

“(Road maintenance) is made even more difficult when people speed down the road at 55 mph after it is graded, creating damaging washboards, or when motorbikes perform donuts 100 yards behind the road grader.”

— From a Nextdoor entry posted by James Verheyden

Gates

Continued from A1

“This is made even more difficult when people speed down the road at 55 mph after it is graded, creating damaging washboards, or when motorbikes perform donuts 100 yards behind the road grader,” Verheyden said in the note.

A notice posted along the road near the gates by Verheyden states the road is on private property and the gates are closed to the public, effective May 10.

“This is in accordance with the 2004 Deschutes County Order which mandates that gates be installed and closed on this road. The Deschutes County Order was specifically adopted to prevent the public

from having access to private property,” the notice states.

The notice explains that the road was closed due to repeated vandalism in the area, as well as arson, poaching, dumping and illegal vehicle use.

The notice adds that the Bull Springs Road and portions of road 4606 “are not county maintained roads, but in fact Local Access Roads, only to be used for local access to the property parcels that touch the publicly dedicated portion of the road.”

Chris Doty, Deschutes County Roads Department director, said the description in the notice is incorrect.

“A Local Access Road is a public road that has been dedicated for public use but has not been accepted by the County

for maintenance,” said Doty in an email.

Doty said the new gates do not appear to be placed in accordance with any land use decision issued by the county. But he adds that the dispute is mainly with the Forest Service surrounding the easement claims.

Shanda Group Limited, which owns a 33,000-acre tree farm just north of Verheyden’s land, has in the past encouraged nonmotorized recreation on its property. That land is now inaccessible from the south due to the gates.

Locals who use the area for walking, biking and exploration of the forest road have voiced their concerns.

“This is a Forest Service road. It’s a public road. It looks,



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

John Blankfort, who is critical of the gate, stands near it Tuesday on Forest Road 4606.

acts and feels like a public road. What gives this guy the right to put up a gate?” said John Blankfort, a local resident who frequents the area. “This is an example of a multimillionaire trying to lock up the forest.”

County Commissioner Phil Chang said he is looking into the matter and gathering in-

formation on the dispute but would like to see public access continue. In an email he sent Sunday to Doty, Chang said the Forest Service has indicated it would contact the U.S. Attorney’s office to resolve the issue.

“As a recreationist myself who has been on the 4066 road, I appreciate how import-

Redmond

Continued from A1

Two of Cummings’ main concerns about Redmond schools deal with the ripple effects of COVID-19: learning loss and falling enrollment. The student population fell by 400 this school year, and the district is only planning for about 250 of those students to return in September. State funding is tied to student population.

“For budgets, that’s going to wreak havoc,” Cummings said of the enrollment drop.

If elected, Cummings said she’d push the school board to record its meetings. At the moment, Redmond School Board meetings are exclusively held over Zoom due to COVID-19, but are not posted online for later viewing on YouTube. This was also the case before the pandemic, when meetings were held in-person.

“Sometimes, even when we have in-person (meetings), I don’t know if ... other parents would be comfortable or available to engage in a meeting,” Cummings said. “We’re dealing with taxpayer funds, and there should be transparency.”

Lavon Medlock, a health care administrator for St. Charles Health System and a mother of two Elton Gregory Middle School students, said her passion for education started early.

Growing up in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, her parents told her that education could provide opportunity, and encouraged her to attend college in the United States.

“It opened doors to me that otherwise wouldn’t have been opened, and I want to create that same opportunity for students locally,” Medlock, 43, said.

Medlock is a member of Redmond School District’s equity task force, which was formed in September to address inequities in local education. Celebrating diversity — whether it’s diversity of race, gender or thought — is important for helping local students succeed in the modern world, she said.

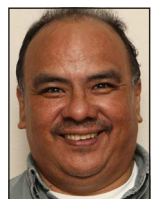
“We need to ensure we’re setting our students up for success in a global economy,” Medlock said.

Medlock noted she would also bring fiscal experience to the school board. Before working for St. Charles, she kept a day spa in downtown Bend afloat during the Great Recession, she said.

“When candidates talk about fiscal prudence, talking



Cummings



Gonzalez



Lawson



Lopez



Medlock



Osmundson

about it and actually having demonstrated it are two different things,” Medlock said. “And I have demonstrated it.”

