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Wild Rooster Takes Off in Prineville

New Bar & Grill Joins C-Store/Gas Station in Fast-Growing Eastern Hub

by SIMON MATHER — CBN Feature Writer



(L-R) KEVIN SPENCER AND DAN HEALY | PHOTO BY LAURIE PITTMON

There's something fresh to crow about in Prineville with the launch of the Wild Rooster Bar & Grill, built alongside a new fuel stop/convenience store with drive-through, and aiming to cater to a growing workforce in a fast-developing area at the major eastern gateway to the city.

The venture, located north of the Hwy. 126 intersection, on Tom McCall Road, is a collaboration between prominent local developer Kevin Spencer, Cascades Lakes Brewing, and Dan Healy. Healy owns similar successful gas station/c-store projects in Bend, including the 15th Street Xpressway, and Reed Crossing Market at the crossroads of Reed Market Rd. and 27th, which is also flanked by a flagship Cascade Lakes Brewing pub, and developed by Empire Construction.

The new Prineville project, designed by Bend-based Steele Associates Architects, represents the latest expansion of the Tom McCall Business Park, off Empire Dr., helmed by Spencer through his Empire Construction & Development Company.

The park has proved to be a leading engine for economic growth in the rapidly developing commercial and residential core close to the major roundabout off Hwy. 126 and Tom McCall Rd. Characterized as a high-visibility, elevated, and scenic entry point overlooking the city, the area serves as a hub for modern development near the Prineville Airport and the Meta Data Center campus, and is part of the city's designated Enterprise Zone.

Primarily featuring industrial sites, other surrounding developments include the growing data center cluster, airport expansion and the newly expanded Humane Society of the Ochocos base. "We just opened the new location in Prineville and it has already been well-received," Spencer said. "There is a lot happening in that area and overall we primarily wanted

PAGE 8

EDCO 2026 Economic Outlook Bucking the State's Trend

by JON STARK, CEO — Economic Development for Central Oregon

1) Reflecting on What Came True

First, I'd like to acknowledge and thank *Cascade Business News* for once again inviting Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) to contribute our perspective to its annual Central Oregon Economic Outlook. Looking back on our 2025 forecast, many expectations held steady, including moderated inflation; continued business expansion in advanced manufacturing and technology; lower interest rates; and steady, albeit slower, population growth, at least in the tri-county area.

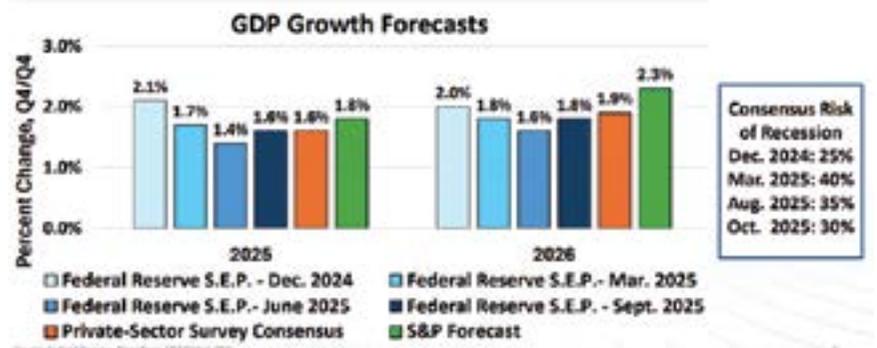
Despite persistent uncertainty around interest rates and Oregon's dwindling in-migration rates, Central Oregon demonstrated resilience, thanks in part to EDCO's business development projects. Now, a year after our last forecast, oil prices have, as predicted, fallen and are expected to remain lower in 2026, giving households more capacity for other spending. At the same time, the unemployment rate continues to rise, creating a more balanced employment market

in Central Oregon. Together, these factors set the stage for a cautiously optimistic 2026.

2) Overview of What's to Come

As we step into 2026, Central Oregon's economic landscape remains shaped by a diversified industry base. EDCO's pending projects are nearly evenly split between Lifestyle Products, High Technology and Advanced Manufacturing. While statewide economic growth has been moderate, local strength in

PAGE 10



GRAPH | COURTESY OF EDCO

Central Oregon Economic Outlook — Pages 10-24

Data Centers & Central Oregon The Economic Impact of Recent Developments

by NOAH NELSON — CBN Feature Writer



META DATA CENTER | PHOTO BY ALAN BRANDT

In 2025, the U.S. saw the construction of more than 1,500 new data centers across the 50 states. That trend of growth continued here in Central Oregon, as the region recently welcomed data centers from both Meta and Apple.

However, residents are understandably questioning the impact of these data centers, as they are still new technology for the region and the long-term effects they will have on the Central Oregon community have yet to be seen.

First, it is important to define what one means by "data center." Most of the conversation around data centers is actually focused on hyperscale data centers. These are the large data centers built by global companies such as the Meta and Apple data centers in Prineville. Central

Oregon actually has many more data centers that are often overlooked because they are not considered large enough to be called hyperscale.

According to Josh Smith, planning director for the City of Prineville, hyperscale data centers are an economic boom for the town, while smaller data centers are beneficial, but still drive a few issues. He said that it is the smaller data centers that create most of the sound/noise issues, as they are "essentially containers filled with air conditioners," while hyperscale data centers use more advanced cooling techniques, such as liquid cooling, a technique that involves using cold plates for direct-to-chip cooling, which is more efficient and quieter than traditional AC cooling systems.

Also according to Smith, the hyperscale data centers

PAGE 6



EDCO

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Business & Industry 2
- Hot News 3
- City Desk 8
- Central Oregon
Economic Outlook 10
- Business Organizations,
Chambers of Commerce,
Coaches & Consultants
Special Section 25
- Who's Who 34
- Businessness Serving Community... 35
- Healthy Communities..... 36
- Business Calendar 39
- Permits 39
- Town & Country 40



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KELSEY HASKETT12	ERIC SANDE25
ERIC STROBEL.....12	SARA ODENDAHL.....27
PATRICIA LUCAS14	KRISTINE THOMAS.....28
BRENNA FULKS14	TURI SHERGOLD.....28
CORY J. ALLEN15	ANN GAWITH29
ROGER LEE16	DEBBIE TAYLOR.....29
KEVIN COLE17	MOE CARRICK31
RUSSELL HUNTAMER.....18	ZACK HALL36
JAY LYONS18	EMMA FLYNN36
ELI HARRISON18	DARLEEN RODGERS.....36
GRAHAM DENT19	THINK WILD CENTRAL OREGON.....37
KRISTIE SCHMITT.....19	

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Accounting Firm Kernutt Stokes Named One of Oregon's 100 Best Companies to Work For

Kernutt Stokes was named one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For in Oregon for 2026 by Oregon Business magazine. This is the firm's second consecutive year on the list and its fourth recognition in the last six years, having also been honored in 2025, 2023 and 2021.

The 100 Best list is based on employee input and measures workplace factors including compensation and benefits, company culture, work-life balance

and leadership.

"We're proud to be recognized again as one of Oregon's best places to work," said Kernutt Stokes Managing Partner Steve Ritchie, CPA, CFE. "This recognition is especially meaningful because it's driven by employee feedback, and it reinforces our focus on building a workplace where people feel supported,

Continued on Page 38 ▶

Redmond Municipal Airport to Host 2026 TSA PreCheck Enrollment Events

Redmond Municipal Airport (RDM) will be hosting multiple TSA PreCheck enrollment events in collaboration with IDEMIA, a TSA PreCheck authorized enrollment provider.

Travelers can enroll or renew their membership at the terminal, located 2252 Jesse Butler Circle, between the Terminal West entrance and Airport Gift Shop across from the Airline ticket counters. The TSA PreCheck Application Program is open to U.S.

citizens, U.S. nationals, and lawful permanent residents.

Enrollment dates at RDM:

- February 3-6
- May 5-8
- July 28-31
- October 20-23

All events are held 9am-12pm and 1-5pm.

Continued on Page 38 ▶

Dudley's Bookshop Announces Plans to Open Second Location in Bend's Old Mill District

Dudley's Bookshop Café has announced plans to open a second location in Bend's Old Mill District this spring, bringing the district its first and only independent bookstore while also adding a new retail category to one of Central Oregon's premier shopping and recreation destinations.

To be located between Will Leather Goods and lululemon, the new Dudley's Bookshop will sit just steps from the Deschutes River, with its back door

facing the river trail. The approximately 900-square-foot shop is expected to open in late spring, ahead of Bend's busy summer season.

"The Old Mill District has always been one of the few places in town that makes sense for a small business like ours," said Tom Beans, owner of Dudley's Bookshop Café. "We rely on people walking by,

Continued on Page 38 ▶

Heart of Oregon Corps Named Nonprofit of the Year by Central Oregon Builders Association

Heart of Oregon Corps announces it has been named 2025 Nonprofit of the Year at Central Oregon Builders Association's annual Excellence Awards ceremony held Thursday, January 15. The award was generously sponsored by Miller Lumber.

The recognition comes on the heels of a successful year of community fundraising for Heart of Oregon Corps, which has now raised \$6.16 million, or 84%, of the total funding needed for

Central Oregon's first youth workforce development campus. The organization has \$1.14 million left to raise by grand opening on September 30.

The \$7.3 million, 3.4-acre campus in Redmond will serve as a regional hub for hands-on youth job training in construction, conservation, childcare, and other high-demand trades—helping

Continued on Page 38 ▶

East Cascades Works RFPs for Workforce Services in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Wheeler & Gilliam Counties Now Open

East Cascades Works (EC Works) has released two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the delivery of U.S. Department of Labor-funded Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services within their Northern Subregion, which includes Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Wheeler and Gilliam Counties.

This opportunity is specific to organizations with the capacity, experience, and community partnerships necessary to provide high-

quality, year-round workforce services to jobseekers and businesses across the North Subregion. The prevailing bidder(s) will be expected to partner with employers to support talent needs, and to provide support to individuals through access to career exploration, paid work experience, academic re-engagement, occupational training, job

Continued on Page 38 ▶

COCC Part of a Nationwide Focus in February on Career, Technical Education

The United States is facing a projected deficit of six million skilled workers by 2032 — in fields like health care, construction and manufacturing — according to the Association for Career & Technical Education.

To help shine a spotlight on the diverse career paths provided by technical education programs — from

firefighters and foresters to chefs and web developers — as well as to express the high demand for skilled workers, Central Oregon Community College is taking part in National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month throughout February.

Continued on Page 38 ▶

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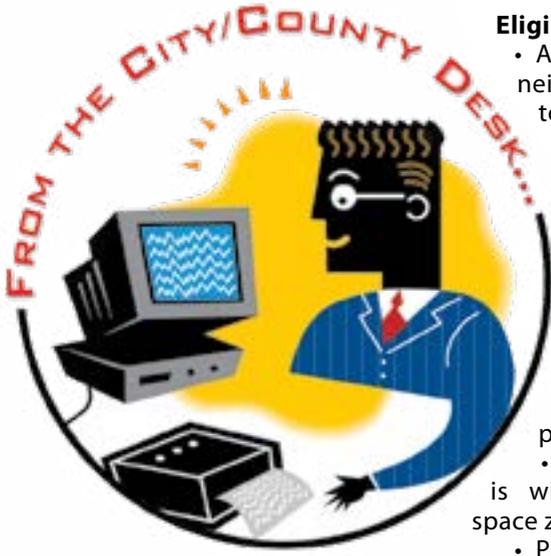
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- Applicants must work at a neighborhood or community level to reduce wildfire risk. Individual properties are not eligible.
- Preference goes to areas identified as having a high wildfire risk, but other review factors include:
 - Whether the neighborhood or community is a recognized Firewise USA site or is working towards it.
 - The number and/or size of properties participating.
 - Whether the project's focus is within the 100 ft. defensible space zone.
 - Previous award of bin rental services: Priority is given to communities that haven't received funding before, but all are encouraged to apply.

Selected neighborhoods and communities won't receive funds directly. Instead, Deschutes County will manage bin rental contracts with disposal companies and work directly with communities to mitigate wildfire risks.

Communities that are interested in applying for a bin rental service award should submit an application between now and February 28. Recipients will be notified in early April.

For more information about the Sweat Equity Bin Rental Program, please visit the Natural Resources website.

BEND

◆ The City of Bend invites community members to attend an informational Design Open House for the 15th Street and Ferguson Road Roundabout Project on February 5 from 4:30-6:30pm at Larkspur Community Center, Bend.

DESCHUTES COUNTY

◆ Deschutes County recently released reports that show the transient lodging tax collection results for FY 2025-26, updated through the month of December 2025. Please keep in mind that these funds are recorded on a cash basis; therefore, this information reflects the results of payments for activity through November 2025.

To access the full report go to CascadeBusNews.com and search *Transient Room Tax Collections*.

◆ Deschutes County Natural Resources began accepting applications for its 2026 Sweat Equity Bin Rental Program on February 1.

This program helps local communities remove fire fuels and improve defensible spaces around homes and other structures by covering the cost of trash bin rentals. Funds set aside for this year's program will provide rental services to approximately 25 communities.

This drop-in event offers community members an opportunity to meet the project team, ask questions, share comments, and learn more about proposed improvements. If you can't make it in person, the same information will also be available on the project website at bendoregon.gov/15th-ferguson.

The project focuses on enhancing safety and improving traffic flows at this busy intersection. Sign up to receive project email updates projects and learn more about the project at bendoregon.gov/15th-ferguson.

◆ The City of Bend announces the launch of its updated website. This newly designed website is a City Council priority to create a resource for our community that puts people first and makes accessing City resources easier.

The new website utilizes a human-centered design which aims to create intuitive navigation, accessible content and purposefully direct the

user's attention to the most impactful and used webpages. The website redesign includes a more robust search bar, photography, and bold type. These updates follow accessibility standards to ensure users are able to access information.

"We're excited to launch a new City of Bend website built with our community in mind," said Communications and Engagement Officer René Mitchell. "This update will make it easier for everyone to find information, access resources and stay connected with the City. It's really about creating a better experience for our entire community."

The City of Bend website is the main source of information for our community. In 2024 there were more than 1.5 million views on the website. The new website's goal is to create a more transactional website with streamlined services for payments, service requests, forms and more.

View the new website at bendoregon.gov.



SALEM

◆ More than 200 municipalities are still delinquent in filing their required financial reports, according to an update from the Secretary of State's Office. These municipalities include all counties, cities, school districts, special districts, and public corporations subject to control by local governments.

"While I'm glad to see some improvement in these numbers, too many municipalities still aren't meeting their deadlines," said Secretary of State Tobias Read. "Oregonians rely on these financial reports to keep their local governments accountable, and they have every right to expect municipalities provide this information promptly."

Oregon's Municipal Audit Program periodically publishes a list of municipalities that haven't filed their required financial reports for the last few fiscal years. The most recent list shows that as of December 2025, there were 238 entities with delinquent reports, many of which were delinquent for multiple years.

The number of delinquent filers remains significantly higher than when the Audits Division began publishing this information in 2017; however, it is an improvement from May 2025, when

385 municipalities were delinquent.

Under Municipal Audit Law, Oregon's municipalities are required to submit annual reports with key financial information to the Secretary of State's Office. For most entities, this report must be a financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant; for other, smaller entities, they may self-report expenditure information.

In February 2025, the office released a summary report that found a record number of municipalities were falling behind in filing these required reports. Auditors noted a major reason for the delinquent filings was a lack of adequate resources and persistent issues around staffing, both turnover and filling positions.

There may be consequences for municipalities that are delinquent.

Entities that don't file a report may jeopardize their ability to service debt, obtain new debt, comply with grant requirements, or obtain new grants. School districts may have state school funds withheld by the Oregon Department of Education. Special districts may be subject to dissolution if they don't file reports for three consecutive years.

See the full list on the Secretary of State's website.

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EDCO's PubTalk Series Return for 2026 Season

Lessons, Insights & More from Cross-Industry Professionals

by NOAH NELSON — CBN Feature Writer

Economic Development for Central Oregon, or EDCO, hosted the first PubTalk of the new year on January 22. Professionals from a multitude of industries gathered over beer, food and good conversation at Bend's Worthy Brewing.

This PubTalk saw a range of topics addressed by the array of scheduled speakers. David Rodrigues pitched his company, CarbonBright, and explained how the increasing environmental impact of global supply chains and product production can be addressed easier than ever with AI. After gaining plenty of experience in the Central Oregon tech industry with his role at G5, Rodrigues found himself wondering what would be next for his career. He found himself focusing heavily on the effects of climate change, especially here locally. From forest fires and air quality to water scarcity and even this particularly warm winter, he wanted to do something to help.

CarbonBright is an AI-powered Lifecycle Assessment that can generate data-driven results in minutes, helping companies large and small better understand their environmental impact, from raw-resource extraction all the way down to shipping to the customer. This helps those companies reduce impact and meet sustainability goals/regulations.

Datar Sahi pitched his company, SuperSenses, and spoke about the importance of tracking one's brain performance across all of our senses, in order to better address issues such as cognitive decline, dementia and Alzheimer's. Sahi stated that he founded his company after his mom forgot his birthday. Despite having smell, taste and vision problems for years, those problems were not tracked or presented collectively, overlooking the connection they had to greater brain-related issues.

SuperSenses is a company that provides sensory-testing kits and an associated app that is designed to track all of an individual's senses, compiling information that can help address cognitive decline before it becomes an issue. Sahi says that around 50 percent of decline is overlooked, meaning that there is ample opportunity to stay



DATAR SAHI | PHOTOS COURTESY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL OREGON

healthy that billions of people are actively missing. By regularly tracking changes to an individual's five senses, SuperSenses helps people stay on top of their brain health for longer, fuller lives.

The keynote speaker of the night was Alisha Hemmingson Runckel, the vice president of eCommerce at Blueprint, a science-driven company that provides nutritional supplements designed to help people live longer lives. With more than 15 years of scaling direct-to-consumer brands, her insights into eCommerce were indispensable for the companies she worked with, as well as many of the Pubtalk guests who got the chance to learn from her expertise.

Runckel spoke about the fundamentals of eCommerce, including how to decide if eCommerce is the correct choice for any given type of business, where to start, and how to determine profitability.

For eCommerce, she said to prioritize products that are light and dry, standard in size, and shelf-stable. Products that perform well in eCommerce often have a long shelf life, and they conveniently fit into standard sized boxes or packages. Without those factors in place, business owners are going to have much larger hurdles to jump if they want to succeed in eCommerce.

Overall, she said the goal of her talk was to help businesses feel informed and empowered before they make the choice to move forward, or stay where they are.

The next EDCO PubTalk is scheduled for Thursday, February 26 at Open Space Event Studios.

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DAVID RODRIGUES



(L-R) SHANAN KELLEY AND ALISHA HEMMINGSON RUNCKEL



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Data Centers

Continued from page 1

come with a host of funding to ensure that any chosen town is set to handle the increased stress to their infrastructure. From water to power, hyperscale data centers help bolster local systems, providing an overall upgrade to many systems that may not have had the funding for vast improvements, otherwise.

This is echoed by Kelsey Haskett, the EDCO Prineville/Crook County director, who said, "In Prineville, data centers have delivered real, measurable benefits for the community. We've seen over \$2 million invested directly in our school district, major improvements to local infrastructure like long-haul fiber, innovative water and wastewater capacity building, and strong support for community programs. Just as important, these jobs pay at least 130% of the county average, helping Crook County reach the second-highest average wage in the state. It's a model of growth that's creating long-term opportunity for local residents while strengthening the entire community."

Those jobs Haskett mentioned are here to stay. In Prineville alone, the two hyperscale data centers have provided 600 permanent positions, helping raise the community's economic status. On top of that, the construction provided hundreds of short-term, high-wage construction jobs per project, for trades including electricians, heavy equipment operators, engineers, project managers and more.

For anyone wondering why Central Oregon, and Prineville specifically, was chosen for these two massive data centers, the answers lie in our environment, and our urban development (or lack thereof).

Central Oregon has a cool, dry climate that saves heavily on operational costs, specifically, power from cooling. Additionally, this region has a very low natural disaster tendency when compared to other cool regions, such as the Oregon Coast. According to EDCO, the region provided access to competitively priced electricity and expanded renewable energy options, along with strong utility partners willing to collaborate on large-scale infrastructure needs. The region provided large tracts of industrial-zoned land suitable for campus-style development and communities like Prineville were proactive in planning for industrial growth. On top of that, Central Oregon has robust fiber infrastructure and proximity to major West Coast network routes.

So why not Bend and Redmond? Smith says it is because of the price of land, and power constraints. Data centers can simply save massive amounts of money by finding communities like Prineville, which are small enough to have cheap and readily available land, and large enough to be able to sustain the infrastructure



META DATA CENTER | PHOTO BY ALAN BRANDT

needs, with a few upgrades provided by the owners of the data centers.

On another note, EDCO provided information on the many local partnerships that have helped create a skilled workforce and address the employment needs for these data centers. Central Oregon provided them with strong partnerships with K-12 schools, community colleges, and universities, which was assisted by over \$2 million in grants to the local school district and additional regional education and training investments. In addition, local employers actively collaborate on curriculum, certifications, and career pathways aligned with local jobs.

According to EDCO, the overall impact of these data centers is profoundly far-reaching. They help diversify our economy and reduce our local reliance on tourism, timber, and seasonal industries adding resilience during economic downturns, higher wages and broader economic activity. They provide growth in professional services, construction, engineering, and support industries, increase average household incomes, local spending and community investment, resulting in significant improvements in infrastructure related to wetland restoration, aquifer protection and long-haul fiber. They also help position Central Oregon as a credible hub for high-technology investment, attracting additional tech, manufacturing, and innovation-focused employers. Employers like Meta have invested directly in education, STEM programs, and training partnerships, strengthening alignment between education systems and industry needs.

Overall, data centers are an economic boom that encourages thoughtful planning around housing, workforce, and sustainability, while reinforcing EDCO's focus on long-term, quality economic growth.

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The Art of Giving Back

by Expert KEITH SHERRILL — Central Oregon Community College

Question:

As a small business owner, I'm constantly asked to donate to local causes like fundraisers, community events, youth sports, you name it. How can I decide which ones to support without hurting my bottom line?

A: I ran a beer brand and brewery for years, and I get it. It can feel impossible to say yes to everyone. But choosing the right opportunities isn't just about generosity; it's about mission alignment. When done intentionally, community support strengthens both your brand and your business.

1. Create a giving strategy, not a guilt response. There's a reasonable expectation that local businesses contribute to their communities beyond simple transactions, especially in places like Central Oregon, where relationships drive success. But support shouldn't be random. Every cause may have merit, yet not every cause fits your story or audience. A brewery sponsoring a local music festival or community event that your customers care about? Perfect fit. Even better if it creates a pseudo-charitable Kevin Bacon effect (that six-degrees-of-separation feeling) or that sense of connection where your customers feel part of something bigger. Something with no real link to your customers or you? Maybe it's not the best fit. Setting clear boundaries ensures your generosity aligns with your goals and your capacity.

2. Your impact should match your values. Charitable giving may be a write-off, but it's rarely budgeted for in a for-profit business. It's always a choice. The key is to make that choice strategically. The "Impact Business Model Canvas" (impactbusinessmodelcanvas.com) is a great tool to help clarify where and how to give. It asks:

- What problem are you trying to solve?
- What's your mission?

- What's the intended impact? Specifically, what does the world look like afterward?

Unfortunately, we can't solve every problem or support every worthy cause. But we can do *something*, even small things, in a sustainable way if we try. Honestly, I think that's a good return.

3. Time — quality time — is money. Another option is to consider volunteering your time. Include your employees and support initiatives that matter to team members on a personal level. Strategic giving transforms business management into moral leadership. When your support reflects your values, you're not just responding to requests, you're shaping your community.

Central Oregon Community College's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) offers free, confidential professional business advising and a variety of low-cost courses to help entrepreneurs through the business lifecycle. Visit cocc.edu/sbdc to learn more and read testimonials from successful businesses.

About the Expert

Keith Sherrill served most of his adult life in the U.S. Army, quickly rising in the ranks within the elite 75th Ranger Regiment and 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Upon exiting the military, Keith applied his lessons learned and leadership to his own entrepreneurial pursuit, building an award-winning microbrewery and beer brand from the ground up. He holds an MBA from William & Mary and is a graduate of the Stanford Graduate School of Business's Ignite program.

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Wild Rooster

Continued from page 1

to be of service to the workers there on the flats, including giving the convenience of not having to drive down the grade into town.

"As a newer industrial sector there is a fairly large workforce that can be catered to, whether they need gas, semi truck fueling, a warm lunch, or just to grab convenient store items," Spencer continued. "A shout out to the City, including Planning Director Josh Smith, for being very helpful in this process; they were hugely supportive, proactive and easy to work with. We were excited to team up with Dan and Cascade Lakes once more, as they are both excellent, experienced operators. There is a lot of energy in Prineville and it is important for the community to know we are local and here to support them."

The new upscale 3,000-square-foot store, known as McCall Market, features many fresh items in a clean, well-organized atmosphere, including a drive-thru offering breakfast, smash burgers, coffee and more, located across the street from the Humane Society facility. It also offers gas pumps, a commercial fuelling



station and RV dump station. Opening hours initially are 5:30am-6pm weekdays, and weekends from 9am-6pm. Healy said the amenities and hours were subject to future adjustments as demand dictates.

The operators of Wild Rooster Bar and Grill, led by Cascade Lakes General Manager Andy Rhine, describe the new hangout as: "Where great food meets great beer in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. We are passionate about serving up delicious comfort food and craft brews that bring people together. Whether you're here for a casual lunch, dinner with friends, or just grabbing a drink at the bar, we've got something for everyone."

