



The Wealth Strategy
Nobody
Talks About

— Page 5

Enhancing & Promoting the Economic Vitality of Central Oregon Since 1994

Sonja Anderson Named 2026 Enterprising Women Award Winner

by TODD ANDERSON, Executive Director —
zö agency



SONJA ANDERSON

Sonja Anderson, owner and agency director of zö agency, was recognized as a winner of the 2026 Enterprising Women of the Year Awards, an annual tribute to the world's top women entrepreneurs. Anderson will be recognized at the 24th Annual Enterprising Women of the Year Awards Celebration & Conference for her leadership in the Over \$1 Million Sales category. The event brings together dynamic women from around the world to share business insights, expand their networks and deepen mentoring commitments. It was held from March 8-10, 2026, at The Ritz-Carlton in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Sonja Anderson is an accomplished business owner and leader in her field," said Monica Smiley, CEO and publisher of *Enterprising Women*. "We are so proud to recognize her contribution to her company, her community and as a role model and mentor to other women and girls."

Anderson started zö agency right here in Bend in 2013, and their office and studio are located in downtown Bend. Her mission has been to "Champion the Changemakers" and to give voice and recognition to those who are making their communities more accessible, compassionate, and livable for all. She has worked with many of Central Oregon's premier businesses during the last 13 years, as well as city, county and state organizations, including the City of Bend, Deschutes County Fair, Deschutes County Library and Homelessness in Deschutes.

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Water in Central Oregon Analysis on Current Levels & Conservation Efforts

by NOAH NELSON — CBN Feature Writer

It's no secret that winter did not supply Central Oregon with the same snowpack that it normally does. With record-breaking fire seasons and hot weather occurring more often than ever recorded, there is obvious concern about snowpack and water levels as the region moves into the warmer months of spring and summer.

With an uncharacteristically dry and warm winter, snowpack levels in the nearby mountain ranges are historically low. In the Cascades just west of Bend, the snowpack sat between 38 percent and 26 percent of yearly averages. In the Ochocos, the situation is worse, with extremely low-flow predictions for the Prineville and Ochoco Reservoirs; Prineville is predicted to be 18 percent of its average spring and summer levels.

Across the region, lakes, rivers and any other waterways are going to be affected. Sami Godlove, the Central Oregon field associate for Oregon Wild, spoke about how conditions like these can impact a region for years. "In the years to follow, we rely pretty heavily on the snowpack

from winter and spring to recharge our aquifers," he said. "Major droughts or low snow levels, such as these, can lead to drought that lasts more than one summer, and sometimes even for years into the future. That will be felt by everyone, from fish and wildlife who rely on water quality and quantity for survival, to farmers who need irrigation to farm."

If low levels continue, it is completely possible that water availability for cities like Bend will be affected. Recreation could see a decline with lower water levels in the Deschutes National Forest, affecting the many lakes and waterways that drive tourism.

Jeremy Austin from Central Oregon LandWatch added that the water situation is worse for certain water rights. "The Deschutes basin for surface water was allocated by 1914. One hundred years later, we have some entities with senior water rights, and some entities with junior water rights, like rivers and streams. In times of scarcity, those more junior water rights are impacted heavily."

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Environmental Spotlight — Pages 9-25

NFlight Soars with Premium Camera Mounts, Cockpit Recorders & Headsets for the Aviation World

by JEFF SPRY — CBN Feature Writer

Serving all your private or professional aviation needs in the communications and audio-visual arenas, NFlight Technology provides a solid lineup of FAA-compliant camera mounting systems, avionics recording cables, prop filters, and cockpit recording systems for general aviation aircraft.

Pilot-owned and operated since 2010, NFlight operates locally for full tech support out at the Bend Airport courtesy of one of the firm's key members, Kris "Jaymo" Jamieson.

"We really focus on schools, flight training, and then people who just want to record themselves like YouTubers and TikTokers and aviation Instagram influencers," Jamieson tells CBN. "They all use our stuff. Basically, it's cockpit recorders and camera mounts, and also a modular headset system. We're the only company out of all the biggies, like Bose, that produces a modular headset system of microphone and headphones that are designed for the modern pilot. For the traveling ATP (Aircraft Transport Pilot) flying passengers all over the country.

"Our system is modular so you can use the headset

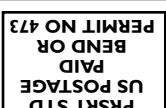


JAYMO JAMIESON | PHOTO COURTESY OF NFLIGHT

outside of the cockpit and you'll have a pair of nice headphones you can use to watch movies, sit in the terminal and listen to music, jog on a treadmill, or take a walk on the beach."

NFlight was started up in Alaska by Patrick Carter, a career aviation enthusiast and close friend of Jamieson, whose camera and microphone equipment were installed on Carter's planes. He and another friend, Hunter Clark, all came together with Carter being the primary founder and lead engineer, thereby combining everyone's skills to allow the company to

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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR REAL ESTATE STORY IS APRIL 8

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Elk Vintage to Open Vintage Boutique in Old Mill District's Little Red Shed

A new vintage clothing shop is planning to bring fresh energy to one of the Old Mill District's oldest spaces. Elk Vintage, a locally owned boutique curated by Bend residents Jeni Gallacher and Andria Hattenhauer, will open its first brick-and-mortar store this spring inside the Little Red Shed. The "shed" is a 400-square-foot building on the south end of the district near City Home that dates to the early days of the Brooks-Scanlon mill and once housed fire hose equipment.

For Gallacher and Hattenhauer, this setting feels like a natural fit. "We had seen the Red Shed before and thought, 'That would be the perfect spot,'" said Hattenhauer. "It's the right size for what we want to do, and the fact that the building itself has history makes it even more special."

Continued on Page 19 ▶

REVOLVR Menswear Announces Plans to Open Second Location in Bend's Old Mill District this Spring

A well-known name in Bend's retail scene is expanding to the Old Mill District. REVOLVR, the boutique men's clothing retailer that has operated a successful store in downtown Bend since 2015, will open a second Bend location in the Old Mill District this spring. The new shop will operate from the space formerly occupied by Francesca's and is expected to open in early May.

and Jon Davis, REVOLVR specializes in contemporary men's apparel and accessories, curating a mix of casual, everyday styles and elevated wardrobe staples. The Old Mill District store will offer a similar experience to its downtown location, though inside a more compact footprint.

At roughly 1,500 square feet the Founded by Bend residents Christine

Continued on Page 30 ▶

Powered by Tourism

Visit Bend Grants \$500,000 to 11 Impactful Community Projects

From replacing hundreds of thousands of single-use items at food cart pods and events to building one of the only adaptive cycling centers on the West Coast, 11 local projects will receive funding through the 2026 Bend Sustainability Fund (BSF), a key grant program in Visit Bend's broader destination-stewardship strategy that ensures tourism continues to support the long-term health of our community.

• **Central Oregon Trail Alliance** will install "ride-over" cattle guards at the Cline Butte / Cascade View trail system, removing barriers for all cyclists, including adaptive riders.

• **Mt. Bachelor** will upgrade Sunrise Lodge so adaptive skiers can move between

Continued on Page 31 ▶

Vero Fiber Announces Expanded Fiber-Internet Service for Bend

Vero Fiber is excited to announce its expanded fiber-internet service in Bend, bringing residents and businesses a new and transparent choice for high-speed broadband. Following the company's acquisition of BendTel in late 2025, Vero Fiber is investing in local infrastructure and enhancing the reliability and reach of fiber-optic connectivity throughout the community.

customer-first pricing model. The company does not use promotional pricing that increases after a few months. Instead, all customers are grandfathered into the price and speed they sign up for, providing long-term pricing stability with no surprises.

"As we build on the foundation established through our acquisition of

Vero Fiber sets itself apart from other providers with a straightforward,

Continued on Page 30 ▶

Ethos Commercial Advisors Opens Bend Office Welcomes Managing Director Ryan Norwood, CFA

Portland, Oregon-based Ethos Commercial Advisors (Ethos), announces that Ryan Norwood, CFA, has joined the firm as managing director to lead its expansion into Bend, further strengthening the firm's capital markets platform across the Pacific Northwest. Norwood brings two decades of institutional investment and capital markets experience.

hires who align with our approach and bring institutional-level expertise," said Josh Bean, SIOR, executive managing director at Ethos. "Ryan is exactly that. His principal's perspective and deep capital markets experience immediately enhance our ability to serve clients."

"Ethos has built a reputation for thoughtful, execution-focused

"We have been deliberate about growing the firm through strategic

Continued on Page 30 ▶

Weston Technology Solutions Joins with Velonex Technologies

Velonex Technologies is excited to announce the acquisition of Weston Technology Solutions, a respected managed IT services provider (MSP) with over 31 years of experience supporting clients across Alaska and Oregon. This acquisition strengthens Velonex's commitment to delivering comprehensive technology solutions and exceptional service to

businesses nationwide.

"We are incredibly excited to partner with Brock and the Weston team," said Elliott Edge, CEO of Velonex. "Their commitment to high-quality customer service and operational maturity will strengthen Velonex while allowing

Continued on Page 30 ▶

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Flaggers will be used to support traffic management during active construction. To reduce daytime disruptions, night work will take place May 11-22, 2026. Immediately before the roundabout opens to traffic, a full weekend closure will occur on June 6-7, 2026 to complete final paving and tie-in work.

Work will include utility installations and roadway improvements to complete all roundabout connections. Up to six construction phases will be used to limit traffic impacts. This project is part of the City's Eastside Arterial Project and will improve long-term traffic flow and connectivity on Redmond's east side.

This is a busy area. The City asks drivers to consider potential delays when traveling in the vicinity. The roundabout is tentatively scheduled for completion in the fall of 2026. Traffic impacts and detours will be captured on the City's Road Closures and Delays map, which can be found at redmondoregon.gov/trafficimpacts.

Construction updates, detour information, and phase schedules will be shared as work progresses. For more information about the Eastside Arterial Project please visit the website at redmondoregon.gov/eastsidearterial.

The City of Redmond's Commission for Art in Public Places (RCAPP) announces a call for Oregon artists to submit digital images of original two-dimensional paintings for art display at Centennial Park. Selected artworks will be enlarged into five-by-five-foot ACM (Aluminum Composite Material) panels and displayed outdoors for approximately two years. Two artists will be chosen — one for each side of a two-sided display structure — offering a prominent large-scale showcase of their work in the heart of downtown Redmond. Interested artists and artists teams will want to review the Request for Proposals (RFP) available online at redmondoregon.gov/CalltoArtists and submit their proposal(s) before 11:59pm PDT April 30, 2026.

America 250 Theme

This year's display honors America 250, the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Artwork should reflect themes connected to the American experience — its diverse histories, landscapes, cultures, shared values, or community spirit. Artists are invited to interpret the theme broadly and creatively, expressing what "American" means through their own artistic perspective. The project strengthens Redmond's growing public art collection and offers residents and visitors an engaging way to experience local creativity in the heart of downtown. The 2-D display is located at Centennial Park, located on the north side of Evergreen Avenue between Seventh and Ninth Streets, directly across from Redmond City Hall.

For more information about the RFP or RCAPP, visit redmondoregon.gov/RCAPP or contact RCAPP Liaison Cory Murray at 541-504-3062 or cory.murray@redmondoregon.gov.

DESCHUTES COUNTY

Deschutes County recently released reports that show the transient lodging tax collection results for FY 2025-26, updated through the month of February 2026.

Please keep in mind that these funds are recorded on a cash basis; therefore, this information reflects the results of payments for activity through January 2026. To access the full report go to cascadibusnews.com and search *Transient Lodging Tax Collections*

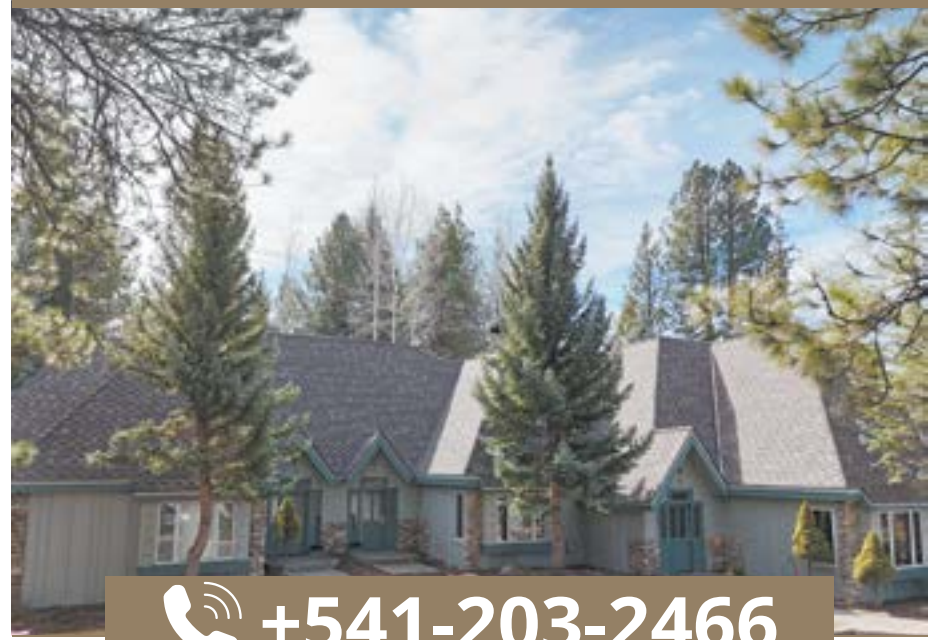
REDMOND

The City of Redmond began a multi-phase closure of SW Veterans Way near SE First Street and SW Lake Road on March 30. The closure is needed to construct a new roundabout connecting SW Veterans Way, SE First Street, the newly aligned SE Airport Way and its northern extension to OR 126.

A temporary access road will be provided to maintain local access.



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Composite Material) panels and displayed outdoors for approximately two years. Two artists will be chosen — one for each side of a two-sided display structure — offering a prominent large-scale showcase of their work in the heart of downtown Redmond. Interested artists and artists teams will want to review the Request for Proposals (RFP) available online at redmondoregon.gov/CalltoArtists and submit their proposal(s) before 11:59pm PDT April 30, 2026.

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BEND

The Bend Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (BMPO) Policy Board is requesting public input on the approved BMPO Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget.

The board will hold a public hearing and consider adoption of the BMPO FY27 Budget, as approved by the BMPO Budget Committee on March 17 (pursuant to ORS 294.456), at their regularly scheduled meeting on April 17, at 12pm. The board's deliberation of the budget may also include potential reallocation of BMPO State Highway Fund Program funding programmed for transfer to the City of Bend's Street Preservation Program in FY27.

A 21-day public comment period for the budget is open through April 8, 2026. Public comments can be submitted via email to kkennedy@bendoregon.gov.

bendoregon.gov or during the Public Hearing at the hybrid (in person and online) BMPO Policy Board meeting. Meeting information will be posted on the BMPO Policy Board webpage one week prior to the meeting date.

The City is hosting an open house to share updates on two City transportation projects and hear from the public.

Franklin Avenue Improvements

Join the project teams at the open house to learn more about planned improvements and what to expect during construction starting this May.

From Harriman Street to Fourth Street: The project team will share the final design and construction timing for this stretch of Franklin Avenue.

From Second Street to the underpass: Utility work on Franklin Avenue is expected to begin in early May*, starting at Second Street and extending west to the underpass. The first phase of work will allow construction crews to make critical waterline and storm drain improvements.

*Please note that the project schedule is subject to change.

Hawthorne Connections Study

At the open house, the project team will also be providing information and seeking feedback on the Hawthorne Connections Study, a separate City project. The study is exploring new walking and biking improvements along Hawthorne Avenue and Harriman Street. This project aims to address gaps in the City's low-stress network, which connects to the planned Hawthorne Crossing bike and pedestrian bridge. The project team will show street concepts and learn about your priorities for these improvements.

Learn more about the Hawthorne Connections Study and sign up for project updates at bendoregon.gov/hcs.

City staff will be available to answer questions on these two projects, as well as the Hawthorne Crossing and upcoming Second Street Waterline Improvements.

Connect Online: An online option to participate in the open house will be available April 7-23 on the project webpage: bendoregon.gov/midtowncrossings. The Hawthorne Crossing Study will also have an online open house running at this same time at bendoregon.gov/hcs.

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The Wealth Strategy Nobody Talks About

Managing Your Career

by MAT HUNNICUTT, Partner — True Wealth Group

When people think about building wealth, the conversation usually turns quickly to investments: stocks, real estate, retirement accounts, or the latest market outlook. Many individuals spend hours researching funds or debating market trends.



But one of the most powerful drivers of wealth often receives far less attention: your ability to earn income.

For most people, especially in the early and middle stages of their careers, income is the primary engine that fuels long-term wealth creation. The more your earning power grows over time, the more capital you have available to invest, save, and compound for the future.

That's why one of the smartest financial decisions you can make is to invest in your career with the same level of intentionality that you apply to investing your money.

Your career is a long-term asset. And like any asset, it benefits from thoughtful investment.

One of the most effective ways to increase your career value is through what professionals often call skill stacking: developing complementary skills that increase your market value. For example, technical expertise paired with strong communication skills, analytical ability combined with leadership experience, or industry knowledge supported by strategic thinking can significantly expand your opportunities.

Another important investment is industry awareness. Some industries are experiencing

rapid innovation and growth, creating opportunities for professionals who position themselves well. Paying attention to where your industry is heading, and aligning your skills with future demand, can dramatically influence long-term income potential.

Today, one of the most important areas professionals should be paying attention to is artificial intelligence. AI is quickly becoming a productivity multiplier across nearly every industry, from finance and healthcare to marketing, engineering, and operations.

Professionals who learn how to incorporate AI tools into their work can dramatically increase their effectiveness. Tasks that once took hours, such as research, drafting reports, analyzing data, or generating ideas, can often be completed much faster with the help of AI-powered tools. Those who embrace these technologies early often gain a meaningful advantage by producing better work more efficiently.

Importantly, the goal is not to replace human judgment, creativity, or leadership. Instead, AI can act as a powerful assistant that allows professionals to focus more time on higher-value work such as strategic thinking, problem-solving, and relationship-building.

