

MEMORANDUM

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TO: **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**
FROM: **ERIC KING**
SUBJECT: **WEEKLY REPORT**
DATE: **AUGUST 30, 2019**



CITY OF BEND

Upcoming City Council meetings and other events

- September 4, work session at 5:00 p.m., regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers
- September 18, work session at 5:00 p.m., regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers
- September 24, Council Stewardship Subcommittee at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers
- October 2, work session at 5:00 p.m., regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers
- October 16, work session at 3:00 p.m., regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers

Joint Meeting between the City of Bend and Deschutes County Follow-up

Presentations from the joint meeting with the County Commissioners are available here:

<https://www.deschutes.org/bcc/page/joint-meeting-county-commission-and-city-bend>

You are invited!

On Thursday, September 12 at 5:00 p.m. a Meet & Greet will be held for the EIPD Director/City Engineer applicants. This event will be held at McMenamin's Old St. Francis in the Rambler Ambassador Room and will be catered with light appetizers and refreshments with a cash bar. This will be a great opportunity to meet the applicants and get to know them in a more casual setting.

City Edition Video

The City is in the final phase of Empire Corridor Improvements Project that connects Empire east to Butler Market Road and 27th Street. Here is a new video showing what to expect next: <https://youtu.be/rnWbM0IJ8UU>

LED Streetlights Project Update from Janet Hruby

This Strategic Energy Management Project started the last week of July in the northeast and southeast areas of town. Over 500 lights (22 percent) have been converted. The contractor is continuing installations as scheduled with completion of all 2300 lights estimated by the end of the year.

Downtown Parking Striping Pilot Project

KTVZ ran a story this week on striping a one block section of downtown with extended parking stall and tick marks at the ends. [KTVZ: Bend looking to ease parking problems downtown.](#)

The Streets Department striped the block of Bond between Franklin and Minnesota this week as a pilot project to be monitored this fall, prior to winter. Currently the Streets departments focus is on finishing up priority regular maintenance striping to be completed city wide. If the striping pilot project is successful and it is decided to apply the treatment to all of the downtown angled parking stalls, the effort and resources will be programmed into the work load in the early spring with thermoplastic machine, prior to the busy summer season. The thermoplastic application, while more expensive and labor intensive, should give 3-4 years of use before needing to maintain again.

Murphy/15th Street Round-about Update

Murphy project photos depict progress made over the last 3 weeks of GMP 2 construction, including initial roundabout construction at 15th/Murphy, safe pedestrian crossing improvements at 15th/Chloe for BPRD, and the initial grading for the sidewalk extension/infill from Chloe to Ferguson on the west side of 15th Street. The northbound travel lane is maintained through the construction zone and southbound detoured at Ferguson/15th.



FCC and 5G Follow Up Items

Several of you have seen the email from Nick Strader, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Greg Walden, but I wanted to make sure to share it with all Councilors:

Hello Everyone,

As promised at the meeting last week, I'm following up with some additional information that should hopefully answer some of your questions related to the FCC, 5G, and the current legal issues related to Small Cell Siting for 5G.

First, you will find a comprehensive background Congressional Research Service (CRS) Document related to 5G. There's a lot there to digest for sure. See attached for this document.

Second, you will find another CRS document that is an overview of the legal challenges to the FCC's order on Small Cell Siting. See attached for this document.

Third, is Rep. Walden's opening statement at a recent hearing on spectrum. See attached for this document: <https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/news/press-release/walden-remarks-at-hearing-on-our-wireless-future-building-a-comprehensive-approach-to-spectrum-policy/>

Last is the New York Times story Rep. Walden referenced in his hearing opening statement. See attached for this document:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/12/science/5g-phone-safety-health-russia.html>

Hopefully these documents will serve as a good starting point to answer some of your questions. Should you happen to have additional questions or comments, I'm happy to meet again to discuss.

Bend Garbage and Recycling Name Change

When ownership of Bend Garbage and Recycling changed in April the name of the company changed as well. The full transition, including new containers, uniforms and truck color to Republic Services will be taking place soon. Customers will be receiving the attached announcement insert in their bills this month.

