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Taylor Thompson

Columbia Bank announced that **Taylor Thompson** has been promoted to vice president and commercial team lead for the Bend Commercial Banking Team, serving Bend, La Pine and surrounding areas.

Thompson has been with Columbia since 2015, serving as a key commercial banker. Thompson brings 14 years of experience to his new position. He has expertise in working capital lending, commercial real estate and Small Business Administration lending.

Thompson graduated from Eastern Oregon University, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing. He currently is a member of Risk Management Association's board and has served in multiple organizations such as Redmond Rotary and SMART Leadership Council.

Healthy Beginnings welcomes **Leslie Karaka** as their newest board member! Karaka's professional career is heavily involved with strategic initiatives, policy creation and communications. She also brings to the table leadership and sales experience. Some of her past nonprofit work has been around being a founding board member for the Puget Sound Blood Center's Young Professional Ambassadors.

As a parent of young children herself, Karaka feels strongly about the mission at Healthy Beginnings. Leslie has hit the ground running and is participating in the I BELIEVE IN HEALTHY BEGINNINGS online fundraiser, all within her first few weeks of being a board member.



Leslie Karaka



Natalie Berning

Natalie Berning, CFP, financial advisor for OnPoint Wealth Management & Investment Services, has been appointed to the **Raymond James Sustainable Investing Advisory Council** ("the council"). Raymond James' approach to sustainable investing is collaborative in nature across all business segments and heavily influenced by feedback from advisors, including the council, which is comprised of a select group of 16 financial advisors across the firm's affiliation models. Established in 2018, the council's mission is to enhance the firm's sustainable investing capabilities and resources made available to the firm's approximately 8,200 advisors and their clients.

On our 25th Anniversary year, **STEELE Associates Architects** of Bend announced the following team member promotions. Each team member exhibits the great personality, creativity, character and passion required to be a leader at STEELE.

Adam Stephen is promoted to principal. Stephen is a native of Leaburg, Oregon and graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor of architecture. He has been collaborating with STEELE's developer clients on a large array of projects including tech, mixed-use, commercial and manufacturing throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest for many years. Stephen builds strong relationships and is adept at managing multiple projects for individual clients. He is a licensed architect in Oregon.

Darek Olson is promoted to principal. Olson is a native of Coos Bay, Oregon and graduated from the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, Arizona. He has been a leading force on many of STEELE's education and public projects throughout Oregon. Olson excels at managing large complex public projects and making the process as efficient and enjoyable as possible for his clients. He is currently working on public and financial projects throughout Oregon.

Chanda Villano is promoted to senior associate. Villano is a native of Central Oregon and graduated from Idaho State University with a bachelor of arts with a major in communications. She has been the business director at STEELE for over 20-years. Villano does an outstanding job collaborating with the entire team and helping manage the administration and marketing activities for the firm.

Chris Thome is promoted to senior associate. Thome was born in Iowa and graduated from North Dakota State University with a bachelor of architecture and a bachelor of science in environmental design. He works with clients on a broad range of projects including public, healthcare, commercial and senior. He is a highly skilled architect who manages a team working on senior, medical, public and commercial projects in three states. He is a registered architect in Oregon, Washington and Montana.

Tristan Shepherd is promoted to senior associate. Shepherd was born in England and raised in Minnesota. He earned a master of architecture from the University of Utah, and a bachelor in architecture from the University of Minnesota. Shepherd is a talented designer whose expertise in Revit and rendering help clients understand their projects. He works on a wide variety of projects including healthcare, commercial, senior and education. Shepherd is a licensed architect in Oregon and Utah.

Andy Harmon is promoted to senior associate. Harmon was raised in Michigan and earned his master of architecture at the University of Oregon and his bachelor of architecture at the University of Michigan. He completed graduate coursework on Cold Climate Design and Arctic Engineering at the University of Alaska and is the firm's in-house building envelope specialist. Harmon is taking great care of current clients on assisted living, memory care and independent senior facilities in Oregon Washington and California.

In addition to the aforementioned promotions, **Lucas Crespín** has joined the STEELE team. He has over 14 years of architecture experience in a broad range of projects including schools, courthouses, justice, commercial and custom residential throughout the Western and Midwestern states and Hawaii. Crespín is an analytical thinker with outside-the-box ideas who is highly proficient in CADD and BIM design and an expert in computer modeling and rendering. He is currently working with team members on a brewery, a medical building and large memory care and assisted living facilities in Oregon and Washington. He earned his bachelor of arts in architecture/environmental design at the University of Colorado and studied mechanical engineering/architecture at Lehigh University. He was also a Division 1 cross country and track athlete.

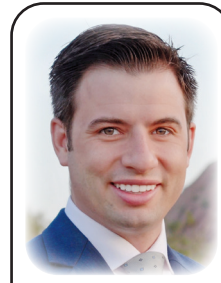


Lucas Crespín

BendTel, Inc. announces the promotion of **Doug Cox** to the position of general manager. With over 14 years of sales experience in the local telecommunications industry, Cox has served most recently in the role of sales manager for BendTel. Cox's proven track record for helping small start-up companies get off the

ground and larger corporations achieve their goals and find cohesiveness has made him a successful leader and valuable asset to BendTel.

Cox is a sixth-generation Oregonian with deep roots and a third-generation salesman with strong connections. His father was a sales manager for Crown Pacific in Redmond, who later went on to start his own business in wood products, and his grandfather was a sales manager for Brooks-Scanlon in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Cox himself graduated from Bend High and earned a scholarship to play collegiate football at Concordia University St. Paul, where he went on to receive a degree in business management and marketing. Cox is thrilled that he and his wife can raise their four children here in Central Oregon, making them seventh-generation Oregonians.



