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Enhancing & Promoting the Economic Vitality of Central Oregon Since 1994

Pushing Central Oregon Higher Education to New Heights

Dr. Christine Pollard is
Helping to Shape
OSU-Cascades' Next Chapter

by LEAH ETLING — CBN Feature Writer



DR. CHRISTINE POLLARD

When Dr. Christine Pollard arrived at OSU-Cascades in 2011, there was no biomechanics laboratory, no Doctor of Physical Therapy program and only seven students enrolled in the kinesiology program she had been hired to launch.

At that time, OSU-Cascades, founded in 2001, was still operating as a two-plus-two institution on the Central Oregon Community College (COCC) campus, serving juniors and seniors who had completed their first two years of post-high school work at COCC.

Fifteen years later, Dr. Pollard finds herself leading one of Oregon's fastest-evolving public universities as interim Chancellor and Dean, overseeing an institution poised for transformation. She took on the top role in early May during a time of executive leadership transition.

A national search is currently underway for the permanent Chancellor and Dean spot. During a recent interview, Dr. Pollard shared her plans to apply, as well as a leadership philosophy shaped by a career building new programs, forging key partnerships and steadily expanding opportunities for students.

"I found my love for bringing groups of people together and what you can get accomplished with collaboration here," Dr. Pollard said during a wide-ranging conversation at her second-floor office, which overlooks the OSU-Cascades Student Success Center and future site of a health and recreation building.

For Dr. Pollard, the journey to OSU-Cascades began long before her first day on campus. Raised in Eugene and a first-generation college attendee, she left Oregon to play basketball at a small Southern California college before earning a master's degree in physical therapy at Pacific University.

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Courthouse Expansion Raises the Bar

Deschutes County Justice Facility's \$46.8 Million Addition Unveiled in Bend

by SIMON MATHER

The long-awaited \$46.8 million 51,000-square-foot addition to the Deschutes County Courthouse in Bend is now complete and ready to help alleviate the severe trial bottlenecks witnessed in the justice hall's recent history.

The three-story structure ties together several eras of additional adjoining construction since the original 1940's County Courthouse was erected and has doubled the existing footprint of the adjacent 1970's courthouse building.

Two new state-of-the-art courtrooms, including enhanced acoustical elements, have been added, along with additional



PHOTO | BY LAURIE PITTMON

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Educational Services Spotlight — Pages 18-21

STEELE Associates Architects Celebrates Three Decades of Innovation

by SIMON MATHER — CBN Feature Writer

STEELE Associates Architects is celebrating a major milestone this year, marking three decades as a regional leader in sustainable architecture, master planning, and interior design, under the guiding sentiment of creating a "bright future through brilliant design."

Founded in 1996 in Bend by "true Bendite" Scott Steele, the firm recently held a 30-year celebration at its Northwest Crossing offices, featuring a host of guests, reflecting deep professional and personal connections forged through long-standing Central Oregon design and community contributions.

STEELE Associates emphasizes a collaborative team approach and for several years has been recognized by Oregon Business Magazine as a 100 Best Company to Work for in Oregon, and a 100 Best Green Workplaces in Oregon, based upon its supportive office culture, benefits, and emphasis on energy-efficient, forward-thinking built environments.

Reflecting on the company's philosophy and impact on Central Oregon, Steele said, "We practice architecture



SCOTT STEELE, MIKE HOLLERN, LORRI TAYLOR AND TODD TAYLOR | PHOTO COURTESY OF STEELE ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

because we are passionate about every aspect of design and understand the vast impact that it has upon quality of life, the environment, and personal and professional performance in the communities in which we design.

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Partnership Announced to Bring Natural Grocers to Downtown Redmond

The City of Redmond is pleased to announce a new partnership that will bring Natural Grocers, a Lakewood, Colorado-based natural and organic foods retailer, to the heart of downtown. The company will open a new store in the former JoAnn's Fabrics building at 732 SW Sixth St., made possible through

a collaboration with the Redmond Urban Renewal Agency (RURA). RURA has approved a forgivable grant of up to \$500,000 to Natural Grocers for building improvements, an investment

Continued on Page 30 ▶

Tetherow Resort Opens Coorie Restaurant

Tetherow Resort has opened Coorie, the newest addition to the resort's acclaimed dining program and its signature restaurant. Taking its name from a Scottish word meaning "to nestle in" or "take shelter," Coorie ("KOO-ree") reflects both the spirit of Tetherow and the heritage woven into its landscape. Inspired by the Scottish Highlands roots of the golf course design and grounded

in the rhythms of Central Oregon, Coorie is a place to settle in, share generously, and linger. The restaurant joins Tetherow's existing dining destinations: The Row, a relaxed pub open daily for breakfast through dinner; the Café, offering breakfast, lunch, and

Continued on Page 30 ▶

Cascada Breaks Ground on New Hotel

Community leaders and local media attended a groundbreaking ceremony recently for a new Nordic-style thermal springs wellness destination and 68-room hotel known as CASCADA Bend to be built with Central Oregon partners — including builder Lease Crutcher Lewis and Portland-and-Bend architecture studio HACKER — off Bond and Arizona on the town's westside.

The project is being developed by Portland-based developers Solterra,



(L-R) DANYA FELTZIN, MARC COLUCCIO, DUSTIN ISOM, FINNIAN KELLY, MANDI MURPHY AND BRIAN HEATHER | PHOTO BY SIMON MATHER

led by CEOs' and CASCADA Managing Partners Brian Heather and Marc Coluccio.

SBA Disaster Assistance Available for Oregon Businesses & Private Nonprofits

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced the availability of low-interest federal disaster loans for eligible small businesses and private nonprofit organizations impacted by the drought occurring March 24 and continuing.

Eligible Counties

Oregon: Benton, Clackamas, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam,

Continued on Page 30 ▶

City Club of Central Oregon to Host Forum on the Future of Urban Renewal in Central Oregon

As Central Oregon continues to grow, communities face important decisions about how to invest in infrastructure, encourage economic development, create housing opportunities, and revitalize key areas. On Thursday, August

20, 2026, City Club of Central Oregon will bring together regional experts for a timely community conversation

Continued on Page 30 ▶

Les Schwab Brings a New Community Celebration to the Deschutes County Fair

As Central Oregon came together for five days of rodeo, exhibits, live music and family traditions at the Deschutes County Fair, Les Schwab Tire Centers brought a new level of community celebration to its generations of support for youth and families in agriculture.

All fairgoers were invited to visit the Les

Schwab Fields to Fairs Experience pavilion to enjoy snacks, refreshments, games, a mechanical tire bull and a limited-edition Ames Bros. collection of T-shirts and other merchandise created exclusively for the fair.

Continued on Page 30 ▶

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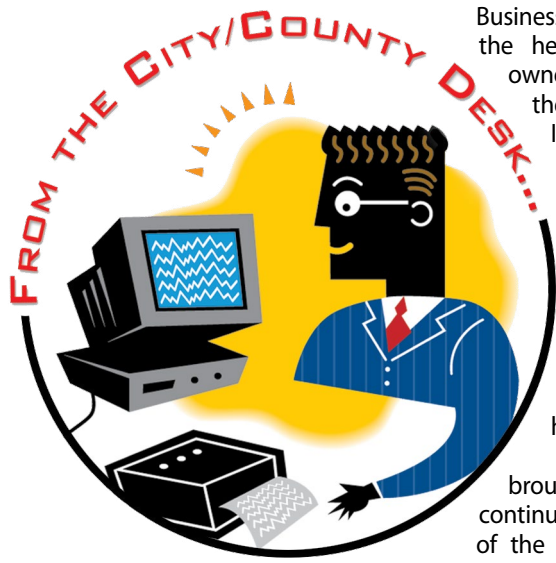
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MADRAS

◆ On July 14, 2026, the Madras Redevelopment Commission (MRC) and Madras City Council approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the former Initiative Brewing property located at 715 SW Fourth Street.

Following the closure of Initiative Brewing's Madras location, the Madras Redevelopment Commission and City Council evaluated available options to address the project's remaining financial obligations while preserving the long-term value of the property. The approved agreement allows the MRC to obtain ownership while repayment of the remaining financial obligation continues under a new agreement.

Read more at madras.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/32

BEND

◆ At the July 15, 2026 Bend City Council meeting, a Remonstrance Hearing was held for the Bend Central District Economic Improvement District (EID), as proposed by the Bend Central District

Business Association. The purpose of the hearing was to provide property owners with an opportunity to voice their opinion on the Economic Improvement District before the Council voted on the proposal. More than 33% of the district property owners did not support the creation of the Economic Improvement District.

The Bend Central District or Core Area is centrally located and has been identified as an area of continued development of both housing and business growth.

"We applaud the businesses who brought this proposal forward to help continue to leverage the redevelopment of the area. While the District was not supported by a majority of property owners at this time, the Bend Urban Renewal Agency remains committed to making the overall Core Area a thriving economic hub of Bend," said Bend Urban Renewal Project Manager, Jonathan Taylor. "The Bend Urban Renewal Agency will continue focusing on the redevelopment of City owned land in the area and pursue other investment opportunities like grant, loan and rebate programs aimed at revitalizing this critical area."

"Although the Economic Improvement District did not receive the support needed to move forward, the Bend Central District remains a priority for the City and the Bend Urban Renewal Agency," said Bend Urban Renewal Agency Chair and Bend City Councilor Mike Riley. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with property owners in the Bend Central District to support redevelopment, economic vitality, housing needs and long-term investment in the area."

The proposed Economic Improvement District would have implemented assessments on property owners to help fund the maintenance of public facilities, promote commercial activities, host events

and support business development. Bend currently has one Economic Improvement District in downtown Bend managed by the Downtown Bend Business Association which provides beautification and small business support for downtown establishments.

The outcome does not impact the Bend Urban Renewal Agency's ongoing and future commitment to the area's continued economic development.

REDMOND

◆ On Tuesday, July 28, 2026, the Redmond City Council held a public hearing for a proposed land use application titled *South Redmond Tract Large Lot Industrial Infrastructure Master Plan*. The land use application consists of a legislative amendment procedure carried out by the City of Redmond, who is also considered the applicant. The public hearing was an item on the City Council meeting agenda.

An online meeting option was be

available for those who were unable to attend in-person.

The extent of the study includes those lands in South Redmond which are currently zoned *Large Lot Industrial*, with a total area of approximately 789 acres. The purpose of the *South Redmond Tract Large Lot Industrial Infrastructure Master Plan* is to provide the City with a document that depicts future growth scenarios, addresses and identifies infrastructure needs, and discusses how those improvements will be funded. The Plan aligns with land use and growth assumptions from the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The City solicits public testimony for certain development proposals to gather new perspectives, facts, and evidence not previously considered. Community members are encouraged to find out more about proposals by visiting the City's Active Land Use Notices webpage at redmondoregon.gov/landusenotices.

FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DESK...

SALEM

◆ As Oregon faces its worst wildfire season on record, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved emergency funding for three of the state's five major wildfires, including the Akawa Butte Fire, while denying assistance for the Rowe Creek Complex and East Evans Creek fires. Both of the denied fires surpassed the 200-home impact threshold that state officials say has become the practical standard for approval, and Reps. Levy and Breese-Iverson are calling on FEMA to treat every Oregon community equally.

Rep. Emerson Levy (D-Bend)

"While I'm glad to see the Akawa Butte Fire getting the funding it needs, the relief can't stop there. The Rowe Creek Complex and East Evans Creek fires met the standard threshold of impacted households, but they

were turned away. That's not right."

Rep. Vicki Breese-Iverson (R-Prineville)

"I've lived in rural Oregon my whole life, and sadly this is exactly what we've come to expect from government — same disaster, same need, but not the same help. Our communities did everything right and FEMA still shut the door. I'm calling on the federal government to quit treating rural Oregon as an afterthought and get these families the assistance they're owed."

From Reps. Levy and Breese-Iverson

"When disaster hits one part of Oregon, it hits all of us. Central Oregon and every community battling these fires deserve the same support, the same urgency, and the same respect from the federal government. We stand together as a state, and we're not going to stop pushing until every community gets the funding it needs."

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DEADLINE FOR SPACE & ART IS AUGUST 12

Redefine Housing Success

by DESTINY SARGENT, Development & Communications Manager — RootedHomes

For generations, housing success in America has been tied to one image: a single-family home, a white fence, and the belief that hard work would lead to safety, stability, and ownership. Today, that dream is harder to reach.



Across Central Oregon, housing costs are rising faster than wages. Families who have lived and worked here for years are being priced out. Essential workers struggle to live in the communities they serve. More neighbors face housing loss, displacement, and homelessness. Housing has changed, and how we define success must change with it.

Housing success is not one-size-fits-all. It cannot be measured only by whether someone owns a home. For one person, success may mean finding shelter during a crisis. For another, it may mean receiving rental assistance that prevents an eviction or finding a safe rental after months of uncertainty. For many working families, it means reaching affordable homeownership, building equity, and gaining the freedom to plan for the future.

Housing stability exists on a continuum. Emergency shelter, rental assistance, affordable rentals, workforce housing, and permanently affordable homes are connected parts of a broader solution. Each helps people move toward greater safety, dignity, and opportunity.

When one part of the system is missing, people can fall through the gaps. A family may leave shelter but still be unable to find an affordable rental. A renter may have steady employment but no realistic way to save enough for a market-rate home. A local worker may earn too much to qualify for certain assistance but too little to purchase a home near their workplace. No single program can meet every need. A strong housing system must offer multiple paths and recognize that households start from different circumstances. Permanently affordable homeownership is one important part of that system. It allows families to purchase homes at attainable prices, build equity, and gain long-term stability while preserving affordability for future buyers.

The Community Land Trust model is one way to create lasting affordability. In this model, a nonprofit retains ownership of the land while the homeowner purchases the home itself, lowering the upfront cost of homeownership. When the home is sold, resale requirements keep it affordable for the next buyer. As a result, a single investment benefits more than just one household. It creates an affordable homeownership opportunity that can serve family after family for generations.

Redefining housing success also means looking beyond walls and roofs. A home is where children feel safe, families plan for the future, and people recover from hardship. Stable housing supports health, educational success, steady employment, and strong community connections. It gives people a



PHOTO | COURTESY OF ROOTEDHOMES

foundation from which to grow. The American dream may look different today, but its heart remains the same: safety, opportunity, belonging, and a place to call home. Housing success should not be reserved for a few. Our neighbors deserve options, clear paths, and lasting solutions.

Together, we can build a Central Oregon where more people are able to stay, belong, and thrive.

rootedhomes.org

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STEELE Associates Architects

Continued from page 1

“Our designs are innovative, sustainable, and inspiring. We simply love what we do, and it shows in the energy and dedication that we pour into each unique project opportunity.”

STEELE Associates has honed a reputation for integrating eco-conscious design into major civic, commercial, and community structures and master plans throughout Central Oregon.

