



Employees build HVAC cooling and clean room systems at the BasX manufacturing site in Redmond. Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Flourishing amid change and growth

BY LIZ O'CONNELL
For the Redmond Spokesman

Grit and perseverance helped Redmond businesses navigate the pandemic, and as restrictions have been removed, many are ready to flourish.

Redmond Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Eric Sande noted the Redmond business community has faced challenge after challenge since he joined the chamber over 30 years ago, showing that grit and resilience each and every time.

Back in the 1990s, downtown Redmond was completely different. Highway 97 ran right through town, bringing along loud, heavy traffic that clogged streets. It was an uninviting place for locals to shop, or visitors to stop and get out of



By Liz O'Connell/For the Spokesman
Eric Sande, Chamber of Commerce.

their cars to wander around.

A major project for revitalization was the highway getting relocated to the east. But just as it was completed in 2008, the economy took a tumble. Time for more grit and perseverance and the business community bounced back.

Since then, there have been façade upgrades and a major water line improvement for the downtown business district, which Sande

said has made it more appealing to business owners. But just as business was ramping up again, the pandemic hit.

Luckily, businesses are back in swing and empty shops are once again being filled. Sande estimates there is only about a 15% vacancy rate in downtown, a healthy number that encourages growth and opportunity.

Not only are new businesses popping up frequently, but