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Rita Bancho

Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) is welcoming a new member to their board of directors. **Rita Bancho** brings a wealth of experience and insights to VIM's board and will be invaluable to helping Deschutes Counties' most vulnerable populations receive medical care.

Bancho is originally from the Upper West Region, Wa, Ghana. She earned a doctor of medicine (MD) from the University for Development Studies in Ghana. After graduating medical school, she worked at Tamale Teaching Hospital, Ghana as a general practitioner with special focus on public health. She has worked internationally on various prevention programs including hypertension, TB, obesity, STDs, malaria as well as guinea worm eradication. Upon moving to the USA, she decided to pursue a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of New England, Portland Maine. She is board certified in Infection Prevention & Control (CIC) and a certified health education specialist (CHES). She has since worked as a public health specialist and undertaken projects in various organizations including a tobacco control project among immigrant, underserved Tennessee communities, health promotion and chronic disease prevention at Providence Health & Services, Water and Sanitation (WASH) at Grace Cares Inc., Injury and Violence Prevention at the American Public Health Association (APHA) and health equity at the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN). She then transitioned to working in Providence Hospital as an Infection Control Specialist. She is currently the Public Health Communicable Diseases/STD/Adolescent Health program manager at Deschutes County Health Services, she is also a member of the board of directors at Grace Cares Inc. Bancho is very passionate about helping poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities access health resources to improve their overall quality of life.

Best Best & Krieger LLP (BB&K) announces that **Billy J. Williams**, former U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon, has joined the firm's Bend office as partner in the Environmental & Natural Resources practice group. He joins on the heels of BB&K's expansion into Oregon.

Williams' practice covers a full range of environmental and litigation issues. In addition to his government agency experience, he has ever-relevant experience in land management, civil disputes, crisis management, tribal matters, corporate and government investigations, cannabis regulation and more.

During his 20-year tenure with the Department of Justice, Williams held numerous positions of leadership. As U.S. attorney in Oregon from 2015-2021, he worked to forge relationships, foster understanding and represent victim and state interests. He served on numerous advisory subcommittees and working groups, including the Native American Issues Subcommittee, Civil Rights Subcommittee, Border and Immigration Subcommittee, Domestic Terrorism Executive Committee, Ninth Circuit Fairness Committee and as chair of the Attorney General's Marijuana Working Group. Before serving as U.S. attorney, Williams held DOJ roles as first



Billy J. Williams

assistant U.S. attorney, chief of the Criminal Division, chief of the Violent Crimes Unit and as Oregon's Indian Country assistant U.S. attorney and tribal liaison.

Before launching his career in federal service, he served as a senior deputy district attorney in Oregon's Multnomah County and as a state prosecutor handling violent crimes.

Williams earned his J.D. from Willamette University College of Law and his bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from Washington State University.



Daniel Elder

At the January 18 meeting of **Visit Bend's** board of directors, the board voted unanimously to appoint four new members.

While two new members will fill a seat vacated by departing board appointees, the remaining two newcomers will fill seats created through an addition to the bylaws approved at the January 18 meeting.

New board members include **Courtney Braun**, the sales manager and a naturalist guide for Wanderlust Tours; **Daniel Elder**, the general manager for The Campfire Hotel; **Josie Norris**, the grant program director for The Conservation Alliance; and **Takara Reynolds**, a barista at Bellatazza and Lone Pine Coffee.

Each of the new board members was appointed by the existing board to begin their terms January 18, 2022. Terms last three years and board members are eligible to serve three consecutive terms.

Dr. Kurt Williams, a veterinary pathologist at Michigan State University, has been named director of the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) at Oregon State University, at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of the lab and its testing capabilities.

The OVDL is a state and federally funded facility whose primary purpose is to test for and diagnose animal diseases in agricultural animals and wildlife. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the OVDL started assisting with the testing of human samples as well, when Oregon's testing capacity was severely limited.

That work continues at the lab today and Williams, who is affiliated with the veterinary diagnostic lab at Michigan State, looks forward to being involved with ongoing COVID-19 testing and to helping prepare Oregon for any future disease outbreaks. Williams will start at the OVDL on March 1.

Williams completed his veterinary degree at Michigan State University in 1990, followed by his Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis in 2001. He is currently completing a master's degree in journalism at Michigan State's Knight Center for Environmental Journalism.

He was drawn to the OVDL position because it allows him to continue his work in diagnostic service as a pathologist, along with conducting research and teaching. He anticipates also gaining new opportunities to engage in science communication, he said.

Williams will prioritize effective



Kurt Williams

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Businesses Serving Community



PHOTO | COURTESY OF YOUTH CAREERCONNECT

YOUTH CAREERCONNECT

Youth CareerConnect (YCC), a region-wide internship program working to build the future workforce while simplifying the process of connecting local employers to students through internships, announced the receipt of two donations totaling \$30,500 from Central Oregon Association of Realtors (COAR) and First Interstate Bank, to continue funding the program through the remainder of the year.