Recent examples include collaboration on major regional civic projects such as the new Deschutes Public Central Library in Bend, the Redmond Library (both with Miller Hull as design architect and STEELE as local architect), the new Sisters Ranger District campus, and commercial projects with top local developers.

Long-term clients include prominent local developers such as Kevin Spencer (Empire Construction and Development), Todd Taylor (Taylor Development) and Mike Hollern and Kirk Schueler of Brooks Resources.

The associated relationships, camaraderie, and trust are very meaningful to STEELE, which is continually collaborating on unique new projects with all three.

Steele said, “While we enjoy large public projects, we also find it fulfilling to design campuses and buildings for local agencies and businesses, so we can create beautiful, efficient interiors that are uplifting to work in and help each of them improve their business, process and product.”

He expressed pride in having played a mentorship role in nurturing other leaders within the company, including Principals Adam Stephen, Chris Thome and Andy Harmon, and Business Director Chanda Villano, who recently celebrated 25 years with the company.

Steele can lay claim to being a true Bendite, having been born at the original St Charles’ Hospital Hill site downtown on Franklin Avenue, which now houses the Newberry Hotel.

He credits his Bend Senior High School drafting teacher, Jeff Tuculet, for first sparking his interest in architecture as a potential career path, adding, “He knew I had the skills necessary and guided and inspired me to pursue architecture, which I think is a big reason why I have such respect for teachers and enjoy being involved in designing k-12 projects like Silver Rail Elementary in Bend, Vale Middle School, and the new Coos Bay Elementary and Middle Schools, so much.”

After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Oregon architecture program, Steele honed his craft with Portland architectural firm MacKenzie Saito for eight years, including working on early silicon industry projects with Japanese tech companies, before returning to his hometown armed with a wealth of knowledge and experience and ready to start his own business.

He said, “We simply wanted to provide excellent service and design. My experience at MacKenzie Saito had instilled in me that in addition to great design that a good firm meets budgets and schedules as well.

“Word about our design skill, service and upbeat



RENDERING AND PHOTOS | COURTESY OF STEELE ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

attitude coupled with technically sound documents and a record for meeting budgets and schedules increased our clientele rapidly.

“When we first opened, we assumed the initial projects would be small, but we were pleasantly surprised when we were selected to design significant projects like Mill Point Business Campus, Sisters High School and the Deschutes County Fair & Expo, which has continued to be a huge positive economic impact in Central Oregon and exposed the area to thousands of visitors.”

The company also played a leading role in the renaissance of downtown Bend, with landmark mixed-use projects such as Franklin Crossing — the first five-story multi-use building in the city center — 919 Bond, St. Clair Place, and an expansion of the Deschutes Justice Center, creating a more vibrant, walkable downtown by infilling vacant lots with attractive urban buildings and shops.

The firm has long been known as a sustainability and renewable energy champion and utilizes a comprehensive suite of ecological engineering frameworks such as mass timber construction, and third-party certification, to reduce energy use and carbon footprints.

STEELE Associates Architects in association with Kirby Nagelhout Construction effectively brought LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification to Central Oregon.

Steele recalled, “I asked Kirby if he would co-sponsor a workshop to educate people on what LEED was, and of course, being the generous civic-minded man he was, he agreed.

“We invited over forty public and private individuals to the workshop to promote real sustainable design.

“We designed Midstate Electric, the first LEED Certified project in Central Oregon (and the first LEED Gold Certified Electric Utility in the United States), and a slew of LEED and other third-party certified sustainable projects throughout the region.

“We led the way for proven third-party certified energy-efficient sustainable projects. We felt it was important to cut through the unfortunate ‘greenwash’ marketing that hitherto was claiming energy efficiency and sustainability without any documented proof.”

The firm’s sustainable design leadership and expertise has been recognized by multiple awards and its range of projects includes custom homes, mixed-use, senior, healthcare, aviation, tech, industrial, commercial/retail, city halls, libraries, multi-family, and master planning.

Steele observed, “Some firms focus on specialization, but we love the variety of our projects.”

Principal Architect Adam Stephen said, “I am proud to have been part of the STEELE team for 13 of the firm’s 30 years, with many more to come.

“Reaching a milestone like this doesn’t happen by chance. It takes great people, strong client relationships, and the opportunity to work on meaningful projects. It has been rewarding to play a role in Central Oregon’s growth while working alongside exceptional colleagues, contractors, and clients.”

Thome echoed Stephens’ sentiments, saying: “Creating a bright future through brilliant design” is more than a motto; it is a prediction fulfilled by 30 years of successful design work.

“Such longevity is not accomplished on a whim. It requires hard work, deep financial and business



SCOTT STEELE, STEVE OLSON, WENDY MEEUWSEN, OLIVIA STEELE AND ERIC MEEUWSEN

acumen, and award-winning execution.

“Furthermore, success relies on a diversified project portfolio and active community service and involvement.

“We are especially thankful to the clients who have placed their confidence in us, many of whom have returned to work with us time and again. We are equally grateful for our dedicated team, whose passion for thoughtful, sustainable design continues to define who we are and what we stand for.”

Harmon added, “While thirty years is an important moment to reflect on where we’ve been, it is also an opportunity to look ahead.

“Architecture continues to evolve, bringing innovative technologies, new challenges, and new opportunities. We embrace that future with optimism and enthusiasm, and our commitment remains the same: to provide exceptional design, outstanding service, and enduring value for every client and community we serve.”

Villano said, “This milestone reflects our commitment to our employees, our clients, and our community. As one of STEELE’s longest tenured employees I have seen the relationships we have fostered across every aspect of our business serve as the cornerstone of our success.

“Although it may be cliché, it is the little things that no one sees that contribute to our success, whether we are improving neighborhoods and quality of life through efficient design, supporting the personal and professional growth of our employees, or supporting our local businesses and charities.

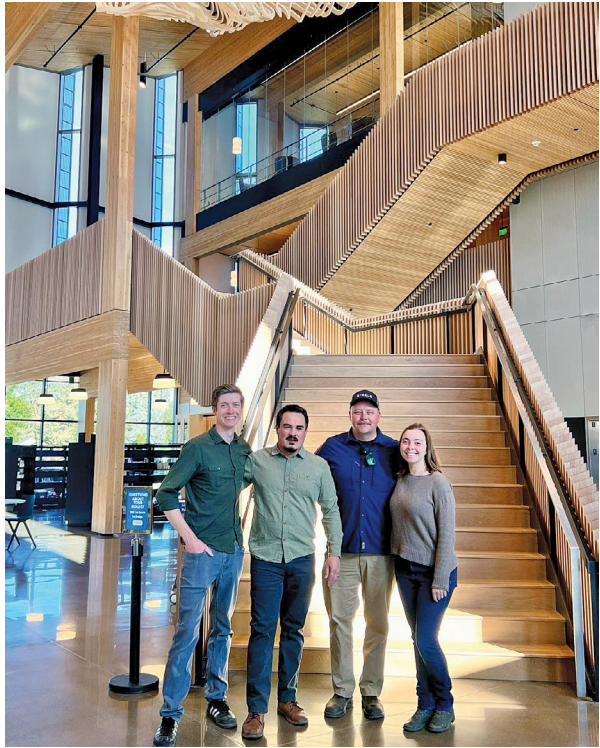
“Each project is an opportunity to listen carefully, think critically, and create architecture that is innovative, thoughtful, and reflective of the people it serves. We believe good design improves quality of life, supports environmental stewardship, and responds to the unique character of each community.”

While the majority of STEELE Associates’ work is in Central, and other areas, of Oregon, the company’s service region includes the western and southwestern states of Montana, Idaho, Arizona, California, Washington and Utah. With offices in Bend and St. George, Utah, the firm can easily service projects all over the western states.

As firm believers in a responsibility to give back to the communities it serves, the company has supported many organizations and activities as well as donating cash and pro bono services to charitable organizations over the years, including designing three veterans’ memorials.

Steele said, “We have been blessed and fortunate and we believe the future holds even greater opportunities to nurture existing relationships, forge strong new ones, and improve businesses, economies, and communities through brilliant design. We love it, we thrive on it and we look forward to it.”

steele-arch.com



MATTI SJOBLUM-CHAMBERS, JORDON ARREDONDO, ANDY HARMON AND VIRGINIA BAILEY AT CENTRAL LIBRARY

New Smoke Map Aims to Inform Central Oregon Visitors

by LEAH ETLING — CBN Feature Writer

One of Central Oregon’s biggest summer tourism challenges can be wildfire smoke, which may be minimal (remember 2025?) or significant (remember 2020?) depending on regional conditions. A bigger obstacle is the perception that the region is blanketed in unhealthy air all summer long.

That perception has tangible economic consequences. Visitors often delay booking trips until the last minute, weddings are postponed or relocated, and businesses can lose revenue even when large portions of the region remain smoke free.

The tourism advocates at Visit Central Oregon hope a new interactive smoke map will help change that narrative by giving visitors and residents real-time information about smoke conditions, active fires, road closures and forecasts, allowing travelers to make informed decisions rather than canceling trips.

The map is available online at visitcentraloregon.com/vacation-planning/resources/fire-information.

According to Scott Larson, president and CEO of Visit Central Oregon, the online resource represents a shift from reacting to wildfire impacts to proactively managing tourism despite a changing climate. “Central Oregon faces the challenge that smoky summers in prior years have created, which has led to the perception today that it is always smoky during certain months,” Larson said. “This has impacted visitation trends ... Our hope and vision for the map is that it provides users with real time tools and insights to make informed decisions about their trip plans while redirecting them to other options during the trip if it is smoky.”

Supplying Real-Time Information

Rather than presenting smoke conditions as a regional issue, the interactive map allows travelers to see localized conditions throughout Central Oregon. Because smoke can vary significantly from one community or recreation area to another, Larson believes visitors can often adjust their plans instead of abandoning them.

“We believe that Central Oregon is a world-class destination, and we are fortunate to have so many amazing things to do all across the region,” Larson said. “We also understand that many of our businesses depend on a strong tourism season, so cancellations due to smoke can be very impactful to our communities and local businesses.”

Instead of canceling an entire vacation, visitors may simply choose a different trail, golf course or community with better air quality that day.

“Our goal is to empower people with the tools needed to redirect their trip rather than cancel it,” Larson said. “For example, it may be smoky in one part of the region but not another, which allows us to offer other equally amazing places to hike, bike, or golf. If outdoor options become

inhibited by smoke, we

have also invested significantly in ways to redirect visitors to indoor activities and things to do, ensuring that we support a strong summer tourism economy.”

Supporting Local Businesses

Tourism remains a major economic driver across Central Oregon, particularly during the summer months. When visitors stay home because of assumptions about smoke conditions, the impact extends well beyond hotels, restaurants, shops and recreation providers. Local governments also feel the effects through reduced transient lodging tax (TLT) revenue.

“We understand how many businesses and communities depend on a strong summer tourism season, so it is crucial that we do what we can to support that for them,” Larson said. “We also know that millions of TLT dollars generated by visitors support public safety, including the (Deschutes County) Sheriff’s Office and some of our local police. Any downturn in visitation limits our ability to pay for local services.”

Larson added that improving access to accurate information is increasingly important as wildfire seasons evolve.

“Making sure that visitors have the tools needed to make informed decisions based on data rather than perceptions is key to supporting what may become the new normal for our summer tourism season.”

Safety is Top Priority

While the smoke map is designed to encourage informed travel decisions, Larson emphasizes that visitor safety remains the organization’s highest priority. Visit Central Oregon sees its role as helping amplify information already being provided by emergency management agencies.

“Without question, safety comes first and is paramount,” Larson said. “To be very clear, we don’t view this tool as something that displaces resources like local and statewide law enforcement.”

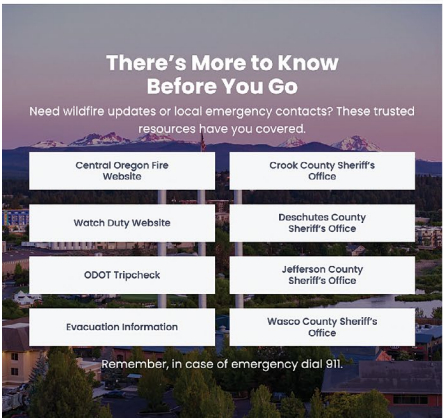
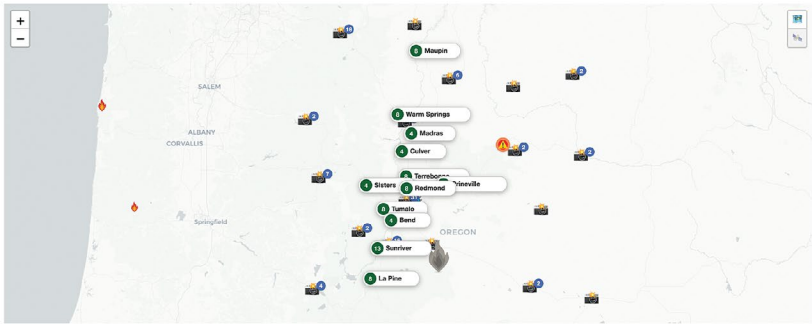
Those using the website can also access links to emergency text alerts and additional public safety resources.

“Striking the balance between encouraging visitation while equipping visitors with the needed tools is a nuanced balancing act, though,” Larson said. “On the page referenced on our website, you’ll notice that in addition to the map, we also link out to ways to sign up to text alerts if there is a fire, and we are working to integrate things like the Genasys Protect app at the request of our land management partners. Our goal is to ensure visitors can enjoy their stay while knowing how to find those resources if needed and understanding that their safety concerns are covered.”

The proactive approach has already attracted attention from other Western tourism organizations.

Smoke, Fire, and Road Conditions Map

Use our smoke map to see current and forecasted conditions for the Central Oregon area. After you click “Show Me The Data!” below, future conditions will begin to load, but you can immediately start to navigate and apply filters to learn more.



Timely Texts for Safer Trips

Prescribed burns are carefully managed fires conducted by trained professionals to restore forest health. They typically take place during spring and fall. To get updates on burn plans, air quality, and wildfire alerts in your area, text **COFIRE** to 888-777.

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“We’ve spoken to destinations in Utah, Colorado, and California about how they can use this tool for their destinations and it has had great support from partners within our region as well,” Larson said. “We have been excited to see such a positive response to the tool, and we are hopeful that it will continue to be useful for other destinations who are dealing with similar challenges.”

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Beyond the 401(k)

Building Tax Efficiency Before Age 59½

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

Retirement accounts are some of the best tax tools available to you. They are also, by design, restrictive. Most of the accounts we associate with retirement savings, traditional 401(k)s, IRAs, and similar vehicles, come with an implicit condition: the money is largely inaccessible without penalty until age 59½.

For many savers, that trade-off is worth it. But for business owners, high earners, and anyone pursuing financial independence on their own terms, that restriction can create a real gap. If your goal is flexibility long before traditional retirement age, tax strategy needs to extend beyond the accounts everyone already knows about. This article looks at what that broader strategy can include.

