

who's who who's who who's who who's who who's who who's who



Gunnar Haugan

Gunnar Haugan has been hired as the new senior tax manager at **Kernutt Stokes'** Bend office. Haugan has experience in tax planning and compliance for private and public companies, with a particular focus on acquisitions, dispositions and restructurings of U.S. companies with international operations and foreign companies with operations and real estate investments in the U.S. He works with a number of industries, including technology, manufacturing, real estate and life sciences.

Prior to joining Kernutt Stokes, Haugan, who was raised in Bend, worked in the national tax department of Ernst & Young in Chicago, Illinois, providing tax consulting services related to cross-border mergers and acquisitions and international operations. He also spent time at a Chicago law firm where he provided income tax planning related to real estate investments, as well as time at Moss Adams in Portland, providing tax compliance and planning services for privately held corporations and partnerships.

Brooks Resources Corporation has hired **Chrissy Christoferson** to run its newly formed property management division, **Heartwood Commercial Management**. Christoferson will apply her extensive experience as a property manager, as well as her customer service and entrepreneurial skills, to her new role.

As head of Heartwood Commercial Management, Christoferson will oversee and direct the management of Brooks Resources' income properties, including managing each property's day-to-day needs. She will act as a primary point of contact and provide expert service to all tenants.

Prior to this new role, Christoferson served as the property manager and office manager for Veracity Property Management, where she managed both residential and commercial real estate, as well working closely with the company's CFO on accounting strategies and tasks. Prior to this, she worked in operations for Valentine Ventures and co-owned and operated Bend children's shop Stone Soup. Christoferson holds a bachelor of arts from Washington State University and lives in Bend.



Chrissy Christoferson

Heather Masson-Forsythe, a fifth-year graduate student in the Oregon State University College of Science, is a winner in the 13th annual Dance Your Ph.D. contest organized by *Science Magazine*.

Masson-Forsythe, part of Elisar Barbar's lab group in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, earned \$500 for placing first in the newly created COVID-19 category of the competition sponsored by Primer, a San Francisco-based machine intelligence company.

The contest triumph builds on her TikTok videos (@heycurllytop), in which she uses trending dances and trending songs to communicate her science. Those videos have made her "mildly famous," she said, garnering her a following of more than 40,000 people on the app.



Heather Masson-Forsythe

Masson-Forsythe's thesis research centers around the nucleocapsid protein of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus responsible for 300,000 deaths in the United States as of the December completion of her 300-second dance video for the contest. The length of the video was intentional, and the U.S. death toll now exceeds 513,000.

The contest format is simple: Entrants make a dance video interpreting their doctoral research, post it to YouTube and send the link to *Science*, the flagship journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, for judging in one of five categories (physics, chemistry, biology and social sciences are the others).

But producing a winning entry such as Masson-Forsythe's is complex and time consuming.

Over several weeks, Masson-Forsythe and her wife and videographer, Margaux Masson-Forsythe, visited different locations for shooting — the beach at Waldport, OSU's Linus Pauling Science Center, the forest near Marys Peak and downtown Corvallis — and then spent several more weeks editing.

Masson-Forsythe chose ballet, "the basis of all dance," for the video's opening chapter, which presents background material necessary for understanding the meat of the story.

For Masson-Forsythe, who earned an undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Central Arkansas, creativity is obviously not limited to the *Science Magazine* competition or her high school dance career.

At Oregon State (OSU), she's also been involved with the Inspiration Dissemination podcast — graduate students interviewing other graduate students about their work — and as she nears the end of her time at OSU is eyeing future possibilities in science communication.

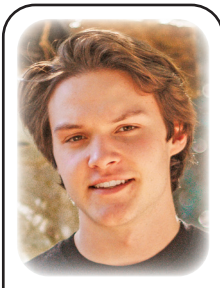
Masson-Forsythe's COVID-19 research is funded by a National Science Foundation Early-concept Grant for Exploratory Research (EAGER) through the NSF's Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences.

Hayden Homes recognizes **Daniel Schmidt** of Sisters High School as the recipient of the 2020 Hayden Homes \$2,500 Art Scholarship. A committee composed of Hayden Homes team members and the Sisters Arts Association selected Schmidt's artwork as the winning concept. His artwork showcases a beautiful wood sculpture that depicts motions of nature and the patterns of a snow drift.

Schmidt is a 2020 graduate of Sisters High School. He chose to take a gap year after graduation due to COVID-19, but is considering Colorado College, University of British Columbia, CU Boulder or Whitman as options for his college career.

The 2021 Hayden Homes \$2,500 Art Scholarship winner will be selected in May. Applications were managed through Sisters Gro, a graduate resource organization with a mission to raise, receive and distribute charitable scholarship funds, support the scholarship selection process and support graduate resource programs to help Sisters High School graduates obtain higher education or training.

Schmidt's artwork is on display at the Hayden Homes McKenzie Meadows Village model home through May of this year. If community members are interested in seeing Schmidt's artwork, call 541-904-0060 for an appointment.



Daniel Schmidt



Lillian Caldwell

Redmond Proficiency Academy (RPA) junior **Lillian Caldwell** has been accepted into the Execute Big Fellowship, a six-week virtual program designed to introduce beginner students to the interdisciplinary world of computer science. Execute Big seeks to provide opportunities and access to computer science training that students might not otherwise have.

Throughout the fellowship, Caldwell will have the opportunity to learn from high-level engineers from prominent companies like Tesla, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and Quizlet.

