

**INSIDE »** Community celebrates charitable couple



# THE REDMOND Spokesman

A special good morning to subscriber Dale Lehnertz

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**Gary Abrams, a Redmond firefighter, drives the aircraft crash tender at Redmond Airport. Redmond Fire & Rescue are looking to fill as many as 11 open firefighter/paramedic positions.**

Garrett Andrews/FILE

## Growing pains

**As Redmond expands, staffing levels in emergency services struggle to keep pace**

BY NICK ROSENBERGER • Redmond Spokesman

**W**hile many businesses are booming and construction is flourishing amid Redmond's rapid growth, some service organizations are struggling to keep up with demand.

Redmond's police and fire departments, as well as St. Charles' Hospital, are all feeling this pressure as they try to keep staffing levels growing along with Redmond's population.

According to Redmond's "State of the City" presentation in April, there is a projected increase of 50,000 residents in the next 20 years — more than doubling the size of the city. As of March 2022, Redmond was gaining roughly 7.8 new residents every day, far outpacing the city's forecast.

Addressing this growth is one of the greatest challenges facing the city and the organizations tasked with keeping its residents safe.

Redmond Fire & Rescue is looking to fill as many as 11 open positions for entry level or experienced firefighters and paramedics.

According to Tom Mooney, Redmond's Fire Marshal, there are currently two unfilled positions on staff and plan to create six new ones to keep up with increasing

See **Growth** / A4



**FILE- Redmond fire officials conduct fire training in 2019 at Redmond Airport. Redmond Fire & Rescue are looking to fill as many as 11 open firefighter/paramedic positions.**

Dean Guernsey/Bulletin

## Offer made on Petersen Rock Garden

*Possible new owners say they would renovate, maintain attraction for public*

BY JOE SIESS  
CO Media Group

The owner of the Petersen Rock Garden, one of Oregon's beloved roadside attractions, is reviewing an offer from a potential buyer and plans to close it to visitors while the deal is reviewed, according to the owner's real estate agent.

Kaisha Brannon, of Coldwell Banker Sun Country Realty, the seller's agent, said the possible new owners would like to renovate and maintain the rock garden for the public. The prospective new owners of the rock garden are longtime residents of Central Oregon and wish to remain unnamed, Brannon said.

"I know that it will remain the rock garden and be open to the public, but I can't really say what they plan on doing because we ultimately don't know what they are going to get pushback on," Brannon said.

Deschutes County land use officials said last week that zoning questions about the permissible use of the property still need to be addressed.

The county told stakeholders, including Brannon, that many potential issues could come up given the property is zoned exclusively for farm use, the most restrictive zoning in unincorporated Deschutes County. The property, on SW 77 Street southwest of Redmond, is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, creating another layer of uncertainty regarding how the property can and cannot be used or altered by a new owner.

Brannon did not disclose financial details about the offer. The rock garden's owner, Susan Caward, 57, is selling the property because of health reasons.

The rock garden was put on the market in early June and listed for \$825,000, a price that includes all the art and rocks and the peacocks that freely roam the property. It was built by Danish immigrant Rasmus Petersen in the 1940s and '50s and sits on 12 acres that was not zoned by the county until the 1970s.

See **Petersen** / A4

## Cascades Radio Hour brings national acts to High Desert Music Hall this summer

*Amythyst Kiah, Leo Kottke on the bill*

BY NICK ROSENBERGER  
Redmond Spokesman

Pass by the High Desert Music Hall this summer, and you're likely to hear sounds thumping from deep within the building's blood-red walls. Nestled within a former church, a growing number of musicians from across the country are gathering with fans to sing and sway to the beat of piano keys and guitar strings.

On Wednesday, July 13,

Amythyst Kiah, a grammy-nominated artist, will be the one standing out front and belting out powerful chords and words. On July 20, Leo Kottke, a legendary guitarist known for his fingerpicking style, will take the stage.

These two artists arrive in Redmond to perform at the High Desert Music Hall during Cascades Radio Hour's live-music series, which will continue to feature a variety of blues and Americana artists through August 24.

The series, a collaboration between KJIV Radio — commonly referred to as JIVE



Submitted Photo

**Amythyst Kiah will perform at the High Desert Music Hall on Wednesday.**

Radio and found on 96.5FM — and High Desert Music Hall is a match that reflects

Redmond's own growth and expanding opportunities. The series started on June

8 with regional acts before moving on to heavy hitters like Kottke and Kiah, Margo Cilker and C.J. Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band.

"I find [Kiah] really compelling," said Jeff Cotton, the founder of JIVE Radio. "She's got a really smoldering power that's uncommon. There's a lot of female voices out there that are in their own category but Amythyst has this deep range and a really powerful approach to singing."

"It started as a cathartic hobby," Kiah said.

Kia, who described herself

See **Music** / A4

The Spokesman uses recycled newspaper

### INDEX

Calendar.....A2     Obituaries.....A5  
Puzzles.....A2     Classifieds.....A6

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