

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Aspen!
Aspen is a tiny tot of a pup who was brought to Bright-Side as a stray and now is searching for her forever home! Aspen is a very social and friendly puppy who loves attention, play time and naps. Because Aspen is such a young puppy, an attentive adopter with time would be beneficial for her to be the best pup she can.



She is a sweet and personable pup who has so much time and potential to live in many kinds of homes with proper patience and training. Aspen is still a puppy and if you've never owned a puppy before, we ask you to do some research to make sure you are ready for the commitment.

Puppies are wonderful members of the family but require lots of time and dedication so they can flourish and live happy, adult dog lives.

TRUCK OF THE WEEK

Name of truck: The Mighty Greek
Location: 818 SW Forest Ave., behind High Desert Music Hall
Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday; closed Mondays and Tuesdays
Owner: Irimi "Carlene" Karimalis-Kitchin and Ava Karimalis-Kitchin
Opened: May 2020
Type of food: Greek



About the cart: The Mighty Greek is a family-run food cart, launched at the urging of Irimi's daughter, Ava. Irimi found the truck — formerly a pretzel cart in Sisters — on Craigslist and bought it without telling her husband. After attending some pop up events in 2020, the duo fully launched the cart in May 2022, taking up residence outside High Desert Music Hall.

Your first order should be: Irimi recommends the traditional Greek gyro. It's plenty filling with the pita, she said. But she encourages people "with a heartier appetite" to try the mighty gyro — bigger portions all around.

Fun fact: Irimi is also the owner of Central Oregon Adult Foster Care in Redmond. But she feels like her life is coming full circle with the food truck. Her father was a Greek immigrant who was murdered when she was young. He had his own restaurant in California. "I'm happy that I can offer this to the community," she said. "But it's a bittersweet thing."

Districts report declining participation in state tests

BY BRYCE DOLE
CO Media Group

Student participation in state standardized tests is declining in some Central Oregon school districts, raising concerns among district officials who say this makes it more difficult to measure and compare performance and take action to improve their schools.

Some district officials argue that so many parents are keeping their children from taking the test that the data is virtually meaningless.

Data from the state's English language arts, math and science tests help districts assess student educational progress and target shortcomings in the education system.

The state uses this data to prioritize funding and other support for schools. The Legislature uses it to inform policy. Perhaps most important: the data can inform the public about how well schools and districts are performing.

But an Oregon law signed by Gov. Kate Brown in 2015 made it easier for parents to keep their children from taking the state tests, despite a federal law requiring that these tests be administered.

Data released Thursday by the Oregon Department of Education suggests that many parents across the state and region are declining the test, particularly at the high school level. Less than 60% of high school students statewide took the state math and reading test, and only 63% took the science test, according to



123RF

state data.

A state advisory committee recommends that at least 80% of students should be taking the test for the data to be useful in making decisions around budgeting, policy, professional development and more. Half of the Central Oregon districts reported participation rates at or below that threshold, according to state data.

What's more: every regional school district but one — Culver — reported participation rates that were below the federal government's

requirement of 95%, the data show.

"It's down," said Colt Gill, the state's education boss, shaking his head. "It's a challenge. It's down. And participation matters for this assessment. I think it's central in helping us improve the outcomes for all Oregon students for us to have a broad understanding of how our schools are doing."

In the Redmond School District, about 38% of families opted out of the assessment this year. In the Crook County School District, about

23% of families opted out. In the Sisters School District, that number was about 20%. In Bend-La Pine Schools, it was about 17%.

"I think the numbers are concerning," Gill said, when asked about those rates.

Gill said the state is working with districts to find ways to promote the value of these tests and encourage families to let their children take them. He emphasized that the tests serve more as a check on the system rather than an indicator of student

abilities.

The data released this week was the first snapshot of student learning reported through the state assessments since the pandemic began.

Redmond Superintendent Charan Cline voiced concerns on Tuesday that declining the test was becoming normal in regional schools. He said of the decision to allow parents to opt out: "I think that's a real mistake at the state level."

Proponents of the measure emphasized parental rights and the stresses of test taking as the reasons why there should be the option to skip the tests.

Cline acknowledged that these tests are difficult and take a lot of time, but noted that, in addition to being a way to measure performance, ratings based on these test scores can help inform parents about where they can live that will ensure their child gets a good education.

"Everybody needs a measurement to work against," Cline said.

Joel Hoff, Crook County School District's assistant superintendent, echoed some of Cline's concerns.

He and other regional administrators noted that these test results are hardly reviewed by colleges and universities. But he said the data can help schools see where they need to change tactics to help students.

"If all these students are opting out," he said, "then we're not preparing kids."

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Police Log

The Spokesman will update items in the Police Log when such a request is received. Any new information, such as the dismissal of charges or acquittal, must be verifiable.

