



Rejuvenation Oasis to Arise in High Desert

Four-Story 127,000 Sq Ft Nordic Style Wellness Center Planned for Bend

by **SIMON MATHER** — CBN Feature Writer



RENDERING | COURTESY OF HACKER ARCHITECTS

Plans have been unveiled for a 127,000-square-foot, four-story Nordic-style wellness “wonderland” on a long-vacant site between downtown Bend and the Old Mill District.

The upscale, mixed-use hotel and thermal spa, to be named Cascada Bend, is being developed by Seattle sustainability leaders SolTerra on a slice of land spanning almost an entire city block on NW Arizona Avenue between Wall and Bond Street.

The 68-room hotel will feature a rooftop thermal spa with expansive mountain views and an energy-efficient design that draws inspiration from Bend’s natural geology, and marks the second hospitality venture for SolTerra — a company that has specialized in design-centric and sustainable buildings since 2008 — in addition to its flagship Cascada location in Portland’s vibrant Alberta Arts District.

The Portland facility features an expansive thermal spa, movement and fitness studios, treatment rooms, a Portuguese-Japanese fusion restaurant, and an all-day café. Guests have the option to either book a hotel stay or opt for a day pass to use the thermal circuits.

Described as “dedicated to total rejuvenation,” the Bend project is being spearheaded by SolTerra Chief Operating Officer (COO) Marc Coluccio. “It brings sustainability, physical well-being and mental well-being together in one experience,” says Coluccio. “Our goal is to create places that genuinely improve how people feel.”

Cascada Bend will offer an immersive

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La Pine Emerging as Regional Hub of Activity

by **ANDREA HINE** — CBN Feature Writer

“Most of the challenges city officials face come from our significant population growth,” said City Manager Geoff Wullschlager. To quantify, La Pine’s population has increased from roughly 2,512 residents in the 2020 census to more than 3,200 residents, according to 2026 official city and state estimates. This 28.6% jump makes La Pine one of the fastest-growing cities in the state. And its population is expected to surge by 87% over the next 25 years.

What those figures don’t take into account, Wullschlager pointed out that while operating with a tax base of 3,200 residents, a staff of 13, and a volunteer city council, “we’re also answering to an additional 12,000 -15,000 people outside the city limits and across two counties. We need to be as quick and efficient as we can in trying to increase capacity on multiple fronts to meet demand.”

\$34 Million Water & Wastewater Overhaul Complete

One successful example is La Pine’s recent completion of a nearly decade-long water and wastewater overhaul,

capping more than \$34 million in infrastructure upgrades that include storage and treatment facilities, added security measures, upgraded water distribution and sewer collection lines, and increased water and septage treatment capacity to accommodate anticipated future growth.

Perceived Housing Shortage

“In terms of affordable housing, while there is a perceived shortage in La Pine, Wullschlager noted that the days of finding single-family rental units for \$1,200 a month are gone. “Over the past 12 months, 59 reduced-rate multifamily units have come online, with 40 to follow soon, and 30-40 in another apartment building under construction.”

In fact, he added, “developers of Huntington Apartments, a 4.7-acre, multifamily affordable housing project — had a hard time filling their 60 units.”

Other affordable and income-restricted options in La

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Sunriver • La Pine Spotlight — Pages 14-25

Compass Commercial Celebrates 30 Years of Impact on Central Oregon Real Estate

by **LEAH ETLING** — CBN Feature Writer

When Compass Commercial Real Estate Services was founded in Bend in 1996, leaders Erich Schultz and Steve Toomey saw something many had yet to fully recognize: Central Oregon was on the verge of significant growth.

At the time, the region’s commercial real estate market was relatively small and fragmented. Commercial property information was not readily available and many transactions were handled by residential agents or property managers. Despite those realities, Schultz and Toomey, along with their founding team, believed the area’s quality of life, economic potential and growing appeal to businesses and residents would drive long-term expansion.

“There were two commercial real estate brokerage companies and many residential brokers who took on commercial transactions,” recalled Schultz. “This was the extent of the professionals serving Deschutes County.



TODAY’S COMPASS COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES TEAM GATHERED FOR A GROUP PHOTO IN EARLY 2026 | PHOTO COURTESY COMPASS COMMERCIAL

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RECENT TRANSACTIONS

Seth Ludwick and **Thomas Rudinsky** of **PSRS** arranged a \$4.1 million cash-out refinance for a 30,974-square-foot, fully leased, multi-tenant office building in Bend, Oregon, on behalf of BBD Properties, LLC. Structured with a sub-50% LTV, a five-year term, and a 25-year amortization, the loan was placed through Standard Insurance, a correspondent life company lender of PSRS. When the initial bank lender unexpectedly balked at the closing table, Standard Insurance stepped up to execute the deal as advertised on a tight timeline, underscoring the reliability and certainty of execution that life companies currently offer over traditional banks.

Brokers **Russell Huntamer, CCIM, Peter May, CCIM, Eli Harrison, and Emilio Tiscareno**, with **Compass Commercial Real Estate Services**, represented the landlord, Bend Center LLC, in leasing a 24,627 SF retail suite at 63485 N Highway 97 in Bend to Grocery Outlet.

Brokers **Graham Dent, SIOR, Russell Huntamer, CCIM, and Eli Harrison**, with **Compass Commercial Real Estate Services**, represented the seller, Courtney, LLC, in the sale of Doctor's Park, a Bend medical building. The 11,178 SF

Submit your Recent Transactions to Jeff@CascadeBusNews.com to be seen in the next edition of *Cascade Business News*

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St. Charles Restructures to Support Ongoing Growth

St. Charles Health System has experienced rapid growth in the services and amount of care provided throughout Central Oregon in recent years. The growth is aligned with increases in population and demand for care in the region and has mostly occurred in the outpatient and specialty services areas of the organization.

"We have been in a position to step

in and support maintaining some key services in the region in recent years including orthopedics and neurosurgery, pharmacy, urology, gastroenterology and specialized cancer care, just to name a few," said Michael Hartke, incoming president and CEO. "As a nonprofit, local health

Continued on Page 30 ►

Kernutt Stokes to Combine with Fordham & Co & Expand Portland-Area Presence

On June 15, Kernutt Stokes, LLP announced that Fordham & Co LLP, a Hillsboro-based accounting firm serving businesses and individuals throughout the Portland metro area for more than 50 years, will be joining the firm. Effective July 1, Fordham & Co will join Kernutt Stokes and operate as one firm under the Kernutt Stokes name.

Stokes' presence in the Portland market and brings together two Oregon-based firms with a shared commitment to responsive client service, local decision-making, and helping privately held businesses succeed.

With the integration of the Hillsboro office, Kernutt Stokes now has five

The combination will expand Kernutt

Continued on Page 30 ►

Bend Outdoor Worx Invites Outdoor Entrepreneurs to Apply for 2027 Cohort

Bend Outdoor Worx (BOW), the nation's first and longest-running outdoor product accelerator, is now accepting applications for its 2027 cohort.

on mentorship from BOW's team of experienced founders and mentors, industry executives, and subject matter experts through a 14-week intensive program designed to help companies accelerate growth and navigate key business challenges.

BOW is seeking ambitious outdoor product companies to join its 2027 accelerator program, which runs from February through May. Selected participants receive hands-

Continued on Page 30 ►

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DESCHUTES COUNTY

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

Keep in mind that these funds are recorded on a cash basis; therefore, this information reflects the results of payments for activity through April 2026.

To access the full report go to [CascadeBusNews.com](#) and search *Transient Lodging Tax Collections*.

◆ The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office is partnering with Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) to collect public feedback to support the 2026 update of the Deschutes County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP).

This is an opportunity for community members to provide input on the draft plan by completing a public survey. The goal of the survey is to collect information from the community to better understand individuals' preparedness, risk, and vulnerability to natural hazards. This information will help support the County's NHMP and improve coordination of hazard mitigation and risk-reduction efforts.

The survey is available in both English and Spanish. All individual survey responses are strictly confidential and are for research purposes only. The survey is open now through July 13.

◆ After a recent brushfire in Alfalfa threatened homes and led to several evacuation notices, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office is urging community members to stay alert and prepare for wildfire season.

It's important to understand Oregon's three emergency evacuation levels — Level 1: Be Ready, Level 2: Be Set, and Level 3: Go Now. These notices can change quickly, and knowing how to respond helps protect you, your property, and first responders. During wildfire season, evacuation notices are issued whenever a brush fire or wildfire threatens homes, property,

◆ On June 17, the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the fiscal year 2027 budget, a balanced financial plan that supports the County's long-term financial stability.

For the second year in a row, county staff used a limited-growth strategy to develop the FY 2027 budget. This approach challenged departments across the organization to control costs and protect core services while balancing ongoing pressure from inflation, rising personnel costs, uncertainty in state and federal funding, and the needs of our growing community.

To meet budget goals, departments implemented a range of cost-saving measures, including a hiring pause, delayed capital projects, partnerships, workflow improvements, and exploration of alternative revenue sources. Some departments also made the difficult decision to eliminate full-time equivalent positions, with 32 vacant positions eliminated during the current fiscal year and more reductions planned in FY 2027.

The FY 2027 operating budget is \$446.1 million. This is a \$9.8 million, or 2.2% increase from the current fiscal year's revised budget. It maintains the high-quality, foundational services the community relies on, including public safety, health services, community justice, property assessment, tax collection, elections and veterans' services.

Despite financial pressure, the FY 2027 budget continues to provide critical resources for key county projects. These include constructing a youth behavioral health facility, siting a new county landfill, expanding waste diversion programs, maintaining and improving the county road system, partnering with cities to support people experiencing homelessness, and continuing wildfire preparedness work.

Fiscal year 2027 begins July 1, 2026.

or businesses.

Evacuation Levels at a Glance:

- **Level 1 — Be Ready:** There is potential danger in the area. Prepare your emergency plan and go-kit and stay alert for changing conditions.
- **Level 2 — Be Set:** Significant danger is nearby. You should be ready to leave at a moment's notice. Those who need extra time should evacuate now.
- **Level 3 — Go Now:** Danger is imminent. Leave immediately. Do not delay for any reason, including packing or attempting to prepare your home.

The Sheriff's Office is also reminding everyone who lives in Deschutes County to sign up for **Deschutes Alerts**, the county's official emergency notification system. After signing up, you'll receive alerts for locations you've registered.

"These notifications are not limited to wildfires. They are used for all types of emergencies that may affect neighborhoods, workplaces, and the community, including hazardous-materials incidents, law-enforcement activity, flooding, evacuations, and more," explains Ben Duda, Emergency Manager for the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. "Signing up is quick, free, and one of the most important steps you can take to stay informed during fast-moving events."

When you register for Deschutes Alerts, you'll only receive notifications about emergencies that impact the specific locations you choose—such as your home, workplace, or other places you care about. If you want to stay updated on other areas of the county, like where your friends or family live, you can easily add multiple locations to your profile.

Resources

- For more information on Deschutes Alerts, visit: [deschutesalerts.org](#)
- Wildfire preparedness resources are available at: [wildfire.oregon.gov](#)

BEND

◆ The City of Bend thanks you for your continued engagement and input regarding the City's business registration program. We want to provide a brief update on the registration process that was outlined to take effect July 1. At this time, the City will **NOT** proceed with the program changes as originally communicated on June 1, 2026. There will be no immediate changes to the structure or requirements at this time. The revised fee schedule before Council on June 17 increases business registration fees by ten percent as planned for in the FY25-27 budget adopted in June 2025.

That said, we recognize the importance of ongoing collaboration with the business community. Over the coming months, the City will work closely with the Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB) to evaluate the program, refine ideas, and explore opportunities for improvement. A key part of this effort will include gathering additional feedback from local businesses to ensure the program remains effective, practical, and supportive of Bend's economic vitality.

We appreciate your patience and participation as we move forward. Your feedback is essential, and we look forward to engaging with you throughout this process.

If you have questions or would like to share input, contact Licensing Division, Community Development at 541-388-5580, option 8.



SALEM

◆ Recently, Oregon legislators convened a meeting of the Joint Legislative Emergency Board, the joint committee that manages appropriated emergency funds outside of official legislative sessions.

In anticipation of a hot and dry summer, the Board made strategic allocations to maintain critical infrastructure and personnel that protect our state against the threat of wildfire. Those allocations include funding to support a statewide evacuation planning and management system and repairing or replacing household water wells in areas affected by drought or wildfire.

"With a historically dry spring—the Governor has already declared a drought emergency in nearly half of Oregon's counties—it's crucial that we are in the best possible position to withstand a potentially historic wildfire season," said House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene and Veneta). "The Emergency Board's cautious investments have set us up for immediate disaster preparedness, while retaining flexibility for funding wildfire suppression in the fall."

In addition to emergency preparedness funding, the Board allocated some funds to strengthen consumer protections and address affordability and bolster public higher education; specifically:

1. Funding antitrust litigation positions in the Oregon Department of Justice in order to stop illegal mergers and monopolies that can drive up the cost of living for Oregon families. Resourcing these positions helps fill a void left by the Trump administration, which has stepped back from enforcing the laws that hold these big corporations accountable.
2. Releasing previously approved funds for bridge stabilization for Southern Oregon University. These funds will help SOU restructure and plan an orderly transition, protect current students, preserve higher education access and prevent economic disruption in southern Oregon.

"The Emergency Board focused this week on critical time-sensitive issues facing Oregonians, from wildfire evacuation notification, to stabilizing funding for Southern Oregon University, to expanding anti-trust enforcement that protects consumers and small businesses," said Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego). "At the same time, we're holding a healthy reserve to respond to another challenging fire season."

A full recording of the session and all meeting materials can be found on the Oregon Legislative Information System.

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What Business Owners Should Do After Tax Season



by ZACK HARMON — Capstone Accounting & Tax

For many business owners, the conclusion of tax season brings a welcome sense of relief. After months of gathering information, meeting deadlines, and finalizing filings, it is tempting to shift focus away from financial matters. However, the period immediately following tax season presents one of the most valuable opportunities to evaluate performance, refine strategy, and position the business for long-term success.

Review Financial Performance

A comprehensive review of financial statements should be the first priority. Analyze income, expenses, and overall profitability, and compare results to prior periods. Identify trends, variances, and any irregular items that warrant further investigation. This analysis provides insight into operational efficiency and highlights areas where adjustments may be necessary to improve margins and overall performance.

Assess Tax Strategies and Outcomes

Tax filings offer a practical evaluation of the effectiveness of prior-year planning. Consider whether available deductions and credits were fully utilized and whether any planning opportunities were missed. Engaging with your CPA to review these outcomes allows for proactive adjustments, including refining compensation structures, retirement contributions, and the timing of income and expenses to enhance tax efficiency in the current year.

Strengthen Cash Flow Planning

With finalized tax information, business owners now have a clearer understanding of their financial position. This is an ideal time to update cash flow projections and operating budgets. Anticipate periods of higher expenditures or fluctuating revenue and plan accordingly. Proactive cash management supports operational stability and helps ensure adequate liquidity for both planned investments and unforeseen challenges.

Address Compliance and Regulatory Considerations

Tax season often brings broader compliance matters into focus, including payroll reporting, sales tax obligations, and industry-specific regulations. Evaluate whether any changes in laws or requirements may impact your business. Maintaining a proactive approach to compliance reduces the risk of penalties and supports ongoing operational continuity.

Evaluate Strategic Investments

Post-tax season is also an appropriate time to assess opportunities for reinvestment in the business. Whether considering capital expenditures, technology enhancements, workforce expansion, or new service lines, these decisions should be grounded in accurate and current financial data. Thoughtful investments aligned with overall strategy can drive both short-term efficiency and long-term growth.

Key Takeaway

The end of tax season should not be viewed solely as a compliance milestone, but also as a strategic checkpoint. A disciplined review of financial performance, tax outcomes, cash flow, and compliance obligations enables business owners to make informed decisions and strengthen their financial position.

Next Steps

Navigating post-tax season planning requires both technical insight and strategic perspective. Partnering with a qualified CPA can help ensure decisions are aligned with your broader financial goals. We encourage you to contact our team to schedule a post-tax season review and identify opportunities, mitigate risks, and develop a plan for the year ahead.

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Compass Commercial
Continued from page 1

The market and number of transactions were small."

