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THE REDMOND Spokesman

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Vandals damage Redmond park bathrooms

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

Vandals struck five bathrooms in Redmond parks, causing at least \$50,000 in damage and forcing the facilities to close for more than a month.

As of April 26, restrooms are closed for repairs at Sam Johnson, Fairhaven, American Legion, Kalama and Quince parks.

Vandals broke toilets and sinks, clogged plumbing, scrawled obscene graffiti on walls and more.

“Some, apparently youth,

have gone in there with basalt rocks and destroyed the bathrooms,” said Mayor George Endicott. He called the vandalism “very disturbing.”

According to the Redmond Police Department, the park bathrooms opened for the season just two weeks ago. The cost to repair and replace damage to the toilets, sinks and other amenities is estimated to be \$10,000-\$15,000 per location.

According to Heather Cassaro, communications manager for the city, the parks department plans to replace

the porcelain sinks and toilets with stainless steel amenities, which should be more impervious to vandalism. Cassaro said there are video cameras in some of the parks where the vandalism occurred, but police continue to look for more information. Most city parks are open until one hour after dusk and the restrooms have remained unlocked overnight.

Lieutenant Jesse Petersen of the Redmond Police Department said that they always increase officer patrols of the parks during the summer

months once school is out, but he expected those to increase immediately.

“We will pay more attention to them, given the trends that we’re seeing,” said city manager Keith Witcosky. “We haven’t ever seen it at this level, in terms of the disrespect of the infrastructure.”

If you have information regarding vandalism, or witness a crime in-progress, report it to the Redmond Police Department non-emergency line at 541-693-6911 or online at <https://redmondoregon.gov/reportcrime>.

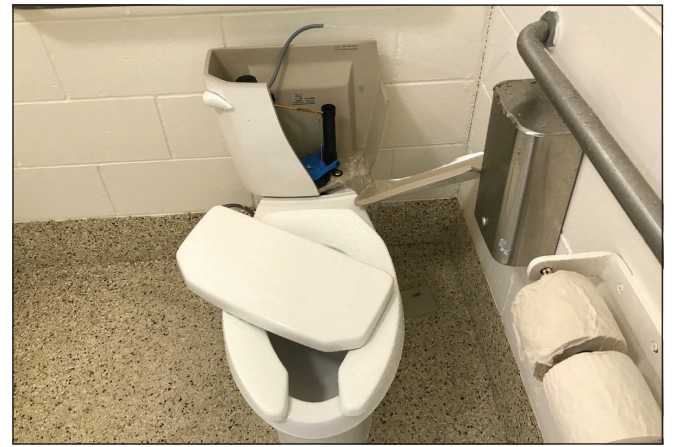


Photo courtesy Redmond Police Department

One of the park bathrooms damaged recently in Redmond by vandals.

Flight school to help fill pilot shortage

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

Forrest Reading was looking forward to getting behind the controls of an airplane for the first time.

“A little nervous, a lot excited,” he said on the tarmac of the Redmond Airport.

Reading is a new student at the Hillsboro Aero Academy, a private flight school with a campus in Redmond. Reading grew up in Pasco, Wash., and worked as a gate agent for Horizon Air.

Over the years, Reading would chat with pilots as they waited to board their planes in Pasco. He came to realize that he, too, could make a career out of flying. After talking it over with his wife, he decided to go back to school and get his pilot’s license.

“It’s a big chance and a big use of time and money,” he said. “But it’s gonna be worth it.”

Reading is exactly the kind of student the industry is hoping to attract. Historically, most airline pilots came either from the military or from a traditional four-year college. Many airlines required a bachelor’s degree, in addition to the numerous licenses required to pilot a plane. That’s an expensive proposition for young people and those considering a career change. It costs roughly most students roughly \$70,000-\$90,000 to secure all the necessary licenses and training required to fly a major aircraft.

“In the past, there were so many applicants and a degree was used to narrow the field,” said Nik Kresse, vice president of airplane operations for Hillsboro Aero. “Now, there’s a serious shortage of pilots and everyone is being creative about ways to fill those spots.”

Boeing estimated that major airlines will need to hire 645,000 pilots in the next 15 years — with 212,000 of those based in North America.

