

who's who who's who who's who who's who who's who who's who

Total Real Estate Group announces the addition of **Heather Valentine** and **Jerri Martin** to their Bend real estate team, and **Matthew Salmi** to their Northwest Crossing team.

Having grown up in a real estate family, Valentine got her license in California in 2001. She has a wealth of experience in the industry, including buying and selling her own investment properties. Prior to moving to Oregon, she dually worked as a mortgage broker and real estate agent. Helping clients navigate complex deals is something Valentine prides herself on. Having lived in Central Oregon for more than ten years, her love of the area combined with her wealth of knowledge in real estate make her an exciting addition to Team Total in Bend.

Hailing from Central Oregon, Martin brings a profound understanding of the local landscape to her role. With a real estate license dating back to 2016, her seasoned expertise enhances her knowledge and capabilities in serving our clients. Martin's unwavering commitment to integrity, combined with her genuine kindness, propels her mission to positively impact the lives of those she serves. She deeply values each relationship forged throughout her career journey. Martin's exceptional track record speaks volumes about her dedication and proficiency in the real estate industry. As she embarks on this new chapter with Total Real Estate Group, clients can anticipate receiving unparalleled service and unwavering support.

With a lifelong love for architecture and interior design, Salmi has embarked on a career in real estate with the goal of helping buyers and sellers make their dreams a reality. Salmi has deep entrepreneurial roots, having been self-employed for over 20 years. Most recently, Salmi's endeavors included manufacturing high-end aftermarket automotive parts. His entrepreneurial spirit and eagerness to serve his clients will make him a great addition to Total Real Estate Group's Bend office.



Heather Valentine



Jerri Martin



Matthew Salmi

government, Katchur worked in a broadcast journalism. She has a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Colorado State.

Express Employment Professionals & Specialized Recruiting Group announced the addition of **Trevor Lewis** to their team. Lewis joins the Express Team as a business development specialist. His work style is friendly, direct and honest, and you'll always find him smiling. Before joining the team, he worked in the mortgage industry for several years where he became a producing branch manager. Lewis has also been both a 911 Operator and EMT. After growing up in Southern California, Lewis finished his Economics degree at the University of Oregon and decided to plant his roots in Central Oregon. Outside of work, he has a sense of adventure and loves fly-fishing on the river or off-grid camping with his partner and their dog, Guinness. Lewis is passionate about providing the Central Oregon community with superior staffing solutions to their talent needs.



Trevor Lewis

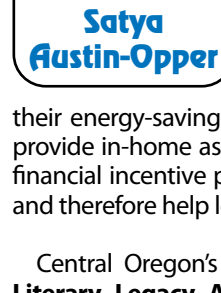
Deschutes Public Library board members voted on Thursday afternoon to appoint Bend resident **Betsy Tucker** to the Zone 4 Library Board position. The vacancy comes after board member Ray Miao resigned his position on March 13. Library Board members Ann Malkin, Anne Ness, Bunny Thompson and Erin Trimble voted 4-0 in favor of Tucker's appointment.

Tucker has lived in Bend for more than a decade and currently serves on the Deschutes Public Library Budget Committee and Deschutes Public Library Foundation board. She earned her bachelor's degree in managerial economics from Oregon State University. She has held various finance positions within local government entities, including the City of Bend Finance Department, Bend Parks & Recreation District, Deschutes County and City of Bend Fire & Rescue Department.

Tucker's appointment took effect when she is sworn in at the April 10 board meeting. She will serve the remainder of the Zone 4 term, which runs through June 30, 2025.

The Environmental Center (TEC) welcomes **Satya Austin-Opper** as their new Home Energy Assessment (HEA) program manager.

Originally from Asheville, North Carolina, Austin-Opper came out West to attend Lewis & Clark College in Portland, where she received her bachelors in environmental studies with a minor in political economy. Before starting at TEC in 2024, Austin-Opper has spent time working with other Central Oregon nonprofits to help advocate for stronger local climate policy and promote the transition off of fossil fuels. In her free time you can find Austin-Opper snowboarding, rock climbing, crocheting or volunteering with Bend Equity Project.



Satya Austin-Opper

As the HEA program manager, Austin-Opper will be working directly with community members to help them accomplish their energy-saving goals. Working with homeowners and renters, Austin-Opper will provide in-home assessments and connect participants with Energy Trust of Oregon's financial incentive programs and contractors to help install more efficient equipment and therefore help lower energy costs and carbon footprint.

