

Local News

Holiday events continue through the season

For the most up-to-date information on upcoming holiday events in and around Redmond. To submit an event, email classifieds@redmond-spokesman.com

WHERE TO GET GIFTS

Fri., Dec. 9

Northern Lights Display – Redmond City Hall: 411 SW 9th St., 5-7 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 10

Know Joy: The Uncharted Project Holiday Performance – Redmond Library: 827 SW Deschutes Ave., Redmond, 3-4 p.m.

Live at the Vineyard: John Denver Christmas Concert with John Hoover & the Mighty Quinns – Faith Hope & Charity Vineyards, 70450 NW Lower Valley Dr., Terreonne, 5-8 p.m.

Northern Lights Display – Redmond City Hall: 411 SW 9th St., 5-7 p.m.

Sun., Dec 11

Breakfast with Santa – FivePine Lodge & Spa: 1021 E Desperado Trail, Sisters, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Tue., Dec. 13

Know Joy: The Twelve Tones Music Event – Redmond Library: 827 SW Deschutes Ave., Redmond, 2-3 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 15

Children's Holiday Party — St. Vincent De Paul: 651 SW Veterans Way, Redmond, 3-6 p.m. (Please fill out sign up form from lobby for each child and return by Dec. 1)

Fri., Dec. 16

Northern Lights Display – Redmond City Hall: 411 SW 9th St., 5-7 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 17

Christmas in the Canyon Holiday Market – Over the Edge Taphouse: 13959 SW Commercial Loop Rd, Crooked River Ranch, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Northern Lights Display – Redmond City Hall: 411 SW 9th St., 5-7 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 21

Know Joy: Holiday Family Movie Night – High Desert Music Hall, 818 SW Forest Ave., Redmond, 6-8 p.m.

WHERE TO GIVE BACK

Thurs., Dec. 8

Pint Night Benefiting Crook County Education Foundation – Wild Ride Brewery — Prineville: 1500 NE 3rd St., Prineville, 5-8 p.m.

Tue., Dec. 20

Light Up A Life — An Evening of Remembrance — Hospice of Redmond's Community Room: 732 SW 23rd St., 5:30-7 p.m.



Shoppers poke around a holiday market in Redmond on Nov. 19, 2022.

Harrison McKinney/Spokesman

Odem Medo project wraps up construction



Construction on a new road and roundabout on SW Salmon Ave. in Redmond opened on Nov. 23 to help decrease congestion and fix a dangerous intersection

Photos by Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

BY NICK ROSENBERGER
Redmond Spokesman

A new road connecting SW Odem Medo Way and SW Salmon Ave. opened on Wednesday, Nov. 23, to help decrease congestion and fix a dangerous intersection between Salmon and SW Canal that saw two hit-and-runs.

The \$1.14 million construction project kicked off in July and crews will completely finish the project on budget by early to mid-December with finishing touches, cleaning, additional striping, signage and landscaping.

“(Construction) went very very good,” said Steve Wil-

son, civil engineer for Redmond. “We wanted to get that intersection live before the holiday traffic started.”

The re-alignment project, which has been on the city's to-do list for 17 years, included the implementation of a stoplight, cul-de-sac, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and the demolition of an old Parks & Recreation building.

The new roadway constructed by Knife River Northwest bends into the Odem Medo intersection and requires drivers to reduce their speed to make a left turn onto South Canal.

■ Reporter: nrosenberger@redmondspokesman.com

Precipitation lags across Oregon

BY GEORGE PAVEN
CO Media Group

A new water year is off to a slow start in Oregon, where much of the state remains in a multi-year drought.

Warm and dry weather persisted through mid-October, digging an early deficit for precipitation in most basins — particularly those in central and southern Oregon, where drought conditions are the worst.

However, climate experts say there is still plenty of time to catch up and La Nina could bring ample rain and mountain snow this winter to the Pacific Northwest.

