



Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

A coach for Redmond Youth Football coordinates plays during a game on Oct. 15 at the grand opening of the Redmond Rotary Community Fields across from Hugh Hartman Elementary School.

Athletes christen new fields

BY NICK ROSENBERGER
Redmond Spokesman

Youth football, a cornhole competition, shaved ice and tacos were spread across the turf Oct. 15 as the Redmond School District officially opened the Redmond Rotary Community Fields at the David M. Jaqua Sports Complex.

The approximately 161,000 square-foot fields, the largest continuous turf in the state, are fully adaptable and will allow a multitude of sports to practice and play at the same time — from football to soccer to lacrosse and baseball.

According to Charan Cline, the superintendent of the Redmond School District, the turf will last 10-15 years and, since there is no need to water them, will save the district \$17,000 a year.

“We are immensely proud of this multi-sport field we have developed for the use of children in our community,” said Cline. “It’s amazing to have a field that we can use in four seasons for youth of all ages.”

“They were just dirt fields,” said Holly Brown, spokesperson for RSD. “They’re really something now.”

Redmond Youth Football had first dibs on the fields after the grand opening and played third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade games of tackle football.

According to Meagan May, a parent and member of Redmond Youth Football, the field is an opportunity to build excitement for families and to get kids involved again.

“It’s just an awesome place for them to come together as a community and get that support,” May said.

“Our goal is to build a culture here to have football be very popular (and) bring the love of the game back,” said Brian Marcum, president of Redmond Youth Football. “And this allows everything to happen in one spot every Saturday.”

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BUSINESS



Going abroad

Local company part of international trade visit, **A3**



Staff and submitted photos

Four candidates vie for mayor

Editor’s note: All candidates for Redmond mayor were given the same questions at the same time and asked to keep their answers to 150 words for each. Their answers are included here with minimal editing. The order was drawn randomly.

Ed Fitch

Age: 71
Time in Redmond: 43 years
Political experience: Redmond city attorney, mayor, Redmond economic development commission, South Highway 97 committee and city councilor
Work experience: Attorney, 44 years

Education: Marquette University: bachelors and masters degrees in history. Juris Doctor from Willamette University
Family: Married to Susan for 39 years. Two sons: Andrew, 36, and Alex, 32.

Why did you choose to run for mayor?

I chose to run for mayor to have more transparency and open discussion with the community on all issues that impact the community.

What in your background gives you the skills to succeed in this position?

I have more than 40 years of experience representing both public entities as well as private individuals and businesses here in Central Oregon. That experience not only provides a depth of knowledge but also a better understanding of the needs and objectives of both the government and its citizens. It also makes it easier to “think outside of the box” to explore solutions. I have also had experience in leading a

council and collaborating with the members to best achieve the best results for the community.

What is the city of Redmond doing well and what does it need to improve?

The city provides its basic services — streets, sewer, water and parks very well. We also have an excellent police department. Overall we have an outstanding city staff who are dedicated to providing those services as best they can.

Besides public safety, which is always any community’s number one priority, there are two areas in particular the council needs to address. The first is catching up in planning because of our rapid rate of growth. This is particularly important in the areas of transportation and providing new commercial centers in areas removed from the center of town. Addressing traffic congestion and safety will be a key topic for the new council along with better planning and eventual implementation for an eastside alternative to Highway 97 and better connectivity between the east and west sides of Redmond.

The second is housing which encompasses a number of challenging factors: affordable housing, homelessness, child care, etc.

There are other discussions the council should address with the community as well such as whether or not to allow a couple of marijuana dispensaries in Redmond, whether or not open carry of loaded firearms should be permitted in public parks and buildings and how we can best achieve a family activity center downtown.

Other issues will come up that are now not on our immediate radar. The key, however, will be the willingness of the Council to address these more challenging issues openly with public involvement with the goal of achieving an overall community consensus on the way to best move forward.

How will you measure the success of the council during your term?

The best metrics for measuring the success of the next council will be feedback from the community that a more transparent council with community input on all issues is making a difference and what did we get done.

See **Q&A** / A6

WEATHER FORECAST

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TUESDAY Partly cloudy 79/36	WEDNESDAY Sunny 79/35	THURSDAY Sunny 79/37	FRIDAY Sunny 77/41	SATURDAY Partly cloudy 65/36	SUNDAY Partly cloudy 60/33	MONDAY Partly cloudy 61/34

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