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Eli Ashley
Anthony Georger

business administration and masters in marketing and urban development. He has spent his 30-plus-year career managing or employed in nonprofit service, as well as nearly 20 years of service in municipal government in Tacoma, Washington. In addition, Ashley has served as a nonprofit consultant, as well as on boards of directors and/or as board chair for organizations in Seattle and Tacoma, as well as director and chair of the board of City Club of Central Oregon. He served as a member of the board of United Way of Central Oregon from 2013 through 2019, filling the role of campaign chair for the 2015/2016 campaign and board president in 2017. As a longstanding member of our community, married for 39 years and an animal lover, Ashley enjoys helping nonprofits succeed in achieving their missions and improving the quality of life for all members of our community.

Georger, chief financial officer for EO Media Group and owner of the *Bend Bulletin*, grew up in Southern Idaho, as did his wife. He graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor of science in finance in 2004. After working in the Puget Sound region for many years, he completed his masters at Western Washington University in 2010, then worked in Windsor Locks. He and his family were excited to return to the west coast and move to Central Oregon in 2020 to enjoy all the outdoor activities our region has to offer. Georger is pleased to have the opportunity to give back and serve our community as a volunteer with United Way of Central Oregon.

Deschutes Children's Foundation welcomes new board members **Trisha Plass** and **Emily Wommack**.

Plass is the owner and principal at Plass Design Company. She established her design company in 2019 as a certified WBE interior design firm, focusing on providing interior design, space planning and project management. Plass has been practicing interior design and providing expertise to clients in Washington and Oregon for over 15 years.

Plass hopes to use her professional experience and expertise to help provide our community's nonprofits with efficient and supportive facility design. She is also thoroughly excited to be involved in such an important part of Bend's nonprofit community by serving on the Board of Deschutes Children's Foundation.

When Plass is not busy fulfilling her career passion for design, you can find her enjoying the Bend outdoor lifestyle with her husband and two kids. Most weekends are spent enjoying a hike, bike ride or sipping a microbrew in the sun. Other hobbies, likes and goals include swimming, camping, international travel, visiting National Parks and learning to play golf.

Plass joined the board in 2021.



Trisha Plass
Emily Wommack



Peter Gutowsky

Deschutes County has hired **Peter Gutowsky** to serve as its new Community Development Department director. Gutowsky, who currently serves as the County's Planning manager, transitioned into his new role on October 8. He replaces Nick Lelack, who was hired as the County's Administrator earlier this year.

In his role, Gutowsky will lead the day-to-day operations of the County's Community Development department, which employs nearly 70 people and oversees land use planning, building safety, code compliance and on-site wastewater systems in the unincorporated areas of Deschutes County. The department also provides construction plan reviews, consultation and inspections to assure compliance with federal and state building codes in the cities of Sisters and La Pine.

"I have no doubt that Peter will hit the ground running in his new role," Lelack said. "He has solid relationships with regional partners, a great working knowledge of Oregon's planning and development laws, an outstanding team and demonstrated successes with numerous high profile projects."

Gutowsky, who has more than 24 years of experience in Oregon land use planning, has worked in the County's Community Development Department since 2004. He has served as a senior planner, principal planner and since 2014, as the County's planning manager. He was selected from a highly competitive field of candidates following a national recruitment.

Gutowsky holds a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).



Bobby Bemis

Bobby Bemis, PT, DPT, COMT, DIP.MT, FAAOMPT, has joined the staff of **Rebound Physical Therapy's** East Bend Clinic as the lead physical therapist.

Raised in Denver, Colorado, Bemis frequently traveled internationally as his father was a Chief Master Sergeant in the Air Force. Bobby received his doctorate of physical therapy (DPT) from Regis University in Denver. He has achieved multiple professional credentials related to manual therapy, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists (FAAOMPT). Bemis is also a Certified Vestibular Specialist. In addition to general orthopedics, manual and vestibular therapy, his treatment specialties include spine and temporo-mandibular joint (TMJ) disorders. Outside of work, Bemis enjoys cooking, reading, open water swimming, mountain biking, yoga, traveling and spending time with his Portuguese water dog, Melvin.

Austin Fleming, PT, DPT, has joined the staff of **Rebound Physical Therapy's** Prineville Clinic.

Originally from Sonora, California, Fleming received his bachelor of science in exercise physiology from California State University – Chico. He went on to earn his doctorate of physical therapy (DPT) from the University of California – Sacramento. Austin's PT school clinical internships largely involved working in outpatient orthopedic settings where he treated a large caseload of patients from adolescence to geriatrics with varying orthopedic and neurological injuries. In his free time, Austin enjoys hiking, golfing and spending time with his wife, Caylie, and their young son, Jackson.



Austin Fleming



Scott Bates

Scott Bates recently joined the **Humane Society of Central Oregon** as vice president of philanthropy. In this new role, He will be responsible for driving fundraising efforts to achieve the goals of the recently completed strategic plan.

As a new resident of Central Oregon, Bates brings 30 years of fundraising experience in Chicago, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri. Bates is excited to be part of this community and all the outdoor adventures it offers, and he is equally excited to be part of the exciting future that HSCO envisions for Central Oregon.

The Center Foundation announces **Sandy Visnack** has been selected as the organization's new executive director.

Visnack brings over two decades of nonprofit management and fundraising experience, working in leadership roles as executive director, development director and communications director for nonprofit organizations serving youth and families in Oregon and Colorado. With her deep commitment to Central Oregon youth and demonstrated leadership, Visnack will help The Center Foundation move forward in its mission to keep kids healthy and safe in Central Oregon.

