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Eric Webber

To better serve our clients and partners, **Morrison-Maierle** has recently reorganized four of its offices into two business units and initiated new leadership transitions.

Eric Webber, who has served as the operations manager in Bend since 2022, has been promoted to the position of Bend/Spokane regional operations manager. Ben Miller, who was promoted to Great Falls/Kalispell operations manager in February 2025, will now transition to the role of Kalispell/Missoula regional operations manager.

Morrison-Maierle is a multidisciplinary engineering firm operating in Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. The company provides civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, ICT and fire protection engineering design and surveying, planning and scientific services for both the private and public sectors.

It is with mixed feelings that **Bright Wood Corporation** announces the retirement of Dallas Stovall as president. Dallas has stepped down after 30+ years of dedicated leadership, leaving a legacy of innovation and excellence that has shaped Bright Wood Corporation into the premier provider of wood-based components for the fenestration industry.

Kevin Stovall, the company's long-term chairman and vice president of Material Procurement, has succeeded Dallas as president. Kevin's knowledge of the world's timber resources, thorough understanding of company operations, and commitment to Bright Wood's values will create a seamless transition for employees and customers alike.

Dallas will stay on with Bright Wood as chairman of the board and one of the leaders of an internal group responsible for spearheading initiatives to improve earnings.



Kevin Stovall



Amir Zubaedi

COCC welcomes **Amir Zubaedi** as our new administrative assistant. He can help connect you with an adviser, register for a class or answer questions about upcoming events. Zubaedi comes to us with a strong administrative background, with prior experience in higher education and IT project management. He is extremely proficient in navigating our many systems and processes and is happy to help with any questions you may have. You will enjoy his professionalism and friendly voice whenever you call (541-389-7290) or email (sbdc@cocc.edu).

Family Access Network (FAN) welcomes **Jenny Werner** of Redmond board of directors. Werner's extensive professional background, coupled with her dedication to the Central Oregon community, is a valued addition to FAN's mission.

Werner was born and raised in Central Oregon and is a partner and CPA at Alliance Professionals, LLP in Redmond, Oregon. She graduated from Lindfield College with a bachelor's degree in accounting and has over 20 years of experience in the accounting industry. In her spare time, she volunteers for various nonprofits in Central Oregon and enjoys traveling with her husband and children. She believes education is vital for a strong community and economic growth. She is proud to be a part of the FAN organization who works to connect families to resources they need, so their circumstances do not become barriers to learning.

Devise Agency welcomes **Travis Caldwell** as COO and partner. Caldwell, who has worked alongside Devise in the past and previously served as president of Bear Group, joins the company at a pivotal time. His wealth of experience growing and guiding multifunctional teams will be essential as Devise continues to reach new clients and expand its capabilities, expecting to grow to 30 employees within three years.

Beyond his professional experience, Caldwell, who is based in Bozeman, Montana, is an avid trail runner, skier and mountain biker. He's a natural fit for Devise and its specialty serving the outdoor adventure industry, with clients including Pivot Cycles, Yakima, CRKT and Argali.

With its core competencies in market research, strategy and brand development, combined with its efficient operations, Devise is uniquely positioned to be a go-to agency of record for medium-sized, growth-focused brands. As the creative advertising landscape continues to shift dramatically, Caldwell sees a huge opportunity for nimble agencies like Devise to outcompete and outperform larger, slower-moving organizations.

Cole Architects has announced that **Ian Schmidt** has assumed the role of managing principal effective July 2025. Schmidt succeeds Matt Huffield, who transitions to partner focusing on strategic initiatives and key client relationships.

The planned transition comes as Cole Architects celebrates its 30th anniversary, continuing its evolution as a diversified regional firm serving clients across the Mountain West.

During Huffield's leadership, Cole Architects grew from serving primarily southern Idaho to building a Mountain West presence through strategic acquisitions, integrating firms with 30-year histories of successful client relationships. Recent projects include the Frontier Credit Union Headquarters in Boise, Idaho; Glendale Fire Station #153 in Glendale, Arizona; and Prospect Fire Station in Prospect, Oregon.

The leadership transition will not affect current projects or client relationships. All existing project teams remain in place, ensuring continuity of service and design excellence.

NewSun Energy announces the winners of the Third Annual Climate + Ag Scholarship Essay Contest and will award a total of \$19,500 to 11 graduating seniors from across rural Oregon. The students, selected by a panel of regional leaders, stood out for their thoughtfulness, storytelling and connection to the future of agriculture and energy in their communities.

This year's recipients represent a diverse group from Crook, Lake, Harney, Sherman, Wasco, Morrow, Gilliam, Coos, Curry, Crook, Douglas, Klamath and Umatilla counties. Their essays explore the complex topic of how climate change is affecting their community, including ranching and farming practices or other related impacts, and how their communities are adapting by blending personal experience with reflection, lived experience and global awareness.

