

Opinion

Write to us: news@redmondspokesman.com

Wrong to celebrate People's Rights group in parade

The Redmond Fourth of July parade is becoming more ugly and unsafe each year due to the same group: People's Rights OR 5. Last year, they flew the Confederate flag. This year, the Redmond Chamber of Commerce reassured everyone that they wouldn't be allowed to do so again and put "rules" into place to prevent it.

What the chamber failed to mention, however, was that the rules would not actually be enforced, so People's Rights was once again allowed to shove their unwanted political opinions into the faces of children.

All while the chamber called the parade a "family-friendly, inclusive event that is for the entire community regardless of belief or background." As an attendee, this certainly did not feel inclusive.

Will the chamber ever be willing to stand up for the rest of Redmond? Or will they continue to be pushed around by this loud minority until the parade is nothing but People's Rights propaganda? We are growing tired of seeing it. Do better, Redmond.

Jordan Portier
Redmond

Extremist group should not be in parade, newspaper

I bought a home in Redmond three years ago and was excited to get to know my new community. It was also the first year of COVID-19, and everything was closing up.

Fourth of July was the Porch Parade, and the next year, there was a parade, which I was looking forward to attending.

I was taken aback when I saw the People's Rights group handing out pamphlets and flying Confeder-

LETTERS AND COLUMNS

Join in on the topics we're covering. The Spokesman welcomes letters to the editor and guest columnists.

Submissions may be edited or rejected for clarity, taste, libel and space. They must be signed and include an address and a telephone number where the writer can be reached during business hours. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published. For more information, call 541-633-2166.

To submit, email is preferred: news@redmondspokesman.com.

Submissions can also be mailed to: P.O. Box 6020, Bend, OR 97708

ate Flags and other divisive flags. I posted the Chamber of Commerce questioning how or why this would be allowed.

Imagine my disappointment this year, when this same group was, again, allowed to participate with their divisive handouts and flags. The so-called rules by the Chamber say no flags except the U.S. flag, and yet here we are again.

And then our hometown paper prints a picture of their float! Noth-

ing about the Redmond Collective Action blue-ribbon winner in their category, which represented inclusiveness. I expect better of the local newspaper in being representative of our community.

Tomi Helm
Redmond

Redmond parade should allow Confederate flag

Oregon has made the vile decision

to ban the Confederate flag from its historic cemeteries. When it appeared in Redmond's Fourth of July parade, an anonymous woman said it was a symbol of hate and racism.

The Star-Spangled Banner and the Confederate Battle Flag (as opposed to the Confederate national flag) should elicit equal reverence. What began as a war to preserve the Union, regardless of slavery, was fought to the last ounce of human endurance and abolished slavery. Battle flags North and South testify to the sincerity and suffering of those Americans who endured the catastrophe of this needless struggle.

Whether referenced in statutes as Civil War (Union and Confederate), Spanish-American, WWI, WWII, Korean, Vietnam or Desert Storm veterans, all are also brothers in arms for whom the term American veteran applies.

Nolan Nelson
Redmond

Picture books are worth a thousand words

BY JOSIE HANNEMAN
Community librarian

Summertime and the great outdoors: there's nothing better. If your family agrees, enjoy these new titles in picture book format that run the gamut of reading levels and throw a tinge of wonder, humor and learning into the mix.

"Uncle John's Garden" by Bernette G. Ford, illustrated by Frank Morrison

Three siblings join their uncle in cultivating an urban lot. Li'l Sissy, the youngest, picks okra for her row of vegetables, and her brother and sister round out the ingredients for succotash; a recipe is included. Oil and spray paint illustrations transition from the browns and tans of an



Hanneman

"Tiny Dino" by Deborah Freedman

Is a hummingbird a tiny dino? Yes! Freedman's book has easy text exploring the relationship between birds and dinosaurs, and more complex images and text that can be read in conjunction or skipped depending on the age and interest of the child. Great for pre-readers who like dino-

early garden, to the grays and blues of a scary storm, and finally to the joyful greens of full summer. Great for any aspiring gardener, or ages 4-8.

sours, up to about age 7.