Rhine, from Sunriver and a Bend High graduate, oversees the operations of the brewery among other responsibilities. He began his career at the nexus of engineering and home brewing, including attending the elite Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana. "The Prineville location is a similar template to the Reed South model in Bend, albeit in a somewhat modified format — embodying a consistent style," he added. "Our family and Kevin have been long-time friends and we are lucky to have him as a partner and excited to again join with a top class team to help cater to a growing need. We envisage the Prineville location to be a welcoming gathering spot for the community, and it has room for future expansion, including a potential rooftop bar, as demand evolves. We are also honored to have award-winning head chef Matt Huserik, who is well-known in the local dining scene, at Wild Rooster."

Cascade Lakes now has three locations in Central Oregon, with Prineville joining



PHOTOS | BY LAURIE PITTMON

the brewery's stable of pubs including Redmond and Bend. "As Central Oregon grows, we desire to grow," Rhine added.

"That area up on the grade behind the rimrock is an important economic engine for Prineville, with activity in the expanding Tom McCall Business Park being a major factor," said Smith. "It has really taken off in the last six years and Kevin has a great reputation for consistently delivering a quality product. There continues to be a lot of activity in the area, including the Meta campus which, with the latest addition, is now almost built out, along with Apple across the highway to the south and numerous other developments, including the new Humane Society building.

"The airport also continues to garner more development and we have room for more growth within the Urban Growth Boundary," Smith continued. "In collaboration with Kevin, we actually created a new zone to accommodate the pub and store project, known as the Commercial Service Zone, which can now be replicated to support other nodes of development in the city. We are happy to say that Prineville keeps chugging along, including seeing an increasing amount of multifamily development.

The Tom McCall Business Park features close to 20 businesses, and negotiations are continuing with additional users. Current businesses include: **Benetreu Pulleys and Machinery** — Family-owned in the USA since 1976, Benetreu provides a wide variety of high-quality metal products to customers worldwide.

Acme Construction Supply Co., Inc. — Acme offers complete engineering solutions for seismic bracing, vibration isolation, equipment anchorage and strut design. It distributes specialty products to the commercial and industrial construction industry.



Rickabaugh Construction — Rickabaugh Construction is a heavy civil construction company serving clients throughout Central Oregon through construction planning and earthworks.

Top Gun Resources — Formed in 2015 with the goal of making wildland fire camps more comfortable and safer for the wildfire fighters. Although a new traded-sector business to Crook County, Top Gun has long been recognized in Central Oregon as an Emergency Management Resource company that supports government agencies in disaster resiliency efforts such as hurricanes, natural disasters, and wildland firefighting needs. The new facility will serve as a central location for many of Top Gun's operations nationwide.

BTL Liners — BTL is a worldwide leader in providing pond liners, covers and tarps across the globe, striving to help with whatever size and scale a pond liner project needs.

Lakeside Lumber — Pacific Northwest siding and decking specialists since 1937. Suppliers of siding, decking, railing, fencing, trim and hardware. Family-run for three generations.

OnFlow Systems — Designed to automatically prevent air recirculation in fans. Includes blade and perimeter seals for low leakage when closed. Ideal solution for managing recirculation air in fan array systems.

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Population Growth, Rising Utility Rates & the Case for Energy Resilience in Central Oregon

by **ROB BLACK, CEO — E2 Solar**

Central Oregon's fast-growing population is putting pressure on our region's power grid. This is at a time when utility companies are facing higher wildfire risk and more frequent safety shutoffs. For local homes and businesses, these factors indicate that managing energy costs (and reliability) are a bigger part of the economic outlook, and rooftop solar and batteries can play a stabilizing role.



Central Oregon's Population Boom

Central Oregon remains one of our state's fastest-growing regions. Between 2020 and 2024, Deschutes County saw a six percent population increase and Crook County had a ten percent spike in residents, according to U.S. Census data. Bend and Redmond continue to add residents steadily, with Bend alone accounting for more than half of Deschutes County's growth in recent annual estimates. Smaller communities such as La Pine, Sisters and Prineville are also expanding, as people and businesses look for more affordable options within commuting distance of job centers.

As in many growing areas, ongoing in-migration is impacting the demand for housing, services, and infrastructure. Managing this growth thoughtfully is key to our region's long-term stability.

What Growth Means for the Power Grid

While growth brings economic benefits like more workers, more customers, and more investment, it also adds strain to infrastructure that is built for a smaller region. In the power sector, that strain shows up as higher peak demand, heavier use of long rural feeder lines, and rising costs to maintain the system during hotter summers and more intense winter storms.

In recent years, Pacific Power, which serves much of Central Oregon, has proposed and implemented significant rate increases to cover investments in grid infrastructure, wildfire mitigation, and new resources. The utility raised residential energy rates by 9.8 percent for 2025, following a 12.9 percent increase in 2024, a 21 percent increase in 2023, and a 15 percent increase in 2022. Further rate increases are likely to remain a trend over the next several years.

Wildfire, Safety Shutoffs, and Reliability

As demand grows, wildfire risk is also impacting how utilities operate in Central Oregon. Pacific Power and other utilities now use Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and "enhanced safety settings" that can automatically shut off power when conditions suggest lines may pose a fire risk, especially during hot, dry, and windy weather.

These measures are designed to prevent catastrophic fires, but they also mean more frequent and sometimes longer outages for customers, even on clear days when no active fire is visible. In recent seasons, thousands of Central Oregon residents have received alerts about planned or weather-triggered outages, and local news reports document concerns about both communication and the balance between safety and reliability. For businesses dependent on refrigeration, data connectivity, or time-sensitive operations, this presents a new layer of risk.

Is the Utility Ready for Continued Growth?

From a planning standpoint, Oregon's regulated utilities are actively investing in transmission, distribution, and wildfire-hardening measures, and those investments are subject to review by the Oregon Public Utility Commission. Pacific Power highlights hundreds of millions of dollars in planned spending to strengthen its system, modernize equipment, and improve wildfire resilience while continuing to integrate more renewable generation.



PHOTOS | COURTESY OF E2 SOLAR

Readiness is also a question of cost and our community's tolerance for outages. Rate proposals, wildfire safety programs, and PSPS protocols all indicate that our grid will likely be safer and more modern over time, but also more expensive to operate and more willing to shut off power during high-risk periods. Those factors have economic implications on our region — one that markets itself on quality of life, outdoor recreation, and a growing knowledge-economy workforce.

The Role of Rooftop Solar and Batteries

In these times of growth, rooftop solar and battery storage are increasingly discussed as investments that can support resilience, both for individual homes and businesses, but also for our entire region. When paired with batteries, rooftop solar can keep critical loads running during outages, which reduces the impact of PSPS events and automatic safety shutoffs.

At scale, rooftop solar and storage can also help flatten peak demand, reduce stress on rural feeders, and provide localized backup capacity. This complements the utility's investments in transmission and wildfire mitigation. For Central Oregon's economic outlook, that suggests a future of more diversified energy: one where the traditional grid remains essential, but where additional reliability and flexibility are provided by customers who choose to invest in their own generation of power.

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EDCO 2026 Economic Outlook

Continued from page 1

innovation, lifestyle products and manufacturing facility development positions Central Oregon for stronger results and steady expansion. In his November revenue forecast, state economist Carl Ricodonna noted that Oregon will trail the U.S. in GDP output. According to that forecast, Oregon's GDP is expected to grow by approximately 0.8%, compared to 2.1% for the U.S. economy over the same period. Over the past four years, Oregon has averaged roughly 1.6% GDP growth, trailing the national average of 2.7%.

This persistent gap reflects structural factors affecting statewide growth, including demographic shifts and sector-specific dynamics. While the forecast does not anticipate an outright recession, it emphasizes a period of modest, positive growth with elevated uncertainty. Given this context, we would suggest that Central Oregon's economic outlook for 2026 is cautiously optimistic, especially if inflation pressures ease and as EDCO's local project pipeline converts into realized investment and job creation. The Oregon Employment: Urban and Rural chart included here notes the Bend MSA (which now includes Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties) has seen sustained job growth, exceeding Portland Metro and other rural counties in Oregon through February of 2025.

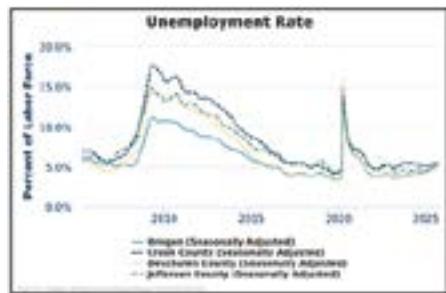
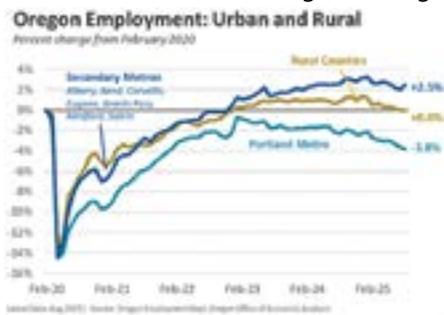


Jon Stark

3. Unemployment / Employment Rate – Available Labor Force

Central Oregon's labor market continues to show signs of rebalancing, with unemployment climbing roughly a percentage point over the past year across the tri-county region. While this may initially appear concerning, it signals that the labor market is approaching balance, which we estimate will occur at around 6% unemployment, resulting in a healthier pool of candidates for employers.

From a year-over-year perspective, employment conditions across the Bend MSA have softened modestly but remain relatively stable. According to the Oregon Employment Department (OED), total nonfarm employment declined slightly, down approximately 0.1% from September 2024 to September 2025, reflecting a broad-based cooling rather than a sharp contraction. Private-sector job losses were widespread and concentrated primarily in sectors related to leisure and hospitality, information, trade, transportation and utilities, and financial activities, all of which are more sensitive to interest rates, consumer spending and seasonal dynamics. In contrast, job gains were more narrowly focused, occurring predominantly in private education and health services, which added roughly 630 jobs year over year, along with government employment, which increased by approximately 500 jobs.



While employment growth has moderated, Central Oregon continues to rank among the state's top two MSAs alongside Salem, a trend we expect to continue in 2026. Rising unemployment and increased job-seeker activity signal a constructive shift toward a more balanced labor market. Employers are beginning to see improved access to available talent, even as the region remains short of full equilibrium. Several

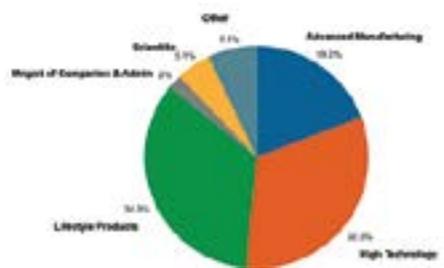
employers are building new facilities and plan to increase hiring following completion. Companies like Nosler (Redmond), Amazon (Redmond), BlackStrap (Bend), Cv International (Prineville), Serán Bioscience (Bend), and Western Metrology Sales (La Pine) are strong examples of this activity. Others are occupying existing facilities, like GFP Enterprises (Sisters), BASX (now also in Sisters) and Lexington Manufacturing (Prineville). Notably, Lexington Manufacturing is hiring former Endura Products employees, signaling that the wood products industry, particularly related to housing demand, remains resilient and that Central Oregon's skilled labor force continues to hold strong value within the manufacturing industry.

The Oregon Employment Department's most recent 10-year employment projections, released last month, indicate that Central Oregon's manufacturing, wholesale trade, transportation, warehousing, and utilities sectors are projected to grow on a percentage basis at two to three times the rate of comparable sectors elsewhere in the state.

At present EDCO is working with over 180 companies that are actively moving forward with plans to launch their enterprise, expand operations or relocate to Central Oregon. The strength of this project list reflects a robust opportunity for the continued growth we're forecasting within our book of business, and further diversification of our economy. Supporting this outlook, EDCO's project pipeline for FY 2025/26 reflects a healthy, diversified mix of industries: Lifestyle Products (34%), High Technology (32%) and Advanced Manufacturing (19%). These sectors leverage Central Oregon's unique assets, from quality of life to growing industry clusters. EDCO's activity among "Start" and "Grow" projects suggests strong potential for job creation and capital investment, positioning our region to outperform others around the state.

4. Venture Capital Trends

Inflation has eased, but uncertainty in the broader capital markets remains. While the stock market has posted strong gains to start the year, periods of short-term volatility have reinforced a cautious mindset among investors. Capital is still available, but investors are no longer willing to take the same level of risk. Instead, they are seeking companies with clear momentum, proven demand and the ability to deliver results quickly. There is a strong emphasis on businesses with shorter runways to results and a clear direction, as investors want to



see progress and impact sooner.

The 2025 Bend Venture Conference, held in October drew 342 attendees and 74 applicant companies, with eight companies selected as winners, including two from Central Oregon. A total of \$278,000 in investment was committed across six companies, with additional deals still being finalized, and an additional \$25,700 in cash awards was granted to two companies.

Looking ahead to 2026, this more disciplined investment environment is expected to persist. While national funding conditions remain cautious, Central Oregon startups are well positioned by emphasizing strong fundamentals, precise execution and sustainable growth. In a selective capital market, companies that demonstrate progress and resilience are most likely to attract investment and translate innovation into long-term success.

5. Tax Implications vs. Opportunities

Beyond labor availability and capital trends, tax policy is emerging as a meaningful lever influencing where and how companies choose to invest. Recent changes under H.R. 1 to the federal depreciation schedule for manufacturing equipment have improved the near-term economics of capital investment by allowing firms to recover costs more quickly. For manufacturers evaluating expansion or relocation decisions, this accelerates cash flow, reduces effective project costs and strengthens the business case for investing in modern production capacity. When paired with Central Oregon's skilled workforce and available industrial sites, these tax provisions position the region to capture a greater share of advanced manufacturing investment in 2026 and beyond, as long as Oregon doesn't decouple from this tax code, which would water down its net effect. Contrarily, the State of Oregon is working on improvements to programs that encourage private-sector companies to invest. The Enterprise Zone program, which is a property tax abatement incentive, has at least three concepts pending this legislative short session. For example, extending the standard program's discretionary exemption term to up to eight years, while also improving access and allowing for longer hiring runways to better utilize the program's benefits. A more balanced labor market and targeted tax incentives strengthen Central Oregon's ability to deliver durable, high-quality economic outcomes in 2026 and beyond.

6. Summary

Central Oregon enters 2026 with steady momentum and pragmatic optimism. The region benefits from a balanced labor market, easing inflation and a diverse industry mix that supports job creation and private investment, despite modest statewide growth. Employers have better access to talent, and traded-sector projects in manufacturing, technology and lifestyle industries are advancing. While investor capital is more selective, it continues to support companies with strong focus, execution and near-term potential. Recent federal depreciation changes and potential state policy improvements are also strengthening the business case for expansion and investment. However, further regulatory modernization is needed to fully realize these gains. These conditions position Central Oregon to leverage resilience, innovation and collaboration for sustainable economic growth in the coming year.

BRIAN VIERRA — EDCO Venture Catalyst Director

In tandem with EDCO's Local Area Directors, who represent a city, group of cities or county within Central Oregon, EDCO's Venture Catalyst Director provides guidance and technical support for startup businesses across Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties. Currently, EDCO is working with over 100 startup companies, spanning industries from high-tech to consumer products, and projects including fundraising assistance and bringing products to market.



The 2025 Bend Venture Conference (BVC) received 74 applications from startups to present. These startups were the most mature batch of companies to ever go through BVC, with most tracking at over \$1 million in revenue. EDCO also worked with ecosystem partners to put on a week of innovation and entrepreneurship activities in 2025, appropriately named High Desert Innovation Week. This week of activities leverages the work that various partners are doing throughout the entrepreneurial ecosystem and across multiple key industries.

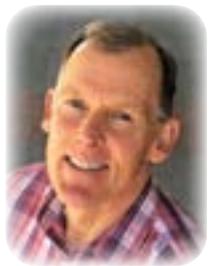
As anticipated, the funding landscape in Central Oregon successfully rebounded in 2025 after bottoming out in the second half of 2024. While the "easy money" of the 2021 era hasn't returned, 2025 saw a distinct acceleration in deal volume, particularly for companies that survived the 2024 "reset" by proving capital efficiency. Oregon's statewide startup funding reached over \$330 million by late 2025, buoyed by a stabilization in interest rates and a renewed focus on sectors like Biotechnology and Applied AI.

As such, EDCO is more focused than ever on providing support for entrepreneurs through connections with experts and mentors in the community, exposure through BVC and monthly PubTalk programming and introductions to financing opportunities. In addition, EDCO will lead the Central Oregon Innovation Hub (COIH), a regional partnership aligned to deliver coordinated services for innovation-driven entrepreneurs. EDCO will continue collaborating with local partners to drive diversified industry growth and increase the number of Central Oregon startups that achieve long-term success.

For more information, contact EDCO Venture Catalyst Director, Brian Vierra at brian@edcoinfo.com or 541-388-3236

DON MYLL — Bend Area Director

Bend's current pipeline of economic development projects remains strong, with the combination of recruitment of new businesses and expansion projects for existing businesses expected to generate \$289 million in capital investment and create 530 jobs.



The prospects for increasing the supply of job-creating properties in Juniper Ridge are being realized as evidenced by nearly 400,000 square feet of projects recently completed, under construction or in planning. Covering a wide range of industries, this industrial development is having a positive impact on our local economy.

Bend has become a bioscience hub in the state, with our local companies growing steadily for several years. One significant driver of recent development in Juniper Ridge is Serán Bioscience's new commercial drug manufacturing facility. Other local bioscience companies are committed to ongoing expansions as well, which together indicate continued industry growth.

Central Oregon's Labor Market

Employment Growth Amid State Stagnation

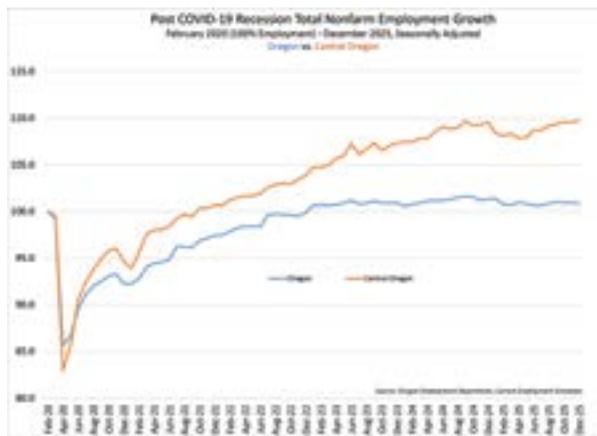
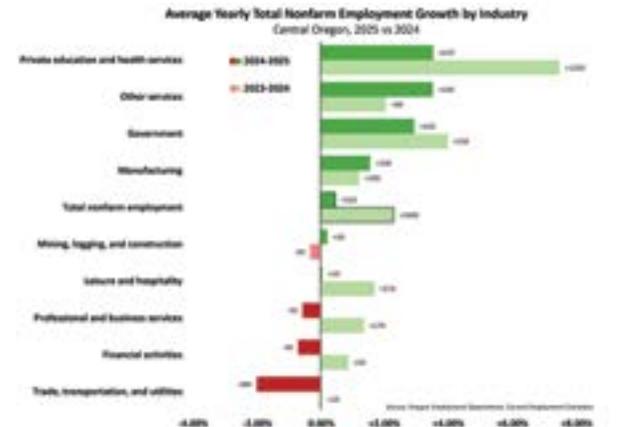
by **NICOLE RAMOS, Regional Economist — Oregon Employment Department**

At the beginning of 2025, I wrote an article on 2024 employment noting that total nonfarm employment growth in Central Oregon was slowing but still expanding. Since then, employment in the Bend MSA reached 112,050 in December 2024, the second-highest employment number on record. However, at the start of 2025, total nonfarm growth in the area began to decrease, and by April 2025, employment was 1,750 jobs below its second all-time peak, after which growth resumed, reaching an all-time high of 112,210 by December 2025.



As we stand now, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment has continued its upward growth, and as of December 2025, it was at a new peak, while the state has struggled to see any real growth these past few years. Even so, average yearly seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment growth in Central Oregon is still slowing.

Mining, logging, and construction saw modest gains of 20 jobs (+0.2%), while total nonfarm employment increased by 520 jobs overall (+0.5%). On the other hand, several sectors experienced losses. Trade, transportation, and utilities lost 380 jobs (-2.0%), while professional and business services shed 70 positions (-0.6%). Financial activities declined by 40 jobs (-0.7%), and leisure and hospitality saw a minimal gain of just ten jobs (+0.06%).



Employment Gains and Losses Across Industries

In 2025, private industry employment growth was concentrated in private education and health services and other services, which both grew by 3.5%. This represents a slower pace for the former compared to 2024, when private education and health services grew by 7.5% and other services by 2.0%. This trend mirrors the state-level pattern, where health care and social assistance have contributed to the majority of total employment growth year-over-year, adding an average of 12,900 jobs in 2025. In fact, health care and social assistance has been a significant driver of Central Oregon's labor market, growing by over 190% from 2001 to 2025, which equates to nearly 12,900 jobs being added during this time.

Rising Unemployment and Labor Force Trends

While employment expanded overall, the labor market dynamics shifted in other ways. As of December 2025, Deschutes County reported an unemployment rate of 4.9%, while Jefferson County came in at 5.8%, and Crook County at 5.9%. Notably, the state's unemployment rate now stands at 5.2%, which means Oregon's unemployment rate has inverted with Central Oregon's and is now higher than the region's rate of 5.0%, a relatively uncommon occurrence.

In absolute terms, private education and health services still led growth with 670 additional jobs (+3.5%), followed by government with 420 new jobs (+2.9%). Other services added 140 jobs (3.5% growth), and manufacturing gained 130 positions (+1.6%).

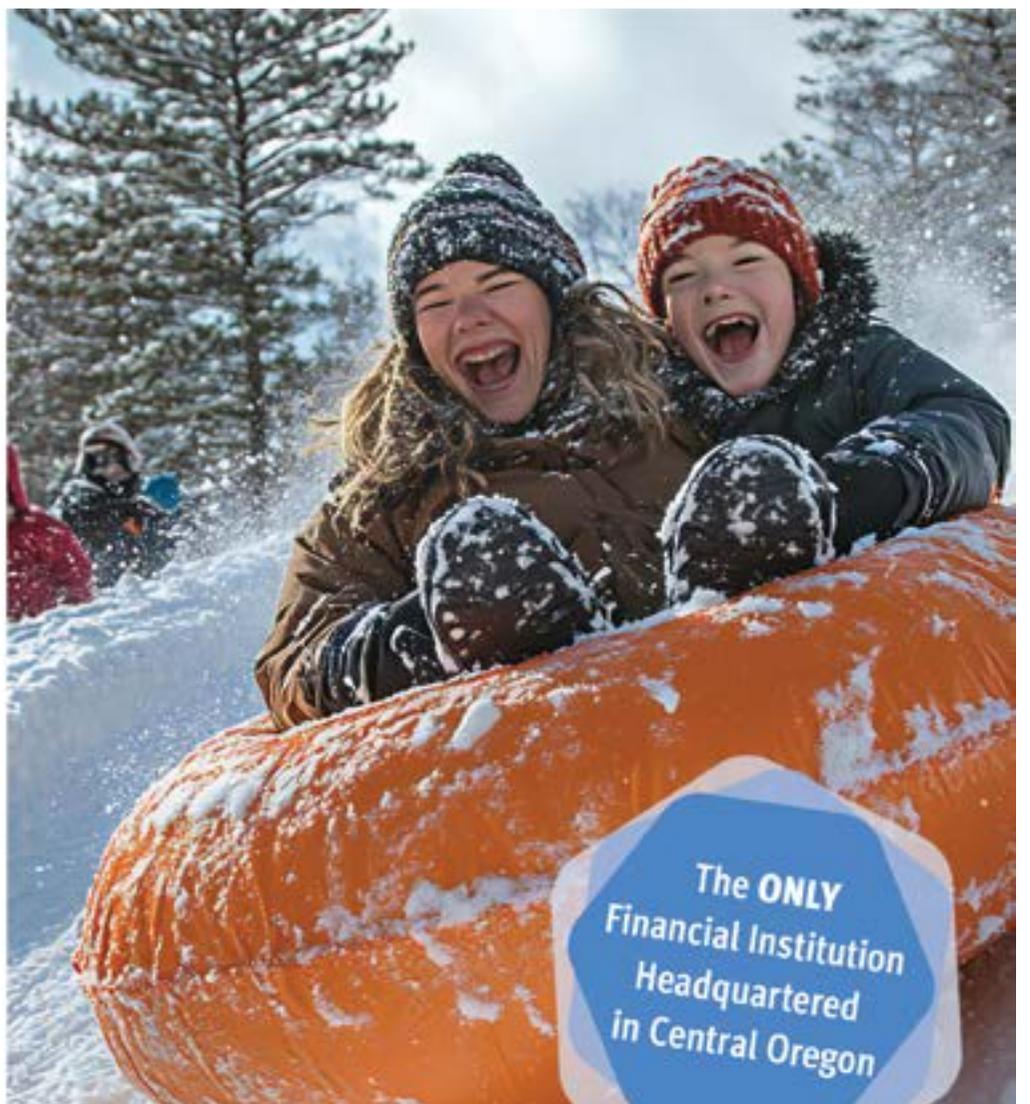
The labor market is no longer as tight as it was

Continued on Page 14 ▶

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EDCO 2026 Economic Outlook

Continued from page 10

With a focus on continued economic development, the City of Bend has adopted economic prosperity goals in a concerted effort to continue Bend's growth and success. Combined with the State's new economic development strategy to promote development across the state, these state and local policies enhance the prospects for Bend and our state.

The City of Bend has also made increasing housing supply a core strategic priority in order to support local job growth. To aid this effort, they are looking at policies and incentives aimed at streamlining development and expanding a range of housing types from multifamily to single-family and middle housing. Bend saw nearly 1,500 new homes completed in 2025, a continuation of steady increases over the last few years. In addition, various affordable housing developments and nonprofit projects are underway or funded, contributing to broader housing supply growth that supports local job growth and economic vitality.

