



Jason Smith

Anita Stelle

Photos by Liz O'Connell/For the Spokesman

Our town

Residents find what's to love about Redmond: 'It's a little pocket of paradise'

BY LIZ O'CONNELL
For the Redmond Spokesman

Small-town charm and big city amenities combine to be a main reason why people keep visiting — and then finding ways to stay — in Redmond. Between the quaint downtown and beautiful landscapes that surround it, Redmond has become a destination for people from all over the state and country.

The small-town vibe makes some residents feel like they're stepping back in time. At least it does for Jason Smith, who moved to Redmond in 2018. Originally from Forest Grove, Smith said the Redmond lifestyle takes him back to his childhood.

"Growing up in the '80s we didn't lock our doors and left our keys in the car," Smith said. "I kind of feel like this is a place where that still exists."

Safety and schools were major reasons why Smith and

his wife decided to move to the area, especially when they started talking about having children. The slower pace, compared to different cities he's lived in, was another bonus.

After living in Bend for a couple of years and deciding that the town wasn't for them, the Smiths began looking into Redmond, Sunriver and Prineville.

"We went downtown (Redmond) and to an old coffee shop," Smith said. "It was cool just seeing how people were so involved with the community and how small it felt but it was growing."

That's when the Smiths were sold on Redmond.

"It's a little pocket of paradise," said Jason.

A similar situation happened to Oakridge-native Anita Stelle.

She frequented the area often when she was young, with family living in Camp Sherman and near Powell Butte.

"One year, in particular, on the way home (to Portland) I