Ron Osmundson, a day-care co-owner and former assistant football coach at Ridgeview High School, said he was prompted to run for school board after being dismayed from seeing online school first-hand. If elected, he hopes to make some curriculum changes that are easier for younger students and have a heavier emphasis on post-school adult life, he said.

“A lot of the curriculum was tough on students, like they didn’t understand,” said Osmundson, 40. “Sometimes the teacher was a little too strict and was starting to get un-

nerved with students.” Osmundson has three children, with the oldest expected to start kindergarten at Sage Elementary School in the fall. He ran for Redmond City Council in November, landing in fifth place out of nine candidates with about 11.5% of the vote. He is currently an appointed member of the city’s budget committee.

One of Osmundson’s top issues with Redmond schools are high schools hosting vaccine clinics without requiring parental consent, he said.

“What scares me is that these kids are able to make these decisions without getting any kind of guidance or any kind of thought into it by their parents,” he said. “They’ll just do it by themselves or be pressed under peer pressure to get them.”

In the state of Oregon, teens age 15 and older can agree to medical services — including immunization — without parental consent, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Osmundson also said he doesn’t believe students should have to wear face masks in schools. He said teachers need to be able to see students’ faces so they can tell if they’re struggling with an assignment.

“I believe in not being masked in the classroom,” Osmundson said. “I like to see how kids react, see the emotions on their faces.”

Mask wearing, along with other COVID-19 precautions, are mandated by the state government and are not under local school district control.

Position 4

Oscar Gonzalez, currently a staffer with Bend nonprofit Latino Community Association, was an administrator for the KIPP Academy charter school in Houston in the ’90s and ’00s. That school had students attend class during summer to keep them from losing knowledge — and that’s something he’d like to implement in Redmond.

“It’s just a radical, revolutionary concept that worked, especially for our kids, who were already two or three years behind,” said Gonzalez, 60. “I really feel strongly that kids taking summer off is so antiquated.”

Gonzalez’s children are grown adults, he said.

Gonzalez also believes the Redmond School Board — which is entirely white — needs Latino representation. As of October 2019, 18% of Redmond students identified as Latino or Hispanic.

“A lot of kids that typically fall through the cracks ... I don’t think they really had much of a voice at the table,” said Gonzalez, who identifies as Latino. “I felt compelled to be that voice.”

Local schools also need to reform how they discipline students, Gonzalez said.

“We’ve got to get away from this notion that suspensions and expulsions are the solution,” he said. “We’ve got to get creative and make those

situations teachable moments.”

Carmen Lawson is the only teacher running for a Redmond board seat — she teaches kindergarten at Madras Elementary School. She believes that experience gives her an advantage in figuring out how to best help students and keep Redmond teachers happy.

“I can collaborate well with staff and teachers and administrators, and understand the stressors they’re in, because it’s the job I do every day,” said Lawson, 42.

“Whatever decisions (the board) is making, it affects the workplace of a teacher, and the workplace of a teacher is the environment of students’ learning.”

Lawson has three sons in Redmond schools: one each at Redmond High School, Elton Gregory Middle School and John Tuck Elementary.

Collecting and using data to improve schools is another goal of Lawson’s, if elected. These stats could be used to find what areas students need extra assistance in, or how students of color feel about their school experience, she said.

Lawson also wants to make extracurricular activities more accessible to all students who don’t speak English or can’t afford sports or music equipment.

“They need communica-

tion, so they know there are supports for them, so all students can do the activities their white middle-class peers would do normally,” she said.

Keri Lopez, an administrative assistant for Bend contractor Rogue Builders, said her top priority is keeping students learning in-person next fall. She’s worried about all students being forced back to distance learning, she said.

“It should be something people need to think about,” Lopez, 41, said. “I’m concerned about it.”

However, part- or fully-online school programs should be made available for students and teachers who prefer it, she said.

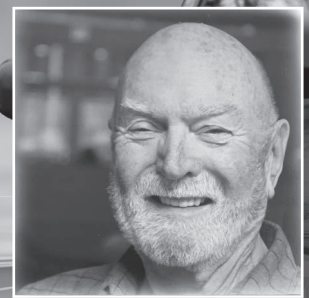
Lopez is the mother of a fifth grader at Tumalo Community School and a sixth grader at Obsidian Middle School.

