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Bruce Abernethy

At its July meeting, the **Central Oregon Community College (COCC)** board of directors elected member **Bruce Abernethy** of Bend to serve as chair for the 2022-23 year. Representing Zone 6 of the college's district — north Bend and northwest Deschutes county — Abernethy will hold the leadership post through June of 2023, the culmination of his third four-year term.

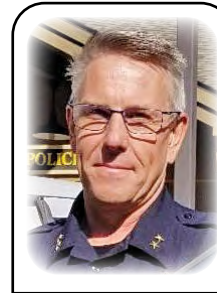
The role of COCC's board chair is to ensure the integrity of the board's processes and sometimes represent the board to outside parties. At the same meeting, the board appointed Joe Krenowicz, representing Jefferson County, as vice chair.

A Bend resident since 1992, Abernethy is a grant writer for the Bend-La Pine School District. In addition to being a former Bend mayor and a 12-year city council member, he is a past board member of the Bend Park & Recreation District. Abernethy is also a longtime advocate for affordable housing in Central Oregon, serving as chairperson for the Homeless Leadership Coalition. He serves on the board of the Oregon Environmental Council and is a past board member of the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.

Abernethy holds a master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's degree in economics from Swarthmore College.

branding partnership with PackageHub Business Centers, which provides the Postal Connections/iSOLD It franchise system a complementary line of business services and expanded shipping carrier offerings. PackageHub currently operates more than 620 units throughout the United. The alliance improves customer online search convenience in identifying nearby locations and adds availability of more services to Postal Connections locations.

Pete and Nick Pierce, franchisees of Postal Connections in Bend, were presented the prestigious National Top Sales Award and learned more about benefits as a PackageHub member.



Cory Darling



Michael Womer

After four years at the **Sunriver Police Department** and more than 34 years serving in law enforcement, Chief **Cory Darling** is retiring at the end of August.

On August 18, The Sunriver Service District (SSD) Board unanimously voted to appoint **Michael Womer** as the new police chief effective September 1, 2022. Womer has more than 28 years of experience in law enforcement and began with the Sunriver Police Department in January 2014. He has worked his way through

the chain of command as an officer, acting in capacity sergeant, and most recently as lieutenant.

Womer joined the U.S. Navy in 1991 and spent most of his enlistment in the Naval Security Police and airport operations. He started his career at Washington County Sheriff's Office in 1995. A portion from his long list of professional accomplishments and honors includes graduating from the FBI National Academy in 2019 and currently serving as the president of the FBI National Academy Associates Oregon Chapter; supervising both the multi-agency Hostage Negotiation Team and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Drug Task Force; being awarded the WCSO Silver Medal of Valor, Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) Distinguished Action Award and both the Oregon Peace Officers Association (OPOA) and OSSA Lifesaving Awards.

Womer is married and has four children, two grandchildren and a beagle named Murphy. He enjoys golfing, paddleboarding, fishing, mountain biking and traveling.

Kelly Sparks, associate vice president for finance and strategic planning at **Oregon State University – Cascades** has been appointed chief business officer and vice president of finance at the University of Maine.

Sparks, who has served in her current role since 2013, played a significant role in establishing and expanding the OSU-Cascades campus. Her last day with OSU-Cascades will be September 30. At the University of Maine, she'll oversee business and finance operations for campuses with nearly 12,000 enrolled students.

Now a 128-acre campus, Sparks oversaw the purchases of the complex properties that comprise it, a former pumice mine and former county-owned demolition landfill. She built the construction and engineering teams that developed plans that used fill from the former landfill to raise the floor of the pumice mine to developable levels, saving 30,000 one-way truck trips.

Sparks led the creation of a long range development plan for the campus that engaged more than 1,600 community members and outlined goals for a net zero energy, water and waste campus.