Bend's prospects are also supported by the Bend Central District (BCD), which is envisioned as a vibrant, walkable, mixed-use neighborhood immediately east of downtown. Guided by the City's urban renewal goals, the BCD is designed to reconnect east-west Bend, enhance streetscapes and pedestrian access and catalyze private investment in housing, commercial, retail, and office development, along with supporting infrastructure improvements.

For more information, contact EDCO Bend Area Director, Don Myll at don@edcoinfo.com or 541-388-3236

STEVE CURLEY — REDI Director, Redmond

Redmond will continue to see growth in 2026 as several significant projects started in 2025 will be completed in the new year. In addition, there continues to be investment in larger flex space projects as the availability of larger lease spaces remains very low. Investments are also being made in transportation infrastructure and education that will improve transportation efficiencies, as well as in new facilities to train the future manufacturing workforce. With these efforts and others, we expect to see continued economic growth in 2026.



Significant Projects

There are four significant projects currently under construction, representing 466 jobs and \$91.6 million in capital investment. The most anticipated is the Amazon 80,000 sq. ft. delivery station. The most anticipated is the Amazon 80,000 sq. ft. delivery station that will serve the entire region, scheduled to be completed in the spring.

A second project of similar scale is the expansion of Nosler to consolidate its manufacturing and headquarters in Redmond. This project is scheduled to be completed in the summer. The remaining two projects highlight growth at local Redmond manufacturers Basalite and Poltex, each of which is constructing new manufacturing facilities designed to serve them well into the future.

Flex Space Growth

There are several projects in planning and construction that will expand Redmond's flex space inventory. One of the larger projects is currently under construction on the corner of Deerhound and 19th Street across from the fairgrounds. This building will be 40,000 sq. ft., with units that can be demised to 10,000 sq. ft. each. Two others are being planned that would add another 56,000 sq. ft., bringing the total new square footage to over 100,000 sq. ft.

Transportation Infrastructure Improvements

The Eastside Arterial Project continues to move forward, with the largest impact being the new roundabout at Hwy. 126 and Ninth Street. Construction has started on the roundabout at Veterans Way and Airport Way, which will connect the two roundabouts extending Ninth Street south, improving connectivity and enhancing access to the Redmond Airport and the Fairgrounds and supporting regional business expansion.

Workforce Development Expansion

Redmond High School will invest \$10 million in expanded and upgraded facilities for its CTE and manufacturing programs. This will provide more room and state-of-the-art equipment to help train the workforce of the future.

In addition, Central Oregon Community College (COCC) is investing \$8 million in expanding its manufacturing and applied technology building while revitalizing the manufacturing programming to meet the needs of local employers. Response to the new programming has been positive, and across both of these projects, the goal is to generate additional workforce to meet the needs of growing advanced manufacturing companies.

Economic Initiatives

Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), a local office of EDCO, is actively fostering business investment and job creation, helping to diversify the economy. There are currently twenty-one projects in the pipeline expected to create over 2,900 jobs in the next five to ten years, with a total capital investment exceeding \$761 million.

Outlook for 2026

With significant projects, transportation infrastructure improvements and workforce development expansion, Redmond is well-positioned for economic success in 2026. The city's strategic planning and investment in key sectors ensure sustained growth, new business opportunities and a thriving job market.

For more information, contact REDI Director, Redmond, Steve Curley at steve@edcoinfo.com or 541-923-5223

KELSEY HASKETT — Prineville / Crook County Area Director

Prineville enters 2026 with strong momentum and a growing reputation as one of Central Oregon's most dynamic and resilient economic hubs. Building on the significant investments and job growth of recent years, the community continues to see sustained activity across advanced manufacturing, data infrastructure and entrepreneurial development. After several years of rapid investment, job growth and national-scale project delivery, the focus is shifting from momentum alone to intentional, infrastructure-ready and innovation-driven growth. The next chapter for Prineville is about leveraging its unique advantages, including speed, coordination and scale, while proactively removing barriers that could constrain



long-term competitiveness.

Prineville has several projects in the pipeline and currently underway, totaling over \$2.22 billion in capital investment that would create an estimated 200 new jobs. With multiple large-scale projects under construction or in advanced planning, Crook County remains a key driver of regional economic growth and diversification.

One of the most defining priorities for 2026 is infrastructure readiness. As demand from advanced manufacturing, data and traded-sector industries continues to accelerate, Prineville is stepping into a regional leadership role to advocate for expanded capacity and resilience. EDCO, the City of Prineville, utility providers, and major employers are working collaboratively to quantify economic impacts and advance coordinated advocacy for power infrastructure that can support large-scale commercial and industrial growth. This is a critical foundation for the next wave of investment in Prineville and across the region.

Industrial land and site readiness remain core strengths. Prineville's streamlined permitting environment, innovative infrastructure developments and long-term land opportunities continue to attract interest from companies seeking speed-to-market and cost certainty. In 2026, efforts will be increasingly focused on targeted attraction of traded-sector and light industrial businesses, supported by a more intentional public relations and storytelling strategy that showcases Prineville's advancements and advantages.

Entrepreneurship will also take on a more visible and structured role in the local economy. Building on previous efforts in collaboration with the Center on Rural Innovation and local partners, the Crooked River Innovation Collective (CRIC) is helping to build a more robust rural entrepreneurial ecosystem. Prineville is positioning itself as a place where rural founders can access mentorship, early-stage funding connections and regional networks without leaving their community. This initiative, aligned with EDCO's broader innovation strategy, is designed to support early-stage companies, encourage business formation and create new pathways for local wealth generation.

Workforce remains a priority, but with a sharper lens. Rather than focusing solely on attraction, 2026 will emphasize alignment between industry needs and training pipelines. Deeper collaboration with Central Oregon Community College, Oregon State University – Cascades, K-12 partners, and employers will continue to shape career pathways, close skills gaps and support upskilling of existing workers. This approach recognizes the interconnected nature of workforce and business growth, and ultimately, the need to address them in tandem.

What truly distinguishes Prineville, moving into 2026, is the level of local alignment and public-private coordination. The community's ability to move quickly, collaborate across jurisdictions and bring partners to the table has become a competitive asset. Whether it's infrastructure advocacy, business recruitment, workforce initiatives, or entrepreneurship support, Prineville is increasingly seen as a place where projects get done.

Overall, 2026 is shaping up to be a year of continued investment, intentional growth and strategic focus for Prineville and Crook County. By aligning infrastructure, workforce and entrepreneurship, the community is well-positioned to build on its success while remaining true to the values that make it a unique and attractive place to live and do business.

For more information, contact EDCO Prineville / Crook County Area Director, Kelsey Haskett at kelsey@edcoinfo.com or 541-213-3169

ERIC STROBEL — EDCO Sisters Director

2026 will mark the availability of 50,000 square feet of light industrial space in Sisters, with three new projects scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2026. These developments will meet the growing demand for flexible, modern spaces that cater to a variety of industries. Having available land and leasable space is essential for attracting companies like BASX, as well as providing local businesses, such as Cascade Spirits, with the opportunity to expand and create local jobs.



Company news includes an expansion for GFP Response, a premier provider of emergency mobile services, specializing in base camp solutions and emergency management. GFP has expanded into new buildings and has plans to create a storage yard for trailers and trucks being deployed to Sisters from other areas. Cascade Spirits will be conducting tenant improvements to the former Laird Superfood warehouse and plans to move in by Q4, marking a large expansion of their warehouse operations. Plans for their new Broken Top Whiskey tasting room on Cascade Avenue, next to Sno Cap restaurant, are moving forward, but will occur after the expansion is complete. BASX, based in Redmond, has expanded with a new location in Sisters, employing 40 workers who operate seven days a week across two shifts assembling surgical clean rooms.

In 2026, the Sisters Business Association (SBA) will offer local perk educational sessions, sip-and-mingle networking events and business classes. Additionally, SBA is introducing a new event called First Fridays, where member businesses will stay open late on the first Friday of each month.

COCC Community Education will bring its programming to The Hub, by Citizens4Community, in downtown Sisters for an engaging midday break where learning meets connection. Classes will take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month (March-May) for presentations on topics ranging from area watersheds to the geology of Central Oregon to travel and beyond.

In 2026, the City of Sisters will advance several key initiatives to enhance livability and community well-being. The Trinity Place Affordable Housing Project will support the local workforce and housing stability by delivering 40 apartment units, anticipated to be available in spring 2027. The Adams Avenue Streetscape improvements will strengthen the downtown core by creating safer, more walkable, and visually appealing public spaces. Building on Sisters' Dark Sky certification, the Dark Skies lighting incentive program will preserve the community's night sky character while promoting energy-efficient and responsible lighting. The Elm Street pathway will improve connectivity and access for pedestrians and cyclists from downtown to the Peterson Ridge trail network south of the community. Rounding out these initiatives, the third year of the Civic Leadership Academy will invest in the future by equipping residents with the knowledge and skills to actively participate in local governance and community leadership.

Explore Sisters is entering its fourth year of operation as the Destination



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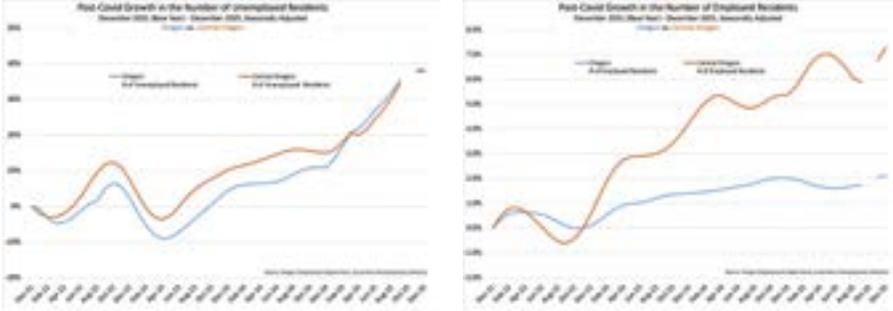
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Central Oregon's Labor Market

Continued from page 11

in 2024, with unemployment rates increasing throughout 2025. Compared to December 2024, when unemployment rates were significantly lower (Deschutes at 4.1%, Jefferson at 4.6%, Crook at 5.1%, and Oregon at 4.3%), all areas saw increases of approximately 0.8 to 1.2 percentage points. Interestingly, this rise in unemployment reflects not a loss of employed individuals but rather a faster increase in the number of people entering the labor force who have not yet found employment. In other words, the number of employed individuals is still trending upward, but the number of unemployed is also trending upward at a faster rate. The state has a similar trend, but the number of employed, while still trending up, is doing so at a much smaller rate than Central Oregon's, while the number of unemployed is increasing at a slightly faster rate comparatively.



Ten-Year Outlook

Looking ahead, this year's ten-year industry forecast indicates that 8,210 jobs will be added to the region by 2034, for a growth rate of 7.0%. The industry

expected to see the strongest growth during this time is private education and health services, which is expected to grow by 13%, or 2,450 jobs—slightly lower than the previous ten-year forecast. Within this major industry, health care and social assistance, which makes up around 90 percent of the sector, is expected to grow the fastest. The sector's expansion (+13.2%) is expected to outpace overall job growth in Central Oregon, accounting for an even larger share of the region's projected employment than past projections. Professional and business services (+12.1%; +1,440 jobs), construction (+10.2%; +890 jobs), and leisure and hospitality (+9.1%; +1,490 jobs) are also expected to have some of the strongest growth in the region, but all major industries are set to grow over the next ten years. So, while nonfarm employment growth is slowing and the unemployment rate is increasing, here in Central Oregon, we have been faring better and are still experiencing growth that is expected to continue, barring increased uncertainty or economic shock. The question remains whether these trends will persist in the short term or if regional employment growth will slow to match the state's stagnation and trend.

Industry Employment Projections, 2024-2034
Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties

	Change	% Change
Total employment	8,210	7.0%
Total payroll employment	7,730	7.0%
Total private	7,620	7.9%
Natural resources and mining	40	2.8%
Construction	890	10.2%
Manufacturing	240	2.9%
Trade, transportation, and utilities	510	2.7%
Information	160	7.2%
Financial activities	140	2.5%
Professional and business services	1,440	12.1%
Private educational and health services	2,450	13.0%
Leisure and hospitality	1,490	9.1%
Other services	260	6.3%
Government	110	0.8%
Federal government	-70	-4.8%
State government	60	3.7%
Local government	120	1.1%
Local government education	-170	-3.3%
Self-employment	480	6.7%

Contact: Nicole Ramos, Regional Economist,
Nicole.S.Ramos@employ.oregon.gov, (541) 726-0779
Oregon Employment Department, Workforce and Economic Research Division

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oregon.gov/employ

EDCO 2026 Economic Outlook

Continued from page 12

Management Organization for the greater Sisters area. Explore Sisters will continue to steward the destination brand and execute an impactful marketing strategy focused on the balance of economic prosperity and local livability. Other initiatives for them this year include leveraging Sisters' Dark Sky Community designation, developing new print collateral, website expansion, city wayfinding, and a Leave No Trace pilot project. Explore Sisters is committed to nurturing and growing collaborative relationships in Sisters and throughout the Central Oregon region working with partners to support and uplift the community.

For more information, contact Eric Strobel, EDCO Sisters Director at eric@edcoinfo.com or 541-410-8630

PATRICIA LUCAS — Sunriver/ La Pine Director

South Deschutes County is on the rise, and the momentum is unmistakable. From new investment in advanced manufacturing to exciting developments in health care and business support infrastructure, our community is rapidly becoming a hub for innovation, industry and opportunity. As the fastest-growing community in Central Oregon over the past five years and one of the fastest-growing in Oregon, La Pine is well-positioned for new growth, supported by positive population trends and sustained demographic momentum.



The Sunriver/La Pine Economic Development (SLED) program plays a role in shaping the landscape of the South Deschutes County economy. SLED is supported by the City of La Pine, Deschutes County and our members. We work collaboratively with the communities served, spearheading efforts to move, start and grow traded sector businesses to create a balanced and diverse economy.

Advanced Manufacturing Gains Ground

New investment is flowing into the advanced manufacturing sector, bringing job creation, innovation and long-term economic strength. This investment signals growing confidence in our region's skilled workforce, strategic location and business-friendly environment. Companies are setting up operations here, drawn by our commitment to infrastructure, training and streamlined permitting processes. This new investment will enhance our local supply chains and diversify the economic base, signaling a bright future for industrial growth in the region.

Health Care Sector Expands

The health care sector continues to thrive, with the La Pine Community Health Center leading the way. With the expansion, expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2026, the center will offer residents in South Deschutes County and Northern Lake County greater access to essential care, including behavioral health, women's health and specialty services. These additions not only improve community wellness but also create high-quality health care jobs and career pathways in the region.

Business Incubator Breaking Ground Soon

Supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs, a new business incubator is slated to break ground in the spring with an expected completion date of Summer 2026. This facility in the La Pine Industrial Park will offer critical resources to startups and small businesses, including affordable workspace, mentorship and access to capital networks. The incubator will be a hub for innovation, fostering the next generation of traded-sector enterprises and strengthening the small-business ecosystem.

La Pine Industrial Park: Shovel-Ready and Affordable

For developers and traded-sector businesses looking to expand or move, our community offers a wealth of shovel-ready land that is affordably priced near US 97 and workforce centers. The park is an ideal environment for companies looking to build or expand operations and is already home to several successful enterprises and continues to attract interest from across the region.

Looking Ahead

This is an exciting time to be part of our community's economic growth. We're building a future rooted in innovation, access and opportunity, and we invite you to join us.

If you want to be part of this thriving community, reach out to Patricia Lucas, SLED executive director at sledexecutivedirector@gmail.com or call 248-693-3049.

BRENNA FULKS — Jefferson County Director

Jefferson County enters 2026 with momentum and several significant initiatives already underway. EDCO is supporting two active traded-sector projects expected to bring new jobs and investment, while a steady flow of business inquiries reflects continued interest in the county. With available industrial land, a municipal airport and a community that values balanced development, the county continues to position itself for tangible economic growth.



The revitalized EDCO Jefferson County program is moving into its second year. With a dedicated local staff member and an advisory board, this local office of EDCO continues to support local businesses and the broader community. The program also assists with select non-traded-sector efforts, reinforcing its commitment to community placemaking. These activities help build the foundation that attracts and sustains future traded-sector investment.

Much of the progress anticipated in 2026 builds on groundwork already laid. The 2024 Urban Growth Boundary expansion and two Enterprise Zone boundary expansions in 2025 created new opportunities for industrial and commercial development. Together, these changes help "set the table" for future recruitment by making more industrial properties eligible for incentives and better positioning the county to attract traded-sector investment. In 2025, the Madras Industrial Site Readiness Plan was also launched. Once completed, it will identify infrastructure needs tied to emerging industries.

Jefferson County's population continues to grow, and Portland State University estimates the county at roughly 25,700 residents, including the Warm Springs community, which remains central to the county's culture and economy. Agriculture continues to anchor the region, supporting jobs, contributing to supply chains and helping preserve the county's rural character.

Across the county, Metolius, Culver and Madras are pursuing growth while honoring their unique identities. Culver is advancing projects within its urban renewal district, and all three cities are focused on strengthening public infrastructure to support future development.

2026 will also be a year of transition. Bright Wood Corporation, Central Oregon's third-largest employer, begins a new chapter under Minnesota-based Andersen Corporation after 65 years of local ownership. EDCO recognizes the outgoing owners for their decades of leadership and stewardship and looks forward to building a strong partnership with the new ownership as the company continues its work here.

Meanwhile, recent public and private efforts to expand childcare capacity are expected to make a real difference for working families in 2026. Housing development is also progressing, including 162 homes planned in Culver over the next several years, helping ensure the region can support a growing workforce.

Central Oregon Community College's expanded Madras campus is also set to play a larger role in developing local talent. The campus will offer programs in Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant, and Early Childhood Education, including bilingual instruction, and will include a third-party-operated childcare center with room for up to 100 children.

Looking ahead, EDCO enters 2026 confident in Jefferson County's continued progress. With strategic investments underway and a community ready to support responsible growth, the county is well-positioned to turn planning and preparation into meaningful economic results.

For more information, contact EDCO Jefferson County Director, Brenna Fulks at brenna@edcoinfo.com or 541-306-9676
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Bifurcated Economy

What to Expect for 2026 Depends on Where You Stand

by **CORY J. ALLEN, Senior Vice President, Team Leader — Washington Trust Bank**

The outlook for 2026 likely depends a lot on your vantage point. Similar to the economic recovery following the government economic shutdowns in 2021-2022, a bifurcated economy is beginning to emerge. Many large businesses and high-income households are on firm footing and seeing opportunities, while small businesses and lower-income households are feeling financial strain.



When it comes to the labor market, your vantage point or cup half full/empty mindset likely impacts how you see things. At this writing, the most recent Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) report for November and what it tells about the labor market could be viewed in a few ways. The layoff and discharge rate (percentage of workers who were involuntarily separated) of 1.1 percent is in line with historical averages (1.0-1.2 percent). During recessions or shocks this number can spike above 2 percent. Employers aren't conducting widespread layoffs, so things are pretty good. At the same time, the hire rate (percentage of all jobs filled with new hires during the month) of 3.2 percent is little changed from the previous month's print and is considered moderate to low. In strong labor markets, the hire rate is closer to 4 percent and higher. Employers are hesitant to expand, so things aren't so good.

Generally, November's JOLTS (released in January) revealed a slight decline in job openings but essentially held steady. Meanwhile, hiring, quitting, and layoff activity remained stable, underscoring a labor market that is cooling — but not weakening sharply. One might say the labor market is steady and consistent, another that it's sluggish.

From a banking perspective, the big question is how the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) sees it. The labor market appears to be neither overheating nor deteriorating rapidly. Yet national unemployment has ticked up to 4.6 percent from 4.1 percent in June. This would seemingly suggest the first FOMC meeting in January would result in the Fed holding rates. Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson County each saw their year-over-year unemployment

rise in the most recently available data; Crook and Deschutes by 0.8 percent and Jefferson by 1.3 percent.

Regarding its other mandate (inflation) there are again different vantage points. At 2.7 percent, inflation sits above target, leading some to believe rates will not change. But since its recent peak in 2021, inflation has been coming down. And new research from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco found that tariffs may lower inflation. From this perspective, one would see an early year rate cut as appropriate.

This may seem like a lot of vacillating and indecisiveness, but it goes back to where a person or business sits financially, and geographically. And like businesses and individuals, the FOMC has varying opinions. In the end, I'd expect one to three .25 rate cuts in 2026. Lower short-term interest rates will support consumer spending and small business investment — both very relevant for the Central Oregon economy. But long-term, rates are likely to remain close to what we've seen over the last few years. Consequently, the mortgage industry and businesses seeking to finance larger, long-term projects should brace for a similar environment in 2026.

On the topic of FOMC opinions, a major change is coming to how it views this bifurcated economy. Fed Chair Jerome Powell's second four-year term as Chair of the Federal Reserve Board ends in May. The Trump Administration is likely to make its nomination for his replacement early this year. This nominee will see the economy as one with strong GDP growth, low unemployment, cooling inflation, and tariffs driving growth (especially with the US trade deficit recently contracting to its lowest level since 2009). With a new Chair, the second half of 2026 could see more swift and substantial rate cuts to support the Administration's strategy of increasing revenues through growth.

Cory J. Allen is senior vice president and team leader for Washington Trust Bank in Central Oregon. He can be reached at cjallen@watrust.com. Washington Trust Bank is a Member of the FDIC and is an Equal Housing Lender.

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Grow But Protect Margins in 2026

by **ROGER LEE, VP & Business Client Advisor — Summit Bank**

Before pushing on to what the year ahead may look like, let's recap a few 2025 predictions:



- no national recession, no recession in the tri-county area (yes, no recession for either)
- measured Fed funds rate decreases: 2-3 cuts not exceeding 100 basis points (yes, there were 3 cuts, for a total of 75 bps)
- 10-year Treasuries would rise during the year and fall back to the level where they started at year's end (not really, the 10yr TCM Jan 1, 2024 was 4.57% and ended the year at 4.18%) rates did rise early in the year but fell to as low as 4.01% in the summer

What does 2026 hold? First and foremost, what can we expect from the national economy? Overall, we will see accelerated growth over last year, but modestly so – don't expect any records to be broken. Some economists have feared geopolitical uncertainty would play a bigger role in holding the economy back last year with tariffs, government shutdowns and military actions. They were all gloom-and-doom with negative growth reported in Q1, but as 2025 progressed, the economy accelerated. Revised Q3 Real GDP growth was 4.4%, and forecasts are for Q4 to be a scorching 5.4%.

That momentum will carry into 2026. Why? Rising business-to-business spending, an expanding industrial sector and consumer balance sheets (in aggregate) being boosted by higher real income and impacts of tax law changes. Some of the key leading indicators include rising Industrial Production Orders, higher U.S. Business Capital Expenditures and growing US Total Retail Sales. It's not all roses, headwinds include: a flat auto market, mildly declining housing and commercial construction sectors and rising long term borrowing costs. Key barometers also point to persistent inflation due to higher costs for labor, electric energy, as well as wholesale goods and supplies subject to tariffs. So, while capitalizing on a growing macro economy to grow your top line, make sure rising costs don't eat up the bottom line.

The Fed, which will have a new chairman in 2026, has lowered the Fed Funds rate by 175 basis points since mid-2024. Long term bonds such as 10yr

Treasuries have changed marginally over that period – which sends a strong signal that the complex mix of risk, inflation, growth, fiscal policy, economic confidence and uncertainty factors on which institutional lending is based believe rates in the future won't be correspondingly lower. While the Fed can indirectly influence long-term rates, it does not control them. Until now, the Fed has sent strong signals in its communications that any Fed Funds rate reduction in 2026 will be more measured than last year – perhaps only one to two 25 bps cuts. 10yr Treasuries could go in the opposite direction in equal measure.

The Fed also manages the balance sheet by buying and selling U.S. Treasury bills to roughly match the growth or decline of currency in circulation – a measure known as Quantitative Easing (QE) or Quantitative Tightening (QT). In December, it ended a nearly two-year period of QT, reacting to huge expansion of the money supply associated with federal stimulus spending around COVID. During that time, the Federal Reserve's balance sheet declined by about \$2.2 trillion. Monetary policy is now again entering into a time of QE with the purchase of U.S. Treasuries. Both the magnitude of these purchases and timing remains to be seen but generally more QE means more stimulus for the economy (by making borrowing cheaper) and increasing inflation risk. Between interest rates and monetary policy the Fed will be "walking the line" attempting to keep inflation in check while at the same time stimulating an economy that is, according to Real GDP figures, already chugging along nicely.

That's all to say that 2026 will generally (not all sectors) be a year for businesses to grow and capitalize on the opportunities presented by an expanding economy and lock in rates for the next 5-10 years on real estate, machinery and equipment and other assets that will generate revenue and build value. Note that longer range forecasts predict cooling growth rates (but still positive) for 2027, as the overall business cycle for the U.S. continues to change.

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Tune Out the Noise & Focus on What You Can Control in 2026

by KEVIN COLE, CEO/President — Mid Oregon Credit Union

Downtown Bend will soon welcome The Hudson, a high-end steakhouse replacing 900 Wall, a longtime local favorite known for offering one of the best happy hours in Central Oregon. This change is more than a restaurant swap — it reflects a broader economic dynamic likely to define 2026: the continued rise of the K-shaped economy.

Households in the top 20% of income earners are experiencing sustained growth in discretionary spending power, fueling demand for premium goods and experiences. Meanwhile, lower-income households are pulling back as rising costs outpace wage growth. This divergence in consumer behavior is not a short-term anomaly; it is a structural trend that we expect to persist through 2026 and beyond.