Equally important to career growth is seeking opportunities that provide exposure to strong leadership. Great leaders often become mentors, advocates, and teachers who accelerate the development of those around them. Working in environments where learning, collaboration, and growth are encouraged can have a lasting impact on

both professional satisfaction and financial success. Investing in your career also means periodically evaluating your role and opportunities. Just as investors review their portfolios, professionals should occasionally assess whether their current environment continues to support their development, learning, and advancement.

Professionals who actively manage their careers often take several practical steps. They track and communicate their results, ensuring their contributions are visible. They build strong professional networks that extend beyond their immediate workplace. And they remain open to new opportunities that align with their skills, values, and long-term goals.

Ultimately, wealth building is not just about the investments in your portfolio; it begins with the income that fuels those investments.

By investing in your skills, staying aware of technological shifts like AI, choosing environments that foster growth, building meaningful professional relationships, and remaining intentional about your career path, you can significantly expand your lifetime earning potential.

In many ways, the most important investment you will ever make is not in the stock market, but in your career.

Mat Hunnicutt is a Financial Planner, Wealth Advocate and Partner at True Wealth Group, helping clients plan for long-term financial success and lasting wealth.

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Longtime Employees & Brothers Jon Houston & Jordon Houston Acquire Bend's Stereo Planet & Sera Custom Integrators

by ANTHONY J.W. BENSON

Stereo Planet, a Bend-based home technology company serving Central Oregon since 1980, is entering a new chapter as longtime leaders Jon Houston and Jordon Houston have acquired the company and its custom integration division, Sera Custom Integrators.

Jon has been with the organization for more than 20 years and currently serves as President and General Manager. Over that time, he has helped guide daily operations, manage complex integration projects, and build strong relationships with homeowners, builders, and businesses throughout the region.

Jordon is the CFO at Sera Custom Integrators, keeping the company's finances running smoothly while bringing the same precision and focus to everything he does, reflecting his love for high-quality performance and attention to detail, which the company also prides itself on.

With the acquisition, the Houston brothers aim to uphold Stereo Planet's trusted reputation while delivering easier, more intuitive home and commercial technology experiences for clients.

Stereo Planet and SERA Custom Integrators create systems that give customers effortless control over audio, video, lighting, security, blinds, and connectivity — delivering reliability, convenience, and peace of mind.

"For more than four decades, Stereo Planet has been committed to enriching people's lives through thoughtful design via great sound and home technology," said Jon Houston.

We're proud of the foundation that's been built here, and this next step with new leadership allows us to expand that vision. Our goal is simple: help homeowners and businesses enjoy technology that works intuitively and reliably.

The Sera Custom Integrators division delivers integrated smart-home and commercial systems that simplify everyday living and working — offering streamlined control, advanced security, and enhanced comfort.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF SERA CUSTOM INTEGRATORS

"Gone are the days of juggling multiple vendors or dealing with disconnected systems," Jon Houston said. "Our approach is integrated — bringing together lighting, audio, video, security, networking, and control into one ecosystem that simply works."

Under Houston's leadership, the company now offers clients advanced security, intelligent lighting, and unified smart-home environments, making homes and businesses safer, more efficient, and more enjoyable — elements and systems that, in today's day and age, more and more people are looking for.

Jon Houston holds an associate's degree in business management and marketing. He is an HTSA Level 3 Lighting Designer, bringing both technical expertise and design insight to every project Sera takes on.

He enjoys working with leading technology brands, including Sony, McIntosh, and Sonos, as well as companies known for combining performance, reliability, and thoughtful design — a mainstay of Sera's own business philosophy.

With Houston and his brother now taking ownership and leading the company, Stereo Planet and SERA Custom Integrators will continue to serve Central Oregon homeowners, architects, builders, and businesses — bringing together entertainment, lighting, security, and connectivity into systems that make modern spaces more comfortable, functional, and secure, while reaffirming our commitment to the local community and industry partnerships.

About Stereo Planet:

Founded in 1980, Stereo Planet has built a long-standing reputation for high-quality home entertainment and technology solutions in Bend and Central Oregon, inspiring confidence in our continued leadership and innovation.

seracustomintegrators.com

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- ✈ Drawing at 11 a.m., April 17, 2026 at 210 SE Urania Lane, Bend, OR
- ✈ All proceeds support children facing hardship in Deschutes County

Must be 18 to enter and in the state of Oregon at the time of ticket purchase. Winner is responsible for all taxes and fees due. Need not be present to win. Raffle rules and complete descriptions available at AssistanceLeagueBend.org.



Notable Mentions of the Digital Toolbox

by ExpertT AGATHA VENTURA — Central Oregon Community College

Question:

I'm an entrepreneur with a team of one: myself. What digital tools and platforms can you suggest to help with juggling operations, marketing, sales, customer service and finances?

Thanks for the question — technology continues to bring new tools into the small business toolbox. There are so many powerful tools designed specifically to help small businesses streamline processes, automate repetitive tasks and stay organized. Here are a few:

- 1. Design without a designer:** For marketing, products like Canva can help create things like pitch decks, brand kits (for logos, fonts, color palettes), videos and reels, print materials like flyers and website mockups. It can eliminate the need for expensive design software or hiring a designer early on.
- 2. A new kind of 'business assistant':** Artificial intelligence is no longer just for big corporations. Tools like OpenAI's ChatGPT can help write email campaigns, summarize meetings, draft blog posts, generate product descriptions and brainstorm marketing ideas.
- 3. Community equals customers:** Many business owners underestimate the power of niche (and local) communities on Facebook, which allow you to build a loyal audience, test product ideas, get instant feedback and establish authority in your niche. Focus on conversation and value, not constant promotion.
- 4. Always good timing:** Instead of emailing to find meeting times, send your scheduling link with Calendly. Clients pick a time, it syncs to your calendar and reminders are sent automatically. You can redirect them to a custom thank-you page. This turns a simple booking into the beginning of a relationship.
- 5. A track to your audience:** Email marketing consistently delivers one of

the highest returns on investment for small businesses. Social media algorithms change constantly — but your email list is something you control. Mailchimp, for instance, makes it easy to build landing pages, send automated welcome sequences, segment your audience and track open and click rates.

6. See what's actually working: Many business owners guess what's driving traffic and sales. Google Analytics shows you things, such as where your website visitors come from and what marketing channels perform. When you understand your data, you stop guessing.

The right combination of tools can save you time, reduce errors, improve customer experience and give you clearer insights into your business performance — allowing you to focus less on "busywork" (yes, that is still important!) and more on growth.

Central Oregon Community College's Small Business Development Center 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.

About the Expert:

Agatha Ventura is a bilingual business adviser with COCC's Small Business Development Center. She holds a master's degree from Tufts University and works in people management in the corporate sector; she supports clients on business starts, marketing and daily operation management. cocc.edu/sbdc

zö agency

Continued from page 1

org, who are improving the lives of Oregonians. She is an advocate for justice, especially in regards to housing, human rights and women entrepreneurs like herself.

The Enterprising Women of the Year Award is widely considered the most prestigious global award recognition for accomplished women entrepreneurs. To win, nominees must demonstrate that they have fast-growth businesses, mentor or actively support other women and girls involved in entrepreneurship and stand out as leaders in their communities. Many of the honorees also serve as leaders of the key organizations that support the growth of women's entrepreneurship.

The 2026 Enterprising Women of the Year Awards Celebration & Conference presented two full days of top-notch workshops, networking opportunities, corporate sponsor exhibits and awards presentations. The celebration concluded with a spotlight on each honoree at the Enterprising Women of the Year Awards Gala Dinner.

About Enterprising Women Magazine:

Enterprising Women, with headquarters in Cary, North Carolina, is the nation's only women-owned magazine published exclusively for women business owners that chronicles the growing political, economic and social influence and power of entrepreneurial women. The magazine provides a friendly meeting place, a public forum and a national stage for the critical issues confronting women's businesses and daily lives from the unique perspectives and experiences of entrepreneurial women. Published in both print and digital editions, the online edition of the magazine reaches one million readers in 185 countries.

About zö agency:

zö agency is a women-owned, full-service marketing and advertising firm based in Bend, Oregon, dedicated to serving changemakers across the United States. With a diverse team and a commitment to social justice, the agency partners with nonprofits, government entities, and private companies to create impactful campaigns that drive positive change.

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enterprisingwomen.com • call 919-362-1551

Why Bend Ranks Tenth Best Small Metro for Women-Owned Businesses

CoworkingCafe's latest analysis ranks the best U.S. metro areas for women-owned businesses, highlighting where female entrepreneurs have the strongest support systems and growth opportunities. For a fair comparison, the metros were split into three population brackets – large metros (over one million), mid-sized metros (500K–1M), and small metros (under 500K).

Our study analyzed over 200 metros across 14 metrics grouped into three main categories: women's entrepreneurship, economic context, and labor and talent pool, covering indicators from share of women-owned businesses and median earnings to coworking prices and educational attainment.

Bend ranks tenth among small metros, standing out for one of the highest women's self-employment rates in its category, a strong share of women-owned businesses, and robust economic growth. Here are a few of the metrics that highlight Bend's strengths:

- **16.2%** of Bend metro's 16+ year population is self-employed – the second-highest rate among all small metros – pointing to a deeply entrepreneurial culture among women in the area.
- **24.7%** of businesses are women-owned – the fifth-highest share among small metros – compared to **22.9%** nationally, a sign of a well-established community of women-led companies.
- The area posted **41.5% GDP growth** – seventh among small metros – reflecting strong economic momentum for scaling businesses.
- In Bend, **40.0%** of women hold a bachelor's degree or higher – 12th among small metros – and median earnings for women stand at **\$43,440** – 19th highest – providing a solid foundation of skilled talent.
- With **1,632** new businesses per 100K population, ranking 13th, and **6.8% population growth**, 12th among small metros, Bend shows steady new-venture activity supported by a growing customer base and talent pool.

You can read our full study at coworkingcafe.com/blog/best-places-for-women-owned-businesses.

The Most Environmentally Friendly Solar is Right Above Our Heads

by **ROB BLACK, CEO — E2 Solar**

If you've driven West into Bend on Highway 20, North to Redmond, or near Prineville and Powell Butte, you've likely noticed that utility-scale solar farms are now part of Central Oregon's high desert landscape. Long rows of panels stretch across former fields and shrub-steppe, a visible sign of the clean-energy transition.



However, this scenery also raises questions: How much land should utility-scale solar projects occupy? Is covering open land with panels the only way to go solar, or is there a better option for business owners that lies closer to home?

The Land Use Concern with Ground-Mount Solar

Utility-scale, ground-mounted arrays can deliver a lot of power, but they do it by converting rangeland, farms, or wildlife habitat into industrial energy sites. Research on energy sprawl has predicted that by 2040, energy development in the U.S. could impact an area larger than Texas, with solar being a growing piece of that footprint.

Oregon state rulemaking has wrestled with how to encourage new solar while still protecting valuable farmland and habitat in Central Oregon. Wildlife experts have long cautioned that poorly sited projects can disrupt important habitats and affect species ranging from pollinators to birds and bats, which are already under pressure from climate change and development.

This isn't to suggest that ground-mount solar is inherently bad. Thoughtfully designed projects on disturbed or low-value sites, with native vegetation and wildlife-friendly fencing, can even offer climate benefits. But as demand for energy increases in our region, it matters where the next megawatts come from, especially when there's plenty of unused roof space available.

Rooftop Solar Offers Clean Power With No New Footprint

Advocates have estimated that hundreds of thousands of solar-equipped rooftops could supply a significant share of Oregon's electricity, which would cut emissions equivalent to taking hundreds of thousands of cars off the road. Because rooftop systems generate power right where it's used, they can also



PHOTO | COURTESY OF E2 SOLAR

reduce line losses and the need for some new transmission, which further lowers the total environmental impact.

Rooftop solar lets Central Oregon diversify its energy sources without impacting the unique landscapes, farms, and habitat that define our region. By building solar on existing roofs, we make better use of space we've already paved, built, and wired. Panels on commercial roofs do not require grading the ground, removing vegetation, or fencing off habitat. It's a win-win: businesses can cut carbon and operating costs while keeping more of our natural and working lands intact.

Continued on Page 15 ▶

2026 State Legislative Session Review



April 16, 2026
Central Oregon Community
College, Wille Hall
8:00 am - 9:30 am

Register at cityclubco.org



NFlight

Continued from page 1

blossom and grow.

Prior to joining NFlight, Jamieson was heavily connected in the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games and the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games in Canada as related to snowboarding and action sports, where his duties included major voice work and play-by-play at the venues.

"I was deeply involved in the advent of POV-type action cameras, GoPro to be specific, and was connected to the foundational years," he adds. "Along with that was homemade, camera-carrying unmanned aircraft systems (not drones) before you could buy them at Best Buy. Hans Skjersaa was one of the godfathers of unmanned aircraft systems and carrying cameras. He is a friend of mine and we've worked together on multiple business fronts involved in camera-carrying quadcopters. There was no GPS, no leveling, no return to home. These were remote control aircraft. Alongside GoPro and these flying camera machines, I was working for ABC TV when I got my private pilot's license in order to be allowed to film and create aerials of a Justin Trudeau live-television interview event out at Niagara Falls. That's how I entered aviation."

With a relatively simple product line, NFlight mainly centers on their variety of modular headset variations that customers can choose from. Its corporate structure and responsibilities are split up between Jamieson leading tech support working out of the Bend Airport, Carter doing all the engineering from Alaska, and Clark running the San Diego warehouse enterprise.

"The whole business operates online with the three of us running the whole show," Jamieson notes. "We use no call centers, no AI, no phone trees. We call every single person back and answer the phone every time we possibly can. Every email is responded to personally with no AI auto-writing or cut and paste. We wholeheartedly deliver customized tech support for every client. I just sold a bunch of camera mounts to NASA at the Goddard Space Center out in Maryland. And some pilots at Nellis Air Force Base that fly Reaper drones recently bought a bunch of microphones. Our client base is massive and diverse. It's a remarkable experience to speak with all these people around the world and it gives me an incredible view of humanity."

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PHOTO | COURTESY OF NFLIGHT

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| Company / Address | Phone | Fax | WebSite/Email | Contact | Staff | CO Year Est. | Services |
|--|----------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|-------|--------------|--|
| Alpine Abatement Associates, Inc. PO Box 1557 Bend, OR 97709 | 541-388-2672 | N/A | www.alpineabatement.com Service@AlpineAbatement.com | Riley Billings, Joe Billings | 30 | 1989 | Hazardous material removal-Asbestos, mold, lead & PCB; demolition-residential & commercial; concrete polishing & cleaning. |
| Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity 224 NE Thurston Ave. Bend, OR 97701 | 541-385-5387 | N/A | www.bendredmondhabitat.org rcooper@brhabitat.org | Carly Colgan | 28 | 1989 | Bend-Redmond Habitat builds strength, stability & self-reliance through affordable homeownership for families & individuals in Bend & Redmond. We are dedicated to changing lives by bringing people together to help make a difference in our communities through affordable housing. Since 1989, Bend-Redmond Habitat has built 167 homes & repaired 146 more, providing more than 1,042 children & adults a safe, secure & healthy home. The Bend ReStore is a home improvement resale center that accepts & sells a wide variety of building materials, appliances & home furnishings. All proceeds from the ReStore benefit Bend-Redmond Habitat's mission. |
| Botanical Developments 63007 Lower Meadow Dr. PO Box 6326 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-617-5926 | 541-617-0443 | www.botanical-developments.com ron@botanical-developments.com | Ron Kidder | 5 | 2000 | Landscape architecture, construction, maintenance & habitat restoration company committed to ecologically sound landscape practices. |
| Brilliant Environmental Building Products 327 NW Greenwood Ave., Ste. 100 Bend, OR 97703 | 541-317-0202 | 541-550-2230 | www.brilliantmaterials.com info@brilliantmaterials.com | Jorden Swart | 2 | 2008 | Specializing in sustainable building materials for the interior of a home such as wool carpet, cork flooring, bamboo, counter tops, paints, stains & more. |
| Deschutes Land Trust 210 NW Irving Ave., Ste. 102 Bend, OR 97703 | 541-330-0017 | 541-330-0013 | www.deschuteslandtrust.org info@deschuteslandtrust.org | Michael Rubovits | 17 | 1995 | The Deschutes Land Trust conserves & cares for the lands & waters that sustain Central Oregon, so local communities & the natural world can flourish together for generations to come. |
| E2 Solar 20784 NE High Desert Lane Bend, OR 97701 | 541-388-1151 | N/A | www.e2solar.com sales@e2solar | Customer Service | 15 | 2005 | Installing custom-designed solar electric systems for homes, businesses & nonprofits. |
| Energy Trust of Oregon 920 SW Sixth Ave., Ste. 900 Portland, OR 97204 | 866-368-7878 | 503-546-6862 | www.energytrust.org info@energytrust.org | Nate Merrill | 159 | 2002 | Cash incentives & technical assistance for energy efficiency improvements & renewable energy systems. |
| Miller Conservation Consulting PO Box 6376 Bend, OR 97708 | 541-389-9115 | N/A | goosemiller@msn.com | Marilyn Miller | 1 | 1965 | Protect, defend & restore the quality of the natural environment & maintain integrity of ecosystems educate the public the need to understand & support these objectives - study, explore & enjoy wildlands. |
| Morrison-Maierle 360 SW Bond St., Ste 220 Bend, Or 97702 | 541-699-5432 | N/A | www.m-m.net ewebber@m-m.net | Eric Webber | 18 | 2020 | Funding & grant management, groundwater development, irrigation, regulatory, compliance & permitting, stormwater, stream restoration, water-wastewater. |
| Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) 50 SW Bond St., Ste. 4 Bend, OR 97702 | 541-330-2638 | N/A | www.onda.org onda@onda.org | Ryan Houston | 17 | 1987 | Protects, defends & restores Oregon's high desert for present & future generations. |
| Oregon Wild 2843 NW Lolo Dr., Ste. 257 Bend, OR 97703 | 541-382-2616 | N/A | www.oregonwild.org info@oregonwild.org | Erik Fernandez | 2 | 1974 | Working to protect Oregon's wildlands, wildlife & waters as an enduring legacy for future generations. |
| Parametrix 150 NW Pacific Park Lane, Ste. 110 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-508-7710 | 855-542-6353 | www.parametrix.com sdevine@parametrix.com | Susan Devine | 30 | 2015 | Civil engineering, environmental planning & documentation, surveying. |
| Porch Light Property Inspection Bend, OR 97702 | 541-408-8588 | N/A | www.porchlighthome.com team@myporchlighthome.com | John Schwencke | 2 | 2015 | Commercial property inspection, residential property inspection, home energy scores, home energy assessment, sewer scope inspection, radon inspection, home maintenance. |
| Solar Store, The 184 NE Kearney Ave. Bend, OR 97701 | 541-388-3637 | Same as phone | www.TheSolarStore.com info@thesolarstore.com | Michael Ridder | 3 | 2004 | Local service with online pricing for Solar systems & components. |
| Sprecher Group 2445 NE Division St., Ste. 300 Bend, OR 97703 | 541-306-3709 | N/A | https://www.sprechergroup.com terry.sprecher@sprechergroup.com | Terry Sprecher | 1 | 2008 | Environmental site assessment & remediation; soil & groundwater sampling; water rights consulting. |
| Sunlight Solar Energy, Inc. 150 NE Hawthorne, Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-322-1910 | N/A | www.sunlightsolar.com jasmine@sunlightsolar.com | Jasmine Vincent | 20 | 1993 | Full-service, turn-key solar design & installation of grid-tied photovoltaic (PV) electric systems for homes & businesses throughout Central Oregon. Provides battery storage solutions, EV chargers & solar pre-wire services. Offers solar financing & new Renewable Energy Contracts for Pacific Power customers. |
| The Environmental Center 16 NW Kansas Ave. Bend, OR 97703 | 541-385-6908 x100 | N/A | www.envirocenter.org info@envirocenter.org | Front Desk | 15 | 1989 | Educate & empower Central Oregonians to advance a sustainable future, for people & the planet. |
| The Trust for Public Land (Bend Office) 15 SW Colorado Ave., Ste. 100 Bend, OR 97702 | 541-322-0133 | N/A | www.tpl.org oregon@tpl.org | Kristin Kovalik | 2 | 2002 | Creation & conservation of parks, gardens, historical sites & natural areas. Green-space planning, fundraising & park design. |