Every drop is needed to reverse what has been a painfully long drought dating back to November 2019, said Larry O'Neill, Oregon state climatologist.

“We need at least an average amount of precipitation, and average temperatures,” O'Neill said. “Precipitation is the key. We (also) desperately need the snowpack to be above-average, and we need that snowpack to stick around past April 1. That will set us up pretty well for recovering.”

While overall precipitation since Oct. 1 has been “slightly discouraging,” O'Neill said the peak wet season doesn't typically begin until later in the winter and early

spring.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, about 95% of Oregon is in some stage of drought, ranging from “abnormally dry” to “exceptional,” the highest possible category.

The only exceptions to drought are in northeast Oregon, including parts of Umatilla, Morrow, Union and Walla counties, as well as a sliver of Curry County along the southwest coast.

Data from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service shows the Umatilla, Walla Walla and Willow basins in northeast Oregon have received 126% of their average water year precipitation as of Nov. 28. That's good news for the region's dryland wheat farmers, O'Neill said.

Other basins have not been as fortunate. Those hardest hit by drought in central and southern Oregon have only received about 75% of average precipitation, including the Upper Deschutes, Crooked, Klamath, Rogue and Umpqua basins. “We haven't really recovered in regions where we really need to see improvement,” O'Neill said.

The typically rainy Willamette Basin is also just 80% of average for precipitation since the water year began on Oct. 1.

Through Oct. 20, there was no recorded precipitation in Portland, Salem and Eugene, which hadn't happened since 1987. However, it has rained since then.

Not only was it dry, but it was also the second-warmest October on record for Oregon, said Matt Warbritton, hydrologist for the NRCS in Portland.

Warbritton said more precipitation is sorely needed to boost low soil moisture in drought-stricken basins. If the ground is too dry, he said it can absorb snowmelt before reaching streams, rivers and reservoirs that farmers depend on during the irrigation season.

But there are reasons for encouragement.

Snowpack is largely near- or above-normal statewide, and La Nina has the potential to bring cooler, wetter weather that would allow snow to remain high in the mountains for longer into the year and melting gradually when it is needed most by farms and fish.

“All we can really do is hope for an above-normal snowpack season,” Warbritton said. “We're still very much in a dry phase. It may not seem like it, because we had some early season snowpack. But that precipitation, we just need more of it.”

Certified 2022 election results show no change in Redmond races

BY NICK ROSENBERGER
Redmond Spokesman

Results of the 2022 election were certified on Dec. 2, with no change in the outcomes from the previous Nov. 30 tally.

Ed Fitch won the race for Redmond mayor with a total of 5,143 votes. Ben Schimmoller finished second with 4,850 votes while Jay Patrick finished the election with 4,640 votes. Charles Webster Baer ended with 228 votes.

In the Redmond city council election, results stayed the same with the top three candidates earning seats. Cat Zwicker came in first with 8,564 votes followed by Kathryn Osborne with 7,790 and John Nielsen with 7,723 total votes. Bill Trumble, with 6,177 votes, and Branegan J. Dixon, with 4,986 votes, will not be joining city council next year.

The Redmond Area Parks and Recreation District bond squeaked by with 12,483 in favor of the bond to fund a new rec

center and 11,606 against.

The accompanying parks district levy, however, failed with 14,326 people voting against it and 9,523 voting in favor.

The psilocybin manufacturing ban passed with 8,667 votes in favor of the ban and 6,717 against it.

The psilocybin treatment center ban also passed with 8,046 votes in favor of the ban and 7,092 against it.

The outcome for House District 53, which covers the southern half of Redmond, also stayed the same. Democrat Emerson Levy won the district with 19,584 votes while Michael Sipe, the Republican candidate, received 19,075 votes.

House District 59, which covers the northern half of Redmond, showed Republican Vikki Breese-Iverson staying in the lead with 9,194 votes and Democrat Lawrence Jones with 4,753 votes.

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