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**Stephanie Sheen**

**Elevate Pet Wellness**, a provider of integrative veterinary care in Bend, announced the addition of **Dr. Stephanie Sheen** to their team as an associate veterinarian.

Dr. Sheen brings a wealth of experience and expertise to Elevate Pet Wellness. A native of Texas, she earned her undergraduate degree in journalism from Boston University before pursuing her passion for veterinary medicine. Graduating from Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine with a doctorate of veterinary medicine and a masters in 2013, Dr. Sheen has since dedicated herself to advancing her skills and knowledge in animal care.

Throughout her career, Dr. Sheen has demonstrated a commitment to ongoing education and innovation in veterinary medicine. She has completed extensive training in senior and geriatric care, hospice and end-of-life care, advanced pain management techniques, rehabilitation therapy, acupuncture and spinal manipulative therapy.

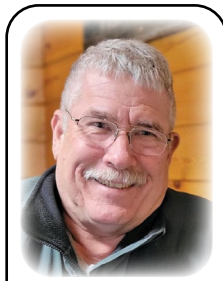
With a particular interest in senior pets and canine athletes, Dr. Sheen believes in treating each patient as an individual and utilizing a holistic approach that combines the best of Eastern and Western medicine. Her dedication to providing personalized care aligns perfectly with Elevate Pet Wellness's mission to prioritize the well-being of every animal.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Dr. Sheen enjoys spending time with her husband, Ryan, and their four dogs in Sunriver. Her hobbies include reading, cooking and training her beloved canine companions.

**Prineville-Crook County Chamber of Commerce** welcomes new board members.

**Dave Fields** brings various experiences. He has been supporting the United States Forest Service for the past five years as a field ranger and retired as the deputy state fire marshal in 2019. He wishes to continue serving the community of Prineville and Crook County in a more enhanced way by serving on the Chamber Board.

**John Hite** is a long-standing member of the Prineville Chamber and will offer the Board a variety of valuable skillsets including being a small business owner/entrepreneur, musician, licensed principal broker, volunteer firefighter and more. Hite's extensive experience with public budgeting/finance, meetings, planning and operations will add to the positive contributions that he will make to our organization.



**Dave Fields**



**John Hite**



**Lisa Birk**

**Bend-La Pine Schools** has hired **Lisa Birk** as its new deputy superintendent effective July 1. With 13 years of leadership experience in the district, Birk will replace Deputy Superintendent Lora Nordquist, who is retiring after serving the district for 16 years.

Primary responsibilities include supporting the planning and coordination of district-wide educational programs. This position plays a central role in achieving the district's goals of increasing elementary-level literacy, helping students find and connect to their purpose, including post-graduation success, and fostering a sense of belonging for all within each of the district's 33 schools.

Birk has worked in the Bend-La Pine district for 17 years and currently is one of two executive directors overseeing elementary programs. Previously she was Principal at Bear Creek Elementary School for two years and at Pacific Crest Middle School for two years. She also served as assistant principal at Pacific Crest, student services coordinator/assistant principal at Bear Creek, and a special education teacher at Juniper Elementary School.

Accounting firm **Kernutt Stokes** has received a 2024 Marketing Achievement Award by the Association for Accounting Marketing (AAM) for its website at kernuttstokes.com. In total, 93 firms competed in 16 categories including events, video and multimedia, and branding. Kernutt Stokes took top honors in the category for websites with a budget below \$49,999. Entries were judged on their ability to achieve specific goals, strategic execution of projects and the generation of measurable outcomes. This rigorous evaluation process ensures that only the most effective and innovative efforts are honored, highlighting the critical role of strategic marketing and growth programs in firm success. Awards were presented at AAM's annual conference, which took place in Orlando, Florida last week.

The new site was designed by bell+funk and developed by Eagle Eye Media, both based in Eugene, Oregon, where Kernutt Stokes is headquartered. The site launched on June 1, 2023.

**Saving Grace** announced the appointment of **Abby Rowland** as the organization's new executive director.

Most recently the executive director of the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory in Sunriver, Rowland's background includes various leadership roles in the nonprofit sector including small community nonprofit, healthcare and higher education experiences. Getting her Central Oregon nonprofit start in Bend back in 2006, as the development director for Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Oregon (now Boys & Girls Club of Bend), she also was the former development director for Healing Reins Equine Assisted Services.

Rowland will step into her new role July 1, 2024 replacing



**Abby Rowland**

interim Executive Director Lisa Cohen.

