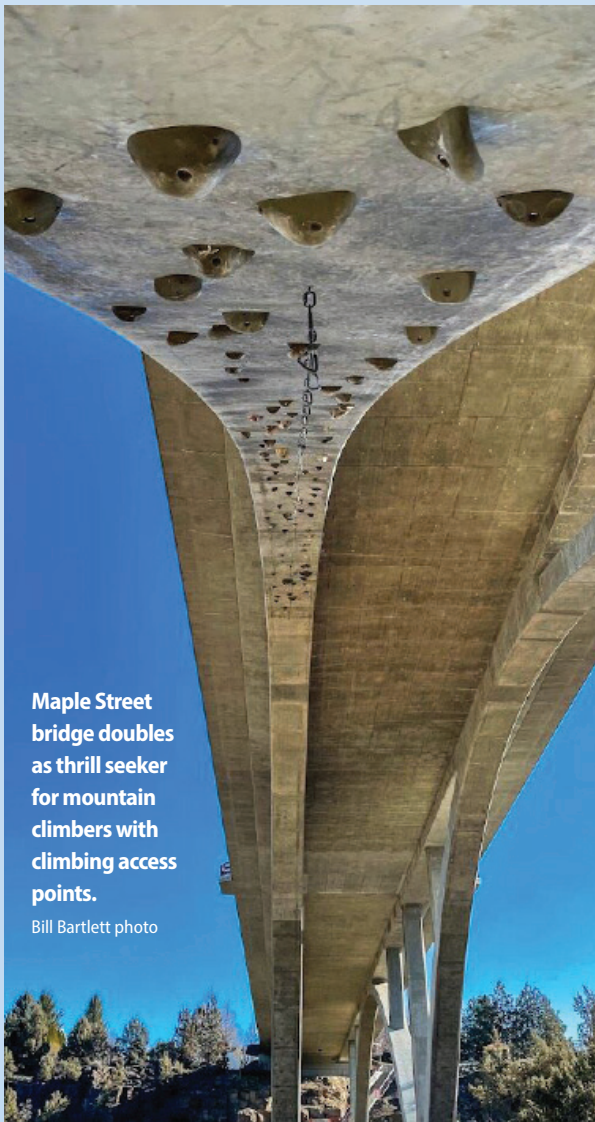


a real benefit as well.

“There are not many strict straight climbing gear shops that survive in the world,” said Bonfert. “People come from Portland and Seattle and every once in a while, they’ll forget something ... and we’re right here will all that very specific climbing stuff to the area.”

Plus, the town of Redmond’s support of climbing makes climbers visiting feel welcomed. One example of the city’s support came when Redmond approved a climbing route on the Maple Avenue Bridge. Caldwell said the route on the bridge starts at about 45 degrees. It’s steep and overhanging at the top, making it a difficult route that challenges even the best climbers. It’s also a style of climbing you can get at Smith Rock, Caldwell said.



Maple Street bridge doubles as thrill seeker for mountain climbers with climbing access points.

Bill Bartlett photo

FUN IN & AROUND REDMOND



The Bulletin file

Student Hayden Sheridan, 14, climbs a route as Yewan Fitz-Earle, 15, center, looks on while filming during a morning of rock climbing with other students at Smith Rock State Park.

» Smith Rock

Smith Rock State Park draws rock climbers from all over the world and has plenty to offer for even the most casual visitor. The 600-acre park has trails (easy and challenging), a green and shady picnic area, a campground and views that cannot be beat anywhere in the state.

The trail down to the river from the parking lot is a fairly steep dirt and gravel path, fine for everyone but the least sure-footed. A walking stick helps. At the bottom of the trail is a picturesque footbridge, a water fountain and a toilet. Hikers who walk into the canyon have three choices after they cross the footbridge over Crooked River — right, left or up.

At the footbridge if you turn left, you’ll follow the river for about two miles, past the majority of the climbing routes, so be sure to look up occasionally. This isn’t a loop.

If you take a right turn at the footbridge, the trail again hugs the river for slightly over a mile, but in a less rocky and wooded manner.

The Misery Ridge trail also starts its climb just across the footbridge. The trail winds past Parking Lot Wall and Red Wall to the summit and descends on the west side past Monkey Face.

Trails can be narrow, so don’t forget your mask.