Arrests
Thurs., Sept 15

12:12 a.m. SW Wickiup/SW Canal. Arrested: Cody Burton Dale, 32, Redmond. Charge: DUII
1:39 a.m. SW 35th St. Arrested: Christopher Anthony, 36, Redmond. Charge: Disorderly conduct II
9:09 a.m. SW Forest Ave. Arrested: Elizabeth Roberta Mullong, 40, Bend. Charge: Theft of services (\$100-\$1,000)
2:18 p.m. SW Rimrock Wy. Arrested: Juvenile Female, 14, Redmond. Charge: Assault IV
2:59 p.m. 300 block SW Rimrock Wy. Arrested: Dustin I T Das, 41, Redmond. Charges: Coercion, Harassment
4:30 p.m. SW Lava Ave. Arrested: Kyle Elliott Rosengren, 19, Redmond. Charge: Menacing
5:45 p.m. SW Xero St. Arrested: Gregory Allen Cruz, 30, Redmond. Charge: In-state warrant

Fri., Sept 16

12:16 p.m. NW 7th St. Arrested: Vaughan Riley Krueger, 27, Redmond. Charges: Fraud use of credit card, UUMV, Theft III
1:57 p.m. W Antler Ave. Shots fired. No arrests.
10:10 p.m. SW Evergreen Ave./NB HWY 97. Arrested: Mark Andrew Jones, 49, Bend. Charge: DUII
10:46 p.m. SW Elkhorn Ave. Arrested: Michael Matthew Masters, 44, Redmond. Charges: Felon (Ex Con) in possession of firearm, Carry concealed weapon

Sat., Sept 17

6:13 a.m. SW 8th St./SW Glacier Ave. Arrested: Caleb Siaki Saulo, 28, Redmond. Charge: DUII
12:03 p.m. NE Maple Ave. Arrested: Ian Edward Humbird, 26, Canyon City. Charge: Probation/parole violation
4:08 p.m. SW Pumice Ave. Arrested: Justin Bernhard Sales Jr, 22, Redmond. Charges: In-state warrant, Harassment
9:59 p.m. NE 11th St./NE Hemlock Ave. Arrested: Stachelle Dawn Willis, 43, Redmond. Charges: Unlawful entry vehicle, Carry concealed weapon
9:59 p.m. SW Canal Blvd. Arrested:

Jonathan Ray Dean Davie, 43, Redmond. Charges: In-state warrant, Possession of burglary tools, UUMV, Possession of stolen vehicle, Felon (Ex Con) in possession of firearm

Sun., Sept 18

12:26 a.m. NW Oak Tree Ln. Arrested: Daniel T Beasley, 32, Madras. Charge: UUMV
3:05 a.m. 400 block NE Poplar Ave. Arrested: Oscar Mendez, 30, Redmond. Charges: Coercion, Assault IV, Harassment
8:15 p.m. S HWY 97. Arrested: John Gaudelupe Loera, 68, Klamath Falls.

Charges: DUII, Assault III

Tue., Sept 20

2:56 p.m. SE 1st St. Shots fired. No arrests.

Wed., Sept 21

10:07 a.m. SW Rimrock Wy. Arrested: Yeni Gonzalez-Castro, 18, Redmond. Charge: Assault IV
4:15 p.m. SW Highland Ave. Arrested: Zarian Ipo Mcmanus, 36, Bend. Charge: Criminal mischief (+\$1,000)

Thefts

Reported from Sept. 15-21 on the following blocks in Redmond:
NW 19TH ST
SW ELKHORN AVE
SW 1ST ST
NW KINGWOOD AVE
NW CANYON DR
SW PARKWAY DR
NW 6TH ST
SW RIMROCK WY
NW OAK TREE LN
SW BLACK BUTTE CT/SW 23RD ST
SW 6TH ST
SW YEW CT
SW AIRPORT WY

NW DOGWOOD AVE
NW BIRCH AVE
NE 7TH ST
SW ODEM MEDO RD
SW 28TH ST
SW FOREST AVE

Burglaries
Tues., Sept 18

7:21 p.m. Reported in 300 block NW Hemlock Ct. No arrests.

Mon., Sept 19

2:46 p.m. Reported in 1500 block NW 8th St. No arrests.

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Adventist

Seventh Day Adventist
945 W. Glacier Ave.,
Redmond, OR
541-923-0301

Sabbath School 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am

Baptist

Highland Baptist Church
3100 SW Highland Ave.,
Redmond
541-548-4161
Lead Pastor: Lance Logue

Sunday Worship Services:
Blended – 8 & 9:30 AM
Contemporary – 11 AM
(Worship Center)

hbc Español - 10:30 am
(Youth Room)
*9:30 AM & 11 AM live-stream at:
www.hbcredmond.org

How can hbc pray for you?
prayer@hbcredmond.org

Roman Catholic

St Thomas Roman Catholic Church
1720 NW 19th Street
Redmond, Oregon 97756
541-923-3390

Father Todd Unger, Pastor

Mass Schedule:
Weekdays 8:00 am

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
First Saturday 8:00 am (English)
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am
(English)
12:00 noon (Spanish)

Confessions on Wednesdays
From 4:00 to 5:45 pm and on
Saturdays From 3:00 to 4:30 pm

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