

Local News

National Night Out fills Centennial Park

BY LEO BAUDHUIN

Redmond Spokesman

More than 1,000 people gathered in Centennial Park Tuesday, August 2, for Redmond's fifth annual National Night Out.

The national campaign, which started in 1984, aims to build partnerships between local police departments and the communities they serve and to aid in crime prevention and awareness.

This year's Redmond event included food, booths featuring community members, live music from local band The Substitutes, a bouncy house for children and a variety of Redmond Police Department-run events.

"This is an opportunity to build relationships with the community," Redmond Police Lt. Jesse Petersen said.

Redmond Police ran a donut eating contest, a police dog demonstration and a dunk-a-cop tank. Officers also set up cones along the street for people to try to navigate while wearing goggles that simulate alcohol impairment. Other local law enforcement and first responder agencies set up displays of their own, giving out free stickers and fire helmets and opening up their vehicles for children to explore.

Claudine and Chuck Day, who live just outside Redmond,

said they liked having the opportunity to connect with local law enforcement and link up with people they knew in the Redmond community.

"It's awesome to have the community come out," Redmond Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal Tom Mooney said.

He said the event provided an opportunity for the fire department to engage with and connect with the community outside of a crisis situation.

"Generally, when we're seeing folks, they're having a bad day," Mooney said, and he enjoyed the opportunity to meet the people he serves outside of that context.

For others, the event served as an introduction to the city.

Robert and Candice Johnson, originally from Grants Pass, were in town to learn about Redmond after expanding their plumbing business to the city. Candice Johnson said they were at city hall to secure permits when they saw Redmond police setting up outside for National Night Out.

Candice said National Night Out served as a fantastic showcase for the town's friendliness and community feel.

"I'm really happy with this city," she said.

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A Redmond Police Department officer gives a demonstration with one of the department's dogs at National Night Out.

Photo by Leo Baudhuin/Spokesman

Thornburgh developers pull plan to purchase state land

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

Developers of the proposed Thornburgh Resort near Eagle Crest ended their plan to purchase 400 acres of state land. But according to developer Kameron DeLashmutt, the decision has "no effect" on the future of the project, which he says will continue to move forward as designed.

Liane O'Neill, communications officer with the Department of State Lands, confirmed the application was pulled on Friday, July 29.

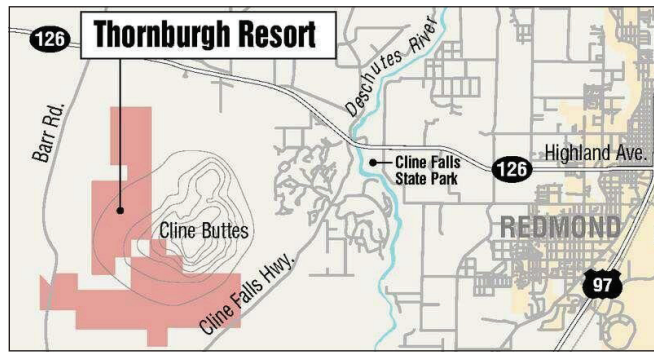
Central Oregon Landwatch, which opposed the sale and helped organize opposition to it, called the withdrawal a "huge win" for the area.

"For Cline Buttes and the many people that enjoy this landscape, we are excited to know this area will remain state-owned public land," said Ben Gordon, executive direc-

tor at organization. "We are reassured to know the application has been withdrawn."

DeLashmutt said the decision to withdraw the application will not effect the housing and golf development that he has been planning since 2003. The resort, which would sit west of Eagle Crest between Redmond and Sisters, has been appealed dozens of times and is one of the most litigated projects in Deschutes County history, according to county staff.

But DeLashmutt said progress is being made at the site. Crews are already using access roads on the north and south ends of property that will eventually be dotted with 300 single-family homes, 27 cabins, an 80-room hotel, golf course, clubhouse and more. He said they are currently laying out the golf course and he expects some homes to be built and



Bulletin graphic

This file map shows the approximate location of the proposed Thornburgh Resort.

owners moved in by late 2023.