To meet the demand, Horizon Air and Alaska Airlines partnered with Hillsboro Aero to start the Ascend Pilot Academy. The academy aims to

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LAY OF THE LAND

New homeowner looks to create School of Ranch

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

Mark Gross knows he fits the stereotypes.

He grew up in New York, then spent much of his successful career making good money in the Bay Area. He is a progressive, left-wing Jewish man who touched down in Central Oregon just two years ago.

He and his wife snapped up 10 acres outside Terrebonne that offer stunning views of the Cascades. On clear days, you can see all the way to Mount Hood.

“I know we’re lucky,” he said. “I definitely know it.”

Before he moved to the property, Gross had never used a chainsaw. He had never attached a plow to an ATV and cleared a snowy driveway. And he’d never had to fix that ATV on a cold, dark morning when the driveway really needs to be cleared. You know — the basic requirements of owning property in Central Oregon.

“I quickly discovered if you don’t how to learn to do it yourself, you’re going to kill yourself,” he said.

In an attempt to improve safety and knowledge of home and land improvements among new residents of Central Oregon, Gross is starting the School of Ranch. He describes it as a casual, social group that he hopes can be a place where new landowners can talk about problems they’ve encountered and skills they’d like to learn.

He also hopes that long-time residents who hope to pass along their priorities and knowledge show up, as well. The goal, he says, is to pull together a



Photo by Tim Trainor

Mark Gross drives his ATV on his 10-acre property outside of Terrebonne. He is hoping to connect new landowners with old hands who know how to care for rural homes and ranchlands.

solutions-focused group made up of both rural newbies and folks who know the Central Oregon landscape like the back of their hands.

Urban upbringing

Gross is a fast learner who has picked up a number of different skills throughout his varied career. He was a professional poker player for a spell, then became a high school teacher and later created an educational software system that made its way into classrooms nationwide.

But learning how to care for a piece of the High Desert, and become self-sufficient on land outside city services, has been an entirely new challenge.

“In my life it has always been a software problem,” he said. “Out

here, it’s a hardware problem.”

The problems — and possible solutions — were innumerable and overwhelming.

“The biggest yard I’ve ever had was an eighth of an acre. The only question was where to put the plant,” he laughed. “Now I have 80 of those (eighth acres) — it’s more about terraforming and caring for the land than putting in one plant. What’s one plant going to do?”

The old hand

Bob Baker, 74, has a lot more experience on a lot more land.

The Redmond resident grew up on his grandfather’s cattle, horse and sheep ranch near Bakersfield, California. The ranch, older than California itself, sprawled over more than 2,000 acres.

“My riches are all my memories

growing up down there,” he said. “I’d take a horse and go out riding and ride all day and never leave the place.”

Baker was drafted and served a year in Vietnam. After he got out of the Army, he took a job as a telegrapher for the Southern Pacific Railway.

“The telegraph was rapidly disappearing to make way for the telephone,” he said. “But I learned the old way.”

His wife at the time was from Central Oregon, so he lived here for a while. Then he went to train dispatch school and was sent to stations throughout the West, dispatching and scheduling trains from the Canadian border all the way down to Mexico. He retired in 2008 and bought 5 acres of

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Houseless single mom clings to future hopes

BY SUZANNE ROIG

The Bulletin

When sheriff’s deputies evicted Tessa Moon from her Redmond home, she told her children they were going camping.

At first, it seemed like fun, but two and a half years later, it’s anything but that.

Being houseless has taken more imagination and hard work than

Moon could have ever imagined.

Getting drinking water and propane for electricity and heat to the camp site requires a half mile or more walk and a plan on how to carry the heavy tanks across unstable terrain.

She used rocks and found wire fence material to carve a playground out of



Moon

sagebrush and hard-packed dirt for her kids to play and ride their bikes.

Throughout it all, Moon has remained hopeful that one day soon her family won’t be crammed into a fifth-wheel RV in the sagebrush of a remote area of Redmond.

“We try every day,” said Moon, a 36-year-old mother of four. “It’s hard to

stay clean when you’re homeless.”

Their family van, which doesn’t have a current registration, runs, but only when there’s extra money for gas, Moon said. So most days, she and her family walk or use the one bicycle they own. Just a week ago, she was on her bicycle in Redmond when she was hit by a motorist. Moon suffered just a few scrapes and bruises and the bicycle is

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The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

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