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Ryan Herrera

Redmond Fire & Rescue welcomes new fire chief. Newly appointed Fire Chief **Ryan Herrera** will join Redmond Fire & Rescue on March 18.

Herrera is a safety-driven leader who comes with 30 years of Fire & EMS experience. He began his public service career as a firefighter/EMT with Port Orchard Fire Department (Washington) in 1994 and has spent the last 26 years with South King Fire and Rescue (Washington). There he worked his way up the ranks, serving in leadership positions such as lieutenant, deputy fire marshal, captain and most recently battalion chief. He also brings 18 years of labor experience having served as trustee, secretary, vice president and president of IAFF Local 2024 (Washington). Herrera has a bachelor of science in fire and emergency management from Purdue University Global, and a NWCG Medical Unit Leader certification from Colorado Wildland Fire & Incident Management Academy.

ASI Wealth Management (ASI) announced that **Michael Bird**, client advisor in ASI's Bend office, has successfully passed the Certified Financial Planner exam, achieving the esteemed CFP designation.

The CFP designation is widely recognized as the pinnacle of excellence in the financial planning field, signifying a high level of proficiency and dedication. The CFP curriculum includes in-depth training in each of the following categories: Professional Conduct and Regulations, General Principles of Financial Planning, Risk Management and Insurance Planning, Investment Planning, Tax Planning, Retirement Savings and Income Planning, Estate Planning and Psychology of Financial Planning.

Bird's attainment of the CFP certification underscores his unwavering commitment to excellence and professionalism. Beyond credentials, Bird exemplifies the qualities of an exceptional advisor, blending technical acumen with interpersonal skills and a steadfast dedication to ethical conduct. His pursuit of continued education and adherence to industry best practices position him as a trusted resource within his network.



Michael Bird

Armstrong Student Center in 2013. There she led the development of student governance and board participation; on-campus student engagement; disability access, improvements and compliance; diversity and inclusivity initiatives; and management of the 250,000 square foot student center. She led a team of six professional and 70 student staff members.

Prior to joining Miami University, Wilson served as director of student involvement and activities at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and served in student affairs roles at Oregon State in Corvallis, the University of Oregon, Southern Oregon University and Stony Brook University in New York.

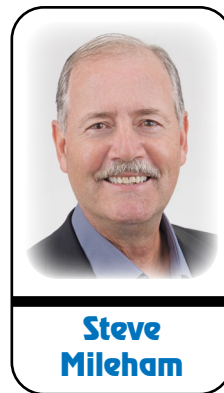
Wilson holds a bachelors degrees in history and religious studies, both from the University of Virginia, a masters degree in college student personnel services from Miami University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Oregon.

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic of the Cascades (VIM) welcomes **Courtney Gallant** as the new director of Philanthropy and Community Outreach. Gallant brings a decade of experience in local development and community outreach, with previous positions in nonprofit development and corporate community relations. She was born and raised in Central Oregon, a graduate of Redmond High School and Boise State University. She resides in Redmond with her husband, two Great Danes, their toddler son, and recently welcomed a newborn daughter.

Gallant will play a pivotal role in increasing visibility for VIM Cascades in the Central Oregon community, enhancing donor relations, and building on fundraising efforts to continue community support of VIM's crucial mission: to improve the health and wellness of the medically uninsured and critically underserved through the engagement of professionals, community partners, and dedicated volunteers.



Courtney Gallant



Steve Mileham

LRS Architects, a firm that values innovation, creativity, and collaboration, announces the retirement of Senior Principal **Steve Mileham**, who retires after 36 years of leadership and dedication at the firm. Mileham first joined LRS in 1988 for a temporary three-month position which turned into a full-time role lasting close to four decades.

