



Local meat packer, Cinder Butte, has been a processor to nearby ranchers since 1945.

Bill Bartlett photos

## Beef

Continued from P1

Now, though, he and others like him are contending with rising costs for just about everything while getting lower and lower prices for his cattle at market.

At the same time, beef prices in the grocery store are up for 10 straight months, now about 9% higher than a year ago. Projections are for another 2% to 3% increase for the remainder of the year.

Cinder Butte Meat Co. on NW Oneil Way in Redmond has never been busier, store personnel tell The Spokesman. They have both a kill truck (mobile butcher) that will come to the ranch to harvest as well as receiving cows at their plant. Ranchers like Huttinga have survived selling their beef to local stores, restaurants and consumers. Taking their cattle to auction is a money loser.

A year ago a 900-pound steer brought \$1.45 a pound at auction and today it's around \$1.28, all the while costing families more for burgers and steaks. Not much has changed. In 2011 it was \$1.49.

### Locally grown preference

It's a similar picture for Redmond Smokehouse on SE Railroad who are enjoying strong sales. Once prices in the big box store hit a certain point, shoppers either reduce their purchases or buy lower quality cuts. Or they say to themselves: "If I'm going to pay more, I'm buying fresh and local."

Folks like knowing that the meat on their plate came from just up the road, that it was raised on high quality Oregon grass or hay. What they don't know is the depth of the water problem on beef.

Much has been written about storage water being diverted for the Oregon spotted frog. Hay farmers are feeling the pressure from the eight-year plan to restore the frog, an endangered species. The recovery effort is only in its second year and is on top of a three-year running drought (some would say longer). Less water. Less hay. Pay more for hay, a lot more, at the same time you get less for a cow, and one can see why ranchers are selling off or culling their herds. Or selling the ranch, lock, stock and kaboodle.

### Striking a water balance

What's the answer apart from a lot more snow and rain? JoHanna Symons, co-founder with her husband, Jeremy, of The Symons Beef Company in Madras believes the answer is more balance brought on by more education. She's passionate and articulate when making her case: "We can collectively preserve water for our



Scottish Highland, known for their shaggy looks, are growing in popularity with ranchers in Redmond.

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," Symons said.

She believes that Washington state, also facing the spotted frog issue, has done a better job than Oregon in balancing the needs of farmers and ranchers with the goals of environmental activists.

Symons holds out hope that the recent undertakings of the Biden administration to lessen the stranglehold she believes the "big four" meat packers have on the U.S. will produce results on the sell side. Cargill, JBS, National Beef Packing and Tyson Foods are estimated to control as much as 80% of packaged meat market.

Part of that thinking would dramatically increase the number of meat packing operators

like Cinder Butte and Redmond Smokehouse who are limited by size to a small number of animals per week. The goal is to get consumers closer to the source of their food both for food security and better nutrition.

She is realistic that ideas as those don't materialize quickly. Just like droughts rarely disappear in one season.

### Compact cattle option

Huttinga's Dexters are an Irish breed averaging around 700 pounds as compared to

the much larger black and red angus weighing in at 1,100 to 1,300 pounds. The smaller breed can do well on a just a few acres and at harvest time they don't require a full-size freezer.

"You will see more smaller lots, some closer to town, with a cow or two or three," Huttinga predicted.

Like the Symons he sees a growing movement in Redmond and environs for healthier, more sustainable food to table living.

Email Bill Bartlett at [billbartlett@gmail.com](mailto:billbartlett@gmail.com).

# Redmond Senior Center Launches 100/100/100 Challenge

From a press release

The new executive director of the Redmond Senior Center, Todd Dickerson, launched a community fundraising challenge Wednesday: 100 days, \$100,000 raised, 100 miles.

Dickerson, a Redmond native, will run one mile for every \$1,000 the Senior Center raises in the next 100 days, up to 100 miles in total, according to a press release.

Dickerson stepped into his new role as executive director in January and is eager to support the community he is from, he said. Both he and his wife, Megan, are graduates of Redmond High School (1992 and 1994 respectively), his mother was a teacher in the Redmond School District for 30 years, and his son is currently a student at Redmond High School.