Since its inception in 2017, the program delivered by Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), has successfully engaged with nearly 300 regional employers and placed 400 students into internships across a variety of industries throughout Central Oregon.

The Board of Directors for COAR approved a second straight year of funding at \$20,000 in support of the YCC Regional Internship Program. These funds, in part, will help to further expose the real estate industry as a potential career path to the regional student population participating in the YCC program.

First Interstate Bank committed \$10,500 to the region-wide program, continuing the effort to connect young adults with real-life work experiences.

YCC connects high school, college and university students with employers across the region to create or continue internships that provide real work experience. YCC is supported by East Cascades Works, Redmond Executives Association (REA), EDCO and is underwritten by the region's school districts, private foundations and public grants.

AP EQUIPMENT FINANCING

Every year, AP Equipment Financing encourages team members to nominate their favorite charity for a charitable donation. AP wanted to give back to organizations that their employees hold near and dear to their hearts, whether it is a local organization, or national. AP employees picked 16 charities to donate to.

The charities AP selected include Seattle Children's Hospital, Meals on Wheels Bend, BrightSide Animal Center, The Giving Plate, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, World Resources Institute, Spike's K9 Fund, Humane Society of Central Oregon, Central Oregon LandWatch, MOUNTAINSTAR — Family Relief Nursery, The Bunker Project, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Fresh Approach, Bethlehem Inn, Habitat for Humanity of St. Francois County and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

BICYCLE RE-SOURCE OF BEND

On December 3, 2021, Brooks Resources Corporation of Bend awarded a \$5,000 grant to Bicycle Re-Source of Bend (BRoB). The funds are designated for the operations of the BRoB as they repair used bicycles and donate them to needy individuals in Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties.

Brooks Resources Corporation donates thousands of dollars and their employees volunteer hundreds of hours of their time to help the underserved in Central Oregon. This aligns with the mission of nonprofit Bicycle Re-Source of Bend, which since 2010, has been donating refurbished bicycles to needy children, conducting bicycle repair clinics and offering safety education. This is accomplished with the help of over 50 dedicated volunteers. Bicycle Re-Source collaborates with about 63 community outreach organizations to identify those in need.

For most of us bicycles are recreational equipment, but children in poverty don't have the opportunity to develop a healthy lifestyle while experiencing the beauty of Bend. With the help of Brooks Resources Corporation, the Bicycle Re-Source of Bend will make a difference in these children's lives.

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science communication with the public, sharing findings and stories that demonstrate the importance of veterinary diagnostic laboratories in maintaining public health and safety for animals, people and the environment.

One of his first priorities as director will be to secure funding for an updated facility for the laboratory, with increased testing capabilities for high-level biohazards so that Oregon has the infrastructure and personnel to respond to major disease outbreaks.



Gail Klein

The **Rotary Club of Greater Bend** welcomes **Gail Klein** to the club. Before coming to Bend, Klein spent 20 years helping Alaska university students develop academic plans, strategies and skills to expand the quality of opportunities available to them. At a point Klein decided to take the advice she had been giving students and expand her own plan. It was time to shake things up! She decided to join Blue Anchor Wealth Advisors, a trusted independent registered investment advisory firm serving clients in Alaska and around the Pacific Northwest.

Klein was attracted to Blue Anchor Wealth's dedication to clients and their expertise in growing their client's assets. Blue Anchor began their own adventure by opening a new branch in Bend. Klein saw this as an opportunity to

expand again and made another change. Both Blue Anchor Wealth and Bend have offered the mix of growth and adventure Klein was seeking.

Klein arrived in Bend from Southwest Alaska August of 2021. The Bend sunshine has been welcoming and so has The Rotary Club of Greater Bend. Thanks to the club's dedication to service above self, a principle she lives by, Klein quickly found herself installing flooring and siding at the Veteran's Village project and volunteering for several other Rotary service projects. She is grateful to the club for their welcoming nature and for the friendships and opportunities they quickly brought her way.

Deschutes County has appointed Deputy County Administrator **Erik Kropp** as interim health services director following Dr. George Conway's assignment to serve the agency in a medical capacity as health officer.

As health officer, Conway will utilize his decades of medical experience to provide medical direction, guidance and policy planning for Health Services. Additionally, Conway will provide communicable disease expertise and advise the Public Health Division's COVID-19 response.

Starting the assignment in January 2022, Kropp will continue as interim health services director until the County recruits a health services director. Kropp has worked for Deschutes County for 14 years as deputy county administrator/risk manager and will maintain these duties.

In February, Deschutes County plans to begin the recruitment process for a health services director.

