



# THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Gary Ollershaw

redmondspokesman.com @RedmondSpox

## PINCHED BY PRICES

### Redmond ranchers are caught in beef squeeze



Bill Bartlett photos

Red and black Angus dominate the many breeds of cattle surrounding Redmond.

BY BILL BARTLETT • For The Spokesman

Redmond was once full of cows from the backyard milker to herds on small ranches. Urbanization has turned Redmond farmland into homes and businesses but you only have to drive to the north city limits to find cattle of all breeds and sizes. From NW Canal to Terrebonne there are hundreds of head of cattle. Drive another five miles north to Crooked River and more than a thousand cows are grazing. And that's just what you can see from US 97.

Cattle ranching and Redmond are joined at the hip to this day. From ag equipment suppliers to beef processors, more than a dozen businesses employing several hundred persons cater to central Oregon farmers and ranchers. That is in danger of changing.

#### Squeeze is on

Cattle ranchers particularly are being squeezed by rising costs, lower market prices and the multi-year drought. Mark Huttinga has been farming and ranching since he was a kid. For the last 26 years he has worked a small corner of a 456-acre hay farm north of Redmond raising Dexter cattle and eight children. He's throwing in his hat and moving to Montana. In the process he is selling off his herd.

He's not alone. He knows of 20 other ranchers calling it quits, primarily not being able to get enough water.

That has been true for a while.

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**“We can collectively preserve water for our ecosystems, endangered species and farmland. By collaborating together, we can find a balance between continuing to grow and produce food, and responsibly preserving water and land, without threatening wildlife habitat, recreation or agriculture.”**

— JoHanna Symons, co-founder with her husband, Jeremy, of The Symons Beef Company in Madras



Mark Huttinga's herd of Irish Dexter cattle are bred for a smaller footprint.

## Redmond Proficiency Academy sets open enrollment

From a press release  
Redmond Proficiency Academy's (RPA) annual open enrollment period begins on Feb. 15 at 8 a.m. and runs through March 1 at 5 p.m.

The two-week period allows students and families to learn more about the public charter school and apply for admission.

“We're excited to once again offer an open enrollment period for Central Oregon students and families to think about their current education and how it compares to the experiences we offer at RPA,” Executive Director Jon Bullock said in a press release.

“RPA offers robust educational and extracurricular opportunities and our 98 percent graduation rate is a testament that our unique educational approach is working. We'd be honored to have students and families participate in our webinars and learn more about us.”

RPA features a College Prep program that utilizes a university model scheduling system in which students take advanced courses and learn to be effective university students by learning in seminar environments — emulating a college campus experience.

This flexible scheduling model works well for students and families seeking a choice in their educational experience, one that allows them to focus on additional interests outside of school, including downhill and cross-country ski racing, equestrian events, rodeo circuits and many other activities.

This model allows students of all academic levels and interests to accelerate or decelerate their learning in the manner that works best for the students and their goals.

The cumulative experience of seven years at RPA is preparation for life after high school, Bullock said. The conversations start in middle school when faculty and staff encourage students to explore their interests and talents, and ways they can apply them to careers.

The tuition-free public charter school offers courses in award-winning theatre, robotics and arts programs, in addition to computer science, rock climbing, Spanish language immersion and many others.

Applications for enrollment are being accepted for students entering grades six through twelve, and there are currently openings in all grade levels. New students interested in attending RPA should apply online at [rpademy.org](http://rpademy.org), during this open enrollment period.

Students and parents interested in learning more about RPA are invited to learn more about Open Enrollment on our website or attend the following webinars:

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## 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](mailto:news@redmondspokesman.com) or fax 541-548-3203.

### WEDNESDAY 2/9

**Bingo Night:** Free to play every Wednesday; 6:30 p.m.; The Vault Taphouse, 245 SW Sixth St., Redmond; [facebook.com/ko-boldbrewing](https://facebook.com/ko-boldbrewing) or 541-504-9373.

### THURSDAY 2/10

**Porter Mania:** Beertenders and brewers teamed up to create three new porters for all of the dark beer lovers out there; 11 a.m. till beer runs out; free; Wild Ride Brewing Co., 332 SW Fifth St., Redmond; [wildridebrew.com](http://wildridebrew.com) or 541-610-2520.

**Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting:** A regular meet-

ing will be held; 4:30-6 p.m.; free; Redmond City Hall, Online; [redmondoregon.gov](http://redmondoregon.gov) or 541-923-7710.

**Lino — Range Music Series:** The local jazz, Latin, and world musician will perform; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; free; Brasada Ranch, 16986 SW Brasada Ranch Road, Powell Butte; [brasada.com](http://brasada.com) or 855-318-4960.

**The Ballybogs:** The Irish traditional music band will perform; 6-8 p.m.; free; Porter Brewing Co., 611 NE Jackpine, Ct. 2, Redmond; [porterbrewingco.com](http://porterbrewingco.com) or 541-504-7959.

**Songwriting Dance Party:** Join local singer-songwriter Casey Hurt Thursday nights, where he creates retro pop and soul dance tracks right on the spot; 7-10 p.m.; free; General Duffy's

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The Spokesman uses recycled newsprint

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