The Tools You Already Know

401(k)s, IRAs, and HSAs remain the foundation of most tax planning, and for good reason. They allow you to defer or eliminate tax on growth, and in the case of HSAs, offer a rare triple tax advantage. If you have not maximized these accounts, that is worth a conversation on its own.

But foundations are not the whole house. Once these accounts are funded, the next question is what to do with income and assets that fall outside them.

The Trade-Off Nobody Talks About

The tax benefits of qualified retirement accounts come paired with restrictions. Distributions before 59½ generally trigger a penalty in addition to ordinary income tax, with limited exceptions.

One of those exceptions, IRS Section 72(t), allows for a series of substantially equal periodic payments before 59½ without penalty. It is a real option, but it is rigid. Once you begin, you are generally locked into the payment schedule for several years. It solves a narrow problem well. It is not a flexible income strategy.

This is the gap worth naming: tax-advantaged accounts reward patience, but life and business do not always move on a 59½ timeline.

Stretching the Retirement Wrapper Further

Before looking outside the retirement account entirely, it is worth checking how much room is left inside it. Some 401(k) plans allow after-tax contributions beyond the standard employee deferral limit, which can then be converted to Roth dollars through a mega backdoor Roth strategy. Not every plan permits this, and the mechanics depend on your specific plan document, but for those who qualify, it is one of the more underused ways to shelter additional savings.

Building Flexibility Outside the Retirement Account

Real estate is one example of an asset class that can offer both income and tax



Ian Laimbeer



Moses Man

efficiency outside the retirement account structure, and it illustrates a broader principle worth understanding.

When you purchase investment real estate, depreciation allows you to deduct a portion of the property's value over time, even as the property may be generating income or appreciating. In some cases, an owner may pursue a cost segregation study, which identifies components of a property that can be depreciated on an accelerated schedule. This can concentrate deductions into the earlier years of ownership, sometimes creating a paper loss that is larger than the actual cash outlay.

Whether that loss can offset other income, including active or W-2 income, depends heavily on your individual circumstances: how you materially participate in the property, whether you or a spouse qualifies as a real estate professional under IRS rules, and how passive activity loss limitations apply to your situation. These rules are specific and often surprise people who assume the benefit applies universally. This is precisely where planning earns its value: understanding which strategies apply to you, and which do not.

Done thoughtfully, a strategy like this can accomplish several things at once. It adds an asset to your balance sheet. It can create an income stream. And it may generate a deduction that creates room elsewhere in your plan, for a Roth conversion, for realizing a gain, or for reducing risk exposure elsewhere in your plan.

Why Sequencing Matters

None of these tools work in isolation. A deduction taken in one year can shape decisions in another. The value is not in any single strategy, but in how they are sequenced together, timed to your income, your goals, and your broader financial picture.

This is where a coordinated relationship between financial planning and tax expertise matters most. The opportunities are real, but so are the rules around them, and getting the sequencing right requires both perspectives at the table.

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, Moses Man is a CPA with M Squared Tax, both based in Bend.

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DEADLINE FOR SPACE & ART IS AUGUST 26

Why Your Busiest Months Create Your Slowest

by **CHRISTY LAWRENCE, Founder — Mighty Growth**

Want a consistent pipeline throughout the year? A project list filled with ideal clients every month?

What you do during your busiest months is often the single biggest factor in whether that happens.

Here's the cycle I see over and over with small business owners who have fewer than 15 employees.

Things slow down. The pipeline looks bleak. You're not sure where the next client is coming from, so panic sets in and you pull out all the stops.

You go to networking events. You follow up on proposals that went cold. You make calls, reconnect with old contacts.

Then it works.

You get busy, breathe a sigh of relief and stop doing the exact work that filled your pipeline. Attention gets shifted back to client work, because delivering great results is why people hire you.

This cycle keeps you stuck because business development work you do today shows up as revenue three to six months from now.

It's tempting to blame the slow month when revenue drops, because that's when you feel the pain. But the slow month isn't where the revenue was lost. It's just where you see it.

It may have been lost in June, in the middle of your best stretch of the year, on the mornings you were too busy to look up.

The months you feel best about are quietly creating the months you dread.

Why Business Development Loses

When you're at capacity and something has to give, business development feels like the logical thing to cut.

The client project has a deadline. The install is Thursday. Payroll is Friday. Business development has no one waiting on the other end. No one calls to ask where it is.

So you make a rational tradeoff between something urgent and something that can wait.

That's precisely the problem.

Business development is one of the only functions in a small business that has no external deadline and, in many companies, no clear owner.

Accounting has filing dates. Operations has a schedule.

Business development has a vague sense that someone should probably be doing more of it.

And work without an owner and a plan usually doesn't get done.

There's another factor, too: many business owners don't enjoy selling, making it the first thing to go when things get hectic. Much of that dislike comes from a misunderstanding of what good business development actually looks like. But that's another column.



The months you feel best about
are quietly creating
the months you dread.

Setting that aside, a responsibility without an owner or deadline will lose to responsibilities that have both. Every week.

Build a System That Survives the Busy Months

The solution is to treat business development like every other function your business depends on.

First, give it an owner.

In a company of six people, that may still be the founder. That's fine. What matters is that someone is clearly accountable for making it happen.

Second, give it a number.

Not a revenue goal. Revenue happens downstream, and you can't control it. Choose a number tied to an activity you can control: conversations started, prospects contacted, follow-ups completed or new relationships developed.

You should be able to look at the number on Friday and know if it happened.

Finally, create a system that survives your busiest week. This is where many owners get stuck. They leave a planning session committed to spending a full day a week on sales. It works for a few weeks. Then things get busy, the habit disappears and they're back to starting from zero.

Your system should be simple enough to keep running even when business is booming. Thirty to sixty minutes a day is enough. That's one meeting and you don't cancel meetings.

Focus on three things:

The right people: Specific prospects who are a strong fit for your business.

The right frequency: A consistent cadence for staying connected.

The right message: A clear statement of what you do, what makes you different, and why that matters to the people on your list.

The systems I've seen work best are rarely complicated. A short prospect list. A weekly review. A few intentional conversations started every week. Consistency matters more than intensity.

Last month I wrote that the answer to slow growth isn't more leads, it's the right ones. Choosing your clients only works if you're choosing them in June, when you don't need one. By the time you need clients, you're not choosing them. You're taking what's available, at the price that's offered. That's how a portfolio of work you didn't want gets built, one rational decision at a time.

The goal isn't to sell harder when things are slow. It's to build a business development system that keeps working when things are good.

mightygrowth.biz

54% of Job Seekers Expect a Difficult Search Amid Pay, Competition & Job Worries

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

Finding a job feels difficult for many Americans actively looking for work, according to a new Express Employment Professionals-Harris Poll survey, especially when the right role must match their qualifications, pay needs and long-term goals.

Forty-one percent of U.S. job seekers say they are actively looking for a new job, with 82% focused on full-time positions. Both figures are unchanged from the fall of 2025.

Still, more than half of job seekers (54%) say it will be difficult to find a job in the next six months.

Pay, Fit and Competition Top the List

The survey breaks down where job seekers are feeling the most pressure:

- Finding opportunities that match their qualifications: 46%
- Finding a job with enough pay to cover basic expenses: 44%
- Standing out in a competitive job market: 41%
- Navigating automated hiring processes instead of feeling heard by people: 31%

Continued on Page 10 ►



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Job Seekers

Continued from page 9

The experience can also feel uncertain. Nearly a third of job seekers (31%) say companies that claim to be hiring but only collect resumes make it harder to find their next opportunity. Others say their experience does not align cleanly with available roles, with 28% citing overqualification as a barrier and 22% citing underqualification.

Current Job Worries Are Also Driving the Search

Among employed job seekers, concerns about pay, job security and the economy remain top of mind.

Their biggest fears about their current job include:

- Not getting the salary increase or raise they deserve: 37%
- A slowdown in work opportunities because of the economy: 31%
- Their company reducing the workforce due to the economic climate: 30%
- Technology or AI negatively impacting their role: 25%

However, uncertainty isn't the only reason employed job seekers are exploring other options. Many are motivated by quality-of-work factors, with 41% seeking better work-life balance, 40% looking for stronger growth opportunities in their current industry and 37% hoping to find or negotiate better compensation.

Rising costs are also part of the equation, with nearly 9 in 10 job seekers saying increasing prices have had at least some impact on their decision to pursue new employment. For 63%, that impact is moderate or substantial.

Survey Methodology

The Job Seeker Report was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Express Employment Professionals from May 19 to June 8, 2026, among 1,000 adults ages 18 and older who are employed but looking for a new job or not employed and looking for work.

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, Oregon 97702 and serves Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties.

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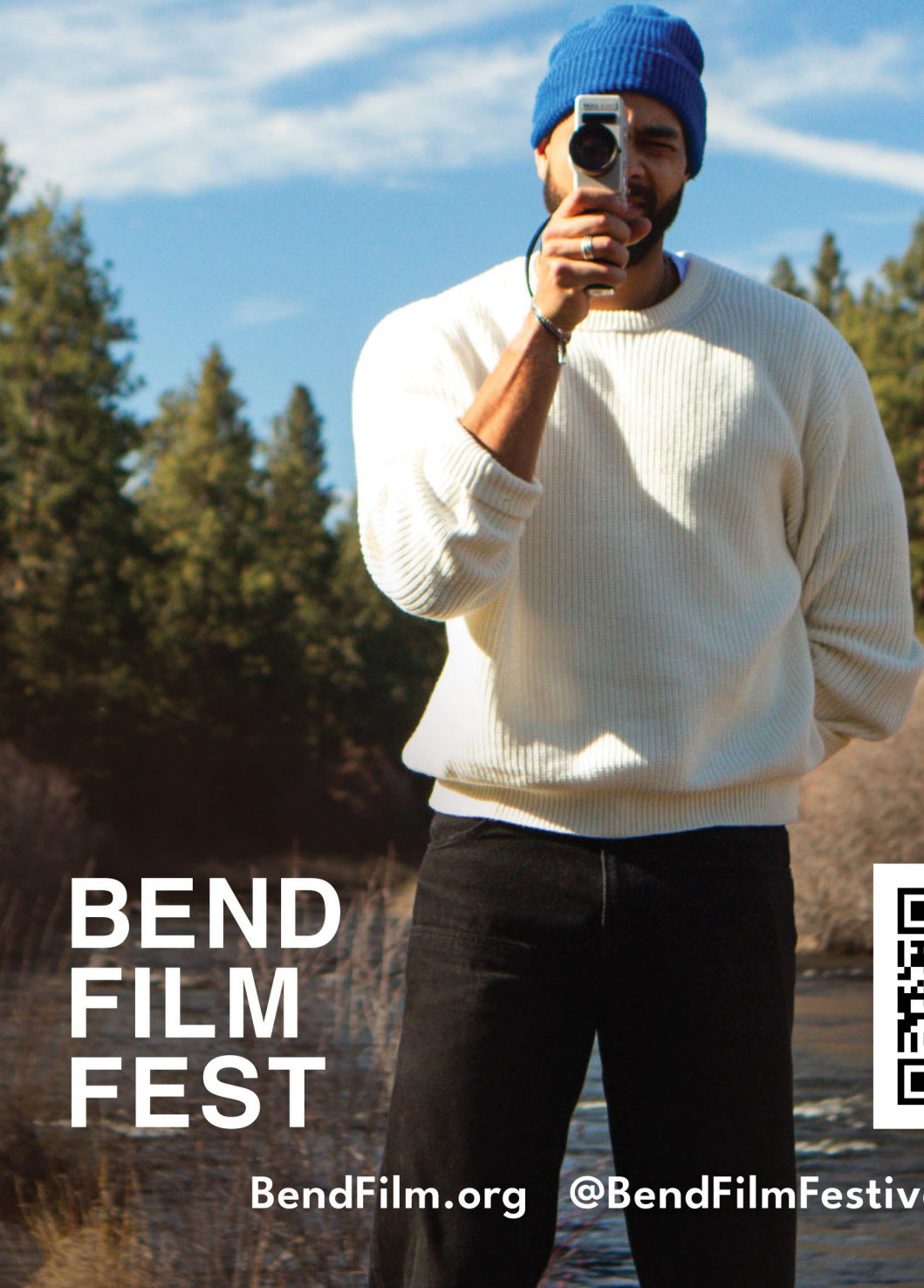
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Understanding Oregon’s “Disconnect” From Federal Tax Changes

by JACKSON HARBOLT, Tax Manager, CPA — Capstone Accounting and Tax

Tax law is complex on its own, and it becomes even more challenging when state and federal rules diverge. Recently, Oregon lawmakers approved legislation that partially “disconnects” the state tax code from several federal changes, a shift that could affect business owners, investors, and high-income households.

Understanding what this change means and how it might affect financial planning is important for anyone running a business or managing significant investments.



What It Means for Business Owners

For many small businesses, the most relevant difference involves equipment purchases and depreciation. While the federal system may allow immediate deductions, Oregon’s rules require spreading the deduction over time.

This does not increase the overall cost of an investment, but it can shift when deductions occur and affect short-term cash flow. In practice, this may result in different taxable income amounts on federal and state returns, making careful planning essential.

Takeaway: Business owners should consider timing differences between federal and state tax rules when planning investments or budgeting for expenses.

Considerations for Investors

Startup founders and investors should note that Oregon will continue taxing gains on certain qualified small business stock, even when federal law provides an exemption. For those involved in startups or other high-growth ventures, this difference could influence long-term investment strategies and financial planning.

Takeaway: Investors should factor state tax obligations into their strategy to accurately assess potential returns.

Why Planning Matters

These changes highlight an important reality: tax planning increasingly requires attention to both federal and state rules. Divergences between systems can create both challenges and opportunities, depending on a taxpayer’s situation.

As tax laws continue to evolve, staying informed and working with experienced advisors ensures that financial decisions are made with the full picture in mind.

Next Steps: Business owners and investors should review these changes with a qualified tax professional to understand their impact and explore strategies that align with both state and federal rules. Proactive planning today can help protect cash flow, optimize investments, and support long-term financial goals.

Contact our team today to schedule a consultation and ensure your business and investments are positioned for success.

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Loan Maturities Are Coming. Is Central Oregon Ready?

by LUKE ROSS, Broker — Compass Commercial Real Estate Services

Across the country, billions of dollars in commercial real estate loans are scheduled to mature between 2026 and 2028. Many of these loans originated during a period of historically low interest rates, when borrowing costs often ranged between 3% and 4%. Today, owners seeking to refinance are facing a much different environment, with rates that can be two to three percentage points higher.



For many property owners, that difference in borrowing costs can significantly impact monthly cash flow and overall property performance. That shift is causing many to ask the same important question: Should I refinance, hold, or sell?

Fortunately, Central Oregon isn't San Francisco, Portland, or Chicago.