Thirty years later, Compass Commercial is celebrating a milestone anniversary as one of Deschutes County's most established commercial real estate (CRE) firms, having played a role in many of the developments that helped shape Central Oregon.

The CRE landscape looked dramatically different than it does today.

When Compass Commercial launched, Bend's office inventory consisted of just 84 buildings totaling approximately 840,000 square feet. The city's industrial inventory totaled 125 buildings and 1.8 million square feet. In Redmond, the industrial market included only 19 buildings totaling roughly 320,000 square feet. Today, those figures have grown to approximately 225 office buildings and 2.8 million square feet of office space in Bend, along with 333 industrial buildings totaling more than 4.8 million square feet. Redmond's industrial market has expanded to approximately 1.85 million square feet.

With prescience, Compass Commercial's founders believed changes were coming.

"We thought that Central Oregon would grow," said Schultz. "That's not to say that we predicted the phenomenal growth that we've experienced. We had two strong beliefs. One, that people and companies would continue to move to Central Oregon. People were moving in from Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and LA and we thought this would continue well into the future."

The second belief was equally important.

"Those relocating here were used to certain services and had standards for those services that they would bring with them from the larger markets they were leaving," Schultz said. "Thus, we set out to create a full-service commercial real estate company that would meet the expectations and needs of these new arrivals."

For Schultz, success came down to a straightforward philosophy.

"We were young and ambitious," he said. "It was our opinion that if we pursued business aggressively and ethically, success would follow."

Growing Alongside Central Oregon

Looking back at Central Oregon in 1996 offers a snapshot of a region that was only beginning to emerge as a major commercial market.

The first edition of Compass Points, the quarterly market report launched by Compass Commercial the same year the company was founded, documented a Bend that looked very different from today.

The report noted that the first phase of the Old Mill District's retail component was still in the design stage. Cascade Village Shopping Center had just been unveiled. Home Depot and Walmart — now WinCo — were merely prospective tenants. Plans called for future retailers such as Barnes & Noble, OfficeMax, Taco Bell and Burger King to establish a presence in Bend.

The publication also highlighted a 100-acre property sale in northeast Bend that helped unlock future industrial development. Today, that former Brinson property is home to the city's largest industrial submarket, comprising more than 2.4 million square feet.

Meanwhile, Redmond's industrial future

was beginning to take shape around the relocation of the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and the purchase of the former Crown Pacific mill site, which would later become a major driver of industrial growth in the city.

Compass Commercial was there from the beginning.

"When we launched the company, we had already established relationships with Brooks Resources and Bill Smith," Schultz said. "Brooks was developing industrial lots in Shevlin Center and multifamily lots off of College Way and Shevlin Park Road. We were selected to assist with the marketing and sales of these parcels."

The company also became involved in the early evolution of the Old Mill District.

"Bill Smith was on the front end of developing the Old Mill District," Schultz said. "We assisted him with a feasibility study and later represented many land buyers and some tenants for whom he developed buildings."

Over the years, Compass Commercial contributed to a wide range of projects that helped define Central Oregon's commercial landscape.

"Mill Point Business Campus, Century Park, the Box Factory, Airport Business Center, 360 Bond, the commercial core of NorthWest Crossing are all projects we have been fortunate to have contributed to," Schultz said.

Building a Team and a Reputation

While Bend's skyline and commercial inventory expanded, Compass Commercial was focused on building a company culture designed to support long-term success.

According to Schultz, one of the company's most important decisions involved the people it brought into the organization.

"Two things stand out," Schultz said. "One, we were selective in the brokers, property managers and employees that we brought aboard. This resulted in very satisfying long-term engagements with talented individuals that coalesced into a productive team."

The second differentiator was information.

Compass Points, the firm's signature newsletter, became a vital contribution to the region's commercial real estate industry.

"We produced the only commercial market newsletter in the region," Schultz said. "It was based on local data collected by our brokers. It wasn't long before lenders, appraisers, developers, investors and tenants began to rely on these quarterly reports. This established us as the go-to firm in the area."

Today, Compass Points remains one of the region's most recognized sources of commercial real estate market data and analysis.

Internally, Compass Commercial intentionally fostered collaboration.

"From the beginning we made a conscious decision to design an office layout focused on spacious cubicles, rather than private offices," Toomey said. "The layout was instrumental in creating a collaborative team culture where information and experience was shared freely and enthusiastically."

The approach encouraged teamwork rather than competition.

"Because the commercial real estate market is so diverse, it is difficult to be an expert in every area," Toomey said. "In the collaborative culture, it became normal for brokers to partner on transactions requiring specific expertise brought by another broker."

The firm's commitment to education also became a cornerstone of its growth.

"We definitely invest in our team members and encourage advancement in education for brokers and property managers," said Ellisse Dickey, vice president, partner and marketing director.

Today, Compass Commercial's brokerage team consists of 19 brokers, including eight who



(L-R) 1996 COMPASS COMMERCIAL TEAM. STANDING: STEVE TOOMEY, BILL PON AND ERICH SCHULTZ. SITTING: ERIC NELSON, JEFF BROCK AND NICK AMUNDSON | PHOTOS COURTESY COMPASS COMMERCIAL

have earned the Certified Commercial

Investment Member (CCIM) designation and three who have also obtained the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) credential. The property management division holds Accredited Management Organization (AMO) status and includes three Certified Property Managers (CPM).

"A dedicated marketing department and brokerage support team have also been instrumental to the company's success," Dickey said. "By allowing brokers to focus on relationship-building and deal execution, while a team of professionals handles marketing and operational support behind the scenes, Compass Commercial is able to meet the growing demands of the area's commercial market."

Expanding Services and Impact

Over the past three decades, Compass Commercial has evolved beyond traditional brokerage.

The company now provides brokerage, property management and construction services under one roof, a model leaders say creates efficiencies and better outcomes for clients.

Asked about the greatest benefit of the integrated approach, Toomey observed: "Having the services under one roof gives us the opportunity to better control quality, access and confidence in each service on behalf of our clients."

The construction division emerged in response to market conditions.

"The Construction Division was born as a response to an overheated market when it was difficult to find contractors to bid and perform smaller leasehold improvements in a timely manner," Toomey said. "Bringing it in house gave our clients higher priority and our brokers more control."

The company's integrated approach has been particularly evident in several landmark projects.

Among them is The Quad at Skyline Ridge, formerly the Bend Bulletin building.

"We helped navigate the transition of the iconic Bend Bulletin building into the now Class A office/flex complex it has been beautifully transformed into today," Dickey said.

Compass Commercial has also played a long-standing role in Juniper Ridge.

"We partnered with the City of Bend on that project for many years and are actively involved in the current sales and leasing efforts of the approximately 200 acres that are available for commercial and industrial development in Juniper Ridge," Dickey said.

Dickey points to The Box Factory as perhaps the clearest example of the firm's full-service capabilities.

"When Killian Pacific acquired The Box Factory in 2013 it was 35% vacant with significant deferred maintenance," Dickey said. "Compass Commercial was tasked with re-tenanting the vacant spaces and repositioning the property in the marketplace."

The results transformed the property into one of Bend's most recognizable

mixed-use destinations.

"The property is now fully redeveloped and has become an iconic mixed-use project in the heart of Bend," Dickey said. "Compass Commercial handles the leasing and the property management of this building. Our construction division has also built out several of the spaces, making this property one that has showcased Compass Commercial's full range of services."

Looking Ahead

As Central Oregon continues to grow, Compass Commercial leaders see both opportunities and challenges ahead. Technology has fundamentally changed how real estate professionals operate, contributing to efficiency gains.

"Technology has certainly made our jobs easier, especially as it pertains to obtaining and disseminating information," Toomey said. "It also seems to have depersonalized communications and relationships."

Artificial intelligence platforms, both in general and specific to CRE, represent the latest shift.

"It is definitely a challenge navigating the technology growth," Dickey said. "AI in particular has been exciting, helpful and, at times, a little daunting." Still, she sees opportunity.

"We see AI as a way to streamline the way we do business by eliminating more routine tasks, allowing our team members to focus on higher-value work and the bigger picture items," Dickey said.

Looking toward the next decade, the company plans to continue building on the same model that fueled its long-term success in Central Oregon.

"Compass Commercial was built on a foundation that sets it apart in an integrated model where brokerage, property management and construction aren't just separate services but complementary strengths," Partner and Vice President of Property Management Russ Monroe said. "Our role now is to expand that approach thoughtfully to new markets and clients."

Today, the company oversees more than 4.4 million square feet across Oregon and Washington while maintaining a deliberate growth strategy.

For Monroe, the vision for the future remains rooted in local ownership and long-term commitment.

"In 30 years, Compass will still be locally grounded and owner-led," he said. "That's important to our clients. They're not dealing with a national platform that sees their portfolio as just another line item. They're working with partners who are part of these communities, understand the nuances of these markets and are committed to making the right decisions for the long term."

Three decades after opening its doors, Compass Commercial's story is inseparable from the story of Central Oregon's real estate growth. As the region evolved, the company grew alongside it, helping shape commercial projects and providing market insight every step of the way.

compasscommercial.com

The Tax Conversation Most People Are Not Having

by **IAN LAIMBEER CFP** — True Wealth Group & **MOSES MAN, CPA** — M Squared Tax

There are two classes of tax filers in the United States. One files a return and pays the bill.

The other spends the year building a plan designed to keep more of what they earn, reinvest it intentionally, and use the tax code as a tool rather than a deadline. Both are legal. The difference between the two is access to the right team and the discipline to act well before the year closes.

The people who consistently come out ahead do something different. They are intentional about tax planning and treat tax planning as a year-round habit. They have conversations in January about what the year ahead could look like. They check in quarterly, mid-year, and during the fall to make sure nothing is left undone before December 31. And they work with a team that is thinking about their tax picture even when they are not.



Ian Laimbeer



Moses Man

period, and your options, including installment sales, 1031 exchanges, or opportunity zone investments, can meaningfully change the outcome. Waiting until after the sale to ask questions is almost always too late.

Tax-loss harvesting throughout the year. Portfolios fluctuate. When individual positions are down, there may be an opportunity to realize a loss that offsets gains elsewhere without meaningfully changing your overall investment strategy. Done consistently and intentionally, this is one of the quieter ways a well-managed portfolio works harder for you across the full calendar year.

The Cost of No Plan

Each year, money that could have been redirected toward your goals, your family, or your business ends up with the federal government or the state of Oregon instead. Not because the tax code required it, but because no one was watching it and being intentional ahead of time.

A plan does not have to be complicated. It starts with two or three proactive conversations a year, a CFP and a tax planner working in the same direction, and a willingness to act before the deadline rather than after.

We Are Here When You Are Ready

True Wealth Group and M Squared Tax are separate firms based in Bend. Both are growing, accepting new clients, and helping Central Oregon business owners and families build proactive financial and tax strategies at every stage. If this conversation is overdue, we'd be glad to have it with you.

Ian Laimbeer is a CFP with True Wealth Group and Moses Man is a CPA with M Squared Tax, both are based in Bend.

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COMPASS COMMERCIAL RANKED 42 IN 2025 AND 43 IN 2026 IN PORTLAND BUSINESS JOURNAL'S FASTEST GROWING COMPANIES. (L-R) RUSSELL HUNTAMER, PRESIDENT AND ELLISSE DICKEY, VICE PRESIDENT

Cascadia Bend
Continued from page 1

thermal spa experience, but SolTerra says it will have its own character reflecting the pace and personality of Bend, leaning into the region's charm and natural beauty, with a softer design approach, more outdoor integration and expansive views.

Bend was chosen in part due to a local culture that values wellness and nature, with the idea behind Cascadia to embrace active, healthy living.

The facility is set to break ground this year and will include the hotel, restaurant, interior and exterior spa, fitness spaces and outdoor patios, including a rooftop courtyard for guests. Final construction timelines are to be confirmed.

Coluccio said the goal is to create



RENDERINGS | COURTESY OF HACKER ARCHITECTS



a restorative environment that blends ancient hydrotherapy traditions with modern wellness experiences, all in a setting that “feels authentic to Bend.”

Drawing on experience across Central Oregon and a reputation for connecting people to nature through its work, Portland- and Bend-based Hacker Architects is designing the project, which aims to “embrace integration, well-being, ecosystems and discovery” as guiding principles.

The overall concept is to create a sanctuary of health and renewal, “rooted in sustainable practices and infused with a sense of wonder.”

The high-end retreat will feature:

- A mix of candlelit, cave-like soaking environments, glass-enclosed spaces filled with plants, and rooftop relaxation areas;
- A variety of thermal springs, steam rooms and dedicated quiet zones, with an age requirement of 21+ for the wellness club;
- An eco-conscious, natural design — utilizing columnar basalt, local materials and soft lighting to blend architecture with Central Oregon’s High Desert landscape.



At the rooftop, a glass conservatory will offer warmth and humidity — a welcome respite for those accustomed to the region’s arid climate. “We think the combination of multiple thermal circuits, dedicated silent spaces and warm, inviting social areas will be a standout,” Coluccio added. “The ability to move between hot, cold and relaxation zones in a beautiful, purpose-built space will be a new wellness experience for Bend.”

About SolTerra:

Headquartered in Seattle, SolTerra is a prominent, design-build development firm focused on biophilic urban design, LEED Platinum architecture and renewable energy integration. They are well-known in the Pacific Northwest for equipping their mixed-use residential and commercial spaces with green roofs, living walls and solar arrays.

About Hacker Architects:

Hacker Architects is a Portland- and Bend-based architecture and interior design firm renowned for its deep sensitivity to the natural landscape, expressive use of natural light and extensive use of sustainable mass timber. Founded in 1983, the firm specializes in projects that foster community and connection to the environment. The company has also designed The Grove food hall in Northwest Crossing, the High Desert Museum and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Central Oregon.

Inside the 13th Annual Made In Redmond Tour

by MARY KNIGHT — REDI

When you ask someone to define “Economic Development,” there is usually a long pause. It is a complex answer. At its core, economic development is the intentional act of growing our community by recruiting and supporting traded-sector companies — the businesses that manufacture products to sell outside of our region. This brings new wealth directly into Redmond, creating middle- to high-income wages that allow workers to buy homes, purchase vehicles, and support our local commercial and retail businesses, all while strengthening our community’s tax base.

For 13 years, Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) has hosted the Made In Redmond Tour to pull back the curtain on these diverse, powerhouse companies. This year, 113 eager tourgoers loaded onto buses to get a rare, inside look at the daily production lines of four exceptional local makers. Guests didn’t just learn about the impact of developing a thriving regional economy, they experienced it firsthand.

Here is a glimpse into the incredible facilities we visited this year:

• **Fuel Safe Systems:** A 35-year-old veteran-owned manufacturer that designs and builds high-performance safety fuel systems used globally across motorsports, aerospace, defense, and industrial applications. From a single facility housing engineering, manufacturing, and quality control, they use advanced materials and rigorous in-house craftsmanship to protect people and critical equipment in high-risk environments.

• **Hayden Homes / Simplicity Homes Support Center:** Since 1989, Hayden Homes has focused on building high-quality, attainable homes across the Pacific Northwest while deeply investing in local economies through initiatives like their “Give As You Go” program. Their complementary brand, Simplicity, extends this mission by offering streamlined, affordable solutions for customers looking to build quality homes on their own land.

• **Springer Precision:** Built by passionate competitive shooters, Springer Precision operates a full in-house CNC machine shop to design and manufacture precision-engineered firearm components and accessories. Their dedication to innovation, craftsmanship, and strict quality standards ensures peak performance and reliability for both enthusiasts and professionals.

• **Bend Teardrop:** Founded in 2015, this family-owned company designs and builds custom, ultralight teardrop camping trailers. What began as a personal project to improve the founders’ own camping experiences has grown organically into a thriving business that blends hands-on craftsmanship with thoughtful customization to make outdoor adventures simple and accessible.

After exploring the production floors, guests gathered for a casual lunch and a lively Q&A session with company leaders. Industry executives opened up about the specific skills they look for when hiring, their future expansion goals, and the realities of manufacturing today.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF REDI

Economic development isn’t for the faint of heart. A single business recruitment or expansion project can take two, three, five, or even ten years to finally open its doors. Much patience and true grit come with the territory.

