

To the TOP

Smith Rock State Park challenges climbers from all over the world

BY LIZ O'CONNELL

For the Redmond Spokesman

Smith Rock State Park, located just a few miles outside of Redmond city limits, draws in visitors from around the globe who want to scale its steep ascents and conquer its difficult challenges.

The state park is known as the birthplace of sport

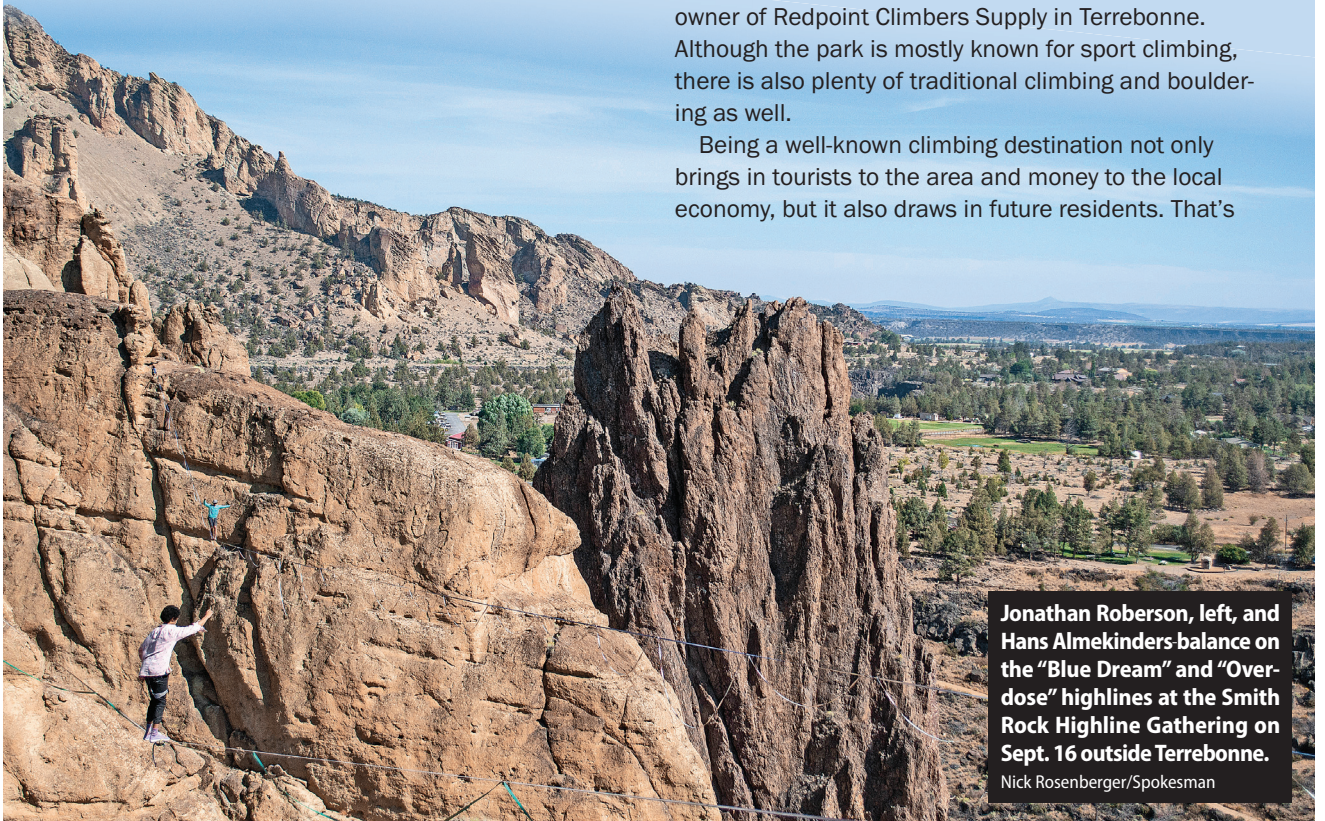


Ian Caldwell climbs the route he constructed on the underside of Maple Street Bridge in 2015. Submitted photo

climbing in the United States, thanks to a man named Alan Watts. Watts was one of the main route developers back in the 1980s and '90s. His unusual way of creating a route, going from the top to the bottom, was not common in the country at the time, and is one reason why Smith Rock quickly became a well-known climbing destination.

The park has about 2,500 routes within only a couple square miles of the park, according to Kyle Bonfert, owner of Redpoint Climbers Supply in Terrebonne. Although the park is mostly known for sport climbing, there is also plenty of traditional climbing and bouldering as well.

Being a well-known climbing destination not only brings in tourists to the area and money to the local economy, but it also draws in future residents. That's



Jonathan Roberson, left, and Hans Almekinders balance on the "Blue Dream" and "Overdose" highlines at the Smith Rock Highline Gathering on Sept. 16 outside Terrebonne.

Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman