

Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Kiwanis Club supports rec center project

BY REDMOND KIWANIS

In 1972 The Kiwanis Club of Redmond and its Kiwanis Foundation took on the task of spearheading a new indoor swimming pool which would be used year-round by the entire community to replace the old outdoor pool in Ray Johnson Park near Fifth and Highland.

Fifty years later, the Kiwanis board of directors has endorsed the \$49 bond measure submitted by the Redmond Area Parks and Recreation District for a new recreation center and swimming pool in southwest Redmond.

"The population of Redmond has grown more than five-fold in that half century. The Cascade Swim Center is still functional but overcrowded," said Josh Werner, Kiwanis president.

"It is only fitting that Kiwanis endorse this measure to benefit the children and families of today's Redmond," he said, recalling the historic campaign five decades ago.

Members of the club made countless trips to see other indoor pools throughout Oregon and Washington, especially those on the east side of the Cascades with similar climate conditions, to determine the good and bad points in determining the design for ours.

The 1970s, especially the latter half, was a period of major inflation, so the more money the club raised, the more out of reach the project became. In 1972 the estimated cost was \$250,000. The general obligation bond measure approved in 1978 was \$800,000, and the Redmond Kiwanis Foundation contributed \$200,000 more to finance the \$1 million cost.

To raise funds, the Kiwanis Club sponsored hamburger, chicken and salmon barbecues, raffles, a hoedown and other special events including a concert by the New Oregon Singers. The radio-TV auction was instigated as a fund raiser for the pool. Kiwanis also held paper drives and Mother's Day breakfasts.

The city of Redmond contributed \$50,000 which had been budgeted for the old outdoor pool operations. The largest single contributor was the Bend Foundation which provided \$75,000.

When it became apparent the costs were escalating faster than the funds could be raised, the Kiwanis Club spearheaded the establishment of the Central Oregon Park and Recreation District to manage the pool and to put the bond measure on the ballot in April 1978.

The district was created in a special election on July 8, 1975, by a vote of 327 to 248 when the population of Redmond was less than 5,000. The first five board members were Don Rich and Carl Leth from Kiwanis and Skip Easterbrooks, Eloise MacMurray and Ray Malott.

The pool opened to the public in November 1979.

Of the \$330,897 raised by the Kiwanis Foundation in its pool efforts, \$200,000 was contributed for construction costs, architects' fees, elections costs and interest for the first payment on the bonds. Another \$36,000 was dedicated to the first year's operations of the pool. A year or so later, the Kiwanis Foundation funded the construction of the adjacent wading pool for \$16,000.

The Kiwanis Foundation also loaned the park and recreation district \$25,000 interest free on at least two occasions to finance repairs to the Cascade Swim Center. In 2002, the Foundation spent \$1,165 for a new flagpole at the swim center.

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YOUR VIEWS

Vote for Chavez-DeRemer

I am writing this letter in support of Lori Chavez-DeRemer for Oregon District 5 representative. I have found her to be an incredible listener and problem solver. My husband and I are business owners and have talked with her about our concerns for the future of Central Oregon agriculture. Agriculture in this area is headed for extinction due to radical environmentalists who support her opponent's campaign. No farmers equals no food.

I believe Lori has the skills, temperament, common sense, integrity, and the experience to be an excellent representative for District 5. Her opponent, I believe, will only listen to people who support certain ideologies. We need representatives for all Oregonians.

Lori is the daughter of legal immigrants and has worked hard to achieve the American Dream. Success happens when people are willing to work hard like her and her husband. It's time to have a representative that has solid business experience and has signed the front of a paycheck — not just worked in government. We need to protect small businesses in this country — not decimate businesses with more governmental regulations.

Oregon has voted Democrat for over four decades. The problems of homelessness,

crime, the economy, drug addiction and education failures have increased in our state — not decreased. It's time for Oregon to make positive changes.

Trish Kentner-Backsen
Redmond

Redmond votes key for Levy, abortion rights

For this election, abortion is on the ballot in every single race. We must know which candidates will defend our reproductive freedom and which hold views that oppose the values of the vast majority of Oregonians. How Redmond votes will shape Oregon's healthcare access for years to come.