To the four host companies, and 113 community members, leaders, and partners who took time out of their busy routines to gain a new perspective on Redmond — thank you. We hope you walked away with a fresh appreciation of what makes Redmond a fantastic place to live, work, and play, shaped profoundly by what is made right here in our own backyard.

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AI is Driving Workplace Gains but Deepening Job Anxiety for U.S. Workers

by KAREN TURNER, SHRM-CP, Managing Director — Express Employment Professionals

AI is helping businesses work faster and close skills gaps, but according to a new Express Employment Professionals-Harris Poll survey, those gains are also deepening worker unease about hiring and the future of work.

AI Is Already Reshaping the Workplace

AI is already making an impact, as 79% of hiring managers say their companies use AI in the workplace, while 62% of employed job seekers report the same about their own companies.

- For hiring managers, that growing use is closely tied to business value:
- 71% say AI could help address the shortage of skilled talent, and 80% say integrating AI tools could be essential to bridging the widening skills gap seen in new hires.
 - 81% say generative AI is expected to improve efficiency, 79% say it will free up employee time and 75% say it will enhance customer service.

Those benefits are showing up in day-to-day work. Forty-four percent of hiring managers most often say AI has led to greater employee productivity, followed by higher company efficiency and more creativity, both at 38%.

Among companies that use AI, 85% of hiring managers say the personal connection between employees and clients remains unaffected.

But Unease Is Growing Alongside It

Yet those benefits are arriving alongside a growing sense of unease. Ninety percent of job seekers say they have concerns about the growing use of AI in the workplace, while 62% of hiring managers say AI-driven automation threatens to diminish their company's brand personality.

Among job seekers, the biggest worries center on how AI could weaken both effort and opportunity over time:

- 42% worry there will be an overdependence on technology, while 37% say employees will put in less effort in favor of AI completing the work.
- 36% fear there will be fewer entry-level jobs for workers to gain experience, and another 36% worry employees will lose the ability to problem-solve.

That tension is not limited to workers alone. Seventy percent of hiring managers believe employees are concerned that generative AI will make them useless, underscoring how quickly the conversation can shift from productivity gains to anxiety about long-term value at work.

When Efficiency Starts to Threaten Headcount

The tension becomes more concrete when the conversation shifts from productivity to jobs. Sixty-four percent of hiring managers say AI could allow their company to reduce its headcount by needing fewer workers, while 73% of job seekers say they are scared companies will not need to hire as much because of it.

That concern is showing up in workforce plans, with 17% of hiring managers who plan to decrease or hold headcount steady for part of this year citing AI solutions as the reason, up from 9% in spring 2025. Among job seekers whose company uses AI, 71% say they are scared their own workforce could be reduced as well.

Entry-Level Work Faces Some of the Earliest Pressure

For many workers, the pressure feels especially intense at the start of the career ladder. Job seekers say AI is already changing the kind of early experience that has traditionally helped people get a foot in the door, build skills and move forward.

- Entry-level work is a major pressure point:
- 58% of job seekers say they know of companies using AI to automate tasks

- handled by entry-level employees.
- 53% agree it is more efficient to use AI for entry-level tasks than to hire and train a candidate.
- There Is Optimism, but Not Equal Confidence**
- Even with the disruption, most hiring managers and job seekers believe new jobs will emerge as AI reshapes the workforce. Eighty-six percent of hiring managers say new jobs will emerge to compensate for roles eliminated by AI, and 83% of job seekers agree.
- But job seekers are far less confident those new roles will be enough:
- 19% of job seekers believe more new jobs will emerge than the number of jobs eliminated.
 - 38% expect some new jobs will emerge, but not enough to replace those lost.
 - 26% expect only a few limited jobs to emerge, and 17% expect no new jobs to emerge to replace those eliminated.

The More Hopeful Path Depends on How AI Is Used

Even amid ongoing change, the data points to a more constructive path forward. Many hiring managers still see AI as a tool for helping people work better, not simply as a way to cut labor. That more hopeful outlook depends on whether businesses invest in training and prepare workers to use AI alongside the skills technology cannot replace.

- Many say that starts with better preparation:
- 44% of hiring managers say companies should provide on-the-job training specific to managing and working alongside AI.
 - 40% say businesses should offer dedicated training for skills that are not replaceable with AI.
 - 38% point to apprenticeship and internship programs that include AI training.
- Discover more research and real-world workforce trends from the America Employed series at ExpressPros.com/Newsroom.

Survey Methodology

The Job Insights survey was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Express Employment Professionals from November 3 to 19, 2025, among 1,002 U.S. hiring decision-makers.

The Job Seeker Report was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Express Employment Professionals from November 7 to 20, 2025, among 1,003 adults ages 18 and older.

For full survey methodologies, please contact Sheena.Hollander@ExpressPros.com, director of Corporate Communications & PR.

About Express Employment Professionals:

At Express Employment Professionals, we're in the business of people. From job seekers to client companies, Express helps people thrive and businesses grow. Our international network of franchises offers localized staffing solutions to the communities they serve across the U.S., Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, employing 492,000 people globally in 2023 and more than 11 million since its inception. For more information, visit ExpressPros.com.

The Central Oregon Express office is located at 296 SW Columbia, Suite B, Bend, and serves Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties.

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Mid-Year Survey Finds Oregon Business Leaders Cautious as They Balance Growth Plans with Cost Volatility

by ABBIE SWENHAUGEN

Nearly two-thirds of Oregon businesses say they are prioritizing making investments over cutting costs, according to new data released today by Columbia Bank. While half of Oregon business leaders will continue to monitor inflation, tariffs and broader economic conditions before making major investment decisions, most remain focused on growth opportunities with the expectation that demand, revenue and profitability will increase over the next 12 months.

The findings are from Columbia's 2026 Business Barometer, an annual study examining the outlook, priorities and decision-making of nearly 1,200 small and midsize enterprises across the United States, including businesses with significant sales, employees and operations in Oregon.

Top Regional Priorities: What is Driving Decision-Making for Oregon Businesses?

Oregon business leaders express a measured but growth-oriented outlook for the year ahead, balancing economic concerns with continued investment in expansion.

- Most Oregon businesses are more focused on growth rather than cost-cutting, with 64% saying they are prioritizing investment, compared with 35% who are focused primarily on reducing expenses. At the same time, 51% say they plan to wait six months before making significant strategic moves.
- Despite being less optimistic about revenue expectations (55% compared to 67% nationally),

nearly two-thirds of businesses (64%) expect profitability to increase and 78% expect demand to increase.

- Oregon business leaders say they are very or somewhat likely to invest in expansion (72%), increase their real estate footprint (71%) and acquire another business (51%).
 - Roughly half of Oregon businesses (53%) expect to increase headcount over the next 12 months.
- Recent advances in AI capabilities are in part driving the 12-month growth outlook. Oregon businesses are more optimistic about the impact of AI than most businesses, with 81% saying it will strengthen their business. More than four in five Oregon businesses (83%) expect AI to help with employee satisfaction and retention.
- While tariff impact has fallen out of as a top concern for many businesses since last year, it still ranks as a top two concern for Oregon businesses. Input from leaders indicates that the unpredictability of tariff implementation has been more challenging than direct tariff costs, as delays, exemptions and shifting percentage amounts have made planning difficult.
- 43% of Oregon businesses report tariffs have had a negative impact on their business over the past 12 months – higher than the national average (37%).
 - 43% expect trade volatility, tariff impacts to last one to two years.
 - 56% will seek tariff refunds.

To download Columbia Bank's 2026 Business Barometer, visit: columbiabank.com/business-barometer.

Survey Methodology:

The Columbia Bank 2026 Business Barometer, conducted annually, surveyed 1,186 owners, executives and financial decision-makers from U.S. small and middle market businesses. The online survey was conducted in partnership with DHM Research, a public policy and business research firm, and targeted leaders at companies with \$500,000 to \$500 million in annual revenue. The survey, which did not filter for Columbia Bank customers, has a 2.7% margin of error and was fielded from April 28 to May 7, 2026.

About Columbia Bank:

Columbia Bank is an award-winning preeminent regional bank with offices in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington. It combines the resources, sophistication, and expertise of a national bank with a commitment to deliver superior, personalized service. The bank supports consumers and businesses through a full suite of services, including retail and commercial banking, Small Business Administration lending, institutional and corporate banking, and equipment leasing. Columbia Bank customers also have access to comprehensive investment and wealth management expertise as well as healthcare and private banking through Columbia Wealth Management.

columbiabank.com

First Interstate Bank's Nonprofit Summit

Eighth Annual Gathering Discusses Industry-Wide Topics

by NOAH NELSON — CBN Feature Writer

On June 17 of this year, First Interstate Bank gathered more than 80 nonprofit industry leaders representing 55 different organizations from the region at Wille Hall on Bend's COCC campus. The Summit aimed to help local organizations navigate increasing demands, evolving community needs and the ongoing funding challenges that nonprofits are facing across the state. The Summit also featured a \$500 mini-grant that was awarded via raffle system to a lucky guest and their organization.

"This event serves as a collaborative forum where nonprofit organizations can discuss current industry challenges, share best practices, and gain insight into strategies that are proving effective across the sector," said Dawn Cofer, VP, relationship manager with First Interstate Bank. "The event provides attendees with valuable perspectives on operational and funding challenges, enabling organizations to better position themselves for long-term sustainability and future planning. By fostering peer-to-peer dialogue, the Bank supports capacity building within the nonprofit community."

The day kicked off with coffee and breakfast as Cofer presented "First Interstate's Commitment to Our Communities," a presentation designed to share the Bank's community impact scorecard. This highlighted several different community contributions from First Interstate Bank, including foundation grants, bank donations and employee matching/rewards programs, which resulted in a total of \$339,837 donated in 2025 in Central Oregon alone. The same year, the Bank also collected more than 1,000 winter items for donation and volunteered more than 4,600 hours across 121 nonprofits in Central Oregon.

Travis Combe, a retirement plan advisor, with First Interstate Bank led a discussion on retirement preparedness that helped industry leaders track not only their own progress, but the progress being made for everyone in their respective organizations. As valuable as that information is, especially given the rising cost of living and the rapidly changing workforce economy, the bulk of the day's conversations were centered around the next topic.

"The Power of Partnership: Redesigning Nonprofits for What's Next," was a panel presentation and discussion featuring leaders from Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, J Bar J Youth Services, Deschutes Land Trust and the Nonprofit Association of Oregon.

The main point shared is as follows: due to sweeping budget cuts and higher operating costs, competition for funding is getting fierce, and nonprofits will have to work collaboratively, putting mission over organization, in order to still achieve their goals and serve the community.

In Cofer's words, "Across recent years of this event, the most significant challenge identified within the nonprofit sector is the widening gap between declining or constrained funding streams and increasing demand for program services. Nonprofits are facing heightened pressure as operating costs and community needs continue to rise, while traditional funding sources—including grants, donations, and government support—have not kept pace. This dynamic is requiring organizations to operate more efficiently, diversify funding strategies, and prioritize long-term sustainability planning in an increasingly competitive and resource-constrained environment."

In an environment as described above, nonprofits are leaning more and more toward collaboration. Many organizations have already been doing this, and collaboration for them is natural.

We are all about collaboration," said Michael Baker, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Central Oregon. "It is never about competition when we keep in mind what we are in the service of doing; we are here to help serve the youth that need us most. I can't think of a more impactful way of doing that than working with collaborative partners to help all the youth in the region, collectively."

Similarly, Polly Cohen, executive director of Healing Reins, said the following, "The Summit's discussion around collaboration resonated strongly because it



PHOTOS | COURTESY OF FIRST INTERSTATE BANK

reflects how Healing Reins has operated for more than 26 years. As a PATH International Premier Accredited Center, we are part of a network of more than 800 equine-assisted services centers nationwide, allowing us to share best practices, research, and industry advancements. Locally, our work depends on strong partnerships with physicians, therapists, school districts, veterans' organizations, disability service providers, outdoor recreation partners, and other community agencies. These relationships help us identify unmet needs, improve referrals, and ensure participants receive comprehensive support through both equine-assisted and outdoor therapeutic experiences."

Summing up the future of nonprofits in Central Oregon, Cohen said, "The organizations that thrive in the future will be those that listen to their communities, work across sectors, and recognize that collaboration is not simply beneficial; it's necessary."

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The unemployment rate was unchanged, and nonfarm payroll increased by 172,000 in May. Leisure and hospitality, local government and healthcare saw increases, while employment declined in financial activities.
The labor force participation rate was unchanged at 61.8%. Average hourly earnings increased by 12 cents (0.3%) to \$37.53. The average workweek held at 34.3 hours.
According to the American Staffing Association, temporary help employment was 1.57% of total nonfarm employment in May.

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Read the full report at BLS.gov.
Monthly revisions may occur due to additional reports received since the latest published estimates and from the recalculation of seasonal factors.

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC NEWS

Five Trends Shaping Skills Development HR Dive – June 2, 2026
Employers are intensifying their focus on closing skills gaps as digital transformation accelerates, with 83% of HR and IT leaders calling skills development imperative amid a shallow external talent pool. To stay competitive, many organizations are shifting hiring strategies inward, investing more in upskilling programs and prioritizing high-demand capabilities such as digital fluency, data analytics, and project management.
Gen Z Is Reshaping the Workplace. Leadership Must Evolve. CEO World – June 6, 2026
With Gen Z steadily entering management pipelines, leadership evolution is

no longer optional; organizations that modernize leadership capabilities will be better positioned to innovate, align teams, and compete for scarce talent in a rapidly changing job market.
Hilton Unveils New Workplace Research Showing That Even as AI Is Reshaping Work, the Real Advantage Is Human Business Wire – June 4, 2026
As AI reshapes work, new research from Hilton finds that human-centered factors—like purpose, mentorship, and emotionally intelligent leadership—are the strongest drivers of productivity and retention. For leaders, investing in a people-first culture and relationships will be critical to attracting talent and sustaining performance.

AMERICA EMPLOYED INSIGHTS FROM EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT INTERNATIONAL

Most Job Seekers Know What Can Cost Them a Job but Are Less Certain What Actually Gets Them Hired ExpressPros.com – May 27, 2026
With ongoing volatility in the U.S. job market, many job seekers are focused on how to separate themselves from the competition. But a recent Express Employment Professionals-Harris Poll survey shows candidates are more likely to identify what could cost them a job than the factors that improve their chances of getting hired.
New Express Survey: Rising Skill Demands Squeeze Entry-Level Hiring, Shrinking Talent Pipelines ExpressPros.com – May 13, 2026
Entry-level work has long been the first rung on America's economic ladder, but new research from an Express Employment Professionals-Harris Poll survey suggests that rung is slipping away, creating ripple effects that extend beyond today's job seekers to the workforce of the future. A new white paper, "Sounding the Alarm: The Narrowing Path to Work," examines how higher skill demands, automation and fewer true entry-level openings are compressing the bottom of the labor market and weakening the foundation of future talent pipelines.

expresspros.com/bendor

Nearly a Decade in the Making

by LANCE GILLIES, Founder — EarthCruiser

EarthCruiser is beginning dealer deliveries of its MOD slide-in truck camper while advancing Terranova toward scaled manufacturing, marking the next stage in a journey that began nearly a decade ago.
When EarthCruiser introduced its first composite truck camper platform in 2017, the market looked very different. The GZL, the platform that would eventually evolve into MOD, challenged many traditional RV manufacturing practices through one-piece composite construction, lightweight engineering and a truck-first approach to adventure travel. At the time, many of the technologies that now define modern overland travel, from lithium power systems to efficient climate control, were still emerging.
Because EarthCruiser sold directly to customers, the company developed unusually close relationships with the people using its products. Team members delivered vehicles, trained owners and spent years supporting customers in the field. Those experiences provided constant feedback that influenced both product development and the company's long-term direction.
One trend became increasingly clear. Many customers began their journey in tents or vans before moving to truck-based platforms. During the Terranova direct to consumer program, approximately seven out of ten customers previously owned a van. They appreciated the comfort and convenience but increasingly wanted greater payload, improved serviceability and a vehicle that could work just as well on Monday morning as it did on a weekend adventure.
Modern trucks evolved at the same time. Today's pickups combine capability, comfort, safety and nationwide service networks with technologies that have transformed truck-based travel.

