



**Kristy Barton, owner of The Muddy Merch Co.** For the Spokesman

it's also a wide variety of different shops.

"This block right here, which I've heard people call the north block, we have shopping for every age range and men and women," said Kristy Barton, owner of The Muddy Merch Co. at 231 SW Sixth Street.

Barton said because of Redmond's shopping diversity, families can enjoy the day walking through town together. To her, that makes Redmond stand out from other communities.

From restaurants and breweries to clothing shops and cafes — and even Barton's hat and leather shop — she says Redmond has something to interest every member of the family.

Aside from the variety, Barton notes that the Redmond business community is supportive of one another. Other shop owners buy from her and she buys from them. It's a cycle that keeps this close-knit group going.

"The Redmond community has just been amazing," Barton said. "That has been the most impactful thing for us."

One of the newer business owners is Christie Chapucci. She opened Atomic Bazaar Vintage in May 2021. As a new owner on the block, she has already felt that community support.

Chapucci used to live in Redmond and her youngest son is in school in Redmond. When she was thinking about opening her business, she already knew Redmond was the place to operate it. She was drawn back to the Hub City because of the town and the people. Plus, she likes the small-town charm that is very much up-and-coming.

"With all the new businesses coming in, it's becoming more of a destination place than a pass-through to go to Bend," said Chapucci.

That's evident in the flow of traffic. Sande said 30 years ago if you were on Highway 97, everyone would be driving to Bend for work and play. But now, traffic is going in both directions.

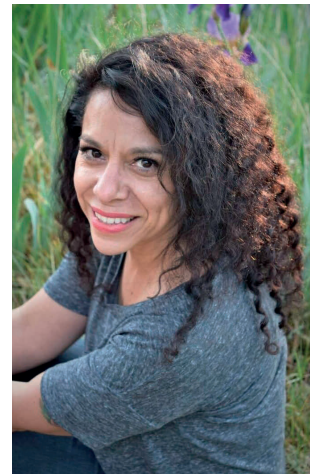
One reason behind the increased traffic is because of the job growth and large employers relocating to Redmond.

Illinois-based Medline Renewal, a globally recognized medical device reprocessing company, is one of the larger businesses that has contributed to local job growth. Right now, the company employs about 265 in Redmond employees with an expansion on the way.

Steve Bettis, vice president of operations, said Medline does not have final numbers on the expansion yet. But the increase in capacity will bring in new customers which will lead to more employees.

"Redmond is very pro-business," Bettis said. "They understand the benefits of business and that really sets Redmond apart. All the communities in Central Oregon are great, but Redmond really worked hard on that."

Bringing Dave Benson, chairman and cofounder of BasX, to Redmond was decades in the making. He said the city



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— **Christie Chapucci,**  
owner of Atomic Bazaar  
Vintage

Submitted photo