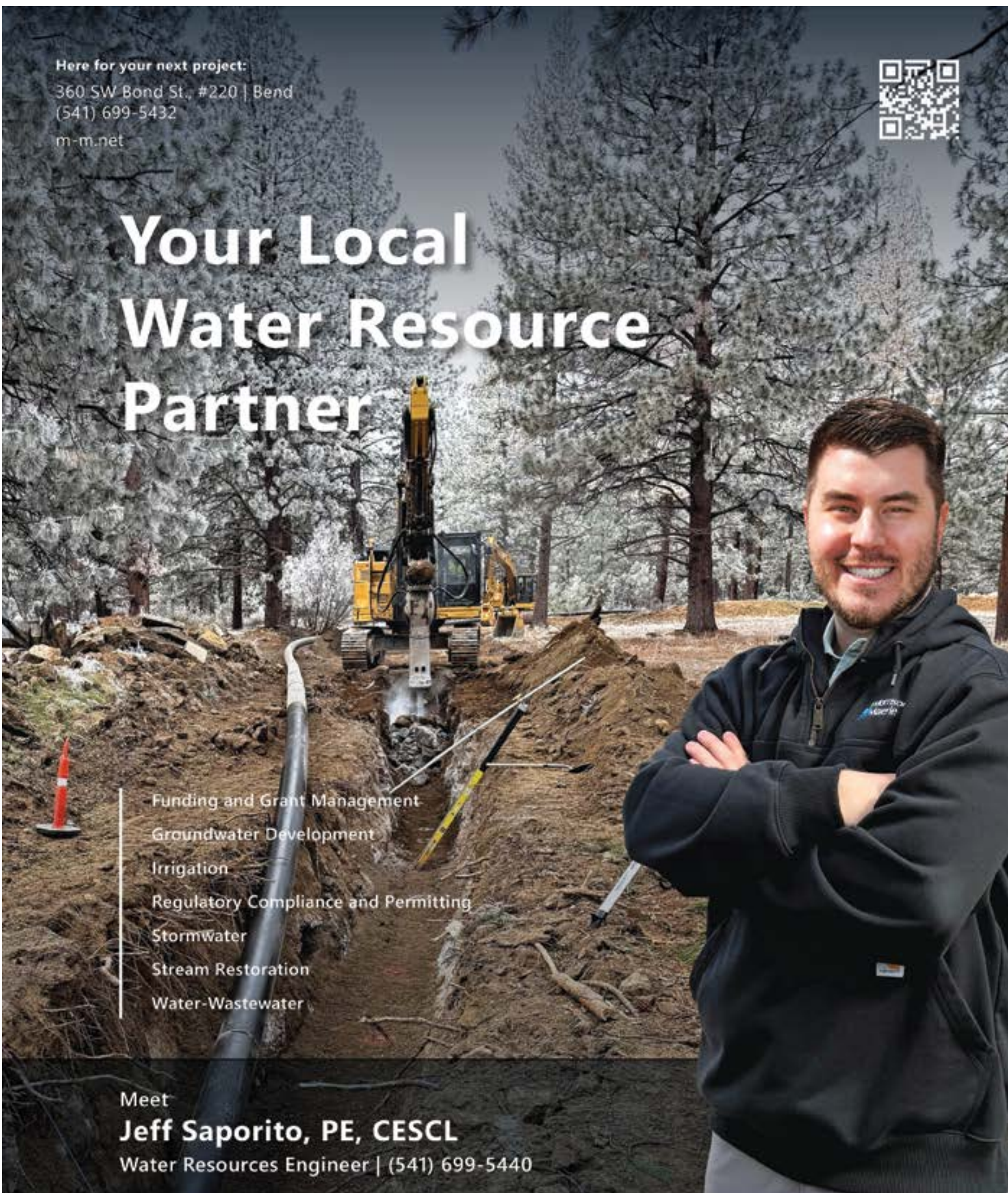
This is a sampling of Central Oregon's Environmental/Ecological Services. If you would like to be added to this list, please email cbn@cascadebusnews.com.

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Investing in Water Infrastructure

The Lundy Ditch Piping Project

by **JEFF SAPORITO, PE** — Morrison-Maierle

In Central Oregon, water reliability is economic reliability. With multiple partners and on a complicated timeline, the Lundy Ditch Piping Project south of Bend has modernized a nearly 100-year-old private irrigation lateral by converting approximately 4,000 feet of open, unlined ditch into a closed-conduit pipeline.

From the beginning of the project — consisting of a study, design plans and the acquisition of easements — through construction, the Lundy Ditch Project required constant communication and coordination among multiple partners and landowners. The division of duties with a clear understanding, specifically among the Deschutes River Conservancy, the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District and Morrison-Maierle, shows how multiple parties can create the best solution for landowners and irrigators.

Project Area and Background

The existing ditch crosses several properties, some with water rights



THE LUNDY DITCH PIPING PROJECT SOUTH OF BEND HAS MODERNIZED A NEARLY 100-YEAR-OLD PRIVATE IRRIGATION SYSTEM BY CONVERTING APPROXIMATELY 4,000 FEET OF OPEN, UNLINED DITCH INTO A CLOSED-CONDUIT PIPELINE. THE PROJECT NOT ONLY BENEFITS THE WATER RIGHT HOLDERS AND ADJACENT LANDOWNERS BUT ALSO SETS A PATHWAY FOR THE FURTHER ADVANCEMENT OF IRRIGATION MODERNIZATION IN THE AREA | PHOTOS COURTESY OF MORRISON-MAIERLE

associated to the ditch, some without. While the project is rooted in agricultural operations and the delivery of irrigation water, its benefits extend to adjacent landowners through a change in alignment that expands their usable lot space, and to nearby agricultural properties that demonstrate the benefits of an irrigation modernization project.

Before this project, the ditch meandered through porous volcanic rock and sandy soils, contributing to significant seepage and evaporation, with losses sometimes exceeding 40% of diverted water. The ditch also required frequent clearing, increasing maintenance for water rights holders. Private irrigation deliveries were not metered, leading to inconsistent on-farm delivery and conflicts among patrons.

Gains for Landowners and Central Oregon

The Lundy Ditch Piping Project not only benefits the water right holders and adjacent landowners but sets a pathway for the further advancement of irrigation modernization in Central Oregon in four main areas:

- **Conservation of water while maintaining irrigation:** Converting to a piped mainline delivery system allows each water rights holder to receive their water while preventing costly delivery losses.
- **Lower maintenance disturbance:** Fewer ditch cleanouts mean less time spent by water rights holders needing to clean the ditch, impacting neighbors and vegetation on their property.
- **Clearer accountability and fewer disputes:** Metering at the point of diversion on farms improves transparency, supports fair operations and will lead to fewer potential conflicts.
- **A pathway to future pressurized service:** The design can now support eventual connection to a fully piped Arnold Irrigation District Main Canal, positioning patrons for further system upgrades. Including the elimination of non-piped segments between the intake on the Deschutes River and the on-farm deliveries.

Partnerships Across Organizations

Like any community-driven infrastructure project, this effort benefited from a strong team from the start. The Deschutes River Conservancy, Deschutes Soil & Water Conservation District, Arnold Irrigation District, Morrison-Maierle and adjacent landowners all played key roles.

From navigating the complex world of grant funding, pipeline alignment, irrigation delivery location, installation contractor procurement and easement creation, the team worked together for the benefit of everyone involved.

Unforeseen challenges, requests for information and last-minute changes will always arise regardless of the level of pre-planning and a thorough communications strategy. Having a capable and solutions-oriented team was not only an enjoyable part of the project but also helped ensure nothing was missed and that no concerns were left unaddressed.

For more information on this project, Morrison-Maierle's Natural Resources design team in Bend is ready to answer questions and discuss future projects of this nature and others involving water resources. Contact Jeff Saporito, PE, at jsaporito@m-m.net or 541-699-5440.

Jeff Saporito, PE, is a water resources engineer in Morrison-Maierle's Bend office. m-m.net

Energize Bend

A Clean Solution to Energy

by **NOAH NELSON** — CBN Feature Writer

Energize Bend was created in 2022 around the idea of advocating for the adoption of electrification in homes and buildings across Bend. Energize Bend is a coalition of businesses, nonprofits and individuals who all come together for this one goal that aims to modernize our energy use, helping curb the effects of fossil fuel-caused climate change.

The origins of the campaign can be traced back to one experience: a common one that many environmentally-conscious home buyers have felt. A community member in 2022 was moving into a house here in Bend, and she did not want to have any natural gas appliances in her home. She told her builder her preference, and was met with a fee.

It is standard for many builders to take incentives from the natural gas industry to make sure that homes are built with the capabilities of using fossil fuels. If someone doesn't want that, it means that they must pay a fee, simply to decide what goes on in their own home.

That logic alone did not sit well with many people once it was realized, and many community members since then have felt that it is unethical to charge a homeowner this fee, to not do something in their home.

Brennan Breen, the Energize Bend campaign coordinator and former natural gas chemical engineer, says that the community recognized this system as feeling unfair. In addition, he mentioned the potential impact that homes and

buildings have on local emissions. Bend is looking to double our housing stock in the foreseeable future, and already, 51 percent of our total emissions come from buildings and construction.

"We need to build smart from the start, and plan for the future," Breen said. "Buildings are a low-hanging fruit that we can realistically make a large impact with."

"We need to build smart from the start, and plan for the future. Buildings are a low-hanging fruit that we can realistically make a large impact with."

~ Brennan Breen

Campaign Coordinator, Energize Bend

To make this positive change systemic, Breen and all of Energize Bend are pushing for a Climate Impact Fee, which would charge builders a moderate fee for building structures with gas appliances; all-electric builds would avoid the fee altogether, and revenue from the fee could be used to upgrade the energy efficiency of low-middle income homes in Bend.

A main point that Breen expressed regarding the campaign involves getting people motivated towards environmental action. Unlike other environmental campaigns, this isn't an aesthetically pleasing one, where supporters can share images of beautiful natural areas and talk about preserving them. However, this campaign involving HVAC systems and

electric appliances is still important, as the effects of climate change are not some faraway threat; they are being felt... in Bend... today.

energizebend.org

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The Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Potential Impact of Rescinding Popular Rule

by NOAH NELSON — CBN Feature Writer

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule was established back in 2001 through the U.S. Forest Service. The rule protects around 60 million acres from road development, in turn protecting the land from logging, mining and other development. The rule prohibits most road construction, reconstruction and the industrialized harvesting of natural resources like timber, while allowing for certain exceptions around public safety, wildfire management, and access to mineral or treaty rights.



BEND WATERSHED ROADLESS AREA | PHOTO BY DAVID WILLINGHAM

These areas provide habitat for more than 1,600 threatened or endangered species. This protected land also plays a large role in water quality and quantity, providing clean drinking water to millions of Americans across the nation.

According to Oregon Wild, "This critical policy preserves the last of our wild public lands as homes for wildlife, havens for recreation, and natural



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA | PHOTO BY JOAN AMERO

legacies for future generations. Oregon's most iconic landscapes — from Larch Mountain in the Columbia River Gorge to Tumalo Mountain near Bend, Lookout Mountain in central Oregon, the forests around Lost Lake, the Oregon Dunes, and beyond — are being put at risk."

Local areas affected also include popular areas like Hosmer Lake and Sparks Lake, along with others.

A key factor in play here that many people don't know about involves water quality and quantity. Many people focus on water levels and snowpack, and while these are vitally important factors in water quality and quantity, the preservation of forests is also extremely vital in protecting water. Mature, old growth forests play a vital role in the water cycle, and when they are lost, areas see significantly more soil erosion and sedimentation into local waterways, having a negative impact on both quality and quantity of water.

Aside from significant ecological downsides, losing this roadless rule is also a very unpopular choice; one that has provided a historically low amount of opportunity for citizens to voice their opinions.

When the rule was being proposed back in 2001, the Forest Service underwent a massive public campaign to gauge approval levels for the rule. After more than 600 public hearings and receiving more than 1.6 million public comments, the administration decided to move forward with the rule, after finding widespread bipartisan support.

In contrast, the Forest Service under the current administration has not held a single public hearing, or provided any lengthy opportunity to comment. The current administration announced the rescinding of the Roadless Rule last summer, and started the process with a notice of intent at the end of August. That kicked off a 21 day public comment period. In that very short time, the Department of Agriculture received over 600,000 public comments; an unprecedented number.

Analysis of those comments have shown that the vast majority — as high as 99 percent — support keeping the rule in place. Despite this overwhelming public agreement, it appears that the federal government is doing what they can to move forward with rescinding the Roadless Rule.

To provide civic space that the admin is no longer providing, Central Oregon LandWatch, Oregon Wild, the Oregon chapter of the Sierra Club and more are hosting a community action night centered around public



BEARWALLOWS ROADLESS AREA | PHOTO BY JAMES PARSONS



THREE CREEKS LAKE ROADLESS AREA | PHOTO BY ALEX HARDISON

engagement and advocacy for the upcoming release of the draft statement, which will likely be released in April. Forest Service professionals, pro athletes, elected officials, scientists and recreationists will be present to voice their support for keeping these roadless areas undeveloped to protect the land, local water and sites of cultural value. The event will take place at OSU-Cascades on April 6. RSVPs are available and open to the public.

In addition to these publicly-held hearings, citizens in support of keeping the Roadless Rule in place and protecting these lands from development should write to their elected officials about supporting H.R. 3930, the Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2025. This proposed piece of legislation would codify the protections of the widely-popular Roadless Rule, and make it much more difficult for any future admin to develop the lands in question.

The roadless rule has kept wild places wild by protecting millions of acres from logging and mining," said Alex Hardin of Central Oregon LandWatch. "The level of unprecedented public engagement showed us the value of protecting water, wildlife, ecological diversity, and cultural values. It's very important for us to speak up and make an impact."

drought in a way we haven't in a long time," he said. "It'll take years of good snowpack to pull us out of this, where we are not having different parts of rivers and streams impacted by water scarcity. Whether you value ecology, or agriculture, or you're a community member benefiting from the tourism economy and recreation, this is impacting everyone."

When it comes to taking action, Austin and Godlove give similar advice. There are simple steps one can take as an individual to lower their water use, like being more water conscious when showering or using the sink, and replacing their lawn with native landscaping. However, systemic issues are not always solved with that kind of individual action. Both Austin and Godlove acknowledge that another kind of individual action can have a strong impact.

Everyone has a role to play when it comes to deciding how water is used. Everyone has a voice for conversations, and a vote for elections and measures. Water comes from public lands, and the public has a say in how it is used, so long as the public recognizes this and decides to use their collective voice. Austin and Godlove recommend reaching out to politicians, attending public hearings and doing what one can to make their voice heard.

Deschutes SWCD & Oregon State University Launch Spring 2026 Integrated Water Management Course for Central Oregon Producers & Landowners

by JENA THOMAS, Communications & Development Specialist — Deschutes SWCD

The Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD), in partnership with Oregon State University (OSU), recently announced the launch of the Spring 2026 Integrated Water Management Course, a regionally focused program designed to equip Central Oregon producers, landowners and irrigation managers with practical water management skills.

The course runs Thursdays, April 9 through June 18, with evening webinars from 6-8pm and three Saturday field tours. Registration is \$90 and seats are limited.

Participants will build hands-on knowledge of irrigation water management principles, tools and strategies tailored to the landscapes and conditions of Central Oregon. The course is open to producers, landowners, land managers, irrigation managers, conservation planners, technical service providers and students.

"As we enter a year defined by drought, Deschutes SWCD is doing everything

it can to empower landowners and irrigation professionals to train smarter and use their water better," said Jena Thomas, Development & Communications Specialist at Deschutes SWCD. "We want to ensure the health and longevity of farms across the region, and we hope that investing in our community arms people with the skills they need to build resilience for years to come."

Registration is now open. For more information and to reserve a spot, visit deschuteswcd.org/irrigation-water-management-online-course-field-training-registration.