EarthCruiser has also observed a growing number

of traditional RV owners looking beyond the conventional RV market for their next purchase. As expectations around quality, durability, usability and ownership experience continue to rise, many consumers are exploring products developed by adventure travel and overland manufacturers, where lightweight construction, composite materials and automotive-inspired engineering have driven much of the industry's recent innovation.
We've spent years listening to how people actually use these vehicles, and they consistently wanted products that combined real adventure capability with the practicality of everyday ownership.

The voice of those customers can now be seen in both MOD and Terranova.
MOD is beginning dealer deliveries and represents the culmination of nearly a decade of customer feedback, product development and manufacturing refinement. Designed around simplicity, durability and everyday usability, it transforms a pickup into a highly capable adventure vehicle while preserving the qualities that made owners choose the truck in the first place.
MOD allows owners to retain the versatility of the pickup truck they already own while gaining a capable camping platform. There is no trailer to tow, no dedicated RV to store and no compromise to the truck's everyday usefulness. Whether commuting during the week, heading to the mountains for a ski weekend or embarking on an extended road trip, the same vehicle serves multiple roles.
Modern vehicle manufacturers invest billions of dollars developing trucks that are safe, comfortable, efficient and enjoyable to drive. EarthCruiser believes a truck camper should build on those strengths, not compromise them. Every design decision, from lightweight composite construction to aerodynamics, visibility, serviceability and vehicle integration, is intended to complement the truck's engineering and enhance the ownership experience rather than detract from it.
Terranova is the next step in that journey. Now advancing toward scaled manufacturing, it draws on nearly two decades of EarthCruiser expedition vehicle experience to deliver greater self-sufficiency and extended



TERRANOVA TRUCK CAMPER | PHOTOS COURTESY OF EARTHCRIUSER

travel capability while retaining the familiarity and serviceability of a modern pickup platform.
Bringing these products to market required more than product development. EarthCruiser has spent recent years refining manufacturing execution, production readiness and quality systems while working alongside manufacturing partners recognized for disciplined processes and automotive-quality standards.
"We've had our share of missteps and disappointments along the way," said Gillies. "That's part of building any ambitious product. Every setback taught us something. Every lesson improved the product, strengthened the process and sharpened our understanding of what it takes to consistently deliver the quality customers deserve."
For EarthCruiser, scaling production has never been about simply building more units. It has been about building them consistently and delivering the ownership experience customers increasingly expect from premium products.
As MOD reaches dealers and Terranova moves toward scaled manufacturing, EarthCruiser believes the next generation of truck campers will be defined not only by where they take people, but by how well they integrate with the vehicles owners already trust every day.
About EarthCruiser Innovation LLC:
EarthCruiser Innovation LLC develops expedition vehicles and truck camper platforms built around durability, simplicity and real-world adventure. Drawing on nearly two decades of experience in vehicle design and overland travel, EarthCruiser products are engineered to help customers explore with confidence while maintaining the practicality required for everyday life.
earthcruiser.com



MOD SLIDE IN TRUCK CAMPER | PHOTOS COURTESY OF EARTHCRIUSER

For Small Businesses, the Right Leads Beat More Leads

by CHRISTY LAWRENCE, Founder — Mighty Growth

Ready to grow your business? It's easy to think the first step is to generate more leads, but that's only half true. For many relationship-based service businesses, from builders and subcontractors to real estate brokers and niche service providers two to five great clients matter more than a hundred new leads.



When growth feels stagnant, it's easy to lose sight of that and focus on getting as many people in your pipeline as possible. Most small businesses think they are hungry for more leads, when in reality they are starved for the right ones.

As a small business owner, you likely have a team of 2-15 people. You don't have a \$500,000 marketing budget. And that means you have to do more with less.

To do more with less, you have to be exceptionally focused on what will have the greatest impact on your business. That's why being focused on the right leads matters more than chasing as many leads as possible.

When the focus turns to more leads, a lot of time gets spent developing leads that either never become customers or become customers you don't actually want to serve.

Here's a trap I see all the time. You're stressed about revenue, so you say yes to a project that isn't quite right, to fill the gap. And the more times you do this, the more likely you are to build a portfolio of that same work, which then attracts more unaligned work. You're getting paid, but you're also losing time you could spend creating the business you actually want.

This is just one reason "more leads" backfires. If your pipeline is full of the wrong inquiries, adding volume just gives you more wrong inquiries to sort through. For a low-volume, high-ticket business, you need to win a thousand clients. It's easier and more profitable to attract one right client than to chase a hundred random ones. Five aligned clients in a year can beat fifty scattered ones.

So what actually changes things?

It starts with a number. Before any of this works, you have to know how many new clients you actually want. Is it five, fifty, or five hundred? Most people don't have a strategic answer to that question, and it's one of the most

important numbers in your business. Five high-ticket clients a year is a referral and relationship strategy. Five hundred is a different machine entirely. You can't build the right plan until you know the specifics of what you're building. Naming the number turns "I need more clients" from an ambiguous target into a specific one you can actually achieve.

From there, it's about being found by the right people. Which, this is the most important part – isn't everyone. That means getting clear on who you genuinely serve, then making sure the same story reaches them in the two places that matter: in person and online. The words that win a face-to-face conversation aren't always the same words that capture a Google search. One has to immediately captivate the listener, the other relies on algorithms and search query. You need to balance the art of conversation and the science of your online message.

Most experts have one of those working at best. When these two work in sync, your ideal clients are interested, whether they meet you at an event or they're looking for solutions online.

None of this requires becoming a marketer, posting every day, or running ads to the masses. Those are mass-market tools, and most small businesses aren't mass-market businesses. Instead clearly say what you do and who it's for in language that resonates with the room and online search.

One architect told me she was finally ready to take on just two projects a year: the two aligned with the creative work she actually wanted to do. That's not a modest ambition. That's the whole point.

Your time is the most valuable resource you have as a business owner. To succeed, it needs to be focused on the right things that make a difference, consistently. So if you don't have enough leads and you're not working doing the work you set out to do, the answer probably isn't more. It's the right clients, finally finding you.

Christy Lawrence is the founder of Mighty Growth, a consulting business focused on helping small teams do more, so they hit their revenue goals and do work they love. If you're ready to make sure yours is reaching the right people — in the room and online — connect with me at Christy@mightygrowth.biz.

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Proximity to Natural Wonders Continues to Attract Buyers to Sunriver

by KRISTINE THOMAS

In her more than 11 years working in Central Oregon's real estate industry, Kristin Long has noticed that people are often drawn to Sunriver for more than just the homes. "They are investing in a lifestyle centered around outdoor recreation, community connection and the incredible natural surroundings that make Sunriver such a desirable place to live and visit," Long said.

The managing principal broker for Sunriver Realty and Sunriver Resort, Long shared she has the honor of overseeing Sunriver Realty brokerage operations, supporting and mentoring the brokers, ensuring compliance with Oregon real estate laws and regulations, and helping guide the brokerage's overall strategic direction.

"What originally drew me to real estate was the opportunity to help people through some of life's most significant decisions," Long said. "Real estate is much more than buying and selling property, it is about helping individuals and families achieve personal goals, whether that means finding a primary residence, a vacation retreat, an investment property, or transitioning to a new chapter of life. I enjoy the combination of relationship-building, problem-solving and helping clients and brokers navigate an ever-changing market."

Kelly Winch is a principal broker and sales manager for Cascade Hasson Sotheby's International Realty's Sunriver office. She has specialized in Central Oregon real estate for more than 20 years, with a particular focus on Sunriver and the 97707 area.

Winch purchased her first vacation rental property in Sunriver in 1999, sparking a passion for real estate investing that ultimately changed the course of her career. After moving to Sunriver full-time in 2003, where she raised her two daughters, she transitioned into real estate sales while also remodeling and building homes.

Having owned investment and vacation rental properties, Winch said she developed a passion for real estate and helping others achieve their goals whether they are purchasing a primary residence, second home or investment property in Sunriver. "You're investing in much more than a home — you're investing in a lifestyle," Winch said. "Sunriver offers year-round recreation, beautiful natural surroundings, golf, biking, hiking, water activities, and easy access to Bend and Mt. Bachelor. Whether you're looking for a primary residence, vacation home, or investment property, the lifestyle and sense of community are what make this area so special."

Describing Sunriver as a truly unique community, Long said it offers a year-round lifestyle with something for everyone. "The community appeals to full-time residents, second-home owners, retirees, and those seeking a vacation retreat. Buyers should take the time to understand the unique neighborhoods, homeowner associations, and property uses available throughout the area, as each can offer a distinct ownership experience," Long said.

Long and Winch were sent the following questions. Here are their answers.
How would you describe the current market?

Long: The Sunriver and greater Central Oregon market has continued to evolve over the past several years. While we are no longer experiencing the rapid pace and historically low inventory conditions seen during the pandemic years, the market remains active and healthy. Today's market is more balanced. Buyers have more choices and more time to evaluate properties, while sellers who price appropriately and prepare their homes well continue to see strong interest. We are seeing continued demand from buyers seeking the lifestyle that Central Oregon offers, including recreation, outdoor amenities, and a strong sense of community. As always, market conditions can vary significantly by location, price range, and property type, which is why local expertise remains so important.

Winch: The current market is nuanced and can be challenging to define with a single headline. Some segments remain strong, while others are more sensitive to economic uncertainty, interest rates and buyer confidence. Well-priced, well-presented homes continue to attract attention, while properties that are overpriced or require significant updates may take longer to sell. Currently, we have 14 pending homes in Sunriver, ten of them more than \$1 million.

How do you calm buyers' worries about the economy or interest rates?

Winch and Long shared in separate interviews that buyers have shared their concerns about the economy and interest rates. They both said there is no one-size-fits-all answer to calm a person's worries. Instead, they advise buyers to focus on their personal goals including financial situation, goals, and comfort level, and their timeline rather than trying to time the market.

Winch: Interest rates and economic conditions will always fluctuate. If the home fits their needs, budget and long-term plans, it can still be a great opportunity.

Long: I find that providing accurate market information and helping buyers understand their options can go a long way toward reducing uncertainty. Ultimately, the decision to purchase a home should be based on an individual's financial situation, goals, and comfort level.

What is the average time a house spends on the market?

Winch and Long shared that the days a home is on the market can fluctuate depending on the time of year and the property's location, price point, condition



PHOTO | COURTESY OF CALDERA SPRINGS

and amenities. Winch said homes in Sunriver, homes are currently nearing 100 days on the market, adding whether the property is being marketed as a primary residence, second home, or vacation rental can determine how long it takes to sell.

Long said in Sunriver, year-to-date median 'day on market' for single family residences is 44 days. At this time in 2025 median days on market was 17.

"Rather than focusing solely on an overall average, I encourage consumers to look at current market activity within the specific neighborhood or market segment that most closely matches their property or search criteria. Those statistics often provide a more meaningful picture of what is happening in today's market," Long said.

What advice would you give to a buyer? A seller?

Winch: For both buyers and sellers, my biggest piece of advice is to do your best to keep emotions out of the negotiation process. Real estate is often one of the largest financial transactions people make, so emotions naturally come into play. However, approaching decisions with a clear understanding of your goals and relying on facts rather than emotions leads to better outcomes. It's an important purchase, don't let emotion, and the little things get in the way.

Long: For buyers, preparation is key. Understanding your goals, financial parameters and preferred lifestyle can help create a more focused and successful search.

For sellers, presentation and pricing remain important factors. Buyers have access to more information than ever before, and first impressions matter. Working with a knowledgeable real estate professional can help sellers understand local market conditions and position their property effectively.

What are some common mistakes sellers make before listing their home?

They shared that the most common mistake made by sellers is delaying necessary maintenance items that could affect a buyer's perception of the property.

"I understand that major projects like replacing a roof can be expensive, but sellers should understand the condition of their home before putting it on the market. If the roof is nearing the end of its life or the exterior needs staining or painting, obtain bids and understand the costs involved," Winch said. "This helps us price the property appropriately and reduces surprises during inspections and negotiations. Even smaller items matter. Regular furnace servicing, maintenance records, and evidence that the home has been well cared for can make a positive impression on buyers and could lead to a quicker sale."

Long said one of the most common mistakes is assuming that all improvements or upgrades will translate directly into market value.

"Sellers sometimes also rely on outdated market information or comparisons that may no longer reflect current conditions," Long said. "The most successful listings are typically those where sellers take the time to understand today's market, prepare the home thoughtfully, and work closely with a real estate professional to develop a strategy tailored to the property."

Both professionals shared that Sunriver's natural beauty, its amenities, and its proximity to Mt. Bachelor, Bend and Cascade lakes are some of the many attractions will continue to entice buyers to Sunriver.

Sunriver is the Place to Celebrate Summer

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

Whether you prefer leisurely or nail-biting activities, Sunriver is the place to celebrate summer.

It's a place to listen to great music at several venues, be inspired when visiting art galleries, enjoy time with family and friends, savor a great meal at one of the many restaurants, plan adventures to go kayaking, hiking or mountain biking or enjoy a game of golf or pickleball.

If you want to visit for the day, plan a bike ride on the 34-miles of paved paths, go for a swim at SHARC, shop at The Village at Sunriver and Sunriver Business Park and discover the wonders of nature at the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory.

If you are not sure where to go or where to start, contact the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce to find the answers. The chamber supports its members by making recommendations for restaurants, where to stay, activities and more!

Here's a roundup of upcoming summer events.

Uncorked: Sunriver Style

Discover 13 Oregon wineries, a brewery, two live music acts and six food vendors at the 2026 Uncorked: Sunriver Wine Festival on July 11 from 1-8pm at SHARC's Benham Hall and outdoor amphitheater.

A 21 and older event, tickets are \$25 and include an Uncorked branded, stemless wine glass, two tastings from the winery of your choice and a raffle entry for a free bottle of wine and other prizes. Tickets may be purchased online at bendticket.com or the day of the event.

Uncorked provides visitors and community members with an opportunity to savor a day of wine, music and food at the Sunriver Owners Association's summer celebration. Guests can savor wines from renowned vineyards of Southern Oregon, Central Oregon, Willamette Valley and Columbia River Valley.

Musician Pete Kartsounes will perform from 1-4:30pm and Desert Wheelhouse from 4:30-8pm.

Guests can purchase food from JoolzBox Kitchen and Social, and Crepe Oh! Holics.

The menu from Crepe Oh! Holics include sweet crepes filled with Nutella, fresh fruit or Oreos and savory crepes filled with smoked salmon; mushroom, spinach and cheese; ham, egg and

cheese; or spinach, egg and cheese. Vegan and gluten free options are available.

JoolzBox Kitchen and Social will offer the following choices:

- French ham baguette with brie and Dijon mustard served with artisan chips and cornichon
- Mediterranean vegetarian baguette with grilled eggplant, pesto butter, pomegranate molasses, mozzarella and arugula
- Petite burrata over arugula salad, toasted pinenuts, basil and pomegranate vinaigrette served with artisan chips
- Homemade hummus with pita chips, baby carrot sticks, olives and toasted pinenuts
- Chocolate chunk Tahini cookies
- Dried fruits, nuts and chocolate stuffed dates with blackberry

Wineries: J Scott Cellars, Richwine Vineyards, Faith Hope and Charity, Merrill Cellars, Quady North, Lazy Z Ranch Wines, Willamette Valley Vineyards, Ermisch Wine Cellars, Girardet Vineyard, Henry Estate Winery, RoxyAnn Winery, Whitetail Ridge Winery and Laurel Ridge Winery.

Food Vendors: Bachelor Vista Jammery, Bend Cookie Co., Busy B Microbakery and Windy Acres Dairy Farm.

Brewery: Sunriver Brewing Co.

For additional information, visit sunriversharc.com/uncorked, email sharcevents@srowners.org or call 541-585-3144.

Sunriver Music Festival Events

The Sunriver Music Festival is hosting two events this summer.

Raise the Baton is the fundraising party of the year! This lively event raises vital funds for Young Artists Scholarships and the Sunriver Music Festival's world-class concerts. Hosted by Maestro Brett Mitchell and illustrious auctioneer Molly May, the event features performances by advanced Young Artists Scholarship recipients and lively auctions and games, all for the future of music.