Grace Budre, Crook County High School (Prineville), who plans to study agricultural law, described the financial and emotional burden of climate volatility. "Whether working on water rights legislation or assisting farmers with disaster relief, I want to be a legal advocate for those who work in agriculture," she explained. Budre will attend Oklahoma State University.

Madison Duarte, Lakeview High School (Lakeview) outlined her family's use of no-till farming and crop rotation, while calling for balance between renewable energy development and food production: "Renewable energy helps the environment — but we need enough food to feed the world." Duarte will attend California Polytechnic State University.

Kale Cornell, Burns High School (Burn) shared a firsthand account of bringing calves into his family's house to survive record-breaking winter temperatures. "With over six feet of snow... calves were freezing to the ground or getting buried immediately after being birthed," he wrote. Cornell will attend Saint Cloud State University.

Kali Rockwell, Dufur High School (Dufur) explored the promise and controversy of carbon farming in her wheat-growing community. Through interviews with Dufur farmers, she highlighted the potential of regenerative practices like no-till and multi-crop planting to combat soil depletion and weather extremes. "Although this may be an investment now, it will overall pay off in the long run," she wrote. Rockwell will attend Central Oregon Community College.

Jack Jensen, Klamath Union High School (Klamath Falls) interviewed a local rancher for his essay, painting a vivid picture of drought, heat, smoke and shrinking livestock herds. "With this drought, she had to reduce her herd from 500 cows to around 200," he wrote, underscoring the high stakes of adaptation. Jensen will attend Utah State University.

Doctor Welp, Oregon Connections Academy (Arlington) shared his wonder at windmills dotting his family's farmland and a researched examination of wind power's benefits and challenges. "Even though I cannot make decisions about this project ... I still have the same awe for windmills as I did when I saw them in the night, as a child," he wrote. Welp will attend Oregon State University.

Julianne Jones, Pendleton High School (Pendleton) traces her family's five-generation legacy in agriculture and wildfire resilience, inspired by her great-grandfather's teachings on defensible space and firebreaks. Now aspiring to be an aviator with the U.S. Forest Service, she wrote: "Wildfires are not just something to fight — they're something to prevent. My duty will be to identify risks from the air and help protect the forests and farmers below." Jones will attend Utah State University.

Amelia Holloway, Elkton Charter School (Elkton) wrote about how a snowstorm and subsequent flooding nearly destroyed her grandparents' ranch and retirement. "These fourteen inches of snow generated an estimated \$8,000 worth of damage ... After almost 24 days of no power... my grandfather never retired," she wrote, tying climate impacts to rural legacy and survival. Holloway will attend Southwestern Oregon Community College



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Mason Orem, Heppner High School (Heppner) discussed carbon farming and its role in protecting soil quality and supporting multigenerational farms. "There is a delicate balance between doing what is right and what is best for yourself," he wrote. Orem will attend the University of Idaho.

Peyton Simonds, Bandon High School (Bandon) explored the effects of unpredictable rainfall, warming oceans and wildfire smoke on cranberry farming, fishing and tourism in coastal Bandon. "One bad season can mean real financial hardship," she wrote. Simonds will attend Whitworth University.

Rank Herrera, Penn Foster Online School (Coquille) reflected on how climate change has reshaped his sixth-generation ranching family's expectations and traditions. "My ancestors dreamed of owning and living off the land... but my parents have encouraged me to look outside our fences for a skill and means to support myself," he wrote. Herrera will attend Southwestern Oregon Community College.

This year's review committee included 20 leaders from across Oregon, including legislators, nonprofit executive directors, renewable energy policy and legal experts, solar construction partners, county commissioners and conservation and workforce development leaders, as well as staff from NewSun Energy.

Now in its third year, the NewSun Climate + Ag Scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors in select rural Oregon counties who plan to attend college in the fall. More information about eligibility and past winners can be found at newsunenergy.net/scholarship.

Amanda Bedell, founder of **BCC Business Consulting** and a respected small business strategist in Bend, has been appointed to the inaugural Advocacy Advisory Board for Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Voices. She will represent Oregon entrepreneurs and carry their concerns directly to lawmakers in Washington, D.C., this October.

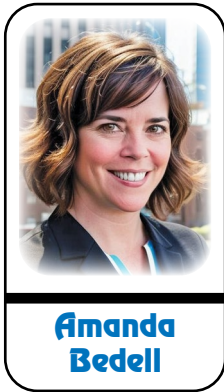
Bedell is one of just a few entrepreneurs selected nationwide and only Oregonian to join the board — formed to influence small business policy and elevate the voices of Main Street owners during a time of rising costs, labor shortages and economic uncertainty.

As a board member, she'll lead meetings with policymakers, appear in media interviews and mentor fellow small business owners across the U.S.

This national appointment follows Bedell's successful exit from a \$2.2 million bakery in Seattle and her ongoing work through BCC Business Consulting, where she helps business owners uncover hidden profits, simplify their finances and scale without chaos.