About Deschutes SWCD:

The Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District works to protect and improve the natural resources of Deschutes County through education, technical assistance and partnerships with landowners and the community.

deschuteswcd.org

E2 Solar

Continued from page 9

A Better Fit for Communities and Businesses

Rooftop solar also tends to align well with local values. Rather than changing the view along the highway or fencing off fields, a warehouse in Redmond or a retail center in Bend can power its operations from its own rooftop. E2 Solar recently installed a 796-panel system at Deschutes County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, demonstrating how local industry can lead the way — achieving both climate and bill-saving benefits while strengthening local resilience and using existing infrastructure.

For commercial building owners who go solar, the resulting impacts on the environment and their bottom line are significant. Rooftop solar systems provide energy stability despite price fluctuations and potential disruptions. Additionally, these systems can improve a building's value and demonstrate to customers a commitment to sustainability, all while reducing demand, without harming the surrounding community and ecosystems.

In many cases, flat and structurally sound commercial roofs are ideal for solar. These spaces offer clear spans, simple wiring paths, and enough area for solar to decrease on-site energy consumption (and utility charges).



A Smarter Long Game for Solar in Central Oregon

As our region continues to grow, Central Oregon will likely need both rooftop and some well-sited ground-mount solar to reach long-term climate and energy goals. The important questions we should be asking are: Which options will we prioritize first? What narrative do we want our communities to tell? Our region can be a place where clean energy spreads across fields and precious habitat, or where our schools, warehouses, offices, and stores transform their rooftops into part of the solution.

For Central Oregon's commercial buildings, the most environmentally friendly place for solar is often where it's been hiding in plain sight all along: right over our heads. When businesses put solar on their rooftops, they help



PHOTOS | COURTESY OF E2 SOLAR

meet clean-energy targets without pushing the energy transition deeper into farms, sagebrush, and wildlife corridors that make this region so special.

e2solar.com



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Water in Central Oregon

Continued from page 1

In years like this with little snowpack, it is very concerning for all parties, especially those with junior rights."

Oregon's water laws are based on the principle of prior appropriation. This means the first person to obtain a water right on a stream is the last to be shut off in times of shortages. When water is limited, senior water rights holders can use all the water specified on their water right. Junior water right holders may receive less water or even no water at all. Under Oregon water law, rivers themselves did not legally have water rights until the State passed the Instream Water Rights Act in 1987. Therefore, the water right attributed to the Deschutes River has a priority date of 1987, making the river the most junior water rights holder in the basin.

Austin also echoed the statement that drought conditions like these will take years to recover from. "For the last few decades, we've been experiencing

Think Wild & Cascadia Wild Partner to Expand Rare Carnivore Monitoring to Central Oregon

by KYLIE LANUZA, Wildlife Community Science Project Coordinator — Think Wild

Think Wild and Cascadia Wild are partnering to expand rare carnivore monitoring efforts in Central Oregon through volunteer-powered community science, building on Cascadia Wild's long-running Wolverine Tracking Project, which began in 2001.

Target species include wolverines, Sierra Nevada red foxes, gray wolves, martens and other Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Trained volunteers will conduct track and sign surveys and deploy remote cameras throughout the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests to collect field data. That data is analyzed and incorporated into long-term regional datasets, improving understanding of species distribution, habitat use, landscape connectivity, and broader wildlife community dynamics.

These efforts strengthen state and federal agency capacity, inform responsible wildlife management decisions, and support proactive conflict prevention by providing land managers and communities with clearer information about where sensitive species are present.

Kylie Lanuza, Think Wild's Wildlife community science project coordinator, previously volunteered with Cascadia Wild, where she trained and led volunteers conducting rare carnivore surveys through the Wolverine Tracking Project in the Mt. Hood National Forest. After several seasons in the field and discussions with project partners, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), she identified both a need and an opportunity to expand similar survey efforts into Central Oregon. She made that expansion a focus of her graduate internship with Think Wild last summer. "Central Oregon is an incredible place to do this work, with such diverse habitats and a strong, outdoors-oriented community that cares deeply about wildlife," said Lanuza. "Last year, we piloted wolf monitoring and saw an overwhelming response from people interested in learning, supporting, and volunteering."

"That enthusiasm encouraged us to formalize our partnership with Cascadia Wild to expand monitoring efforts in Central Oregon," continued Lanuza. "What began as a pilot effort has evolved into planned, year-round rare carnivore monitoring, including a winter tracking survey in partnership with Wanderlust Tours, and training planned this spring to prepare volunteers for summer fieldwork with Sierra Nevada red fox and wolves."

"Participatory science is a great way to create

a sense of stewardship and belonging to the land," said Teri Lysak, Cascadia Wild's executive director. "We are excited to partner with Think Wild and provide opportunities for Central Oregon community members to connect with their wild spaces through our carnivore monitoring and tracking programs. The data the Wolverine Tracking Project gathers informs both research and resource management decisions, and volunteering is a fun, hands-on way to be involved in land stewardship."

In addition to supporting Cascadia Wild's carnivore tracking efforts, Think Wild will coordinate community scientists to collect Sierra Nevada red fox scat in alignment with ODFW protocols. This multi-year initiative engages trained volunteers across Central Oregon to gather scat samples for genetic analysis, helping improve understanding of this rare and elusive species.

"These secretive carnivores are notoriously elusive and difficult to document, and there's a lot of suitable montane fox habitat in Central Oregon that we'd like to survey," said Kalysta Adkins, Fish and Wildlife biologist for ODFW. "Fecal samples, or scats, contain genetic information that is left behind by the animal. These samples can be used to answer questions about where an animal is present, what an animal is eating, how healthy it is, or how it competes for resources with other co-occurring mesocarnivores like coyotes. Scientists can answer these questions without needing to trap, handle, or capture animals."

This work builds on Think Wild's growing wildlife monitoring program, which includes beaver activity surveys, osprey nest monitoring through Osprey Watch, and year-round trail camera data collection across the region. Together, these efforts create a more complete picture of ecosystem health and wildlife movement in Central Oregon.

"Utilizing community science allows us to train volunteers to help conduct surveys for wildlife while they are recreating on Central Oregon's beautiful trail systems. The more help we can get from interested volunteers to help us cover the extensive habitat, the



VOLUNTEERS OBSERVING AND INTERPRETING TRACK AND SIGN DURING A SUMMER OUTING IN THE OCHOCOS | PHOTO COURTESY OF THINK WILD

better," said Adkins.

Sally Compton, executive director of Think Wild, serves on the Deschutes County Wolf Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee, contributing to local and statewide conversations about wolf management and coexistence. Field-based monitoring, including carnivore tracking, directly informs responsible wildlife management practices and supports data-driven decision-making. Kylie Lanuza, Think Wild's Wildlife Community Science Project Coordinator, is leading and coordinating these tracking efforts locally.

While current winter tracking field days are full, there are two upcoming virtual trainings for community members to get involved in Think Wild's wildlife-monitoring and community-science projects this year:

- **Wolf Tracking Training** on Thursday, May 14, 6-8pm
RSVP required at bit.ly/4U1dHLL
- **Scat Collection Training** on Monday, June 8, 6-8pm
RSVP required at bit.ly/4rWsd10

We're also raising funds to support this work across Central Oregon, covering staff time, training and field coordination, equipment, and research. You can learn more and donate on Think Wild's website.

thinkwildco.org

13 Youth Organizations Receive Funds to Support School Garden Projects Across Central Oregon

by MARY PANTENBURG — The Environmental Center

The Environmental Center has awarded more than \$15,000 to 12 schools and youth organizations to support garden-based education and outdoor classroom projects across Central Oregon this year. Funded projects range from launching new school gardens and improving existing garden infrastructure to creative solutions for extending the region's short growing season.

In addition, the Greater Bend Rotary Club independently funded one submitted project. The club will support Bend International School with a \$2,500 contribution along with volunteer support to help bring the project to life. "Being able to support kids of all ages with hands-on science experience that gets extended to other areas like economics, planning and leadership opportunities is really rewarding," said Rebecca Kauffman, Director of Environmental & Sustainability for the Greater Bend Rotary Club. "The Environmental Center has done a great job building a strong program and garden network across Central Oregon. We have really enjoyed working with the dedicated staff and parents that do the heavy lifting as well as seeing the level of student engagement."

Recipient schools and organizations will collectively serve more than 1,500 youth through garden-based learning projects across three school districts in Central Oregon, as well as early childhood education programs in La Pine, Redmond,

Terrebonne and Powell Butte.

2026 Garden Grant Recipients:

- **Bend International School (Bend):** Fencing, indoor growing and greenhouse improvements
- **COIC at Juvenile Detention Skills Lab (Bend):** A shed for garden tools and supplies
- **Desert Sky Montessori School (Bend):** Garden supplies for storage and season extension
- **Elk Meadow Elementary School (Bend):** Classroom seeding project for native plants
- **Friends of the Children - Central Oregon:** Compost, starter plants and seeds for raised garden beds at Friends Ranch
- **Growing Wonders Childcare LLC (Terrebonne):** Materials and supplies to expand the outdoor learning space and growing season
- **Jefferson County Middle School (Madras):** Classroom mushroom growing kits
- **Madras High School Environmental Club (Madras):** Rehabilitation of a courtyard into a pollinator garden and mini fruit orchard
- **Miss Jenn's Child Care/Preschool (La Pine):** Expanding the garden area and completing a seed house to extend the growing season
- **NeighborImpact Head Start (Redmond):** Materials to build a school garden
- **Ranch House Learning (Powell Butte):** Startup materials for a preschool garden

- **StepUp at Edwin Brown Education Center (Redmond):** Converting a solar-powered hay bale structure into a seed-starting space
- **Samara Learning Center (Bend):** Construction of new raised garden beds

"Educators want to give their students the richest learning experiences possible," said Denise Rowcroft, Youth Education and School Gardens Program Director at The Environmental Center. "Teachers who use school gardens return to them year after year — often investing their own time and resources — because they see firsthand how powerful garden-based learning can be. Community partnerships like the Rotary Club make a real difference. Their support allows us to fund more school gardens and bring in the volunteer energy that helps these spaces grow and thrive."

Since 2017, The Environmental Center has raised and awarded nearly \$140,000 to support local schools and community organizations in their garden-based learning efforts. These garden grants would not be possible without the support of individual donors, local and regional businesses, foundations and nonprofit partners.

Special thanks to the supporters of the Garden

Continued on Next Page ▶

What Happens to Recyclables After Leaving the Curb



PHOTOS | COURTESY OF DESCHUTES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE

by SUSAN BAKER, Diversion & Franchise Services Manager — Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste

When recyclables are set out at the curb or dropped off at recycling depots, have you ever wondered where it goes?

First, it's important to know what can go in the mixed recycling cart or at recycling depots to help minimize contamination. Recycling Right starts with us, before placing materials in the cart. Get a current recycling guide from your service provider or at deschutes.org/sw. Simple practices like rinsing containers, removing food waste and sorting materials properly help ensure recyclables can be processed effectively.

In Oregon, we recycle plastics based on size and shape. Empty and dry plastic bottles, buckets, jugs, and tubs must be at least 2" by 2" in size. Plastic screw-on caps can stay on plastic bottles and jugs as long as they are securely screwed on. Never place recyclables in a plastic bag - place materials loose in the cart.

Once recyclables are collected, the materials is baled into approximately 2,000-pound bales and loaded onto a truck to transport to a processing facility in Oregon. There is no sorting of materials during this process, any non-recyclable material or other contaminants will remain in the mixed recycling.

The mixed recyclable bales from home and businesses arrive at the processing facility, and are sorted to separate paper, plastics, and metals using conveyor belts,

magnets, optical scanners, and manual sorting. Contaminants are removed and disposed of as trash. Contaminants not captured lessen the value of the clean recyclables or cause further contamination issues. Sorted materials are sent to market to be made into new products.

Plastic bags are major contaminants in recycling facilities because they tangle equipment, cause jams, and contaminate other materials. Plastic bags and film must be recycled separately at participating grocery stores or at County Transfer Stations. If collected separately, they can be successfully recycled.

Empty plastic bottles could become a park bench or filling for a winter coat. Yesterday's newspaper could become next year's cereal box. An aluminum can recycled today can be back on the shelf as a new one in just 60 days. Shredded paper can be recycled into lower-grade paper products like paper towels, napkins, and egg cartons.

By recycling right, we help create jobs and reduce waste sent to landfills. Manufacturers who use recycled materials conserve energy, protect natural resources, and reduce pollution.

deschutes.org/sw

Garden Project

Continued from previous page

for Every School program: Central Electric Cooperative, Central Oregon Beekeepers Association, Central Oregon Health Council, Clabough Foundation, El Sancho, Gray Family

Foundation, New Sun Energy, Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Farm to School & School Garden Network, Pacific Power Foundation, Saginaw Sunset and Savory Spice Bend.

The goal of The Environmental Center's Garden Grant program is to provide local funding for public and private schools across Central Oregon to start, expand, or improve school

gardens and outdoor classrooms. Research shows that outdoor learning environments improve students' mental, emotional and physical health, while also supporting social and academic development.

The Garden Grant program is one component of The Environmental Center's broader Garden for Every School initiative. In addition to grants,

the program organizes a regional Garden Educator Network, provides technical assistance to schools, operates the Kansas Avenue Learning Garden in downtown Bend, and is developing a new Community Learning Garden in Redmond in partnership with RootedHomes at Rooted at 19th. Learn more at envirocenter.org/schoolgardens.



Our new Bend North Goodwill store features over 10,000 square feet of clothing, household goods, and other great treasures.

GRAND OPENING HOURS

Thursday • April 9, 2026
8:00AM to 9:00PM

Friday • April 10, 2026
9:00AM to 8:00PM

Saturday - Sunday • April 11-12, 2026
10:00AM to 8:00PM

REGULAR STORE HOURS

Monday - Sunday 10:00AM to 8:00PM

Please note: Our Bend South (on Highway 97) and Redmond stores & donation centers will be open during their regular hours of 10:00AM-8:00PM.

BEND NORTH
GOODWILL

THURSDAY
APRIL 9, 2026
Doors open at
8:00AM



63545 Hunnell Rd. • Bend, OR
(located adjacent to Costco on Hunnell Rd.)

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GOODWILL GIFT CARD

Visit the store between April 9-12, 2026, and enter for a chance to win a \$100 Goodwill gift card. Winners will be selected Monday, April 13, 2026. Need not be present to win. Winners will be notified by phone. Other conditions may apply.

MeetGoodwill.org • GoodwillBooks.com • ShopGoodwill.com

Recycled Products & Services (Listed Alphabetically)

| Company / Address | Phone | Fax | WebSite/Email | Contact | Staff | CO Year Est. | Services |
|---|--------------|--------------|--|---------------|-------|--------------|---|
| B&R Auto 64154 Hwy. 97 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-382-1987 | 541-389-6299 | www.autowrecking.com/locations/bend sales@autowrecking.com | N/A | 7 | 1978 | Complete auto recycling, selling used auto parts. |
| Bar Seven A Recycle 1060 SE Lake Rd., PO Box 890 Redmond, OR 97756 | 541-548-4747 | 541-548-0460 | www.barsevena.com admin@barsevena.com | Brian Skidgel | 27 | 1967 | Wood recycling. Portable crushing. Portable grinding. Excavation. Commercial excavation. |
| Bend-Redmond Habitat For Humanity 224 NE Thurston Ave. Bend, OR 97701 | 541-312-6709 | N/A | www.bendredmondhabitat.org rcooper@brhabitat.org | N/A | 28 | 1998 | Bend-Redmond Habitat builds strength, stability & self-reliance through affordable homeownership for families & individuals in Bend & Redmond. We are dedicated to changing lives by bringing people together to help make a difference in our communities through affordable housing. Since 1989, Bend-Redmond Habitat has built 167 homes & repaired 146 more, providing more than 1042 children & adults a safe, secure & healthy home. The Bend ReStore is a home improvement resale center that accepts & sells a wide variety of building materials, appliances & home furnishings. All proceeds from the ReStore benefit Bend-Redmond Habitat's mission. |
| Brilliant Environmental Building Products 327 NW Greenwood Ave., Ste. 100 Bend, OR 97703 | 541-317-0202 | 541-550-2230 | www.brilliantmaterials.com info@brilliantmaterials.com | Jorden Swart | 2 | 2008 | Specializing in sustainable building materials for the interior of a home such as wool carpet, cork flooring, bamboo, counter tops, paints, stains & more. |
| Crook County Landfill 110 SW Landfill Rd. Prineville, OR 97754 | 541-447-2398 | N/A | www.crookcountyor.gov jacquie.davis@crookcountyor.gov | Jacquie Davis | 10 | 1979 | Solid waste landfill. Recycling depot. |
| Deschutes Recycling 61050 SE 27th St. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-388-1910 | N/A | www.republicservices.com/centraloregon TDaniel@republicservices.com | Daniel Troy | 12 | 2001 | Knott Landfill recycling depot. Recycling of computers, refrigerators, appliances, tires, scrap metal, glass, cardboard, etc. Composting facility for disposal of yard debris & sales of SoilBuilder & BioFine compost. |
| Fagen Trees & Chips 151 SE Second St. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-382-4997 | N/A | www.bendoregontreeservice.com treesandchips@gmail.com | Wade Fagen | 4 | 1986 | Certified Arborist, land clearing & tree services, wood chip bark mulch supplier, snow removal. |

Continued on Page 20

Roundabouts Home Consignments Moves Environmental Focus Online

by ANDREA HINE — CBN Feature Writer

“There used to be seven furniture consignment stores in Central Oregon,” said Gavin Graham, co-owner of Roundabouts Home Consignments. “We were the last one standing.”

Born of necessity, Roundabouts traces its origin to the trajectory he and his wife Alison followed when deciding to move from the resort town of Steamboat Springs, Colo. after the 2008 crash — when the couple found themselves “fighting to stay alive — shoveling and plowing snow instead of enjoying it,” Graham said.

As he described, a four-day scouting trip to Bend cemented the growing town as their next place to live, so the couple “packed up the kids (aged eight months and two years at the time), three dogs, and our possessions” and headed west — only to discover that since their initial visit, “home prices had almost doubled, and the cost of living had risen substantially.”

