.

"The primary forecast shows a slight increase in hospitalized patients as the impacts of BA2 and reduced COVID restrictions are experienced," said the report written by Dr. Peter Graven, the chief COVID-19 forecaster at OHSU.

The variant was found in two wastewater samples from Redmond on Feb. 7 and 14, said Tim Heider, a public information officer at the Oregon Health Authority.

"This was likely an introduction with limited transmission and at the time (the sub-variant) did not overtake the (main variant)," Heider said. "The wastewater detection allows experts to estimate the proportion of each variant circulating in a community?"

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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 3/30

**Ochoco Preserve Tour:** Join the Deschutes Land Trust and Jason Grant for a tour of Ochoco Preserve; 10 a.m.-Noon; Whychus Canyon Preserve, Off Goodrich Road, Sisters; deschuteslandtrust.org or 541-330-0017.

#### Thursday 3/31

**Alicia Viani Band — Range Music Series:** The local duo will tell lyrical and instrumental stories; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; free; Brasada Ranch, 16986 SW Brasada Ranch Road, Powell Butte; brasada.com or 855-318-4960.

**The New Climate War — The Fight to Take Back Our**

**Planet:** Join renowned climate scientist, Michael E. Mann as he explores how to collectively address the climate crisis; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; \$25 — \$75, students free; The Riverhouse on the Deschutes, 3075 N. U.S. Highway 97, Bend; skeptoid.org or 541-389-3111.

#### Friday 4/1

**Coffee Clatter:** Join Friday morning for business networking and check out the new location for Bethlehem Inn Redmond and hear about other great things they are up to; 8:30-9:30 a.m.; free; Bethlehem Inn, 517 NW Birch Ave., Redmond; visitredmondoregon.com or 541-322-8768.

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The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

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Volume 112, No. 31  
USPS 778-040



# \$95,000

## EGGSTREME CASH & PRIZES!

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Total cash & prizes in April. See Players' Club for details.