She steered the construction of \$186.4 million in capital projects at OSU-Cascades including 228,000 square feet of academic, research, dining and student residential buildings. She also initiated collaborative planning for a Student Success Center that will open in 2024, a health and recreation center, for which campus officials now seek state funding, and a 24-acre



Kelly Sparks

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Awbrey Glen Golf Club announces **David Quattrone's** third Hole N One — however, first one at Awbrey Glen Golf Club — on Hole #8, 122 yards using his 9 iron, witnessed by Greg Larson and John Melvin.



David Quattrone



Mike Broberg

Les Schwab Tire Centers has announced **Mike Broberg**, the company's chief financial officer for the past four years, will become its next CEO in early 2023. Jack Cuniff, who became CEO in 2018, earlier announced his plan to retire at the end of 2022. Cuniff will become Chair of Les Schwab's Board when the transition is complete.

The Board launched a national search for Les Schwab's next CEO after Cuniff shared his intention to retire earlier this year.

Postal Connections recently held its 20th annual franchisee convention in conjunction with the 2022 Retail Shippers Expo & Trade Show at the Hyatt Regency Dallas.

During the convention, Postal Connections announced a strategic co-



(L-R) NICK PIERCE; BRANDON GALE, PRESIDENT OF PACKAGEHUB BUSINESS CENTER; AND PETE PIERCE | PHOTO COURTESY OF POSTAL CONNECTIONS

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New hires, promotions, accolades, awards, retiring? Send us your

Who's Who!

Send a high resolution head shot and a short, 100- to 150-word writeup to CBN@CascadeBusNews.com to be seen in the next edition of *Cascade Business News*.

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Who's Who

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innovation district.

Sparks oversaw departments at OSU-Cascades including the business office, human resources, campus safety, facilities management, operations and technology, as well as in units including child care, dining, transportation and the Innovation Co-Lab.

Ketsdever anticipates announcing plans for Spark's replacement in the coming weeks.

Sparks served on the Governor's Regional Solutions Center Advisory Committee, on the board of Bend 2030, the COIC Broadband Action team, the Deschutes Public Library Expansion Advisory Committee and on the boards of the Bend FC Timbers and the Cascade School of Music.

Washington Trust Bank announces the addition of **Mark Griffin** to its growing Home Loan Division at the Bend Financial Center as a mortgage loan officer. Griffin brings over 16 years of experience in mortgage loans, from sales and customer service to loan origination. He is passionate about serving his clients to help them realize their dreams of homeownership — especially first-time homebuyers.

Griffin joins Washington Trust Bank from Cross Country Mortgage in Bellevue, Washington, where he worked as a loan originator. He also has experience working as a loan originator at five other lending companies in Washington State, spanning his 16-year career in the mortgage industry.

Prineville resident **Westley Winks** is among the first **Peace Corps** volunteers to return to overseas service since the agency's unprecedented global evacuation in March 2020. The Peace Corps suspended global operations and evacuated nearly 7,000 volunteers from more than 60 countries at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

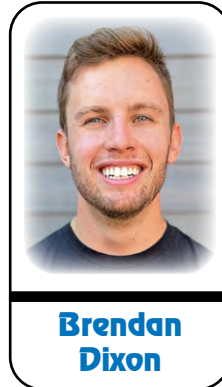
Winks is a graduate of Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He will serve as a volunteer in Morocco in the youth in development sector.

The volunteer cohorts are made up of both first-time volunteers and volunteers who were evacuated in early 2020. Upon finishing a three-month training, volunteers will collaborate with their host communities on locally prioritized projects in one of Peace Corps' six sectors — agriculture, community economic



Mark Griffin

development, education, environment, health or youth in development — and all will engage in COVID-19 response and recovery work.



Brendan Dixon

BendTel welcomes Telecommunications Lineman Technician **Brendan Dixon** to their team.

Dixon brings with him an impressive resume of exceptional leadership skills and knowledge of the tools, procedures and safety required for working in the telecommunications industry. He takes great satisfaction in the challenges, adventure and physical activity that comes with working outdoors. Dixon also appreciates the variety of work he gets to perform on a day-to-day basis and the camaraderie he is developing with other local telecom and power employees within the industry.