One of the reasons our market has remained resilient is because the fundamentals are still strong. Bend and Redmond continue to attract businesses and residents, industrial space remains in high demand, and office vacancy, although trending upwards, has held up much better than many larger markets.

However, that doesn't mean we're completely insulated from what's happening nationally.

Imagine purchasing a property in 2021 with a loan at 3.5%. Today, that same loan could refinance at 6% or more. Even if your property continues to perform well, a meaningful increase in monthly debt payments can greatly impact both cash flow and long-term investment returns.

For some owners, refinancing will be a non-event. Many Central Oregon property owners have held assets for years and have built substantial equity. But for others, particularly those who purchased at peak pricing, the next few years could present some difficult decisions.

Many multifamily properties and highly leveraged acquisitions from 2021-2022 are the asset types worth watching most closely. That's not to say we'll see widespread distress, but you will see more owners evaluating whether it makes sense to recapitalize, refinance, or bring properties to market.

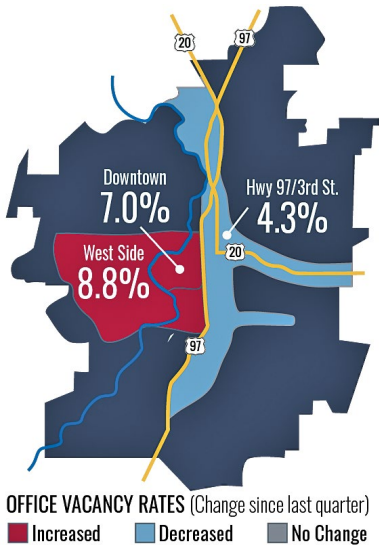
The good news? Market shifts often create opportunities.

Buyers who have been waiting on the sidelines may finally begin to see a welcome increase in available inventory. Seller financing could also become more common. Transaction activity may pick up as property owners carefully reassess their long-term plans and investment goals.

Central Oregon will likely continue to outperform many parts of the country over the next several years. That being said, we're entering a period where understanding debt and capital markets will become just as important as understanding lease rates and vacancy.

If you're a property owner with a loan maturing in the next 12 to 24 months, now is the time to start having conversations with your lender, broker, and financial advisor—not six months before maturity.

The national refinancing wave is already underway. It will be interesting to see how Central Oregon responds.



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

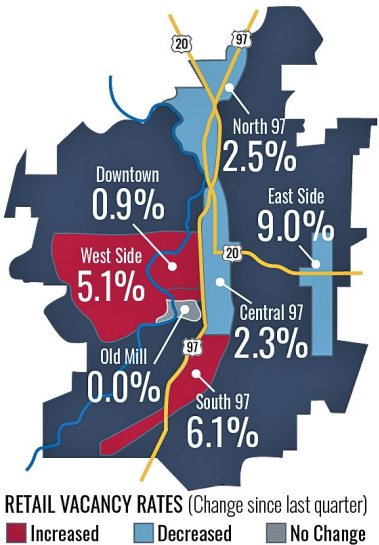
Compass Commercial surveyed 225 office buildings totaling 2.79 million square feet for the Q2 2026 report. In Q2, the market experienced negative absorption of 8,928 SF. Including this latest quarter, the Bend office market has recorded negative absorption in six of the past seven quarters. The vacancy rate increased to 7.38% in Q2 2026, up from 7.05% in Q1 2026 and 6.28% in Q2 2025. A potential silver lining is that available sublease space decreased from 50,524 SF in Q1 to 36,789 SF in Q2, resulting in an overall availability rate of 8.69% in Q2 2026, compared to 8.75% in Q1 2026.

LEASING: Leasing activity remains slow, with sporadic activity across all office market segments. The Hwy 97/Third St. submarket experienced modest positive absorption of 2,058 SF. The Downtown and West Side submarkets experienced negative absorption of 3,292 SF and 7,694 SF, respectively.

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

CONSTRUCTION: No speculative office buildings are currently under construction in Bend.

SALES: Office sales activity was limited but included two notable transactions during the quarter. An 11,178 SF multi-tenant medical office building at 2698 NE Courtney Drive sold in May for \$3,700,000, or \$331/SF, to an owner-user. A 12,395 SF office building located at 300 SW Columbia Street sold in June for \$4,300,000, or \$343/SF. The building was 100% leased at the time of sale but was purchased by an owner-user who plans to eventually occupy a portion of the property.



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

Compass Commercial surveyed more than 4.61 million square feet of retail space across 275 Bend buildings for the Q2 2026 report. Overall vacancy decreased from 4.37% in Q1 to 3.95% in Q2, driven by 19,333 SF of positive net absorption. Year-to-date positive net absorption reached 16,785 SF.

LEASING: The Central submarket led the quarter with 27,597 SF of positive absorption, reducing vacancy from 6.29% to 2.29%. Vacancy also declined on the East Side from 9.35% to 8.96% and in the North Hwy 97 submarket from 2.77% to 2.52%, while the Old Mill District remained at 0%. Increases occurred on the West Side, where vacancy rose from 4.51% to 5.11% following 3,605 SF of negative absorption; in South Hwy 97, from 5.22% to 6.09%; and Downtown, from 0.34% to 0.92%.

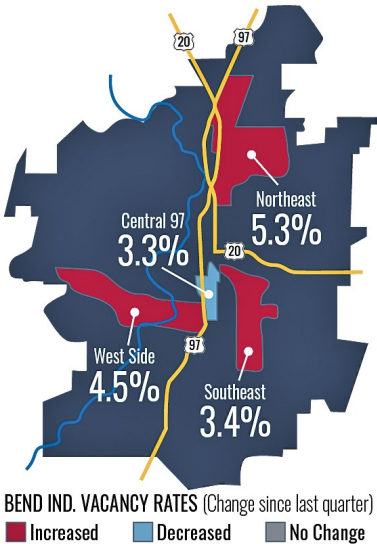
RENTS: Asking rates for inline and second-generation retail space range from about \$17.00 to \$45.00/SF/Yr. NNN. Value and second-generation space along the NE 1st Street and 3rd Street corridors is being marketed in the \$17.00 to \$19.00/SF/Yr. range, while premium and newly constructed inline space is asking \$40.00 to \$45.00/SF/Yr. Drive-thru and pad sites continue to command the top of the market, with the drive-thru pad at Cleveland Square listed at \$60.00/SF/Yr. NNN and comparable pad sites ranging up to roughly \$65.00/SF/Yr.

CONSTRUCTION: Leasing and construction remained active at Bend's newest mixed-use and pad developments. At Killian Pacific's Jackstraw, Way West bar is open, MMA Nails is under construction, and Peak Credit has signed a lease. All C-suites are pending, leaving one available A-building suite. The North End development will deliver a drive-thru and walk-up retail building occupied by Axel's Taco Shop and Wingstop, respectively.

SALES: At 612 SE 3rd Street, a 2,268 SF single-tenant Burgerville building sold in May for \$3,000,000, or \$1,322/SF. The 2,370 SF Super Deluxe Burgers building at 805 NE 3rd Street sold in April for \$1,975,000, or \$833/SF. The 991 SF former Creative Hair Graphics building at 1040 NW Galveston Avenue sold in May for \$1,050,000, or \$1,059/SF, while the 1,880 SF building at 1244 NW Galveston Avenue sold in June to an owner-user for \$666,290, or \$354/SF.

Compass Points

Continued from previous page



BEND INDUSTRIAL
by GRAHAM DENT, SIOR, Partner & Broker —
Compass Commercial Real Estate Services

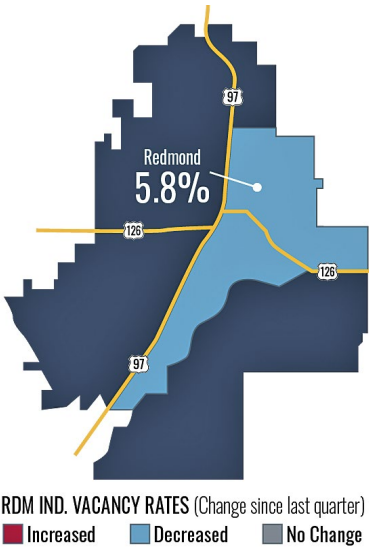
Compass Commercial surveyed 336 industrial buildings in Bend totaling 4.87 million square feet for the Q2 2026 report. The market experienced 10,436 SF of positive absorption during the quarter, resulting in an overall vacancy rate of 4.38%. Bend currently has 213,647 SF of industrial space available, reflecting continued tight market conditions and steady demand across the market.

LEASING: The industrial market experienced modest leasing activity during this second quarter, with the Northeast and Central submarkets recording 23,366 and 23,863 square feet of positive absorption, respectively.

RENTS: The average asking lease rate for raw industrial space increased marginally from \$1.13/SF/Mo. at the end of Q1 to \$1.14/SF/Mo. at the end of Q2. State-of-the-art industrial buildings are commanding rents between \$1.65 and \$1.85/SF/Mo. NNN, while second-generation industrial/flex spaces are leasing in the \$1.50 to \$1.65/SF/Mo. NNN range.

CONSTRUCTION: Taylor Brooks completed construction of NOCO at Juniper Ridge during the quarter. This first phase, located at the northwest corner of Cooley Road and NE 18th Street, consists of three industrial/flex buildings totaling 62,429 SF, adding much-needed modern inventory and flexible space options to Bend's growing industrial market.

SALES: One notable sale occurred during Q2 2026. The Columbia Distribution building, located at 20735 High Desert Lane, sold off-market for \$18,700,000, or \$175/SF in May. The buyer is an entity associated with the tenant, Columbia Distributing.



REDMOND INDUSTRIAL
by KRISTIE SCHMITT, CCIM, Broker —
Compass Commercial Real Estate Services

Compass Commercial surveyed 99 industrial buildings in Redmond totaling approximately 1.86 million square feet for the Q2 2026 report. Following two consecutive quarters of negative absorption, the market recorded positive absorption, decreasing vacancy from 7.26% to 5.84%.

LEASING: Leasing activity remained steady in Q2, with several larger spaces executing leases and contributing to the decline in vacancy. Increased touring activity suggests underlying demand remains intact, particularly among small- to mid-sized users.

RENTS: Industrial asking rents in Q2 2026 ranged from approximately \$0.85/SF/Mo. NNN on the lower end to \$1.20/SF/Mo. NNN for specialty-use or first-generation space. While the upper end remained stable, some landlords reduced their marketed lease rates.

CONSTRUCTION: Construction is underway on an approximately 47,000 SF speculative industrial building at 2020 SW Deerhound Avenue, with completion anticipated in fall 2026.

SALES: Several notable sales closed in Q2 2026. Redmond Industrial Park, located at 601 E Antler Avenue, is a 44.61-acre, 198,000 SF industrial property that sold for \$21,000,000, or \$106/SF, to a joint venture, yielding a 9.54% cap rate. The 15.69-acre property at 85 E Highway 126, which includes a 13,950 SF warehouse, sold to an investor for \$1,390,000, or \$99/SF. The 0.19-acre property at 407 SW Warsaw Avenue, improved with a 2,485 SF warehouse, sold for \$760,000, or \$306/SF, to an owner-user.

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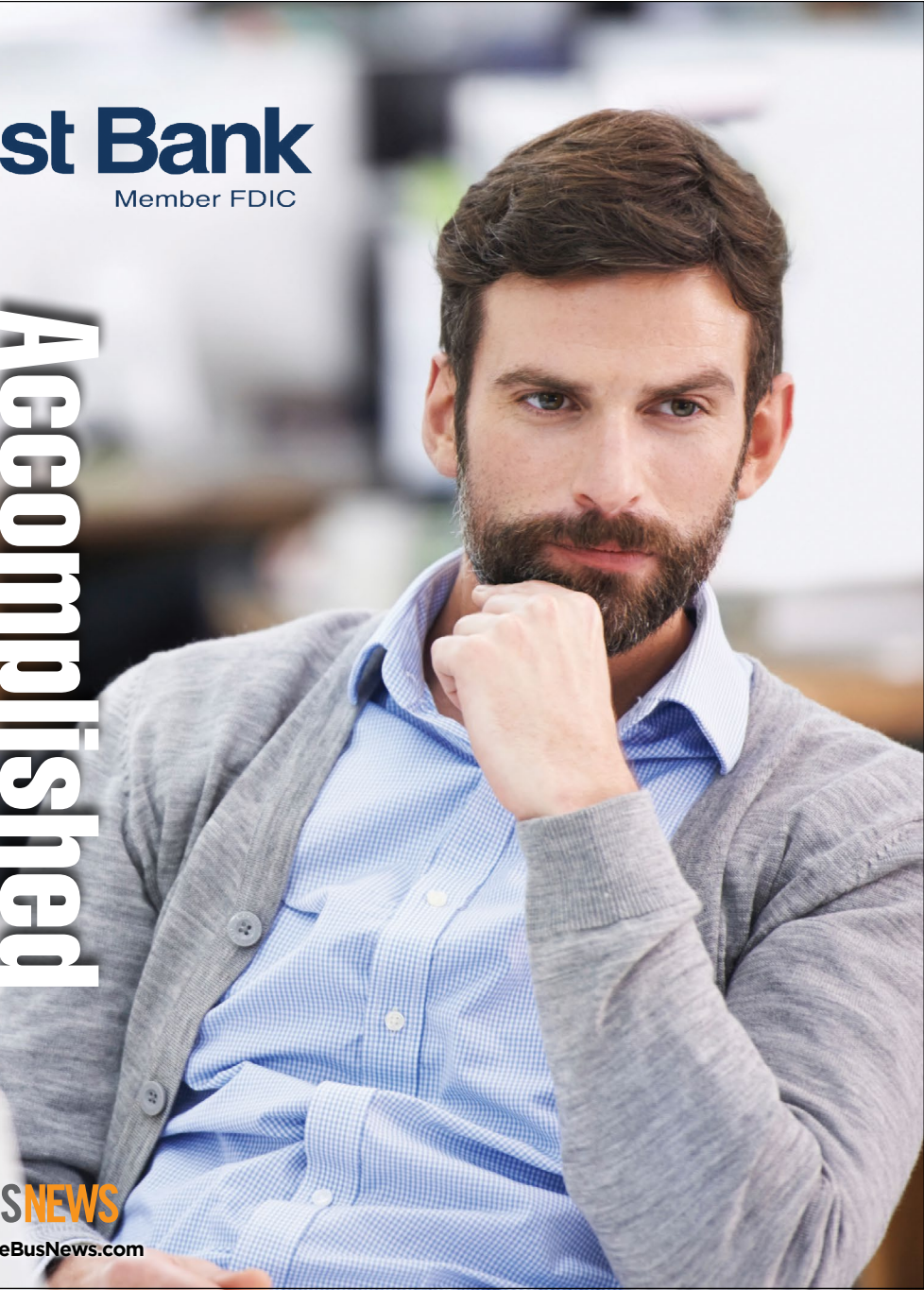
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under 40



Deschutes County Courthouse Expansion

Continued from page 1

judges’ chambers, jury deliberation rooms, four meeting/visitation rooms, a secure sally port, and a new street-level entrance with a mass-timber lobby.

