

Your Business

County approves safe parking site

Location at SE 7th and Evergreen opens to parkers in December

BY NICK ROSENBERGER
Redmond Spokesman

Redmond will soon have a third safe parking location for homeless residents. On Nov. 14, the Deschutes County Commission unanimously approved a lease of property at SE 7th Street and SE Evergreen Avenue.

The location will allow four people to station their vehicles at the designated site for up to 90 days to sleep and live as they work to find permanent housing. Mountain View Community Development will operate it.

The program already has two locations in Redmond. One is located at Mountain View Fellowship Church on 1475 SW 35th Street while the second is at the VFW Post 4108 on 491 SW Veterans Way. With the commission's approval of the lease, the safe parking program will start placing participants at the new location in early December.

"We're very excited," said Rick Russell, pastor of Mountain View Fellowship Church and organizer of the safe parking program.

This approval, supporters say, will help relieve some pressure from Central Oregon's growing homelessness crisis.

"All the shelters in our community have waitlists," said Johanna Johnson-Weinberg, community outreach lead for Thrive Central Oregon, a nonprofit focused on connecting in-



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

FILE — The Redmond Safe Parking Program will expand to another site at SE 7th Street and SE Evergreen Avenue on the east side of the city after county commissioners approved a lease of the property.

dividuals and families with community resources. "We have very limited options in our community."

"Safe parking is a piece of the puzzle," said Bob Bohac, a board member of Jericho Road. "We need more of it."

Multiple county commissioners commented that the homelessness crisis was not getting any better and that the safe parking program was a needed resource even if local neighbors felt shut out and ignored.

Commissioner Patti Adair, a ma-

ior proponent of the program, went door-to-door in the neighborhood to talk with residents of the area.

Bonnie Sullens, a homeowner who lives about a block and a half away from the proposed site, said she spoke with neighbors and businesses about the proposed site. They collected 73 signatures from homeowners and businesses opposed to the site. They contacted only two people in the neighborhood who were in favor of the proposal.

Sullens said she has family members experiencing homelessness who are living in the junipers and that she supports the safe parking program, but said the location near 7th and Evergreen is not the right site.

"I've lived in that area for 57 years," she said. "It's not getting better. It's worse."

She added that they should be looking at different areas for the program such as the Deschutes County Fair & Expo center where there are paved

roads, light and electrical hookups.

Adair said the program, and how people are able to graduate from the program, was incredibly important.

"We've got to do something about [homelessness]," said Commissioner Tony DeBono, who originally wanted to sell the property rather than lease it to the safe parking program. "This is a small step. I do apologize it's close to your living arrangements now, but as I say, I support this as a step forward to figure out what we're going to do."

Russell said they were thrilled and encouraged to have the commission's unanimous support.

WINTER SHELTER OPENS

In addition to the safe parking program, Mountain View Fellowship Church and Shepherd's House are also opening their winter warming shelter on Nov. 15.

The shelter, at 1475 SW 35th, will be open to anyone from 6 p.m. until 7 a.m. every night until March 15. It will include a meal, showers and laundry on site.

Russell said roughly 30 people slept at the site each night last year, but that the number will likely grow this winter.

He said it is a pretty calm environment and most people are hungry and tried and just want to sleep when they get there. But, in contrast to last year's limited options due to COVID-19, he added that they will try to add more social aspects and are looking forward to more human interaction with guests.

"This is the definition of a low-barrier shelter," he said. "They can just show up and there will be a place for them."

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Rediscover Oregon streaming video service launches

BY GERRY O'BRIEN
CO Media Group

Pamplin Media Group and EO Media Group have jointly launched a 24/7 TV travel channel filled with streaming video that highlights and promotes the wonders of Oregon. The channel went live Wednesday.

Called Rediscover Oregon, the channel focuses on Oregon-centric places and events one can visit and partake in. Video content includes stories from Astoria and the Coast to Pendleton and Eastern Oregon. The channel features scenes from downtown Portland to downtown Bend, the Willamette Valley and Medford in Southern Oregon.

