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**Coldwell Banker Bain** would like to recognize Broker **David Gilmore** in the Bend office for his continued success in 2023! Gilmore wrapped up his milestone 25th year as a real estate professional with several notable achievements. Not only was he the number two broker in the Bend office, but he also earned International President's Elite status placing him in the top two percent of over 100,000 Coldwell Banker agents/brokers worldwide. Gilmore also represented the buyer of Bend's highest priced home sold in 2023.

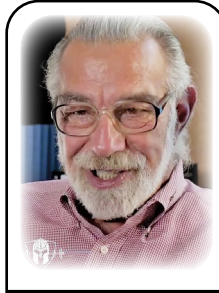
**Stroke Awareness Oregon** announces the addition of four new members to its board of directors and to introduce the staff. These additions to the board of directors will assure the organization's continued success in assuring accomplishment of board goals. The newly appointed Board members are:

**Ralph Cortese** — Prior to relocating to Bend, Cortese was a businessman and business owner. Serving as vice president of Advanced Labor he also was the founder and/partner of National Staffing Services. He currently is the manager of Southside Storage and U-haul. As a dedicated community volunteer, Cortese has been active with Stroke Awareness Oregon in many capacities including Silver Moon Bingo, Ralph's Rummage fundraiser and facilitating the men's stroke warrior group. Cortese is the founder and owner of Stroke Warrior Radio. He is committed to growing Stroke Awareness Oregon and sharing his skills and enthusiasm.

**Christin Hunter** — Hunter is a principal realtor broker with Duke Warner Realty. A successful businesswoman and graduate of Leadership Oregon she serves on the Oregon State Association of Realtor Government Affairs Committee. A member of the National Realtors Association, Oregon Realtors Association and Central Oregon Association of Realtors, Hunter was named in 2016 one of *Cascade Business News'* Accomplished under 40. Having been an involved community volunteer, she has served with The Center Foundation, Healing Reins and Co-Serve International. A practitioner of servant leadership, she plans to use her skills so that those who experience stroke have an opportunity to live their best possible life.

**Steve McDonald** — A title and escrow professional, McDonald is the owner/manager of Deschutes County Title. He has been involved in the community as president of Rotary Club of Bend and a board member for Habitat for Humanity. McDonald has numerous interests as a board member including finance, education, special events and marketing. He and his business are most valuable partners for Stroke Awareness Oregon.

**Aryn Seiler** — An estate planning and litigation attorney at Lynch, Murphy, McLane LLP, Seiler joins the board willing to do whatever is needed to move the mission of Stroke Awareness Oregon forward. She served on the Portland Independent Police Review Board and the Bend Metro Planning Organization Budget Committee. Seiler's board interests are special events, policy development, and program evaluation. She is particularly interested



Ralph Cortese



Christin Hunter



Steve McDonald



Aryn Seiler

in educating communities about the signs and symptoms of stroke and the importance of obtaining rapid medical intervention.

Stroke Awareness Oregon also introduces its staff: **Carol Stiles**, interim executive director; **Joey Drucker**, operations manager; **Kate Eskew**, education coordinator and **Taylor Drusick**, marketing coordinator.



Shelby Sauer

**Commute Options** welcomes **Shelby Sauer**. As the project and administrative coordinator for Commute Options, Sauer works on statewide and regional Safe Routes to School technical assistance. She also coordinates the functions of the office and provides administrative support. Sauer graduated from OSU-Cascades with degrees in business administration and sustainability and a minor in communications. While at OSU-Cascades, she developed a passion for exploring the magnificent Central Oregon trails and alternative transportation options. In her free time, she enjoys reading, running, skiing, and spending time with family and friends.

**Family Access Network (FAN)** welcomes **Galen Blyth** of Bend to its board of directors. Galen's extensive professional background, coupled with his dedication to the Central Oregon community, is a valued addition to FAN's mission. The FAN Foundation is the 501(c)(3) arm of FAN, founded in 2006 to support the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Family Access Network program. The FAN Foundation exists to raise funds, increase community awareness, and support the operations of FAN advocates' work in Central Oregon schools.

As an account Executive with Cascade Insurance Center, Blyth specializes in serving business clients throughout Central Oregon and the State. He grew up in the Seattle, Washington area and graduated from the University of Montana in Missoula. Blyth began working in the insurance industry in 2003 and eventually moved to Bend in 2005. His love of working with children has led him to volunteer in his kids' schools and coach baseball for many years. With his kids now older, Blyth was drawn to serving his community through FAN in addition to being the board treasurer of the Central Oregon Builders Association. Blyth enjoys spending time with his wife Meghan and watching his two teenage children compete in their favorite sports along with golfing, snowboarding or anything else outside.



Galen Blyth



Kyle Cummings

**Black Butte Ranch** has promoted **Kyle Cummings** to serve as CEO. Black Butte Ranch's chief financial officer and chief operating officer since August 2023 — roles he also served from 2011-2018 — Cummings offers a wealth of leadership experience to the renowned resort.