A second defining trend for 2026 is the direction of inflation. Contrary to the widespread expectation that inflation will continue to ease, the underlying forces point to renewed upward pressure. Despite frequent political emphasis on “affordability,” several inflationary drivers are already in motion. The U.S. federal deficit is projected to exceed \$1 trillion in 2026 — even amid strong economic growth nearing 3% and record tariff revenues. Treasury debt issuance remains at historic highs, electricity costs continue to



rise, and businesses are facing higher wage demands due to an ongoing shortage of qualified workers.

Taken together, these factors suggest inflation could approach an annualized rate of 4% by the end of 2026. Higher inflation, in turn, is likely to keep borrowing costs elevated for both consumers and businesses, influencing investment decisions and long-term planning.

Against this backdrop, one of the greatest challenges business owners — and individuals more broadly — will face in 2026 is the sheer volume of noise and uncertainty. Elevated stock market valuations may be viewed by some as a warning sign, while others see them as evidence of a technology-driven productivity boom. Tariffs will continue to divide opinion, seen either as a strategic policy lever or simply another cost borne by American consumers. Adding to the complexity, the 2026 midterm election cycle will amplify political rhetoric and economic speculation.

In such an environment, success will favor those who can filter out the noise and concentrate on what they can control: pricing strategy, cost discipline, talent retention, customer value, and long-term positioning. While uncertainty may be unavoidable, clarity of focus will be a decisive advantage in 2026.

midoregon.com

Contrary to the widespread expectation that inflation will continue to ease, the underlying forces point to renewed upward pressure.

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Cascades East Association of Realtors
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Jenn Limoges, CCIM, represented the seller, Ochoco Lumber Company, in the sale of 11.22 acres to North Peak Development slated for the Ochoco Mill Apartments, marking the largest transaction within the Ochoco Mill.

Jenn's deep belief in Prineville and its people fuels her long-term commitment to the Ochoco Mill project. She championed collaboration between the seller, developers and city officials to guide this deal to closing.

Read more here



Jenn Limoges, CCIM
 Partner, Principal Broker
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NORTH PEAK DEVELOPMENT

30 Years of True North

by **RUSSELL HUNTAMER, CCIM, President, Partner & Broker** — **Compass Commercial Real Estate Services**

When we opened the doors at Compass Commercial 30 years ago, the “Old Mill” was just actually an old mill. The population of Bend was roughly 35,000. “Remote work” meant you were on a job site in Prineville. Looking back at 2025, and looking ahead to our 30th year in business, the word that comes to mind isn’t just “growth;” it’s resilience. While the national commercial real estate headlines in 2025 were dominated by “doom loops” and asset distress in major urban cores, our regional markets told a different story. We didn’t just survive the post-pandemic correction; in many ways, we have already adapted to it.



A Broader Compass

Compass Commercial continues to expand our footprint with new office locations in Eugene, Lake Oswego, and Washougal. This allows us to better assist our clients who own properties along the I-5 corridor with property management, maintenance, and brokerage services.

While the national press focuses on the challenges in downtown Portland, we are seeing resilience and opportunity in the suburban and secondary markets west of the Cascades. Clients in the Willamette Valley are seeking the same things we see here: stability, community, and solid fundamentals. Real estate is local, and we are finding excellent opportunities for our clients on both sides of the mountains.

The Outlook for 2026

As we enter 2026, we expect the gap between resilient regional markets and distressed urban cores to widen. Capital goes where it is treated well, and businesses go where their employees actually want to live.

However, three decades in this business teaches you humility. We have not forgotten the lessons of 2008. We know that trees don’t grow to the sky, and no market is immune to global headwinds or “black swan” events. While today’s lending environment and cross-sector demand are improving and far healthier than they were during the Great Financial Crisis, we always advise our clients to stress-test their assumptions.

We are entering this year with an improving interest rate environment and a local economy that has long since matured beyond tourism. The challenges we face now, affordability and land constraints, are “growth problems,” not “existential problems.”

For 30 years, our focus at Compass Commercial hasn’t changed: to provide reliable and accurate data and expert services. Whether the market is booming or correcting, our advice remains the same: Look at the fundamentals, ignore the noise, and bet on the Pacific Northwest.

Here’s to the next 30.

The 2025 Scorecard

Retail: The Unexpected Safehaven

Despite the national narrative that e-commerce would kill brick-and-mortar shops, our retail sector proved incredibly durable. After a brief vacancy spike in Q3, the market rebounded immediately in Q4. We ended the year with positive absorption and a vacancy rate of 4.32%. While downtown cores in major metros work through restructuring, regional hubs both here and in the Willamette Valley are proving that well-located retail is still a core asset.

Office: Defying The National Trend

This is where local nuance matters most. Nationally, office vacancy is hovering near record highs, exceeding 20% in many markets. In Bend, vacancy spent most of 2025 stabilizing around the 6.5% range, reflecting a fundamentally different dynamic. Rather than large corporate users driving demand, Bend’s office market continues to benefit from local and regional businesses returning to the office in a measured way, prioritizing collaboration, culture, and client-facing space over remote-only models.

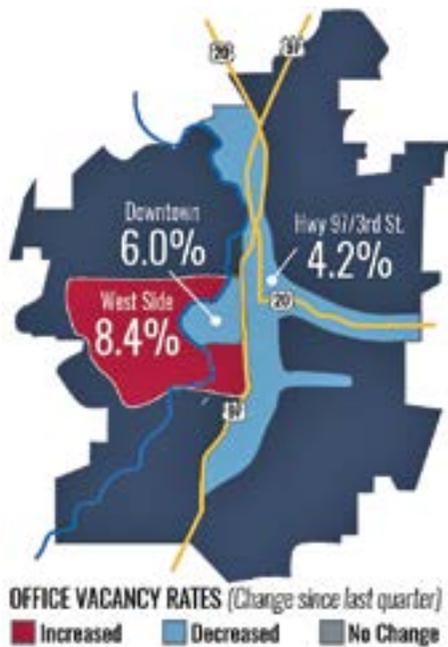
Industrial: The Supply Constraint

Industrial remains the tightest sector across Central Oregon. With average vacancy across the Bend and Redmond markets holding at 4.7%, available inventory remains limited. At the same time, rising land and construction costs continue to make speculative development difficult to justify, reinforcing the value of existing buildings. As a result, functional industrial space, particularly small- to mid-size product, remains highly sought after by both tenants and investors alike.

BEND OFFICE

by **JAY LYONS, SIOR, CCIM, Partner & Broker** — **Compass Commercial Real Estate Services**

Compass Commercial surveyed 225 office buildings totaling 2.79 million square feet for our fourth quarter report for 2025. After positive absorption of 8,697 SF last quarter, the market once again experienced negative absorption of 25,013 SF. With this latest quarter, the Bend office market has experienced negative absorption four out of the last five quarters. The current vacancy rate is 6.94% in Q4 compared to 6.14% in Q3. Available sublease space increased from 43,190 SF in Q3 to 49,695 SF in Q4 resulting in a Q4 availability rate of 8.72%.



LEASING: Leasing demand was uneven, with limited activity across all segments of the office market. The Downtown and Highway 97/3rd Street submarkets both experienced modest positive absorption of 2,574 SF and 2,013 SF respectively. The outlier was the West Side submarket which experienced 29,600 SF of negative absorption.

RENTS: Lease rates remain flat with the high end of the market ranging from \$2.00 to \$3.15/SF/Mo. NNN and more affordable space ranging from \$1.40 to \$2.00/SF/Mo. NNN.

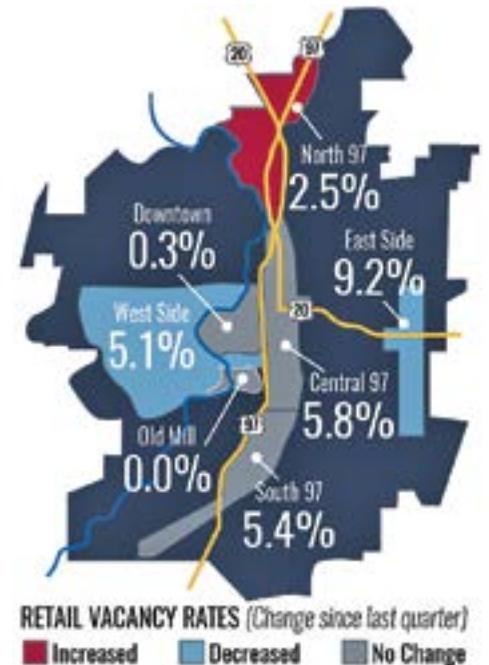
CONSTRUCTION: Construction is now complete for Shevlin Crossing Building B, a 26,000 SF, two-story, Class A office building located at 2220 NW Labiche Lane. This building has five leased suites and another pending. No other “for lease” office buildings are currently under construction.

SALES: There were three notable office sales and two medical office sales this quarter. A 4,112 SF building at 155 NE Revere Avenue sold in December for \$1,400,000 (\$331/SF), followed by an 8,837 SF fully leased building at 345 SE 3rd Street that sold for \$3,500,000 (\$396/SF). A third office property at 304 NE 3rd Street totaling 5,600 SF sold in November for \$1,580,000 (\$282/SF). Two medical office buildings near the hospital also traded, including the Pinnacle Building at 2450 NE Mary Rose Place, which sold for \$15,400,000 (\$411/SF) to Woodside Health, and the Pilot Butte Medical Center at 2275 NE Doctors Drive, purchased by St. Charles Health Care System for \$10,000,000 (\$368/SF).

Bend Retail

by **ELI HARRISON, Broker** — **Compass Commercial Real Estate Services**

Compass Commercial surveyed over 4.61 million square feet of retail space across 275 buildings in Bend to compile our fourth quarter report for 2025. During the last quarter of the year, Bend experienced a slight decrease in overall vacancy, coming down from 4.40% in Q3 to 4.32% in Q4. Over the course of the entire year, this new retail vacancy rate of 4.32% represents a decrease of 1.85% in Bend’s overall retail vacancy from the first quarter of 2025.



LEASING: Bend’s West Side experienced the most positive absorption of any submarket in Q4, with a vacancy rate of 5.13%. The Old Mill District maintained its 0% vacancy rate, while the Downtown submarket also showed no change from its 0.34% vacancy rate in Q3. Bend’s Central district experienced a slight decrease in vacancy, bringing its rate down to 5.78%. The East Side submarket experienced the largest drop in vacancy, decreasing from 10.26% in Q3 to 9.21% in Q4.

RENTS: Asking rental rates range from \$1.00 to \$3.75/SF/Mo. NNN, with an average of \$2.20/SF/Mo. NNN. The only exception is several drive-thru pad sites marketed between \$5.00/SF/Mo. and \$5.42/SF/Mo.

CONSTRUCTION: Leasing activity on newly constructed projects remained active to close out 2025. Retail buildings at the Gateway North development near Costco are 100% leased, and at the Jackstraw development only three of ten retail suites remain available. No new retail construction projects broke ground in Q4 of 2025, but leasing activity on newly constructed projects remained strong to finish the year.

SALES: Notable sales this quarter included 1004 NW Newport Avenue, which sold in November 2025 for \$1,400,000 (\$768/SF). 1005 NW Newport Avenue sold in October for \$850,000 (\$701/SF). The former Prep Kitchen building at 212 NE

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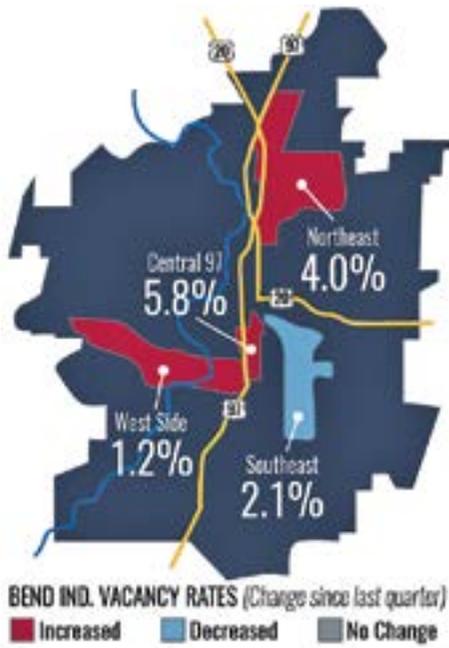
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Revere Avenue sold for \$1,900,000 (\$671/SF), while 706 NE Greenwood Avenue sold for \$2,130,000 (\$489/SF). In Sisters, 497 W. Hwy 20 sold for \$2,100,000 (\$724/SF), and in Redmond, 1515 SW Reindeer Avenue sold for \$750,000 (\$380/SF).

SALES: Several notable sales occurred during Q4. The former City of Bend Public Works building located at 62975 Boyd Acres Road was sold to Bend Parks and Rec for \$6,900,000 (\$189/SF). The terms of the sale were negotiated years ago but closing was delayed allowing for completion of the new Public Works building in Juniper Ridge. A building located at 90 SE Bridgeford Blvd sold to an investor for \$2,624,000 (\$239/SF) and a building located at 720 SE Business Way sold for \$1,977,500 (\$267/SF).

Bend Industrial
by GRAHAM DENT, SIOR, Partner & Broker —
Compass Commercial Real Estate Services

Compass Commercial surveyed 332 Bend industrial buildings, totaling nearly 4.79 million square feet for our fourth quarter report for 2025. The market experienced 36,381 SF of positive absorption during the quarter, ending with an overall vacancy rate of 3.32%. Bend now has 158,864 SF of industrial space available.



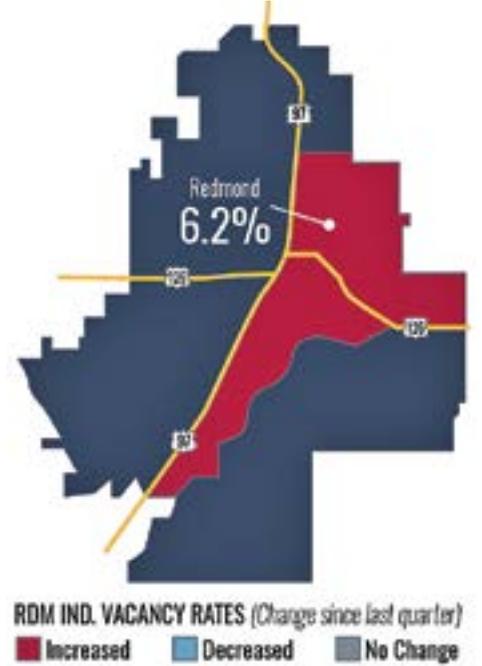
LEASING: Overall, leasing activity remained relatively stagnant during the quarter. A large lease with BASX was completed at 63085 NE 18th Street. That one lease accounted for nearly 34,000 SF of the total square footage absorbed during the quarter.

RENTS: The average asking lease rate for raw industrial space was \$1.11/SF/Mo. NNN at the end of Q4; slightly higher than the \$1.10/SF/Mo. NNN recorded in Q2 of 2025. Asking lease rates for new construction range from \$1.75 to \$1.95/SF/Mo. NNN, depending on delivery condition. Rents for second generation flex space and highly improved industrial spaces are in the \$1.50 to \$1.65/SF/Mo. NNN range.

CONSTRUCTION: One speculative industrial project is underway for lease: Taylor Brooks is developing NOCO at Juniper Ridge located at Cooley Road and NE 18th Street. The first phase consists of three industrial/flex buildings totaling 62,429 SF and is slated for completion in 2026. There's a speculative industrial condo project underway at 20489 NE Funner Place (Falcon Industrial). That project consists of four condo units (approximately 2,200 SF each) and is projected to be completed in March 2026.

Redmond Industrial
by KRISTIE SCHMITT, CCIM, Broker —
Compass Commercial Real Estate Services

Compass Commercial surveyed 97 industrial buildings totaling nearly 1.85 million square feet in Redmond for our fourth quarter report for 2025. Overall vacancy increased to 6.21%, driven by two newly added properties: Red Barn Industrial's new 17,048 SF building and the former Midstate Fertilizer site totaling ±36,000 SF. Excluding these properties, the adjusted vacancy rate is 3.44%, higher than last quarter but still reflective of a tight industrial market. Redmond's industrial sector continues to benefit from limited speculative construction and steady demand for functional spaces.



LEASING: Leasing activity moderated in Q4, with more interest in units ranging from 1,500 to 5,000 SF. While absorption slowed compared to Q3, tenant inquiries remained consistent, particularly for well-located, move-in-ready spaces.

RENTS: Industrial rates remained stable, with asking rents generally ranging from \$0.90 to \$1.20/SF/Mo. NNN, depending on their size and condition.

CONSTRUCTION: Delivery of the Red Barn Industrial Center added modern flex space and contributed to the quarter's increase in vacancy, while speculative industrial construction remains limited.

SALES: Two notable industrial sales occurred in Q4: A 19,656 SF property at 810 NE Hemlock Avenue sold for \$2,635,000 (\$134/SF), and 2138 SW 2nd Court traded for \$2,350,000 (\$239/SF), underscoring continued investor interest in well-located industrial assets.

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Commercial Real Estate Maintains Momentum as Sector Strengths Shift

by **KATY HAINES, Managing Principal Broker, Director of Operations — NAI Cascade Commercial Real Estate**

Bend's commercial real estate market is frequently described as insulated from many of the pressures affecting national markets: Demand is driven by steady in-migration tied to lifestyle. Limited land, slower entitlement processes, and infrastructure constraints effectively cap new supply. Construction costs remain high, in part because the local labor force must afford to live here, and because system development charges tied to infrastructure improvements often make it more cost effective to buy or lease existing space than to build new. Bend's diverse economy, anchored by healthcare, tourism, data centers, and small businesses, further reduces exposure to single industry shocks and helps keep real estate fundamentals more stable through economic cycles.



That insulation does not mean Bend is immune. Pricing adjusts, rent growth pauses, and transaction velocity slows, but the downside tends to be muted relative to national markets.

One factor impacting real estate at both the national and local level is the lending environment. Post-pandemic interest rates allowed investors to generate returns even without significant rent growth. Today, income plays a much larger role in asset performance, placing greater emphasis on attracting and retaining the right tenants and improving operations to drive net income. In this environment, active asset management has become instrumental in controlling expenses, maximizing income, and improving overall returns.

Capital is beginning to free up in 2026. Regulations have made it easier for large banks to purchase U.S. government bonds, which could help lower long-term interest rates and give banks greater flexibility to lend, particularly on lower-risk commercial real estate such as core and stabilized assets. Banks may reenter deals they previously passed on, though underwriting standards remain conservative.

Against national metrics, the Bend MSA demonstrates its insular factors across most sectors:

OFFICE

National Vacancy: 14.0%
Bend Vacancy: 6.7%

Nationally, improving demand and rent stabilization have allowed for positive absorption for the first time in several years, restoring some investor confidence. The office sector posted the largest increase in sales volume in 2025, nearly doubling industrial sales and outperforming multifamily and retail by roughly \$4 billion each.

The construction pipeline remains limited, which is expected to constrain future availability. The flight to quality is evident across the board, with tenants choosing fewer, higher-quality buildings over larger footprints in lower-quality space. In Bend, 4- and 5-Star rents continue to grow, while 3-Star assets are flat to slightly negative.

While the Bend office pipeline appears elevated at 174,000 square feet under construction compared to the ten-year average of 100,000 square feet per year, much of this activity is concentrated in owner-user or institutional projects. These include the Deschutes County Library (10,202 SF), the Pacific Corp building in Juniper Ridge (45,000 SF), and the St. Charles Cancer Center in Redmond (102,000 SF). The remaining availability is limited to two buildings, both of which reportedly have leases pending or tenants in tow.

RETAIL

National Vacancy: 4.3%
Bend Vacancy: 3.8%

Continued strength in consumer spending continues to support retail demand. Fewer move-outs, steady backfill leasing, and minimal new supply have reinforced retail fundamentals.

Many national retailers remain in expansion mode heading into 2026. In Oregon, brands like Chick-fil-A continue to grow their footprint, indicating ongoing confidence in consumer-driven real estate.

While the Bend market is often associated with boutique retailers and local restaurateurs, this has not negatively impacted retail performance. Retail

remains one of the tightest sectors locally, supported by modest rent growth and constrained supply. New construction is limited, with activity primarily focused on the north end of Redmond adjacent to Goodwill and a small number of proposed projects along Century Drive.

INDUSTRIAL

National Vacancy: 7.5%
Bend Vacancy: 3.3%

After serving as the standout performer during the pandemic, the industrial sector is now experiencing a supply overhang, though construction activity moderated in 2025. At current absorption levels, properties exceeding 100,000 square feet may take up to three years to lease. Sublease availability is also at historic highs, and ongoing trade conflicts continue to weigh on West Coast port markets exposed to Chinese trade.

Industrial development is being shaped by specialized uses including data centers and life sciences. Nvidia and Eli Lilly's \$1 billion AI drug lab investment outside San Francisco reflects the market's shift to advanced computing, biotech, and R&D infrastructure.

In the Bend MSA, the industrial pipeline also appears elevated, with approximately 410,000 square feet under construction compared to the ten-year average of 260,000 square feet per year. However, more than 70 percent of this space is already spoken for. Projects include self-storage on American Loop (102,000 SF), the City of Bend Public Works facility in Juniper Ridge (102,000 SF), and the Amazon distribution center in Redmond (83,559 SF).

MULTIFAMILY

National Vacancy: 8.3%
Bend Vacancy: 10.9%

Multifamily is the other sector facing a notable supply overhang both nationally and locally, driven primarily by new luxury product. Following a 40-year high in completions in 2024, new construction declined by approximately 20 percent in 2025. By the end of 2025, absorption was expected to outpace new deliveries for the first time since 2021, setting the stage for tightening conditions in 2026.

In Bend, one- and two-star properties posted modest rent growth while 3-Star assets remained flat. With construction activity effectively paused, recent leasing reflects a return to normalized conditions. Vacancy is expected to trend back toward Bend's stabilized level below 5 percent by early 2027.

Emerging Markets

While self-storage, senior housing, and student housing have long been viewed as attractive investment options, they are increasingly being classified as their own commercial real estate verticals beyond the traditional four property types. Demand for these assets is driven by life events and demographics rather than economic cycles, allowing them to remain resilient during downturns.

Their performance depends heavily on operations rather than location or lease structure. Rates reset frequently and management decisions directly impact returns, making these assets operate more like businesses than passive real estate investments.

These property types have emerged as distinct verticals because their demand, risk, and returns are shaped by demographics and operations, offering investors an additional avenue for diversification.

Overall, Bend's commercial real estate market reflects many of the same dynamics playing out nationally, but generally with less volatility. Supply conditions vary by property type, with industrial and multifamily sectors working through near-term overhangs while office and retail remain constrained. Demand continues to be supported by established local drivers, and capital conditions are beginning to improve. Performance is differentiated by asset quality and management, with income, operations, and management of the two playing a pivotal role in returns.

While the market continues to adjust alongside the broader economy, Bend's performance indicators point to a stable path and continued market improvement over the next 12-18 months.

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“Opportunity” is the Theme for 2026 Commercial Real Estate

“If a window of opportunity appears, don’t pull down the shade.” ~ Tom Peters

by **BRUCE BARRETT, Commercial Broker**

There is not one comprehensive answer for what to expect in the commercial real estate market in 2026 but here are some factors that might open windows of opportunity.

Real Estate: Stable, High Prices, Tight Supply

“The upper end of the market has been doing much better than the lower end,” says Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtor. “Meanwhile, inventory remains constrained at lower price points.”

Central Oregon has an advantage as a desirable destination. How does that impact Commercial Real Estate (CRE)?

- Demand remains strong in Bend and Redmond, keeping prices elevated.
- Inventory remains tight, with no major increase expected.
- Prices likely stay in the higher range, barring major external shocks (interest rates, tariffs).
- Expect short supply to continue into 2026 unless macroeconomic conditions shift.

Statewide Economic Conditions: Sluggish but Stabilizing

Oregon’s broader economic outlook heavily influences Central Oregon.

- Oregon’s economy is healthy but vulnerable, especially to federal policy shifts such as tariffs.
- The state is entering the 2026–2028 budget cycle with slower revenue growth than previously expected.
- Tariff-driven uncertainty has already reduced expected state revenue by hundreds of millions.

This suggests:

- Slower job growth statewide
- Cautious business investment
- Potential delays in public-sector capital projects (schools, infrastructure)

Central Oregon — more dependent on construction, tourism and in-migration — tends to feel these swings more acutely.

National & Global Context: Moderate Re-Acceleration in 2026

The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis notes that the U.S. economy is expected to re-accelerate moderately in 2026 after a slower 2025.

Global forecasts echo this:

- The world economy remains resilient, with solid but unspectacular growth expected in 2026.



- AI and automation continue to act as stabilizers in productivity.
- Trade tensions and tariffs remain the biggest wildcard. For Central Oregon, this likely means:
 - Continued in-migration from higher-cost metros
 - Steady service-sector employment
 - Construction activity remaining strong but cost-pressured
 - Tourism holding steady unless national consumer spending weakens

Summary Table: 2026 Central Oregon Economic Expectations

Sector / Indicator	2026 Outlook	Evidence
Housing Market	Stable, high prices; low inventory	Beacon Report forecast
Construction	Strong demand but cost-pressured	Inferred from housing supply constraints
State Revenue	Slower growth; uncertainty from tariffs	Oregon Capital Chronicle
Consumer Spending	Moderate; tied to national re-acceleration	Oregon OEA forecast
Tourism	Stable unless national slowdown deepens	Based on statewide economic vulnerability
Business Investment	Cautious but not contracting	Statewide “healthy but vulnerable”

Here’s how this environment play out locally:

- **Vacancy risk remains low, especially in Bend/Redmond.** For landlords, it might be wise to start thinking about Tenant Improvements that will attract a surging class of tenant.
- **Renovation ROI stays strong, as replacement construction remains expensive.** Landlords should be proactive in transitioning property

Continued on Page 22 ▶

FOR LEASE IN BEND: 796 SW Bradbury Way

- Professional Office Space - 4,189 sq ft in River West
- Prime Location - Near Old Mill District & Downtown
- \$22.80 /SF/YR • Ample parking

FOR SALE IN PRINEVILLE: 267 NE 2nd Street

- Chukar Point Office Building - 4,595 sq ft, fully leased
- Prime Downtown Location - with parking & elevator
- Investment Opportunity - \$1,090,000 | 7% cap rate | 8 tenants

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2026 Residential Real Estate Forecast

The Year of Balance

by **TIM BUCCOLA, Owner — REMAX Key Properties**

2026 is expected to be the year of balance for Central Oregon's residential real estate market. Improving affordability, increasing consumer confidence, and normalizing inventory levels are converging to create favorable conditions for both buyers and sellers, with modest price appreciation of 6 percent to 9 percent anticipated.