Rediscover Oregon includes locally produced videos by local



Rediscover Oregon is a new, joint initiative by Pamplin Media Group and EO Media Group. Look for it at rediscover.com

content creators and social media influencers. Topics include Oregon escapes, tips on places to hike, mountain bike, ski and where to eat or find good wines and vineyards. It explores some of the hidden gems in Portland and other cities.

This streaming channel can be accessed via a Roku, FireTV,

AppleTV or other sticks that plug into the back of your smart TV set. Simply search for Rediscover Oregon. One also can go directly to the channel by going to rediscover.com.

"We hope this encourages Oregonians and visitors to fan out and explore our home state, to get a better understanding of

what we have to offer and why people choose to live here," said Heidi Wright, COO for EO Media and publisher of The Bulletin in Bend.

"Coming out of the pandemic, Oregon residents are eager once again to rediscover all the wonders in their own backyards. That makes this the optimum time to launch this channel and remind people why Oregon is a special place to live or visit," said Mark Garber, president of Pamplin Media Group. "Our partnership with EO Media Group allows us collectively to promote every corner of the state."

The Rediscover Oregon channel will reach 1.84 million readers of EO Media and Pamplin Media Group weekly using

all their media assets — print, digital, social media and email.

Most of the content will be evergreen — meaning it will always be relevant to anyone interested in all things related to tourism in Oregon. But the intent is to update the content to keep the channel fresh, providing viewers a reason to keep watching.

The launch of the channel was guided by Tasaka Digital, a strategy and product consulting firm based in West Linn. Guy Tasaka works with local media companies to create sustainable business models and next generation distribution strategies.

The channel is still in the buildout phase and will eventually offer geographic segmentation if one wants to learn more

about the coast or other regions of Oregon. The channel does offer a limited number of these video segments now for those who stream the channel on their televisions.

One of the goals of Rediscover Oregon is to partner with local content producers to highlight their videos about Oregon. Content producers can go to the Contact us page on rediscover.com to send an email about their videos and why they would be a good addition to the channel.

"Viewer feedback is important to us," said Garber. "We encourage all feedback to help us improve the quality of the channel."

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Chub! Surrendered and looking for his forever home, Chub appears to be pretty social once he knows you. In the home environment He is potty trained and likes to go for walks and explore. He does have a moderate amount of energy and is generally well-mannered. His favorite shelter activity has been play time with staff and his morning walks.

This gentle and kind boy is looking for a comfortable home where there are no other dogs.

If you'd like to meet Chub, come to Bright-Side!



BY NICOLE ROGERS
For The Spokesman

Name of Truck: Best Moments

Name of Owner: Lily Lapp

Location: High Desert Music Hall, 818 SW Forest Ave.

Hours: Winter hours are 3-7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays; 2-8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays.

Date Opened: Business opened in April 2021, opened their truck in April 2022.

About the Cart: Best Moments offers all things desert — from pies to cookies, brownies, cakes and more. Lapp says that everything is made from scratch in their kitchen. Their coffee is from Coffee4Kids, which donates \$1 from every bag to an orphanage. Lapp also says they offer different drinks as well, such as hot chocolate, Italian sodas, lattes, mochas and more. The trailer used to be an ice cream truck, but has been retrofitted to have a nice, homey kitchen area.

Your first order should be: Lapp recommends her pumpkin bars, which includes a cinnamon pumpkin cake base with cream cheese frosting on top. Her cheesecake flavors change every week, and Lapp said those are worth trying. She also recommends her chocolate chip cookies, a favorite of many customers.

Fun fact: Most of the recipes for her desserts are her mother's. When she was young, her family would mine for gold in Alaska, where her mom worked as a camp cook. "That's where I got it from ... baking with her in Alaska," said Lapp. Lapp's mother grew up in the Willamette Valley and got her baking skills from her own mother, which means many of the recipes have been passed down through the generations. Lapp uses her grandmother's equipment in the truck, which she thinks would make her proud. Lapp grew up in a large family — she had 10 siblings. "I like that I get to pick and choose who I like, if you don't like one sibling you can just go hang out with the other one," she laughed.



Courtesy photo

Best Moments Bakery

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