Cummings, 60, acted as Black Butte Ranch's interim CEO while the resort's board of directors performed its search to replace former CEO Shawn McCance.

Between his stints at Black Butte Ranch, Cummings served as CEO of Sisters-based Bird Gard LLC and acted as the principal in his consulting firm, Cummings & Associates. In all, the University of Oregon graduate has more than 30 years of experience as an auditor, controller and eventually CFO and CEO roles at numerous companies.

Cummings will be piloting one of the pioneering destination resorts in Central Oregon and one that has made significant upgrades in recent years. Black Butte Ranch opened its \$20 million, 22,100-square-foot Lodge in 2023, and it

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includes a restaurant and bar, second-floor lounge and bar, private dining room, event space, meeting room, outdoor dining, and state-of-the-art kitchen and catering facility.

**VF Law** welcomes attorneys **Michael McNichols** and **Victor Ramirez**. The firm recently moved into a new office space at 6000 Meadows Road, Suite 500, Lake Oswego, OR 97035, where McNichols and Ramirez are based.

McNichols has a quarter-century of legal practice, primarily focusing on trust and estate matters, real estate, and business concerns. McNichols's volunteer work includes prior stints as commissioner of the Clackamas County Circuit Court Arbitration Committee and president of the Canby Area Chamber of Commerce. He is admitted to practice in Oregon and Washington and is a member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association. McNichols earned his law degree from Willamette University College of Law in addition to an MBA from Tulane University, the New Orleans school, where he also attained his bachelor of science.

Ramirez joins VF Law as an associate attorney. Ramirez's work at the firm's HOA practice encompasses collections, insurance defense, document drafting and covenant enforcement. He crafts optimal legal strategy via negotiations to achieve the desired outcome. He is highly detail-oriented and pays attention to new rulings and how these may affect clients. His history of settlement negotiation has instilled in him a respect for approaching the issue from all sides and seeing it from other perspectives. Ramirez, who is fluent in Spanish, earned his juris doctor at Lewis & Clark Law School and received his bachelor of arts from San Francisco State University, where he made the Dean's List more than a half-dozen times. He is admitted to the Oregon Bar.



**Walt Ramage**, partner at **NAI Cascade** recently earned his Oregon Principal Broker Real Estate license. The Principal Broker license allows Ramage to have a supervisory role in brokerage or property management which he intends to employ as NAI Cascade continues to grow.

Ramage has held his Oregon Real Estate license since 2006 and has worked in the Central Oregon market for the entirety of his real estate career.

Throughout his tenure, Ramage has achieved numerous accolades, notably clinching the COAR Commercial Transaction of the Year in 2014, 2019, 2021 and 2023. Despite his impressive track record, he remains dedicated to advancing in his profession. His pursuit of this advanced license exemplifies his commitment to evolving alongside the business he owns with partner Jenn Limoges, CCIM.



# Maragas Winery Wins Gold

## Wine Collaboration with Oregon Spirit

provided by **MARAGAS WINERY**

The San Francisco Chronicle announced its 2024 winners of their annual competition. This year, Maragas winery entered a port style wine called Porto Greco. Maragas made the wine using the traditional Portuguese method, some wine being distilled into brandy and back-added to the fermentation. Maragas stated he felt from his own senses and the reaction to others trying the wine that the wine would do well in competition — it did — Gold medal at the largest competition for American wines in the world.

Maragas stated that he was "elated at the gold medal results of our first collaboration with Oregon Spirit Distillers of Bend Oregon." Maragas explained that "port is an art." "While the wine ferments, the winemaker consistently tastes, looking for the final flavor and sweetness believed to be the correct balance when finished. It's a mental game, imagining what the taste will be after the brandy is added to the wine to stop the fermentation."

Keeping everything a Central Oregon endeavor, to make the brandy, Maragas brought his wine to Brad Irwin of Oregon Spirit to distill. Maragas is "grateful to have a talented craft distiller in our backyard to expertly extract the brandy from his wine." Maragas aged the port seven years in American Oak wine barrels and Oregon Spirit American Oak whisky casks.

If you like chocolate and wine, Maragas Porto Greco captures the essential essence of both in one beverage. The overwhelming result is "yum"!

Maragas Winery, Central Oregon's oldest winery, was founded in 1999, and is located ten minutes north of Redmond on highway 97 at 15523 SW Hwy. 97, Culver, OR 97734. Winter Tasting Room hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11:30am to 5pm.

The results listing Maragas' Gold Medal for Porto Greco within San Francisco Wine Chronicle Competition can be seen online at: [winejudging.com/medal-winners/2024-medal-winners/2024-710](http://winejudging.com/medal-winners/2024-medal-winners/2024-710).



[maragaswinery.com](http://maragaswinery.com)

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