From August 10-20, 2026, Sunriver Music Festival presents its 49th season in two spectacular, historic Central Oregon venues, the Sunriver Resort Great



PHOTO | COURTESY OF SUNRIVER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Hall and the Tower Theatre in downtown Bend. Performances feature world-class orchestra musicians and renowned soloists, led by Artistic Director & Conductor Brett Mitchell. This summer's concert series includes a celebration of American orchestral music as part of the nationwide commemoration of the country's 250th Anniversary.

Events include four classical concerts, a pops concert and a family concert. The Summer Concert Series opens August 10 at the Sunriver Resort Great Hall and closes August 20 at the Tower Theatre.

Visit sunrivermusic.org to reserve tickets for both events.

Sunriver Saturday Market

The fourth annual Sunriver Saturday Market features more than 40 Central Oregon vendors selling jewelry to pottery and food items to candles. The markets are

Continued on Page 16 ►



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Central Oregon’s Orchestral Music Experience

by **MEAGAN IVERSON, Executive Director — Sunriver Music Festival**

Sunriver Music Festival is committed to expanding the audience for classical music by presenting a world-class musical experience for Central Oregon residents and visitors and by nurturing the next generation of artistic talent.

Experience the 49th season of Sunriver Music Festival August 10-20, 2026. Artistic Director and Conductor Brett Mitchell leads world-class orchestra musicians from prestigious orchestras around the country with acclaimed soloists in a series of seven classical and pops concerts. Concerts are held at the Sunriver Resort Great Hall and in Bend at the Tower Theatre with many rehearsals free and open to the public.

Raise the Baton is a lively summer fundraising party directly supporting Sunriver Music Festival's Young Artists Scholarship program and the landmark Summer Festival. During its 30-year history, the Festival's Young Artists Scholarship program has awarded more than \$740,000 in scholarships to Central Oregon's most advanced classical music students.

In addition to the renowned Summer Festival concert series and thriving music education programs, Sunriver Music Festival presents well-known classical crossover and jazz artists throughout the year. On the court in June, join Play On! — the annual pickleball bash benefiting Sunriver Music Festival and July's Raise the Baton fundraising party.

Maestro & Soloists of the August 10-20, 2026 Summer Festival

Hailed for presenting engaging, in-depth explorations of thoughtfully curated programs, American conductor Brett Mitchell currently serves as music director of the Pasadena Symphony and artistic director and conductor of Sunriver Music Festival. He previously served as music director of the Colorado Symphony, associate conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra, and assistant conductor of the Houston Symphony and Orchestre National de France.

Working widely as a guest conductor, Mitchell's recent engagements have included appearances with the Dallas, Detroit, Fort Worth, Houston, National, San Francisco, and Vancouver Symphonies; the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl; the Cleveland and Minnesota Orchestras, and a two-week tour with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. He regularly collaborates with the world's leading soloists, including Yo-Yo Ma, Renée Fleming, Itzhak Perlman, and more.

Mitchell holds degrees in conducting from the University of Texas at Austin and composition from Western Washington University.

Lauded as "exquisite" by The Philadelphia Inquirer and "a pianist of sterling artistry" by Gramophone, GRAMMY Award winning pianist Michelle Cann is one of the most sought-after artists of her generation. Cann holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and an artist's diploma from Curtis Institute of Music, and she is on the piano faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. Cann is featured in Sunriver Music Festival's August 10 classical concert.

William Hagen has performed as soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician across the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. In the 2025/26 season, Hagen returns as soloist with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, makes his debut with the Rotterdam Philharmonic, performs as soloist with orchestras across the United States, and performs recitals and chamber music in both the United States and Europe. Hagen is featured in Sunriver Music Festival's August 12 classical concert.

Acclaimed in concert halls throughout the United States, Canada, South America



PHOTO | BY DAVID YOUNG-WOLFF

and Europe, Timothy Jones is one of the leading bass-baritones of this generation. His eagerly anticipated performances combine intelligent musicianship, commanding vocal technique and a unique ability to connect with audiences. Jones is featured in Sunriver Music Festival's August 18 classical concert.

Violinist Tessa Lark is one of the most captivating artistic voices of our time, consistently praised by critics and audiences for her astounding range of sounds, technical agility, and musical elegance. Increasingly in demand in the classical realm, in 2020 she was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Classical Instrumental Solo category. She is the artistic director of Moab Music Festival in Utah. Lark will be featured in Sunriver Music Festival's August 20 classical concert.

A Sunriver Music Festival summer would be incomplete without the popular Family Concert, this season featuring *Harry Potter and the Instruments of the Orchestra*, August 14 at SHARC in Sunriver, and its yearly sold-out Pops Concert: *John Williams and the American Journey*, August 15 at the Tower Theatre in Bend.

Sunriver Music Festival Is A Year-Round Nonprofit Organization

August: Landmark Summer Orchestral Concert Series
December: Rock the Holidays Christmas Concerts
February: Valentine's Dinner Dance & Concert
April: The Maestro at the Piano
June: Young Artists Scholarship Auditions & Concert
July: Raise the Baton Fundraising Party
September-June: Ongoing music education programs at Bend-La Pine public schools
October: Encore! Annual Meeting

sunrivermusic.org

Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce

Continued from page 15

9am-1pm on Saturday, July 25, August 29, and September 26 at SHARC. Follow the Sunriver Saturday Market on Instagram to learn about the vendors for each month or visit sunriverchamber.com.

Thank You to the 2026 Sponsors

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Friends of the Market: First Interstate Bank of Sunriver

2026 Sunriver Oktoberfest

Mark your calendars for the second annual Sunriver Oktoberfest on Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26.

Community partners are working to host another momentous event which will include activities for every interest and age including food, games, music, dancing and more.

Thank you to Sunriver Oktoberfest sponsors Annie Wyland Licensed Real Estate Broker, Village Bar & Grill, Avari Management, Dream Decks & Remodeling, Artists' Gallery Sunriver and Gringo Language Academy.

The fun begins with Locals Weekend on September 12. Follow the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce on Instagram to learn more about Locals Weekend or subscribe for free to the chamber's event newsletter at exec@sunriverchamber.com.

Here's the lineup for Sunriver Oktoberfest events:

Friday, September 25

- The Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Sunriver Women's Club and Sunriver Resort's Wonderland Express to host the second annual Sunriver Oktoberfest Putt Putt Fundraiser at Sunriver Resort's Grey's Trail. Registration will open in mid-July. Funds go to support children's programs in south Deschutes County. Email exec@sunriverchamber.com for information.
- Opening ceremonies and awards at Sunriver Brewing Taproom at 5pm in the Sunriver Business Park.

Saturday, September 26

- Sunriver Saturday Market, 9am-1pm at SHARC



PHOTO | COURTESY OF SUNRIVER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

- Sunriver Oktoberfest Races, starting at 11am at SHARC. There will be a 10K, 5K and one-mile fun run. After the race, plan to spend the day in Sunriver enjoying music, German food, local beer, and more festivities at Sunriver Oktoberfest.
- Sunriver Oktoberfest Kids' Meandering Race. Free event for kids 12 years old and younger starting at Visit Central Oregon's office in The Village at Sunriver.
- Festivities at SHARC include beer, games, food and more. Visit sunriverchamber.com to learn more about the 2026 Sunriver Oktoberfest.

Become a Chamber Member

The Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce invites businesses to become a member by learning how the chamber supports its members. Members are promoted in the chamber's newsletters, social media, Sunriver Scene and website. The chamber hosts an annual State of South County Breakfast, Career Exploration Lunch for middle school students, the *Sunriver Magazine*, Sunriver Saturday Market and more. If you are interested in becoming a member, please email exec@sunriverchamber.com to arrange a time to meet.

sunriverchamber.com

Bridging Gaps in South County Care

by **TYLER CARSKADON, Marketing Manager — Partners In Care**

For residents across Sunriver and the surrounding South County area, access to compassionate, well-coordinated care can make all the difference, especially during life's most vulnerable moments. Since 2011, Molly Denton, a transitions coordinator and certified Community Health Worker (CHW) with Partners In Care, has played a vital role in helping individuals and families navigate that journey.

Working throughout Central Oregon, Denton has witnessed firsthand how much the region's health and support systems have evolved. With that growth, however, comes complexity. "Our role often becomes the missing piece," she explains, helping bridge gaps, connect resources, and ensure that no one feels lost in the system. At the heart of her work is a simple philosophy: getting to truly know each person. By understanding individual needs, values, and circumstances, she helps align services that enhance quality of life and support people in continuing to live fully, even through significant change.

Denton's service area stretches far beyond Sunriver, covering south Bend to La Pine and reaching into rural communities across Klamath and Lake Counties. While resources can be more limited outside Deschutes County, she works diligently to close those gaps. Through close collaboration with Aging & People with Disabilities offices and Council on Aging, Denton helps ensure residents, no matter how remote, have access to meaningful support.

A key part of her work at Partners In Care comes through the Transitions team, which supports families facing major health changes for no cost. The focus is not only on clinical coordination, but on emotional support as well. "We aim to be a steady presence," Denton says, offering reassurance to both patients and caregivers as needs evolve.

That commitment extends beyond one-on-one care. Denton also facilitates Partners In Care's Caregiver Café, a welcoming space where caregivers can connect, share challenges, and celebrate small victories together. In a region defined by its strong sense of community, her work reflects a deeper truth: no one should have to navigate life's toughest moments alone.

partnersbend.org



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Sunriver Resort Unveils Reimagined Spa & New Wellness Offerings Across Guest Stays

by **RACHEL JOHNSON**

Sunriver Resort, the treasured Pacific Northwest destination located moments from Bend, and managed by CoralTree Hospitality, recently announced the reopening of The Spa at Sunriver Resort following a multi-million dollar reimagination. The transformed spa introduces a refreshed interior design, a new service menu, and treatments designed around Central Oregon's high desert landscape, all anchoring an expanded wellness experience that extends across guest rooms and outdoor programming throughout the property's 3,300 acres.

The Spa at Sunriver Resort's new service menu was developed in partnership with skincare leaders Dr. Dennis Gross, Naturopathica, and Epionce, pairing clinical performance with place-based ritual. Treatments feature handcrafted products formulated with organic and locally grown ingredients, underscoring Sunriver Resort's commitment to quality, sustainability, and wellness.

Signature offerings include:

- **Arnica & Birch Deep Tissue Massage**, a targeted treatment designed to relieve tension and support muscular recovery after time on the trails, water, or bike.
- **River Detox Cocoon**, a warming, detoxifying body wrap inspired by the region's waterways that promotes circulation and vitality.
- **Floating Yoga & Sound Healing**, an outdoor session that combines gentle movement with meditative soundscapes beneath open skies.

"The Spa at Sunriver Resort's reimagination reflects how we've always thought about wellness here, it starts with the outdoors," said Tom O'Shea, managing director at Sunriver Resort. "The forest, the river, the trails, the night sky, guests feel it the moment they arrive. The Spa carries that experience indoors, with new treatments and year-round programming inspired by our landscape."

Wellness at Sunriver Resort extends beyond The Spa, across a 3,300-acre setting that ranks among the most expansive nature-led wellness destinations in the American West. It draws on the landscape that has defined the guest experience since the resort opened in 1968: ponderosa pine forests, the Deschutes River, more than 40 miles of paved trails, volcanic mountain views, and some of the darkest night skies in the Pacific Northwest. It reflects the way guests already travel here, to sleep

better, to move more and recover smarter, to unplug and reconnect, and to pause.

A year-round calendar of seasonal experiences deepens that connection throughout the property. Offerings include snowshoe forest bathing in winter, SUP Yoga on the river in summer, full moon yoga and sound healing, and chakra meditation beneath the Perseid meteor shower. The programming reflects the resort's view that the most meaningful wellness experiences are shaped by place, season, and time outdoors rather than replicated from a global template.

For wellness in the comfort of resort rooms and suites, guests staying in the iconic River Lodge can choose from complimentary in-room wellness collections, available anytime upon request. Options include a Yoga Collection (mat, strap, and guided yoga cards), a Stretch Collection (foam roller and stretch band), a Strength Collection (mat and resistance band set), and a Meditation Collection (cushion, mat, and affirmation cards), delivered directly to the room.

With these launches, Sunriver Resort establishes a new benchmark for destination wellness in the Pacific Northwest, one defined by scale, season, and the restorative power of Central Oregon's landscape.

For more information about wellness at Sunriver Resort, visit sunriverresort.com/wellness or call 855-420-8206.

About Sunriver Resort:

Unfolding across 3,300 acres just moments from Bend, Sunriver Resort is the Pacific Northwest's treasured outpost for adventure and a premier destination for conferences, retreats and special occasions. This one-of-a-kind wilderness setting is abundant with natural beauty and features four award-winning golf courses, a full-service wellness spa, 11 restaurants and cafes, an indoor-outdoor aquatics center, indoor & outdoor pickleball courts, an on-site FBO airport, state-of-the-art event venues and more; and endless activities including swimming, kayaking, fishing, horseback riding, bike riding, snowshoeing and skiing at nearby Mt. Bachelor. Wide-ranging accommodations include 245 guest rooms and suites, and over 400 vacation homes and condominiums available for rent or



PHOTO | COURTESY OF SUNRIVER RESORT

purchase. A landmark destination for over 50 years, guests can find a lifetime of inspiration and unforgettable memories at Sunriver Resort.

About CoralTree Hospitality:

CoralTree Hospitality is one of the fastest-growing hospitality management companies in the United States, with more than 35 hotels, resorts, and residential rentals. Formed in 2018, Denver-based CoralTree delivers distinctive, memorable experiences that celebrate the surroundings, culture and community of each property. The company also celebrates each team member with core values focused on serving from the heart and empowering individuals. CoralTree was named the No. 4 best small company to work for in Colorado in the annual Denver Post, Top Workplace survey. The company has developed a variety of initiatives to better serve its team members, communities, stakeholders, and customers, including Bloom, an environmental sustainability program, and CoralTree Cares, the company's philanthropic platform. The collection includes independent, branded and soft-branded properties in key metropolitan areas and resort markets, including Denver, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, Snowmass, Vail, Maui, Orlando and Lake Tahoe. CoralTree is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Los Angeles-based Lowe, a real estate investment, management and development firm.

SunriverResort.com
sunriverresort.com/wellness
CoralTreeHospitality.com

USDA Celebrates Completion of La Pine Water, Wastewater Systems

provided by **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Together with the city of La Pine, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Oregon State Director Jim Carmack recently celebrated the completion of the city's new water and wastewater systems.

"The City of La Pine has been committed, attentive, and thorough during the years their significant water and wastewater system improvements have been underway," said Carmack. "Under President Trump's leadership, USDA is absolutely committed to the long-term health of our rural communities, which hinges on critical infrastructure such as this."

Over nine years, USDA Rural Development provided \$21,000,000 in loan funds and \$13,193,000 in grant funds to help the city make significant improvements. The community's water and sewer infrastructure had been deteriorating with groundwater contamination, high nitrate levels, and aged components. Improvements include, among storage and treatment facilities, added security measures, upgraded water distribution and sewer collection lines, and increased capacity to include more residents and plan for future growth.

The projects were co-funded in partnership with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Business Oregon, and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

USDA Rural Development invests in projects like these through its Water and Environmental Programs, which help rural communities obtain the technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water and waste disposal systems. Safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems are vital not only to public health, but also to the economic vitality of rural America.

USDA Rural Development invests in rural America with programs to promote rural prosperity. These programs expand access to high-speed internet, electricity, and transportation infrastructure, and support economic growth, healthcare, education, housing, and other community essentials. Discover more investment details and historical data in the Rural Data Gateway.

rd.usda.gov

A Lot More Than Pizza

by **LINDEN GROSS — One Stop Writing Shop**

"That's delicious," my two friends and I announced almost simultaneously as we sipped on Campfire Cucina's maple old fashioned, made with Buffalo Trace, fresh orange juice, maple syrup, bitters, and soda.



That d-word would get repeated again and again during the meal that followed, starting with the new Sunriver restaurant's special salad — romaine, strawberries (macerated in sugar, vinegar, lemon juice, and salt), maple walnuts, feta, and a light, refreshing prosecco dressing.



Before I go any further, a disclaimer. Owner and executive chef Gary Zendell loves to share his food, and he shared way more of it than we could ever eat in one sitting. So, we got to try a lot.

