

INSIDE » Time to vote!
Ballots are due at 8 p.m.



THE REDMOND Spokesman

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Ballots due on \$40M bond for new police station

BY JOE SIESS
EO Media Group

Voters in Redmond will decide on May 17 if they want to pass a \$40 million bond to fund a new police station in the rapidly growing city.

If approved, the city will tax Redmond homeowners based on the assessed value of their

property to pay for the station, which city officials say is a much needed upgrade to the existing facility.

The \$40 million general obligation bond translates to about \$0.73 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The average taxpayer would pay around \$148 a year, or \$12 a

month.

Redmond Police Chief Devin Lewis said the current building, built in the 1990s, is the same building the police department originally moved into, and was meant to accommodate 38 employees. Since then, the number of employees working at the

police department has grown to over 60, and the population of Redmond has about tripled, Lewis said.

The most recent population count from the U.S. Census Bureau is 33,274 in 2021. In 2010 the population was 26,214, census bureau data showed.

The current building lacks a safe and secure lobby for people to come and engage with law enforcement officers, he said. The parking lot is also inadequate and could be more secure for officers and staff, and members of the community.

"The hope is that if we get

the new station, we will have room and more support staff," Lewis said. "We would really like to start looking at different specialized teams, and unfortunately, we are unable to do that right now because we don't have the staffing or the space."

See **Bond** / A4

Realms High School students get outside the classroom for on-the-ground learning

BY BRYCE DOLE
EO Media Group

The Realms High School teens knelt down in the tall grass on a recent blustery day at Smith Rock State Park, pulling up plants that a park ranger described as "a big problem."

"Every plant we leave is 400,000 plants next year," the ranger, Sam Vanderbeek, told the students.

Students from the Bend school were there to help the ranger remove invasive plants, learn about a new profession and engage with their community. Each year, groups like this one from Realms High School take on a variety of educational deep dives during a weeklong "intensives" program meant to engage students with activities outside of ordinary coursework.

"It's really humbling because it's bigger than we are," said Hannah Gainey, a senior at Realms High.

Realms High educators say these programs are helping students find their passions after the pandemic-damaged interest in education among some students.

"Post-pandemic, kids are questioning the value of school more than I've ever seen before," said Realms High School Principal Roger White,

who championed expeditionary learning.

Walking along the paths near the towering multicolored rock walls for which the park is known, White said programs like this are essential to showing students how their schooling is applicable to the real world. The programs are particularly helpful for students who struggle in a traditional classroom environment, Realms High educators say.

He and other Realms High educators emphasized that learning from professionals in the field like Vanderbeek introduces students to potential career opportunities that they might not otherwise know about. And by bringing students out of the classroom, they can provide important help and establish relationships in the community, too.

"While you're in school, it shouldn't just be preparation for doing good in the world, but the act of doing good for the world," said Zach Harju, the assistant principal for the high school, who added: "This is a place where they feel in the community, like a leader."

See **Realms** / A4

Realms High School students encourage each other as they prepare for rock climbing during an alternative learning opportunity at Smith Rock State Park on May 5.