During his tenure, Mileham shepherded the growth of the firm from two dozen people to becoming one of the largest architectural firms in the Pacific Northwest, with 120 staff members in Portland and Bend as of this year. He was also instrumental in establishing the LRS Auto Studio, which recently delivered its 100th-built auto dealership project under his leadership. The Auto Studio's most notable projects include the first Porsche Studio in the U.S. and the largest Subaru dealership in North America. Several of Mileham's projects during his esteemed career received LEED certification and have been recognized with industry design and construction excellence awards, with Mileham being individually honored as a 2019 Portland Icon by the Daily Journal of Commerce.

Standouts from his decades of exceptional design work include the Wingspan Event & Conference Center at the Westside Commons in Hillsboro, which was the culmination of 20 years of master planning; the Mercedes-Benz of Wilsonville, a timeless design from early in his career; the Hillsboro Civic Center for its competition-winning design, and the Sunset Porsche in Beaverton due to its challenging flood plain location. Longtime partners and notable clients also include Lithia Motors, New Seasons Market, Specht Development, Gramor Development, and Leatherman.

In retirement, Mileham plans to travel the world and enjoy his free time playing more tennis, golf, and volleyball.

Shepherd's House Ministries announces the addition of **Amber Knapp** to its team as part-time residential nurse. Knapp officially began her role on January 31, 2024, and brings a wealth of experience and compassion to the organization's vital medical services.

Funding was received via a generous two-year grant from PacificSource Community Solutions, further bolstered by a matching contribution from the Central Oregon Health Council (COHC). Knapp's role as a residential nurse is a pivotal development in Shepherd's House Ministries' commitment to enhancing the quality of healthcare services for those experiencing homelessness.

As a residential nurse, Knapp coordinates medical care, engages in wound



Randi Holm

Donna Holm

Holm Made Toffee Co. brought home two awards from the 20th annual Oregon Chocolate Festival recently in Ashland, Oregon. Featuring a wide selection of over 50 exhibitors, artisan chocolatiers, and confectioners from across the west coast, Holm Made Toffee walked away with awards in two categories: People's Choice Award — voted by festival attendees and Honorable Mention Best Chocolate Confection Hazelnut and Marionberry Toffee — voted by festival judges.

These two new awards follow 2023's trifecta of Best Chocolate Candy, Best in Show, and People's Choice wins. Holm Made Toffee Co. now boasts 15 total awards in a ten year span of attending the festival.

Katie Wilson has been appointed associate dean for student life at Oregon State University – Cascades and will lead strategies and activities that support the engagement and success of undergraduate and graduate students. She will start on May 17.

At OSU-Cascades, Wilson will oversee student life activities, residential housing and dining, student leadership development and student recreation. She will also support the health and wellness staff, who are led by OSU Student Health Services in Corvallis, and will serve as the primary liaison to the OSU Division of Student Affairs.

Wilson brings more than 20 years of experience in student affairs leadership to her new role. She served as senior director for student engagement at Miami University in Ohio before becoming the inaugural director of the university's then newly constructed



Katie Wilson

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care, fosters improved communication with other medical providers, and oversees hospice at home. These critical responsibilities align seamlessly with Shepherd's House Ministries' dedication to providing comprehensive care to those who need it most.

Compass Commercial Real Estate Services welcomes **Matt Sichel** as the newest broker to join the team. Sichel officially started in early February 2024, bringing over two decades of experience in the commercial real estate industry with a primary focus on the retail and office sectors. His arrival sets the stage for Compass Commercial to enhance our capability to serve our clients and grow our footprint throughout Oregon.

Sichel moved to Bend in 2022 from the Portland area where he most recently served as senior director at NAI Elliott. Over his 28 years with NAI Elliott, he negotiated over 1,400 commercial transactions, consistently maintaining the prestigious position as the top producing broker and earning him recognition as the CoStar Retail Leasing Power Broker of the Year on multiple occasions. Prior to his tenure with NAI Elliott, Sichel held pivotal asset and property management roles at Princeton Property Management, Sherron and Associates, Inc., and Robert Randall Company. In these positions, he managed a diverse portfolio of commercial properties and oversaw large multifamily properties comprised of thousands of units.