After an extensive search, **Kimberly Howard Wade** has joined **Caldera** as executive director. Howard Wade joins them from PGE where she served as



Erik Kropp

their director of Project Zero. She brings to Caldera a wealth of experience regarding leadership, management, development and communications, programs, the arts and financial acumen, making her the best candidate for Caldera 2.0.

Three researchers at **Oregon State University** have been selected as 2021 American Association for the Advancement of Science fellows for distinguished contributions to the fields of marine biodiversity, public health and analytical and environmental chemistry.

Lisa Ballance was recognized in the category of biological sciences; **Bradley J. Cardinal** in the category of general interest in science and engineering; and **Staci Simonich** in the category of chemistry.

They are among the 564 fellows chosen nationwide in 2021 by the Council of AAAS, the organization's member-run governing body, based on their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. While selected in 2021, the association unveiled its list of fellows today.

The organization selects fellows in 24 categories. Members of AAAS can be considered for the rank of fellow if nominated by the steering group of their respective section, by three fellows or by the association's chief executive officer.

Ballance, director of OSU's Marine Mammal Institute and professor of fisheries, wildlife and conservation sciences, both within the College of Agricultural Sciences, was chosen for her contributions to the fields of ecology and behavior, particularly for her studies of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including marine mammals.

Cardinal is a professor of kinesiology in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences and was recognized for his contributions to the field of public health and physical activity, particularly his work promoting science knowledge to exercise adherence.

Simonich is the executive associate dean and a professor of chemistry and environmental and molecular toxicology in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences, and was selected for her contributions to the fields of analytical and environmental chemistry, particularly for studying the chemical transformations and transport of organic compounds in the environment, as well as for her work in university administration. She and Ballance bring the college's total number of fellows to 12.

Fellows are chosen "in honor of their invaluable contributions to science and technology," according to the association. Criteria for selection include pioneering research, leadership within a given field, teaching and mentoring, fostering collaborations and advancing public understanding of science.

AAAS has been electing fellows since 1874, and its honorees include astronomer Maria Mitchell in 1875, inventor Thomas Edison in 1878, anthropologist Margaret Mead in 1934, computer scientist Grace Hopper in 1963 and popular science author Jared Diamond in 2000.

According to the AAAS database, 152 OSU faculty across at least 18 different categories have received the distinction over the years, starting with Winfred Atwood in 1915.



Lisa Ballance



Bradley J. Cardinal



Staci Simonich

Bend Chamber's 2022 Business Excellence Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Announced

The Bend Chamber has announced the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient of the 2022 Business Excellence Awards, sponsored by U.S. Bank and *The Bulletin*. The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates the accomplishments of an individual who has had a substantial impact on our local industries and community. The recipient displays a profound level of leadership that has helped steer Bend to economic success while investing back into our community with their time and resources.

The 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is Ken Wilhelm. Ken has provided executive leadership for United Way of Central Oregon since 1988. He has had direct responsibility for all business affairs of the organization including strategic planning, fiscal accountability, resource development, community engagement, community impact, staffing and day-to-day operations.

He has been a pillar in the nonprofit landscape in Central Oregon, connecting nonprofits with needed resources and financial support. Most recently, he oversaw the organization's expansion from the Greater Bend area to Tri-County, supporting all of Central Oregon. He's led the effort to develop a collaborative initiative to address childhood trauma and build resilience: TRACES.

"Ken has been a bedrock leader in our community for well over 30 years," said Rebecca Berry, Bend Chamber Board chair. "As the leader of United Way, he has built a culture of giving that has supported the important work of nonprofits throughout the region and improving the lives of so many in our community."

In addition, Ken built successful fundraising models for United Way of Central Oregon, including leadership and planned giving programs, and the corporate cornerstone program. During his time as Executive Director, he's led United Way as it raised approximately \$30 million in community fundraising. From the 2-1-1 program to Tax Aid, VITA and Thrive have all benefited from Ken's

guidance and mentoring.

Ken recently announced his retirement and the Bend Chamber welcomes you to join us for heavy appetizers, drinks and celebration on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at the Riverhouse Convention Center. We will officially recognize and celebrate Ken for his accomplishments in our community and wish him well in his next journey. Tickets can be purchased at bendchamber.org/bend-event/2022-business-excellence-awards.

All 2022 Business Excellence Awards Recipients

Innovation Award

- Small Organization: Synergy Health and Wellness
- Large Organization: OSU-Cascades Innovation Co-Lab

Inspiring Workplace Award

- Small Organization: Volunteers in Medicine
- Large Organization: Stahancyk, Kent & Hook

Community Stewardship Award

- Small Organization: Latino Community Association
- Large Organization: Mosaic Medical

Emerging Leader Award

- Co-Recipient: Tyler Fix
- Co-Recipient: Britannia Leja

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Ken Wilhelm, United Way of Central Oregon Executive Director

Information about each of the awardees can be found at bendchamber.org/2022-business-excellence-awards/#awardees.

bendchamber.org