However, to look forward we must first look back at the conditions that have set the stage for where we are today. Central Oregon's real estate market is coming out of more than 24 months of stagnate, stuck conditions. Several factors have contributed to slowed appreciation and in some cases, depreciation, of the residential market.

Essentially, we have experienced two markets in the last six years: the COVID Era Boom and the Market Correction.

Historic Factors

The COVID Era Boom (2020-2022)

Many of us know this story very well. The perfect storm of pandemic-driven demand, extremely low mortgage rates, and low inventory created one of the hottest sellers' markets we have ever seen in Central Oregon. Prices appreciated at double digit rates as buyers competed for scarce homes, fundamentally reshaping Central Oregon's affordability landscape.

The Market Correction (2022-2025)

After two years of intense price appreciation, several forces combined to apply the breaks on the boom market:

Rising Interest Rates. The Federal Reserve's aggressive rate increases pushed 30-year fixed mortgages from under 3 percent to over 7 percent within 18 months, dramatically reducing purchasing power.

Affordability Crisis. Rapidly escalating prices combined with higher borrowing costs priced many buyers out of the market entirely.

Economic Uncertainty. Broader economic headwinds, including inflation concerns and consumer confidence fluctuations, further dampened demand.



GRAPHS | COURTESY OF REMAX KEY PROPERTIES

The Lock-In Effect. Existing homeowners secured in historically low rates (under 4 percent) became reluctant to sell, effectively removing significant inventory from circulation and reducing overall transaction volume by an estimated 30-40 percent.

These factors all led to a gradual shift from an intense seller's market to a buyer's market.

Moving On! We have been working our way through this challenging period, and several positive indicators suggest that the market is finding its footing once again.

There has been downward pressure toward lower 30-year fixed mortgage rates, hovering around 6 percent. At the same time, price appreciation has slowed and in turn is increasing affordability and bringing more buyers to the market.

Another indicator we can look at is mortgage applications. **The rate of mortgage applications has jumped 11 percent nationally compared to this time last year.** This tells us that consumer confidence is improving, buyers are beginning to seek loan approval and shop for homes, which will likely lead to increased demand.

At the same time, we can see that the number of mortgages held at below a 4 percent interest rate is steadily decreasing nationally. This indicates that homeowners once locked into historically low rates may be coming to terms with the new lending environment and despite having an exceptional mortgage, still need to move on and sell because of life circumstances. If this trend continues, we will see an increase in overall sales volume and market movement.

Moreover, a significant volume of 2025 inventory was removed from the market. According to Flex MLS, 440 properties in Deschutes County were expired, withdrawn or cancelled in the fourth quarter of last year. As these properties may re-enter the market in 2026, they should benefit from substantially improved market conditions and stronger buyer demand.

The bottom line? Increased demand coupled with a healthy inventory will create an active, healthy residential real estate market in 2026. This year will likely be good opportunity for both buyers and sellers to participate in this strengthening market.

keypropertiesoregon.com



GRAPHS | COURTESY OF REMAX KEY PROPERTIES

2026 Central Oregon Economic Outlook

by **MATT ERTLE, Business Owner — PrideStaff Bend**

Central Oregon is very well positioned for continued and steady economic growth. We have ready-to-go industrial and mixed-use land with infrastructure in most regional communities, representing future employment areas. We also have more housing options available for all income levels in our communities in a decade. And yes, there are some headwinds that can influence this growth, but there is nothing that can replace or deter the desire to live in our region and experience access to the outdoor opportunities we have.



Strengths:

1) Industrial land with infrastructure is now available in small and medium-sized parcels in all cities/towns in our region. This is our first ready-to-go industrial land available in all communities since 2013. Our regional private sector job creation slowed a little in 2024 and 2025, and we are now positioned to outpace the state in year-over-year growth for the next three to five years.

2) Birth Rates at St. Charles increased in 2025, which is bucking the State of Oregon and National trend. In our assessment, this milestone is a top-two regional asset, **arguably the most important contender.** Among many things and only to name a few, these numbers reflect future students for our schools, future registration fees for our DMV, future employees and innovators in our community, and future tax payers to generate revenue.

3) We have a newly created regional bipartisan Central Oregon Caucus composed of regional elected officials, and one of our very own Central Oregonians recently appointed to be the State's Chief Prosperity Officer. This regional representation will certainly bring positive attention to our communities.

Headwinds:

1) Oregon is losing its competitive position nationally in areas related to business friendliness, the cost of being an employee, and the overall cost of living in our state. We are hopefully course correcting with the #3 strength above. We anticipate this will be a short-term trend, allowing the pendulum to swing back to Oregon's historic strong position.

2) Oregon's public education reputation is negatively impacting the recruitment of professional and STEM based organizations and employees. Both are critical to the future technical employment landscape that the State of Oregon and our region is working to create and expand. We are fortunate that Central Oregon has some of the best schools and teachers in the State, though the State's reputation continues to influence recruitment and retention regardless.

Regional infrastructure investments over the past five years have positioned Central Oregon for strong, slightly more moderate growth in 2026. We are looking forward to an impactful 2026.

Matt Ertle grew up in Central Oregon and is committed to supporting our employment and workforce communities through local and regional strategic partnerships.
pridestaff.com/bend

Opportunity

Continued from page 21

to attract higher end tenants.

- **Permitting timelines may lengthen if state budgets tighten having an impact locally.** Developers need to be aware of extended project time lines due to permitting delays.
- **Tenant mix shifts toward service, medical and lifestyle operators** — less so retail.
- **Industrial and flex remain the most resilient asset classes.** Be aware that institutional investors are active in the Central Oregon market and they are driving up prices. If you want to sell, plan ahead by adjusting rents to market level where possible.

Recommended 2026 Action Plan

1. **Acquire under-improved flex/industrial in Redmond**
Best combination of yield + demand + manageable renovation scope.
2. **Redevelop older retail into service-forward, patio-activated spaces**
Central Oregon tenants pay for experience.
3. **Convert select office to medical or flex**
Highest ROI is in Bend.
4. **Lock in five- to seven- year industrial leases with strong escalations**
Protects against inflation and rate volatility.
5. **Keep renovation budgets tight and phased**
Your cost-analysis discipline is a competitive advantage.

Here is a summary for a window of opportunity:
Acquire selectively, redevelop aggressively, lease pragmatically and underwrite conservatively.
barrettrealstate@gmail.com

Tourism Outlook 2026

by **SCOTT LARSON, President & CEO — Visit Central Oregon**

As we look forward to the new year and what it might hold for tourism in Central Oregon, it's important to reflect on the prior year to know what may be ahead.

In 2025, the region experienced a strong year. Visitation levels increased, and as in prior years, our region welcomed over 4 million visitors, including 32% Oregonians, and 34% from Washington and California. Most notably, we saw increases in visitation during the shoulder and winter seasons, averaging an increase of 3.5% over that time. This closely follows changes to our marketing strategy, where 85% of our funds are focused on off-season months.

Air travel through Redmond Airport continues to soar, setting yet another record this year for passenger growth of 7% compared to 2024. With the expansion project well underway, those numbers are expected to continue to grow into the future. And, despite the turbulence in the economy, one trend has remained clear: people keep spending on travel. Overall visitor spending remained resilient, with preliminary data showing visitors spending roughly \$1.3 billion in Central Oregon in 2025. Equally encouraging, we saw visitor spending increase 11% last winter, 9% in the spring, and 12% in the fall, again aligning with our focus of off-peak season growth.

Many of the travel trends we saw amidst uncertainty in 2024 continued to hold true in 2025: as costs increased, many travelers placed a greater emphasis on value. This was observed in the lodging sector, often seeing a shift to short-term rentals instead of hotel stays. Authentic, experiential travel and off the beaten path places in the great outdoors both remained popular, things Central Oregon is fortunate to have in abundance. Additionally, digital detoxes and wellness experiences emerged as greater priorities for travelers, particularly given the rise of AI and pervasiveness of technology as people seek an escape to the analog.

As it relates to Transient Room Tax, collections for Deschutes County increased 1.3% in FY25, a reversal of the decline in FY24, and have shown signs of continued growth so far in FY26 which is currently pacing well ahead of FY25.

Looking ahead to 2026, despite overarching concerns about the economy, there is much to look forward to. Consumer confidence has rebounded from earlier lows, and 93% of people report having travel plans in the next 6 months. Leisure travelers are committed but cautious, and wanderlusting for new experiences while wallet watching on costs. The United States will be hosting two global events between the World Cup and America's 250th Celebration, and both are expected to bring new visitors. In the groups segment, Meet in Central Oregon is gaining real momentum as planners refocus on in-person, high-impact gatherings. This work is especially critical as group business increasingly drives midweek and shoulder-season demand, providing essential support for our resorts and the long-term health of the tourism economy. Group business for 2026 remains steady, and we see opportunities this year for attracting future-year business to decrease our future reliance on short-term bookings.

As travel spending increases, so does the tax revenue that is generated. This



revenue serves Central Oregon in many ways beyond just the lodging tax. Per Dean Runyan's 2024 Economic Impact Report, this visitor spending supports 10,730 jobs, lowers the average household tax burden by over \$601, and supports local amenities and services such as public safety. This also allows Visit Central Oregon (VCO) to operate as both a regional marketing organization and a management organization that serves Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, and southern Wasco Counties.

In its fourth grant cycle year, we continue the work of the Future Fund program and have now reinvested over \$1.9 million lodging tax dollars back into 34 projects to date that support accessibility, sustainability, and cultural tourism throughout the Central Oregon region. New additions in 2025 Future Fund grantees included, among others, awards to Explore Prineville for the Adaptive Golf Project, Oregon Adaptive Sports for "Access, Elevated," and Dirty Freehub for the High Desert Gravel Guide. Application information for 2026 is available on our website at visitcentraloregon.org.

We continue to focus on our core mission as a marketing-first organization, growing overall lodging tax collections for the benefit of all in Deschutes County and throughout the Central Oregon region. It is the success of our marketing that drives growth in revenue and jobs, supports public safety and grant programs, and any reductions from the legislature would likely have a negative impact on residents and our communities across the region.

Internally within the region, strong collaboration continues between our DMOs and Chambers. Visit Central Oregon approved its new five-year strategic plan, which calls for a greater focus on strengthening shoulder and winter seasons as well as a regional strategy for smoke and wildfire. VCO, through its partnership with Travel Oregon, continues to lead the Destination Management Studio programming, which incorporated feedback from a wide range of stakeholders. The program focuses on tourism management and sustainability in the future with grant funding to support the projects and outcomes. VCO and Visit Bend plan to partner closely again in 2026, not only on alignment in our marketing initiatives and grant cycles, but also in funding the Lava Lands Visitor Center internship program through OSU Cascades and Discover Your Northwest. We believe that a rising tide raises all boats, and the current level of collaboration in the tourism sector of Central Oregon bodes well for the future health of our entire region.

With every new initiative, collaboration or partnership, Visit Central Oregon is focused on delivering on the objectives in our strategic plan, and with every marketing campaign, we are focused on introducing our communities and the businesses that support them to new visitors. As we look forward to 2026, I am optimistic about the opportunities that lie ahead. Despite many unknowns, our resiliency, creativity, and collaborative nature means that Central Oregon's tourism economy remains well positioned and well-equipped for another successful year ahead.

Please reach out with any questions regarding Visit Central Oregon programs and initiatives by emailing scott@visitcentraloregon.com or calling 800-800-8334.

visitcentraloregon.com

Looking ahead to 2026,
despite overarching concerns
about the economy, there is
much to look forward to.

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Heritage Wealth Advisors 2026 Economic & Market Outlook

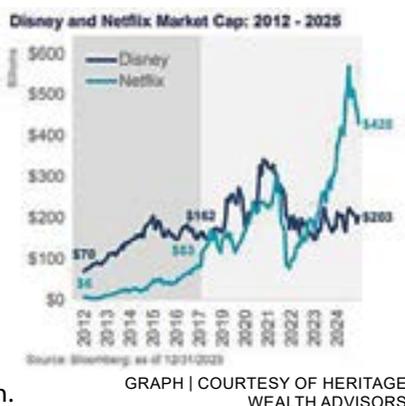
by ERIN SCANNELL, CEO — Heritage Wealth Advisors

Families flocked to theaters this holiday season to see *Zootopia 2*, which grossed \$556 million globally its opening weekend. Some, though, will wait for it to come to streaming. Today, that means Disney+; but it was not long ago that Netflix was the streaming home for films like *Zootopia 2*. From 2012 to 2017, Disney licensed movies out to Netflix for a fee, allowing Netflix to use the films to attract new subscribers.



In hindsight, the decision was a colossal error by Disney. Movie studios historically reached customers through movie theaters, video rentals, and home video sales. To Disney, Netflix was another distribution channel to reach customers. When the partnership began in 2012, Disney had a market cap about 20x larger than Netflix. But streaming became the more lucrative business by taking market share from movie theater attendance, video rentals, and home video sales. Both firms benefited during the partnership, with each growing their market cap by roughly \$80 billion. In 2017, Disney course-corrected and broke away from Netflix to start their own streaming service, Disney+.

Open borders with Disney were key to the success of Netflix. The Disney library gave them time to build a self-sustaining model that generated almost double Disney's net income in 2024. Early hits *House of Cards* and *Orange is the New Black* were a proof of concept that enabled future triumphs like *Stranger Things*. Disney's focus on short-term profits missed the broader shift occurring in content consumption. Since the breakup in 2017, Disney's market cap has increased just \$41 billion, while Netflix has grown \$345 billion.



As we look out at the global economic landscape, we see the patterns of a similar story unfolding. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 90's, the U.S. turned to less developed nations such as China, in much the same way that Disney partnered with Netflix. U.S. companies sought to boost short-term profits by moving manufacturing overseas to access cheap labor. The increased trade between the two countries linked them together and led to prosperity

for both economies. GDP per capita in the U.S. grew by 1.7% a year from 1991 to 2024,¹ while Chinese GDP per capita grew at a staggering 8.1% rate.²

U.S. companies, though, failed to recognize the Chinese economy as a threat, just like Disney overlooked Netflix. The period of open borders offered China a generational influx of capital. They invested excess back into the country's infrastructure and built a more self-sustaining economy. This led to advancements in key technological industries such as artificial intelligence (AI), electric vehicles, and renewable energy.

While globalization started declining a decade ago, "Liberation Day" represented a clear shift in this trend. Just as Disney pivoted to a self-sustaining streaming service, the U.S. is reducing foreign dependencies and seeking greater autonomy. The hope is that these tariffs will bring more production back to the U.S. to further develop domestic infrastructure and preserve technological advantages.

The decoupling of Disney and Netflix showed an example of how these decisions can lead to diverging outcomes. We cannot know for certain if the U.S. or China will come to lead the global economy. Both economies face challenges in the years to come—aging demographics, rising U.S. debt levels, and a substantial real estate slowdown in China, to name a few. What seems clear is that the reduced reliance on each other has increased risk to both countries, in our view. As nations become less ingrained in the global economy, it is possible that greater dispersion between winners and losers will arise. Investors should not rely on rising tides lifting all boats in the global economy, making diversification critical in the decades ahead.

What follows is our outlook on the short-term economic future and long-term trends we believe investors should consider when positioning their retirement assets. To access the full HWA 2026 Economic & Market Outlook white paper on our website.



¹World Bank. (2025, December 17). Constant GDP per capita for the United States, retrieved from FRED

²World Bank. (2025, July 2). Constant GDP per capita for China, retrieved from FRED

heritage-wealth.com

A Standout Three-Year Run

Market Momentum Continues

by ERIN WEBER, CFP, Private Wealth Advisor & PAUL SVENDSEN, CPA/PFS ABV CVA, Lead Wealth Advisor — BlackDiamond Financial

The S&P 500 completed one of the strongest three-year periods in its history, delivering a total return of 86% since the start of 2023. Much of that performance came from a small group of technology leaders benefiting from the growth of artificial intelligence. In 2025, the S&P 500 gained 18%, driven largely by Google and Nvidia, which accounted for 38% of the return. The other five stocks in the Magnificent Seven underperformed the S&P 500 this year.



Erin Weber



Paul Svendsen

Valuations ended the year higher as well. The S&P 500 now trades at a next twelve months price-to-earnings ratio of about 22x, well above the pre-COVID average of roughly 16x. Investors have shown a willingness to pay more for growth, particularly for companies viewed as long-term beneficiaries of artificial intelligence.

yields moved lower, helping support both stocks and bonds. In fact, U.S. bonds had their best year since 2021, gaining 7.3%.

As always, we believe successful investing requires a disciplined, long-term approach that emphasizes thoughtful asset allocation, broad diversification and prudent risk management. While market leadership and economic conditions will inevitably evolve, we remain focused on building portfolios designed to compound value over time rather than reacting to short-term market movements.

blackdf.com

Comparative Returns

	Annualized Performance				
	Q4 2025	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Large Cap U.S. Stocks ¹	2.7%	17.9%	23.0%	14.4%	14.8%
Small Cap U.S. Stocks ²	2.2%	12.8%	13.7%	6.1%	9.6%
International Stocks ³	5.1%	33.1%	18.0%	8.5%	8.9%
Real Estate ⁴	(2.3%)	3.8%	6.9%	4.9%	5.8%
U.S. Bonds ⁵	1.1%	7.3%	4.7%	(0.4%)	2.0%

¹ S&P 500 index. ² Russell 2000 index. ³ MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. index. ⁴ Dow Jones US Real Estate Index Total Return index. ⁵ Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond index.

Redmond is Ready to Celebrate 2026

by **ERIC SANDE, Executive Director — Redmond Chamber of Commerce & CVB**

Redmond is a remarkable place to be; it is buzzing with activity, and there is so much to be celebrated in 2026. Growth is happening everywhere in both the public and private sectors, new roads and public amenities, housing developments, new businesses and services and, of course, new and growing events. The Redmond Chamber of Commerce is actively bringing business and community together, fostering a sense of place and celebrating successes all along the way. New businesses are opening and expanding monthly, and ribbon cuttings are almost a weekly occurrence in Redmond.



First off, Redmond is a place to make things happen and get things done. It is a place where family comes first, and community is everything. The leadership and business community understand this and make it happen. People want to be here; they want to work here and grow here. There is a spirit that is uniquely Redmond, it can't be bottled, labeled, trademarked or branded, it is inherent and deeply personal. You can sense it in almost every aspect of our community.

Redmond's leadership (City) understands this unique spirit of Redmond, and makes things happen to address countless issues like homeless needs, with Oasis Village, and they are working hard to make a managed camp a reality. They attack traffic issues with creative new roads and arterials, such as the roundabout at Ninth and Hwy. 126, which will soon connect to Airport Way, and they work relentlessly to communicate needs to ODOT and State Legislators. The community steps up in supporting its schools, Parks and Rec and library systems. You can see

evidence of the new buildings and construction happening all around us, and have you seen the construction underway at the Redmond Airport (FLYRDM)? This spectacular new \$180 million-plus terminal is scheduled for completion in 2028.

New Redmond businesses are popping up and expanding nearly every month. Downtown Redmond is reporting a near 91% occupancy, and the activities downtown are a huge success. Redmond's Dry Canyon Arts Association (DCAA) opened the new Dry Canyon Community Arts Center on Sixth St. last December. DCAA, Enjoy Downtown Redmond, the Redmond Chamber and the City are all working together to make Redmond a Hub of activity.

Working together is what it is all about, and Redmond continues to be the community that gets things done. As we move forward through 2026, working hard and working together, we will accomplish great things and, of course, celebrate our successes along the way. Come this 4th of July, our Nation will celebrate our 250th anniversary (semi-quintennial), and Redmond will come together to celebrate this remarkable milestone with festivities and shine as a community. Big things are being planned, and we are all working together to make it happen. Our success is because of our unique Redmond spirit and our attitude of positivity and enthusiasm.

This year will be another year of success for Redmond, and we will rise to meet any challenge that comes our way with our Redmond spirit. Redmond is the place to be.

visitredmondoregon.com

The Redmond Chamber of Commerce is actively bringing business and community together, fostering a sense of place and celebrating successes all along the way.

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Business Organizations • Chambers of Commerce • Coaches & Consultants

SPECIAL SECTION

Chambers of Commerce *(Listed Alphabetically)*

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Number of Members	Number of Businesses	Business License	Services
Bend Chamber of Commerce 1567 SW Chandler Ave., Ste. 204 Bend, OR 97702	541-382-3221	541-385-9929	www.bendchamber.org info@bendchamber.org	Julia Keys, Lisa Nielsen	12	1926	N/A	1,716	Yes	Business is the lifeblood of any city & for Bend, no organization has supported the community's best interest longer than the Bend Chamber of Commerce. Since 1926, the Bend Chamber has supported its mission to be a vital strategic partner by creating resources & opportunities for member success, quality of life, engagement & meaningful impact. Our mission is simple; we provide a myriad of resources to help our business community grow & thrive in our ever-changing business landscape. From traditional Ribbon Cuttings to newer & more progressive programs such as Bend Emerging Talent, Leadership Bend, Commerce & Coffee, Biz & Bevs, What's Brewing & Bend 101, the Bend Chamber provides the tools & resources Bend businesses & the community needs to succeed.
La Pine Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center 51375 Huntington Rd. PO Box 616 La Pine, OR 97739	541-536-9771	541-536-8410	www.lapine.org director@lapine.org	Ann Gawith	3	1985	300	600	City of La Pine requires a business license, \$45.	Member referral service, business advocacy, <i>Newberry Country Trail Visitor Guide</i> , La Pine business map. Breakfast with the Chamber third Friday every month & After Hours events, business education opportunities, business listing on Chamber website, Greater La Pine Tourism Center.
Madras-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center 274 SW Fourth St. Madras, OR 97741	541-475-2350	N/A	www.madraschamber.com Director@MadrasChamber.com	Debbie Taylor	2	1964	150	450	Varies	Focused on enhancing the economic vitality & livability of this culturally diverse community. In doing that, we strive to be the hub of event information, local information, tourism & economic development. Weekly & monthly networking opportunities across the county. Chamber member information available in directory, on website & social media. The Crooked River National Grasslands office is in our office; therefore offers vast array of literature for tourism & recreation throughout Oregon.
Prineville - Crook County Chamber of Commerce 185 NE Tenth St. Prineville, OR 97754	541-447-6304	N/A	www.prinevillechamber.com info@prinevillechamber.com	Andrea Weaver, Deb Shaw, Kelsea Luebbens, Sheri Cleveland	4	1952	545	400	Nonprofit organization	Networking opportunities with other businesses, website directory, brochure display business referral services, representation before government, economic development assistance, information about community events, relocation, vacation packets, tourist assistance. Membership organization, networking opportunities, marketing opportunities, online directory, business referral service, economic development, visitor information center, business retention & expansion, liaison between business & government.
Redmond Chamber of Commerce & CVB 446 SW Seventh St. Redmond, OR 97756	541-923-5191	541-923-6442	www.visitredmondoregon.com info@visitredmondoregon.com	Eric Sande	4	1910	624	804	Business license membership required, call for details.	Weekly networking opportunities, directory listing, website listing, social media, brochure display, referrals, ribbon cuttings, After Hours, weekly Coffee Clatters, job postings, events, sponsorship opportunities, convention & visitor's bureau.
Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce 257 S Pine St., Ste. 102 PO Box 430 Sisters, OR 97759	541-549-0251	N/A	www.sisterscountry.com tun@sisterscountry.com	Tun Shergold, Judy Trego	3	1974	201	201	N/A	Business featured on sisterscountry.com, brochures, publications, marketing & promotion, newsletter, referral service, monthly socials & annual chamber-sponsored events.
Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce PO Box 3246 Sunriver, OR 97707	541-593-8149	N/A	www.sunriverchamber.com exec@sunriverchamber.com	Kristine Thomas	1	1986	225	300	None required.	Business referrals, promote members on the webpage, Sunriver Magazine, social media & two weekly newsletters, meet businesses one-on-one to discuss individual services, host networking events including Coffee Klatch, Sunriver Social Hour & Lunch & Learn; sponsor four Shop Sunriver events to promote shopping locally; work with businesses & nonprofit organizations to support their individual events; partner with La Pine Chamber of Commerce to host annual breakfast; membership directory on the website & in the <i>Sunriver Magazine</i> .

CBN has made every effort to ensure that all information is accurate and up-to-date. We cannot, however, guarantee it. Please contact us immediately if you know that certain information is not correct or you would like to be added to a list, 541-388-5665 or email cbn@cascadbusnews.com.