"Redmond runs in my veins, and I will do anything, including running 100 miles, to support my hometown. I'm in this for the long haul!" said Dickerson.

Any amount donated will help advance the mission of the Senior Center and allow increased needs to be met, such as hot meals, more diverse programming, new activities and facility upgrades. The Redmond Senior Center is at a pivotal time in its history and will provide even greater support as the community continues to grow.

"By 2025, the population of older adults, age 50 and older, is estimated to grow 30 percent in Redmond," he said. "Thinking ahead, we have a role in making sure

### More Information

The Redmond Senior Center was launched by volunteers over 70 years ago (1949) when the population in Redmond was less than 3000 residents. It continues to operate as the "hub" and sole resource in Redmond focused entirely on seniors. It is a stand-alone nonprofit solely supported by membership, public and private grants, businesses, occasional special events, donations, and countless volunteer resources. It does not receive tax revenues nor is it operated by the City of Redmond or the Redmond Area Parks and Recreation District.

The Redmond Senior Center continues to provide essential services for older adults in the community, through Meals on Wheels, Congregate Dining, regular activities, and support services. For more information contact the Redmond Senior Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays at 541-548-6325 or at [info@redmond-seniors.org](mailto:info@redmond-seniors.org) and check the website at [www.redmond-seniors.org](http://www.redmond-seniors.org).

every business and organization benefits from an energized and vibrant engaged community that is engaged, connected, and thriving."

To donate and increase the mileage Dickerson has to run, visit the Senior Center's donation page: Redmond Senior Center 100/100/100 Challenge.

## Enrollment

Continued from P1

- The RPA High School Experience — Tuesday, Feb. 15 @ 6 p.m. How is RPA different from other public schools? Join to learn more about the approach it created and why graduation rates are higher than local, state and national averages.

- The RPA Middle School Experience — Success and Choice — Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. Middle School can be a challenging time in a person's life — that's why it's important to be supported and cared for, while being given options to deeply en-

gage in learning new things. RPA provides that space and delights in opening new doors for students to explore.

- The RPA Collegiate Model — Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. Learn more about the innovative and personalized proficiency-based collegiate model and how the school provides dynamic pathways to success for all students.

- Fine and Performing Arts at RPA — Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. RPA has always made the arts a priority. Join in a conversation about what it offers and how students benefit from fine and performing arts at RPA.



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Day Respite and Support Groups  
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## WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Baptist	Non-Denominational
<p><b>Highland Baptist Church</b> 3100 SW Highland Ave., Redmond 541-548-4161 Barry Campbell, Lead Pastor</p> <p><b>Sunday Worship Services:</b></p> <p>Blended - 8 &amp; 9 am Contemporary - 10:30 am (Worship Center)</p> <p>hbc Español - 10:30 am Acoustic - 6 pm (Youth Room)</p> <p>*9 am &amp; 10:30 am live-streamed on website: <a href="http://www.hbcredmond.org">www.hbcredmond.org</a></p> <p><b>Family Night Wednesdays</b> (January 2 - March 16)</p> <p>5:30 pm - Dinner in Gym (free) 6 pm - Practical classes for all ages</p> <p>See website for a list of classes!</p> <p>How can hbc pray for you? <a href="mailto:prayer@hbcredmond.org">prayer@hbcredmond.org</a></p> <p><b>CHECK YOUR AD</b> On the first day it runs to make sure it is correct. Call 541-617-7823 for corrections.</p>	<p><b>Seventh Day Adventist</b> 945 W. Glacier Ave., Redmond, OR 541-923-0301</p> <p>Sabbath School 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am</p> <p><b>Roman Catholic</b></p> <p><b>St Thomas Roman Catholic Church</b> 1720 NW 19th Street Redmond, Oregon 97756 541-923-3390</p> <p>Father Todd Unger, Pastor</p> <p><b>Mass Schedule:</b> Weekdays 8:00 am (Except Wednesdays) Wednesday 6:00 pm</p> <p>Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm First Saturday 8:00 am (English)</p> <p>Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am (English) 12:00 noon (Spanish)</p> <p>Confessions on Wednesdays From 5:00 to 5:45 pm and on Saturdays From 3:00 to 4:30 pm</p>

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