We started out somewhat modestly, with two appetizers. The Icky Sticky chicken wings in a tangy garlic-ginger sauce were perfectly sweet and crunchy, with a lovely Thai chili kick. Just as memorable, the

tender, robust beef and pork meatballs shone in a rich, thick, perfectly balanced marinara sauce. Next time, I would just make sure to order the garlic bread or ask for a spoon so I could scoop up every drop.

Next came the pastas. Gary took pity on us and brought over a plate of his Speziata (spiced) Shrimp without the penne. Talk about the star of the show! I'll be traveling to Sunriver for those plump, firm Baja offshore shrimp in Gary's spicy jalapeño cream sauce, which one of my friends described as "a little explosion in your mouth." Mind-blowingly delicious.

Uncle Frank's Bolognese — oregano-forward chianti meat sauce over penne with a dollop of ricotta on top — didn't disappoint. The garlic, sautéed mushroom fettuccini was downright lovely — perfectly cooked noodles, once again, this time in a roasted garlic cream sauce.



We could have been done at that point. We should have been done at that point. Instead, Gary brought out three of his 11- to 12-inch pizzas.

Quality pizza, it turns out, isn't the easiest thing to make, especially at altitude. Gary has solved the problem of baking crust at 4,500 feet in a dry climate with his hybrid Neo-Neapolitan concoction — an 80-20 blend of double-zero flour for lightness and high-gluten flour for elasticity. Winner, winner, pizza dinner! We tried the Buona Terra white pie with melty gorgonzola, mushrooms, and caramelized onions; the Primo Pepperoni (I never knew dry-aged pepperoni existed); and, even though I'm firmly against pineapple on a pizza, the salty-sweet Bender with pepperoni, Italian sausage, bacon, and pineapple pico de gallo. All three pizzas were, yes, delicious.

There was more to come, and more to love. The Italian take on churros drizzled with Nutella was dangerous enough, but the warm, triple-chocolate fudge s'mores brownie, topped with a layer of



PHOTOS | COURTESY OF ONE STOP WRITING SHOP

scorched marshmallow and flanked by graham crackers, took things to a whole new level.

"That's a problem," said my friend, Dave, after a single bite.

Sign me up!

Campfire Cucina // Pizzeria // Bar is located in The Village at Sunriver, 57100 Beaver Dr., Building 18. Hours are Thursday-Tuesday, 4-8pm.

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Artists’ Gallery Sunriver

by KARLA PROUD — Artists’ Gallery Sunriver
The Artists’ Gallery Sunriver features more than 35 local artists displaying a variety of art. Visit the gallery to experience the beauty of Sunriver and Central Oregon.

Painting:
During an art demonstration, an admirer walked up to artist Bill Hamilton as he was painting and complimented him on his work. Bill paused before replying, “You know, I’ve been painting professionally for over 40 years now, and I’m still learning how to paint every single day.”

- Variety of oil, acrylic and watercolor artists
- Fine art, replica prints and cards
- Sip and Paint classes offered every month

Photography:
Come see our three fine-art photographers.

- Landscape and fine-art photographs
- Variety of prints and sizes
- Cards, and other fun gift ideas

Fired and forged:
There’s more to fire than ceramics.

- Wide variety of ceramic items
- Fired glass art, fused glass art
- Stained glass
- Forged steel and iron

Jewelry:
Delightful pieces at a variety of price ranges

- Oregon Sunstone rings and necklaces
- Fine metal-work jewelry
- Featuring local and exotic stones

Natural art:
See nature come to life in art
Somewhat unique to the gallery is the variety of natural arts. It’s not just turned pens and bowels, it’s:

- Variety of turned and carved wood art
- Custom wood and wood/ metal furnishings
- Framing available for other art pieces
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- Second Saturday of every month, 4-6pm
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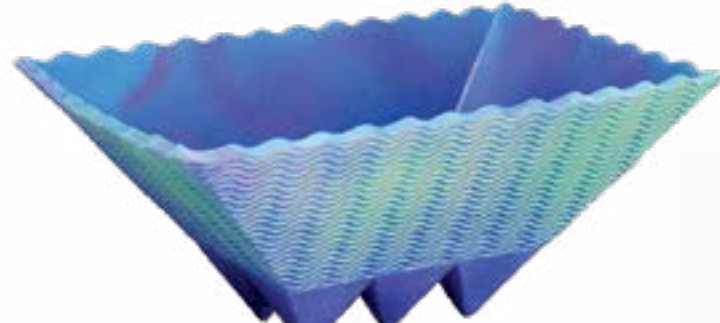
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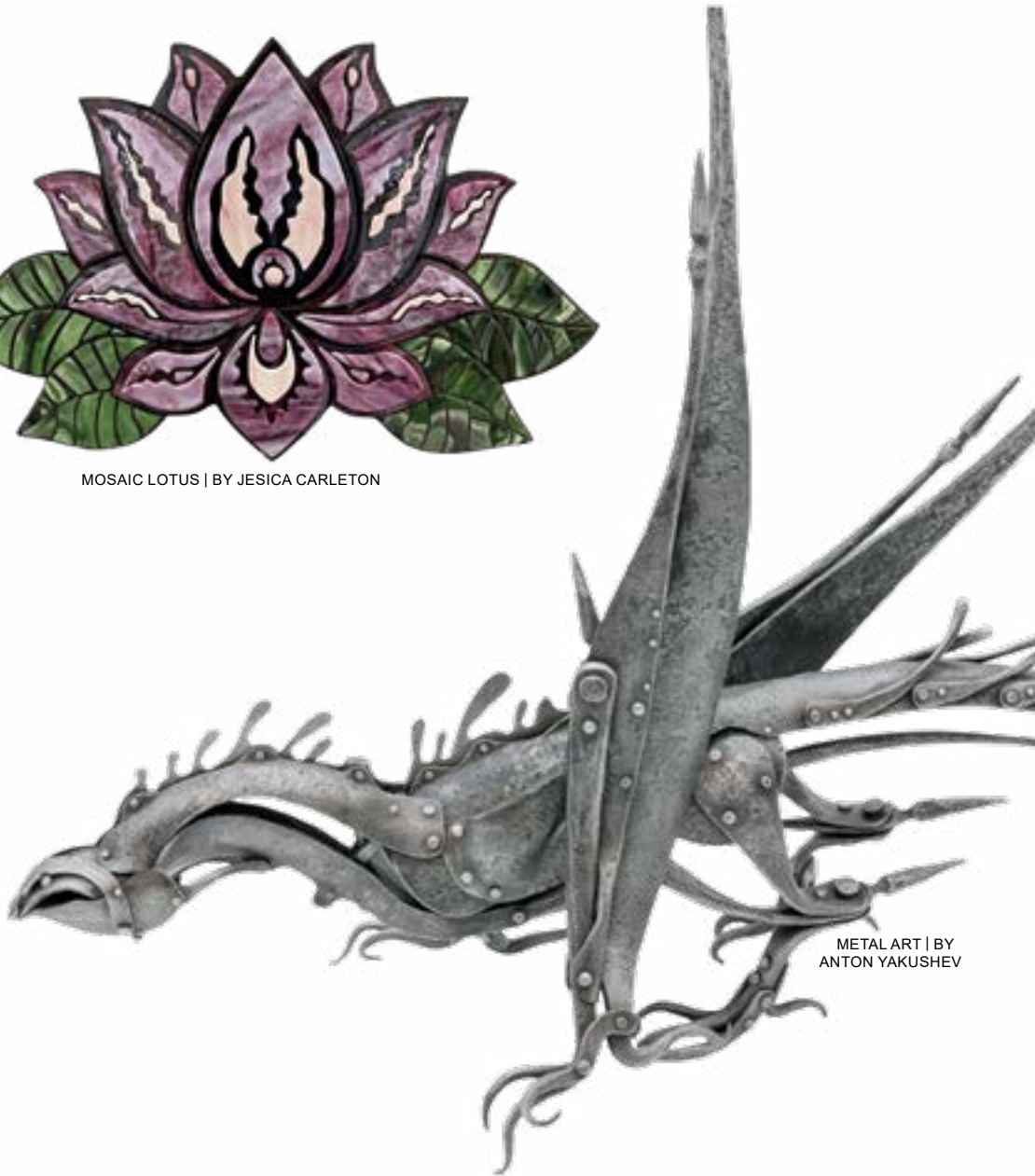
BOWL | BY DAVID LLOYD WARREN



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‘Summer Always Brings an Optimism’ to La Pine’s Business Community

by ANDREA HINE — CBN Feature Writer
In talking with businesses about joining the La Pine Chamber of Commerce, its long-time Executive Director Ann Gawith is persuasive but realistic. “We know the value we bring to the business community, but certainly can’t promise that ‘if you join, then you’ll be rich,” she emphasizes to them.

“What we can claim — given that marketing opportunities in any small town such as ours are marginal — is that businesses are missing a bet if they don’t take advantage of the social and networking advantages the Chamber provides,” she said.

“Our members are all in the same boat and can offer each other support and ideas over and above the information constantly sent out by the Chamber. This ability to communicate directly with others in the Chamber is a tangible value of membership in itself.”

According to Gawith, as is the case with any organization, becoming a member is only the first step. “Some people join the Chamber and then don’t enjoy its many benefits. For example, we’ve had new business owners call us on Wednesday asking if we could stage an official ribbon cutting that Friday. Two days certainly doesn’t give us very much time to promote their introduction to the wider La Pine community and attract potential customers through this event.”

“In addition to relying on last-minute marketing, I’ve observed that businesses aren’t advertising as much as in the past,” she said, “especially if they’re struggling. Yet when times are tough, it’s just as important to get the word out to target audiences — one easy method being the posting of events in the Chamber’s widely read Community Calendar that is linked to the Visit Central Oregon website.”

Additional avenues include the Chamber’s weekly advertising publication, *South County Shopper*, which is distributed in both print and electronic format, and its regular newsletters (one of which profiles local enterprises and their owners/founders).

The Chamber also hosts monthly breakfasts, where presentations by local companies enhance awareness of their products and services, and offer attendees the opportunity for one-on-one networking — “which is still one of a small business’s most valuable marketing tools,” Gawith said.

“From my vantage point as the Chamber’s executive director, I would describe the current attitude of our business community as one of ‘let’s do what we can’ given external factors such as rising costs (fuel being a prime example) and decreased spending on the part of consumers who have less in their pockets as a result.”

“Summer always brings an optimism to our community with events such as Frontier Days and the La Pine Rodeo — both held over 4th of July weekend — and the annual Rhubarb Festival, now in its 16th year,” Gawith said. “Everyone’s hopeful and aiming to ‘make this summer a good one.’”

lapine.org

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A SUMMER HIGHLIGHT IN LA PINE IS THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL, NOW IN ITS 16TH YEAR | PHOTO BY ANDREA HINE



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Leaf & Bean Owner Transforms 20-Year Hobby Into Coffee Roasting Business

by **ANDREA HINE** — CBN Feature Writer

There’s a new attraction in La Pine — a coffee roastery — that can be viewed through the front window of Leaf & Bean Tea and Coffee off U.S. 97. But, according to co-owner Darrell Goddard, this fledgling enterprise goes beyond selling small-batch hand-roasted coffee and herbal tea blends to an appreciative clientele — “It’s about community,”

admitting that “the past few months have been frenzied” as he worked 18-20 hour days “putting together the various pieces, and getting the storefront and the roastery built up,” Goddard and his wife Fauna Romo — who are “together 100 percent in this adventure” — opened for business in mid-June.

And positive feedback immediately began coming their way. “Truly a



THE STORE'S COFFEE ROASTERY CAN BE VIEWED THROUGH ITS FRONT WINDOW



LEAF & BEAN SELLS COFFEE BEANS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, LOOSE-LEAF TEAS, HERBAL WELLNESS BLENDS, AND GIFTS & SPECIALTY PRODUCTS | PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEAF & BEAN

great cup of coffee!” said one customer. “I haven’t drunk anything else since finding out about these guys. Super friendly and a great smell in the shop. Highly recommend.”

Explaining his goal of “turning a 20-year hobby into a business,” Goddard said that “I just love the science of coffee roasting, and took an 800-hour online course taught by masters from all over the world to learn the nuances of transforming raw, green coffee beans into the aromatic brown beans used for brewing. Among other considerations, “you have to be watchful so as not to burn the beans!” he warned.

Even as a hobby roaster, Goddard “created recipes and new flavors. Having a commercial storefront now is a bonus.”

In addition to selling seven year-round core coffees, Leaf & Bean offers a rotating “Seasonal Origin Series” of beans from around the world. Sources have included Ethiopia (where wild coffee plants were first discovered in the 9th century) and Papua New Guinea (where coffee is known for its fruitier flavor profile). Loose-leaf teas, herbal wellness blends, and gifts & specialty products from local vendors are also stocked.

“Grab-n-go begins at 5:30 a.m. — so people can swing by as they head for work or start their day,” Goddard said. Breakfast options include a rotating selection of fresh baked goods, as well as fresh bagels and loaves. Later in the day, lunch sandwiches and wraps are available.

In parlaying his hobby into a viable business, Goddard and his wife began by testing the waters at various local events such as the Bend Winterfest, where we got great feedback,” and then began the rigors of setting up shop. This culminated in Leaf & Bean’s recent grand opening, when Goddard “sat back and reflected on all the hard work” that the couple had expended.

“People have been very welcoming,” he said, “and are excited to have us here.” (“Such a cool addition to our town” exemplifies the comments posted on Facebook.)

“American coffee always gave me a nasty heartburn, so in striving to reduce its acidity and bitterness, Leaf & Bean was circuitously born,” he said, looking back. “I’m posting a sign to remind me of our journey: ‘Running on beans and dreams.’”

SLED’s Role in Supporting Stronger & More Vibrant Local Economies

by **ANDREA HINE** — CBN Feature Writer

“This is an exciting time to be part of La Pine’s economic development, said Patricia Lucas, executive director of SLED. “As the fastest growing community in Central Oregon over the past five years and one of the fastest growing in Oregon, La Pine is showing continued momentum in a variety of fronts — as affirmed by the fact that SLED currently has nine potential businesses in our project pipeline.”

SLED’s Focus on the Traded Sector

“To better understand the role that SLED plays, it’s important to explain our focus on traded sector businesses,” Lucas said, “which are the backbone of Centra Oregon’s economy.

As she defined, the traded sector consists of companies that produce goods or services primarily for sale outside of its local region — generating outside revenue, supporting employment, and contributing to economic resilience.

“This sector, she said, “is typically dominated by manufacturing, engineering, high tech, and science. In contrast, the non-tradable sector mainly comprises local services such as health care, education, retail, hospitality, and construction.”

Lucas said that while attracting new growth in both segments is key to an area’s economic development, SLED concentrates on expansion in the traded sector, which often stimulates growth in non-tradable sectors through increased spending at local restaurants, entertainment venues, and retail stores.

Western Metrology’s Move to La Pine

A primary example of SLED’s traded sector success was the relocation of Western Metrology Sales LLC’s headquarters from Wilsonville (where it had been for 25 years) to La Pine’s Industrial Park — where the company built a 15,200-square-foot manufacturing facility on 2.95 acres of land purchased in the town’s industrial park. (Western Metrology manufacturers titanium castings and advanced inspection technologies for the aeronautics industry.)

As Lucas said, “The move here will show others that they can serve their customers from this location. La Pine is a very pro-business community offering the lowest cost for fully infrastructure industrial property in the region. Western Metrology’s decision to locate here shows confidence in our workforce, infrastructure and vision for sustainable growth.”

Business Incubator Breaking Ground

Supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs, a 6,000-square-foot business incubator has broken ground in La Pine’s Industrial Park, Lucas said. Targeting small, traded-sector operations that may lack the management, technical and financial skills necessary to run a small business, the project — made possible through a grant — was constructed by the City of La Pine, which will manage and maintain the building.

“Tenants in La Pine’s business incubator will be surrounded by resources such as individualized counseling and mentoring assistance to help them be more successful,” Lucas said. “The project will also enhance the local economy as a result of subsequent capital investment and creation of new jobs by companies locating in the facility.” (Western Metrology, for example, envisions hiring ten employees at its Industrial Park facility.)

Having previously managed an incubator project in Michigan for more than three decades (before being lured to Central Oregon), Lucas witnessed first-hand the powerful impact this environment can have for entrepreneurs — adding that many of today’s market leaders began their journey in incubator programs. These include Airbnb, Dropbox, Uber, Slack, and Spotify.