The prestigious San Francisco Spirits Awards have been announced and Bend's local distillery, **Oregon Spirit Distillers** has won six medals for their grain to bottle craft distilled whiskies, including the coveted DOUBLE GOLD for their Oregon Spirit Distillers Single Barrel/Bottled in Bond Wheat Whiskey.

Other medals won: GOLD for Oregon Spirit Distillers Straight Bourbon and Oregon Spirit Distillers Wheat Whiskey; and SILVER for Oregon Spirit Distillers Bottled in Bond Bourbon, Oregon Spirit Distillers Bottled in Bond Rye Whiskey and Oregon Spirit Distillers Rye Whiskey. Competition results can be viewed at the tasting alliance.com/view-the-2024-sfwsc-results.



**C.J. Adrien**

Bend-based author **C.J. Adrien** has achieved bestseller status with his fourth consecutive book, this time in the fiercely competitive American Historical Romance category on Amazon. Renowned for his award-winning and bestselling Viking-themed historical novels, Adrien's latest work delves into the intriguing world of the fur trade in Oregon Country. This unique blend of historical romance and the fur trade setting has propelled his novel to the top 1,000 bestsellers list on Amazon, placing it in the top 0.0001%.

Earlier this year, Adrien was quoted in several papers as attributing the inspiration for the novel to his middle school social studies teacher, Bob Boyd. He hopes the book will inspire people to explore the history of the fur trade in Oregon.

**Ensworth Elementary School** in Bend will have a new principal next school year. Bend-La Pine Schools Superintendent Steven Cook has announced that **Kate Donegan** has been selected for the position and will begin July 1. She is replacing Principal Dana Pedersen, who has resigned to relocate.

Donegan is currently the principal at Trillium Creek Primary School in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District, a position she has held since 2019. Prior to her current role, she served as instructional coordinator at Trillium Creek, where she supported and mentored staff to implement best practices in instructional strategies. She has 15 years of teaching experience, having served as a classroom teacher, learning specialist and reading specialist at a variety of elementary schools.

In other administrative hiring, **Dennis Foster Jr.** has been selected as the new assistant principal at Pilot Butte Middle School, replacing Jessica Gambee, who is moving into the principal position at Pilot Butte. Foster is currently the assistant principal at Cheldelin Middle School in Corvallis. He will begin at Pilot Butte on July 1.



**Kate Donegan**



**John Gidley**

**RE/MAX Key Properties** welcomes **John Gidley** to its esteemed group of real estate professionals. Gidley has been serving buyers and sellers in Oregon since 2010. A lifetime Oregonian, he demonstrates a deep commitment to his profession and to his community.

Gidley brings a unique perspective to the table as a seasoned house flipper, leveraging his keen eye for investment potential and in-depth knowledge of leveraging equity to "move up" in Bend's dynamic real estate landscape. His enthusiasm for design and architecture shines through in his work, as he meticulously pays attention to every detail to ensure his clients' visions come to life. He is also a licensed contractor, bringing a unique perspective and as a benefit to his buyers and sellers, a FREE lifetime handyman repair service. By focusing on his clients' desires and aspirations, Gidley ensures that every decision made aligns with their long-term goals, creating meaningful and fulfilling real estate experiences.

Outside of work, Gidley cherishes spending time with his three children. He also enjoys hiking, skiing, biking, running, football, baseball and basketball, and is an active volunteer with Bend North Little League.

**Kernutt Stokes'** Managing Partner **Steven E. Ritchie**, CPA, CFE, has been named one of "America's Top 200 CPAs" for 2024 by Forbes. Ritchie is the only CPA in the Northwest to make the list.

This is the first year Forbes has compiled the list and it follows nearly a year of research. The finalists were compiled by the Forbes editorial staff and an independent advisory board of CPAs; and sourced from more than a thousand candidates independently recognized and nominated by CPA associations and societies. Candidates do not pay any fee to be considered or selected.

Nominees were rated on a range of weighted criteria, including expertise, innovation, thought leadership, experience and service to the community and to their profession, as well as responses to selected questions.

The nonprofit **Tower Theatre Foundation** and **Marianne Watson** established the Doug Watson Scholarship for Performing Arts in memory of the Tower's longtime member, sponsor, volunteer and Board Chair. Doug was a true advocate for the arts, especially the Tower's LessonPLAN education programs, and reveled in seeing an audience of enthusiastic school kids react to live performances.