Acknowledgments

The following thank you note was recently received from citizen, Kerry Panton: *Hello, I'd like to commend the City of Bend Utility Department, Tyler Patterson and the job crews for their efficient repair of a water line located near our home. On Saturday 7/6/19 my husband and I noticed that there might be a problem with the water lines outside our house. We then called the City of Bend and Tyler came out to assess the situation. After applying locate markers he let us know a crew would be out the next day, Sunday to dig. The next day they were unable to find any breaks in the water lines after digging in several locations. So a crew came out on Monday morning with better equipment to help find the break. They finally found the water line break and repaired it. Tyler and the crews were very pleasant, informative and efficient. To top it off, they covered up the area with a beautiful layer of landscaping bark mulch.*

I know how busy the department must be with our city growing as fast as it is so want to let you know how appreciative I am for a job well done! Thank you.

BEDAB Update from Ben Hemson

State Economic Outlook

The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis released their [2019 Economic Outlook](#) this week, generating headlines with a [projected \\$1.6 billion kicker tax rebate in 2020](#). You can find [the Executive Summary posted here](#) along with a brief slideshow running through the highlights. The economic story for Oregon mirrors what we've seen in Bend, a leveling off in economic activity (but not a recession!) since a peak in 2016. However, nationally the risk of recession is creeping higher.

I'm working on getting Josh Lehner, a state economist and one of the authors of the report, in to speak with BEDAB this fall. If you would like to dive into the full report, [you can download it here](#).

Council and BEDAB Next Week

Next Wednesday's [Council agenda is pretty light](#), but there are a few items slated for the work session between 5:30 and 7 pm that may be of interest: Councilors will hear from regional state legislators on the previous session and potential priorities going forward. Also, the Downtown Bend Business Association is making a request to further limit events involving street closures in the downtown district, should Council decide to move forward on any part of the DBBA request we'll work to make sure relevant businesses and event organizers are at the table as policy revisions are discussed.

BEDAB's CEDR (Budget) Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday at noon to review the previous fiscal year budget and, more importantly, draft some guidelines for BEDAB sponsorship allocations going forward. This was a request made by BEDAB earlier this year to move toward greater transparency and ensure relevant organizations and events would have clarity on whether they should request a sponsorship from BEDAB.

Downtown Parking Pilot Program

Some of you may remember concerns a couple of years ago around over-length vehicle parking in the diagonal spaces on Bond and Wall. This week the City Street Department launched a small pilot program looking at extending the stalls and adding hash marks to accommodate larger vehicles and provide a definitive line for vehicles that are extending into the roadway.

The changes were only made between Franklin and Minnesota on Bond Street for now, but if the changes prove successful, you'll likely see them extended throughout downtown. You can find a picture of the new hash marks [posted on the City's Twitter page here](#).

Events of Interest

Here are a couple of events with the potential to spotlight Bend for national and international companies that you may also have an interest in checking out:

- [Outdoor City USA](#) is three-day multisport festival hosted at Mt. Bachelor from September 13-15. While it's ostensibly a collection of various races and outdoor events, the event is also a huge networking opportunity for the outdoor industry,

especially in the cycling world. Hats off to EDCO, the Oregon Outdoor Alliance, and Visit Bend for their work in securing the event at Mt. Bachelor.

- The world's largest [electric vehicles conference EVS33](#), will be held in Portland, June 14-17 2020. I spoke with the event organizers this week and apparently attracting the conference to Portland was a huge coup for folks in that industry. They're interested in finding ways to spotlight Bend and Central Oregon at the event, stay tuned for updates on that effort once I've had a chance to discuss this with our local economic development partners.

Attachments

- Council Schedule
- FCC and 5G
- Republic Services Announcement



Date	City Council / BURA Schedule	Agenda Material Due Dates (Legal/Finance) Final
September 18	<p>Work Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare Solutions <p>Regular Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waldorf Education's 100th Anniversary Year • Septic to Sewer Amendment • COBEA Contract • Public hearing on vacation of a right-of-way for an alley west of 4th Street to the Parkway • Public hearing on Les Schwab Text Amendment PZ-19-0177 • Public Hearing to repeal the Shilo master plan • Public hearing, Type III Quasi-judicial amendment to Bend Development Code Chapter 2.7, Article XII, Stone Creek Master Planned Development, to modify the approved Stone Creek Master Planned Development Code text and map 	(September 4) Sept. 10
September 24	Council Stewardship Subcommittee, 3-5 p.m.	
October 2	<p>Work Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Code Update for Cottage Housing, Shared Courts and Neighborhood Commercial Sites and other amendments • 2019 Legislative Recap <p>Regular Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Prevention Week Proclamation • Contract for room tax audit • DEQ loan for the Newport Drainage Improvements project • Design Services Amendment to the Murphy Corridor Improvements Project • GMP Empire Corridor Improvements • North Interceptor – Phase 2 design • Fire Department Standards of Cover • New Fire Station Leases • Second reading, vacation of a right-of-way for an alley west of 4th Street to the Parkway • Second reading, Les Schwab Text Amendment PZ-19- 	(September 18) Sept. 24