She recalled working with a man in Michigan who had been chief engineer for a Big Three automobile manufacturer, and “walked away from a great job to start his own business” — filled with the excitement and energy shared by his fellow entrepreneurs.

“And while not everyone succeeds, some companies I worked with subsequently grew to 100+ employees, and we’re eager to see the incubator’s long-term effect on La Pine and south Deschutes County.”



A 6,000-SQUARE-FOOT BUSINESS INCUBATOR HAS BROKEN GROUND IN LA PINE’S INDUSTRIAL PARK | PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICIA LUCAS, SLED





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City of La Pine

Continued from page 1

Pine include Wickiup Station Apartments (39 units), and Hawks View Estates (42 units). In addition, the La Pine/Sunriver Habitat for Humanity plans to complete four to six homes each year through 2032, starting with its Park View development, "to create a steady pipeline of permanently affordable housing opportunities for local families."

"Housing prices in La Pine remain among Central Oregon's most affordable," Wullschlager said, "with overall median sold prices in May 2026 hovering around \$367k — compared to \$795k in Bend, \$497k in Redmond, \$748k in Sunriver, and \$725 in Sisters."

Transition From Rural to Semi-Urban Community

As Wullschlager clarified, expanding local housing supply "is not in the DNA of what a small city like La Pine does. We're here to keep the water flowing, the streets paved, and to ensure equitable and fair land use and public processes."

"La Pine is transitioning from a rural to a semi-urban community," he added, "yet we still have only three stoplights, a DMV that is open one day a week, and no municipal police department" (although the city has invested in an enhanced Deschutes County Sheriff's Department deployment in the incorporated city limits).

"Even our Fire District is nearing its breaking point due to the town's rapid growth, with people sometimes waiting 40 minutes for ambulance service. We know what the community can bear, and what it cannot."

Housing, he said, "is just one leg on the stool, and has to be considered as a complete picture — it's not a simple matter of putting more people in the same fishbowl."

Commercial Land Availability & Market Forces

Another common misconception is that no commercial space exists in La Pine.

As Wullschlager noted: "A significant number of existing buildings were constructed 30+ years ago on commercial lots, which today could accommodate two or three buildings within local development standards — despite only one unit often occupying the lot. Additionally, dozens of acres of commercially zoned land have grandfathered residential property on them, further reducing supply."



"LA PINE IS EMERGING AS A REGIONAL HUB OF ACTIVITY," SAYS CITY MANAGER GEOFF WULLSCHLAGER | PHOTO BY OF ANDREA HINE

He did clarify that there are other opportunities for economic development within the city, most notably in the industrial park where roughly 150 acres remain available for low-cost purchase through a shared City/County lands program for light- and large-scale industrial installations.

Wullschlager emphasized that the current state of commercial land utilization "is not a government issue, and can't be laid at the city's doorstep, but one that market forces will determine. Meanwhile, all that available commercial land is being enjoyed by those who own it."

"La Pine is emerging as a regional hub of activity," he said. "In time, it will be built out."

lapineoregon.gov

HIIT Logic Brings 'Sense of Community & Fitness to La Pine'

by ANDREA HINE — CBN Feature Writer

"We signaled the grand opening of HIIT Logic by staging a free community workout that attracted 50 people, and it felt amazing to see how our months of hard work paid off," said Jarred Montgomery, co-owner of the fitness facility with his wife Sierra. "Even Mayor Jeannine Earls has stopped by to welcome us to La Pine."

As he explained, HIIT Logic defies the stereotypes of working out at a traditional gym — with its bulky, muscle-bound men flexing their muscles while lifting impossibly heavy weights, surrounded by walls of intimidating equipment.

Combining short bursts of intense exercise with brief rest periods to maximize calorie burn, build muscle, and boost metabolism efficiently, HIIT (High-Intensity Interval Training) workouts — an exercise approach that Montgomery calls "functional fitness" — prepare your body for everyday movements that get carried over into real life, rather than isolating individual muscles, he said.

"By mimicking tasks like lifting, squatting, and carrying, the training improves joint mobility, core strength, and balance, which ultimately helps prevent injuries and makes daily activities significantly easier."

Dispelling the assumption that HIIT Logic is aimed only at people who are exercise veterans, Montgomery explained that "Before a new member works out for the first time, we determine their degree of fitness and discuss any ailments or restrictions. All movements in class can be modified, as demonstrated by the coaches beforehand, to accommodate every age and degree of experience. We hit every skill level, and the overall environment is very supportive — giving each other high fives included."

Introduced to HIIT Logic after moving to Central Oregon (where locally-owned-and-operated HIIT Logic gyms are located in Tumalo, Bend, Redmond, Prineville, Sisters, and now La Pine), the couple

felt an immediate fit with their own personal and professional goals.

"We had a small group of friends where we previously lived who regularly worked out together," Jarred said. "Our shared exertions created such a strong bond that we wanted to bring that same sense of community and fitness to La Pine."

"Finding an available commercial location within our price range proved to be a huge challenge," Montgomery said, "and nine months elapsed between deciding to establish a fitness studio and finally opening our doors."

One month was spent fully remodeling the interior space that had previously been occupied by a vintage home décor and gift store. He elaborated: "I took out three walls, added a new wall and a water bottle fill station, renovated two bathrooms, pulled out all the flooring (except the industrial carpeting), and replaced it with 1,600 square feet of new rubber mat gym flooring. Finally, we added a physical therapy space for Sierra's practice."

Montgomery admitted that "I was still working on the building the night before our March 9 grand opening!"

He emphasized that an integral part of HIIT Logic will continue to be the coaches, "all of whom are trained not only on specific workouts and how to modify them to accommodate differing fitness levels, but also on qualities such as kindness and being supportive — which is a big thing for us. Good, positive energy is as much of a qualification as movement quality and coaching ability, and we encourage new coaches to 'have fun and be yourself, then everyone else will follow.'"

Another "huge core value of HIIT Logic," Montgomery said, "is having kids see their parents involved in physical activity and doing hard things — which carries over into their family role modeling and life in general. We encourage this by having a designated area for kids within the larger workout



JARRED AND SIERRA MONTGOMERY, WHO OPENED HIIT LOGIC IN MARCH, HAVE ALREADY "BUILT A COMMUNITY WITHIN THE LA PINE COMMUNITY" | PHOTO COURTESY OF JARRED AND SIERRA MONTGOMERY

space, and also recently started offering Kids HIIT Logic classes."

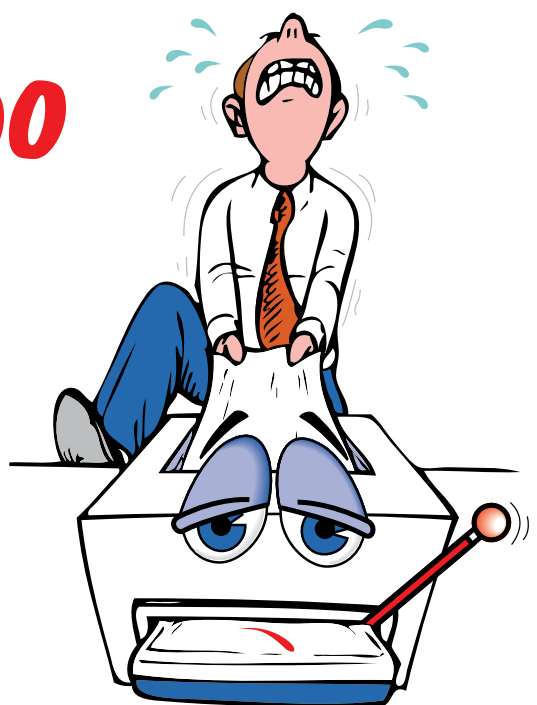
After an initial flurry of advertising through social media, and mass distribution of flyers and business cards throughout La Pine before HIIT Logic opened, "our best method of promoting HIIT Logic has become members telling their friends — we've already built a community within the La Pine community," Montgomery said. "Sierra and I feel full of gratitude."

hiitlogic.com/la-pine

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Brian Tanis

Deschutes Public Library Board members voted to appoint Bend resident **Brian Tanis** to the Zone 4 Library Board position; he was sworn in at the Board's June 10 meeting at the Sisters Library.

The vacancy comes after board member Betsy Tucker resigned her position in April. Library Board members Michele Anderson, Laura Leis, Ann Malkin and Erin Trimble voted 4–0 in favor of Tanis's appointment.

Tanis been a part of the Central Oregon community since moving to the Bend area in 2020, building ties he established over several years conducting ecological research in the region. As a scientist and educator, he is dedicated to promoting lifelong learning, engaging experiences and access to supportive spaces for the community. Tanis says he's keen to serve as a liaison and work collaboratively with the board to steward and support the vital role of the library in Deschutes County.

Tanis will serve in the Zone 4 position through June 30, 2027. The Zone 4 position will be up for public election in May 2027.

Taylor Brooks recently announced that it has expanded its team with the addition of a new assistant property manager position, and the hiring of **Amber Vastano**.

Vastano brings several years of experience in property management, client and tenant relationship management, and facility maintenance. Prior to joining Taylor Brooks, Vastano was a property coordinator at Deschutes Property Management, and before that she was an assistant manager at Lincoln Property Company, now Willowbridge PC.

At Taylor Brooks, Vastano reports to the property manager, and will support the day-to-day management of the nearly 500,000 square feet of commercial properties owned or managed by Taylor Brooks. She will work closely with the team to oversee tenant relations, financial tracking, maintenance coordination, and administrative processes that ensure properties operate efficiently and maintain high standards.



Amber Vastano



Elliot Lau Sahalie Medlock

Central Electric Cooperative announced the winner for the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. This year, the cooperative selected **Elliot Lau** from Mountain View High School and **Sahalie Medlock** from Redmond High School.

A model builder, trap shooter, and local Boy Scout, Lau is currently working toward his Eagle Scout rank and enjoys the challenge and the outdoor adventures. When not in school, Lau enjoys building model airplanes and creating fishing lures.

He is also working on his trap shooting skills and hopes to win first place in next year's state competition.

Excelling on the court and in the classroom, Medlock loves to support students and the local community through a variety of programs, including student council, the Sparrow Club, the National Honor Society, Makerspace, Key Club, and more. She plays volleyball and tennis and serves as Redmond High School's Associated Student Body treasurer. Medlock also enjoys teaching kids at various youth camps throughout the summer. Outside of school, Medlock enjoys playing pickleball, sand volleyball, reading, baking, paddleboarding, and spending time outdoors with her family.

The Washington Youth Tour is a program offered by electric cooperatives nationwide to high school juniors from their co-op membership. Participants receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital and learn about the nation's history through visits to Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington Monument, and the Smithsonian.

In addition, students not only meet with other participants their age from across the nation but also have the opportunity to discuss current issues with Congressional representatives and senators.

Family Access Network (FAN) announces the appointment of **Tasha McFarland** of Bend as chair of the FAN Foundation Board of Directors. McFarland

has served on the FAN Foundation Board since November 2020. An Oregon native and longtime Central Oregon resident, McFarland brings a background in property management and extensive community volunteer service. FAN also announces that **Glen Blyth** has been appointed vice chair and has served on the board since February 2024.

Lastly, FAN extends its gratitude to outgoing Board Chair **Marianna Frisinger**, who is relocating to Portland after ten years of leadership.

The **Madras City Council** has identified **Brenda Fahey** as its preferred candidate for the position of city administrator and directed that an employment agreement be prepared for consideration at the June 23, 2026, City Council meeting.

The decision follows a comprehensive recruitment process that included community engagement opportunities, staff and external interview panels, and formal interviews conducted by the City Council.

Fahey currently serves as assistant city manager and human resources director for the City of The Dalles and brings more than 25 years of public sector experience. Her background includes executive leadership, organizational development, human resources, labor relations, public communications, budgeting, and guiding organizations through periods of change and growth.

The city administrator serves as the City's chief administrative officer, responsible for implementing City Council direction, overseeing daily operations, supporting department leadership, and advancing organizational priorities in service to the community.

Since January, the City of Madras has maintained continuity of operations through a leadership transition. Public Works Director Jeff Hurd served as Interim City Administrator through February, followed by a period of Council management while the recruitment process was underway. Interim City Administrator David Clyne joined the organization in April to provide leadership and support the City's transition efforts. Throughout this period, City employees have continued to provide essential services while maintaining focus on the Council's priorities and the needs of the community.

If approved by the City Council, an anticipated July start date would provide an opportunity for a collaborative transition period before Clyne's contract concludes on August 1.

Throughout this recruitment process, the City Council, staff, and community invested significant time and energy in identifying the right person to help lead Madras into its next chapter. I believe Brenda Fahey brings the experience, perspective, and collaborative leadership style needed to build on the strong foundation already in place.

The City Council is expected to consider an employment agreement at its June 23, 2026, meeting. If approved, Fahey is anticipated to begin serving as city administrator in July.



Brenda Fahey



Sydney Schewe

NAI Cascade Commercial Real Estate welcomes **Sydney Schewe** to its brokerage team as a Licensed Broker. Schewe will support the firm's managed leasing portfolio while building her commercial brokerage practice focused on landlord and tenant representation throughout Central Oregon.

Schewe holds a degree in urban and regional planning with a minor in business from Michigan State University, providing a strong foundation in land use, development, market analysis, and the broader factors that shape commercial real estate.

Prior to joining NAI Cascade, Schewe gained valuable industry experience as a multi-family investment and marketing intern with NAI Wisinski of West Michigan, where she supported commercial real estate research, marketing initiatives, and investment analysis. Her experience with another NAI affiliate strengthens NAI Cascade's connection to the broader NAI Global network, which includes more than 325 offices in 65 countries and over 5,800 real estate professionals worldwide.

In her role with NAI Cascade, Schewe will work alongside the brokerage and property management teams to support existing leasing clients while expanding her own portfolio of commercial real estate assignments. Her analytical background, enthusiasm, and commitment to building relationships reflect the next generation

More Who's Who Next Page ►

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

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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Who's Who
Continued from previous page

of professionals entering the commercial real estate industry.

Schewe relocated to Bend after graduation and quickly embraced the lifestyle and opportunities that make Central Oregon unique. Outside of the office, she enjoys biking, snowboarding, running, and camping, and looks forward to continuing to build connections within the community she now calls home.

The **City of Prineville** has appointed **Shane Wilson** as its next Police Chief.

Wilson has served in interim leadership roles within the Prineville Police Department, overseeing department operations and day-to-day services to the community.

Wilson joined the Prineville Police Department in 2015. During his tenure, he has served as a police officer, sergeant, detective sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and interim chief. Prior to joining the department, he began his law enforcement career in Southern Oregon as a reserve officer and police officer with the City of Talent.

In addition to his supervisory and leadership responsibilities, Wilson has served as a field training officer, training coordinator, drug recognition expert, background investigator, reserve officer program coordinator, and instructor for the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). He has also completed SWAT school and holds a DPSST management certification.

"Since joining the department in 2015, Wilson has served in a variety of roles and taken on increasing leadership responsibilities," said City Manager Steve Forrester. "He understands our community and has demonstrated the experience and leadership needed to lead the department."

"It's a privilege to serve our community," Wilson said. "I look forward to continuing to work alongside our officers and staff as we support and respond to the needs of Prineville."

Wilson's appointment is effective July 1, 2026.



Shane Wilson

Mayor **Jason Beebe** has resigned from the **Prineville City Council** and his position as Mayor effective June 15, citing personal reasons.

Beebe has served on the City Council since 2011 and as Mayor since 2021. His current term was scheduled to conclude on December 31, 2026.

City Manager Steve Forrester thanked Beebe for his 15 years of service and leadership on behalf of the City Council, City staff, and the community.

In accordance with the City Charter, Council President **Steve Uffelman** will assume the duties of Mayor. The City Council will determine the process for filling the vacant council seat.

The City of Prineville extends its sincere appreciation to Beebe for his years of public service.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Oregon (BGCCO) announces changes to their Board of Directors. Vice Chair **Vicki Nakata** is relocating and stepping down as vice chair, with the board voting **Colleen Brosman** as the new vice chair. Longtime board member **Chris Petty** was voted in as the new Board secretary. Finally, **Danielle Rosenfield**, current Board chair, was voted in to serve in her role for another 2.5 years. Brosman, Petty, and Rosenfield will serve in their new or extended roles until December 31, 2028.