The Doug Watson Scholarship empowers students across Central Oregon who plan to pursue their creative passions after high school. The following 2024



**Steven E. Ritchie**



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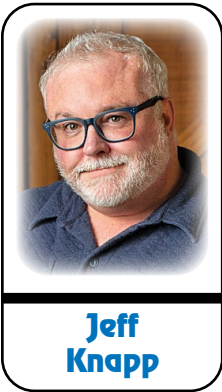
recipients will each receive \$4,000 to further their arts education:

**Shea Miller** is a senior at Summit High School. After graduating, Miller plans to attend Southern Oregon University to pursue a bachelor of science in music industry and production.

**Andres Bahns** is a senior at Bend High School. After graduating, Bahns plans to attend the University of Oregon to pursue a degree in cinema studies.

**Drake Walker** is a senior at Caldera High School. After graduating, Walker plans to attend Southern Oregon University to pursue a degree in music.

**Samantha Maragas** is a senior at Redmond Proficiency Academy and a Jefferson County resident. After graduating, Maragas plans to attend The Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University to pursue a bachelor of fine arts in musical theater.



The **Visit Bend** Board of Directors recently announced they've hired **Jeff Knapp** as their new CEO. Knapp will start June 10 and comes to Bend from Visit McMinnville, where he started the DMO from scratch in 2015. Knapp was hired after a national search by recruiting firm Searchwide Global, overseen by the board's five person search committee.

Management program, Cabanilla was also recognized for his other professional and leadership accomplishments, receiving the 2023 Bright Futures award, being named #15 in the Honors Academy, as well as other recognition for his contributions on team calls and as a trusted resource for other representatives.

Although Cabanilla was chosen as "Rookie of the Year" for his first year's accomplishments at Mid Oregon Wealth Management, he is not new to the retirement and investment planning industry, having started his career in Utah at a local investment firm and later at a credit union. He brought that experience, as well as a dedication to serving his community, to his role on Mid Oregon Wealth Management's team in late 2022.

On May 21, the **Central Oregon Drug Enforcement (CODE)** team was awarded the 2023 Agency of the Year for Oregon by the Western States Information Network (WSIN) in recognition of their outstanding contributions to combating drug trafficking and enhancing community safety throughout the Central Oregon region.



(L-R) SGT. VANDER KAMP, CODE AND KEVIN WULRUFF, WISN | PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTRAL OREGON DRUG ENFORCEMENT

According to WISN, this award celebrates the CODE team's exceptional leadership, dedication, strategic innovation and significant impact on disrupting domestic and international drug-related crimes. Leveraging advanced technology, intelligence-led policing and community engagement, the CODE team has set a benchmark for effective law enforcement practices in Oregon and beyond.

The Western States Information Network, a part of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) centers nationwide, supports law enforcement agencies with resources and information-sharing capabilities to combat organized crime and drug trafficking. The Agency of the Year award acknowledges the remarkable achievements of law enforcement units that have made a profound difference in their communities by using intelligence-driven, multi-agency, prosecutor-supported approaches to drug investigations.

**John L. Scott Real Estate** announces **Jacob Hailey** as the new office leader of the Central Oregon office located in Bend.

Hailey brings 17 years of experience to this new role. He began his career in 2007 as a mortgage lender until joining the John L. Scott Portland NE office as a broker in 2016. In 2021, he became sales manager where he found a passion for mentorship and empowering brokers to grow their business.



Jacob Hailey

Hailey is looking forward to getting involved in the Bend community, noting his appreciation for the art and culture, food and beautiful scenery that the Bend area has to offer. He plans to continue volunteering with his place of worship, community outreach and public speaking engagements.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF ONPOINT COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

**OnPoint Community Credit Union** announced the four winners of the 2024 OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education Educator of the Year awards — of the winners is Bend's North Star Elementary School first grade teacher **Rachel Hertz** as K-5 Educator of the Year.

The four Educators of the Year will have their mortgage or rent paid for one year and receive \$2,500 for each of their schools. In addition, the four runners-up will receive \$5,000 for themselves and \$1,500 for each of their schools.

Hertz has spent her 20-year career as a teacher working to give her students a sense of belonging. Her philosophy as an educator is simple: there is always something new to learn, to experience and to better inform how she teaches. When we stop learning, Hertz says, we stop growing.

A proud representative of her Bolivian and Mexican heritage, Hertz ensures her classroom celebrates every student's background. She encourages students to share their cultures and traditions and uses culturally relevant materials to enhance their learning experience.

