

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



CA Rowles Engineering & Design welcomes Joe Stavig to their civil engineering team. Newly local to Bend, Stavig's background includes several years of design and consulting experience in various Washington and California jurisdictions with a specialty in stormwater. As a licensed professional engineer, Stavig brings the necessary skillsets to see projects through planning, design and construction.

Wednesday to Liz Vargas, welcome center liaison at the Bend-La Pine Schools Education Center.

Vargas has been with Bend-La Pine Schools for eight years, working with newcomer families and supporting programs that include Family Access Network and McKinney-Vento Act services for students experiencing homelessness.

Every day Vargas supports incoming families, guides students and collaborates with staff in every school. She also designed and implemented a more efficient intake system that connects families to vital community organizations.

Then the Excellence in Education awards culminated with the presentation of the Educator of the Year award to Loren Renfroe, language arts teacher at Sky View Middle School in northeast Bend.

Renfroe has been with Sky View for two years. Before she joined Bend-La Pine Schools, she was an English teacher at Round Rock Independent School District in Round Rock, Texas.

In addition to her classes, Renfroe is also the instructor of Sky View's leadership class and co-designed the Career Technical Education Wheel course, integrating communication, technology and design thinking through hands-on experiences with local professionals and Oregon State University faculty. She has led professional development in the Readers and Writers Workshop and student-led conferences. She serves on both the campus and district language arts leadership teams, helping shape literacy instruction across Bend-La Pine Schools.

Old Mill District names Jennifer McCaffrey the 2025 Winter Art Series artist. McCaffrey's linocut pays homage to Bend's timber roots and celebrates Central Oregon's winter magic, featuring a powerful elk standing sentinel in a riverside snowbank before the Old Mill District's historic smokestacks. A snowcapped Broken Top rises in the background with a hint of the Northern Lights in the sky, creating a feeling that's both nostalgic and bold.

Printed in a duotone palette inspired by vintage black-and-white photographs, McCaffrey said she hoped to capture the timeless relationship between Bend's natural beauty and its working heritage.

This is the ninth straight year the Old Mill District has commissioned an original art piece as part of its Winter Art Series. Each year, the artwork is featured as the backbone of the district's winter marketing campaign. McCaffrey's art piece can be seen throughout Central Oregon on banners, posters and the cover of the Old Mill District's annual winter guide.

To bring the scene to life, McCaffrey became part artist, part historian. She scoured archives and old photographs of the original Brooks-Scanlon mill, studying the silhouettes of its smokestacks and the quiet grain of its past. The black-and-white images informed her palette and composition, she said, grounding the piece in authenticity.

Prints and other versions of McCaffrey's art can be viewed and purchased at The Stacks Art Studios & Gallery in the Old Mill District, a space she shares with four other local artists.



(L-R) LIZ VARGAS AND KINSEY MARTIN | PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEND-LA PINE SCHOOLS



(L-R) MARCUS LEGRAND, STEVEN COOK, KATIE LEGACE, CHRIS BOYD, LISA BIRK, RYAN KELLING AND SHIRLEY OLSON

Bend-La Pine Schools presented its Administrator of the Year award Tuesday to Chris Boyd, principal of Caldera High School.

Boyd has been with Bend-La Pine Schools for 11 years and is in his fifth year as principal at Caldera High School, the district's newest school. He has been Caldera principal since the doors opened in the fall of 2021.

Boyd also helped open Pacific Crest Middle School as principal in 2015.

Bend-La Pine Schools also presented its Support Staff Member of the Year award



(L-R) STEVEN COOK AND LOREN RENFROE

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