The recent defeat of an anti-abortion ballot referendum in Kansas proved once and for all that voters across party lines support abortion access. This November, we have an opportunity to decide which future we want: One where fringe politicians override the will of the people and seek to control our very bodies, or one where elected officials fight to protect our right to reproductive health care, including abortion.

That's why I am voting for Emerson Levy for state representative. She is a working parent who has earned the endorsement of Planned Parenthood PAC of Oregon, which fights for a world where everyone has the power to decide when and whether to be-

come a parent. Her opponent, meanwhile, uses misleading and inflammatory rhetoric against abortion providers and their patients. His views are far out-of-touch with the will of the people.

This November, we must defend our bodies, fight for control over our personal healthcare choices, and elect leaders who are unapologetic supporters of abortion rights. Please join me in voting for Emerson Levy.

Caitlyn Burford
Redmond

Vote for Redmond rec center

Redmond needs a public recreation center. We have limited options for families, teens, adults and seniors for recreational opportunities. The proposed facility is the result of months of study and input from residents. It is geared to a wide range of interests, abilities and age levels. Redmond has tripled in population since the last major investment in recreational facilities when the current pool was built 50 years ago. The proposed pools will be a major draw for all abilities and age levels.

This is an investment in Redmond's future. We are a lively, vibrant community. By voting yes on the recreation center you demonstrate your belief in this community

Jennifer Stenkamp
Redmond

GUEST COLUMN

Farm finance alternatives needed in today's economy

BY BRIAN SLIPKA

National Farmer's Day is October 12. As problems such as inflation and supply shortages persist across the country, Americans should take this day to recognize the farmers we rely on for our personal and national well-being.

Inflation continues to touch every industry and facet of life in America, but one industry is particularly affected because of its business cycle and the need to finance operations: agriculture.

A scholar at the American Enterprise Institute recently stated that prices of a wide array of farm equipment are rising more than the average inflation rate. Indeed, agriculture industry experts say that used equipment prices are up around 30 percent and that farmers have to wait months for their equipment to get to them because of persistent global supply chain issues. Buying equipment seems out of the question for many farmers, and alternatives are needed to support these business operators who are essential to our nation.

Technology on the farm has progressed to include GPS, cloud-based data storage, electronic sensors and robotic equipment. Up-to-date equipment with this technol-

ogy is essential to modern farming, but many operators cannot afford it without financing.

Moreover, many farmers are reluctant to invest in new infrastructure because there is a lot of uncertainty around costs such as fertilizer, seed and water. Production costs are up 14 percent over the previous two years. Fertilizer alone is up 12 percent over the last year, after a whopping 17 percent increase from 2020 to 2021.

Input costs are just one side of the coin; on the other is the revenue from production, which can go down dramatically when a farmer cuts back on input expenses. For example, I recently heard from one farmer who said that without the optimal amount of fertilizer for his corn, he could expect a 40 percent reduction in yield. Imagine similar effects spread across all food and feed crops and the corresponding effects on food supplies and prices.

It's worth noting that financial challenges for American farmers can quickly translate into global humanitarian crises. While the United States is far more food secure than other nations and American farmers produce a surplus to help feed the entire world, it is worth noting that after falling steadily for a decade, acute food insecurity has increased in just the last two years from afflicting 135 million people in 53 countries, pre-pandemic, to 345 mil-

lion in 82 countries today.

Thus, alternative financing options help farmers sustain their businesses and, in turn, the rest of the country and the world.

Farmers who cannot get money from a bank or those who simply do not want to deal with the rigidity of a bank seek other options for their equipment and input needs. When large banks don't provide loans for farmers to cover input costs or equipment, farmers are restricted unreasonably from getting the resources needed to do their jobs.

Alternatives to traditional bank financing and outright purchase, such as pay-per-use, tailored payment options and flexible leasing options provide farmers a way to obtain the equipment and inputs they need to run their businesses.

These alternatives give farmers the power to access the newest and best equipment at reasonable prices and get the inputs such as seed and fertilizer they need to navigate these challenging economic times and continue feeding the world.

National Farmer's Day provides an opportunity to recognize the importance of what farmers do and also think innovatively about how farmers can be supported as modern businesses.

■ Brian Slipka is CEO of Honour Capital, a capital finance company. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.



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