DeLashmutt said it was a mistake to try to purchase the adjoining state land, which he has under lease until 2032. The terms of that lease severely restrict any development. He described the public process necessary to complete the sale as unnecessarily controversial.

Once he saw the public opposition, DeLashmutt said "we

should have just pulled it right then."

DeLashmutt said over the past year his planning team has scaled back the resort's "development and water footprint" on the resort, mostly by reducing landscaping, grass lawns and the size of some lakes. He said the resort will be "the most environmentally sensitive project in the West."

LOCAL BRIEFING

Redmond Police asks public for help in shooting investigation

The Redmond Police Department is seeking public assistance after multiple gun shots were fired at a home in southwest Redmond on July 30.

At about 1:07 a.m. Saturday, police responded to the 3500 block of SW Antelope Avenue and found bullet holes in the home, police said in a statement Saturday.

According to police, there were six people in the house at the time of the shooting — two minors and four adults. Nobody was injured in the shooting, the release said.

"We don't often have shootings that occur or shots fired within the city limits," Redmond Police Lt. Jesse Petersen said. "It happens, but not often."

At this time, the police department is asking neighbors in the area to check their front door/external cameras and to alert police if they have video evidence of the shooting. Any-

body who witnessed the shooting is encouraged to call the non-emergency dispatch number at 541-693-6911.

City says political signs can't be on public property

Redmond city code prohibits placing private signage, such as ballot measures, political candidate, yard sale / moving, and registration signs on any public property. This includes roundabouts and medians.

Many signs have been appearing throughout Redmond. And with the general election a few months away, the problem is compounding.

"Please check the placement of your campaign signs to make sure they comply with the legal requirements," said code enforcement officer Erin Smith. "Make sure your campaign volunteers who are placing signs on your behalf are also aware of the right of way restrictions."

Avelo adds direct flights to Palm Springs

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

Redmond Airport will add a direct flight to the desert.

Avelo Airlines, a Houston-based carrier, announced Thursday it will offer non-stop service from Redmond to Palm Springs, California, via twice-weekly flights that start November 11.

The flights will leave Redmond at 10:45 a.m. on Fridays and return at 5 p.m. on Mondays. Jim Olson, head of communications for Avelo, said the midmorning departure and evening return flights will make it easy for travelers to get away for both weekend and weekday trips.

"Flying direct at such a convenient time can get you in for a round of golf before dark," said Olson.

Avelo will use a Boeing 737 aircraft, which seats 189 passengers, to fly the routes. The flights have a roughly two-hour duration.

Olson said Central Oregon and Southern California are a good match for air connections, since a number of travelers want to go in both directions year round. In the winter, for instance, Californians like to get up to Central Oregon to ski while Orego-



Submitted photo

The airline Avelo began direct flights from Burbank, California, to Redmond in May. It will add twice-weekly flight to Palm Springs, California, in November.

nians might be looking for a warmer beach vacation.

Palm Springs has a lot of second home owners and retirees that travel seasonally between the two regions, so Olson said Avelo thinks the flight to inland Southern California will be successful as well.

Avelo has been operating a direct flight from Redmond to Burbank Airport in Los Angeles since May 2021. Olson said that route has been successful for the company, with more than 80 percent of seats filled, and he thinks the company will consider additional

expansions between Redmond and the wider West Coast.

Avelo is a discount airline that does not offer a first class section or connecting flights. It serves nearly 30 destinations, including now 12 in the West, with its base of operations at Burbank. In addition to Redmond, the airline is adding connections to Palm Springs from Eugene and Santa Rosa, California.

Zach Bass, Redmond Airport director, said the Palm Springs flight ups the number of direct connections from Redmond to 10. Six commercial airlines are currently op-

erating out of the Redmond Airport and Bass said he hopes to increase both numbers as air travel bounces back from the pandemic.

To start, the new Redmond-Palm Springs flight will be offered on a seasonal basis. Olson said Avelo will consider its options in the spring, once they have information on the number of passengers that have used the service.

The new flights between Redmond and Palm Springs are being offered at a discounted introductory fare of \$39 for one-way travel. You can book at the Avelo website, AveloAir.com.

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