

Redmond city manager finalist for Sisters job

BY TIM TRAINOR
Redmond Spokesman

Keith Witcosky, Redmond's current city manager, is one of four finalists for the city manager job in Sisters.

Witcosky, 54, told the *Spokesman* that he had not yet decided if he would take the job if it is offered.

"During my nearly 10 years as city manager, Redmond has always had smart, informed and supportive council members," said Witcosky in a statement. "I see the 2023 council taking that to even greater heights. If faced with a decision to leave, these variables will give me a lot to consider."

In addition to Witcosky, the three other finalists for the city's top job are Sungman "Simon" Kim, Neil Obringer and Ron Tinseth.

Kim has 15 years of experience in local government management, most recently as community development director for the city of Starkville, Miss. Obringer currently serves as budget and procurement manager for the city of Springfield, Ore., while Ron Tinseth currently serves as the finance and administration lieutenant for the Eugene Police Department.

Witcosky has been the city manager in Redmond since 2013. He has more than 20 years of government experience. Before joining the city of Redmond, he served as deputy director for government relations and public affairs for the Portland Development Commission.

Sisters residents will have an opportunity to attend roundtable group conversations with all four finalists from 6-7:30 p.m. on Nov. 15 at Sisters City Hall.

City council will also interview all four finalists and expects to make an offer this month.

■ Reporter: ttrainor@redmondspokesman.com



BUSINESS

Sweet opportunity

Redmond welcomes new owners of the Chocolate Company, **A4**



OUTDOORS

Welcome winter

Skiers and snowboarders are excited for the upcoming season, **A8**

FROM WASTE TO WASTELAND

Proposed complex of lagoons aims to use more natural techniques to meet Redmond's sewer and water needs as the city grows

BY NICK ROSENBERGER • Redmond Spokesman

Beneath the streets of Redmond, wastewater and sewer lines feed into a system approaching capacity. If maxed out, it could open the city to potential public health and environmental consequences and permit violations.

By 2045, Redmond's population is expected to hit 53,800 residents who will produce 4.67 million gallons of wastewater every day. Currently, Redmond's capacity is 2.8 million gallons a day and, if the population keeps growing at the same pace, is expected to max out in three to five years.

With a tight deadline for the rapidly expanding city, Ryan Kirchner, wastewater division manager for the city of Redmond, is heading the charge toward a new, more natural sewer system called the Redmond Wetlands Complex.

The roughly 1,200-acre complex, which would be located at 5801 NW Way, would treat wastewater — used water that requires treatment such as from toilets, showers and kitchen sinks — using ponds and wetlands. Water would travel from the city collection system, through screening and five aerated lagoons before being chlorinated. The water would then be sent to either a storage lagoon for irrigation supply or to publicly-accessible treatment wetlands, which would drain into the ground.

The \$70 million complex is inspired by Prineville's Crooked River Wetlands and similar natural treatment systems. The complex would also create a natural habitat for birds and wildlife as well as offer walking trails and educational opportunities.

"To do something that the community now can actually enjoy and



Nick Rosenberger photos/Spokesman

ABOVE: Ryan Kirchner, the wastewater division manager, poses Oct. 13 at the outdated Redmond Wastewater Pollution Control Facility at 3100 NW 19th Street.

BELOW: The current Redmond Wastewater Pollution Control Facility on the north end of the Dry Canyon at 3100 NW 19th Street will be decommissioned as the city expands and builds a proposed Redmond Wetlands Complex.

be a part of it instead of just seeing it behind the fence is pretty special," Kirchner said.

The final design includes 90 acres of wetland habitat, four miles of paved and gravel trails that could connect to the Dry Canyon, educational kiosks, picnic areas and shelters.

Also included in the design is new wastewater division facilities and maintenance buildings.

THE COST

The city's current mechanical system relies on chemical and microbial treatment. But as the city swells in population it had two op-

See **Wetlands / A6**



Voting deadline for November election is tonight

BY TIM TRAINOR
Redmond Spokesman

The deadline is approaching for Deschutes County residents to return their ballots and have their voted counted in the November election.

Ballots will be accepted at drop boxes all across the state until 8 p.m. on Election Day, which this year is on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Voters can also drop their ballot in the mail, but it must be postmarked by Election Day for it to be tallied.

As of Monday, Nov. 7, 71,064 bal-

lots had been returned in Deschutes County, roughly 45 percent of all registered voters. As of that same date, more than 1,080,050 ballots have already been submitted across Oregon, or roughly 36 percent of all of Oregon's registered voters.

As of Nov. 7 in Deschutes County, 26,912 registered Democratic Party voters had returned ballots, compared to 24,995 voters registered with the Republican Party and 13,851 voters who are nonaffiliated.

Here is where to drop your ballots in northern Deschutes County.

REDMOND

Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center (northeast parking lot)
3800 SE Airport Way
Available seven days a week, closes 8 p.m. on Election Day
Redmond Public Library
827 SW Deschutes Ave
Located on west side of Library
Available seven days a week, closes 8 p.m. on Election Day

SISTERS

Sisters City Hall
520 E Cascade Ave

Available seven days a week, closes 8 p.m. on Election Day

TERREBONNE

None
The Spokesman is published on Tuesdays, so there are no election results in the Nov. 8 paper. However, up-to-the-minute results will be posted at redmondspokesman.com. It is expected that unofficial results will be available soon after the 8 p.m. deadline.

■ Reporter: ttrainor@redmondspokesman.com

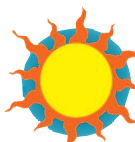
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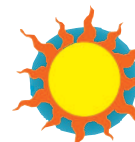
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TUESDAY
Cloudy
32/20



WEDNESDAY
Sunny
38/13



THURSDAY
Sunny
40/19



FRIDAY
Cloudy
41/20



SATURDAY
Partly cloudy
41/22



SUNDAY
Partly cloudy
44/21



MONDAY
Cloudy
40/20

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