

PHOTO: DC generators get the eagle eye from 1971 Redmond High School students.



THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Debra McCarthy

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OREGON'S NEW REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN

Bentz visits local veterans in first Oregon trip

BY BRENNIA VISSER

The Bulletin
In his first trip back to Oregon since being sworn in early this year, U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario, came to speak at the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch between Bend and Redmond in honor of Vietnam War Veterans Day. Dozens of veterans, their friends

and families gathered Monday at the ranch, which supports veterans by offering peer support and agriculture-related therapy.

"We're here to honor you for your sacrifice and your suffering," Alison Perry, Founder of Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, said at the event.

When addressing the crowd, Bentz recounted his own experience huddling

by a radio, waiting to hear whether his draft number was going to be called.

He committed to learning more about and advocating for veterans' issues.

"We'll do our best to fight for you just like you fought for us," Bentz said.

In his statement, Bentz briefly mentioned to the crowd he co-sponsored H.R. 1448, which directs the Secretary

of Veteran Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapies to provide service dogs to veterans who do not have mobility impairments. He is one of 308 to co-sponsor the bill.

Bentz said in general, however, the world of veterans issues is new to him, and said he is thankful he still has people who worked for his predecessor, Greg Walden, to help him.

His goal this week back home in Oregon is to listen and learn from constituents about what issues need to be addressed, he said. At this event, a handful of veterans made one issue clear: Too many veterans are not getting the benefits — or have trouble getting the benefits — they deserve from Veterans Affairs.

See **Bentz** / P5



4 running for vacant Redmond School Board seat

County clerk scrapped plan to appoint member; race now on May ballot

BY JACKSON HOGAN

The Bulletin
A vacant seat on the Redmond School Board, initially to be filled by appointment, is now one of the most hotly contested races in the May 18 election.

Four candidates have filed to fill the seat of board chair Tim Carpenter, who abruptly resigned from his seat on March 17. It's the second Redmond School Board seat to have four candidates, and no other Central Oregon school board race has more than three this year.

Although the school board planned to appoint someone to serve the remaining two years of Carpenter's term, Deschutes County Clerk Nancy Blankenship ruled that the seat must be filled by election, as Carpenter left the board with enough time between then and May 18.

After a slightly extended candidate filing period, the dust has settled, and voters in Redmond, Terrebonne and Tumalo will have four school board candidates to choose from for Carpenter's seat.

Redmond resident Oscar Gonzalez is the family empowerment programs manager at Bend-based nonprofit Latino Community Association, according to county filings. He has held other education-focused positions in the past, including academic advising at community colleges in Salem, Eugene, and Houston.

See **Board** / P4

Earth's Art

Remodeled gas station grows a second life

BY LYDIA VALENTI • The Spokesman

REDMOND — Walking into Earth's Art is like walking into a tropical forest. The remodeled gas station building on the corner of SW Fifth Street and Forest Avenue is filled with beautiful mature greenery and folks who have put time, effort and knowledge into helping the plants flourish.

The garden store, which specializes in plants and pottery, will have been open a year at the end of April, but owner Michael Ludeman comes with many years of experience. Ludeman previously owned Tumalo Garden Market, which was founded under the parent company of Earth's Art LLC, a name which came out of his appreciation for plants as "God's art."

See **Earth's Art** / P6

PHOTO: Earth's Art, owned by Michael Ludeman, features a wide array of tropical plants.

Lydia Valenti/Spokesman

Spokesman Calendar

Events in and around Redmond

The Redmond Spokesman welcomes event information for its community calendar. Submissions are limited to nonprofit, free and live entertainment events. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday for the following Wednesday's paper. Items are published on a space-available basis and may be edited. Contact us at news@redmondspokesman.com or fax 541-548-3203.

ONGOING

Big Butte Challenge: Hikers and runners will summit five buttes in Central Oregon, going at their own pace whenever their schedule allows using a GPS-enabled activity tracker to submit efforts before the deadline; through May 31; \$60; online; go.evnt.com/752281-1 or 541-350-4635.

MBSEF Spring Online Auction: The virtual fundraiser for the sports education foundation features local gift cards, airline tickets, art, vacation packages and more; through 10 a.m. April 5; online; go.evnt.com/758762-0 or 541-388-0002.

WEDNESDAY 3/31

Deschutes Public Library Special District Board Meeting: The board will discuss a resolution authorizing the sale of general obligation bonds and related matters; noon-1 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/758737-0 or 541-312-1025.

Women Artists Respond to Place: The significance of landscapes, places and narratives of all kinds will be examined through the works of contemporary women artists in Smithsonian collections; 2-3 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evnt.com/758753-1 or 541-382-4754.

Virtual Q&A Sessions for Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon: OSU Master Gardeners will answer questions regarding the free video class "Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon" covering climate, soil, site selection and more; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evnt.com/756112-2 or 541-548-6088.

Know Wild — Changing Climates and Wildlife, A Climate-Altered Future: Consider ways that changing climates are affecting wildlife and effects we can anticipate as climate change continues; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evnt.com/755406-1 or 541-312-1029.

See **Calendar** / P4

The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

INDEX

Puzzles..... 2 Obituaries..... 6
Police log..... 2 Classifieds..... 7

Volume 111, No. 31
USPS 778-040



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