Ryan Walker

State Farm Agent Ryan Walker has received the company's prestigious Chairman's Circle award for his Bend office. This honor is awarded to only three percent of over 19,000 State Farm agents across the nation.

In addition to recognizing an agent's outstanding sales ability, this top award honors agents who align their business with the long-term direction of the company and who act as advocates for their customers. Only a select few agents within State Farm receive this honor annually as there are strict qualifying criteria that must be met.

Walker, a Bend resident, became a State Farm agent five years ago. Walker has received other awards and this is his first year qualifying for the Chairman's Circle award.

Walker was a State Farm customer for most of his adult life before becoming an agent. He was impressed with the company's engagement in local communities and he now continues that practice as an agent.

Three early-career faculty in the **Oregon State University College of Engineering** have received prestigious National Science Foundation grants, one for studying the use of mass timber for building construction, another for researching the safe production of hydrogen gas from seawater and the third for improving the species distribution models used by ecologists and natural resource managers.

Erica Fischer, **Kelsey Stoerzinger** and **Rebecca Hutchinson** are the recipients of the Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, awards from the NSF.

Fischer, assistant professor of civil and construction engineering, was selected for her proposal to create new technologies for the mass timber modular construction of buildings. The building construction industry is primed for a major change to improve efficiency, she said, noting that construction has been done the same way for more than 100 years.

Fischer will use her \$560,000 award to develop innovative technologies for changing how buildings are designed, manufactured and assembled — specifically, technologies that enable the use of mass timber for modular construction buildings with a range of lateral force resisting systems, in regions with high earthquake risk or high wind loads.

Stoerzinger, assistant professor of chemical engineering, was chosen for her proposal to study how to "split" seawater into hydrogen and oxygen gas while avoiding undesirable, chloride-containing byproducts. Hydrogen has many scientific, industrial and energy-related roles, including in fuel cells for cars.

Stoerzinger will use her \$550,000 award to design and test materials and reaction conditions that split water only, without creating these byproducts.

Hutchinson will use her \$564,000 award to tackle challenges for the machine learning methods typically used to build species distribution models, or SDMs.

Hutchinson, an assistant professor with appointments in both engineering (computer science) and the College of Agricultural Sciences (fisheries, wildlife, conservation sciences), will research methods for lowering the potential for bias to creep into model quality estimates and for accounting for the inevitable underreporting of species during biodiversity surveys.

The CAREER program supports early-career faculty "who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization," according to the NSF website.

Oregon Adaptive Sports (OAS) recently announced **Leah Persichilli** as their new program director.

Those familiar with the OAS community will recognize Persichilli, who has been working with OAS as both a summer and winter instructor since 2016 as well as assisting with many training, coordination and outreach efforts on behalf of OAS over this time. Prior to OAS, Persichilli has been involved with organizations that support individuals with disabilities as well as the outdoor recreation industry for over 30 years including education and training through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and Northern Arizona University, as well as professional experience with numerous outdoor recreation entities based out of Flagstaff, Arizona and Lake Tahoe, California.

Persichilli and her entire family have been core OAS community members for many years and OAS is over the top excited to bring her leadership and vision to the organization through this expanded role.

Jefferson County Education Service District (JCESD) and the **High Desert Education Service District (HDES)** announced that **Shay Mikalson** will serve as JCESD's superintendent while also continuing in his current role as chief student success officer with High Desert Education Service District. Mikalson brings 20 years of educational leadership experience to JCESD and served as superintendent for Bend La Pine Schools for five years prior to joining HDES in July, 2020.

For nearly 50 years, the part-time JCESD superintendent position has been the shared responsibility of the Jefferson County School District 509-J superintendent. This year, the school board decided to split the position when JCSD 509-J announced that Superintendent Ken Parshall will be retiring in June and Jay Mathisen, currently the director of educational leadership at George Fox University, will take his place.

According to HDES superintendent Paul Andrews, Mikalson will spend between five to ten hours per week leading JCESD as he continues supporting all Central Oregon school districts with their implementation and evaluation of Oregon's Student Success Act. Mikalson also leads school improvement efforts for approximately 35,000 students throughout the High Desert Education Service District's four component school districts: Crook County School District, Bend-La Pine Schools, Redmond School District and Sisters School District.

In this added role, Mikalson will be responsible for all JCESD operations, including policy development and financial oversight.

Family Access Network Foundation (FAN) announces that **Travis Browning** of Redmond has accepted a position on the Foundation Board.

Browning is the SVP market president with First Interstate Bank for Central Oregon and Gorge Market, which includes the cities of Redmond, Sisters, Prineville, Madras, The Dalles, Hood River and Bingen. Browning earned a bachelor's degree in business from Western Oregon State College and has been serving the Central Oregon region since 1999. He has 29 years of combined banking experience as a loan officer, branch manager and district manager. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Browning served on the board for Redmond Economic Development for over ten years and currently is on the Redmond School District budget committee. Since 2017, he has been on the FAN Redmond Development Committee. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, hunting and spending time at sporting events with his family.



Erica Fischer



Kelsey Stoerzinger



Rebecca Hutchinson



Adam Stephen



Darek Olson



Chanda Villano



Chris Thome



Tristan Shepherd



Andy Harmon



Travis Browning