An Unwavering Commitment to the Sunriver Community

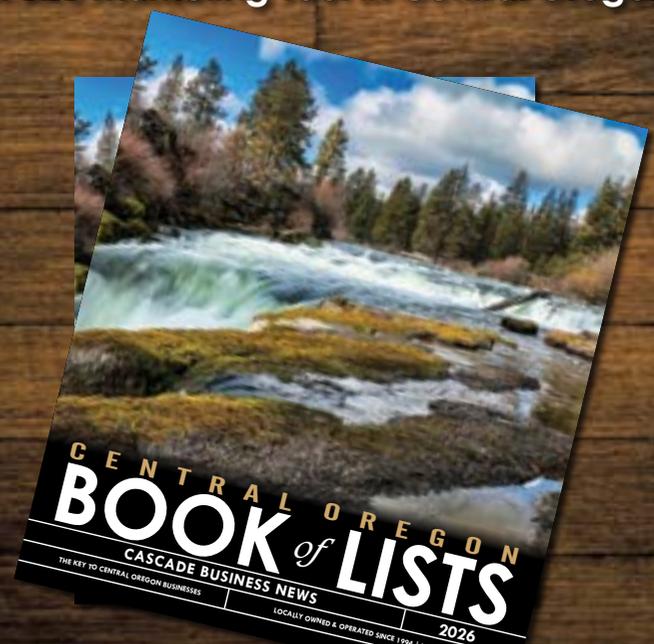
Educational Programs	Business Enrichment	
	Shop Sunriver Campaign	Advocacy
Networking Events		Business Referrals & Resources

Join our adventure by becoming a chamber member or volunteer.

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Looking Ahead

The Business Outlook for Bend in 2026

by **SARA ODENDAHL, CEO, Bend Chamber of Commerce**

As we enter 2026, businesses in Bend and Central Oregon are navigating a landscape defined by both promise and complexity. Our region continues to attract talent, investment and entrepreneurial energy. The Bend Redmond metropolitan area continues to be one of Oregon's strongest-performing economies and ranks among the nation's top small cities. In the Milken Institute's 2025 Best-Performing Cities report, Bend Redmond placed fourth, reflecting strong wage growth and expansion in the high-tech sector. At the same time, employers face real challenges that require thoughtful leadership, coordinated action and sound public policy.

One of the most important factors shaping business decisions is Oregon's overall business climate. Employers are paying close attention to legislative and regulatory choices that affect costs, compliance and long-term certainty. Policies that support economic growth, encourage investment and recognize the realities of operating a business are essential. Governor Kotek's creation of a Prosperity Council and the hiring of Central Oregon native and former State Senator Tim Knopp as chief prosperity officer signal meaningful progress. However, there is still work to be done to improve Oregon's reputation and business climate ranking among peer states. The Bend Chamber remains focused on representing our region's interests and advocating for balanced, practical solutions that allow businesses to plan with confidence.

The high cost of living continues to be a defining issue for our workforce and our economy. Housing affordability remains a top concern, alongside rising costs for healthcare, childcare and basic consumer needs. These pressures affect employees' quality of life and directly impact employers' ability to recruit and retain talent. Addressing affordability requires sustained collaboration among businesses, nonprofits and government partners, with strategies that



reflect local conditions and long-term needs.

Economic uncertainty also influences how businesses approach growth. Interest rates, construction and leasing costs, labor availability and supply chain stability all play a role in expansion decisions. Some companies are moving forward with new investments, while others are taking a more cautious approach. Flexibility and careful planning are increasingly important as businesses adapt to changing market conditions.

Climate change is another factor shaping the future of our regional economy. Wildfire risk, water availability, extreme weather and infrastructure resilience all carry economic implications. These challenges affect insurance costs, workforce safety, tourism and long-term development planning. Building resilience will require proactive thinking, shared responsibility and a willingness to adapt. Preparing for uncertainty is now a core part of doing business in Central Oregon.

Technology and workforce trends continue to evolve as well. Employers are adjusting to new tools, changing skill requirements and shifting employee expectations. While innovation presents opportunities for increased productivity and efficiency, it also requires ongoing investment in training and adaptation.

For a century, the Bend Chamber has served as a voice for business, helping employers navigate change and opportunity. As we celebrate our 100th year, we remain focused on strengthening Oregon's business climate, advancing affordability solutions and supporting resilience amid economic and environmental uncertainty. Looking ahead, collaboration will be key to ensuring Bend remains a place where businesses can grow, employees can thrive and our community stays strong.

bendchamber.org

In the Milken Institute's 2025 Best-Performing Cities report, Bend Redmond placed fourth, reflecting strong wage growth and expansion in the high-tech sector.



Where Bend's Business Community Connects & Thrives



Sara Odendahl
CEO



Talena Barker
VP of Leadership Development



Garrett Jaenicke
Director of Marketing & Member Services



Emily Boyd
Government Affairs Manager



Robin Cooper Engle
Sponsor Relations Lead



Chris Hart
Leadership Programs Manager



Shelley Junker
Membership Lead



Julia Keyes
Operations Manager



Ande Munro
Accounting & Data Specialist



Lisa Nielsen
Marketing Lead



Colleen Prinster
Events Lead



Kathleen Quinney
Events & Programs Coordinator



Helping your business grow
By enabling key networking connections.



Assisting with employee retention by offering health insurance
Through the Bend Chamber Association Health Plan.



Convening with key entities to tackle important issues
Such as workforce housing & the lack of affordable child care.



Driving customers to you
Through powerful SEO at BendChamber.org.



Advocating for Bend businesses
At the city, county, state & federal levels.



Developing Leadership Programs & Events
To support your staff in their professional growth.

Get connected. Get growing.
Visit us today at [BendChamber.org!](http://BendChamber.org)

Collaboration Key to Assisting Local Businesses

by **KRISTINE THOMAS, Executive Director — Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce**

Partnerships are essential to fulfill the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce's mission to "promote and enhance the economic vitality of the Sunriver community."

There are many examples of how the chamber works with its partners for the benefit of community members who live, work and play in the Sunriver community and South Deschutes County.

The chamber is grateful for its partnership with the La Pine Chamber of Commerce. Both chambers understand the value of collaboration to support their chamber members and have planned an event designed to provide information on how to stay competitive in Oregon's current business climate.

The Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce and La Pine Chamber of Commerce invite business leaders and community members to attend the annual South Deschutes County Breakfast from 7-9am Thursday, February 26 at SHARC. Guest speakers are:

- Deschutes County Commissioners Patti Adair, Phil Chang and Tony DeBone
- Oregon Business & Industry President & CEO Angela Wilhelms
- Regional Business Alliance Project Manager Jennifer Stephens
- Visit Central Oregon President & CEO Scott Larson

Tickets are \$40 per person. To purchase tickets, visit lapine.org/tickets-2 or email exec@sunriverchamber.com.

Throughout South Deschutes County, people from various backgrounds are gathering to respectfully discuss the business climate in Central Oregon and how they can work together to address challenges from workforce readiness to graduation rates and public safety to the environment. The chamber's partners include Sunriver La Pine Economic Development, La Pine Chamber of Commerce, Newberry Regional Partnership, Regional Business Alliance, Deschutes County, Visit Central Oregon and chambers of commerce in Central Oregon. The overall objective is to support vibrant communities where people can achieve their goals.

There's always room at the table for community members and business

leaders eager to contribute to the vitality of the Sunriver. If you are interested in learning how, email exec@sunriverchamber.com.

Upcoming chamber events:

- The fourth annual Career Exploration Lunch is 11am-1pm Thursday, May 14 at SHARC. Middle school students from Three Rivers School in Sunriver and La Pine Middle School. Mentors are invited to share conversations with students and answer questions about their careers. The objective for the lunch is for students to start thinking about careers and what path they would need to follow to achieve their goals. To review the list of mentors needed, visit sunriverchamber.com and search for Career Exploration Lunch.
- The fourth annual Sunriver Saturday Market is from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays, May 30, June 27, July 25, August 29 and September 26 at SHARC. Follow the market on Instagram.
- Second annual Sunriver Oktoberfest is on Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26. Activities include a putt putt golf tournament fundraiser, Sunriver Saturday Market, fun runs, music, food, beer and games. Visit sunriverchamber.com for details.

Five ways to support the Sunriver Chamber

1. Support chamber members by shopping and dining locally or hiring a member for home projects and more.
2. Subscribe to the weekly electronic newsletters by emailing exec@sunriverchamber.com.
3. Attend a chamber event.
4. Follow the chamber on Facebook and Instagram.
5. Become a chamber member. Learn the benefits of being a chamber member by emailing exec@sunriverchamber.com.

sunriverchamber.com

The Unseen Engine

How Chambers of Commerce Fuel Modern Business Growth

by **TURI SHERGOLD, Membership & Marketing Coordinator — Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce**

Happy 2026 and welcome to the 52nd year the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce is proudly serving the businesses of Sisters Country and Central Oregon. Including the charming town of Sisters, Black Butte Ranch, Suttle Lake, Camp Sherman, Aspen Lakes Golf Course and Hoodoo Ski Area, Sisters Country is where Central Oregon starts, a destination like no other.

In an era of rapid technological shifts and global economic complexity, the Chamber of Commerce remains a critical pillar for local and national business stability. Often misunderstood as merely a social club for networking, the modern Chamber has evolved into a high-impact advocate and resource hub that directly influences a company's bottom line.

1. A Unified Voice in the Halls of Power

One of the most significant roles a Chamber plays is acting as a legislative watchdog. Small businesses often lack the resources to lobby government officials individually; the Chamber provides a collective voice to advocate for pro-growth policies, such as tax relief, regulatory reform, and infrastructure investment. For 2026, many Chambers are prioritizing national standards for AI regulation and addressing workforce shortages to ensure businesses can compete in this complicated environment.

2. Credibility in a Skeptical Market

Trust is the currency of modern commerce. Research indicates that consumers are **63% more likely to purchase** from a business that is a member of its local Chamber. This "halo effect" provides instant third-party credibility, signaling to the community that a business is stable, professional, and committed to local economic health.

3. Strategic Networking and "Curated" Connections

The days of generic "speed dating" mixers are giving way to more intentional,

action-driven networking. Modern Chambers use their staff and board members as "connectors" to facilitate behind-the-scenes introductions between businesses, lenders, and potential partners. This targeted approach helps entrepreneurs find the specific collaborators they need.

4. Professional Development for the Future

To help members stay relevant, Chambers have become educational hubs. Whether your business needs workshops on generative AI adoption, workforce retention strategies, or navigating evolving tax laws, the Chamber can help link you to these resources.

5. Community Events

The Sisters Chamber produces and promotes events in Sisters Country. The Sisters Harvest Faire is always the second weekend of October. For more than 40 years, the annual Sisters Harvest Faire has been bringing together artists and visitors from all over the Northwest. It is an opportunity for the Sisters community to enjoy a weekend of art, live music, and great food. In 2025, the Sisters Chamber added the Sisters Country Spring Faire to the Mother's Day Weekend at Black Butte Ranch. Other main events in Sisters Country include the annual Sisters Rodeo, Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show and Sisters Folk Festival.

As businesses face the uncertainties of 2026 from shifting trade policies to the rapid rise of automation, the Chamber of Commerce offers a resource for those businesses willing to engage.

If you are not already a Chamber member and would like to join, please contact turi@sisterscountry.com.

SistersCountry.com

Resilient, Resourceful & Moving Forward

by ANN GAWITH, Executive Director — La Pine Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center

Some in La Pine are saying this has been a crazy year all the way around... for business, the weather, the housing market, and so on. And I would agree it has been a roller coaster kind of year, but not so unprecedented. After 46 years of bending and rebuilding and weathering all types of "storms" myself while living in La Pine, I can say that folks here are nothing but resilient and flexible. If the "same ole, same ole" is what you want in life then La Pine is not for you.



Mild has been the operative word for the weather this entire year, and then we get a last-ditch wallop of extra cold to show us who is in charge... actually, more typical than not. Languishing might be a good word for the housing market this year... again not unprecedented. Slump might accurately describe the levels of retail sales this year, according to local businesses, but we have been there before. The trick is not to let it stop us in our tracks.

"A rising tide
floats all boats..."

~ Dan Varcoe

To This Point

This year, we have seen a tremendous increase in cottage businesses from bread baking to healthcare services. I see an uptick in smallish general contractors from building to excavating and so forth. There seems to be an increase in much-needed services such as appliance and automotive repair, computer and IT services, etc. Soon the City of La Pine will have completed its "business incubator" building in the Business Park and that will open much-needed space for small businesses to start up and grow. We have a brand new small manufacturing company in the business park.

It is all encouraging to us at the Chamber... as my friend Dan Varcoe always says, "A rising tide floats all boats..." couldn't be truer than when shaking off a less than exciting year. The best advice is to take a deep breath and keep moving forward. Change something up if you must, give up something that is just not working, tweak your strategy and focus on an emergence of some kind to give you a burst of new excitement in your day-to-day.

The La Pine Chamber is looking forward to focusing on a stronger and more active collaboration with the Sunriver Chamber. We are closely interwoven with our friends to the north, even as we have evolved into two very distinct communities over the years of growth. Together we are "South County..." watch for our "Turn Left, Turn Right" campaign as we show you the wise choices you can make for buying, recreating, health and wellness and so much more right here in our "neck of the woods!"

I say, Cheers to 2026 and our business and personal resilience... bring it on!

lapine.org

Jefferson County Outlook for 2026

by DEBBIE TAYLOR, Executive Director —
Madras-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce

When asked about the economic forecast for our region, the answer is simple: Jefferson County is growing at a paced-rate that is appropriate for our community. Ribbon cutting events welcome new businesses, childcare options have expanded, keys to new homes are being handed out, and Lake Billy Chinook continues to be a favorite destination with the hidden gem of Lake Simtustus being discovered.



Over the past two years, there has been a steady movement in leadership "leveling-up" our community. The transformation began almost immediately; within a week of my tenure, the Jefferson County Event Complex welcomed Bart Platt as Manager, breathing new life into our local fairgrounds as an event destination. Shortly after, the Madras Airport took flight under the guidance of local pilot Lorraine Martinelli as the airport and FBO manager. The momentum continued forward by significant leadership shifts: new director for EDCO and the Community and Senior Center, three new Madras City Councilors, Culver's first-ever City Administrator, and a County Commissioner filling a seat held for 16 years. These leadership changes are sharpening decisions toward a stronger future for Jefferson County.

As the Chamber adapts and levels-up information, events and tourism for our community, we have shifted our main networking opportunities to the following:

- **Coffee Cuppers:** Moved to Thursday mornings (8-9am) to ensure our members can network across the region in Redmond and Prineville on Fridays.
- **Taproom Talks:** Our monthly Business After Hours events have now evolved into quarterly professional social hubs in March, June and September, hosted at local taphouses.
- **Community Awards Banquet:** Our annual celebration of awards has moved to January, serving as a community-focused energy kickoff to the new year.

From local information to international exploration, our Chamber office remains a bustling hub for global travelers. Thanks to our unique partnership with the Crooked River National Grassland office — located right inside our building — we provide a one-stop shop for maps, road conditions and adventure recommendations for those exploring Jefferson County.

This year, we are not just welcoming tourists, we are becoming them. In partnership with Collette Travel, the Madras-Jefferson County, Redmond and Prineville Chambers are inviting you on a bucket-list journey to Northern Italy from September 24 to October 2, 2026. Imagine meeting at the Redmond Airport and letting the experts handle the rest of your transportation connections and hotel accommodations. From the canals of Venice and the rugged beauty of The Dolomites to the charm of Verona and Bassano del Grappa, this is an opportunity for you to explore the world together. Why not join our Chamber on this adventure and explore another region just as tourists do within Central Oregon?

Whether you commute through our county or recreate here on the weekend, we want you to know that delicious menus from restaurants, vibrant retail businesses and cozy resorts welcome you from Warm Springs, to the banks of lakes and rivers, to the golf course at Crooked River Ranch, to the headwaters of the Metolius River in Camp Sherman, to Stop, Stay, Play and Recreate in Jefferson County.

MadrasChamber.com



**More than a Chamber of Commerce ...
more than a Visitor Center ...
Come visit us today!**

- **Start your travel plans here in the Visitor Center!** We will show you how to visit "Oregon's Other Craters"! The new Visitor Guide is available now!
- **Shop our souvenirs and a wonderful selection of locally made gifts in the Made in La Pine Gift Store!**
- **The South County Shopper is created in house!** Your local source for business searching, classifieds and community news.
- **KNCP FM 107.3 - the place to find CLASSIC ROCK and unique shows in Newberry Country!**
- **La Pine Frontier Days Association- headquarters for the Annual Crab Feed and the best 4th of July in the State!**

51375 Huntington Road ~ next to La Pine Dental
mail: PO Box 616, La Pine, OR 97739
email: director@lapine.org
call: 541.536.9771

Business Organizations • Chambers of Commerce • Coaches & Consultants

SPECIAL SECTION

Coaches & Counselors *(Listed Alphabetically)*

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Coach	Certification	Services
Blue Sky Coaching, LLC 2900 NW Clearwater Dr., Ste. 200-90 Bend, OR 97702	541-647-7704	N/A	Angelikaolsen.com Angelika@AngelikaOlsen.com	Angelika Olsen	1	2019	Angelika Olsen	International Coaching Federation Certified	Support entrepreneurs, family businesses & individuals through challenging transitions. Meeting & event facilitation. Life coaching for individuals. Leadership workshops. Leadership development, executive coaching, facilitation.
Clear Lens Coaching 131 NW Hawthorne Ave., Ste. 112 Bend, OR 97703	541-318-0045	N/A	www.clearlenscoaching.com krayna@clearlenscoaching.com	Krayna Castelbaum	1	2010	Krayna Castelbaum, Conversation & Creativity Instigator Artist & Writer, MHS, CP	Certified Psychodramatist; Certified Transformational Coach	Transformational coaching for couples & individuals. Creativity playshops & more for groups & organizations.
Employment Transition Solutions, LLC 2017 NE Full Moon Dr., Ste. A-3 Bend, OR 97701	541-749-8763	N/A	www.employmenttransitionsolutions.com ETS@job4u.com	Cynthia Bene	1	2019	1	SHRM-SCP	Human resources consulting & inspirational speaking services.
ExecuFeed 320 SW Century Dr., Ste. 405 Bend, OR 97702	503-522-1150	N/A	www.execufeed.com feedback@execufeed.com	Matthew Jensen	3	2005	Matthew Jensen	Marshall Goldsmith Stakeholder Centered Coaching (MGSCC).	Organizational effectiveness, leadership development, executive coaching, corporate off-site retreats.
Gary A Einhorn Business Coach 2570 SW Newberry Loop Redmond, OR 97756	541-292-6177	N/A	www.garyeinhorn.com garyae@gmail.com	Gary Einhorn	1	2006	Gary Einhorn	Bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in Economics. Studied at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland & at the Leicester College of Technology in Leicester, England. Created, owned & managed 8 successful businesses beginning at age 12. I was awarded Greeter of the Year honors by the Ashland, Oregon Chamber of Commerce at their yearly Chamber awards dinner for my pro bono business assistance to the Chamber members. Spent 8 years as a member of Opportunity Knocks in Ashland, Oregon. Spent the next 10 years cofacilitating groups of entrepreneurs under my own version of peer discussion groups of business owners. This continues with Redmond Chamber Entrepreneurs.	Eclectic & holistic way of coaching & consulting. Focus is on the client primarily & business secondarily. Spent over 15 years in Toastmasters. Ability to critique client presentations, a unique skill to determine what my clients need & connect clients with the resources they need.
Golden Visions & Associates, LLC (GV&A) Bend, OR 97709	541-480-9929	N/A	www.GVAsuccess.com Ann@GVAsuccess.com	Ann Golden Egle	1	1998	Ann Golden Egle, MCC	Master Certified Coach, MCC; Emotional Intelligence (EI) Assessments Certification; Professional Coactive Coach (CPC); Professional Certified Coach (PCC)	Master level coaching for successful leaders, executives & elite professionals to flourish into higher levels of professional & personal success. Celebrating 28 years of practice in Central Oregon & boasting 100% client satisfaction. Member of the International Coach Federation.
Jennifer Starr, MCC, Radiant Star Enterprises 69229 Horse Shoe Sisters, OR 97759	206-852-5285	N/A	www.coachwithsoul.com jennifer@coachwithsoul.com	Jennifer Starr	1	2011	Jennifer Starr, MCC	Master Certified Coach (MCC) since 2010, Certified Mentor Coach (CMC) since 2009, Expressive Arts Practitioner 2012, Certified Coach since 2001, bachelor of arts in art & psychology.	Transformative coaching for individuals, entrepreneurs & leaders; coach trainer & mentor; focus on authentic presence, life vision/purpose, transformative leadership, live balance, creativity & joy.
Moementum, Inc. 1001 SW Disk Dr., Ste. 250 Bend, OR 97702	541-408-6654	N/A	www.moementum.com moe@moementum.com	Moe Carrick	4	2001	Moe Carrick	Master of science in organizational development.	We help leaders be good for people & build unbreakable cultures.
One Stop Writing Shop LLC Bend, OR 97701	866-839-BOOK (2665)	N/A	OneStopWritingShop.com linden@OneStopWritingShop.com	Linden Gross	1	2006	Linden Gross	N/A	Writing coach, book coach, writer, editor.
Relationship & Life Coaching & Weddings with Heart / Elope Bend since 1995 Bend, OR 97703	541-312-3393	N/A	www.weddingwithheart.com maryellencoaching@gmail.com	Mary Ellen Deckelmann	1	1995	Mary Ellen Deckelmann, MA, ABS	MA, ABS in organizational & relationship coaching, (systems thinking), life, mindfulness, family of origin & meditation. Master practitioner neurolinguistic programming, relational life therapy, non-violent communication, breathwork & compassion-based coaching.	Individuals & couples. Officiant: weddings, elopements, paper signings.
Schneider Coaching Central Oregon	971-227-3266	N/A	www.schneidercoaching.net schneidertrain@gmail.com	Jeff Schneider	1	2022	Jeff Schneider	N/A	Executive coaching, career trajectory coaching for salespeople, selling skills training & coaching, life coaching, business coaching for life coaches, bootcamps for life coaches, assessments for hiring & development, leadership development, communications training, negotiation training.
Spark Your Mindset LLC 811 NW Georgia Ave. Bend, OR 97703	541-280-7156	N/A	www.sparkyourmindset.com ali@sparkyourmindset.com	Ali Cammelletti	1	2013	Ali Cammelletti	TIGERS Leadership & Consulting	Team building, culture coaching, leadership coaching, sales training & keynote speaking. www.sparkyourmindset.com/snack-leadership.

Business Consultants

(This list is for companies that offer business advice on various issues, but are not specific to any other industry category. Listed Alphabetically)

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
10x Catalyst Groups 1001 SW Disk Dr., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97702	541-390-8610	N/A	www.10xGroups.com MichaelSipe@10xGroups.com	Michael Sipe	3	2014	Executive coaching & private advisory boards for Christian CEOs & business owners.
Ascend Financial Solutions LLC 1295 NW Promontory Dr. Bend, OR 97703	541-410-3875	N/A	www.ascend-financial.com belinda.afa@gmail.com	Belinda Britt Adler	1	2018	Financial consulting, business lending & bookkeeping.
Business Quality Management Services LLC 740 NE Third St., Ste. 3, #270 Bend, OR 97701	909-214-4418	N/A	bqmsllc.com Service@bqmsllc.com	Harry Lane	1	1993	Business Quality Management Solutions (ISO9001; AS9100) since 1993.
Cascadian Group, LLC 1001 SW Emkay Dr., Ste. 100 Bend, OR 97702	503-313-2334	N/A	www.cascadiangroup.info jmm@cascadian.online	Jason M. Moyer	1	2006	Venture development, executive management, M&A support, corporate strategy, business analysis, financial performance.
Clarity Talent Measurement 19151 NW Chiloquin Dr. Bend, OR 97703	541-719-8885	N/A	www.claritytalentmeasurement.com fred@claritytalentmeasurement.com	Fred M. Rafilson, Gail Klein	2	2023	Cutting-edge employment assessments designed for today's workforce. Unlock the potential of your organization with our state-of-the-science online talent assessments. Gain intelligent insights to effectively identify, select & develop top talent, leading to reduced turnover, improved diversity & increased employee productivity, satisfaction & morale.
CLASSY KEYS Computer Services, Inc. 20149 Lora Ln. Bend, OR 97702	541-317-1242	541-312-5280	www.ClassyKeys.com evelyn@classykeys.com	Evelyn Whitaker	2	1987	Intuit advanced certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor providing QB consulting, bookkeeping & customization solutions.
CrossPointe Capital 1001 SW Disk Dr., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97702	541-390-8610	N/A	www.CrossPointeCapital.com Mike@CrossPointeCapital.com	Michael Sipe	3	2004	Business sales, valuations, mergers & acquisitions.
Employment Transition Solutions, LLC 2017 NE Full Moon Dr., Ste. A-3 Bend, OR 97701	541-749-8763	N/A	www.employmenttransitionsolutions.com ETS@job4u.com	Cynthia Bene	1	2019	Human resources consulting & inspirational speaking services.
ExecuFeed 320 SW Century Dr., Ste. 405 Bend, OR 97702	503-522-1150	N/A	www.execufeed.com feedback@execufeed.com	Matthew Jensen	3	2005	Organizational effectiveness, leadership development, executive coaching, corporate off-site retreats.

When Working Harder Stops Working

by **MOE CARRICK, Founder — Moementum, Inc.**

Years ago, while working as a consultant inside fast-moving organizations, I held a role that kept me up late most nights. I wasn't failing. I was delivering. But I was also hustling, contorting, and constantly adapting myself to succeed inside a system that quietly rewarded behaviors at odds with how humans think and work.



I cared deeply about doing good work. Like many professionals, I assumed that if something felt hard, the answer was personal improvement. I pushed more, stayed later, and responded faster. From the outside, it probably looked like commitment. From the inside, it felt like shrinking.