	0177 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second reading, repeal the Shilo master plan • Second reading, Development Code text amendment 	
October 16	Work Session, 3 p.m. BURA Meeting (1 hour) Regular Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to CDBG Annual Action Plans from 2016, 2017, and 2018 • Public hearing Housing Code Update 	(October 2) October 8
October TBD	Council Community Building Subcommittee	
November 6	Work Session Regular Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First reading, TDS Broadband cable franchise renewal • Second reading, public hearing Housing Code Update 	(October 22) October 30
November 20	Work Session Regular Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second reading, TDS Broadband cable franchise renewal 	(November 6) November 12
November 26	Council Stewardship Subcommittee, 3-5 p.m.	
December 4	Work Session Regular Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readopt investment policy • Mid-year budget adjustments 	(November 20) November 26
December 18	Work Session Regular Meeting	(December 4) December 10
December TBD	Council Community Building Subcommittee	

Work Session future topics to be scheduled

- Quarterly Council- Board/Commission check-ins (2nd meeting January, April, July, October)
- Town Gown Committee Discussion (Jon)
- Opportunity Zones
- Airport Master Plan kick off (2019)

- Phase 2 Ameresco contract
- TID and Tumalo Creek Update
- ODOT IGA for 3rd Street (Empire to Greenwood)
- Restaurant parking requirements (as part of Code update)
- Lines for Life (Chief Porter)
- Update/check-in presentation on the Southeast Area Plan
- Pahlisch NE (Petrosa)
- Bend Parkway Plan and Right –in Right Out entrances (August or Sept. Nick Arnis)
- Childcare
- Council direction on City-owned property at East Lake Drive (Nov./Dec.)
- Council direction on location of City Hall

Regular Agenda future topics to be scheduled

- Public hearing on vacation of Glenwood & Alden
- Pump Station Decommissioning
- Citywide Safety Improvements – Approval of construction contract for 3rd & Hawthorne and Franklin
- Council adoption of amendments to Juniper Ridge Plan
- Ordinance on use, possession or sales of fireworks (Sept. or Oct.)
- Sale of the Roanoke property (Nov.)
- Verizon franchise agreement for small cell wireless facilities
- Franchise Code Update

Council Stewardship Subcommittee, 3-5 p.m. last Tuesday of every other month

- Stabilization Center
- DEI

Council Community Building Subcommittee, reoccurrence TBD

- Tiny homes
- Code Updates

Walden Remarks at Hearing on “Our Wireless Future: Building A Comprehensive Approach to Spectrum Policy”

07.16.19

WASHINGTON, DC – Energy and Commerce Committee Republican Leader Greg Walden (R-OR) delivered the following opening remarks at a Subcommittee on Communications and Technology hearing on “Our Wireless Future: Building A Comprehensive Approach to Spectrum Policy.”

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to welcome our witnesses to this hearing on spectrum. Almost two years ago, we held a hearing on the so-called Race to 5G, and as I said at the hearing – this is a sprint, not a marathon. Some may be concerned about overhyping the situation using such competitive terminology, but I believe it’s even more disconcerting if we undersell. Even as we speak, competitors in Asia and Europe are running full speed ahead to be the global leader. Maybe we need an even more dramatic term to convey the immediacy of the situation, and how our success in the 5G race will revolutionize American competitiveness and further strengthen our position in the global economy. As you all know, my background is in radio. My wife and I owned and operated our own radio station in Oregon for many years. I’m pretty sure I’m the only member of Congress who has ever had to wire in a transmitter! But it has been remarkable to witness the acceleration of change and advancement in technology in recent years. For example, think back to the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which focused primarily on how local and long-distance rates could become more competitive. But ultimately, this bill instilled the light-touch regulatory regime that provided the building blocks to the internet infrastructure we have come to know and depend on. Similarly, the 5G revolution will deliver on priorities for this committee – from closing the digital divide, making cities smarter, to improving our grid, consumer benefits such as faster and more advanced devices and the Internet of Things, improved industrial manufacturing, improved health care outcomes, and of course the future of transportation – to things we can’t fully conceptualize today.

We need to be thinking strategically about spectrum availability, infrastructure deployment, and risks to our supply chain as all of these pieces need to work together in unison for our success in 5G.