Expansion of the site, flanking the prominent corner of NW Bond Street and Greenwood Avenue in Bend’s downtown, was initially triggered by the allocation of two new circuit court judges by the state, sanctioned in 2022, as a move toward relieving long-term logjams for legal proceedings, which had been spurred by rapid population growth, and to modernize security.



(L-R) CORY LOOMIS, PROJECT MANAGER, PENCE CONTRACTORS, ERIC NIELSEN, DESCHUTES COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MANAGER AND LEE RANDALL, DESCHUTES COUNTY FACILITIES DIRECTOR | PHOTO BY LAURIE PITTMAN

The Oregon Judicial Department’s appointment of the additional judges to the Deschutes Circuit Court system led the County to develop the project to expand and remodel the existing facility — with major goals including providing adequate courtroom space for the new judges and improving the courthouse’s accessibility and security.

Construction of the expansion began in the spring of 2024 and is wrapping up in time for an upcoming official ribbon-cutting ceremony, which will also offer the opportunity for public tours, scheduled for August 14.

The new landmark addition to the existing courthouse includes:

- Two sets of courtrooms, including jury deliberation rooms, judges’ chambers, and support staff offices;
- A more accessible entrance allowing for queueing indoors rather than standing in line outside;
- An expansion and upgrade of the court security checkpoint;
- Public service counters, a lobby, and a reception area;
- New office area for Oregon Judicial Department staff;
- Secure staff parking;
- Sallyport for the transport of in-custody individuals.

Additionally, the existing main courthouse has been remodeled to include improvements such as a new hearing room, meeting spaces, a security office and court administration offices.

During the course of construction, the giant tower crane utilized on site became a familiar sight on the downtown skyline until its demobilization last September.

Continued on Next Page ▶

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A NEW CHAPTER FOR DESCHUTES COUNTY

LRS Architects is proud to celebrate the opening of the expanded Deschutes County Courthouse.

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Cumming Group extends our heartfelt thanks to Deschutes County, Oregon Judicial Dept, Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office, LRS Architects, Pence Contractors, and the many consultants and subcontractors who brought the Deschutes County Courthouse Expansion to life.

Cumming Group is proud to have served as the Owner’s Representative and Construction Manager for this critical community asset.

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Deschutes County Courthouse Expansion

Continued from previous page

The total cost for the project includes the design and construction of the new addition, carried out by LRS Architects — which has offices in Bend and Portland — and general contractor Pence Contractors, plus the remodeling of the existing main courthouse.

The relocation of the ground-level main street entrance on Greenwood and Bond also eliminates exterior ramps and provides an indoor security queue, while separate distinct circulation routes have been established for court staff, the public and in-custody for increased security.



PHOTOS | BY LAURIE PITTMON



The new enlarged double-height public lobby boasts a cross-laminated mass timber interior, as a nod to the area’s logging roots.

LRS Architects Principal Paul Boundy observed, “The beautifully exposed mass timber beams in the roof structure of the lobby lend a natural, calming warmth to a space that will receive a high volume of visitors and members of the public.

“Court transaction windows are also located in the new lobby to provide easier access to the public.

“Security improvements are a prominent feature of the expansion, in the design of the spaces and circulation paths as well as the building systems and technology. A larger screening lobby offers covered and enclosed public queuing to make the screening process more comfortable and efficient.

“The expansion revitalizes the

Continued on Page 16 ▶



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Congratulations to the Project Team!

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Congratulations to our many partners on the completion of the Deschutes County Courthouse project!



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pence.net CCB# OR 239463 WA PENCECL781KL

Deschutes County Courthouse Expansion

Continued from page 15

Courthouse’s civic presence in downtown, creating a new main entry point and lobby space that will be the new public face of the building.

“A modern exterior of dark brick and contrasting light cement panels gives the addition a fresh and enduring look that honors the original building.”

Funding for the courthouse expansion came from \$15 million from the Oregon Legislature, \$5 million of the county’s federal American Rescue Plan Act allocation, \$2 million from the Oregon Judicial Department and \$20.5 million in county debt financing.

Trial Court administrators say that the two additional courtrooms will create more capacity for additional trials and other hearings, because each of the Circuit Court judges will have their own space, eliminating the need to share a courtroom with another judge, which had been a limitation on the ability to get cases tried.

The project includes a third-floor shell for future expansion or further growth in the years to come, which can be used for future courtrooms and support spaces.



PHOTOS | BY LAURIE PITTMON



HDR, the team constructed a full-size mockup courtroom at Deschutes County Fairgrounds to receive feedback from participants in real time to ensure the design would fit seamlessly into the new courthouse space.

Loomis said, “Seeing the courtroom come to life in a full-size mockup was incredibly informative and useful. Visualizing positions of the gallery area, jury box, judge’s bench, and witness stand in real scale allowed us to fine-tune every detail, from sightlines to the heights of partitions and casework.

Randall added, “Our State Court staff could experience the space firsthand, getting a true feel for its scale and functionality.

“This hands-on approach enabled us to make crucial adjustments early in the design phase, ensuring they were seamlessly integrated into the final construction documents. Investing

Continued on Next Page ▶

There were over 20 stakeholder groups involved in the project, including Deschutes County and the Oregon Justice Department.

Deschutes County Facilities Director Lee Randall said, “It’s not just about bricks and steel, but about creating a space that supports fairness, access and the people at the heart of our justice system.”

Pence Contractors Project Executive Cory Loomis said the expansion project, located at 1100 NW Bond Street, presented unique challenges, primarily due to the need to conduct construction activities while the existing courthouse remained operational.

Wayne Powderly, project manager for owner’s representative The Cumming Group, said his team worked diligently to plan and implement strategies that minimized disruptions and ensured the safety of courthouse staff, visitors, and the public during the building process.

As part of the pre-construction design process, in collaboration with Pence Contractors, Cumming Group, and court programming consultant



Deschutes County Courthouse Expansion

Continued from previous page

time and effort into the mockup truly elevated the overall design process, and it has been exciting to see the results come to fruition.”

The pre-design team research also involved visiting other similar courthouse facilities in the state to explore different approaches to maximizing functionality.

Regarding the Bend addition project, Boundy observed, “The naturally sloping terrain of the courthouse site and existing courthouse floor levels presented some challenging logistics, including managing the varying heights of the vehicle sally port and staff parking garages on the east side and a higher, at-grade lobby on the west side.

“This expansion will give the community a modernized facility enhancing civic services for years to come. LRS is proud to contribute to Deschutes County’s judicial infrastructure and support the evolving needs of the community.”

The project also featured collaboration with numerous local Bend subcontracting firms, including Ashley & Vance Engineering for structural matters, PAE Engineers, ColeBreit Engineering, Civil specialists Hickman Williams Associates (HWA), landscape consultant Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture and Blackmore Planning and Development Services.

The Deschutes County Courthouse expansion is located at 1100 NW Bond Street in Bend.

deschutescounty.gov

DESCHUTES COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXPANSION

1100 NW Bond St.

Property Owner/Developer:

Deschutes County

Presiding Judge:

Wells B. Ashby

Trial Court Administrator:

Zoe Wild

Deputy Trial Court Administrator:

Christa Neal

Deschutes County Facilities

Director: Lee W. Randall

Deschutes County Facilities Capital

Improvement Manager:

Eric Nielsen

Contractor:

Pence Contractors

Owners Representative:

Cumming Group – Wayne Powderly

Project Budget:

\$46.8M

Sitework Start:

March 2024

Completion:

April 2026

Square Footage:

51,000 sq. ft.

Amenities:

New secured parking,

sally port, holding cells, security

entrance, lobby, administration

offices, public transaction windows,

Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office

court security office, two new

courtrooms, one new hearing room,

three new Judges chambers, four

public meeting rooms, third floor

grey shell for future expansion.

Financing:

General Obligation Bond:

\$20,500,000

State of Oregon – Expansion:

\$15,000,000

State of Oregon – Remodel:

\$1,500,000

LATCF: \$4,622,145

County Interest:

\$3,570,000

County Reserves:

\$1,607,855

Total:

\$46,800,000

Project Manager:

Cory Loomis

Superintendent:

Kurt Schwabauer

Assistant Superintendent:

Tyson Milliron

Engineer(s):

Jorge Olivera,

Alexis Montoya-Santillan

Architect:

LRS Architects

Principal Architect:

Paul Boundy

Architectural Project Manager:

Wayne Goeas

Project Architect:

Justin Roberts

Structural Engineer:

Ashley & Vance Engineering

Civil Engineer:

HWA Engineering

Mechanical Engineer:

PAE Engineers

Plumbing Engineer:

ColeBreit Engineering

Electrical Engineer:

PAE Engineers

Commissioning:

Interface Engineering

Geotechnical Engineer:

Carlson Geotechnical

Landscape Architect:

Cameron

McCarthy Landscape Architecture

Surveying:

Tye Engineering

Office, Courtroom, and Lobby

Furniture: PacificWRO

Courtroom Benches and Desks:

Oregon Corrections Enterprises

Artwork Restoration and

Relocation: West Coast Art Conservation & Hardway Fab Co.

Subcontractors and Suppliers:

Vernam Crane, Mike’s Fence, Final Touch, HWA, Alpine Abatement, Pence Kelly Concrete, Rasmussen Masonry, Westside Iron, Pacific Stair, Carpentry Plus, ACI, Insulation Contractors, Eagle Roofing, Interior Tech, WPI, CorrTech, BCG, Overhead Door Co., PCI, Roedel Tile, Floor Factors, FastSigns, BMS, Guardian Fall Protection, Classic Window, Dero, Thyssen Krupp Elevators, Cosco Fire Protection, Apollo Mechanical, Tomco Electric, Tim Bloom Excavation, Wilson Curb, Tri County Paving, Andres Landscape, Eagle Stripping and Pave Pros, Mountain Sky, Cook Solutions Group

The Viking to Rise Again

by SIMON MATHER — CBN Feature Writer



ICONIC ABSTRACT SCULPTURE KNOWN AS THE VIKING, WHICH IS UNDERGOING REFURBISHMENT BEFORE BEING REINSTALLED AT THE DESCHUTES COUNTY COURTHOUSE SITE IN BEND | PHOTO BY HEIRLOOM IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

As part of the Deschutes County Courthouse expansion, *The Viking* sculpture by renowned artist Melvin Schuler was temporarily removed late in 2024 to make way for the new courthouse buildings.

Donated to the Deschutes County Commission by Art in Public Places in 1979, the sculpture welcomed visitors to the courthouse grounds for more than 45 years.

The sculpture was deinstalled by West Coast Art Conservation and Hardway Fab Co., then underwent a condition assessment and conservation treatment by West Coast Art Conservation once it was safely relocated to indoor storage. The sculpture will be reinstalled this month, taking a much-deserved center stage at its new site near the entrance of the old courthouse building.

For more than 50 years, Art in Public Places has enhanced Bend’s public art collection with permanent works of art. Today, Art in Public Places is widely recognized for Bend’s iconic roundabout art, one of the city’s most well-known cultural features.

Constructed out of carved redwood and clad in hand-hammered copper, The Viking showcases Schuler’s signature technique. Rather than casting bronze or welding steel like many sculptors of his era, Schuler carved solid wood forms and covered them with overlapping copper sheets, attached with small copper alloy nails, creating sculptures that are both geometric and organic.

Melvin Schuler (1924–2012) was a nationally recognized American sculptor, educator, and co-founder of the Art Department at Humboldt State University. His work is represented in major museum collections, including the Smithsonian, the Hirshhorn Museum, the Portland Art Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum, and the Palm Springs Art Museum. His sculptures can be found in prominent public spaces throughout Oregon and across the United States.

The original Deschutes County Courthouse was completed in 1940 after a fire destroyed the county’s previous offices. Designed by Tourtellotte & Phillips with funding from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), it has served as the historic center of county government and the courts for more than 80 years. The adjacent courthouse was completed in 1978 to accommodate Deschutes County’s rapid population growth and expanding court services. Built immediately north of the 1940 courthouse, it became the primary judicial facility and continues to serve the county today, alongside the recently completed major expansion.

Another of the town’s early pioneers is also celebrated at the new courthouse expansion site, in the form of a tribute to the original location of the A.J. Tucker Blacksmith Shop.

Amos Jackson (Jack) Tucker was a builder and contractor who arrived in Central Oregon from Brookings, Oregon in 1916 and began building some of Bend’s earliest and most recognizable stone structures.

Three years later, he constructed his most significant single-story lava rock building at the corner of NW Greenwood and NW Harriman for his own use.

The A.J. Tucker Blacksmith shop opened on March 1, 1920, and he anticipated building second-story apartments, but his untimely death in 1921 prevented such a plan.

Tucker’s wife, Elfrieda, then managed the use of the building until 1967 when she sold it to Deschutes County. The Deschutes County Pioneer’s Association operated the building as a museum until they moved their collection and services into the historic Reid School in the early 1980’s.

Deschutes County continued to use the building for a variety of functions, including the Law Library and Circuit Court.