Since joining the company, Sichel has proven himself a valuable asset, providing expert guidance on commercial real estate transactions and offering valuable insights to facilitate the sale and lease process. His proven track record of success, expansive portfolio and wealth of knowledge further solidify Compass Commercial's position as an industry leader in Central Oregon commercial real estate.



Matt Sichel

computer science and software engineering. He offers Family Kitchen 30 years of technology experience, including CRM, customer service, file sharing systems, web, databases and more. Currently, he advises numerous start-ups on data architecture. His volunteer experience prior to joining the board has been as a regular on the lasagna dinner service team with his wife, Tali and sometimes their children as well. They can be found on the second Thursday of the month in the very busy "to-go" corner of the dining room at the Bend location.



Kevin Stock

The **Deschutes National Forest** announced the selection of **Kevin Stock** as the permanent Bend-Fort Rock District Ranger.

Stock is no stranger to Central Oregon; he's spent 24 years working on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District throughout his career. Stock was inspired to begin his career in wildland fire following the Awbrey Hall Fire in Bend which burned 22 homes in 1990. Stock worked as a seasonal firefighter on the Lolo National Forest in Montana, and later the Mt. Hood National Forest, before settling into Central Oregon in 1995 where he worked his way up the ranks from handcrew captain to the fire and aviation staff officer in 2021. Stock has also served as one of the incident commanders on Northwest Incident Management Team 8 since 2018.

Stock earned an associates of applied science degree in forest resources from Mt. Hood Community College. He also received a professional certificate in biological science from University of Nevada at Las Vegas. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and two children recreating on the public lands he protects and loves.

Bend Chamber announces that **Daniel Elder** of Campfire Hotel and **Stephanie Senner** of Suterra have joined the Bend Chamber Board of Directors, filling two vacated positions. Each will serve on the board until December 2025.

Elder is an Oregon native, looking for any excuse to be outdoors while enjoying a local craft beer. When not working as the general manager at Campfire Hotel, he is spending time with his family or out kayaking on a beautiful Central Oregon lake or river. Elder has lived in Bend for four years and absolutely adores this place.

Senner is the senior director of marketing for Suterra. She joined the company in 2018 with 20 years of experience in business-to-business marketing. After starting her career in Washington, DC, Senner spent 11 years at EarthLink Business in Vancouver. She moved her family to Bend in 2013 to join BendBroadband as the director of B2B Marketing. Senner is a graduate of Leadership Bend and was named 2014 Emerging Leader of the Year by the Bend Chamber. She served for seven years on the City of Bend's Economic Development Advisory Board.