I remember stepping away at times (standing somewhere wide open and quiet) and noticing how small my working world had become. My thinking had narrowed. My creativity was harder to access. Even my confidence, once steady, had begun to erode. I was expending enormous energy just to keep up, with little left for judgment or reflection.

At the time, I never questioned the system. I questioned myself. If only I communicated better. If only I responded more quickly. If only I were more organized, tougher, more detail-oriented. These quiet "if onlys" are familiar to all of us. We've absorbed a cultural belief that self-improvement is the solution to nearly every workplace problem.

When people burn out, we tell them to work on themselves. When teams struggle, we tell leaders to push harder. When results lag, we double down on motivation. The assumption is always that effort is the issue.

What that story misses is something fundamental: people do their work inside systems. Structures, relationships, expectations, and rhythms shape how effort turns into results. And many modern work systems quietly undermine the outcomes organizations say they want.

We design for speed, then act surprised when judgment suffers. We prize responsiveness but eliminate time for thoughtful decision-making. We push for output without sustainability, then struggle with churn, fatigue, and stalled innovation. Leaders compensate by carrying too much. Teams adapt by working around problems rather than fixing them, and the same issues resurface.

Over time, this pattern becomes expensive. Capable people spend energy compensating for poor design instead of creating value.

What experience has taught me is this: you can't self-optimize your way out of bad design. No amount of grit fixes unclear priorities or muddled decision rights. No productivity tool offsets constant interruption. No motivational speech repairs a system that depends on heroic effort.

Sometimes the real work isn't about trying harder. It's about stepping back far enough to see the whole pattern: how decisions move, where work gets stuck, and what invisible load people are carrying.

The organizations that perform well over time aren't powered by superhumans. They're built with intention. They design work so people can think clearly, collaborate effectively, recover between efforts, and apply sound judgment.

Better work doesn't begin with fixing people. It begins when leaders get curious about the systems they've built and redesign the path their people walk every day.

Moe Carrick is the founder of Moementum, Inc., a Bend-based consultancy that helps business owners design workplaces fit for human life. With over 30 years of experience, she advises organizations on leadership, culture, and the systems that shape how work gets done.

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Business Organizations • Chambers of Commerce • Coaches & Consultants

SPECIAL SECTION

Business Organizations *(Listed Alphabetically)*

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
Bend Outdoor Worx (BOW) 1950 NW Jack Lake Ct. Bend, OR 97703	541-815-9409	N/A	www.bendoutdoorworx.com gary@bendoutdoorworx.com	Miki Keller, Gary Bracelin	1	2014	Outdoor product accelerator for emerging outdoor brands.
Cascades East Association of Realtors 2112 NE Fourth St. Bend, OR 97701	541-382-6027	541-383-3020	www.coar.com info@coar.com	Casie Conlon	7	1973	Local level of National Association of Realtors. Trade association providing a wide variety of services to realtors as well as enforce realtors' code of ethics, advocate for private property rights, promote professionalism & education & mediation services.
Central Oregon Builders Association (COBA) 1051 NE Fourth St. Bend, OR 97701	541-389-1058	541-389-1545	www.coba.org timk@coba.org	Mandy Weidman, Tim Knopp	6	1972	Local Independent Builders Association, providing a wide variety of services to industry members: promoting ethics, standards & professionalism. Advocate for affordable housing.
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council 1250 NE Bear Creek Rd. Bend, OR 97701	541-548-8163	541-923-3416	www.coic.org coic@coic.org	Tammy Baney	111	1972	Provide education, employment, economic development, loans & transportation services.
Central Oregon SHRM PO Box 8375 Bend, OR 97708	541-693-4282	N/A	www.centraloregonshrm.org centraloregonshrm@gmail.com	Marielle Gallagher, Cindy Bene	0	1980	Local chapter of national association: education, networking & information on latest in human resource management.
Central Oregon Women in Construction	N/A	N/A	linkedin.com/groups/14719622 gobregon@bbtarchitects.com	Genevra Obregon, Heidi Slaybaugh	0	2025	Networking & support group for female professionals in architecture, engineering, construction, various trades & region-wide organizations.
City Club of Central Oregon 70 SW Century Dr., Ste. 100, Pmb 359 Bend, OR 97702	541-668-7642	N/A	www.cityclubco.org info@cityclubco.org	Amber Thacher	1	2007	Fostering an informed community through dialogue & education that enhances responsible civic engagement.
COCC's Small Business Development Center Cascades Hall, 2600 NW College Way Bend, OR 97703	541-383-7290	541-383-7503	www.cocc.edu/sbdc sbdc@cocc.edu	Agatha Ventura	10	1984	Confidential business advising at no cost, plus affordable workshops & training. Business planning assistance for all stages of business.
ConnectW PO Box 1242 Bend, OR 97709	541-410-1894	N/A	www.connectw.org info@connectw.org	Kathy Crager	0	1986	Creating community by connecting & empowering women in business & in life. ConnectW has provided networking opportunities for hundreds of Central Oregon women in their quest for growth, development & collaboration. Connect with us to learn more! Connectw.org
Cylvia Hayes 932 SE Douglas St. Bend, OR 97702	541-617-9013	N/A	www.cylviahayes.net info@cylviahayes.com	Cylvia Hayes	1	1999	Speaking, teaching & consulting services on Economic Evolution & the Living World.
Downtown Bend Business Association 916 NW Wall St., Gasoline Alley Bend, OR 97703	541-640-1790	N/A	www.DowntownBend.org admin@benddowntown.org	Rachel O'Rourke	3	1982	Promotes economic vitality by enhancing the experience, image & lifestyle of downtown Bend.
Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) 705 SW Bonnett Way, Ste. 1000 Bend, OR 97702	541-388-3236	541-388-6705	edcoinfo.com info@edcoinfo.com	Jon Stark	12	1981	EDCO is a nonprofit corporation supported by private & public members & stakeholders, whose mission is to create middle-class jobs in Central Oregon by recruiting new employers to move to the region; helping entrepreneurs start new, scalable businesses; & working with businesses that are already here to grow their operations.
Jillian Taylor Consulting 62813 NE Cranbrook Pl. Bend, OR 97701	503-860-7370	N/A	jilliantaylorconsulting.com jt@jilliantaylorconsulting.com	Jillian Taylor	1	2006	Business planning, executive coaching, retreat facilitation, OD consulting.
League of Women Voters of Deschutes County PO Box 1783 Bend, OR 97709	541-379-8572	N/A	www.lwvdeschutes.org zachlww@gmail.com	Karen Spears Zacharias/President	0	1961	Voter registration & outreach, ballot measure initiatives, candidate forums & community civic education events. A nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed & active participation in government. Influences public policy through education & advocacy.
Opportunity Knocks 302 SW Century Dr., #405374 Bend, OR 97702	N/A	N/A	www.opp-knocks.org info@opp-knocks.org	Client Services	1	1996	Peer mentorship for business owners, entrepreneurs & leaders.
Oregon Outdoor Alliance PO Box 1913 Bend, OR 97709	207-553-0462	N/A	www.oregonoutdooralliance.org admin@oregonoutdooralliance.org	Tyson Perkins	1	2014	Connecting & cultivating the outdoor industry in Oregon.
Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) 411 SW Ninth St., Ste. 203 Redmond, OR 97756	541-923-5223	N/A	www.rediinfo.com steve@rediinfo.com	Steve Curley	3	1988	In collaboration with EDCO, REDI helps manufacturing & technology-based companies locate or expand in Redmond. REDI provides assistance with extensive local data, facility location, financial incentives & loans, the permitting process & workforce training.
Redmond Executive Association (REA) PO Box 1930 Redmond, OR 97756	541-410-2572	N/A	www.redmondexec.org angelaboothroyd2016@gmail.com	Angela Boothroyd, Secretary	0	1987	Creating a network of information beneficial to the success of our members & to be an independent advocate on issues affecting the Redmond community. Founders of Redmond's Annual REA Crab Crack held the first Saturday of February in downtown Redmond.
SCORE Central Oregon PO Box 6416 Bend, OR 97708	541-316-0662	N/A	www.ScoreCentralOregon.org www.ScoreCentralOregon.org	James Darcey	0	2003	Volunteer, nonprofit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs & helping small businesses start, grow & succeed nationwide.
Soroptimist International of Bend 60945 Onyx St. Bend, OR 97702	541-815-4173	N/A	www.sibend.org j.m.swander@gmail.com	Jan Swander	0	1943	A global volunteer organization that provides women & girls with access to the education & training they need to achieve economic empowerment.
Visit Bend 750 NW Lava Rd., Ste. 160 Bend, OR 97703	541-382-8048	541-382-8568	www.visitbend.com info@visitbend.com	Customer Service	13	2002	Strives to make Bend as sustainable as possible. Works together with local organizations, residents, visitors, agencies & business partners to achieve vision for a sustainable community - one that prioritizes economic, social & environmental health while addressing the needs of all community members.
Visit Central Oregon 57100 Beaver Dr., Bldg. 6, Ste. 130 Sunriver, OR 97707	541-389-8799	N/A	www.visitcentraloregon.com info@visitcentraloregon.com	Customer Service	13	1971	Nonprofit, regional tourism destination marketing management organization. Programs include marketing, advertising, public relations, the official CO <i>Visitors Guide</i> , website visitor information, regional visitor information center. Responsible for advertising, marketing, promotion & public relations programs to position Central Oregon as a nationally competitive, year-round visitor destination.

Business Consultants

(This list is for companies that offer business advice on various issues, but are not specific to any other industry category. Listed Alphabetically)

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Exemplar Wealth Advisors (formerly Rosell Wealth Management) 550 NW Franklin Ave., Ste. 368 Bend, OR 97703	541-385-8831	541-385-8832	www.XMPLR.com emma@xmplr.com	Emma James, David Rosell	5	2001	Selling your business isn't just a transaction. It's a life shift. Our signature 6% Advantage process was created to minimize taxes, enable you to exit with confidence & clarity & walk away with the financial freedom you've worked so hard to earn. We dig into six key areas of opportunity: timing, tax minimization, family legacy, asset protection, personal investments, purpose.
Guardian CFO 720 SE Business Way, Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97702	541-330-0690	N/A	www.guardiancfo.com info@guardiancfo.com	Paul Colburn	3	2001	Bookkeeping, organizational review, QuickBooks consulting, process review, audit support, sale or purchase of business, IPO support, software selection & implementation, CFO Services.
Guardian Group 1900 NE Third St., Ste. 106 #40 Bend, OR 97701	800-380-8913	N/A	www.guardiangroup.org contact@guardiangroup.org	Andrea Lowe	5	2010	Mission is to prevent & disrupt the sex trafficking of women & children in the United States.
Haaga & Associates 20468 Powder Mountain Ct. Bend, OR 97702	503-803-0012	N/A	d.haaga@comcast.net	Douglas Haaga	3	1987	Financial intermediary & management consultant to closely held businesses including restructuring, refinancing, accounting & administrative organization, M&A, planning, special projects & interim management.
Moementum, Inc. 1001 SW Disk Dr., Ste. 250 Bend, OR 97702	541-408-6654	N/A	moementum.com info@moementum.com	Moe Carrick	4	2001	Advise CEOs to get their top team aligned & connected, build trust & ignite a culture where people thrive & results take off. Moementum provides: team alignment, culture building, leadership capacity, coaching, events/speaking/facilitation.
Rafilson & Associates 19151 NW Chiloquin Dr. Bend, OR 97703	773-255-9532	N/A	www.rafilson.com Fred@Rafilson.com	Fred M. Rafilson	2	2014	Industrial & organizational psychology, personnel assessment, educational research & business operations. Personnel selection; expert witness services; evaluation of adverse impact & fairness in personnel selection programs; development, validation & administration of employment examinations for both private & public sector organizations & more.
TIGERS Success Series 19464 Summerwalk Pl. Bend, OR 97702	541-385-7465	N/A	www.corevalues.com info@corevalues.com	Dianne Crampton	2	1987	Comprehensive TIGERS 6 Principles work culture assessment, micro-training, leadership & group development services. We train coaches, consultants & your employees to use our proprietary resources & methods to build an agile & collaborative work culture & high-performance teams for sustainable business growth with measurable ROI.
Vistage International 1001 SW Disk Dr., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97702	541-390-8610	N/A	www.vistage.com Michael.Sipe@VistageChair.com	Michael Sipe	3	2004	Executive coaching & private advisory boards for CEOs & business owners.
Your Business Chaos Sorter Bend, OR 97701	541-802-5789	N/A	businesschaosorter.com amanda@businesschaosorter.com	Amanda Bedell	6	2021	Financial management, profit acceleration, operational strategic planning, bookkeeping, payroll & tax services.

CBN has made every effort to ensure that all information is accurate and up-to-date. We cannot, however, guarantee it. Please contact us immediately if you know that certain information is not correct or you would like to be added to a list, 541-388-5665 or email cbn@cascadebusnews.com.

ConnectW Harnesses Networking & Collaboration to Attain Business Success

by **ANDREA HINE** — CBN Feature Writer

Fifty percent of my local business comes from ConnectW. I can't imagine a better investment in terms of time and money," said a member of the Bend-based networking group that — for four decades — has blended "the worlds of fun, networking, and marketing" to help ensure that "its members thrive in both their professional endeavors and personal journeys."

Encompassing a wide range of industries in its membership roster — including retail sales, health care, banking and finance, computing, marketing, printing, real estate, law, insurance, personnel and business services — ConnectW, in the words of its current president, Bobbie Bashian, is "a collaborative group where no woman stands alone, fostering teamwork and mutual support."

The focus of the nonprofit since its founding, networking is a critical component in attaining business success, as authorities like *Success* magazine attest.

Networking's key benefits include:

- Identifying new sales opportunities and potential clients;
- Building partnerships;
- Staying updated on industry trends, best practices, and emerging technologies;
- Providing access to valuable resources including mentorship and advice;
- Increasing visibility; and
- Fostering personal development through exposure to new perspectives and ideas.

Interestingly, however, the two sexes view networking differently. Men often take a transactional approach to networking, focusing on exchanging resources, leads, and business opportunities in a direct manner, *Forbes* magazine asserts. Their conversations tend to be goal-oriented, emphasizing mutual benefits and professional achievements.

In contrast, women are more likely to network with the goal of mutual support and empathy, rather than immediate professional gain, according to a study by the *Harvard Business Review*. This empathetic approach fosters deeper, more meaningful connections, as long-time ConnectW member Patricia Nelson can attest. As attorney and owner of Two Spruce Law, "I have enjoyed meeting other businesswomen and making life-long friendships. The programs are engaging and the networking is the best value for me," she has commented.

In serving its membership of "hard-working, inspiring, entrepreneurs," as ConnectW's website praises, the organization prides itself on providing — in addition to networking events — "business marketing opportunities, mentorship programs, educational workshops, friendship and fun."

Mixing "business with pleasure," ConnectW holds three events a month: the Monthly Meeting that serves as the group's primary business gathering and includes a speaker addressing topics such as improving productivity or enhancing communication interpersonal skills; a Munch and Mingle lunch in Bend or Redmond; and Cocktail Connection (held in a member's store front, office, home or restaurant). As one member commented: "Our business group and social network can't be beat."

Other local business networking opportunities are offered through groups such as Bend Business Networking, Bend Business Group, Deschutes Business Networkers, Deschutes Women in Business, and Bend Social Co., which provides a weekly events calendar that helps individuals navigate the local networking milieu.

And moving from the local to the state picture, Oregon's networking scene is growing, fueled by a surge in new businesses and supported by established groups like the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network (OEN), and regional organizations such as EDCO in Central Oregon that connect founders to mentors, investors, and resources, with events ranging from large conferences to focused industry meetups, reflecting a statewide focus on innovation and collaboration.

As *Forbes* magazine sums up, "In today's hyper-connected world, success is rarely a solo endeavor. While hard work and expertise are fundamental, they're often not enough to reach the highest levels of achievement. Relationships — who you know and who knows you — are often the real catalysts for career and business growth."

ConnectW has tapped into this truth since 1986. As its website affirms, "Through our shared journey, we've witnessed the transformative power of collaboration," making the organization — according to board member Ginger Weeden — "a driving force for professional business women and women entrepreneurs in Central Oregon."

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LRS Architects announces that **Janice Sanada** has been named president, effective January 14. Sanada succeeds Trish Nixon, who has served as president since 2019 and will remain with the firm, transitioning her focus toward talent development and the ongoing professional growth of LRS teams. Additionally, Nixon will continue to lead the Multi-Family Housing Studio.

Sanada joined LRS in 2003, was named principal in 2013, and became managing principal in 2021. In her new role, she will lead the execution of the firm's long-term strategic goals, guide day-to-day operational alignment, drive team development and champion design excellence across studios, while maintaining continuity for clients and project teams.

The leadership transition is part of the firm's succession and strategic planning, creating additional capacity for growth initiatives and innovation while preserving the firm's core values and leadership style. With Sanada

overseeing operational and strategic responsibilities, Nixon will be able to invest more time in mentoring, professional development programs and cultivating emerging leaders across the firm.

Sanada brings more than 30 years of experience and deep expertise leading complex projects, with a focus on senior living and life plan communities, including independent living, assisted living, memory care and nursing environments. A University of Oregon graduate, she is a LEED Accredited Professional and a licensed architect in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Maryland, Arizona and Texas. She is also a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Society for the Advancement of Gerontological Environments (SAGE), and the International Code Council Health Care Committee.

LRS Architects also announces the promotion of **Amy Smith** and **Alex Karel** to principal and **Magda Gerencer** and **Eric Kern** to associate, effective in January 2026.

Smith is a registered architect and LEED AP who joined LRS in 2002. With over two decades at LRS and a primary focus in senior living, Smith brings extensive design technology expertise and a deep understanding of designing spaces centered on the end-user experience. Drawing on her background at LRS, Smith mentors designers and coordinates stakeholders to ensure every project achieves the highest standards of functionality, compliance and long-term value. She excels at balancing design considerations with technical requirements throughout the design process, ensuring all projects meet the highest standards of functionality and compliance. Smith received her master of architecture from Washington State University and a bachelor of arts in architecture from Portland State University.

Karel is a registered architect who has been at LRS for over a decade, and his interests include emerging design technologies and new tools to support the design process. His background includes projects in the firm's commercial, office, retail, entertainment and civic sectors for clients in Oregon, Washington, California and Alaska. Karel leads by empowering teams to deliver innovative and efficient design solutions. His broad, multi-sector experience enables him to guide projects with clarity and adaptability, ensuring high-quality outcomes across diverse building types and client needs. His notable new construction, expansion and renovation projects include more than 20 prestigious auto showrooms, as well as county and federal buildings, religious buildings and commercial buildings. Karel received a bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Oregon.

Gerencer is a seasoned project manager and LEED AP BD+C who joined LRS in 2014. With over 30 years of experience in architecture and leading diverse projects across the Pacific Northwest, Gerencer has established herself as a trusted advisor on projects ranging from large-scale master planning to specialized industrial facilities. Gerencer has managed an impressive portfolio of high-profile projects spanning Oregon, Washington and California. She is committed to creating accessible housing solutions that contribute to economic development, public infrastructure and community vitality across the region. Gerencer received her master of architecture and Urban Planning from Warsaw University of Technology.

Kern is a registered architect and has been at LRS for over four years, contributing to the firm's project delivery and design excellence. Kern has distinguished himself through his expertise in drawing production and consultant coordination, playing an integral role in the firm's Bend office. During his time at LRS, Kern has provided oversight on a multitude of projects from multifamily to affordable housing, car dealerships to hotels, and office buildings. A University of Colorado Boulder graduate and former designer at GL3 Architects, Kern brings both technical precision and a thoughtful design sensibility shaped by his international upbringing in England and Australia, cultivating a unique perspective on how cultural context and spatial design influence human interaction.

The **Deschutes Land Trust** announces its 2026 cohort of Emerging Conservationists of Central Oregon (ECCO). The second annual ECCO cohort includes 25 individuals from throughout Central Oregon who bring a wide variety of skills, expertise and passion for conservation to the Land Trust.

Emerging Conservationists of Central Oregon, or ECCO, is a Land Trust program that works to engage millennials and connect early- and mid-career professionals with opportunities for community leadership growth. ECCO

members donate 10-15 hours of their time a year and serve for one year with an option to extend their service for an additional two years.



Central Oregon nonprofit **Heart of Oregon Corps** welcomes four new members to its Board of Directors this year.

Derek Donovanik of First Interstate Bank brings deep financial experience, supporting Heart of Oregon Corps' long-term sustainability. **Kathleen Quinney** from the Bend Chamber offers valuable insight into regional business needs and workforce development. **Lindsey Galloway** of Abbott contributes business expertise and a passion for human services, while **Susie Browne** of Washington Federal Bank adds extensive experience in banking, community investment and fiscal stewardship.

Heart of Oregon Corps also confirmed its 2026 board officers. **Susan Harrison** begins her second year as Board president, joined by **Greg Weilert** in his second year as vice president. **Tim Rusk** enters his fourth year as Board treasurer, providing continued financial leadership. The organization also shares that **Lindy Levinson** of Hayden Homes, after serving a year on the Board of Directors, has stepped into the role of Board secretary, bringing a fresh perspective along with demonstrated leadership, thoughtful engagement and strong organizational skills to the officer team.

These volunteer leaders will play a critical role in guiding Heart of Oregon Corps through an important year ahead, as the organization prepares to open the region's first youth workforce development campus in fall 2026 — expanding opportunities for young people to build skills, careers and lasting connections in Central Oregon.

The **Central Oregon Symphony** announces its Winter Concert Series, a perfect way to warm the season with inspiring orchestral performances. This year's series is especially meaningful as it marks Maestro Michael Gesme's final winter at the podium, celebrating his artistic leadership and lasting impact on Central Oregon's musical community.

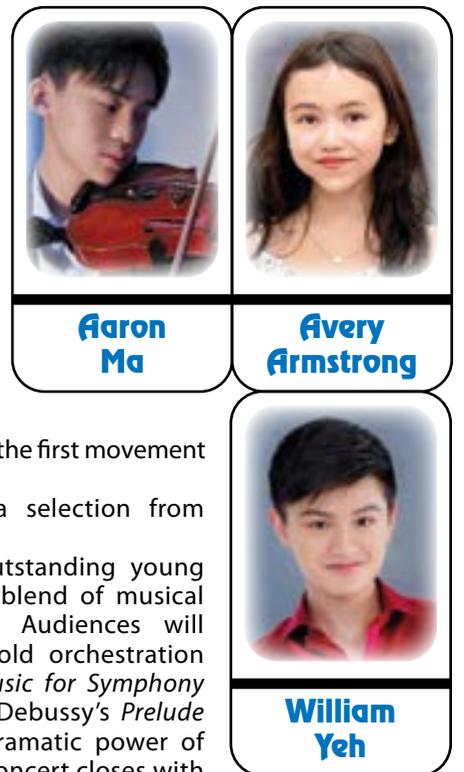
A highlight of the concerts will be performances by the 2025 Young Artist Competition winners:

- **Aaron Ma**, violin, performing the third movement of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor
- **Avery Armstrong**, piano, performing the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3
- **William Yeh**, violin, performing a selection from Bruch's Scottish Fantasy

In addition to showcasing these outstanding young soloists, the program offers a vibrant blend of musical voices across time and geography. Audiences will experience the rhythmic drive and bold orchestration of Yasushi Akutagawa's *Finale from Music for Symphony Orchestra*, the dreamlike sensuality of Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, and the dramatic power of Beethoven's *Lenore Overture No. 3*. The concert closes with Arturo Márquez's *Conga del Fuego Nuevo*, an irresistible celebration of rhythm and Latin American spirit.

This concert series will take place at Mountain View High School on February 14 at 2pm and 7:30pm and again on February 15 at 2pm, with a livestream option available.

A newly awarded \$2,187,923 grant to **Central Oregon Community College** from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education — one of just 22 such grants designated for colleges and universities nationwide — will be used to develop short-term certificates for manufacturing technology with regional workforce needs in mind.



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

Who's Who
Continued from previous page

The award comes from the agency's Supporting Capacity-Building for High-Quality Short-Term Programs grant division, and will help COCC create new stackable short-term certificate pathways, seven in all, that are aligned with skill specifications from local industry. Among the new certificates: entry level fabricator, structural steel welder, CNC (computer numerical control) operator and industrial maintenance.

Several Central Oregon employers will be integrated into the process — impacting curriculum design and internship development, among other things. Industry partners include Outback Manufacturing, BasX Solutions and Nosler.

Beyond designing new credentials and reinforcing relationships with workforce partners, the funds will support hiring faculty and staff, purchase equipment and technology, and improve data systems for Pell eligibility and student outcome tracking; the new certificates will meet new federal Workforce Pell Grant requirements. The trainings will be backed by a range of student support systems, such as career counseling, financial aid navigation and job placement assistance.

COCC has worked with local nonprofit agencies Economic Development for Central Oregon and Redmond Economic Development to facilitate the involvement of area employers.

The grant comes as COCC is preparing to fully remodel its existing training center at the Redmond campus, adding more than 13,000 square feet of workspace. Classes and labs will continue during construction; completion is

expected as early as winter term 2027.

The award period began January 1 and runs to the end of 2029. Anticipated outcomes include the enrollment of 250 students in the new certificate programs, with at least 85% of students completing one certificate and 30% completing multiple certificates. Additionally, 75% of completers are anticipated to enter manufacturing jobs, with some 34 students expected to complete industry internships, across seven different employers.

Bend Chamber welcomes **Emily Boyd** as government affairs manager. Boyd's work is guided by a simple but powerful goal: to uplift others. Her experience across political, nonprofit and literary spaces has shaped a deep commitment to community, collaboration and advocacy.

Born and raised in Eagle, Colorado, Boyd developed an early passion for politics that led her to study political science at the University of Colorado Boulder (Go Buffs!). She went on to gain experience in Washington, DC and San Francisco, California before returning to Colorado in 2018 to work on political campaigns. Between campaign seasons, Boyd embraced life as a ski bum — an adventure that ultimately led her to meet her husband, Matt.