"The work of The Center Foundation is so important to our community and it is an honor to join this organization," said Visnack. "I look forward to building upon the strong foundation that has been developed and hope to leverage new opportunities in the upcoming months."

Visnack holds a bachelor of science degree in education from the University of Vermont and a master's degree in nonprofit management from Regis University in Colorado. Previous positions held include director of communication at NeighborImpact and executive director at Bend Endurance Academy. When not cheering on her daughter at mountain biking and cyclocross races, she enjoys mountain biking, skiing and volunteering.

Visnack will succeed Sonja Donohue, who has retired after serving as executive director since 2015.



Sandy Visnack

Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce Announces Retirement of Executive Director Kent Elliott

The Board of Directors for the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the retirement of Executive Director Kent Elliott.

"We are all feeling mixed emotions about Kent's retirement. While we are celebrating with Kent as he enters into a new and wonderful phase in his life, we'll miss his leadership and dedication to serving the Sunriver community," said Dan Youmans, president of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

A search is underway for the Chamber's new executive director, said Youmans. Elliott will continue in his current role until his replacement is hired, to ensure a smooth transition.

Elliott was hired as the Chamber's executive director in 2013. Previously, he served as president of the Elliott, Powell, Baden & Baker insurance agency, which he sold in 2008.

Serving as the executive director has been a "great honor" said Elliott, as he looked back on the growth of the Chamber, enhancement of Chamber services, and his work on challenges facing the community, especially the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We've always viewed ourselves as the central organization here in Sunriver that businesses and organizations can count on to bring us all together," said Elliott.

During the pandemic, Elliott has utilized the Chamber's community newsletter as a means for keeping Sunriver residents informed about how businesses were adapting to ever-changing restrictions and regulations so that customers would know how to support local stores, shops and restaurants.

The Chamber also launched a "buy local" campaign to support its business community, which is continuing into the shoulder season this fall when tourism tends to wane.

In addition, Kent was instrumental in distributing PPE to local businesses, in many cases making the deliveries of masks and hand sanitizer himself.

"This is a time when we've all had to step up and do whatever we can to help each other," said Elliott.

The Chamber's Board of Directors noted Kent's many other accomplishments during his tenure as Executive Director including:

- Producing the *Sunriver Magazine*, the leading publication about Sunriver for both tourists and residents;
- Taking over sponsorship of the Sunriver Community Potlucks, allowing this long-time tradition to continue;
- Advocacy for the new transit service between Sunriver and La Pine, providing valuable transportation for many employees of local businesses;



KENT ELLIOTT | PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNRIVER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Representing the business community on the safety issue around Harper Bridge; and Hosting regular "Lunch & Learn" educational and training programs for Chamber members.

The Chamber Board also praised Elliott for all that he has done to support local businesses, especially new businesses locating in Sunriver, while at the same time generating excitement among customers for long-time businesses.

"There is no greater advocate for businesses just getting started here," said Aaron Schofield, Board treasurer and former Board president. "When it comes to making referrals, whether for dining, staying here, recreational opportunities and many other services, Kent's knowledge about all of our local businesses, and his passion for the Sunriver community, has been invaluable."

sunriverchamber.com

The Museum at Warm Springs Kicks Off 2021 Year-End Fundraising Campaign

The Museum at Warm Springs kicked off its 2021 year-end fundraising campaign October 11. Designed and built to Smithsonian Institution standards in 1993, The Museum at Warm Springs is a very special place of cultural and historical importance to the Warm Springs people.

The Museum's 2021 successes included:

- Two exhibitions: *Sacred Reflections: The Art of Umatilla Artist Ellen Taylor* (April 8-May 29) and *Into the Fray: Native American Wild-Land Firefighters of Warm Springs and Beyond* (June 24-September 25).
- The Museum partnered with AdPro, a Native American woman-owned graphic design and advertising firm in Huntington Beach, California to rebrand the Museum with a new logo.
- A June membership campaign in honor of ancestor Kenneth Smith quadrupled the Museum's membership, and met a \$25,000 match from The Roundhouse Foundation. A Corporate Membership program was launched.
- The Museum built stronger relationships with special individuals, including Ronni Lacroute, and with several new partner organizations throughout the state. The Museum held important discussions and collaborated with the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, Oregon Historical Society, The High Desert Museum, and the Warm Springs Culture and Heritage Program.
- In 2021, the Museum has received \$633,760 in foundation and other grants.

On November 2, the Museum will open a new exhibition, the *28th Annual Tribal Member Art Exhibit*.

"We feel great pride in what we do at The Museum and are honored to

make our home here at Warm Springs with our strong family and community ties," said Museum Director Elizabeth A. Woody (Warm Springs, Yakama and Navajo). "The Museum at Warm Springs is an important Oregon cultural treasure. We humbly ask you to support us with a year-end contribution so we can continue organizing high-caliber exhibitions, workshops and an array of public programs and events for all to enjoy."

Give to the Year-End Campaign

Visit museumatwarmsprings.org or mail your contribution postmarked by December 31, 2021 to The Museum at Warm Springs, PO Box 909, Warm Springs OR 97761. Consider a matching gift to one of The Museum's partners, the Oregon Cultural Trust. A gift to the Trust (up to \$500 for individuals, \$1,000 for couples filing jointly, and \$2,500 for class-C corporations) is a tax credit, a dollar-for-dollar reduction for any Oregon taxes owed. Double the impact on Oregon culture; tax dollars that are re-directed to the Trust support Oregon culture. The Oregon Cultural Trust is a generous supporter of The Museum at Warm Springs.



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museumatwarmsprings.org
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