If we fall behind on any one aspect, it will be a detriment to our future. If you think that sounds too dramatic, our adversaries certainly understand this fact. The potential threats represented by equipment from suspect entities has been well publicized, so I will not eat up a lot of discussion here on that issue, which will be better addressed at a hearing on supply chain we will hopefully have here soon. I’m referring to the recent report by The New York Times on Russian propaganda efforts. The story, “Your 5G Phone won’t hurt you, but Russia wants you to think otherwise,” is a review of a media outlet known as RT America running stories of health risks of 5G deployment. RT

America of course is a division of Russia Today, which has been referred to as “the Kremlin’s principal international propaganda outlet,” by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. We certainly shouldn’t dismiss whether there is a health concern, so I will look forward to hearing from the expert panel. However, I must say when a Russian outlet is reporting on this and at the same time Russia is pushing ahead with their 5G efforts, we should take that into account in considering the stakes.

Moving forward, to become the world’s leader in 5G deployment brings tough decisions. The 5G marketplace requires more spectrum as quickly as possible. We must also carefully balance this demand with our responsibility to consider the effects on incumbent spectrum users, and the value they provide to the American consumer. Today’s witnesses can help us refine this equation, and I look forward to hearing how all Americans, particularly those in rural areas like Oregon, can receive the full benefits of the 5G revolution.

Remembering back to our previous efforts, it will take this committee exercising its expertise on this sector, working in a bipartisan manner, and finding the right recipe needed on regulatory reforms and international harmonization to make this technology a reality.

Thank you, and I yield back.

The New York Times

Your 5G Phone Won’t Hurt You. But Russia Wants You to Think Otherwise. R T America, a network known for sowing disinformation, has a new alarm: the coming ‘5G Apocalypse.’



A Russia Today anchor in Moscow preparing to go on air. The network's American version, RT America, has been exaggerating the health hazards posed by 5G networks, the next, most powerful generation of cell phone connectivity. Credit Yuri Kadobnov/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

By William J. Broad, May 12, 2019

The cellphones known as 5G, or fifth generation, represent the vanguard of a wireless era rich in interconnected cars, factories and cities. Whichever nation dominates the new technology will gain a competitive edge for much of this century, according to [many analysts](#). But a television network a few blocks from the White House has been stirring concerns about a hidden flaw.

“Just a small one,” a TV reporter [told her viewers recently](#). “It might kill you.”

The Russian network RT America aired the segment, titled “A Dangerous ‘Experiment on Humanity,’” in covering what its guest experts call 5G’s dire health threats. U.S. intelligence agencies identified the network as [a principal meddler](#) in the 2016 presidential election. Now, it is linking 5G signals to brain cancer, infertility, autism, heart tumors and Alzheimer’s disease — claims that lack scientific support.

Yet even as RT America, the cat’s paw of Russia’s president, Vladimir Putin, has been doing its best to stoke the fears of American viewers, Mr. Putin, on Feb. 20, ordered the launch of Russian 5G networks in a tone evoking optimism rather than doom.

“We need to look forward,” he said, [according to Tass](#), the Russian news agency. “The challenge for the upcoming years is to organize universal access to high-speed internet, to start operation of the fifth-generation communication systems.”

Analysts see RT’s attack on 5G as geopolitically bold: It targets a new world of interconnected, futuristic technologies that would reach into consumers’ homes, aid national security and spark innovative industries. Already, medical firms are [linking up devices wirelessly](#) to create new kinds of health treatments.

“It’s economic warfare,” Ryan Fox, chief operating officer of [New Knowledge](#), a technology firm that tracks disinformation, said in an interview. “Russia doesn’t have a good 5G play, so it tries to undermine and discredit ours.”

5G is also a growing point of friction between Washington and Beijing, with each side lining up allies in what has become [a major technology race](#). Moscow and Beijing are seen as possibly forming a 5G political bloc.

The Kremlin “would really enjoy getting democratic governments tied up in fights over 5G’s environmental and health hazards,” said Molly McKew, head of Fianna Strategies, a consulting firm in Washington, D.C., that seeks to counter Russian disinformation.

RT’s assaults on 5G technology are rising in number and stridency as the American wireless industry [begins to erect](#) 5G systems. In March, [Verizon said](#) its service will soon reach 30 cities.

RT America aired its first program assailing 5G's health impacts last May, its only one in 2018. Already this year, it has run seven. The most recent, on [April 14](#), reported that children exposed to signals from 5G cellphone towers would suffer cancer, nosebleeds and learning disabilities.