Topics covered throughout the program include computational thinking, debugging and active problem solving, ethics, various career opportunities and more.

According to Execute Big, they shape the fellowship around the students, providing a nuanced computer science curriculum with the goal of enabling students to acquire both professional and technical knowhow for their future.

Caldwell will participate in the fellowship from March through April 2021, concurrently with her RPA courses.



Melanie Kebler

Attorney and Bend City Council member **Melanie Kebler** joins the probate team at **Two Spruce Law** in Bend, after 12 years of public service — first as a deputy district attorney, then as a victims' rights attorney at the nonprofit Oregon Crime Victims Law Center. Kebler graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2008. Before attending law school, Kebler graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in English and classic civilizations. Kebler grew up in Bend, graduating from Bend Senior High, where she enjoyed participating in team sports and student government. Kebler also serves her community as an elected member of the Bend City Council, board president of Camp Fire Central Oregon and a member of the Oregon Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability. In her free time, Kebler enjoys getting outside with her family, working on creative projects and traveling to new places.

Bend Pops Orchestra announces that Bend conductor and musician **Eddy Robinson** will lead the group beginning with the 2021-2022 season.

Robinson has been very involved in Central Oregon's music community since his arrival here in 2012. He is an experienced music educator, currently working with students at Pilot Butte and Sky View Middle Schools and at Mountain View High School. He is a co-conductor of the Central Oregon Youth Orchestra, has been involved in numerous school district special events and festivals and teaches string students at the Cascade School of Music.

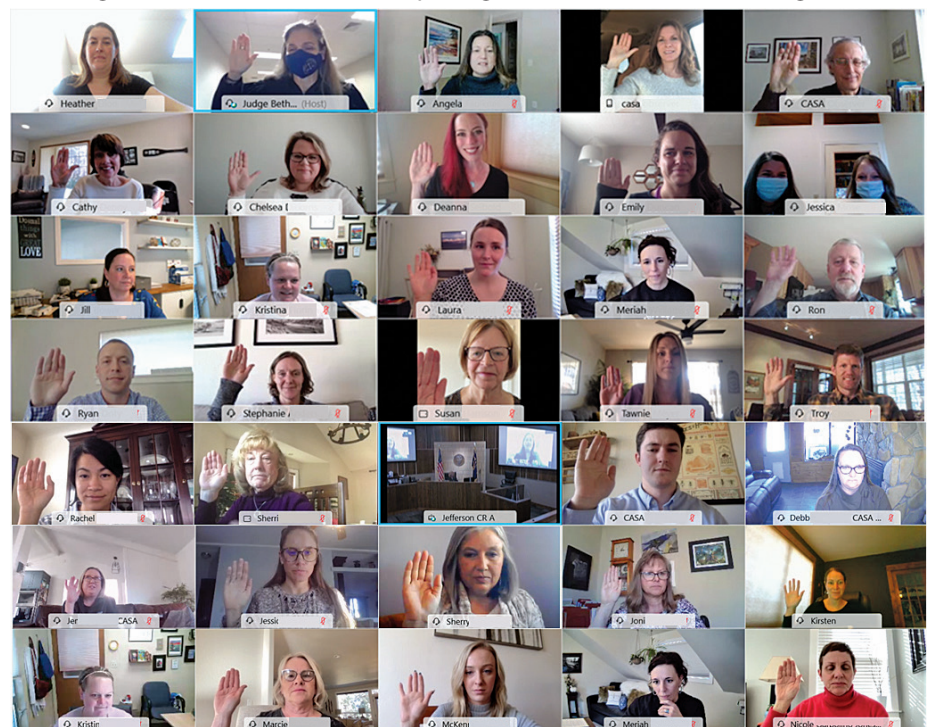
Robinson is a successful musician in his own right. He plays bass with the Central Oregon Symphony in the full ensemble and in the Chamber Orchestra. He has joined Bend Pops for several concerts in the past with his bass.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the orchestra has been unable to rehearse or perform since March of 2020, but the group is setting its sights on a Fall 2021 startup if conditions allow. Robinson will assume leadership of the group at that time.



Eddy Robinson

When a resilient community like Central Oregon finds itself in need, service-minded community members answer the call. On March 2, 2021, 25 new **Court Appointed Special Advocates** (CASA) volunteers were sworn in remotely by Judge Bethany Flint and Judge Annette Hillman after completing 40 hours of distance training.



VOLUNTEERS BEING SWORN IN | PHOTO COURTESY OF COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

The intensive weekly training process includes a background check and an interview with a Judge before being sworn-in as an officer of the court and assigned a child or sibling group currently in foster care. The CASA volunteer then becomes the voice to represent the child's best interest in court and to help secure services the child may need, usually over a two-year time span. CASA of Central Oregon, which has offices in Bend, Madras and Prineville, serves the needs of all abused and neglected children in foster care.

Last year, 427 children spent time in foster care in Central Oregon. More than 360 of these children had their own individualized CASA volunteer. It is anticipated that an influx of children will enter foster care as children return to in-person schooling. Abuse and neglect increases as families face stressors caused by COVID-19, including parental stress and economic uncertainty. The goal of CASA of Central Oregon is to recruit, train and support enough volunteers so that every child in foster care has an advocate to be their voice in the courtroom and to secure the services children need.

The next training will be held entirely online on Saturdays, April 3-May 22, from 9:30am-12:30pm.

Who's Who
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