



Redmond's  
Skyler Jones »

# THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Charity Gillihan

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MAY 18 ELECTION

## EQUITY, MENTAL HEALTH, COMMUNITY: Redmond's 11 school board candidates tackle some top issues facing the district

BY JACKSON HOGAN • The Bulletin

**T**he Redmond School Board races are the most competitive in Central Oregon this year. Eleven candidates are vying for four seats in the May 18 election, and only one — board chair Shawn Hartfield — is an incumbent.

This is a sharp turnaround from the 2019 board elections, where one incumbent ran unopposed and the other incumbent only had one challenger.

The Bulletin asked the Redmond School Board candidates the same questions about guns in schools, COVID-19, the district's new equity task force, and more.

### Position 1

With the school board guaranteed to have at least three new members next school year, Hartfield said her nearly six

years of experience would serve Redmond schools well.

"Whether I get elected or not, we're going to have a very new board," Hartfield, 50, said. "It's important to have somebody there with the knowledge and experience that I have."

Besides serving on the board, Hartfield works in human resources for Buckstop Truckware, a Prineville auto bumper manufacturer, and teaches business classes at Central Oregon Community College. She has three kids in Redmond schools: one each at Sage Elementary and Obsidian and Elton Gregory middle schools.

Once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, Hartfield wants to push for more extracurricular activities for elementary students, she said.

"In our elementary schools, we have not done a great job in developing extracurricular activities," she said. "Chess club in each school, bringing music back in . . . It would build a community of parents that want to bring their kids to school every day."

Hartfield and the Redmond School Board also created an equity task force for the district in September, intended to address inequities in local schools, combat explicit and implicit racism and

diversify the district's work force.

The task force has done well getting set up this year, Hartfield said, but she'd push them to set concrete goals if re-elected.

"That way it's not a task force in idea, it's a task force that's actually moving forward to doing something that would be measurable to all students," she said.

One of the equity task force's members, Stephanie Hunter, is Hartfield's lone challenger.

Hunter is a behavioral specialist at the Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon, a Redmond nonprofit that supports people with disabilities. She is the mother of a senior at Redmond Proficiency Academy charter school and a foster son who is in a post-graduate high school program for students with developmental disabilities.

Many of Hunter's top concerns have to do with helping schools and students recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Those include making sure attendance bounces back next year after a sudden drop, improving school air filtration systems to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and investing in students' mental health.

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## Bond would go toward new, larger elementary in Sisters

Building would ease crowding, place all 3 schools on 1 campus

BY JACKSON HOGAN

The Bulletin

Voters in the Sisters area will decide May 18 whether or not to fund a brand-new, larger building for Sisters Elementary School by voting on a \$33 million bond.

Sisters School District leadership say that the proposed new elementary would allow for more room for the crowding school; it will make the elementary a true K-5, instead of K-4; and it will create a cohesive, three-school Sisters campus on the west end of town.

And if those perks don't convince voters, perhaps this will: passing the bond won't raise taxes. It will simply retain the tax rate that's been in place since residents passed a bond in 2001 to build Sisters High School.

Curt Scholl, superintendent of Sisters School District, said he was hopeful Sisters voters would approve the bond.

"We have a strong partnership with the community, so we are optimistic," he said.

The current Sisters Elementary building — built in the '70s — only has enough room for grades K-4, unlike a typical K-5 elementary.

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After this month's competitive Redmond School Board elections, the board is guaranteed to have at least three new members next school year.

Jackson Hogan/Bulletin background photo

## NeighborImpact receives \$800,000 in relief to expand food bank warehouse

Bulletin staff report

NeighborImpact will receive \$800,000 in federal COVID-19 relief funds to go toward expanding the nonprofit's food bank warehouse.

On Monday, the nonprofit in an announcement credited state House Rep. Jack Zika, R-Redmond, with dedicating the discretionary funding toward the cause.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of people using the food bank has increased from 22,000 monthly to a peak of 34,000, according to NeighborImpact.

To keep up with the increasing demand, NeighborImpact, which serves all of Central Oregon, is trying to raise \$5 million to expand its warehouse. The project will add 6,400 square feet to the existing warehouse, as well as improve loading and unloading areas and upgrade to rooftop solar to make the building more resilient.

Between the COVID-19 relief funds, private donations and a grant from the Maybell Clark Macdonald Fund, the organization has secured \$1.04 million toward the \$5 million expansion campaign.

## 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.

### WEDNESDAY 5/12

**Safe Medication Use in Older Adults:** A free, instructor-led webinar that's designed to help anyone who cares for an aging Oregonian learn about safe medication use, pain management and medication reviews; 1-4 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/778117-0 or 1-800-930-6851.

**Teen Volunteer Opportunity:** A day of working in a garden planting veggie starts and building a simple trellis for peas at MountainStar in Redmond; 3-5 p.m.; registration required; MountainStar Family Relief Nursery Redmond, 2724 SW Timber

Ave., Redmond; go.evvnt.com/774289-1 or 541-382-4682.

**Redmond School Board Budget Committee Meeting:** The budget committee will meet virtually; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/780574-0 or 541-923-5437.

**LandWatch Virtual Open House:** What's next for Central Oregon? Learn about how we can defend and plan for Central Oregon's sustainable, livable future; 6-7:30 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evvnt.com/771244-2 or 541-647-2930.

**Out of This World Book Club:** Discussing "The Once and Future Witches" by Alix

E. Harrow; 6-7 p.m.; online; go.evvnt.com/769983-0 or 541-306-6564.

**Know Islands — Island Archaeology and the Anthropocene:** Examine ancient human impacts and future sustainability; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evvnt.com/769142-1 or 541-312-1029.

### THURSDAY 5/13

**Food Trail Development Workshop — Culinary & Agrotourism and Regional Resource Panels:** The workshop will explore how the local culinary and agricultural tourism

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The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

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# Thursday Prime Rib

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See Cottonwood for details. 4PM - While supplies last.