Central Oregon's **Ellen Waterston** has received the 2024 **Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award** from **Literary Arts**. Presented annually to a person or organization in recognition of significant contributions that have enriched Oregon's literary community, Waterston was honored at the Oregon Book Awards Ceremony on April 8 held at Portland Center Stage at the Armory.

A high desert writer, Waterston was nominated by a diverse group of Oregonians including former Oregon Poet Laureate and Holbrook Award recipient Kim Stafford.

Waterston has published four poetry and three literary nonfiction titles including, most recently, *Walking the High Desert*. She has a new collection of essays due out this fall. The Writing Ranch, which she launched in 2000, is celebrating its 24th year. She writes a monthly column on ageing and ageism for *The SOURCE* and is the author of *Sharing Common Ground*, an ongoing Oregon Desert Land Trust interview project conducted in Southeastern Oregon. In 2015 she founded the Waterston Desert Writing Prize, now a program of the High Desert Museum. The recipient of numerous residencies and fellowships, her poetry and prose has appeared in many anthologies and journals. Waterston serves on the faculty of OSU-Cascades MFA Low Residency Program. A former Crook County rancher, she makes her home in Bend.

Bend Chamber welcomes **Robin Cooper Engle** to our team as the new sponsor relations lead. Cooper Engle brings a wealth of knowledge from 14 years at Habitat for Humanity, most recently as the VP of Resource Development.

Cooper Engle loves bringing people together to help strengthen the community. Her passion for people and building relationships made her successful at Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity for 14 years as the VP of Resource Development. Before Habitat, Cooper Engle worked for a regional newspaper in central California.

Cooper Engle has lived in Central Oregon for more than 16 years, is married, and has two 17-year-old daughters. She also has a golden retriever and a rescue dog, as well as chickens and cows. Before moving to Oregon, Cooper Engle lived in California. She grew up in a small town near Yosemite National Park.



Robin Cooper Engle

Cooper Engle loves spending time with family, traveling, hiking, hanging out with friends, and savoring delicious food. She and her husband often host parties and cook together.

Wendy Cullum had a Hole N One on Easter on Hole #16 at **Awbrey Glen Golf Club** — 96 Yards with an 8 Iron. Witnessed by Kitri and David Ford and Doug Cullum.



Wendy Cullum

At the April 2 **Bend Park and Recreation District's** board of directors meeting, the directors selected **Cary Schneider** to fulfill the duties for one vacant board position.

Schneider is a business owner who is approaching 15 years of volunteer board member experience for several non-profit and for-profit organizations. He has a degree in finance and management from the University of Oregon and has lived in Bend for three years, relocating from the Salem area. He and his family frequently enjoy the parks, trails, recreation programs and facilities.

Last month, Zavier Borja resigned from the board due to frequent travel and job-related responsibilities and a desire to step back and allow another person to represent the public on the BPRD board of directors.



Cary Schneider

The appointed board member will complete the terms of service that end on June 30, 2025 (with the seat on the election ballot in May 2025).

Schneider was selected among ten applicants as the top-scored candidate. He will be sworn in at the next board meeting on April 16.

Schneider currently serves on the district's budget committee; therefore, a process will begin immediately to fill the vacancy on the budget committee.

Deschutes County announces **Kim Katchur** as the new public information officer (PIO). Katchur brings extensive prior experience to the PIO position, having served in a variety of communications positions at both Maricopa County and the Arizona Department of Transportation. Prior to her work in local

R&H Construction recently announced the growth of their Central Oregon preconstruction services department as well as the promotion of a Bend-based team member.

Loren Colpo has joined R&H's Central Oregon team as a preconstruction and business development manager. Working hand-in-hand with the design team and subcontractors, Colpo provides clients with comprehensive estimates and cost-effective solutions to ensure their project goals are met. Colpo brings years of preconstruction experience for projects ranging from high-end custom residential to the ground-up construction of multifamily and mixed-use developments throughout Central Oregon. His background includes working for large, commercial general contractors. Colpo received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Gonzaga University.

Ryan Hansen has been promoted to senior project engineer. Prior to joining the R&H team, Hansen worked as a project manager for a residential contractor, focusing his efforts on high-end, custom homes. Since joining the R&H team in 2023, Hansen has contributed to R&H's PSH on Fourth and Spencer Court affordable housing projects, currently underway in Bend and Redmond respectively. Hansen is a Bend native and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Oregon State University.



Loren Colpo



Ryan Hansen