As a local Central Oregonian Dixon enjoys hunting, fly fishing, showing cattle and livestock, playing soccer and golf and is a Redmond High School alumnus. He proudly served in the United States Army for four years, and won various awards while enlisted. Dixon then went on to earn an Electrical Lineworker certification from the Northwest Lineman College in Oroville, California and has training in operating, maintaining and constructing safe and reliable power grids.

As a Telecommunications Lineman technician, Dixon is delivering state-of-the-art telecommunication services to customers and building BendTel's fiberoptic internet footprint for the future of all Central Oregonians.

Next week, the Bend City Council will formally appoint Angela Ruocco as Municipal Court Judge. The public is invited to attend a swearing-in ceremony and reception at 5pm on September 8 in the Bend Municipal Court room at 555 15th Street. This also an opportunity to thank Gwen Moore for her service as Municipal Court Judge.

From Baltimore, Maryland, Ruocco began her career representing asylum seekers fleeing persecution from countries across the globe. She continued her advocacy in community development as an Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Baltimore before a period of time working in law firms and returning to public service as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maryland where she primarily assisted in protecting and restoring lands and waters around Chesapeake Bay.

In addition to her legal career, Ruocco has been a teacher, professor and mentor with hopes of sparking interest in social justice and principles of equality, fairness and freedom in the next generation of students and new lawyers. Judge Ruocco is currently an Administrative Law Judge with the State of Oregon and is excited to add on the role as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Bend.

Businesses Serving Community



WATERCRESS TOWNHOMES UNDER CONSTRUCTION | PHOTO BY EXPLORE MARKETING

BEND-REDMOND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity received a \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Bank Foundation to fund the construction of eight Watercress Townhomes in Bend.

Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity plans to complete the Watercress Townhomes and welcome 8 families into their new homes in early 2023. This is Bend-Redmond Habitat's third site using a permanent affordability model, leaving a legacy of affordable homeownership by ensuring that the homes are only available for resale to low-to-moderate income families forever. When Watercress Townhomes are complete, there will be 39 Habitat homes permanently affordable in Bend and Redmond, 12 more to be added in late 2023 and many more in the early planning stages.

The Watercress Townhomes are being built with green building and energy-efficient practices such as heat pumps, high-efficiency windows and insulation and solar panels. These homes will contribute less overall greenhouse gas to the atmosphere, but also drastically reduce utility bills for the homeowners for years to come.

STREET DOG HERO

Street Dog Hero, a Bend-based animal welfare nonprofit, teamed up with Central Oregon Veterinarians Dr. Cierra Buer and Dr. Tabitha Johnson, as well as Fences For Fido, Warm Springs Fire and Safety and volunteers from all over Oregon to host a wellness & vaccine clinic in Warm Spring on August 13.

This clinic provided free physical exams, vaccinations, flea and tick medications, treatment for minor wounds and infections (like cheat grass), and prescription medications to 86 dogs and cats owned by members of the Warm Springs community.

On the same day, Fences for Fido hosted a pet food bank — providing free food for community pets — and Street Dog Hero took in 15 surrendered puppies and dogs, including a nursing mother dog and her pups. These dogs will be available for adoption soon. All of Street Dog Hero's adoptable dogs can be found on their website.

FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK

The Family Access Network (FAN) received a generous \$25,000 grant from Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation to support services across Central Oregon. FAN places advocates directly in schools throughout Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties to connect families who are low-income, unhoused or experiencing poverty to basic-needs services. Through a single advocate, children and their family members can connect to a variety of resources, including food, school supplies, clothing, rent/utility relief, health care and more, so that they can regain stability and self-sufficiency.

The Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation was established in 1998 to honor the life of Marie Lamfrom by continuing her support for Oregon causes. They aim to support and empower nonprofits financially, creatively and strategically; facilitate and nurture human connection, learning, healing and joy; pursue partnerships that value and empower those involved; to yield ongoing positive outcomes, alleviate human suffering and promote thriving communities. The Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation prioritizes support in service to education and mentorship, arts and creativity, and health and well-being in Oregon and Washington State.