If elected, Lopez said she’d want to increase opportunities for parent involvement in local schools. One example is allowing parents back into classrooms to volunteer, which hasn’t been allowed since the pandemic began.

“That really is important for teachers, to feel supported,” Lopez said. “They have the opportunity to say (to parents), ‘Hey, can you run and make copies of this, so I can eat my lunch?’”

Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com

OBITUARY



Bert Swift
April 17, 1931 - April 23, 2021

Bert H. Swift Ph.D. passed away peacefully and swiftly on Friday April 23rd 2021 a few days after celebrating his 90th birthday.

Bert was born in Ballard, Seattle, the fourth child of Mary and Ethelbert Swift, of Seattle. Bert collected college degrees and had a passion for reading and learning. Bert’s career ran the gamut from pumping gas, parking cars, greasing trucks, and canning salmon, to acting as Director of the Graduate School Program in Health Care Administration at the University of Maryland. Bert’s community service continued into retirement as one of the founders of High Desert Village, a community group to support the aging, President of the Archeological Society of Central Oregon, and supporting efforts to improve trails and restore habitat at Todd Lake.

Bert’s approach to life was “don’t sweat the small stuff” and he loved music, dancing, travel, craft beer, and cars. He played many instruments, enjoyed Karaoke and singing in choral groups, and loved to dance, especially with his favorite dance partner, wife Carol. Bert traveled around the globe with friends and family and was looking to many more international adventures. Bert was staunchly independent and was walking 10 miles per week, living alone, driving, and handling his own affairs until the day he died.

Bert is survived by his four daughters Jennifer, Cathy, Stephanie, and Roberta; sons in-law Andy and David; and grandchildren Selina and Leander. He will be missed by his nephews and nieces and their families and by his many friends - both new and old - from Bend, Oregon; Alexandria Virginia; and Seattle, Washington. Bert was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Carol L. Swift, his parents Ethelbert and Mary Swift, his siblings Claude, Marilyn, and Sue, and nephews Randy and Bob.

A celebration of life will be announced to friends and family. His remains will be scattered in Puget Sound by his family, according to his wishes.

Arrangements handled by Baird Funeral Home. Please visit <https://www.bairdfh.com/obituaries/Bert-Swift?obId=21023623#/celebrationWall> for more tributes to Bert and to sign the online guestbook. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Discover Your Forest’s Todd Lake Project at: <https://www.discovernw.org/discover-your-forest-todd-lake-project-donation-811.html>

DEATH NOTICES

Homer I. Clark of Redmond, OR Feb 19, 1928 - April 30, 2021

Arrangements: Arrangements Entrusted To: Redmond Memorial Chapel; 541.548.3219. Please visit www.redmondmemorial.com to sign the on-line guest book or to leave a thought, memory, or condolence for the family
Services: Graveside services are scheduled at Juniper Haven Cemetery, Prineville, Friday, May 14, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Potluck to follow service at Harwood Park, Prineville
Contributions may be made to: A Charity of Your Choice

Gloria J. Kuenzi of Redmond, OR February 3, 1939 - May 2, 2021

Arrangements: Arrangements Entrusted To: Redmond Memorial Chapel www.redmondmemorial.com; 541.548.3219
Services: A Celebration of Life will be planned for a future date
Contributions may be made to: American Diabetes Association

Fred Lewis Coulter of Bend, OR August 20, 1927 - April 28, 2021

Arrangements: Baird Funeral Home of Bend is honored to serve the Coulter family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign our online guest book.
Services: 1:00pm on May 15, 2021 at Finley-Sunset Hills Memorial Park in Portland, Oregon
Contributions may be made to: St. Charles Hospice (<https://foundation.stcharleshealthcare.org/donate>)

Lois Mae Maddox of Terrebonne, OR May 1, 1928 - April 29, 2021

Arrangements: Autumn Funerals, Redmond 541-504-9485 www.autumnfunerals.net
Services: No Services will be held at this time.

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines 541-385-5809 Monday-Friday 10am-3pm Email: obits@bendbulletin.com

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