The network distributes its programming by cable, satellite and online streaming. It also posts individual stories on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). A [declassified U.S. intelligence report](#), released early [in 2017](#), said that RT videos on YouTube have averaged 1 million views per day, "the highest among news outlets."

Hundreds of blogs and websites [appear to be picking up](#) the network's 5G alarms, seldom if ever noting the Russian origins. Analysts call it a treacherous fog.

[Anna Belkina](#), RT's head of communications in Moscow, defended the network's coverage of 5G. "Unlike many other media, we show the breadth of debate," she said in an email exchange.

Asked if Mr. Putin's promotion of 5G technology in Russia conflicted with the health alarms raised by RT America, she said the U.S. network focused on local 5G issues, not "the roll-out in Russia."

"Our American audience expects us to bring American concerns to the front, first and foremost," Ms. Belkina said.



RT television vehicles outside St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin in Moscow. The network has been called "the Kremlin's principal international propaganda outlet."CreditMladen Antonov/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

The 5G Playbook

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence, in the 2017 report, described the network as “the Kremlin’s principal international propaganda outlet.” The report noted that RT’s most popular video on Hillary Clinton during the 2016 election campaign stated that 100 percent of the Clintons’ charity “Went to ... Themselves.” The video was viewed more than 9 million times.

Later that year, the [national security division](#) of the Justice Department [forced RT America](#), formerly Russia Today, to register as a foreign agent.

Moscow’s goal, experts say, is to destabilize the West by undermining trust in democratic leaders, institutions and political life. [To that end, the RT network](#) amplifies voices of dissent, to sow discord and widen social divides. It gives the marginal a megaphone and traffics in false equivalence. Earlier campaigns took aim at [fracking](#), [vaccination](#) and [genetically modified organisms](#). One show [called designer tomatoes](#) “good-looking poison.”

The network is now applying its playbook against 5G by selectively reporting the most sensational claims, and by giving a few marginal opponents of wireless technology a conspicuous new forum.

All cellphones use radio waves. RT America tends to refer to the signals as “radiations,” seemingly associating them with the very strong rays at the far end of the electromagnetic spectrum, such as X-rays and ultraviolet rays, which in high doses can damage DNA and cause cancer.

But the radio waves used in cellphone communication lie at the opposite end of the spectrum, between radio broadcasting frequencies and the rainbow colors of visible light.

The frequencies employed in 5G are higher than those of past cellphones, allowing more information to be relayed more rapidly. [Many other devices](#) are expected to follow, including robots, drones and cars that send traffic information to one another.

Wireless high-speed communication could transform the news industry, sports, shopping, entertainment, transportation, health care, city management and many levels of government. In January, [The Times announced](#) a joint venture with Verizon to build a 5G journalism lab.

Over the years, plenty of careful science has scrutinized wireless technology for potential health risks. Virtually all the data contradict the dire alarms, according to public officials, including those at [the World Health Organization](#).

Opponents of 5G claim the technology's high frequencies will make the new phones and cell towers extraordinarily harmful. "The higher the frequency, the more dangerous it is to living organisms," a RT reporter [told viewers](#) recently.

The truth is exactly the opposite, [scientists say](#). The higher the radio frequency, the less it penetrates human skin, lowering exposure of the body's internal organs, including the brain.

"5G emissions, if anything, should be safer than previous generations," said Dr. [Marvin C. Ziskin](#), a medical doctor and emeritus professor of radiology and medical physics at the Temple University School of Medicine.

Health concerns were raised last year when a large [federal study](#) showed that 2G signals could produce brain cancer in male rats. But officials discounted a direct link to humans, saying people received smaller doses.

Nonetheless, RT has taken an active role in stirring up apprehension, casting the debut of 5G in biblical terms. The caption superimposed on [a January show](#) read, "5G Apocalypse." The anchor reported that doctors, scientists and environmental groups were now calling for its ban.

RT America taps the ranks of existing anti-cellular activists to wage its 5G campaign. Some have railed for decades against cellphones, power lines and other everyday sources of electromagnetic waves. Much of their work appears not in reputable science journals but little-known reports, publications and self-published tracts, at times with copious notes of dubious significance. They tend to cite each other's research.

It's unclear how many RT experts realize they are aiding a Russian network or that it acts as Mr. Putin's mouthpiece. At times, RT simply mines existing videotape and print materials, editing them to reflect its perspective. And the [intelligence report noted](#) that some network staffers fail to disclose their RT affiliation when conducting interviews.

Even so, private analysts see the 5G attacks as reaching perhaps millions of online viewers — terrifying some, infuriating others.