She integrates social-emotional learning into her curriculum to foster a supportive space where students excel academically and develop resilience. She is analytical and data driven, researching teaching methodologies that are measurable and constantly checking in to ensure each student comprehends her lessons. She also sends books home and provides families with access to educational applications to support learning outside the classroom.

Her initiatives extend beyond traditional teaching methods. Hertz hosted a team-building event for school staff, led a Lego Club to build rapport with students after school and initiated an annual Kindness Carnival to promote positive community values. She is frequently on hiring committees for new North Star Elementary staff (most recently for a new principal) and also supports future teachers through her work with Oregon State University Cascades and Western Oregon University.

TruStage Financial Group awarded **tMarc Cabanilla** of **Mid Oregon Wealth Management Retirement and Investment Planning** as 2023 Rookie of the Year.

Cabanilla was recognized for his outstanding start in his first year at Mid Oregon Wealth Management, citing several key accomplishments, including:

- \$657,850 in 2023 GDC Production, finishing fourth overall on the Northwest Team
- \$28M in new deposits, finishing second overall on the Northwest Team
- \$10M in new fee-based assets under management
- Assisting clients with a broad product mix



(L-R) TRUSTAGE'S CHRISTOPHER ALLEN, REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE MARC CABANILLA FROM MID OREGON WEALTH MANAGEMENT AND MID OREGON CREDIT UNION CEO KEVIN COLE. CABANILLA WAS NAMED A TRUSTAGE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIS WORK ETHIC, PROFESSIONALISM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GROWTH OF THE MID OREGON WEALTH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM | PHOTO COURTESY OF MID OREGON CREDIT UNION

The Deschutes County Office of Internal Audit has won a 2023 Distinguished Knighton Award from the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA). The two-auditor team also received this national recognition last year.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

The Knighton Award recognizes the best performance audit reports each year and is given at two levels: Exemplary and Distinguished. Submissions are evaluated against audit offices of similar size.

Internal Audit's winning submission, **County Continuity and Operations Plan – Initial Assessment**, provided an assessment of the County's continuity of operations plan (COOP). The audit evaluated the COOP's ability to allow continued levels of service and essential functions following a disruption or crisis.

Winners were recognized at the ALGA Annual Conference in Seattle on May 6.



2024 SAFE SIDEWALKS AWARD WINNERS WITH DESCHUTES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS | PHOTO COURTESY OF DESCHUTES COUNTY

On May 29, the **Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners** recognized the winners of the 2024 Safe Sidewalks Award, an annual award given to businesses and individuals who help to keep public sidewalks clear for pedestrians.

The Safe Sidewalk Award was created in 2006 by the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to honor the businesses and property owners who go beyond the legal requirements to remove snow, ice and debris from sidewalks. This year's winners include:

- **Brian Earls**, owner of the **Shell Station** and **Highlander Hotel** in La Pine



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- The **Deschutes County Facilities Team**
- **Ernie Kanning**, Bend
- **Mike Chambless**, Bend

- The **Miller Lumber Company**
- The **Redmond Proficiency Academy**
- **Trinity Episcopal Church**, Bend

Deschutes County code requires businesses to clear ice or snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property within six hours of daylight; residential properties must do so within 24 hours. Other sidewalk hazards, such as overgrown landscaping and sprinkler overspray also need attention from property owners throughout the year.

## Central Oregon Kids Learn about Architecture & Engineering

by **KIM KNOWLES**

The Architecture Foundation of Oregon will feature its annual Architects in Schools Exhibit on June 7 at the Tower Theatre, 835 NW Wall St. in downtown Bend. Bend and Redmond area elementary school students will showcase projects developed over the past few months during time spent with architects and other design professionals in their classrooms. Participating design professionals represent Appropriate Architecture LLC, Bend Parks and Recreation, Evolution Architecture, ORW Architecture, Pinnacle Architecture and RHiZO Architecture.

The Architects in Schools program primarily supports third through fifth grades and is administered by the Architecture Foundation of Oregon and serves children

statewide. The program is designed to develop an awareness of architectural elements and construction methods through classroom sessions, projects and field trips that enhance learning in language arts, social studies, math, science and other subjects. The content is guided by an architectural curriculum specially prepared to create understanding and appreciation of the built environment in which the students live, learn and play.

For more information about the Architects in Schools program contact Kim Ruthardt Knowles at the Architecture Foundation of Oregon at 503-317-7537. [af-oregon.org](http://af-oregon.org)

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

## Who's Who!

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