Daniel Elder



Stephanie Senner



Allison Slater



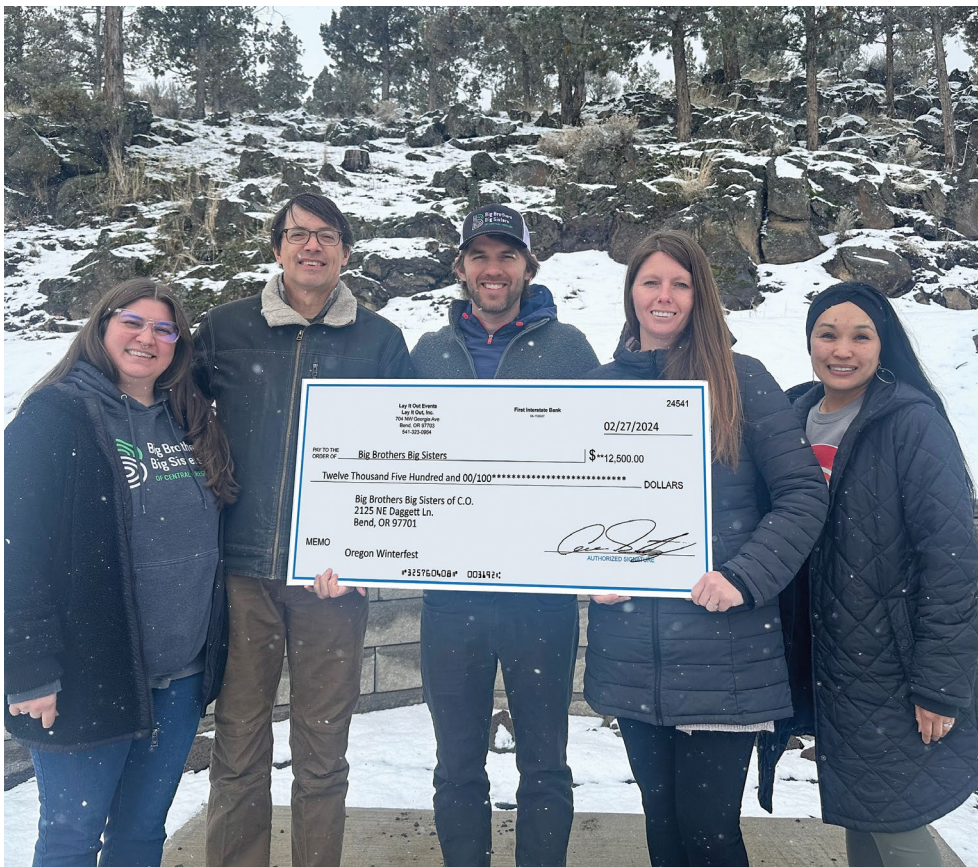
Lior Kogot

The **Family Kitchen** Board of Directors welcomes additional board members to assist in supporting existing operations and in securing a new space. The latest new members are **Allison Slater** and **Lior Kogot**.

Slater brings over 15 years of experience in human resources across nonprofit, education, and technology industries. A life-long advocate for equity and social justice, she co-founded Camp Phoenix, a summer camp program for low-income kids in 2012 and served on its Board of Directors for 11 years.

Kogot began his career in technology while with the Israeli Navy where he studied

Businesses Serving Community



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

The 2024 Bend WinterFest made a memorable return to Bend's Old Mill District this year. This year's event not only marked its comeback to a beloved location but also set a new milestone in its philanthropic efforts by raising an impressive \$12,500 for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBSCO) of Central Oregon. This significant contribution underscores the event's ongoing commitment to supporting local nonprofits in Central Oregon, with total donations to BBBSCO by Lay It Out Events (LIOE) through the sponsored event now exceeding \$50,000 over the past five years.

BBBSCO's mission to create meaningful mentorship relationships between adults and at-risk youth has shown remarkable outcomes, including improved confidence, academic success, and avoidance of negative behaviors. The program's reach has expanded significantly, now offering support to over 200 young individuals across Central Oregon. The funds raised this year will further enhance BBBSCO's mentorship training and fund outdoor activities that contribute to the mentees' development, such as ice skating, snowshoeing, and skiing.

The 2024 event's return to the Old Mill District was a celebration of Central Oregon's rich arts, culture, and outdoor recreation. Attracting over 20,000 attendees, the area was transformed into a magical winter wonderland, featuring enchanting ice sculptures, festive decorations, and a variety of entertainment that captivated visitors of all ages. Highlights included performances by renowned hip-hop artist Chingy and the AC/DC cover band, Hell's Belles, and engaging activities for families, such as the OMSI traveling science festival and the K9 Kings Flying Dog Show.

The success of this year's event in the Old Mill District not only highlights the community's vibrant spirit but also reinforces the importance of supporting initiatives like BBBSCO that make a lasting difference in the lives of young people.

(L-R) KELLEY LYONS, ENROLLMENT AND MATCH SPECIALIST AT BBBSCO, AARON SWITZER, EVENT PRODUCER AT LAY IT OUT EVENTS, REN GATES, ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR BBBSCO, JENN DAVIS PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT BBBSCO AND SHANNON GUERRERO, EVENT COORDINATOR WITH BBBSCO | PHOTO COURTESY OF BBBSCO