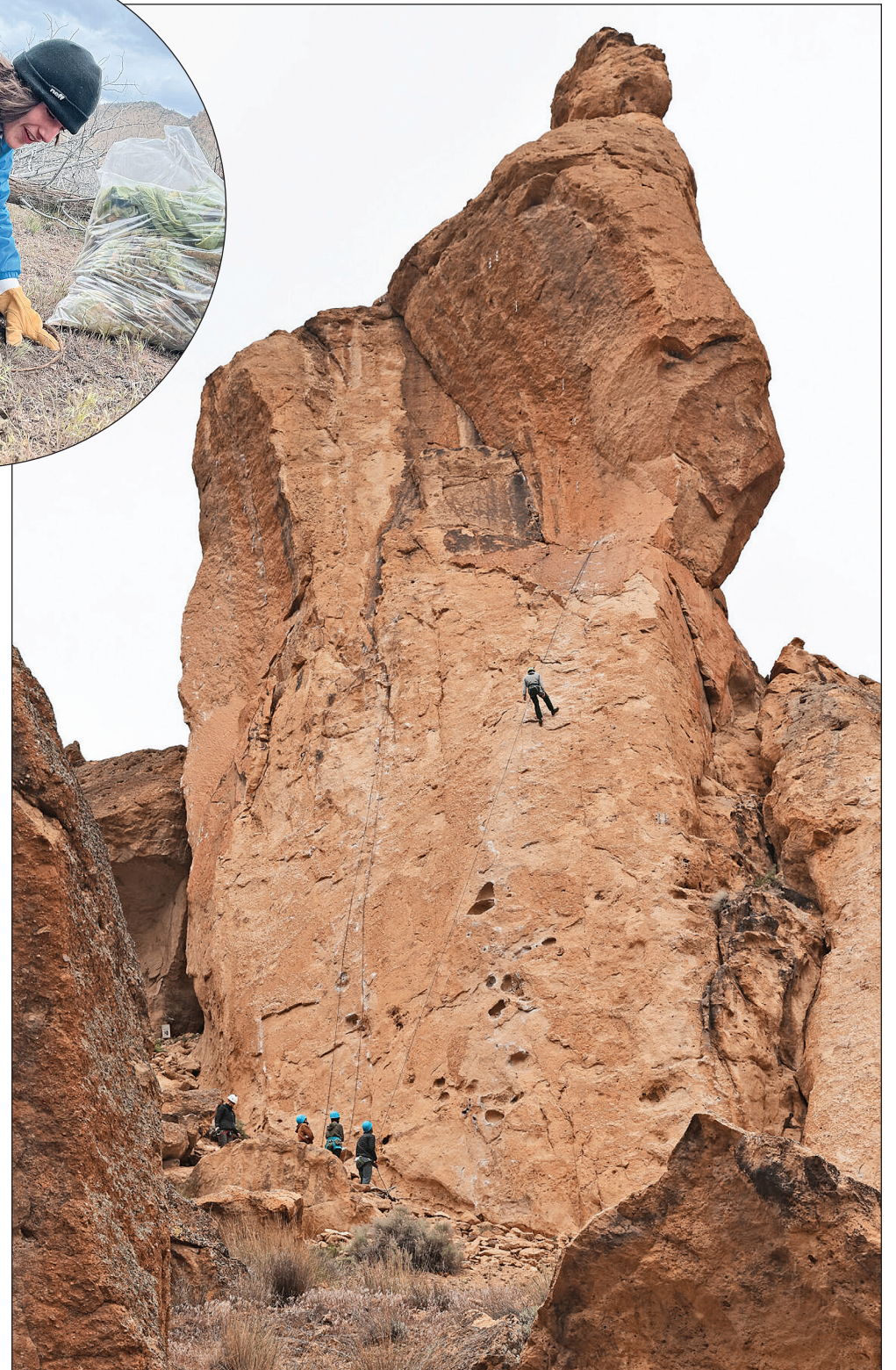
Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

SPIFFING UP SMITH ROCK



Wyatt Winterbottom, a Realms High School junior, pulls invasive plants at Smith Rock State Park as part of a school program.

Bryce Dole / The Bulletin



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Realms High School students climb at Smith Rock State Park on May 5 during an alternative learning opportunity.

DeBone to chair new regional emergency training center

CORE3 project planned for site near airport

BY TIM TRAINOR
Redmond Spokesman

Deschutes County Commissioner Tony DeBone will be the first chairman of a steering team that will work to develop a regional emergency training center.

The project, known as CORE3, is planned for 300 acres near the Redmond Airport.

"The pandemic and recent catastrophic wildfires taught many of us in Central Oregon that we all need to be better equipped for emergency situations, especially government agencies," DeBone said in a news re-



DeBone

lease. "Central Oregon has a critical lack of training facilities for emergency service personnel and desperately needs a central hub for emergency operations if a major disaster strikes."

The multi-agency steering team is made up of 25 people overseeing the project. Bend Police Chief Mike Krantz will be vice

chair.

The current plan for CORE3 is to create a training for law enforcement, fire, paramedics and other emergency personnel, at a cost of roughly \$41 million. It will include an indoor gun range and burn building for firefighter training. The project will also function as an emergency coordination center, during major regional or statewide disasters.

The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

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