Realizing they needed to swap out their current furniture in order to live comfortably in a small rental house, selling the pieces and finding affordable replacements from second-hand and pre-owned stores was financially imperative.

“We looked around and around, but felt let down at not encountering the consignment store experience we knew. Both of us subsequently arrived at the same decision: Let’s open a place that is fun, friendly, fair, and passionate about honest value,” he said. “Plus, as a bonus, selling pre-owned products would help the

environment by reducing waste, and provide relief to the massive carbon footprint created by new furniture manufacturing and shipping.”

Calling upon his years of retail, construction, and woodshop experience, Graham — with his wife as co-owner — opened Roundabouts Home Consignments in 2015, growing it over the next seven years into a thriving and profitable business that was open six days a week, and employed seven people.

Then Covid hit. “And everybody else in local furniture consignment shut down one by one,” Graham said.

While initially able to sustain their own operation, staffing became an insurmountable challenge. As Graham cited, “From 2020-2024, we went through more than 40 employees — and didn’t fire a single person. Employment was a constant juggling act.”

Simultaneously, the rapid growth of online shopping (Facebook Marketplace being a primary example), required a radical pivot. “We needed to be Internet-driven as patrons began searching for furniture online before ever venturing to the local brick-and-mortar store,” said Graham.

Being a “design inspiration for customers” — who praised him as “fair, honest, and selective” without necessarily spending money at Roundabouts — was not a sustainable format, he noted.

(To expand, the online consignment service market is projected to grow at an annual rate of 10.4 percent from 2026 to 2033.)

As part of their shift in strategy, the Grahams have moved away from consignment (as will soon be reflected in a new company name). Instead, they focus on buying (and often refurbishing) pre-owned home furnishings and décor direct from sellers — offering customers the options of buying online and by appointment only at the existing



ROUNDABOUTS SELLS PRE-OWNED PRODUCTS THAT HELP THE ENVIRONMENT BY REDUCING WASTE | PHOTO COURTESY OF ROUNDABOUTS HOME CONSIGNMENTS



ROUNDABOUTS OFTEN REFURBISHES PRE-OWNED HOME FURNITURE AND DÉCOR PURCHASED DIRECT FROM SELLERS

Roundabouts space on Second Street. “We’re happy with this operating structure, as the percentage of time spent with potential buyers who don’t end up making a purchase has dropped exponentially,” Graham said. “Fifty to 60 percent of our customers who make an appointment purchase what they come in for, or end up buying something else that attracted their attention.”

Graham emphasized that — as before — eco-junking/hauling, estate vacating, and material reclamation services, as well as furniture repair and custom orders, are still offered. Details are available on the company’s website — RHC.BEND.COM — that, along with its Instagram and Facebook profiles, enable people to stay up to date on Roundabouts’ 6,500 square feet of inventory.

“If something catches your eye, DM, email, call, or send a pigeon and we’ll happily get you in,” said Alison Graham. “Whether you’re a fan of solid wood antiques, high-design, or more modern clean-line furnishings — or have a sentimental piece that needs some love — Roundabouts can help.”
rhc.bend.com



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PHOTOS | COURTESY OF OLD MILL DISTRICT

Elk Vintage

Continued from page 3

Elk Vintage grew from a shared passion for sourcing and selling one-of-a-kind vintage clothing. The two began hosting pop-ups and participating in local markets across Central Oregon, including Gathered Wares, Consignment Collective, Dogwood at the Pine Shed, and at events in Camp Sherman.

“At first, it was just, ‘We have a lot of cool stuff,’” Gallacher said. “Then it

turned into, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if we had a store?’”

The shop will feature a curated mix of vintage clothing, accessories, and small home goods, each piece carefully sourced from across Oregon, online, or during buying trips to other regions of the country.

Gallacher’s aesthetic leans toward vintage T-shirts, denim, and rock-n-roll edge, while Hattenhauer brings a more classic perspective with sweaters and timeliness pieces. Together, they aim to create a collection that feels personal and eclectic.

“All of our pieces are one of a kind,” Gallacher said. “You’re not going to walk in and find something everyone else is wearing.”

The store will emphasize quality and care, with each item washed, steamed, and prepared before it hits the rack.

For the Old Mill District, Elk Vintage introduces a new retail category within one of its most distinctive spaces.

“It’s going to be a fun, funky addition,” said Beau Eastes, marketing director for the Old Mill District. “The Little Red Shed is the oldest building we have, and it’s exciting to see it used in a way

that really leans into its history. And Elk Vintage brings something different — that treasure-hunt experience where you never know what you’re going to find.”

Elk Vintage is scheduled to open May 1, during the Old Mill District’s First Friday Art Walk celebration, with a grand opening planned from 3-6pm. The shop will operate Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11am-4pm, with new inventory arriving weekly.

“We love the idea that a vintage piece finds you,” Hattenhauer said. “That’s what we want people to feel when they walk in.”
Instagram: @elk_vintage_bend

Recycled Products & Services *(Listed Alphabetically)*

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

| Company / Address | Phone | Fax | WebSite/Email | Contact | Staff | CO Year Est. | Services |
|---|--------------|--------------|---|--|-------|--------------|--|
| Northwest Sign Recycling LLC 1415 NW Murphy Ct., PO Box 7524 Redmond, OR 97756 | 541-279-0386 | N/A | www.nwsignrecycling.com info@nwsignrecycling.com | Tory Allman, Penny Eddington, Greg Surgener | 5 | 2004 | Using 45,000 pounds per square inch of water, we remove old sign laminates without chemicals & without harming the integrity of the aluminum. We recycle existing aluminum signs into clean, reusable, sign blanks ready for new sign faces. We also offer refacing services & new aluminum signs. |
| Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon - Madras 1412 SW Hwy. 97 Madras, OR 97741 | 541-475-6961 | 541-475-6971 | www.opportunityfound.org/thrift-stores info@opportunityfound.org | Kirstin Nilles | 335 | 1965 | Thrift store & job training program. |
| Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon - Redmond 835 E Hwy. 126, 3294 S Hwy. 97 PO Box 430 Redmond, OR 97756 | 541-548-5288 | 541-504-2115 | www.opportunityfound.org info@opportunityfound.org | Marti Rasmussen | 221 | 1965 | Thrift store. |
| Printer Resources & Recycling, LLC 2669 NE Twin Knolls Dr., Ste. 205 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-318-5211 | N/A | www.MyPrinterResources.com frank@myprinterresources.com | Mickey Meszaro, Frank Patka, Mark Giltner, Jennifer Clark | 5 | 2000 | Printer, multifunction, copier, plotter service & supplies. Discounted quality toner & inks, E-waste recycling services - printers, faxes, desktop copiers, computers, monitors, toners, inks, cell phones, home batteries; IT services. |
| Radius Recycling 110 SE Fifth St. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-382-8471 | N/A | www.radiusrecycling.com sdoyle@rdrus.com | Scott Doyle | 5 | 1906 | Scrap metal recycling. |
| Republic Services (formerly SecureShred) 20835 NE Montana Wy. Bend, OR 97701 | 541-382-2263 | N/A | www.republicservices.com/centraloregon | N/A | 2 | 2003 | Complete on-site document destruction. Serving all of Central Oregon. |
| Sisters Habitat for Humanity ReStore 254 W Adams Ave. Sisters, OR 97759 | 541-549-1621 | N/A | www.sistershabitat.org Kris@sistershabitat.org | Kris Powell | 7 | 2007 | We recycle metal, paint & bottles & cans. We sell furniture, electronics, sporting goods, tools, hardware & more. |
| Sisters Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store 211 E Cascade Ave. PO Box 238 Sisters, OR 97759 | 541-549-1740 | 541-549-6695 | www.sistershabitat.org rick@sistershabitat.org | Rick Murray | 5 | 2007 | Used clothes, housewares, linens, books & more! |
| Strive Workplace Solutions 63011 Plateau Dr., Ste. 1 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-382-6688 | 541-389-1762 | www.striveoffice.com billr@striveoffice.com | Bill Rosen | 6 | 1969 | Office supplies, furniture, office machines, design planning, printing, janitorial & break room supplies. |
| Swift & McCormick Metal Inc. 3192 NE Sedgewick Ave. Redmond, OR 97756 | 541-548-4448 | 541-548-4061 | carol.smmetals@yahoo.com | Dan McCormick | 11 | 1987 | Scrap metal recycling. |

This is a sampling of Central Oregon Recycled Products & Services. If you would like to be added to this list, please email cbn@cascadebusnews.com.

KNOTT LANDFILL RECYCLING & TRANSFER FACILITY
BUSINESS HAZARDOUS WASTE
DISPOSAL FACILITY



The Knott Landfill Recycling & Transfer Facility, located at 61050 SE 27th Street in Bend, has a hazardous waste facility available for business-generated hazardous waste disposal.

Contact the Solid Waste office or visit deschutes.org/solidwaste for a Business Hazardous Waste Collection application and more information.

Business must qualify as Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG). Appointments required. Fees based on volume and material type.

SAFETY TIPS

- If possible, keep products in original containers.
- If label is missing and you know the contents, add your own.
- Do not mix different products together.
- Make sure containers are not leaking and have secure lids. If leaking, place in a second leak-proof container.
- For transport, secure containers upright and store away from the driver, passengers and pets.
- Do not dump or drain any household hazardous waste into storm drains. Storm drains send runoff water either directly to the river or underground toward our drinking water supplies, typically without treatment. Remember, only rain in the storm drain!

Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste
61050 SE 27th Street, Bend, OR 97702
Phone: (541) 317-3163
deschutes.org/solidwaste



To request this information in an alternate format, please call (541) 317-3163 or send email to solidwaste@deschutes.org

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securityprosbend.com

Household Hazard Waste Collection Events Coming to Redmond, Sisters & La Pine in April

provided by DESCHUTES COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Spring is a good time to clean out the garage and get rid of household hazardous waste. However, these items must be disposed of safely. Knott landfill takes household hazardous waste on Fridays and Saturdays every week, but rural transfer stations aren't currently equipped to accept it.

To make it easier, and cut down on trips to the landfill, Deschutes County Solid Waste is hosting special one-day collection events this April in Redmond, Sisters, and La Pine. Residents can drop off household hazardous items at these events for free.

Here are the event locations, dates and hours of operation for each community:

- **Redmond:** Negus Transfer Station
2400 NE Maple Ave.
Saturday, April 4
9am-1pm
- **Sisters:** Sisters Recycling Center
328 Sisters Park Drive
Saturday, April 11
9am-1pm
- **La Pine:** South County Services
Center parking lot
51340 U.S. 97
Saturday, April 18
9am-1pm

"Improper disposal of household hazardous waste can harm the environment and community health by allowing toxic chemicals to leak into the soil and groundwater," said Greg Brady, Deschutes County Hazardous Waste Supervisor. "We hope that by offering these free, one-day events we can reduce the amount of hazardous waste going into the county landfill."

Items that **will be** accepted at the collection events include:

- Oil and latex paints and stains
- Thinners, solvents, fuels
- Oil-soaked rags and absorbents
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Garden products (herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, etc.)
- Vehicle fluids (coolants, lubricants, fuels, brake fluid, transmission fluid, etc.)
- BBQ grill size propane tanks and camp stove cylinders
- Aerosols (paints, garden sprays, cleaners, etc.)
- Mercury and Mercury-containing items (thermometers, thermostats, etc.)
- Fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs
- Rechargeable batteries
- Household cleaners



PHOTO | COURTESY OF DESCHUTES COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Items that **will not** be accepted include:

- Business-generated hazardous waste
- Medical waste
- Explosives, fireworks, ammunition
- Compressed gas cylinders (propane tanks and cylinders are accepted)
- Containers larger than 5 gallons

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is also accepted free of charge at the Knott Landfill HHW Facility every Friday and Saturday, from 9am-3pm. The facility is located at 61050 SE 27th St. in southeast Bend. To learn more about common hazardous waste materials visit the Solid Waste Department website.

For questions about the HHW collection events, please call the Department of Solid Waste at 541-317-3163.

You can learn more about the HHW collection program by listening to episode 51 of the Inside Deschutes County Podcast on the podcast platform of your choice, or at deschutes.org/podcast.

The Deschutes County Solid Waste Department invites county residents to manage waste responsibly by reusing, recycling and reducing waste. The department offers a variety of recycling opportunities, waste prevention programs, and works collaboratively with the community to reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill, conserve resources and create a more sustainable future.

deschutes.org/solidwaste

\$100K Bend Sustainability Grant Fuels Reuse Initiative to Cut Waste Across Hospitality Sector

by MARY PANTENBURG — The Environmental Center

The Environmental Center recently received a remarkable \$100,000 grant from Visit Bend through its Bend Sustainability Fund. We are both grateful and inspired by this investment, which underscores the value of directing visitor-generated revenue back into the local community. This funding represents a shared commitment to protecting the natural environment that makes Central Oregon such a special place to live and visit.

With this support, The Environmental Center in partnership with Bold Reuse will develop a centralized wash hub to launch and sustain our new reusable serviceware initiative, Reuse Deschutes. This program is designed to reduce waste by phasing out single-use serviceware across our hospitality sector. Each year, tens of millions of serviceware items are used once and then sent to the Knott Landfill, contributing to an already overburdened waste system. Reuse Deschutes aims to shift this pattern by offering a practical, community-driven alternative.

Here's how it will work:

- For take-out: Customers can opt to purchase or borrow a durable, reusable container when ordering from participating food vendors.

- For on-site consumption at food lots or events: The businesses would switch all meals or drinks to reusable ware. When done, users would return the reusable serviceware to designated collection points.

- Wash Hub: The used serviceware would be transported to a centralized wash hub, where they will be professionally cleaned, sanitized, and prepared for reuse in accordance with food safety standards.

This system makes reuse convenient for both customers and vendors, removing common barriers to more sustainable choices.

The wash hub, made possible through Visit Bend's

Bend Sustainability Fund, is a critical piece of this infrastructure. The Environmental Center is proud to partner with Bold Reuse, an organization with proven success managing dishwashing and logistics in Portland and Seattle. Together, we are bringing an innovative, scalable solution to Central Oregon for the first time.

By investing in reuse systems instead of disposable products, this project will significantly reduce waste, conserve resources, and lower greenhouse gas emissions associated with single-use packaging. It also demonstrates how collaboration between local organizations, businesses, and the hospitality industry can lead to meaningful, lasting impact.

We are excited to bring this vision to life and grateful to Visit Bend for helping make it possible.

RethinkWasteProject.org

Landscaping

Landscape Designers (Listed Alphabetically)

| Company / Address | Phone | Fax | WebSite/Email | Contact | Staff | CO Year Est. | Services |
|---|--------------|--------------|--|--------------------------------|-------|--------------|--|
| Aspen Landscape Development 61944 SE 27th St. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-330-9577 | N/A | www.aspen-bend.com info@aspen-bend.com | Brandon Reese, Jarrod Levin | 20 | 1996 | Landscape design, irrigation & landscape installation & maintenance & water features, rockscapes, patios & decks. |
| Bend Pine Nursery 19019 Baker Rd. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-977-8733 | N/A | www.bendpinenursery.com bendpinenursery@gmail.com | Sarah Whipple | 5 | 1990 | Specializing in plantscaping for privacy, screening & creating natural structure on bare (or empty) sites. |
| Blooming Desert Design + Build, LCB # 9613, CCB #204362 PO Box 48 Powell Butte, OR 97753 | 541-977-5499 | N/A | www.bloomingdesertdesign.com shannon@bloomingdesertdesign.com | Drew Lester, Shannon Lester | 2 | 2010 | Landscape design, paver installation, backflow assembly testing, exterior project management, D.I.Y. hourly consultations. |
| Butch & Troy Landscaping Inc., LCB 7158 19384 Seminole Cir. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-385-0839 | N/A | www.bendoregonlandscaping.com ButchandTroy@gmail.com | Troy Butolph | 5 | 1979 | All phase- landscape install, water features, irrigation, maintenance commercial & residential |
| Carlseng Designs Bend, OR 97703 | 541-610-6961 | N/A | www.carlsengdesigns.com info@carlsengdesigns.com | Tanya Carlsen | 1 | 2006 | Offers landscape design & consultation blending form, function & sustainability for a site & client specific design that honors our local environment. |
| ECO-SCAPES 22160 NE Butler Market Rd. PO Box 205 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-389-5296 | N/A | www.eco-scapes.com edbartz@eco-scapes.com | Ed Bartz | 3 | 1993 | Natural landscape maintenance. |
| Evergreen Plantscapes LLC PO Box 84 Bend, OR 97709 | 541-382-3841 | N/A | www.evergreenplantscapes.com evergreenllc@bendcable.com | Mike Hull | 6 | 1981 | Interior plant design, installation & maintenance. |
| Homeland Design, LLC 2337 NE Eighth St. Bend, OR 97701 | 541-312-2141 | 541-312-2141 | www.homelanddesignllc.com joey@homelanddesignllc.com | Joey & Becky Shaw | 2 | 2009 | Full service custom & residential home & landscape design, remodel design irrigation design, builder/permit set drawings, onsite DIY consultations, computer renderings, study scale models, construction administration & bid review. |
| Landscape Elements, LLC, LCB 7256 PO Box 1878 Bend, OR 97709 | 541-312-2680 | N/A | www.landscapelements.net admin@landscapelements.net | Parker MacDon- ald | 15 | 1999 | Custom design/build landscape & irrigation services. |
| Millsite Landscape Services LCB# 8364, CCB#153527 15 SW Colorado Ave., Ste. 1 Bend, OR 97702 | 541-382-2756 | 541-388-5414 | www.millsitelandscape.com Mike@millsitelandscape.com | Mike Bjorvik | 30 | 1998 | Landscape maintenance, landscape construction, irrigation services, arbor care, seasonal color, snow & ice management, building maintenance & event services throughout Central Oregon. LCB# 8364 CCB#153527 |
| Newport Avenue Landscaping 61535 S Hwy. 97, Ste. 5-194 Bend, OR 97702 | 541-617-8873 | N/A | www.newportavelandscaping.com info@newportavelandscaping.com | Sterling West | 150 | 2006 | Lawn service, commercial landscape maintenance, aeration services, sprinkler system activation, sprinkler blowout service, sprinkler repair, snow removal, design. Commercial & residential landscape installations. |
| Sculptural Landscapes, LCB 6008 19019 Baker Rd. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-382-5188 | Call first | www.bendpinenursery.com info@bendpinenursery.com | Fred Swisher | 1 | 1970 | Design consultation & construction. Bend's only landscape books -- <i>55 Myths, Tips + Secrets: Bend's Essential Guide to Landscaping</i> , <i>Simple Landscaping: A Life long High-Desert Landscaper Reveals How to Do More for Less</i> , <i>Simple Landscaping + Landscape War: 10 Traps You Must Avoid</i> . |
| Valorie Lukins Landscape Design Bend, OR | 541-330-5700 | N/A | val@vlukinslandscapedesign.com | Valorie Lukins | 1 | 1980 | Specializing in landscape design for residential & commercial properties & therapeutic gardens. |

This is a sampling of Central Oregon Landscape Designers. If you would like to be added to this list, please email cbn@cascadebusnews.com.