"RT successfully feeds the conspiracy-oriented ecosystem," said John Kelly, chief executive of [Graphika](#), a network analytics firm. "This effort is having a real impact. It's bearing fruit."



Screengrabs taken from recent RT America episodes, clips of which are available on YouTube.CreditRT, via YouTubeADVERTISEMENT

A “Firehose of Falsehood”

RT America began its assault last year with [a news show](#) captioned “Wireless Cancer.” The featured guest was Dr. David O. Carpenter, a prominent 5G critic.

Dr. Carpenter, 82, received his medical degree from Harvard in 1964 and [has published](#) hundreds of scientific papers. For decades, he has warned of cancer risks for people living near high-voltage power lines, although federal studies have [failed to find credible evidence](#) that would support his claims.

“The rollout of 5G is very frightening,” Dr. Carpenter [told RT America](#). “Nobody is going to be able to escape the radiation.”

Dr. Carpenter’s scariest alarms have been “widely dismissed by scientific bodies the world over,” according to David Robert Grimes, a cancer researcher at the University of Oxford, and his colleague, Dorothy V. M. Bishop, also of Oxford. They challenged Dr. Carpenter [in a journal article](#) that ran months before the RT program aired, calling his main claims “scientifically discredited.”

In an interview, Dr. Carpenter defended his work as having “served a major purpose” by revealing a global health threat. He said he was unaware that he had been featured on RT America. “I speak my mind to whomever I talk with,” he said.

RT America's attacks on 5G have multiplied this year. On Jan. 14, [the network aired](#) "A Dangerous 'Experiment on Humanity,'" which again featured Dr. Carpenter. RT followed [a day later](#) with "How to Survive Dangers of 5G."

On Feb. 7, [a segment claimed](#) that "5G Tech is 'Crime under International Law.'" Its featured expert was Arthur Firstenberg, who once charged that a neighbor's wireless gear had hurt his health. He sued for \$1.43 million in damages but [lost after pressing his claim](#) for five years.



President Vladimir V. Putin visits RT's studios in Moscow with editor-in-chief Margarita Simonyan in 2013. Credit Yuri Kochetkov/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

The drumbeat continued. "‘Totally Insane’: Telecomm Industry Ignores 5G Dangers," was the title of [a segment](#) that aired March 6.

A program [on March 14](#) was aimed squarely at parents: "Could 5G Put More Kids at Risk for Cancer?" The RT reporter told of a California elementary school that recently churned with fear of radiation from a nearby cellphone tower, and how angry parents [kept home 200 students](#).

Even as RT America has worked hard to damage 5G, the scientific establishment in Russia has embraced a contrary and questionable position: that the high frequencies of 5G communications are actually good for human health. It [recommends their use](#) for

healing wounds, boosting the immune system and treating cancer. Millions of Russian patients [are said to have undergone](#) such high-frequency therapies.

Beauty clinics in Moscow use these high frequencies for skin regeneration, [according to a scientific study](#). One company [says the waves](#) can remove wrinkles and fight hair loss.

A [Rand study](#) once called RT America's approach a "Firehose of Falsehood." For its part, Moscow has repeatedly denied allegations of meddling in the 2016 presidential election and has [strongly defended](#) RT's news coverage as socially constructive.

Likewise, RT America strongly defended its position on the potential health risks of 5G technology.

"Nothing I've seen says the book is closed," [Rick Sanchez](#), an RT anchor on many of the 5G episodes, said in an interview. "I think there's lots of unanswered questions. Before we commit to something on this scale, shouldn't we consider if people could possibly be hurt?"

Mr. Fox, the operations chief of [New Knowledge](#), the technology firm, said the network's aggressive spin on 5G suggests Moscow is less interested in serving the public than dulling Washington's edge in the global race for the digital future.

"It's information warfare," he said.

Additional reporting by Sophia Kishkovsky in Moscow

Bend Garbage & Recycling is Now Republic Services®!

In April, Bend Garbage & Recycling transitioned ownership to Republic Services of Oregon. We have the same drivers and customer service, providing the same excellent level of service you've come to expect. Republic Services is locally focused, bringing experience in recycling, solid waste management and disposal, and sustainability.

You will slowly begin to see some blue Republic Services containers around town, our drivers in new uniforms, and eventually blue trucks with the Republic Services logo. **None of this will impact the current services you have.**

Please call our office at [541.382.2263](tel:541.382.2263) with any questions. Republic Services is looking forward to serving you!

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We'll handle it from here.®