In response to overwhelming demand, her firm recently expanded services to include bookkeeping, payroll and tax preparation — addressing the widespread financial confusion holding back growth-stage businesses.

Since graduating from the 10KSB National Cohort in 2016, Bedell has been an active mentor and contributor in the alumni network, leading strategy workshops and peer forums.



Amanda Bedell

DKS Associates announces that **Chris Maciejewski** has been named president and chief executive officer, effective October 6, 2025. Maciejewski succeeds Peter Coffey, who will retire at the end of November after nearly a decade in executive leadership. This transition is the result of a thoughtful and strategic succession planning process, reflecting DKS's commitment to continued growth and long-term vision.

With 25 years at DKS, Maciejewski brings deep institutional knowledge, practice leadership and extensive experience leading staff through periods of transformation and growth. He will lead DKS's eight offices nationwide, fostering strategic growth, innovation and employee development while maintaining a strong commitment to client success.

Since joining DKS in 2000, Maciejewski has served in multiple leadership roles, including chief operating officer, advisor to the board of directors, portland office manager and principal-in-charge of many significant projects. Over the past eight years, as COO, he has overseen firmwide operations, helping guide strategy and taking the company through a period of disciplined growth and transformation.

Oregon State University - Cascades has been recognized for its novel approach to remediating the former Deschutes County demolition landfill and pumice mine, and transforming them into buildable land for the growing campus.

OSU-Cascades is one of ten award winners across the country recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the International City/County Management Association for innovative approaches in transforming brownfield sites.

A brownfield is an underused piece of land wherein redevelopment is complicated by environmental issues. Brownfields often remain undeveloped and blighted parcels of land because of environmental concerns or costs associated with clean up.

OSU-Cascades' remediation efforts began in 2018, more than two decades after the county landfill had closed. Before those efforts began, the site was considered a human safety liability because of the risk of sink holes forming and intense heat, up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit, generated as materials decomposed.

OSU-Cascades' approach to the remediation was developed by environmental engineers with Maul Foster & Alongi and entailed re-using excavated and processed landfill waste to create useable soil. That soil was then transferred to the former pumice mine, raising the 100-foot floor by 40 feet.

This strategy minimized the cost of the project by eliminating large-scale off-site waste transport and import of fill materials, diminishing truck traffic and other potentially negative neighborhood impacts. To date, OSU-Cascades has made usable 25 acres of the 72-acre landfill, and more than 20 acres of the 46-acre pumice mine.

Edward J. Ray Hall sits atop remediated portions of the pumice mine; the Student Success Center and land undergoing preparation for the first phase of the innovation district sit atop remediated portions of the landfill.

Local and Oregon contractors Taylor Northwest, Knife River, GRI and Carlson Geotechnical also contributed to the effort.

In addition to the EPA, campus planners work with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Deschutes County and community stakeholders during the remediation process.

The county landfill began operation in 1972 and accepted demolition debris including wood, sawdust and boiler ash from the Brooks-Scanlon and Shevlin-Hixon timber mills, which were located on properties that now make up the Old Mill District.

The remediation projects have been funded by the EPA, State of Oregon and OSU.

Businesses Serving Community



PHOTO | COURTESY OF TOUCHMARK AT PILOT BUTTE

TOUCHMARK AT PILOT BUTTE

On Thursday, August 21, team members from retirement community Touchmark at Pilot Butte dropped off school supplies and free-will donations to the Family Access Network. Residents and staff from the community collected supplies and funds for over two weeks leading up to the donation. The Family

Access Network is a program in Central Oregon that connects families in need — especially children — with essential resources like food, clothing, housing, healthcare, and school supplies to help them thrive in school and life.

HEART OF OREGON CORPS

Heart of Oregon Corps announced the launch of its Food Heroes program in Jefferson County, a hands-on initiative that empowers local youth to address the growing issue of food insecurity.

Open to local young people ages 17–24, Food Heroes participants will serve as AmeriCorps members, earning a stipend while helping end hunger and gaining industry-recognized certifications in warehousing, logistics, and supply chain management — high-demand skills that open doors to long-term career opportunities.

Madras Community Food Pantry will serve as the primary job skills service site, where Food Heroes members will support daily operations, increase awareness, build partnerships, and promote access to healthy food throughout Jefferson County. By combining workforce training with community impact, the program creates a true "win-win:" youth gain valuable skills and experience, while families across the county benefit from improved access to nutritious food.

Food insecurity is one of Jefferson County's most pressing challenges. Much of the county is considered a food desert, with only three major grocery stores located in Madras serving residents across a wide, rural area. The increasing demand for food assistance highlights the urgent need for programs like Food Heroes, which provide both immediate support to residents and long-term workforce development for youth.

Applications are now open! The first Food Heroes cohort begins on October 6. Youth ages 17–24 are encouraged to apply and join a close-knit team making Jefferson County healthier and stronger — one meal, one garden, one hero at a time.