Landscape Architects (Listed Alphabetically)

| Company / Address | Phone | Fax | WebSite/Email | Contact | Staff | CO Year Est. | Services |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|------------------------------|-------|--------------|--|
| Botanical Developments 63007 Lower Meadow Dr. PO Box 6326 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-617-5926 | 541-617-0443 | www.botanical-developments.com ron@botanical-developments.com | Ron Kidder | 40 | 2000 | Landscape architecture, construction, maintenance & habitat restoration company committed to ecologically sound landscape practices. |
| David Evans & Associates, Inc. 2843 NW Lolo Dr., Ste. 102 Bend, OR 97703 | 503-499-0462 | N/A | www.deainc.com sdh@deainc.com | Steven Harrison | 2 | 1976 | Engineering, surveying, planning, landscape architecture, natural resources management, construction engineering services. |
| Katrina Langenderfer Landscape Architecture 48 SE Bridgeford Blvd., Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97702 | 541-749-8526 | N/A | www.KLLandArch.com info@KLLandArch.com | Katrina Langenderfer | 1 | 2012 | Katrina Langenderfer Landscape Architecture provides comprehensive & integrated master planning & design services for park & recreation facilities, trails, transportation corridors/urban streetscapes, commercial, institutional, residential & environmental site development. Services include master planning/site planning, site design, landscape & hardscape design, irrigation design, illustrative digital graphics/visual communication & construction documentation. |
| Newport Avenue Landscaping 61535 S Hwy. 97, Ste. 5-194 Bend, OR 97702 | 541-617-8873 | N/A | www.newportavelandscaping.com info@newportavelandscaping.com | Sterling West | 150 | 2006 | Lawn service, commercial landscape maintenance, aeration services, sprinkler system activation, sprinkler blowout service, sprinkler repair, snow removal, design. Commercial & residential landscape installations. |
| SZABO Landscape Architecture 1000 NW Wall St., Ste. 205 Bend, OR 97703 | 541-382-2059 | N/A | www.szabo-la.com mike@szabo-la.com | Mike Szabo, Brian Nierman | 7 | 2014 | Landscape architectural design services for commercial, residential, campus, parks & urban design projects. |
| Ten Over Studio, Inc 856 NW Bond St., Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97703 | 541-648-1010 | N/A | www.tenoverstudio.com info@tenoverstudio.com | Heidi Shurtz | 6 | 2014 | TEN OVER STUDIO's landscape architecture team creates beautiful & impactful spaces that benefit all including the development of parks, urban centers, campuses, wineries, resorts & custom residences throughout the U.S. |

This is a sampling of Central Oregon Landscape Architects. If you would like to be added to this list, please email cbn@cascadebusnews.com.



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-  Paver Patios & Walkways
-  Water Features
-  Outdoor Living Areas
-  Landscape Maintenance
-  Sprinklers & Irrigation

 541-617-8873
newportavelandscaping.com

Landscape Contractors & Suppliers (Listed Alphabetically)

| Company / Address | Phone | Fax | WebSite/Email | Contact | Staff | CO Year Est. | Services |
|---|--------------|-------------------|--|---|-------|--------------|--|
| Blooming Desert Design + Build, LCB # 9613, CCB #204362 PO Box 48 Powell Butte, OR 97753 | 541-977-5499 | N/A | www.bloomingdesertdesign.com shannon@bloomingdesertdesign.com | Drew Lester, Shannon Lester | 2 | 2010 | Landscape design, paver installation, backflow assembly testing, exterior project management, D.I.Y. hourly consultations. |
| Butch & Troy Landscaping Inc., LCB 7158 19384 Seminole Cir. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-419-7165 | N/A | www.bendoregonlandscaping.com ButchandTroy@gmail.com | Troy Butolph | 5 | 1979 | All phase- landscape install, water features, irrigation, maintenance, commercial & residential |
| Complete Irrigation Services, LLC LCB# 8952 2660 NE Hwy. 20, Ste. 610-430 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-815-9623 | N/A | www.cisbend.com trevor@cisbend.com | Trevor Varcoc | 2 | 2010 | Irrigation startups, repairs, upgrades, installs, winterizations, backflow testing & more. |
| Eastside Gardens, Inc., LCB 12966 61780 SE 27th St. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-383-3722 | 541-317-8529 | www.eastsidegardens.org | Chester Cocco | 18 | 1989 | Full landscape nursery, sales & installation. |
| Everist Irrigation 2660 Hwy. 20, Ste. 610-101 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-362-1389 | N/A | www.everistirrigation.com jerry@everistirrigation.com | Jerry Everist | 3 | 2011 | Irrigation, landscape construction & backflow testing. LCB#9018 |
| Fagen Tree & Chips, CCB #100453 151 SE Second St. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-382-4997 | N/A | www.bendoregontreeservice.com treesandchips@gmail.com | Wade Fagen | 4 | 1995 | Certified Arborist, land clearing & tree services, wood chip bark mulch supplier, snow removal. |
| Green Thumb Landscaping, LCB 8644 - Redmond 148 SE Deschutes Ave. Redmond, OR 97756 | 541-548-2194 | 541-548-0134 | www.gtilandscaping.com greenthumbind@hotmail.com | David Krajczynski, Dana Oppenlander | 35 | 1999 | Commercial & residential design, construction, maintenance, irrigation, water features & lighting. |
| Instant Landscaping, #74728 63291 Nels Anderson Rd. Bend, OR 97701 | 541-389-9663 | N/A | www.instantlandscaping.com joc@instantlandscaping.com | Tim Larocco, Joe Owens | 11 | 1980 | Distribution for McPheeters turf & fertilizer. Deliver bark, turf, screened topsoil, enriched topsoil & soil amendments, gravel, drain rock, pavers, wall block & flagstone. Large selection of pre-packaged lawn products & fertilizers. |
| Landmark Landscaping, LLC, LCB 8209 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-420-1770 | Please call first | www.landmarklandscaping.net william@landmarklandscaping.net | William Blair | 3 | 2005 | Landscape construction. |
| Landscape Elements, LLC, LCB 7256 PO Box 1878 Bend, OR 97709 | 541-312-2680 | N/A | www.landscapelements.net admin@landscapelements.net | Parker MacDonald | 15 | 1999 | Custom design/build landscape & irrigation services. |
| Landsystems, LCB 5082 21336 E Hwy. 20 Bend, OR 97701 | 541-382-7646 | N/A | www.landsystemsnursery.com info@landsystemsnursery.com | Gary English | 25 | 1978 | Full service nursery & garden center, irrigation, materials, DIY center, visual imagining design, bark blowing, bulk gravels, beach sand & mulches. |
| McPheeters Turf, CCB #96163 2019 SW Park Ln. Culver, OR 97734 | 541-546-9081 | 541-546-2953 | www.mcpheetersurf.com mcturf@cbbmail.com | Jason Potampa, William (Butch) McPheeters, Brenda Potampa | 5 | 1979 | Quality lawns, Advantage turf, classic blend, trees & shrubs, fertilizer. All types of turf lawns, trees, shrubs, native plants & grasses. |
| Millsite Landscape Services LCB# 8364, CCB#153527 15 SW Colorado Ave., Ste. 1 Bend, OR 97702 | 541-382-2756 | 541-388-5414 | www.millsitelandscaping.com Mike@millsitelandscaping.com | Mike Bjorvik | 30 | 1998 | Landscape maintenance, landscape construction, irrigation services, arbor care, seasonal color, snow & ice management, building maintenance & event services throughout Central Oregon. LCB# 8364 CCB#153527 |
| Newport Avenue Landscaping 61535 S Hwy. 97, Ste. 5-194 Bend, OR 97702 | 541-617-8873 | N/A | www.newportavelandscaping.com info@newportavelandscaping.com | Sterling West | 150 | 2006 | Lawn service, commercial landscape maintenance, aeration services, sprinkler system activation, sprinkler blowout service, sprinkler repair, snow removal, design. Commercial & residential landscape installations. |
| Outdoor Solutions Landscape Maintenance LCB# 100527 Throughout Central Oregon | 541-948-1212 | N/A | www.outdoorsolutions541.com office.outdoorsolutions541@gmail.com | Zach Moore | 5 | 2023 | Residential & commercial: lawn care (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly), mowing, landscape maintenance, sprinklers (maintenance, repairs, start-ups, blowouts/winterizations), bark/mulch/gravel installation, pruning, thatching, aeration, yard debris clean-ups, grass seed, fertilizing, snow plowing, gutter cleaning, power-washing & more. |
| Rexius Central Oregon 62990 Plateau Dr. Bend, OR 97701 | 541-389-4974 | 541-389-3621 | www.rexius.com centraloregon@rexius.com | Thomas Howard | 33 | 1980 | Landscape irrigation, design, construction & maintenance, soil, compost, bark. Blow in available. |
| Sculptural Landscapes, LCB 6008 19019 Baker Rd. Bend, OR 97702 | 541-977-8733 | Call first | www.bendpinenursery.com info@bendpinenursery.com | Fred Swisher | 1 | 1970 | Design consultation & construction. Bend's only landscape books -- <i>Myths, Tips + Secrets: Bend's Essential Guide to Landscaping</i> , <i>Simple Landscaping: A Life long High-Desert Landscaper Reveals How to Do More for Less</i> , <i>Simple Landscaping + Landscape War: 10 Traps You Must Avoid</i> . |
| Vern Sampels Landscaping, LCB 8092 PO Box 1587 Terrebonne, OR 97760 | 541-548-8416 | N/A | www.sampelslandscaping.com sampelslandscaping@hotmail.com | Carla Sampels | 15 | 1971 | Full phase landscaping. Authorized dealer of Rainbird Systems. |
| WinterCreek Nursery 63405 Deschutes Market Rd. Bend, OR 97701 | 541-420-0083 | N/A | www.highdeserthorticulturalcenter.org/ wintercreeknursery wintercreek@highdeserthort.org | Ben Snyder | 5 | 2000 | Native plant nursery, retail & wholesale plant sales. |

This is a sampling of Central Oregon Landscape Contractors & Suppliers. If you would like to be added to this list, please email cbn@cascadebusnews.com.

Cultivating Efficiency

What's New for Oregon Greenhouses in 2026

Sponsored Content provided by ENERGY TRUST of OREGON

For nursery and greenhouse operators in Central Oregon, keeping energy use under control can make a big difference in day-to-day costs. This year, Energy Trust of Oregon has updated cash incentives to make it easier to upgrade your facilities and manage rising expenses.

Whether you are planning a new greenhouse or retrofitting an existing structure, these updates can help you make the most of 2026.

This year's changes focus on higher-performing materials and specialized heating strategies. Here's a quick look at what local growers need to know:

- **New rebate for double-wall polycarbonate:** A new rebate for double-wall polycarbonate in new greenhouse construction makes it easier for growers to invest in higher-performing glazing from the start.
- **Higher incentives for infrared greenhouse film:** The infrared poly rebate has nearly doubled, from 8 cents to 15 cents per square foot, making heat-retaining films more affordable.
- **New drip irrigation incentive:** A new cash incentive for drip irrigation gives growers another way to manage water use and pumping costs.
- **New support for electric-heated greenhouses:** Electric-only heated greenhouses now have a rebate path for upgrades like thermal curtains, with incentives of 50 cents per square foot for new builds and \$1.15 per square foot for retrofits. Electric-only heated greenhouses now have a rebate path for upgrades like thermal curtains, with incentives of 50 cents per square foot for new builds and \$1.15 per square foot for retrofits.

In 2021, Moonfire and Sun Garden Center in Bend replaced an aging greenhouse with a larger, more energy-efficient model made of twin-wall polycarbonate which provides an extra layer of insulation. "Five years ago, we were pouring money into heating a space that couldn't hold onto it," said Brandon Reese, co-owner of Moonfire and Sun Garden Center. "Upgrading our greenhouse felt like a big step at the time, but it's lowered our energy bills every month and lets us reinvest that money back into our business and community."

In 2026, some insulation measures also offer different incentive levels depending on whether the project is part of new construction or a retrofit. Growers planning greenhouse projects may want to connect with a qualified professional early in



MOONFIRE AND SUN GARDEN CENTER | PHOTO COURTESY OF ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON

the design process to understand which incentives apply. Planning a project? Energy Trust recommends checking in with a professional before you break ground or begin a teardown. Visit energytrust.org/greenhouse or reach out to production@energytrust.org or 866-202-0576 to get started.

About Energy Trust of Oregon:

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit created to help people, organizations, and communities save energy and connect to renewable power like solar. Funded by customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural, Cascade Natural Gas and Avista, Energy Trust services lower energy costs and help communities and utilities achieve their clean energy goals and build a strong future for Oregon.

energytrust.org

FOR SALE IN SISTERS: 1092 Jantzen Way

Lot lines are approximate

- .93-acre lot in the Sun Ranch Business Park
- Part of a master-planned light-industrial community
- \$499,000

FOR SALE & FOR LEASE: 909-925 SE 2ND Street

- 2 office buildings, 3,686 SF across 4 units
- Immediate income potential
- Seller financing available. • \$1,150,000

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541.728.0033
info@rmkoregon.com www.keypropertiesoregon.com

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



Jeff Merwin

Deschutes County has selected **Jeff Merwin** to serve as its new Solid Waste director, following a nationwide recruitment. Merwin replaces current director Tim Brownell, who will retire March 21.

Merwin has served as compliance and infrastructure manager at Deschutes County SolidWaste since April 2023. During that time, he played a key role in the construction of the new Negus Transfer Station in Redmond. He also helped lead work on the Knott Landfill renewable natural gas project and the county's landfill siting project.

Before joining Deschutes County, Merwin served as the Crook County landfill manager for five years.

Merwin earned a bachelor's degree in public health from Oregon State University. He also completed additional graduate work in environmental health and occupational safety.

As Solid Waste director, Merwin will oversee waste disposal and recycling operations at Knott Landfill and the rural transfer stations in Deschutes County, including the Negus Transfer Station in Redmond, the Northwest Transfer Station near Sisters, the Southwest Transfer Station between Sunriver and La Pine, and the Alfalfa Transfer Station near Alfalfa.



Nathanael Werner

Nathanael Werner, AIA, NCARB, has joined **SAJ Architecture** as a project architect. A senior-level architect licensed in Oregon and Washington, Werner has nearly 20 years of K-12 school, commercial, housing and hospitality experience. He is currently working on the Irrigon Junior/Senior High School and supporting SAJ's multifamily housing team. An active community member, Werner is currently enrolled in Leadership Bend and is an Architects in Schools volunteer.



Krista Appleby

Deschutes County has hired **Krista Appleby** as the county's new building official. She started in her new role on March 10.

As building official, Appleby will help protect public safety by making sure work in the county and the cities of La Pine and Sisters meets Oregon statewide building codes. Her day-to-day work will include overseeing plan reviews, permitting and inspections for a variety of construction projects, from home remodels to new commercial construction.

Appleby has worked in the Building Safety Division of the County's Community Development Department since April 2017. She served as a fire and life safety commercial plans examiner, a lead plans examiner and most recently as the assistant building official.

Appleby is a licensed architect in Oregon and Washington. Before joining Deschutes County, she worked on a variety of building projects at architectural firms in Montana, Oregon and Washington. She has a bachelor of architecture from Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, and is the current board president of the Oregon Building Officials Association.

Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) announces the hiring of **Wendy Morgan** as its new Venture Catalyst director, a key role that leads the organization's Start initiative and advances entrepreneurship as a driver of economic growth across the region.

In this role, Morgan will focus on building and strengthening Central Oregon's entrepreneurial ecosystem, helping scalable startups succeed at a higher rate and contributing to long-term job creation. She will work directly with early-stage companies to prepare them for debt and equity funding, provide pitch coaching and strategic guidance, and connect founders with the professional expertise and resources needed to grow.

Morgan will also play a central role in EDCO's signature startup programs and events, including Central Oregon PubTalks and the Bend Venture Conference.

Her responsibilities include supporting company recruitment, coaching presenting founders, facilitating due diligence processes, and working closely with fund managers and partners to ensure strong outcomes for both investors and participating companies.

She offers a unique blend of innovation leadership and commercialization expertise. She has dedicated her career to helping early-stage companies gain traction through customer discovery, go-to-market strategy and investor readiness. Most recently, she served as Innovation Impact Catalyst Manager at Oregon State University's Advantage Accelerator, where she mentored a portfolio of startups and worked to increase the number of research-based ventures entering the market. Her work strengthened connections between founders, industry partners and funding opportunities.

Morgan is also the founder of a venture-backed immersive training company, where she secured funding through federal grants, accelerators and private investment. She has collaborated with organizations such as Cedars-Sinai and the National Science Foundation to support innovation and commercialization efforts. As a certified NSF I-Corps instructor and experienced mentor, she is known for her practical approach to helping founders validate ideas and build scalable businesses. Her background spans health tech, edtech and workforce development, with a focus on impactful, market-ready solutions. Based in Central Oregon, she is deeply connected to the regional startup ecosystem and is passionate about helping entrepreneurs grow and succeed.