"Listen to the Language of the Trees" by Tera Kelley, illustrated by Marie Hermansson

Did you know that trees talk to each other, and to mushrooms? This book explores the evolving science, and the beauty of a Douglas fir dominant biome. Perfect for an elementary aged reader, with help for the younger end of the range.

"Dear Little One" by Nina Laden, illustrated by Melissa Castrillon

A letter from Mother Nature to a young child, first exploring her world. I imagine flipping this book open to a random page and using

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that as a starting point for a daily exploration: for example, "Celebrate the flowers. Be grateful for the bees." Great for ages 4-5, and fun for the nature-loving or curious child of any age.

"Flowers Are Pretty Weird!" by Rosemary Mosco, illustrated by Jacob Souva

Do you think of flowers as pretty and nice smelling? This book will shift your paradigm! Flowers that look like ani-

mals, poisonous ones, those that smell like rotten meat, or worse! A friendly bee humorously narrates this tour of interesting, dangerous, and gross flowers. Great for the naturalist in grades 1-3.

"Am I Even a Bee?" by Felicity Muth, illustrated by Alexa Lindauer

Solitary bee Osmia questions her identity: is she even a bee when she's shiny and green? Can she claim the iden-

tity when she isn't fuzzy and fat? This is a delightful exploration of the diversity of bees, and is just silly enough to entertain those not interested in insects. Great for grades K-3.

"A Warbler's Journey" by Scott Weidensaul, illustrated by Nancy Lane

A painted journey of a young warbler from the highlands of Nicaragua to her nesting grounds in northern Canada, explained by the humans who observe her in various locations. Bird migration is a fascinating natural phenomena, and this book makes it accessible to young readers. Perfect for elementary aged children.

■ Graham Fox is a community librarian for the Deschutes County Library.

Latino Association raises \$75,000 in local donations

BY TIM TRAINOR
Redmond Spokesman

Donors have pushed the Latino Community Association across the finish line in its campaign to meet a \$75,000 challenge match from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust.

Thanks to the support of 31 returning donors and 165 new donors since July 2021, the Trust has granted LCA an additional \$75,000 to advance its

work to empower Latino families in Central Oregon. Maybelle Clark McDonald Fund provided a boost of \$25,000.

The Murdock grant caps a bountiful year for LCA. In 2022, the organization raised the most funds in its 22-year history.

Since 2000, the Latino Community Association has been working to empower Latino families and children and building bridges across

cultures to create a more resilient Central Oregon. Its programs include: workforce education and training, family empowerment, healthy families, youth rising and cultural enrichment. It serves more than 8,000 people every year.

For more information, visit www.latinocommunityassociation.org or call 541-382-4366.

■ Reporter: ttrainor@redmondspokesman.com

Read and recycle

OBITUARY

Veronica Jean Kuper February 12, 1937 - June 28, 2022

Veronica (Vera) Jean Kuper of Redmond formerly of Salem passed away at age 85.

Veronica was born in Salem to Adam and Lena Ziebart on February 12, 1937. She was one of 12 children. She married Donald Duane Kuper on November 5, 1955 and was married for 62 years.

She had 6 children, Kenneth (deceased in 2010) Brenda (Mike) Purkey, Michael (Bev) Kuper, Wanda (Ron) Clark, Tony (Kathy) Kuper, Valerie (Vern) Lackey, 18 Grandchildren, 30 Great Grandchildren and 5 Great-Great Grandchildren.

Veronica had a great love for her Faith, Family, and Friends. She very much enjoyed being a member of TOPS and Sweet Adeline's.

The family would like to mention a heartfelt appreciation to St. Charles Hospice Team and to Father Todd Unger of St. Thomas Catholic Church.



SHOP
LOCAL
EAT
LOCAL
READ
LOCAL

Local businesses and restaurants need your support more than ever. Whether you visit stores, get delivery or shop online, keep your spending local and keep your community healthy.

Newspapers are LOCAL. We are dedicated to keeping you informed, safe and connected and care about the issues that are important to our neighbors, our schools and our businesses.

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