In 2024 the historic facade was disassembled, and the remainder of the building was removed for the courthouse expansion. Today, the historic site is honored with a commemorative plaque fronting the new courthouse addition, mounted on a sample of his iconic stonework.

artinpublicplaces.org

Educational Services

Educational Services *(Listed Alphabetically)*

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
Bend Montessori School PO Box 460 Bend, OR 97709	541-678-3248	N/A	www.bendmontessorischool.com info@bendmontessorischool.com	Client Services	3	2012	Independent school using Montessori method for students ages 3 through 6.
Cascade Culinary Institute & Elevation Restaurant at Central Oregon Community College 2555 NW Campus Village Way Bend, OR 97703	541-318-3780	N/A	www.cascadeculinary.com info@cascadeculinary.com	N/A	14	1992	Cascade Culinary Institute (CCI) at Central Oregon Community College offers students a hands-on, skills-based education in culinary arts, baking & pastry & hospitality management. CCI features professional-grade kitchens, a student-run restaurant & instruction from experienced chef educators. Programs are designed to prepare students for a wide range of careers in the culinary & hospitality industries, with an emphasis on sustainability, creativity & real-world experience.
Cascades Academy 19860 Tumalo Reservoir Rd. Bend, OR 97703	541-382-0699	541-382-0225	www.cascadesacademy.org info@cascadesacademy.org	Front Desk	61	2003	Primary through secondary education.
Central Oregon Community College 2600 NW College Way Bend, OR 97703	541-383-7700	541-383-7506	www.cocc.edu feedback@cocc.edu	Dr. Greg Pereira, Zachary J. Boone	760	1949	Transfer programs, career & technical education programs, community learning, business advising, business & employee development, adult basic education/college preparation, English language learning classes & GED preparation.
Central Oregon Community College - Madras 1170 E Ashwood Rd. Madras, OR 97741	541-475-4274	N/A	www.cocc.edu/Madras jrodriguez2@cocc.edu	James Rodriguez	20	1949	COCC's Madras campus provides local access to college classes, academic support & community resources. Students can complete general education courses, begin training programs or prepare for transfer. Stand alone programs include nursing, medical assistant, nursing Assistant & early childhood education.
Central Oregon Community College - Prineville 510 SE Lynn Blvd. Prineville, OR 97754	541-447-6442	541-447-9155	www.cocc.edu/Prineville prinevillecampus@cocc.edu	Suzie Kristensen	20	1949	Prineville campus is the product of a collaborative partnership between Crook County & COCC. The Prineville campus is an integral part of the Crook County community offering credit classes, adult basic skills programming, workforce training & continuing education opportunities. The campus includes a computer lab that is open to COCC students & the general public, high-speed internet access, a quiet study room, four traditional classrooms, a conference room & a teaching kitchen.
Central Oregon Community College - Redmond 2030 SE College Loop Redmond, OR 97756	541-504-2900	541-504-2939	www.cocc.edu/Redmond infoRedmond@cocc.edu	Amy Ward	39	1949	COCC's Redmond Campus serves as a hub for academic programs, career training & community learning. The campus offers a wide variety of credit & non credit classes, including programs in manufacturing & veterinary tech. Facilities include computer labs, manufacturing facilities & a technology center. With flexible course options & hands on learning opportunities, the Redmond campus supports students in reaching their educational & career goals close to home.
COCC's Center for Business Cascades Hall, 2600 NW College Way Bend, OR 97703	541-383-7575	N/A	www.cocc.edu/departments/ center-for-business centerforbusiness@cocc.edu	Workforce Training & Development	12	1953	Offering comprehensive professional development, customizable & industry-specific workforce training & expert business advice & education to help existing & future business owners grow & succeed.
COCC's Small Business Development Center Cascades Hall, 2600 NW College Way Bend, OR 97703	541-383-7290	541-383-7503	www.cocc.edu/sbdc sbdc@cocc.edu	Agatha Ventura	10	1984	Confidential business advising at no cost, plus affordable workshops & training. Business planning assistance for all stages of business.
COIC Classroom - Bend 1645 NE Forbes Rd., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97701	541-706-1458	541-389-8265	www.coic.org pjordan@coic.org	Patrick Jordan	4	1972	Provides GED preparation, certified alternative high school education.
Current Conceptions, Inc. PO Box 2388 Sisters, OR 97759	541-904-4715	541-904-4716	www.currentconceptions.com cciaadmin@currentconceptions.com	Dr. Angela Oki, Dr. P. L. Senger	2	2011	Specializing in on-line curriculum development & global distribution to academic programs at the university level in the field of reproductive physiology.
IITR Truck School 667 Jackpine Ct. Redmond, OR 97756	541-504-1465	N/A	www.iitrcc.com IITRDave@Msn.com	Customer Service	2	1981	Commercial truck driving school & third party CDL examiner, A & B & passenger testing, Class A & C Hazmat.
Latino Community Association - Bend 2680 NE Twin Knolls Dr., Ste. 110 Bend, OR 97701	541-382-4366	N/A	latinocommunityassociation.org info@latinocommunityasssociation.org	Catalina Frank	24	2000	Empowering Latino families to thrive through free tax preparation & ITIN enrollment; English & computer classes, tutoring, help with job search & starting a business; U.S. citizenship preparation & legal assistance for immigrants; enrollment in the Oregon Health Plan & health system navigation assistance; cultural programs for youth & seniors; & advocacy to encourage participation in civic life. Offices in Bend: 2680 NE Twin Knolls Dr., Ste. 110; Redmond: 636 NW Cedar Ave.; Madras: 231 SE Sixth St.; & Prineville: 185 NE Fourth St., Ste. 1.
Latino Community Association - Madras 231 SE Sixth St. Madras, OR 97741	541-325-6837	N/A	www.latinocommunityassociation.org info@latinocommunityasssociation.org	Catalina Frank	24	2010	Empowering Latino families by providing workforce education, including classes in English, computer science & citizenship, health insurance enrollment, immigration counseling & currently help with income tax preparation. Offices in Bend: 2680 NE Twin Knolls Dr., Ste. 110; Redmond: 636 NW Cedar Ave.; Madras: 231 SE Sixth St.; & Prineville: 185 NE Fourth St., Ste. 1.
Leading Edge Aviation, Inc. 63048 Powell Butte Hwy. Bend, OR 97701	541-383-8825	N/A	www.flybend.com launch@flybend.com	Travis Warthen	80	1989	Helicopter & airplane pilot training, tours, charter operations, fuel services, avionics, aircraft sales & maintenance, FAA written testing center.

All Things New at COCC

Trends, Challenges, Developments & More

by **NOAH NELSON** — CBN Feature Writer

Central Oregon Community College is a pillar of furthering opportunities for the region, and has been since they opened up their doors and first started offering classes in 1949. Since that time, the college has grown into a force for economic development, helping develop a highly-trained workforce, higher average wages for graduates, and programs that directly support the creation of jobs in the region.

According to COCC President Dr. Greg Pereira, this development of the workforce through career-focused education is paramount to the modern college. “As employers face labor shortages in healthcare, skilled trades, technology, and public service, COCC has expanded career and technical education (CTE), workforce training, and partnerships with regional employers to better align academic programs with Central Oregon’s economic needs,” he said. “This positions the college as both an educational institution and an economic development partner. We do this while continuing to serve and grow our traditional transfer degree programs that are also vital to Central Oregon.”

Another major trend Pereira mentioned is all about increasing accessibility for students, and helping spread the college’s overall reach. “Today’s college students are increasingly adult learners, working professionals, parents, or part-time students who need more flexible options,” he said. “COCC has responded by expanding online learning, increasing noncredit and continuing education offerings, and strengthening services at its regional campuses in Redmond, Madras, and Prineville. The college’s strategic plan specifically prioritizes expanding access, increasing participation among underserved populations, and making education more equitable and student-centered.”

One way COCC is looking to increase accessibility and help all students work their way towards that final degree is called Guided Pathways, which has been under development at COCC for several years and will fully launch this fall term. “Instead of presenting students with the list of all 103 majors



NEW COCC MADRAS CAMPUS BUILDING

we offer, you shrink that into broad interest areas and allow them to gradually explore those areas,” explained Alicia Moore, vice president of student affairs. “It’s about helping students make academic and career connections early in their time with us,” she added, with boosted retention and graduation rates as measurable outcomes.

In communities outside of Bend, the college has been expanding operations in recent years to meet community needs. In Redmond, “The Manufacturing Technology program has been working on improving and updating curriculum for both the machining and welding pathways for several years,” said Amy Ward, Redmond Campus Director. “In 2024, the program changed the instruction model from a self-paced, open-lab format to scheduled instruction. This change has increased opportunities for formative assessment, so faculty can make sure students are prepared to enter the local workforce. Students are graded on technical skills and employability skills like punctuality, communication, and problem solving. In partnership with local employers, faculty has done extensive updates and rewrites to curriculum.”

In January 2026, the program was awarded a \$2.2 million FIPSE grant. Ward says a deliverable of this grant is the creation of an internship program and the development of seven short-term certificates designed to give students the skills they need to quickly enter the local workforce and find living-wage jobs.

The Prineville campus celebrates their 15th anniversary this year, with a continued focus on meeting community needs.

We have completed a comprehensive Workforce Development Needs Assessment, drawing on multiple data sources and direct interviews with employers,” said Prineville Campus Director Suzie Kristensen. “We are launching a Business Essentials Certificate as a direct response to workforce gaps identified in our needs assessment. This certificate can be attained in one academic year and all classes are available on the Prineville campus. We have developed and are implementing a Navigating College noncredit program for our high school students. This program is to support rural students as they build the skills and confidence to succeed in college-level coursework.”

Kristensen said the common themes they identified from the assessment are health care, skilled trades, and business services/entrepreneurship. These themes are directly shaping which credit and noncredit programs the COCC Prineville campus will prioritize next; The campus’s direction is toward being a true workforce and community hub that expands professional development and leadership training, strengthens K-12 partnerships so more Crook County



COCC NURSING PROGRAM | PHOTOS COURTESY OF COCC

students see college as accessible, and grows student services so geography doesn’t determine opportunity.

In Madras, the expanded campus opened this past January. The story of combining hometown nursing training with hometown nursing careers is suddenly becoming realistic for residents of Madras. That’s also true for the Nursing Assistant and Medical Assistant programs, also newly offered in Madras, and the expanded Early Childhood Education program, which will integrate some of its learning into an on-site child care center for the community. Each program helps address the need for medical careers and training in Madras.

Lastly, COCC’s Small Business Development Center has announced a new director: J.C. Nore. Nore has spent more than 25 years in Central Oregon, much of that working alongside small businesses as an owner, consultant and sales and operations leader. He built and eventually sold his own printing and consulting business, so he understands both the opportunity and the uncertainty that business owners live with. The SBDC was a resource for his business, providing practical, trusted guidance at different inflection points in the growth process.

“My focus is strengthening advising capacity, expanding regional access, and pairing one-on-one advising with practical programming that responds to what business owners actually need,” said Nore. “We’re adding expertise and becoming more deliberate about serving businesses through COCC’s branch campuses rather than expecting everyone to come to Bend. President Greg Pereira has challenged us to make COCC the community’s first-choice college. I see the SBDC as one practical expression of that vision: when Central Oregonians want to start, strengthen, or grow a business, COCC should be one of the first places they turn.”

Our small business community is facing several pressures arriving at once: rising costs, tighter margins, workforce constraints, access to capital, and an



REDMOND CAMPUS MANUFACTURING PROGRAM

increasingly complicated regulatory environment. With challenges rising, the SBDC offers free advice to business owners for practical results.

“If we do this well, the impact will show up in hundreds of better-informed decisions by local business owners,” said Nore. “Some will result in new businesses, financing and jobs; others will help an established business improve its margins, avoid an expensive mistake or successfully navigate growth or transition. I also hope we create a stronger connection between the college, entrepreneurs and the many organizations already supporting economic development throughout Central Oregon.”



The Runway to Retirement

by Expert SUE MEYER — Central Oregon Community College

Question:

Having owned a successful consulting business for 20 years, I’m starting to think about selling it and retiring. Do you have some advice about making this big decision, especially about the timing?

A: First, congratulations on your success! Business ownership takes planning, focus and perseverance. It’s smart to plan your exit as well. Owners who plan early typically have greater flexibility, stronger negotiating power and a smoother transition for employees, customers and themselves.

There is no perfect time or magic age — the decision to retire and/or sell a business is an individual one. And it’s also not “just about money.” Retirement or selling a business has financial and emotional aspects.

I can offer one caution: Business owners often wait too long because their identity is tied to the company. Instead, start planning early. Three to five years is often considered the ideal runway because it gives owners enough time to improve value, build strong systems, reduce risk and make thoughtful decisions. To help gauge timing, ask yourself some questions:

- 1. Assess your energy.** Are you still energized by leading and growing the business? Do you still have the physical and emotional energy the business requires, or are you staying out of obligation or pride? Are you focused on the future of the company, or mostly maintaining what already exists?

2. Total readiness. Could the business continue successfully without your daily involvement? Are your financial records, systems and leadership team prepared for a transition? Do you have a personal retirement or post-sale plan? Will you have enough funds to achieve your personal goals? What would you regret more: leaving too early or waiting too long?

3. The shape of things. Is the business showing consistent growth, profitability and stable customer relationships? How dependent is the business on you personally for sales, operations or key connections? If a buyer looked at your business today, would they see opportunity, stability and clear systems in place?

4. Take steps to create more value, smoothing a stronger transition. Assemble accounting, legal, financial and business advisers early to help avoid costly mistakes. Build a personal financial plan and set clear goals for the next chapter. Strengthen recurring revenue and customer relationships. Develop leadership to reduce owner dependence — a business that relies entirely on the owner is harder to sell. Understand the business’s value by investing in a professional valuation that focuses on opportunities for the next owner. Review contracts, leases, licenses and legal documents before going to market.

Central Oregon Community College’s Small Business Development Center offers free, confidential professional business advising and a variety of low-cost courses to help entrepreneurs through the business lifecycle: cocc.edu/sbdc.

About the Expert:
Newly retired herself, Sue Meyer brings decades of small business ownership, teaching, and advising experience. She is proud to have spent years working alongside the skilled team of business advisers at COCC’s Small Business Development Center. *All SBDC business advising is free of charge and confidential. Please note, however, that it cannot substitute for legal or tax advice.*

cocc.edu/sbdc

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Educational Services *(Listed Alphabetically)*

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
Morning Star Christian School 19741 Baker Rd. Bend, OR 97702	541-382-5091	N/A	www.msusbend.org Office@msusbend.org	Stacie Roats	43	1982	Nursery through 8th grade.
Oregon State University - Cascades 1500 SW Chandler Ave. Bend, OR 97702	909-229-3634	541-383-7501	www.OSUcascades.edu sean.nealon@osucascades.edu	Sean Nealon	323	2001	Serving Central Oregon’s higher education needs with a growing slate of bachelor’s, master’s & doctoral degrees; research labs & programs; & public lectures & events.
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute through the University of Oregon (OLLI-UO) UO Central Oregon	800-824-2714	N/A	osher.uoregon.edu osher@uoregon.edu	Brenda McDonald	2	2003	Offers noncredit courses, informative programs & events geared towards those 50+. OLLI-UO is part of a thriving network of over 120 university & college-based programs supported in part by the Bernard Osher Foundation.
Phagans’ Central Oregon Beauty College 1310 NE Cushing Dr. Bend, OR 97701	541-382-6171	541-385-0782	www.phagans-schools.com bend@phagans-schools.com	Debbie Patrick	10	1963	Hair design, facial & nail technology & barber styling course, code & teacher training. Hair design, esthetics, nail technology, barbering courses & services to the public.
Portland State University Masters in Social Work Program 1027 NW Trenton Ave. Bend, OR 97703	312-523-9234	N/A	www.pdx.edu/ssw/msw-distance-option-bend-site lbuehrig@pdx.edu	Leah Allen	2	2010	Portland State University of Social Work. Masters in social work distance option.
Superior Schools, Inc.	541-388-1021	N/A	www.a1schools.co team@a1schools.co	Stacey Harrison	1	1978	Real estate & property manager, pre-license courses & continuing education. Online.
Sylvan Learning Center Satellite Location: 2754 NW Crossing Dr., Ste. 101	541-389-9252	N/A	www.sylvanlearning.com/bendorbend.or@sylvanlearning.com	Audra Bohn	4	1986	Tutoring, testing & academic services for kindergarten-college students.
Sylvan Learning Center 2150 NE Studio Rd., Ste. 10 Bend, OR 97701	541-389-9252	N/A	www.sylvanlearning.com/bendorbend.or@sylvanlearning.com	Audra Bohn	14	1986	Tutoring, testing & academic services for kindergarten-college students.
Waldorf School of Bend 2150 NE Studio Rd., Ste. 2 Bend, OR 97701	541-330-8841	541-330-9713	www.bendwaldorf.com info@bendwaldorf.com	Cecelia McClellan, Cyndi Pointer, Katherine Caballero	18	1997	Offers a holistic, developmentally appropriate education to children from preschool through 8th grade in Bend.