Les Schwab Tire Centers (Les Schwab) recently announced the appointment of **Tom Nolan** as chief executive officer and chairman of the board, effective April 7, 2026. Nolan, an experienced executive and current member of the Les Schwab Board of Directors, will succeed Mike Broberg, who is stepping down after nine years with the company, including the last three as CEO. Broberg will remain in his role through early April to support a smooth transition. Nolan has been a member of the Les Schwab Board of Directors since September 2025.

Nolan brings more than two decades of consumer and retail leadership experience across brand-driven, customer-centric businesses. Most recently, he served as Chief Executive Officer of Kendra Scott, a leading jewelry and lifestyle brand. While there, Nolan led the expansion of the company's retail business to more than 165 stores, drove significant e-commerce and wholesale growth, and repositioned the brand around experiential retail, community engagement and philanthropy. Earlier in his career, he held senior leadership roles at Ralph Lauren and Condé Nast, building deep experience at the intersection of brand, operations and consumer engagement.

Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) has received a \$50,000 grant from the Meta Data Center Community Action Grants Program – Prineville Data Center to support Crook & Jefferson Innovate, a project to strengthen rural entrepreneurship and expand economic opportunities in Central Oregon.

EDCO's Crook & Jefferson Innovate project will assess the entrepreneurial ecosystem in both counties by identifying active and emerging entrepreneurs, evaluating barriers related to digital access and business support, and mapping existing resources. The effort will highlight gaps and recommend targeted solutions to strengthen the region's entrepreneurial infrastructure.

The project will directly engage entrepreneurs and partners to gather input on challenges and support needs. Advisory committees will guide outreach and validate findings, resulting in county reports with actionable recommendations.

Rural communities often face unique challenges, including limited broadband infrastructure, fragmented business support services and barriers for historically underrepresented founders. By identifying gaps and opportunities in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, EDCO aims to create a roadmap to strengthen entrepreneurship and expand economic opportunity for the region's approximately 51,000 residents across both counties.

The initiative also aligns with EDCO's broader efforts to support innovation and entrepreneurship across the region, including through the Central Oregon Innovation Hub, a regional effort to expand resources, mentorship and capital access for innovative and high-growth, traded-sector startups.

EDCO was one of several organizations selected to receive funding through the 2026 Meta Data Center Community Action Grants Program – Prineville Data Center. Through the program, Meta funds projects that put technology to use for community benefit by addressing critical needs, helping people build strong and sustainable communities, and improving local STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) education.

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

Travel Oregon Receives Travel + Leisure Global Vision Award for Pioneering Accessibility Initiative

by GRACE BRIGGS

The Oregon Tourism Commission, dba Travel Oregon, has been named a recipient of the 2026 *Travel + Leisure* Global Vision Award, one of the travel industry's most prestigious honors recognizing organizations dedicated to the future of sustainable travel. The award recognizes Travel Oregon's groundbreaking work to make Oregon the first state in the nation to earn "Accessibility Verified" status, ensuring travelers with disabilities can explore the state with confidence. Travel Oregon will be featured among this year's 24 global honorees in the April 2026 issue of *Travel + Leisure*. A full list of award winners is available here.

Every year, *Travel + Leisure* presents its Global Vision Awards, recognizing individuals, products, destinations and organizations pioneering sustainable and inclusive travel. These honorees are focused on the future of travel, dedicated to ensuring the next generation can continue to explore the world without damaging it along the way. "What unites all these luminaries is a mission to lessen the negative impacts of travel while boosting the many benefits that seeing the world can bring to both individuals and the communities they visit," said *Travel + Leisure* news editor, Paul Brady.

Travel Oregon was recognized for its statewide leadership in rethinking how destinations serve a broader range of travelers, setting a model for how tourism can evolve to be more inclusive while supporting the long-term success of local communities.

Travel Oregon earned this recognition through its partnership with Wheel the World (WTW), which assessed more than 750 hotels, restaurants and tourism businesses in 43 communities across all seven of Oregon's tourism regions—evaluating mobility, visual, hearing and cognitive features so travelers with disabilities have the tools to plan trips tailored to their needs.

"Being recognized by *Travel + Leisure* with a Global Vision Award is a tremendous



MAURITANIA | PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRAVEL OREGON

honor, and a reflection of Oregon's deep and ongoing commitment to welcoming all travelers—a commitment we consider both a moral and economic obligation," said Kevin Wright, VP of Brand Stewardship at Travel Oregon. "Our Accessibility Verified designation opens the door to new visitors, offers deeper connections to Oregon's people and places, and builds upon a statewide tourism landscape where inclusion is meaningful and central to the visitor experience."

Unlike programs based on self-reporting or ADA compliance, WTW's Accessibility Verified program uses a structured, on-site evaluation process backed by physical measurements across multiple dimensions of accessibility, providing the detailed and reliable information that travelers with disabilities need when planning a trip. Verified listings are available at traveloregon.com and wheeltheworld.com.

Learn more about the Accessibility Verified designation at traveloregon.com/accessible-travel.

About Travel Oregon:

The Oregon Tourism Commission, dba Travel Oregon, is a semi-independent state agency whose mission is to inspire travel that uplifts Oregon communities. Collaborating with stakeholders to align as stewards of Oregon, we work to optimize economic opportunity, advance equity and respect the ecosystems, cultures and places that make Oregon... Oregon. Travel Oregon aims to improve Oregonians' quality of life by strengthening the economic impacts of the state's \$14.2 billion tourism industry, which employs more than 130,000 Oregonians. traveloregon.com



EarthCruiser Expands Production of Proven MOD Composite Camper Platform

provided by EARTHCRUISER

EarthCruiser is expanding production of its MOD composite camper platform, applying nearly two decades of expedition vehicle engineering to scale the design through a distributed builder network.

The move reflects a broader shift underway in the recreational vehicle industry. As inventory rises and buyers increasingly scrutinize build quality and long-term durability, manufacturers are being pushed to rethink how vehicles are designed and produced.

Founded by Lance Gillies and Michelle Boltz, EarthCruiser grew out of the founders' own experience traveling in remote regions where vehicle reliability is critical.

The company developed its first fully composite expedition vehicle in 2008, using structural concepts designed for extended travel in remote environments. That engineering approach predates the recent surge of interest in "overlanding," a segment that has increasingly become a focus for the broader RV industry.

In 2018, Gillies and Boltz entered their own vehicle in the Budapest-Bamako rally, a GPS endurance event running from Europe to West Africa along terrain that loosely follows the historic Paris-Dakar route.

The rally covers thousands of kilometres of rough roads, desert terrain, and remote travel where reliability is essential.

Gillies drove while Boltz served as co-driver and navigator. "Engineering decisions are easy to make in a workshop," said Gillies. "The real test happens thousands of kilometres from the nearest support."

The vehicle used in the rally was not a prototype. It was a standard EarthCruiser built using the same composite structural philosophy first developed by Gillies and Boltz more than a decade earlier.

That same vehicle remains in service today. "We still use that truck regularly," Gillies said. "Same structure, same philosophy. It continues to do exactly what it was built to do."

Over the past two decades EarthCruiser has produced hundreds of expedition vehicles and composite camper structures using variations of the same design approach. The company is now applying that experience to a broader range of products, including the MOD composite camper platform.

Unlike traditional RV construction methods that rely on multiple panels, fasteners and seal joints, the MOD camper uses a one-piece composite structure designed to reduce potential failure points while lowering overall weight.

EarthCruiser's current production model focuses on engineering and structural



MAURITANIA | PHOTO COURTESY OF EARTHCRUISER

composite production while experienced builder partners complete final vehicle builds closer to customers.

The distributed approach allows EarthCruiser to scale production efficiently while maintaining a focus on structural design and engineering.

"We've spent years building vehicles intended to operate far from help," Gillies said. "Now we're applying that experience to simpler, lighter products that more people can use."

EarthCruiser plans to continue expanding its composite camper platforms and builder network over the coming year. earthcruiser.com

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Who's Who!

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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Tax Strategies Before April 15

Learn Our Key Tax Reduction Strategies to Utilize Before Tax Day

provided by HERITAGE WEALTH ADVISORS

Our wealth management practice recently held a tax planning workshop that covers the leading strategies that we have seen make an impact in our clients' lives — especially the top proactive techniques to [take] action on prior to Tax Day. Tax reduction is one of the many ways our team helps clients get more out of their financial resources, and it can result in an impact that can be life-changing.

At Heritage Wealth Advisors, our goal with proactive tax planning is to motivate you to take a relatively small amount of time now in creating a forward-looking plan, to create significantly more freedom for yourself in the coming years. Read on to learn about the proactive strategies that have driven the biggest positive outcomes for our clients, helping them keep more of their hard-earned money. Because it's not about how much income or assets one has, that is most important — but rather how much of those they can keep after taxes.

The Importance of Income Diversification

While America operates within a progressive tax system, over the past several decades, we've seen a huge shift where billionaires are now paying a lower tax rate than the middle class. When you consider federal, state and local taxes, those ultra-wealthy households pay a total rate of about 23%, versus 24% for the working class.¹

At the center of what these wealthy families take advantage of is income diversification. Each type of income source is taxed differently in the tax code, with the most common type being income that comes from a job (W2, 1099, Schedule C income). But it's also the most expensive — it has the highest tax brackets applied to it in the entire tax code. We're talking upwards of 50% when accounting for federal, state, Social Security, and Medicare taxes.

Ultra-wealthy families often hire highly paid tax consultants to navigate the code, and many of them take advantage of the fact that there are other types/sources of income that are taxed at lower rates. This allows them to structure their tax returns so the bulk of their income comes from other sources, like investments (stocks, bonds, real estate, business interests) — all of which typically enjoy a lower tax rate than income from a job. This planning construct is fundamental for someone who wants to meaningfully reduce their taxes — and the good news is that many of the techniques they use are available to most of our clients as well.

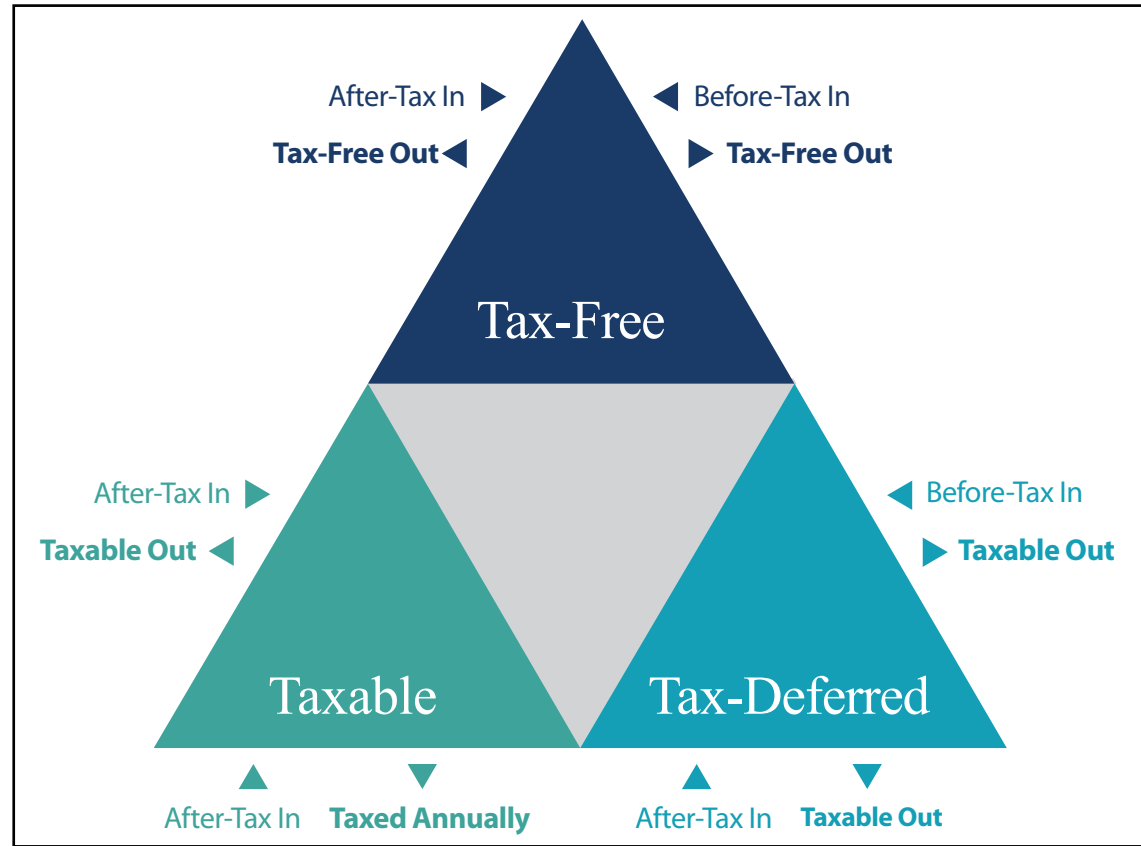


CHART | COURTESY OF HERITAGE WEALTH ADVISORS

Tax Control Triangle

Another crucial tax diversification concept that many wealthy families use relates to whether their income streams are inside a tax shelter or not. We frame this by using the Tax Control Triangle, which gives us a visual for the ways in which investments can be taxed.

The key to this framework is to identify your optimal diversification across these triangles, with the ultimate goal of reducing the average tax rate you pay on your overall income. If your financial advisor and/or CPA hasn't yet run this analysis for you, let us know and our team can do that in short order.

Now, we bring this from critical constructs and frameworks to a more tactical level. Below is a preview of some of the entry-level strategies we cover in this workshop.

Fund Tax Shelters

The first tax reduction strategy relates to funding tax shelters. While this may seem obvious, many people haven't taken full advantage of the shelters available to them, and others miss out on certain shelters entirely. We help clients evaluate which shelter they're eligible for, and how to maximize the available shelters, across all the following: 401(k)s; Roth 401(k)s; after-tax 401(k)s IRAs; Solo(k)s; deferred compensation plans; SEP and SIMPLE IRAs; and more.

One set of shelters we highlight allows substantially higher-than-typical tax deductions: defined benefit plans and cash balance plans. These are retirement plans (available to some business owners) that in many cases can allow for several hundred thousand dollars per year to be sheltered from tax, versus IRAs and 401Ks which typically limit funding to \$7,500 to \$23,500 per year.

Upstream or Downstream Gifting

Many of our clients incorporate family gifting strategies in their financial plans. They often don't want their kids and grandkids to wait to inherit money — they want to start now so they can see their relatives enjoy the money, versus have all those benefits occur after they're gone, or when the recipients have less of a need for it.

Fortunately, there can be significant tax savings from gifting strategies. For example, if you have highly appreciated stock that would trigger a 23.8% tax rate if you sold it, it might make sense to gift shares to a child (downstream gifting) or a parent (upstream gifting) if they're in a lower tax bracket, and have them sell the shares. In some cases, this can result in the tax rate going down to 15%, or even 0%.

Discover More Tax Reduction Strategies

At Heritage Wealth Advisors, we're motivated by helping people take control over how much they pay rather than just "letting taxes happen." If you'd like to learn more about ways we can make an impact on your financial goals with strategic tax reduction, use the QR code to access the full workshop recap, which covers all of the most powerful techniques our clients have seen success with.

Source:

¹[cbsnews.com/news/americas-richest-400-families-pay-a-lower-tax-rate-than-the-middle-class](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/americas-richest-400-families-pay-a-lower-tax-rate-than-the-middle-class)

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this document is not intended to provide specific recommendations to you, nor is it to be used as the primary basis for any investment decisions you might make.

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Annual Crush Cancer Trail Run Returns to Terrebonne to Provide Vital Financial Lifeline for Central Oregon Families

by CINDY GROSSMAN, President — FHC Crush Cancer

On May 16, the scenic landscape of Faith Hope & Charity Vineyards will transform into a hub of community resilience as it hosts the annual Crush Cancer 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon Trail Run. As the primary fundraiser for the FHC Crush Cancer nonprofit, the event expects to draw more than 1,200 participants and spectators to race for a cause that hits close to home.

While the event offers a premier trail-running experience through Central Oregon's high desert beauty, its true purpose is found off the track. The mission of FHC Crush Cancer is to provide immediate, compassionate financial relief to local cancer patients and their families, ensuring that no one in the community has to choose between life-saving treatment and basic necessities.

The impact of the organization is already being felt throughout the region. Since December 2025 alone, funds raised through Crush Cancer have provided critical support to twelve Central Oregon families, covering essential costs including:

- Housing Security: Mortgage and rent assistance.
- Basic Utilities: Power and heating bills.
- Family Care: Childcare assistance to support parents during treatment.
- Treatment Logistics: Travel expenses (gas and lodging), food, and pharmaceutical costs not covered by insurance.

"Our vision is to create a community where every cancer patient feels supported and empowered," says Cindy Grossman. "By removing the weight of financial hardship, we allow these families to focus entirely on what matters most: healing and hope."

What sets Crush Cancer apart is its commitment to transparency and local impact: 100% of all money raised through sponsorships and race participation fees goes directly to support local families. Every mile run on May 16 contributes to a neighbor's rent, a family's grocery bill, or a patient's medication.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF FHC CRUSH CANCER

Registration is currently open for the 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon distances. Community members, local businesses, and supporters are invited to join the movement, whether by running the trails or cheering from the sidelines. faithhopeandcharityevents.com/crush-cancer-event

Two Orphaned Bobcats Return to the Wild After Ten Months of Rehabilitation

by MOLLY HONEA, Development & Communications Manager — Think Wild

Two juvenile bobcats have been successfully released back into the wild following ten months of care at Think Wild's Wildlife Hospital. A team of Think Wild staff and volunteers released the siblings Friday, March 20, at a remote site near Dayville, selected in coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The release marks the end of a long rehabilitation process, in which staff, interns and volunteers provided critical care, enrichment opportunities and practice with live prey to raise and prepare the two bobcats for life in the wild.

The bobcat siblings (one male and one female) were admitted on May 19, 2025 at approximately four weeks old and each weighing less than a pound. The rescuer found them alone on the side of the road in Condon, Oregon at Dyer State Wayside and called ODFW. Their mother was presumed killed by a vehicle, and ODFW transported the bobcats for care at Think Wild. On intake, both kittens were presented with dehydration, hypothermia, parasitism, diarrhea and poor body condition.