FORMER SENATOR TIM KNOPP PRESENTED THE OSU-CASCADES 2026 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD | PHOTO COURTESY OF OSU-CASCADES

Oregon State University – Cascades awarded its 2026 Distinguished Service Award to former Oregon state Senator **Tim Knopp**.

The annual award honors individuals, businesses or organizations who have made exceptional contributions to OSU-Cascades, Central Oregon, Oregon or the world.

An Oregonian and resident of Central Oregon for more than 40 years, Knopp served three terms in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1999 to 2005, including a term as majority leader. Knopp later served in the Oregon State Senate from 2013 to 2025, serving as Minority Leader and on multiple policy committees with responsibilities spanning workforce, health care, education and human services.

During his time in office, Knopp helped secure capital funding for OSU-Cascades for land remediation and to construct Tykeson and Edward J. Ray halls, and the Student Success Center.

In 2025, Governor Tina Kotek appointed Knopp as Oregon's chief prosperity officer, a role with responsibilities for increasing the state's gross domestic product, creating family-wage jobs and growing Oregon businesses.

Knopp received the award during a recent gathering of OSU-Cascades' leaders and donors.

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Community Partners Unite to Support Grieving Youth Through Camp Courage

by JENN DAVIS, Program Director — Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon

This week, the J Bar J Community Campus is once again serving as a place of healing and connection as J Bar J Youth Services and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon (BBBSCO) partner with Clear Mourning to host Camp Courage, a free day camp sponsored by Partners in Care for children and teens grieving the loss of a loved one.

Camp Courage provides a safe and supportive environment where young people can connect with peers who understand their experiences, express their emotions, and learn healthy coping skills through meaningful activities, creative expression, and outdoor experiences. The camp helps children navigate grief while building resilience and reminding them they are not alone.

For J Bar J Youth Services and BBBSCO, opening the Community Campus for Camp Courage reflects a shared commitment to ensuring every young person in Central Oregon has access to the support, resources, and caring relationships they need to thrive, especially during life’s most difficult moments.

“Grief can be one of the loneliest experiences a child faces, yet it is often the one challenge we talk about the least,” said Sarah Peterson, LCSW, Founder of Clear Mourning and Camp Courage. “Camp Courage creates a community where children can share their stories, express their feelings, and realize they are not alone in their grief. Partnerships like the one with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon and J Bar J Youth Services make it possible for us to provide a safe and meaningful experience for families right here in Central Oregon.”

The mission of Camp Courage aligns closely with the work of both BBBSCO and J Bar J Youth Services, organizations dedicated to helping young people build confidence, develop resilience, and realize their full potential. By sharing the Community Campus and supporting this important program, the organizations are helping ensure local youth have access to compassionate care close to home.

“At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon, we believe that every child deserves the support of caring adults and a community that stands beside them through life’s challenges,” said Jenn Davis, Program Director of BBBSCO. “We are honored to partner with Clear Mourning and open our campus for Camp Courage. This camp provides children and teens with a safe space to heal, connect, and find hope alongside others who understand what they are experiencing.”

The collaboration reflects a broader commitment among local organizations to work together in support of Central Oregon youth and families.

“When organizations come together to meet the needs of children, incredible things happen,” Davis added. “Camp Courage is a beautiful example of our community showing up for young people and creating a space where healing, connection, and belonging can flourish.”

Camp Courage serves children and teens ages 6 to 18 who are grieving the death of a loved one. Through peer support, grief education, recreation, and relationship-building opportunities led by trained professionals and volunteers, campers gain tools to navigate their grief while building lasting connections with others who share similar experiences.

BBBSCO and J Bar J Youth Services are proud to support initiatives that strengthen the well-being of youth across Central Oregon and are grateful for the opportunity to help make Camp Courage available to local families.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon:
A program of J Bar J Youth Services, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon



PHOTOS | COURTESY OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL OREGON

was founded in 1994. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. BBBSCO serves over 220 youth annually and continues to grow programming. We are committed to serving at-risk youth and youth facing adversity with mentors in our community.

About Clear Mourning:
Clear Mourning is a Central Oregon nonprofit dedicated to supporting children, teens, and families navigating grief and loss. Through compassionate programs, education, peer support, and community partnerships, Clear Mourning helps young people develop healthy coping skills while creating spaces where they feel seen, supported, and understood. Its signature program, Camp Courage, provides grieving youth with opportunities for healing, connection, and hope alongside peers who share similar experiences. By fostering resilience and reducing the isolation often associated with grief, Clear Mourning empowers families to move forward while honoring the loved ones they have lost.

bbsco.org

Event Details at CascadeBusNews.com/Business-Events

BUSINESS EVENTS		
July 2: 11:45am-1pm Connect W Munch & Mingle at Feast Food Co, Redmond.	July 21 5-6:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Redmond Library.	September 15 5-6:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Redmond Library.
July 8-12 Oregon High Desert Classic Horse Show at J Bar J Boys Ranch, Bend.	July 28 5-7pm Bend Chamber ET Summer Social at Cascade Culinary Institute.	September 22 5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.
July 9 8-9am Madras - Jefferson County Chamber Coffee Cuppers at Dreams Realty.	August 18 5-6:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Redmond Library.	October 13 5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.
July 9 11:45am-1pm Connect W Munch & Mingle at Currents at The Riverhouse.	August 19 1-3pm The Cascades East Transit (CET) Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee Meeting at Cascades East Transit, Hawthorne Conference Room, Bend.	October 20 5-6:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Redmond Library.
July 11 5pm Oregon High Desert Classic Grand Prix at J Bar J Boys Ranch, Bend.	September 8 8-9:30am Bend Chamber Commerce & Coffee at Bend Magazine.	(Ongoing) COCC Small Business Development Center Virtual Classes.
	September 8 5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.	

Watch for Upcoming Editions of **CASCADE BUSINESS NEWS**

2026 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

ISSUE DATE	SPECIAL SECTIONS	INDUSTRY LISTS
July 15 Deadline Jul 8		Engineers, Insurance Companies, Health Plan Companies
August 5 Deadline Jul 29		Internet Services, Computer Services, Education Services, Web Design & Digital Marketing
August 19 Deadline Aug 12	Women in Business	Largest Women-Owned Businesses, Moving/Storage, Auto Dealers, Trucking & Transportation, Auto Body Repair
September 2 Deadline Aug 26	Annual Healthcare	Asst'd. Living, Chiropractors, Dentists, Eye, Home Care, Hospitals, Physical Therapy, Physician Groups, Reconstructive Surgery, Audiologists, Emergency Transport, Acupuncture
September 16 Deadline Sept 9	Sisters Profile	Financial Planners, Stock Brokers
October 7 Deadline Sept 30	Nonprofit Profiles/Accomplished Under 40	Nonprofit Organizations, Accountants, Bookkeepers
October 21 Deadline Oct 14		Manufacturers in Deschutes, Crook & Jefferson Counties, Garbage/Recycling
November 4 Deadline Oct 28	Redmond Profile/Fastest 20	Bio-Tech, High Tech Firms, Telecommunications, Utility Companies, Heating/Cooling Companies
November 18 Deadline Nov 11	Made in Central Oregon	Products Made in Central Oregon
December 2 Deadline Nov 25	Aviation	Law Firms, Security Companies
December 16 Deadline Dec 9	Top Commercial Projects/Construction Review	Commercial Contractors
January 2027 Deadline Nov 25e	Book of Lists	



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St. Charles Health System

Continued from page 3

care organization, we have the responsibility and the privilege of ensuring our patients have access to the care they need and we are proud to be able to provide it.”

To maintain this growth and ensure the organization is set up for success over the long term, St. Charles recently completed an evaluation of leader spans of control, titles and market alignment – for all supervisors and above – throughout the health system. Changes are being made to fairly balance responsibilities for those in leadership positions across the health system and to structure the system for continued growth.

As a result, a small number of leadership positions in support services areas of the organization will be eliminated. This includes 22 positions that are currently filled and 23 positions that are vacant. In addition, ongoing work will occur to bring titles into alignment over time. No direct patient care positions are impacted

by these changes, which affect less than 1% of the St. Charles workforce.

“I want to sincerely thank the people being impacted by today’s hard news for their incredible contributions to St. Charles and wish them nothing but the best going forward,” Hartke said. “The changes we are making today are about setting ourselves up for a more sustainable and scalable structure for the future and I want to reassure our community that St. Charles is strong, stable and committed to meeting community needs.”

About St. Charles Health System:

St. Charles Health System, Inc., headquartered in Bend, owns and operates St. Charles Bend, Madras, Prineville and Redmond. It also owns family care and specialty clinics in Bend, La Pine, Madras, Prineville, Redmond and Sisters. St. Charles is a private, nonprofit Oregon corporation and is the largest employer in Central Oregon with more than 5,000 caregivers. In addition, there are more than 400 active medical staff members and nearly 200 visiting medical staff members who partner with the health system to provide a wide range of care and service to our communities.

stcharleshealthcare.org

Kernutt Stokes

Continued from page 3

offices across Oregon and a team of more than 110 employees, including 14 partners.

“This is an exciting step forward for both firms,” said Kernutt Stokes Managing Partner Steve Ritchie, CPA, CFE. “Fordham has built a strong reputation and longstanding client relationships over many decades, and we share a common approach to serving clients and supporting employees. Together, we are creating greater opportunities for our clients and staff while continuing to provide the local, relationship-driven service that clients value.”

Fordham & Co was founded more

than 50 years ago and has served generations of businesses and families in the Hillsboro community and throughout the greater Portland and Vancouver, Washington area. Partners Katie Eyre, CPA and Blair Walker, CPA will join the Kernutt Stokes partner group.

“Kernutt Stokes was the right fit for our clients, our employees, and the future of the firm,” said Katie Eyre, CPA, partner at Fordham & Co. “Their culture, values, and commitment to client service closely align with ours, and joining a larger Oregon-based firm provides expanded resources and opportunities while preserving the personal relationships that have always been important to us.”

The combination comes at a time of significant change within the accounting profession. As many local and regional firms across the country

have joined national, international, or private equity-backed organizations, Kernutt Stokes will continue to operate as an independently owned Oregon firm focused on serving privately held and family-owned businesses throughout the Northwest.

Kernutt Stokes opened its Lake Oswego office in 2025 as part of its continued growth in the Portland market. The addition of Fordham & Co further strengthens the firm’s ability to serve clients throughout the region while maintaining its Oregon roots and client-first approach.

Kernutt Stokes, the fourth largest CPA firm in Oregon, is a full-service accounting and business consulting firm established in 1945 with offices in Eugene, Bend, Corvallis, and Lake Oswego. The firm was named one of the “100 Best Companies to Work for In

Oregon” by *Oregon Business* magazine in 2026, 2025, 2023, and 2021, and one of the nation’s top 50 accounting firms of 2022 and 2025 by *INSIDE Public Accounting*. Kernutt Stokes has 12 partners, 75 accounting professionals, and more than 90 employees. The firm specializes in privately held and family-owned companies in construction, manufacturing, transportation, beverage, and professional services. In addition to core accounting services, the firm provides virtual accounting, 401(k) plan administration, business valuation, retirement planning, business consulting, and other services. Kernutt Stokes is an independent member of BDO Alliance USA, a nationwide association of independently owned local and regional accounting, consulting, and service firms with similar client service goals.

KernuttStokes.com

RECENT TRANSACTIONS

Continued from Page 3

building sold for \$3,700,000.

Compass Commercial Real Estate Services brokers **Matt Sichel, Dan Kemp, CCIM, and Emilio Tiscareno**, represented the buyer, VOS Investments, LLC, in the sale of a 2,664 SF restaurant building at 3994 Portland Road NE in Salem. The building sold for \$1,650,000.

Compass Commercial Real Estate Services broker **Grant Schultz, SIOR, CCIM**, represented the buyer, Whitakers Cambridge Court, LLC, in the purchase of a 3,328 SF retail building located at 948 SW Veterans Way in Redmond. It sold for \$1,450,000.

Brokers **Graham Dent, SIOR, Jay Lyons, SIOR, CCIM, and Grant Schultz, SIOR, CCIM**, with **Compass Commercial Real Estate Services**, represented the landlord, Shevlin Crossing, LLC, in leasing a 2,206 SF medical space at 2230 NW Labiche Lane in Bend. **Lyons** also represented the tenant.

Compass Commercial Real Estate Services brokers **Dan Kemp, CCIM, Luke Ross, Terry O’Neil, Ron Ross, and Emilio Tiscareno** represented the seller, Pamela Stevenson, in the sale of a duplex property at 468 NE Olney Avenue in Bend. The property sold for \$590,000.

Compass Commercial Real Estate Services brokers **Peter May, CCIM, Dan Kemp, CCIM, and Emilio Tiscareno** represented the seller, Kenneth Johnson, in the sale of a 1,602 SF industrial condo at 63075 NW Crusher Avenue in Bend. The condo sold for \$500,000.

Brokers **Jay Lyons, SIOR, CCIM, and Grant Schultz, SIOR, CCIM**, with **Compass Commercial Real Estate Services**, represented the landlord, Sather Building LLC, in leasing a 2,117 SF retail suite at 916 NW Wall Street in Bend.

Compass Commercial Real Estate Services brokers **Luke Ross and Jay Lyons, SIOR, CCIM**, represented the landlord, Millside Partners, LLC, in leasing a 1,126 SF office suite at 231 SW Scalehouse Loop in Bend.

Submit your Recent Transactions to Jeff@CascadeBusNews.com to be seen in the next edition of *Cascade Business News*

Bend Outdoor Worx

Continued from page 3

Each BOW cohort is customized to the needs of participating companies. Through in-depth discovery sessions and collaborative program planning, founders receive individualized guidance and strategic support across critical areas of their business, including finance, legal, sales, marketing, branding, operations, logistics, product development, digital strategy, and investor and pitch preparation. BOW also works directly with companies to address emerging opportunities and challenges as they arise throughout the program.

BOW Cohort participants will also have the opportunity to pitch at BOW’s annual BreakOut Pitch Event, created exclusively for the outdoor industry, where companies compete for no-strings-attached cash prizes.

“The outdoor industry evolves fast, and the founders who thrive are the ones who combine passion with strategy,” says Gary Bracelin, BOW co-founder. “That’s exactly what BOW is built for. We’re ready to work alongside companies who want to do the hard work, and we have the experience, the network, and the tools to help them get there. If you’ve got a product and a vision, we want to hear from you.”

Since its launch in 2014, BOW has supported 40 outdoor product companies through its accelerator program, helping founders turn innovative ideas into sustainable businesses. To further support these companies, BOW created a production financing fund in 2025 and has deployed more than \$1 million to date.

Applications for the 2027 cohort are open now through October 31, 2026, at bendoutdoorworx.com. Selected companies will be announced in December 2026.

BOW is supported by strategic partners including White Summers Law, Sorren, Relativity Agency, and Algofy Outdoors, as well as sponsors including the City of Bend, COIH, Embark Coworking, U.S. Bank, Tokyo Starfish, and Focus on the 40.

bendoutdoorworx.com



Town & Country

Bend Chamber Centennial Celebration

PHOTOS | COURTESY OF BEND CHAMBER



Bend Chamber CEO Sara Odendahl



Bend Chamber Ambassadors Breanna Hatch and Rachel Scarborough



Mark Jamnik, Subliminal Story Art



Bend Chamber staff and Chamber Ambassador Kathleen Quinney, Colleen Wadeson, Colleen Prinster and Robin Cooper Engle



Attendees raise a toast during the Bend Chamber Centennial Celebration



Leadership Bend Class of 2026 graduates Lauren Evans, Allison Randels, Kolleen Yake, Erin Weber, Colleen Prinster and Bola Gbadebo



Bend Chamber staff: Shelley Junker, Ande Munro, Emily Boyd, Chris Hart, Robin Cooper Engle, Kathleen Quinney, Mara McCloskey-Becker, Colleen Prinster, Sara Odendahl, Lisa Nielsen and Julia Keyes



Leadership Bend Class of 2026 graduates Kenny Hadden, Marco Bester, Corey Johnson, Nathanael Werner, Cornelius Edison and Alex Harrison



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