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

OSU-Cascades

Continued from page 1

She completed her doctorate in biomechanics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship and faculty position at the University of Southern California (USC), where her research focused on biomechanics and ACL injury prevention.

Family ultimately drew her back to Oregon. While vacationing in Bend, Dr. Pollard learned about OSU-Cascades. After dropping off a resume, she eventually received an unexpected phone call asking whether she would be interested in creating OSU-Cascades' first kinesiology program.

"It was just me and seven students," Dr. Pollard recalled. "A lot of people thought I was taking a huge risk by coming to OSU-Cascades, but I saw the opportunity to help build something from the ground up."

Building from the Ground Up

Launching the kinesiology program required far more than just developing and teaching courses. To earn tenure, Dr. Pollard needed a biomechanics laboratory capable of supporting competitive research. The challenge was significant. Such a facility required specialized equipment and customized infrastructure that at the time did not exist in Central Oregon. To make it happen, Pollard began building partnerships.

Working alongside The Center (today the Saint Charles Center for Orthopedics and Neurosurgery), the Center Foundation, and Therapeutic Associates Bend, she helped establish a biomechanics laboratory while securing university funding for equipment and community support for the facility itself.

The collaboration gave students access to research opportunities rarely available at a young branch campus. The Functional Orthopedic Research Center of Excellence (FORCE) lab became a place for nationally recognized research. Dr. Pollard's early career research centered on ACL injuries in young athletes, including participation in a multi-million-dollar National Institutes of Health (NIH) study during her time at USC.

Once established in Bend, she led biomechanic studies, leading some of the earliest published research examining highly cushioned running shoes, including independent research focused on the physical impact of "super shoes" (such as HOKAs). Those studies attracted national attention, including 2020 coverage in *The New York Times*.

One of the most important aspects of research for Dr. Pollard has been creating opportunities for students to participate in groundbreaking studies alongside faculty. Both as a scientist and an administrator, putting student success at the forefront is a critical pillar for her.

"I am a fierce advocate and supporter of our students, and to be able to do that in this role is something I take really seriously," she said. "When you come to a smaller campus, that's something that's very different. Students should know their faculty. They should know their leaders and be able to engage."

As a Research 1 institution with a small student body, OSU-Cascades can combine high-level research with close faculty interaction and personalized educational experiences that are often difficult to replicate at larger universities.

Creating Oregon's First Public Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Even before earning tenure, Dr. Pollard had identified what she believed was a major gap in Oregon's higher education system. During her OSU faculty interview, she asked why Oregon lacked a public Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. The response from university leadership was simple: earn tenure first, then build it. Pollard did exactly that.

"I asked why we didn't have a public university DPT program in the state of Oregon," Dr. Pollard said. "The response was, 'Get tenure, and we'll talk about it.'"

Years of planning followed. Support from then-Vice President Dr. Becky Johnson, combined with construction of the current campus and specialized instructional facilities, including a cadaver laboratory and dedicated treatment spaces, created the infrastructure needed to launch the program.

The inaugural OSU-Cascades DPT cohort began in 2021. Due to the pandemic, faculty were selected via initial virtual interviews and subsequent vetting. Today, the three-year doctoral program enrolls around 44 students per class and has already graduated three cohorts. Alumni are serving communities across Oregon, including rural areas like Eastern Oregon, where physical therapists are in high demand.

"If you look at this side of the Cascades, the need for physical therapists is very high," Dr. Pollard noted. Our DPT program requires that each student does one of their clinical rotations in a rural area and our program includes considerable coursework and training dedicated to rural physical therapy. "When our students go out and do their clinical rotation in those rural areas, it's a great opportunity for them to experience cross-disciplinary patient situations. They treat a little bit of everything,"

The work prepares graduates to serve areas where healthcare professionals are often difficult to recruit, and many choose rural postings for later employment. For Dr. Pollard, the program reflects OSU's land grant commitment and is one of OSU-Cascades' broader responsibilities: helping solve workforce shortages while expanding educational access across the state.

A Passion for Leadership

Dr. Pollard built her reputation as a researcher, fundraiser and program founder, but high-level academic leadership gradually became her professional calling. She became OSU-Cascades' Senior Associate Dean in late 2023, overseeing academic affairs, faculty development, enrollment strategy and institutional planning.

One of her major initiatives involved reorganizing the campus' academic leadership structure to better position the campus for continued growth. Creating improved organizational frameworks while building strong relationships across campus, in the Central Oregon community and within the greater OSU system continues to be a priority in her current role.

"As a postdoc, I found my love for bringing groups of people together and seeing what you can accomplish. In my current role, it's been energizing to care so much about this campus, contribute valuable historical knowledge and represent the campus in the Central Oregon community and beyond," she said.

"What I've loved about this role is being in a position to advocate for OSU-Cascades. There's so many great things happening here that need to be highlighted, and many opportunities for the community to be involved and supportive of the campus."

Dr. Pollard's leadership style has left a lasting impression on colleagues who have worked alongside her for years. Dr. JJ Hannigan, now a faculty member at OSU-Cascades who first joined the campus as Pollard's postdoctoral researcher, describes her as a consensus builder who actively seeks input before making decisions.

"Even if she ends up making a decision that you might not have agreed with, you always feel heard," he said, adding that Dr. Pollard's ability to listen while still moving initiatives forward has earned widespread respect across campus.

Beyond her administrative abilities, Dr. Hannigan said Dr. Pollard has built a culture of genuine connection throughout the university. "I think what makes her such a good leader is the fact that she listens and she truly cares," he said.

Looking Toward the Next 25 Years

As OSU-Cascades celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, Dr. Pollard believes the institution is entering a vibrant new phase. In the next decade, she sees an opportunity to expand and celebrate what makes OSU-Cascades uniquely Central Oregon, including partnering with regional businesses to benefit both students and employers.

"Innovation doesn't happen in isolation. Some of the most exciting opportunities for Central Oregon will come from researchers, students and business leaders working side-by-side to turn ideas into practical solutions," Dr. Pollard said.

One of the most significant new campus initiatives is the development of the Innovation District, where university researchers, students and private industry will work side-by-side. (See sidebar for more details.)

For local businesses, Dr. Pollard sees tremendous potential. Rather than waiting until students near graduation, OSU-Cascades increasingly aims to integrate employers directly into coursework through real-world projects, mentoring opportunities and internships beginning as early as freshman year.

Health professions, engineering, outdoor products, business and applied research all play significant roles in Central Oregon's economy and on current and future campus programming.

The university's accessible size, she believes, is an advantage for meaningful local business collaboration. Enrollment currently sits at approximately 1,400 students, with long-term planning focused on maintaining the close-knit campus atmosphere.

Campus built environment expansion is also continuing. Dr. Pollard highlighted the recently approved \$42 million in state funding towards an \$84 million project which includes 24 acres of land remediation plus the construction of a Student Health and Recreation Center, expected to open around 2030. At roughly the same time, the first Innovation District buildings are expected to be ready, ushering in an exciting new chapter.

As OSU-Cascades prepares for its next phase, Dr. Pollard hopes the university will continue its rise as a nationally recognized institution uniquely positioned to educate students, fuel innovation and strengthen Central Oregon for decades to come.

"The next 25 years are about expanding our impact through partnerships, innovation, research and student success in ways that benefit the entire region. The future of OSU-Cascades is inseparable from the future of Central Oregon," said Dr. Pollard.

osucascades.edu

Innovation District on the Horizon

by LEAH ETLING — CBN Feature Writer



RENDERINGS | COURTESY OF OSU-CASCADES



OSU-Cascades' forthcoming 24-acre Innovation District is envisioned as a catalyst for economic growth, bringing together businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers and students in a collaborative environment where ideas can move more quickly from concept to commercialization.

Rather than separating academia from industry, the district is designed to create shared spaces where companies can establish laboratories, project work areas and meeting places alongside university researchers, giving students access to real-world projects while helping businesses develop the next generation of talent. An initial focus for industries involved is the biotech, outdoor products and energy sectors.

"We're really doing a great job at having much more of what we call work integrated learning," said Interim Chancellor Dr. Christine Pollard. "We're trying to get students from the first year doing some sort of real-life experience really early on" rather than wait until they near the end of their undergraduate experience.

The goal is for industry partners to work directly with students through classroom projects, internships and collaborative research, creating a win-win relationship that benefits employers, faculty and students alike.

The first phase of the Innovation District is already moving forward. Environmental remediation has been completed on the initial eight acres, infrastructure construction is underway and the university is preparing to partner with a master developer. The company awarded the contract is expected to be announced soon.

Plans call for a mixed-use 60,000 sf commercial building where industry partners can work alongside OSU-Cascades faculty and students, complemented by residential development of on-campus multifamily housing.

The district will also become home to initiatives such as the recently announced Energy Innovation Center, which focuses on advancing energy storage, carbon capture and other emerging technologies.

The ultimate goal is a vibrant hub where education, research and private industry converge to drive entrepreneurship, workforce development and innovation. The approach speaks to Central Oregon's longstanding reputation for cross-industry collaboration, heralded by many business leaders as a characteristic that makes the region unique.

Central Oregon-Based Internet Providers *(Listed Alphabetically)*

Company / Address	Phone	WebSite/Email	Contact	CO Year Est.	Dialup Service	DSL Service	Cable Service	Wireless Service	Residential Cost (monthly)	Business Cost (monthly)	Areas Covered	Services
Central Oregon Internet 740 NE Third St., Ste. 3 Pmb 213 Bend, OR 97701	541-389-1303	www.coinet.com sales@coinet.com	Gary Mart	1997	Yes	Yes	No	No (only wireless router)	Starting at \$10	Starting at \$10	Central Oregon within calling area.	High-speed DSL, dial-up accounts, domain registration, website storage, website development & voice over IP, virus removal, spyware, spam services, upgrades, business phone systems.
Lightspeed Networks 258 SE Salmon Dr. Redmond, OR 97756	541-527-1605	www.lsnetworks.net sales@lsnetworks.net	Guy Harrelson	2005	No	No	No	No	N/A	Call for pricing & availability.	Oregon, Southern Washington	Providing high-speed fiber internet, hosted VoIP phone systems, unified communications, Ethernet transport & scalable business connectivity solutions. Powered by a fully redundant fiber network & supported by 24/7 proactive monitoring, local technical expertise & exceptional customer service.
TDS 63090 Sherman Rd. Bend, OR 97703	855-696-8368	www.HelloTDS.com	Customer Service	1969	No	No	Yes	No	Call for the latest rates & promotions.	Call for the latest rates & promotions.	Internet/Telecom: Bend, Crooked River Ranch, Culver, La Pine, Madras, Metolius, Prineville, Redmond, Sisters, Sunriver, Terrebonne, Tumalo.	Full-service telecommunications company providing internet, phone, TV, data backup & restore, T-1, PRI, fiber, cloud & colocation services.
Vero Fiber 136 NW Greenwood Ave. Bend, OR 97703	541-585-8385	www.verofiber.com marketing@verofiber.com	Customer Service	2003	No	No	No	Yes	Competitively priced residential fiber internet & phone.	Competitively priced business phone & internet.	USA with a focus in Central Oregon	At Vero Fiber, we believe internet service should be fast, reliable, affordable & backed by real people who care. We invest in cutting-edge fiber infrastructure, offer local customer support & are committed to delivering an exceptional experience that saves you money every month.
Webformix 67 NW Hawthorne Ave. Bend, OR 97703	541-385-8532	www.webformix.com info@webformix.com	Eric Ozrelic	2004	No	No	No	Yes	\$35-\$150	\$35-\$150	Bend, Redmond, Madras, Prineville, Sisters, Culver, Three Rivers, Crooked River Ranch, Terrebonne, Alfalfa, Powell Butte, Grants Pass, Merlin & Rogue River.	Residential & business highspeed internet.
Yellowknife Wireless Company, LLC 1259 NE Second St., Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97701	541-385-0111	www.ykwc.com info@ykwc.com	Chris Cappuccio	2005	No	No	No	Yes	Internet starting at \$49.95/month; unlimited local & long distance phone service starting at \$27.00/month.	Internet starting at \$59.95/month; unlimited local & long distance phone service starting at \$40.00/month.	From Bend to Tumalo, Sisters, Brothers, Eagle Crest, Redmond, Crooked River Ranch, Terrebonne, Powell Butte, Alfalfa, Sunriver, La Pine, Gilchrist, Crescent, Madras, Culver, Prineville, Millican, Crescent Lake, Chemult	Residential high-speed rural internet. 1 & 10 Gigabit speeds available for business. Phone lines, server co-location & other custom services available.

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

NIGHTLY BUSINESS PATROLS

98.45% CLIENT RETENTION RATE



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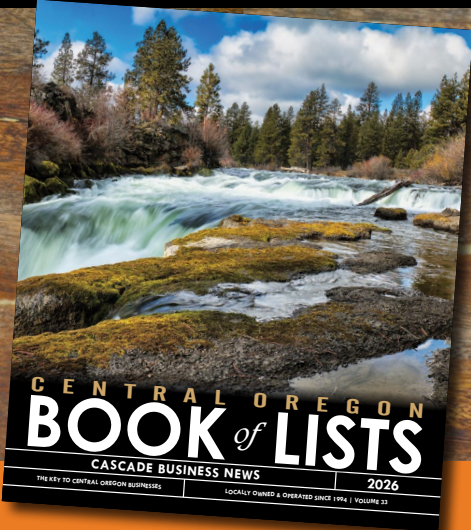
541-330-0404

info@securityprosbend.com

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Who Owns the Network Your Business Depends On?

Central Oregon's Fiber History Offers a Lesson in Local Accountability, Infrastructure Investment & Business Resilience

by GUY HARRELSON, Sales Director, Lightspeed Networks

Do you know who owns your internet provider?

Most business owners don't. They tend to think about ownership only after a provider is acquired, local support changes, or promised network investments fail to materialize. This matters because major broadband providers across the Pacific Northwest have been shifting hands lately, through transactions often decided far from the communities affected by them.

Lightspeed Networks has a different story. It started twenty years ago, right here in Central Oregon.

In 2005, no commercial carrier was willing to invest in fiber infrastructure across this region. Central Oregon simply didn't pencil out on a national spreadsheet. The region was too rural, too spread out, and too far from the population density required to justify a conventional fiber build. The region couldn't afford to wait for that math to change, so a handful of local organizations decided to change it themselves.