"The bobcats arrived at Think Wild requiring immediate stabilization, fluid therapy, thermal support and antiparasitic treatment," said Dr. Laura Acevedo, Think Wild's veterinarian. "From the outset, their rehabilitation was structured not only to support recovery, but to prevent habituation and preserve species-appropriate behavior."

For the next several months, the bobcats progressed from formula feeding to a whole-prey diet of mice, rats and chicks, with careful monitoring of weight, body condition and nutritional intake. As they matured, their care shifted toward behavioral development critical for survival in the wild. To prevent habituation, staff minimized human exposure by using full-body camouflage and face masks, ensuring the animals

retained a natural avoidance of people.

The bobcats' enclosure was intentionally designed to replicate natural conditions, with native vegetation, logs and varied terrain that allowed for climbing, digging, hiding and resting. Their enrichment opportunities and enclosure features encouraged natural movement and physical conditioning. Play behavior was a key part of their development, as stalking, pouncing and chasing helped build the coordination and hunting skills they would rely on after release.

As part of their final preparation for return to the wild, the bobcats underwent a structured live prey testing protocol to confirm their ability to hunt independently. Testing progressed from mice to rats, quail and rabbits, with both animals demonstrating strong predatory responses and consistent success. The patients showed immediate engagement with prey and effective kill behavior across multiple live prey trials.

Because the bobcats were rescued at such a young age, Think Wild implemented a soft release strategy to support their transition back to the wild. The animals were transported to their release site and placed in a large outdoor enclosure for a 24-hour acclimation period, where they could observe their surroundings while receiving food and water. On the second day, the enclosure door was opened, allowing them to leave at their own pace while supplemental food remained available.

The siblings exited the kennel cautiously before moving confidently into the surrounding habitat and out of view.

Dr. Sue Dougherty, Think Wild Board Director, who photographed the release, described the moment: "As they trotted up the hillside, I stood watching through my camera lens... The air was cool and breezy and felt... Free. I can only imagine how exhilarating it must be for two young bobcats to have their first leap into their natural world!"



PHOTO | BY SUE DOUGHERTY



PHOTO | BY MOLLY HONEA

and exposure to rodenticides.

"Predators like bobcats are essential to healthy ecosystems," said Sally Compton, executive director of Think Wild. "Returning these animals to the landscape where they belong supports natural balance, and it's especially meaningful when the reason for their rescue was due to human conflict in the first place. Our team of hospital staff, interns and volunteers did a great job raising these orphans, preventing human habituation and ensuring they will thrive in the wild. We'll miss the bobcats, but with the cost of prey going up... we're thrilled to see them go."

Support Think Wild and their rehabilitation efforts by making a donation, volunteering your time, or joining the 6th Annual Wildlife Baby Shower event - a fundraiser and donation drive to support the wildlife hospital during the busy baby season. If you find injured or orphaned wildlife, please contact Think Wild via the wildlife hotline (541-241-8680), monitored seven days a week from 8am-4pm.

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. thinkwildco.org • Instagram • Facebook @thinkwildco

Vero Fiber

Continued from page 3

BendTel, we're proud to bring Bend a refreshing level of transparency in fiber internet," said CEO Sunita Krishna. "Our mission is simple: dependable speeds, fair pricing, and service you can trust."

Service Now Available to

Over 6,400 Bend Residents and Businesses

Vero Fiber's expansion enables the company to provide high-speed fiber internet to more than 6,400 residents and businesses across key Bend neighborhoods, including:

- Orchard District
- Mid-Town
- Old Mill
- Larkspur Neighborhood

Further expansion is actively underway in River West, with additional areas planned for rollout throughout 2026. As part of its upgraded infrastructure, Vero Fiber now offers fiber-internet speeds up to 2.3 Gbps, enabling seamless streaming, lag-free gaming, rapid file transfers, and high-performance connectivity for both homes and businesses.

Direct Community Outreach Begins

To ensure Bend residents are aware of their new options, Vero Fiber's trained sales representatives will conduct door-to-door outreach in the coming weeks. Representatives will:

- Wear official Vero Fiber branded apparel
 - Provide educational information about new service availability
 - Never ask for credit-card information at the door
 - Focus on providing a friendly, no-pressure customer experience
- "We want the community to know they finally have

a real choice in fiber-internet providers," said Kevin Fitzgerald, EVP of Sales and Marketing. "Speaking with residents face-to-face helps us answer questions and build trust right at the doorstep."

About Vero Fiber:

Established in 2017, Vero Fiber started by delivering reliable and affordable internet to school districts in underserved and underserved communities. Recognizing the broader need for high-quality, fiber-to-the-home solutions, Vero expanded its mission to serve the residences and businesses of those areas too. What began as a small operation in Colorado has evolved into a key fiber-optic provider, now serving communities and school districts across the nation. With a focus on accessibility and performance, Vero Fiber has built enduring relationships in the communities it serves, driven by the belief that everyone deserves access to affordable, reliable, and high-capacity broadband.

VeroFiber.com

Ethos

Continued from page 3

advisory," said Norwood. "I am excited to expand the firm's debt and equity group and support clients with capital structuring solutions tailored to their investment objectives."

As a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Norwood brings a rigorous, institutional

approach to underwriting, capital structuring, and investment analysis, further strengthening Ethos' ability to advise clients across the capital stack.

Prior to joining Ethos Commercial Advisors, Norwood spent more than a decade at Northmarq Fund Management (formerly Morrison Street Capital), where he was a senior member of the investment team and led the firm's capital raising initiatives. He also previously led Lument's

debt capital markets desk and has extensive experience across agency lending, debt funds, life companies, and structured equity.

About Ethos Commercial Advisors:

Ethos is an entrepreneurial commercial real estate advisory firm that takes pride in helping its clients identify opportunities, manage risk, and source capital across the United States. The firm's practice areas include tenant representation, agency leasing,

investment sales, debt and equity placement across all asset classes. With an institutional level of sophistication, Ethos' expert advisors think like principals to design and implement customized real estate solutions for their clients' commercial real estate challenges. Ethos Commercial Advisors have offices in Portland, Oregon, Dallas, Texas, Bend, Oregon, and the Puget Sound, Washington.

ecacre.com

Weston Technology

Continued from page 3

the team to bring a deeper bench of technical expertise to the current Weston clients. Our combined track record and specialized expertise allow us to offer a unified CMMC service that is uniquely positioned to meet the market's needs at such a pivotal time."

"Weston and Velonex share a common philosophy of putting people first — our clients and our teams," said Brock McFarlane of Weston Technology Solutions, who will remain onboard as director of the Pacific Northwest Region and CMMC. "By joining forces, we are strengthening our ability to deliver even

greater value while maintaining the trusted relationships our clients rely on."

The integration will combine Weston Technology Solutions' decades of experience and strong client relationships with Velonex Technologies' resources and support infrastructure. Clients of both organizations can expect a smooth transition and continued partnership, maintaining the same trusted service and responsive support they have come to rely on.

Clients of Weston Technology Solutions can expect continuity along with meaningful enhancements, including:

• **Expanded Service Offerings:** With Velonex's resources and expertise, clients will gain access to a broader portfolio of solutions, including advanced cybersecurity, cloud services, and

comprehensive IT consulting.

Enhanced Support Capabilities:

Clients will continue working with their existing Weston team, now backed by a larger organization that enables faster response times, additional proactive monitoring, and deeper technical expertise.

Greater Resources and Innovation:

As part of a larger organization, Weston now has access to additional technologies, specialized talent, and industry best practices—allowing for more innovative, tailored solutions.

About Velonex Technologies:

Velonex Technologies is a multi-regional managed services provider offering comprehensive IT solutions to small and medium-sized businesses. Its services include 24/7 help desk support, cloud infrastructure management, and

network security monitoring, delivered through standardized processes and high-touch customer experience. Velonex is headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, with operations across six U.S. regions.

About Weston

Technology Solutions:

Founded in 1994 by Brock McFarlane, Weston Technology Solutions grew from a one-man operation into a trusted managed IT services provider with offices in Alaska and Oregon. With over 31 years in service, a team of skilled professionals contributing more than 200 years of combined technical experience, and a strong commitment to client relationships and community support, Weston built a reputation for excellence and a people-first approach to IT.

velonexit.com • weston-tech.com

REVOLVR

Continued from page 3

new space will feature a carefully edited selection of the store's best-selling labels.

"We didn't necessarily have plans to open another location in Bend," Jon said. "Our downtown store has been great for us for more than a decade. But it's hard not to love what's happening at the Old Mill. Being right on the river, seeing people out walking, the concerts and events — it's just an amazing area."

After being approached by Old Mill District leadership about this expansion opportunity, Davis and his team visited the space and began exploring how REVOLVR might fit into the district's retail mix.

"The location itself made sense," Jon added. "It's a smaller space, which means we can focus on our best-selling brands and make it feel like a natural extension of what we're doing downtown."

The new shop at 520 Southwest Powerhouse Dr., Suite 601 will retain REVOLVR's signature aesthetic while incorporating elements of the building's industrial character. Renovations will

include exposing ceiling beams and updating interior finishes to create a clean, modern retail environment.

For the Old Mill District, the addition fills a long-standing gap in its retail offerings.

"We're thrilled to have REVOLVR join the district," said Beau Eastes, marketing director for the Old Mill District. "They've been on our wish list for a while. We don't currently have a dedicated men's clothing store here, and I don't think anyone in town does menswear quite like they do."

The opportunity came together quickly after Francesca's announced it

would vacate the space.

"As soon as we heard the news, REVOLVR was one of the first retailers we reached out to," Eastes said. "We had a couple of sit-downs with Jon and his team, and the timing just lined up."

In addition to downtown, REVOLVR also operates stores in Bozeman and Missoula, Montana, and in Portland's Pearl District.

If construction stays on schedule, the Old Mill District store will open on or around May 1, just in time for the start of the district's busy summer concert season.

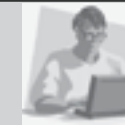
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Central Oregon Business Calendar

Email Your Upcoming Business Events to CBN@CascadeBusNews.com

Event Details at CascadeBusNews.com/Business-Events

BUSINESS EVENTS



April 1

5pm City of Bend Virtual and In-Person Bend City Council and Bend Urban Renewal Agency Business Meeting at Bend City Hall Council Chambers.

April 1

6pm City of Bend Virtual and In-Person City Council Meeting at Bend City Hall Council Chambers.

April 2

8-9am Madras - Jefferson County Chamber Coffee Cuppers at Madras - Jefferson County Chamber.

April 2

11:30am-1pm League of Women Voters of Deschutes County Virtual and In-Person First Thursday Speaker Searing Free Public Informational Meeting at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend.

April 2

4-5:30pm ClearPath Healthcare Open House and Ribbon Cutting at 732 SW 23rd St., Redmond.

April 8

10:45am Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) Annual Luncheon at Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, Redmond.

April 8

3:45-6pm Bend Chamber Bent ET Expert Lab, Leading Change and Building Resilience, at OSU-Cascades, Obsidian Hall, Room 207, Bend.

Building Permits

DESCHUTES COUNTY 3.17.26 & 3.24.26

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| \$1,485,935.00 | - | Commercial (New) 3,147 sf. at 700 W Canopy Way Sisters 97759 OR Owner: Warming Hut 4 Holdings, LLC 556 SW Mill View Way Bend, OR 97702 Builder: Cohen Skovborg, LLC 541-617-9190 Permit # 247-25-004209 |
| \$392,884.00 | - | Commercial (Alteration) 51,983 sf. at 1199 B Ave. Terrebonne 97760 OR Owner: School District #5 1199 B Ave. Terrebonne, OR 97760 Builder: Kirby Nagelhout Construction Co. 541-389-7119 Permit # 247-26-000356 |
| \$177,000.00 | - | Commercial (Alteration) at 155 W Lundgren Mill Dr. Sisters 97759 OR Owner: Lundgren Mill Lots, LLC 865 Ellis Ave. Lake Oswego, OR 97034 Builder: Cohen Skovborg, LLC 541-617-9190 Permit # 247-26-000490 |

CITY OF BEND 3.17.26 & 3.24.26

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| \$3,000,000.00 | - | Commercial (Alteration) 15,144 sf. at 2500 NE Neff Rd. Bend 97701 OR Builder: Pence Contractors, LLC 503-252-3802 Permit # PRRE202508667 |
| \$25,000.00 | - | Commercial (Alteration) 346 sf. at 61000 Brosterhouse Rd. Bend 97702 OR Owner: Pines MHC, LLC Permit # PRRE202506268 |
| \$1,250,000.00 | - | Commercial (Alteration) 7,153 sf. at 1342 NE Medical Center Dr. Bend 97701 OR Owner: Multiple Builder: Pence Kelly Construction, LLC 503-252-3802 Permit # PRRE202600126 |

CITY OF REDMOND 3.17.26 & 3.24.26

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| \$316,686.00 | - | Commercial (New) 347 sf. at 1515 W Antler Ave. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: City of Redmond 411 SW 9th St. Redmond, OR 97756 Permit # 711-26-000016 |
| \$105,213.00 | - | Commercial (New) 1,250 sf. at 1900 NE 2nd St. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: Tractor Supply Company West, LLC 5401 Virginia Way Brentwood, TN 37027 Builder: Enformed Construction Services, LLC 479-273-7780 Permit # 711-26-000072 |
| \$1,875,014.00 | - | Commercial (New) 12,148 sf. at 2450 NW 7th St. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: Rimrock Holdings, LLC 3333 NW Orchard Dr. Terrebonne, OR 97760 Builder: Twenty-Two Twenty-Nine, Inc. 541-419-2556 Permit # 711-25-001291 |
| \$1,590,178.00 | - | Commercial (New) 7,800 sf. at 2539 NW 7th St. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: Valdera Properties, LLC 4003 NW Inancovich Way Redmond, OR 97756 Builder: Jordan Jeffrey Schwarm 360-953-3185 Permit # 711-24-001934 |

Visit Bend

Continued from page 3

the lodge and chairlifts more easily.

Grants this cycle also support venues and spaces that strengthen year-round community and cultural infrastructure. Funding will upgrade the Tower Theatre's lighting system, improve the Volcanic Theatre's sound and production capabilities, enhance wayfinding and infrastructure at Skyline Disc Golf Course, and install new signage at the Petersen Rock Garden, preserving a 91-year-old historic folk art landmark.

Harnessing Bend's visitor economy to support environmental stewardship remains a core pillar of Visit Bend's work. The largest grant this cycle, \$100,000, will help The Environmental Center launch a reusable tableware "Wash Hub" — a centralized commercial dishwashing and collection system designed to replace more than 250,000 single-use items at food cart pods and events.

The Base Trail on Pilot Butte will also receive significant improvements. The Deschutes Trails Coalition will replace aging stairs, improve drainage, and maintain safe, continuous access on one of Bend's most iconic and heavily used trails. Meanwhile, Glick Forestry will install 14 boot-brush stations at high-traffic trailheads — including Rim Rock, Tumalo Falls, and Green Lakes — to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Grants range from \$5,148 to \$100,000. In total, the Bend Sustainability Fund has now awarded \$3,883,094 across 42 projects since its inception in 2021. These investments directly reflect what Bend residents consistently say they value: environmental protection, infrastructure improvements, and expanded access to recreation, while enhancing the visitor experience.

Projects were evaluated on shovel-readiness, demonstrated community support, long-term impact, and visitor benefit as defined under state law. After scoring, Visit Bend's board of directors approved all 11 of the council's

recommendations. Eight of the 11 recipients are first-time awardees.

Visit Bend is asking residents to rank this year's funded projects through a two-week online community ballot. The top two vote-getters will each receive an additional \$1,000 in support. The ballot is open now through April 1 and will be shared through Visit Bend's website and social media channels.

The Bend Sustainability Fund is supported entirely by a portion of Bend's transient room tax (a 10.4 percent lodging tax) paid by visitors who stay overnight at commercial lodging properties and vacation rentals within city limits. The majority of that revenue — more than \$9 million annually — goes directly to the City of Bend to help fund roads, police, fire, and other core services, offsetting costs that would otherwise fall more heavily on residents.

Visit Bend uses a separate, restricted portion of those visitor-generated dollars to fund the Bend Sustainability Fund. By law, those funds must support projects that create, steward, or protect tourism-

related facilities with a life of at least ten years. Projects eligible for BSF funding must demonstrate meaningful visitor use while delivering lasting community benefit. Past investments have included trail restoration, cultural facility upgrades, recreation infrastructure, and environmental initiatives designed to sustain Bend's outdoor spaces.

By directing visitor-generated revenue into tangible community assets, the Bend Sustainability Fund ensures tourism continues to support local organizations and businesses while strengthening the quality of life for residents. Find a full list of funded projects since 2021 and additional information about the Bend Sustainability Fund at sustainability.visitbend.com.

2026 Bend Sustainability Fund Grantees are: The Environmental Center, Volcanic Theatre, The Onward Project, Oregon Adaptive Sports, Glick Forestry, Petersen Rock Garden, Central Oregon Disc Golf Club, Mt. Bachelor, Deschutes Trails Coalition, Tower Theatre, Central Oregon Trails Alliance.

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Town & Country

First Friday \ Second Saturday Bend / Old Mill / Redmond / Sunriver

Photos by Laurie Pittmon and courtesy of Dry Canyon Arts Association, Nashwood Gallery



Alisa Looney



Bill Lind



Bonnie Junell



Debra Roeder



Diane Miyauchi



Eleanor Nash and Shelly Anderson



Gary Mcpherson



Gregg Morris, Eleanor Nash
and Brandon Burke



Heather Fortune



Jay Lowndes



Jim Fister



Joan Sheets



Joanne Muchille



Julie Miller



Kerri Abney



Kristina Ziegler



Lou-Wayne Steiger



Marjorie Cossairt



Mike Weisker



Sabrina Vinciguerra-Miller, Sue
Lyon-Manley, David Kinker, Will
Nash and Eleanor Murphey



Sylvia Avenius-Ford



Vincenzo Barraco



Wade Womack



Cody Clark



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