In 2022, she and Matt made the intentional leap to Bend, arriving sight unseen, and quickly fell in love with the community. She is grateful for the opportunity to call Bend home and to contribute to a place that so strongly values connection and quality of life. Outside of work, you'll find Boyd snowboarding, paddleboarding, walking the canal trail with her dog, Ragtag, or happily immersed in a good book.



Businesses Serving Community

BOTTLEDROP

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC), operator of the BottleDrop network, recently announced that it distributed a total of \$75,000 to support 12 nonprofits providing food assistance to Oregonians during the 2025 holiday season. In total, \$21,360 was donated by customers, and OBRC's

Emergency Fund matched all donations made through January 1, 2026, plus contributed additional funds to round out the total amount. Central Oregon's NeighborImpact and The Giving Plate were among the nonprofits that each received \$6,250 from this fundraising event.

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

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

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Send a high resolution head shot and a short, 100- to 150-word writeup to CBN@CascadeBusNews.com to be seen in the next edition of *Cascade Business News*.

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SELCO Community Credit Union Now Accepting Applications on for Annual Scholarship Program

by ZACK HALL

SELCO Community Credit Union began accepting applications on February 1, for nearly \$80,000 in SELCO Steps Up scholarships. The application window will remain open through Tuesday, March 31.

SELCO will award 20 eligible students with a \$3,500 scholarship. Additionally, one Lane County student will receive the \$7,500 Richard Metzler Opportunity Scholarship, awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in education, leadership, or civic responsibility despite adversity or a lack of opportunity.

In all, SELCO will award \$77,500 in scholarships to eligible students, which include high school seniors planning to attend an accredited two- or four-year college, as well as vocational, continuing, and nontraditional students. Graduate students are not eligible.

Now in its 36th year, SELCO's scholarship program is part of the SELCO Steps Up philanthropy initiative that the credit union launched in 2024. In 2025 alone, SELCO reinvested nearly \$415,000 in the communities it serves through educator grants, scholarships, and impact-driven sponsorships, while SELCO team members committed nearly 1,700 volunteer hours.

Whether it's support for students or teachers, many of the Steps Up programs seek to address issues in education. SELCO's scholarship program aims to address the cost of school, which is the most often cited barrier for those who wish to attend college but don't. SELCO's scholarships can also be used for any educational-related expense, so they are uniquely suited to help students meet the demands of rising educational costs.

Ethan Amato, a University of Oregon freshman from North Bend, earned a SELCO scholarship in 2025 and is now studying pharmacology. He said that the scholarship has "helped relieve the stress" of meeting educational costs.

"It was a huge sigh of relief when I found out I'd received the SELCO scholarship," said Amato, who also helped found UofO's first-ever Pharmacy Club for future pharmacists and serves as the organization's co-president. "The scholarship has really helped relieve the burden of paying for college—not just for me, but for my parents as well."

To qualify, applicants must:

- Plan to attend a vocational school or an accredited two- or four-year college/university.
- Be a SELCO member or an immediate family member of a SELCO member. SELCO membership is open to anyone who lives or works in one of the 27 Oregon counties SELCO serves.
- Have earned a GED or a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher from a four-year accredited high school.

SELCO's Scholarship Panel will review each application, and funds will be released to scholarship recipients by the end of June. The Richard Metzler Opportunity Scholarship winner will be selected from Lane County applicants. Prospective students are asked to apply online at selco.org/scholarships by March 31.

selco.org/steps-up • selco.org • 800-445-4483

Oregon Adaptive Sports Hosts 19th Annual Heroes Weekend at Mt. Bachelor

by EMMA FLYNN, Development & Marketing Coordinator — Oregon Adaptive Sports

Oregon Adaptive Sports will host its 19th annual Heroes Weekend January 29 through February 1, 2026, at Mt. Bachelor. Heroes Weekend welcomes Veterans and active-duty service members with disabilities for a multi-day adaptive skiing and snowboarding program focused on access, shared experience, and time on snow.

Athletes are supported by Oregon Adaptive Sports' trained staff and volunteers and use specialized adaptive equipment matched to a wide range of abilities and experience levels. For many participants, Heroes Weekend is as much about who they ski with as it is about being on the mountain.

"We come to the Heroes Weekend with Oregon Adaptive Sports every chance we get," Long-time attendee Dennis Hooper shared. Living in a home with two veterans, opportunities for both veterans to participate together do not happen often enough. Events that get us both out of the house are great fun and create lasting memories for all."

Heroes Weekend is part of Oregon Adaptive Sports' long-standing commitment to

serving Veterans through adaptive recreation. The program prioritizes participants who face barriers to accessing outdoor sports, including those who are new to adaptive skiing and snowboarding.

The event is made possible through the support of dedicated volunteers, community partners, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Move United, and Mt. Bachelor, which has served as a core winter partner for Oregon Adaptive Sports for decades. OAS also is excited to enhance the weekend through a partnership with the Tributary Foundation who will be providing wellness activities after skiing.

Heroes Weekend: adaptive skiing and snowboarding for Veterans and active-duty service members with disabilities, through February 1 at Mt. Bachelor, Bend.

Additional information about Heroes Weekend and Oregon Adaptive Sports programs is available at oregonadaptivesports.org.

oregonadaptivesports.org

Rimrock Trails Announces Availability of 2026 Kiefer Leutschaft Memorial Scholarships

by DARLEEN RODGERS, Community Engagement Coordinator — Rimrock Trails Treatment Services

Four \$2,500 scholarship opportunities are available to seniors from Redmond High and Crook County High Schools who are interested in pursuing higher education in psychology, behavioral health, addiction studies, psychiatry, social work, and related fields. Students are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. The top student applicants from Redmond High and Crook County High School will be selected. The application submission deadline is March 3. Students interested in learning how to apply for this scholarship may contact Jenna Meinig at Redmond High School (jenna.meinig@redmondschools.org) and Sarai Swenson at Crook County High (sarai.swenson@crookcountyschools.org).

This scholarship is made possible through the Kiefer Magical Legacy Fund and managed by Rimrock Trails, a Central Oregon provider of mental health and substance use counseling services. The Kiefer Magical Legacy Fund was established by the Leutschaft family of Redmond following the death of their son, Kiefer.

Kiefer Leutschaft was a beloved son, brother, and friend. He grew up in Redmond and attended Redmond High School. He later graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in Economics. He had close friends and a loving family, but

he struggled with debilitating anxiety that eventually led to clinical depression. Kiefer lost his battle with mental illness on October 3, 2021, leaving his family and friends devastated. From that devastation, the Leutschaft family found the strength and determination to establish the Kiefer Magical Legacy Fund.

"Due to the stigma often attached to mental health issues, Kiefer masked his feelings as a coping strategy," said Kiefer's mother Julie Leutschaft. "Our family wants to eliminate the stigma and get people to talk about the importance of mental health. This is why we have partnered with Rimrock Trails, a nonprofit organization that provides mental health services for children, teens, young adults, and their families."

Rimrock Trails is deeply rooted in the communities of Central Oregon and extends its impact through collaborations, partnerships, and educational initiatives. By raising awareness about behavioral health issues and reducing stigma, the organization aims to foster a more compassionate and supportive society for all. Through its outreach efforts, including the Kiefer Leutschaft Memorial Scholarship opportunity, Rimrock Trails aims to inspire positive change beyond its treatment facilities.

rimrocktrails.org



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“BAT”-ten Down the Hatches This Winter to Prevent Wildlife Conflicts

provided by **THINK WILD CENTRAL OREGON**

Winter is the most effective time to prevent wildlife conflicts before they start. With many species less active, homeowners have a limited opportunity to address entry points, complete humane exclusions, and install habitat features that reduce conflicts before spring nesting and activity increases.

Think Wild encourages property owners to schedule humane wildlife services during the winter months to avoid emergency situations later in the year. Addressing problem areas now helps prevent animals from establishing nests or dens in structures and ensures that safe alternative habitat is available when wildlife activity ramps up.

Think Wild offers humane, non-lethal wildlife services grounded in an understanding of natural history and seasonal behavior. Services that can be scheduled and completed this winter include onsite consultations, site assessments, humane exclusions, flicker damage solutions, raptor perches, nest box installation, and beaver conflict mitigation tools such as water flow devices and protective fencing. Site visits and installations start at \$80, with full quotes provided following consultation.

“All of our work is non-lethal and grounded in an understanding of wildlife and different species’ natural history,” said Jake Sandler, wildlife services coordinator at Think Wild. “By working with seasonal behavior and species needs, we can make recommendations and prevent conflicts in a way that is safer, more effective, and better for humans and wildlife in the long run.”

Bat work requires special timing. Bat exclusions cannot legally be performed between June 1 and August 30, when young bats are unable to fly. Scheduling bat assessments and exclusions outside of this window is critical for bat conservation and compliance with wildlife protection laws. Winter planning helps ensure this work is completed before restrictions are in place.

Humane exclusion techniques focus on making properties less attractive or accessible to wildlife while providing alternative options elsewhere. Removing outdoor food sources such as pet food and bird seed, securing trash, sealing holes and crawl spaces, reducing shelter like wood piles and debris, and using lighting or other deterrents can dramatically reduce wildlife conflicts. These methods are effective, long-lasting, and environmentally responsible.

Think Wild does not trap or relocate wildlife. Relocation is harmful to animals, illegal for most native species, and does not solve the underlying causes of conflict. Extermination is not a permanent solution either. Humane exclusion offers safer, lawful, and more effective alternatives for both people and wildlife.

Think Wild can assist with conflicts involving bats, flickers, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, small mammals and rodents, deer, rattlesnakes, geese, and beavers. Nest boxes and habitat features can also be installed to provide safe



PHOTO | COURTESY OF THINK WILD CENTRAL OREGON

alternative shelter and encourage natural pest control by native predators. Think Wild offers and installs boxes for flickers, bats, songbirds, and small raptors, as well as raptor perches and osprey nest platforms.

Property owners are encouraged to act now while wildlife activity is low. To learn more or schedule a consultation, community members can fill out Think Wild’s Wildlife Services contact form, and staff will follow up to schedule a consultation or installation.

Taking preventative action this winter helps protect homes, reduce stress on wildlife, and create safer coexistence year-round.

About Think Wild:

Think Wild is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in Bend. Our mission is to inspire the High Desert community to care for and protect native wildlife through education, conservation, rescue, and rehabilitation. We provide veterinary treatment and care at the wildlife hospital, staffed by expert wildlife rehabilitation staff, animal husbandry volunteers, and our staff veterinarian. We also provide wildlife habitat installations, native plantings, and wildlife education programming for youth and the community, and can help with conflicts with wildlife. Wildlife injuries can be reported to our Wildlife Hotline at 541-241-8680, which is monitored seven days a week from 8am-4pm.

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2026 Marketing Guide



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RD M PreCheck

Continued from page 3

The enrollment process is quick, convenient, and even faster when the application is completed online beforehand. During the in-person appointment, applicants are required to provide identity and citizenship documents, fingerprints and a photo will be captured, and then pay for the application fee. IDEMIA offers TSA PreCheck enrollment for \$76.75 and if approved, travelers get a five-year membership with the program.

For a limited time, take advantage of our family-friendly offer: enroll with a family member and they'll receive \$15

off. With families larger than two, the promotion still applies — for example, a family of four can save \$30 when everyone enrolls together.

Following the in-person enrollment appointment, most applicants receive their Known Traveler Number (KTN) in about three to five days. The KTN number must be added to flight reservations to enjoy TSA PreCheck benefits.

TSA PreCheck was created in October 2011 as a way to provide low-risk travelers with a smoother experience through airport security. It's a great option for travelers looking to save time. Enrolled members have access to TSA PreCheck dedicated screening lanes at over 200 participating U.S. airports nationwide, and 99% of members wait ten minutes or less in a screening lane.

TSA PreCheck passengers travel with ease and keep their shoes, belts and light jackets on and keep laptops, 3-1-1 liquids and food items in their bags.

"Redmond Municipal Airport is committed to making travel as smooth and stress-free as possible for our passengers," said Zachary Bass, airport director for Redmond Municipal Airport. "TSA PreCheck is a great way to save time and enjoy a more convenient security experience. We're excited to bring these enrollment events to our community and encourage travelers to take advantage of this opportunity."

If you are unable to make the Redmond Municipal Airport enrollment event, but are still interested in enrolling in the TSA PreCheck Application Program, please complete the application

online and schedule an appointment at one of IDEMIA's 500+ enrollment centers nationwide. To get started visit: tsaenrollmentbyidemia.tsa.dhs.gov. For more information on the TSA PreCheck program, visit tsa.gov/precheck.

The Redmond Municipal Airport is currently served by five air carriers offering 30 direct flights. The main terminal is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Amenities include a public side children's play area, free book exchange and gift shop, post-security passengers will find a nursing room, family-friendly restaurant and a full-service bar open daily from 5:30am to 6pm.

flyrdm.com
tsa.gov/precheck
na.idemia.com

Dudley's Bookshop

Continued from page 3

stopping in, and discovering us. That happens naturally down there."

Dudley's and the Old Mill District have been in conversation for more than two years about this opportunity. According to Beau Eastes, Marketing Director at the Old Mill District, both sides recognized a strong alignment between the district's walkable layout and the foot-driven-traffic Dudley's receives at its Downtown Bend location.

"We've long felt that a bookstore

would be a great fit here," Eastes said. "It's a category we don't currently have, and Dudley's will add a different flavor to the district. We're excited to welcome a locally owned business that people naturally want to wander into while they're shopping, walking the river, or spending the day down here."

For Beans, the expansion has been years in the making. He purchased the downtown Bend bookstore in 2015 and has since seen both the city and the independent bookstore scene evolve dramatically. In fact, he sees the store's growth as part of a broader cultural shift away from tech.

"People are tired of screens,"

Beans said. "There's a real push-back happening. Analog is back. You see it with books, with vinyl, with people wanting to slow down a little. Supporting local businesses matters to people in this town, and that energy has been huge for independent bookstores."

While still in the planning phase, Dudley's co-owner and manager Amy Rose said she anticipates the satellite store will carry mostly newer books, with a curated selection designed for the smaller footprint. Expect more face-out displays, rotating feature titles, staff recommendations, and a strong emphasis on Pacific Northwest topics and authors, she added. Dudley's in

the Old Mill District will focus almost exclusively on books initially and not feature an espresso bar like its downtown location.

The space itself will reflect the Old Mill District's industrial roots. Beans and Rose plan to reuse reclaimed materials in the buildout, including old brick and scrap metal, as a nod to the site's history.

"There's a certain feeling when you walk into a bookstore," Rose said. "That sense of nostalgia, comfort, and curiosity. Our goal is for people to feel that the moment they step inside, whether they planned to stop in or not."

dudleysbookshopcafe.com
oldmilledistrict.com

Heart of Oregon Corps

Continued from page 3

address workforce shortages driven by the "silver tsunami" of retiring baby boomers while strengthening the long-term economic vitality of Central Oregon communities.

"Central Oregon Builders Association sees Heart of Oregon Corps as a vital, long-term solution to the challenges we face — from workforce shortages to housing affordability," said Ron Wanless, the chair of COBA's Workforce Advisory Board. "By investing in

young people who want to learn the trades, we are investing in the future builders, craftspeople, and professionals who will sustain Central Oregon. We're proud to partner with Heart of Oregon Corps and invite the business community to step up alongside us in the months ahead."

Now, Heart of Oregon and COBA will collaborate to offer a jam-packed slate of highly visible events and opportunities for campus campaign corporate donors to be recognized for their generous gifts.

Corporate partners are encouraged to make their commitments online by March 1, 2026 to maximize impact and recognition. Early gifts will help keep

construction debt at bay and will signal a strong, visible commitment to Central Oregon's workforce, youth and economic future.

"We are so grateful to all our existing campus donors, and to all the new partners who will join us on this journey in 2026," said Laura Handy, executive director of Heart of Oregon Corps. "We cannot thank COBA enough for stepping forward as a partner to help us cross the finish line and open the doors on time and on budget in September 2026!"

Businesses can learn more and make a corporate contribution at hoccampus.org/donor-benefits.
heartoforegon.org

Kernutt Stokes

Continued from page 3

challenged, and empowered to grow."

Kernutt Stokes, the fourth largest CPA firm in Oregon, is a full-service accounting and business consulting

firm established in 1945 with offices in Eugene, Bend, Corvallis, and Lake Oswego. The firm was named one of the "100 Best Companies to Work for in Oregon" by *Oregon Business* magazine in 2026, 2025, 2023, and 2021, and one of the nation's top 50 accounting firms of 2022 and 2025 by *INSIDE Public Accounting*. Kernutt Stokes has 13

partners, 68 accounting professionals, and more than 95 employees. The firm specializes in privately held and family-owned companies in construction, manufacturing, transportation, beverage, and professional services. In addition to core accounting services, the firm provides virtual accounting, 401(k) plan administration, business

valuation, retirement planning, business consulting, and other services. Kernutt Stokes is an independent member of BDO Alliance USA, a nationwide association of independently owned local and regional accounting, consulting, and service firms with similar client service goals.

kernuttstokes.com

East Cascades Works

Continued from page 3

placement, and long-term career advancement.

Applicants may submit proposals to one or both of the following:

WIOA Title I-B Youth Services

The Youth Services RFP will outline expectations

for delivering comprehensive programming for youth ages 16–24, including individualized case management, essential skills development, work-based learning and internships in partnership with local employers, and a full year of follow-up services.

WIOA Title I-B Adult and Dislocated Worker Services

The Adult and Dislocated Worker RFP will focus on partnering with local employers and industry and on career coaching, job search assistance, industry-aligned training opportunities, supportive

services, and integrated service delivery through WorkSource Oregon.

Visit the EC Works website for full RFP details and submission instructions.

East Cascades Works is an equal opportunity employer. Alternate formats are available to individuals with disabilities upon request. Language services are available at no cost to individuals with limited English proficiency upon request.

eastcascadesworks.org

COCC

Continued from page 3

In addition to social media campaigns, promotional pieces and other advocacy efforts, the college is sending a group of COCC students, faculty and staff to Salem to participate in the state's Feb. 18 CTE event at the Capitol, where community colleges from across Oregon are sharing CTE-focused demonstrations and program information.

COCC is also holding a Manufacturing

and Trades Job Fair from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Redmond campus's Technology Education Center, to connect job-seekers with employers and help with career exploration. This is a free, drop-in event for the community. For more information, visit cocc.edu and search for "jobfest."

CTE commonly refers to technical, hands-on, high-skill training programs that come with a one-year certificate or two-year associate degree. COCC has over 25 CTE programs available, all designed to provide technical skills in specific areas. Presently, more than

27% of COCC's students are declared CTE majors.

"Career and technical education paths are relatively short-term while leading to well-paying occupations," said Julie Downing, instructional dean at COCC. "Graduates from our programs find their passion and bring real strength to their community."

Those who concentrate on CTE educations beginning in high school are more likely than their peers to be employed full time and have higher median annual earnings eight years beyond graduation, according

to the Association for Career & Technical Education.

Recent investments in CTE educations at COCC include a \$2.18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to develop new short-term certificates in manufacturing technology, as well as the expansion of the college's Madras campus, now bringing four on-site CTE programs, in health care and early childhood education, to that location.

cocc.edu/programs

Central Oregon Business Calendar

Email Your Upcoming Business Events to CBN@CascadeBusNews.com
 Event Details at CascadeBusNews.com/Business-Events

BUSINESS EVENTS

- February 4**
6pm City of Bend Virtual and In-Person City Council Business Meeting at Bend City Hall Council Chambers.
- February 5**
11am-1:30pm EDCO Annual Luncheon at the Riverhouse Lodge, Bend.
- February 5**
11:45am-1pm ConnectW Munch & Mingle at Feast Food Co.
- February 5**
4:30-6:30pm City of Bend 15th Street and Ferguson Road Roundabout Project Open House at Larkspur Community Center.
- February 6**
8-9am Prineville Chamber Perk at Thistle & Nest.
- February 10**
4:30-5:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Downtown Library.
- February 12**
11:45am-1pm ConnectW Munch & Mingle at Currents at The Riverhouse.
- February 12**
5-7:30pm Bend Chamber Bend 101 at Deschutes Brewery Mountain Room.
- February 15**
1-4pm New Each Morning Juniper House Grand Opening and open house at The Juniper House Sober Living, Bend.
- February 17**
6-8pm Skeptoid Media Nerd Night Science Trivia at Worthy Brewing Company Eastside.

- February 18**
5:30-8pm ConnectW Monthly Networking meeting at Bledsoe Winery.
- February 18**
7-8:30pm Deschutes Land Trust Virtual Nature Night, Caring for Our Rivers and Streams with Jason Grant.
- February 20**
8-9am Prineville Chamber Perk at Prineville Chamber.
- February 24**
4:30-5:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Downtown Library.
- February 26**
7-9am Annual State of South Deschutes County Breakfast at SHARC, Sunriver.
- February 26**
Prineville – Crook County Chamber Annual Awards Banquet.
- March 10**
8-9:30am Bend Chamber Commerce & Coffee at Kirby Nagelhout Construction.
- March 10**
4:30-5:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Downtown Library.
- March 24**
4:30-5:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Downtown Library.

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

- (Ongoing)**
COCC Small Business Development Center Virtual Classes.

DESCHUTES COUNTY 1.20.26 & 1.27.26

- \$35,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) at 60316 Arnold Market Rd. Bend 97702 OR Owner: Verizon 60316 Arnold Market Rd. Bend, OR 97702
Builder: M & A Contracting, Inc. 503-931-3895 Permit # 247-25-001046
- \$25,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) at 70400 McAllister Rd. Sisters 97759 OR Owner: Verizon PO Box 2629 Addison, TX 75001
Builder: Legacy Telecommunications, LLC 253-858-0214 Permit # 247-25-007320

CITY OF BEND 1.20.26 & 1.27.26

- \$8,750,683.00 - Commercial (New) 44,051 sf. at 2790 NE Conners Ave. Bend 97701 OR Owner: Mosaic Community Health Builder: Skanska USA Building, Inc. 973-753-3579 Permit # PRNC202502588
- \$2,500,000.00 - Commercial (Addition) 30 sf. at 1005 NW Galveston Ave. Bend 97703 OR Owner: Bend Bakery, LLC
Builder: Wolf Construction & Development, LLC 541-668-0990 Permit # PRAD202503662
- \$2,148,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 1,661 sf. at 35 NW Portland Ave. Bend 97703 OR Owner: City of Bend PO Box 431 Bend, OR 97709
Builder: Emery & Sons Construction Group, LLC 971-216-0050 Permit # PRRE202501786
- \$2,094,909.00 - Commercial (New) 657,521 sf. at 20881 NE Triton Pl. Bend 97701 OR Builder: Mortenson Construction 503-397-9054 Permit # PRNC202505672
- \$35,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 35,000 sf. at 62700 Awbrey Butte Bend 97703 OR Owner: Multiple Builder: Summit Solutions Group, LLC 360-360-0333 Permit # PRRE202507794
- \$14,500.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 360 sf. at 63085 18th St. Bend 97701 OR Owner: East Empire Bend, LLC Builder: Sunwest Builders 541-548-7341 Permit # PRRE202508834
- \$5,200,000.00 - Commercial (New) 4,647 sf. at 62257 NW Costco Dr. Bend 97703 OR Owner: Costco Wholesale Corp.
Builder: Pacific Northern Environmental, LLC 360-423-2245 Permit # PRNC202503770
- \$400,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 3,410 sf. at 2230 NW Labiche Ln. Ste. 150 Bend 97703 OR Owner: Shevlin Crossing, LLC Builder: Sunwest Builders 541-548-7341 Permit # PRRE202507166

CITY OF REDMOND 1.20.26 & 1.27.26

- \$182,611.00 - Commercial (Alteration) at 4633 SW 37th St. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: Green Leaf Cypress, LLC 127 Spring St. #200 Pleasanton, CA 94566 Permit # 711-25-002209
- \$10,000.00 - Commercial (Tenant Improvement) 1,327 sf. at 2605 SW 1st St. Redmond 97756 OR Builder: Rawhide Equities, LLC 541-410-1056 Permit # 711-25-002220



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Town & Country

January Art Walks

Bend // Redmond // Sisters

Photos by Laurie Pittmon and courtesy of Dry Canyon Arts Association



(L-R, T-B) Bill Lind, Wendy Jacobs Wheeler and Elizabeth Margeson ~ Brad Earl ~ Brad Harrison ~ Bret Rakestraw and Brenda Wheeler ~ Carol Picknell ~ Caroline Stratton ~ Casey and Claudia Callan
Cody Clark ~ Craig Kilpatrick ~ Cullie Treichler ~ Dan Rickards ~ Diane Farquhar ~ Donny and Lisa Engles ~ Erin Skeer ~ Gabriel Eikeren ~ Glen and Barbara Bates ~ Heather Fortune
Jay Lowndes with customer ~ Jeff and Cindy Shivers ~ Joanne Muchille ~ John Boroski and Made Yudiatmika ~ Josie Colovos ~ Kathleen Branch ~ Kathleen Branch, Helen Schmidling and Bonnie Malone
KC Snider with customer ~ Kerri Abney ~ Kevin Courter ~ Kevin Krueger ~ Kevin Szczublewski and Carly Williams ~ Laurel Werhane with Ella Boardman ~ Lori and Lisa Lubbesmeyer
Lucas and Bill McEuin ~ Michael Weisker ~ Ray Ann and Ned Webster ~ Renaissance Sisters ~ Rick Thompson ~ Riley Howard and Max Pittmon ~ Scott Thomas ~ Vincenzo Barraco ~ Wendy Birnbaum