Five rural electric cooperatives and the Coquille Indian Tribe looked at that gap and made a decision most companies never have to make: build it themselves, or watch their communities fall further behind. They understood that reliable connectivity was essential to economic growth, education, and healthcare access.

So, they put up the capital, took on the risk, and built the network Central Oregon has relied on ever since. Lightspeed Networks exists because they refused to wait for permission. In the years since, that same commitment has extended service to schools, hospitals, and businesses in parts of the region larger providers have historically underserved.

The founders have since moved on but the legacy and culture that pioneered the network in central Oregon persists today, and every decision about investment, service, and growth gets made with Central Oregon's best interests in mind.

Ownership Is the Difference

Every provider in this market is talking about speed and bandwidth right now. Almost none of them are talking about who owns the network behind those claims. And too few businesses are asking the questions that actually matter: Who picks up the phone when something breaks? Who reinvests in the network and the communities that depend on it? Who's still going to be here in twenty years?

We do. Our network isn't an asset waiting for the next ownership cycle. It was



PHOTO | COURTESY OF LIGHTSPEED NETWORKS

built to serve this region for the long term, and it remains accountable to the people who use it.

That's why ownership should be part of every provider evaluation. It may not appear on a proposal, but it can shape what happens after the contract is signed. Business leaders should ask who owns the network, where investment decisions are made, who has authority during a service disruption, and what happens to service commitments if local operation changes.

Local accountability like this matters more than ever, because Central Oregon isn't standing still. Redmond's airport is mid-expansion, and Prineville keeps drawing interest as a data center hub. Growth like that needs a network partner making long-term infrastructure decisions with the region's future in mind.

Lightspeed Networks is that partner for the clinic that can't afford network downtime, the school district connecting classrooms across three counties, and the manufacturer moving data as fast as the region grows. When any of them calls with a problem, it's answered by people who live here, send their kids to the same schools, and have a stake in whether Central Oregon keeps growing the right way.

Local operations also shorten the distance between a customer's problem and the people empowered to solve it. For Bend Park and Recreation District, that meant finding a way to connect five recreation and office facilities within budget, despite several obstacles.

Central Oregon built its own network because the region couldn't afford to wait. The people making decisions about the network's future have a stake in the region's future, too. That's what local accountability looks like.

lsnetworks.net



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MILES OF FIBER

750+
TOWERS

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HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

99.96%
UPTIME

134 COMMUNITIES
CONNECTED



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Powering Business Connectivity Across Oregon
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Computer Products & Services *(Listed Alphabetically)*

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
Aristocat Development Corp 423 NE Clay Ave. Bend, OR 97701	541-389-8145	N/A	www.aristocat.com aristocat@aristocat.com	Larry Hunt	1	1985	Specialized vertical marketing software development.
Cascade Chips Technical Services 19417 Seminole Cir. Bend, OR 97702	541-382-6650	N/A	www.cascadechips.com rick@cascadechips.com	Rick Olson	1	1992	Network design, installation & troubleshooting. Broadcast & studio engineering. Computer sales, service, upgrades, data recovery & virus/spyware removal. PC repair, upgrades, virus & spyware removal, data backup, wireless & wired networking.
Cascade Networking 14 NW Hawthorne Ave. Bend, OR 97703	541-617-0553	N/A	www.cascadenetworking.com info@cascadenetworking.com	Lee Johnson	6	2005	Business IT Consulting, Microsoft 365 solutions, LAN/WAN design & infrastructure, wireless networking, network security, remote access/VPN solutions, cloud hosting, disaster recovery, colocation services & environment proactive monitoring & maintenance services.
Cascade Telecommunications / Cascade IT Services 220 SE Davis Ave. Bend, OR 97702	541-388-5158	541-382-9186	www.cascadetel.com helpdesk@cascadetel.com	Allan Clack	4	1990	Telecommunications, IT Networks, VOIP Networks, IT Managed services network, fiber optic, WAN, multi-site data cabling systems, pre-wire high speed data circuits.
CLASSY KEYS Computer Services, Inc. 20149 Lora Ln. Bend, OR 97702	541-317-1242	541-312-5280	www.ClassyKeys.com evelyn@classykeys.com	Evelyn Whitaker	2	1987	Intuit advanced certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor providing QB consulting, bookkeeping & customization solutions.
Copiers Northwest 20370 Empire Ave., Ste. C8 Bend, OR 97703	541-388-1797	206-282-2010	www.copiersnw.com contact@copiersnw.com	Garrett Coughlin, Jeff Mowbray	4	1986	Canon, HP, Sharp, Lexmark copiers & printers. Sales, supplies & outstanding service. Production printing, wide format, large format, Colorado, Arizona, Duplo. 12 branch offices throughout Oregon & Washington.
Effectual Inc. 320 SW Upper Terrace Dr., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97702	800-991-3011	N/A	www.Effectual.com info@Effectual.com	Robb Allen	350	2019	Effectual is trusted by enterprise & public sector customers to enable digital transformation & full-stack IT modernization. Our Outcome-Based Delivery Model ensures predictable business outcomes that deliver measurable results. Effectual is an AWS Premier Tier Services Partner.

Web Designers & Digital Marketing *(Listed Alphabetically)*

See Advertising Agencies in the Book of Lists for more companies that include web design.

Company / Address	Phone	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
alpine.io Sisters, OR 97759	541-312-4704	alpine.io	Brian Cash	1	1999	Website & app development, hosting, cloud services, support & devops, data-driven results, WordPress development, email & social marketing, webmaster services, webdatabases, consulting services, Apple developer, certified Google Apps partner, certified Google AdWords partner.
Bend Web Design 63109 Turret Ct. Bend, OR 97701	541-678-3668	www.bendwebdesign.com info@bendwebdesign.com	Jason Morgan	1	2014	Web design, search engine optimization, social media marketing, graphic design, IT & more.
fare.well Central Oregon	541-280-4647	www.heyfarewell.com info@heyfarewell.com	Kevin Watkins	5	2016	Web design, webflow CMS, web development, SEO, copywriting, website maintenance, website hosting.
FM Civic Central Oregon	541-420-8603	www.fmcivic.com hello@fmcivic.com	Erin Foote Morgan	5	2021	Web design & development, copy writing, graphic design, content planning, social media management, social media marketing, digital marketing.
Inspired Melissa 60951 McMullin Dr. Bend, OR 97702	541-280-3642	www.inspiredmelissa.com info@inspiredmelissa.com	Melissa McGlenn	1	2012	Beautiful, affordable websites tailored to your business, whether you're starting fresh or ready for a redesign. Unique one-page, multi-page, e-commerce & service-based sites using WordPress, Shopify & Squarespace. Ongoing support includes updates, hosting, maintenance, email management & SEO.
JF Possibilities, Inc. PO Box 1214 La Pine, OR 97739	541-410-2760	www.jfpossibilities.com info@jfpossibilities.com	Jon Foster	2	2003	Server Management, website & application development, consulting & computer security.
LuLish Design 3720 NW 25th St. Redmond, OR 97756	541-350-0594	www.LuLish.com lynnette@lulish.com	Lynnette Braillard	2	2005	Full-service agency: web development + design, SEO/SEM, digital marketing, marketing plans & strategy, content marketing, PR, copywriting, campaigns & more.
Project 4 Home Office in La Pine, OR 97739	541-306-9979	www.project4marketing.com stephanie@project4marketing.com	Stephanie Shaver	7	2020	Website design, development & maintenance. SEO. Social media management.
SMARTZ 917 NW Harriman St., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97701	541-388-4398	www.smartz.com sales@smartz.com	Mark Knowles	22	1987	Smartz can help your business with paid marketing, creative web design, development & disciplined web marketing principles to deliver bright, meaningful results & ROI. Certified Google Premier Partner.
Studio Absolute 65400 Hwy. 20 Bend, OR 97703	541-280-6836	www.studioabsolute.com russ@studioabsolute.com	Russ McIntosh	3	2009	Graphic design, branding, website design, photography services for architecture, lifestyle, food & beverage & product.
The Garage, Inc. PO Box 8531 Bend, OR 97708	541-977-2827	www.thegarageinc.com art@thegarageinc.com	Marie Wirtz, Art Wirtz	3	1996	Website design, web marketing, Wordpress CMS, custom CMS development, SEO/user experience.
Web Mentors 160 S Oak St., Ste. 414 PO Box 3500-414 Sisters, OR 97759	541-408-1693	www.webmentors.com michael@webmentors.com	Michael Curry	3	2002	eBusiness solutions for strategic direction, new websites, updated branding, logo & search engine optimization.
WebBlox Bend, OR 97703	541-848-7749	www.webblox.com paul@webblox.com	Paul Ruetters	3	2012	Custom web design, web development, content management system, search engine optimization, social media, e-commerce.

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

Computer Products & Services *(Listed Alphabetically)*

▶ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
Evolution Software Design, Inc. 64739 Alcor Place Bend, OR 97703	541-350-6408	N/A	www.evolutionsoftware.com gerfen@evolutionsoftware.com	Michael Gerfen	3	2003	Technology partner for ecommerce, web, cross-platform mobile & enterprise software projects.
GreenLoop IT Solutions 61383 S Hwy. 97, Ste. C Bend, OR 97702	541-749-1105	480-968-5541	www.greenloopsolutions.com info@greenloopsolutions.com	Peter Wheary	20	2011	Provides managed & co-managed IT support, cybersecurity & consulting services to growing businesses with 20-100 employees in the financial, construction & real-estate development, health-care, manufacturing & nonprofit sectors who rely on the Microsoft tech stack as their core communication & authentication backbone.
JF Possibilities, Inc. PO Box 1214 La Pine, OR 97739	541-410-2760	N/A	www.jfpossibilities.com info@jfpossibilities.com	Jon Foster	2	2003	Server Management, website & application development, consulting & computer security.
MPS Consulting 575 SE Ninth St., Ste. 7 Bend, OR 97702	541-389-9430	N/A	www.mpsconsulting.com michael@mpsconsulting.com	Michael P. Sullivan	3	1990	MPS Consulting provides consulting & training on all aspects of life with Apple Technology: desktop & laptop Macs, iPhones, iPads, Apple Watches & Apple TVs... purchases, data transfers, syncing & data recovery, secure remote support & tutoring, virus removal, network management, security & password training, managed off-site backups, from complete IT services to customized solutions for personal users.
Nine Peaks Solutions LLC 740 NE Third St., Ste. 3225 Bend, OR 97701	541-797-7595	270-912-6554	NinePeaksSolutions.com EMailUs@NinePeaksSolutions.com	Eric D. Skidmore	10	2015	Technology consulting & services firm working with business solutions & Microsoft SQL Server software. Organization is an authorized platinum level solution provider of Laserfiche, an enterprise content management, records management & paperless workflow system; also partner with Microsoft, Adobe, DocuSign, Dell EMC, Epson, Kodak Alaris, Dropbox & SIGNiX. Extensive payroll & human resources application consulting experience.
Paul the Computer Guy 354 NE Greenwood Ave., Ste. 103 Bend, OR 97703	541-330-0610	N/A	www.paulthecomputerguy.com paul@paulthecomputerguy.com	Paul Spencer	2	2005	Computer repair for PC & Mac. Walk-in & on-site service for business or home. Virus removal, tune-ups, wireless setup, data recovery, backups & more.
Printer Resources & Recycling, LLC 2669 NE Twin Knolls Dr., Ste. 205 Bend, OR 97701	541-318-5211	N/A	www.MyPrinterResources.com frank@myprinterresources.com	Jennifer Clark, Mark Giltner, Frank Patka, Mickey Meszaro	5	2000	Printer, multifunction, copier, plotter service & supplies. Discounted quality toner & inks, E-waste recycling services - printers, faxes, desktop copiers, computers, monitors, toners, inks, cell phones, home batteries; IT services.
Solutions YES 888 NW Hill, Ste. 3 Bend, OR 97703	541-306-2222	N/A	www.solutionsyes.com sean.bell@solutionsyes.com	Sean Bell, Dave Pfaff	40	2011	Supplier of Canon & Kyocera multifunction printers, desktop printers, scanners, wide format printers, fax servers, secure document portals, document management systems & AI as a service for process automation.
Steven Floyd Consulting, Inc. 20360 Empire Ave., Ste. B7 Bend, OR 97703	541-330-0930	541-330-0949	sfcband.com sfloyd@sfcband.com	Steven Floyd	4	1996	Networking, computer maintenance & repair, virus removal & data recovery for MAC & PC computers.
TEKsystems 900 NW Mt. Washington Dr., Ste. 210 Bend, OR 97701	458-206-2244	N/A	www.teksystems.com kdrake@teksystems.com	Kelly Ulinski	6	2001	IT staffing & services.
TKO Computers, Inc. PO Box 664 Bend, OR 97709	541-317-8484	N/A	www.tkocomputers.com todd@tkocomputers.com	Todd Konwinski	2	2003	Computer sales & service, business & network support, custom built laptops & desktops.
Velonex Technologies 2214 NE Division, Ste. 201 Bend, OR 97703	541-383-2340	541-383-2350	www.velonexit.com contact@velonexit.com	Brock McFarlane, Jake Ortman	90	2026	MSPVerify audited, CMMC trained, people-focused, SLA-driven, consistent & well-executed tech support & IT services. Provides proactive maintenance, vCIO, Office 365 & cloud solutions to reduce downtime & increase security & productivity.
William Sillas Computer Services Bend, OR 97701	541-350-4810	N/A	protechbend@live.com	William Sillas	1	1999	Upgrades, networking, repair, system diagnostics, system maintenance, Virus & spyware removal, wireless support & setups, new system sales & service.

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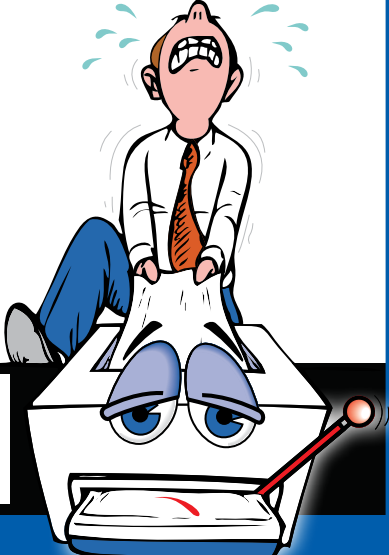
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Compass Commercial Construction welcomes **Gary North** as vice president of construction. North brings more than 30 years of commercial construction leadership experience to the company, where he will oversee the continued growth of the construction division while strengthening relationships with clients, industry partners, and the Central Oregon development community.

North spent approximately 25 years with R&H Construction, advancing from project manager to vice president and partner. During his first decade with the firm, he was based in Portland and periodically traveled to Central Oregon to oversee projects. He relocated to Bend full time in 2011 and spent the next 16 years leading the company's Central Oregon division, helping grow its annual revenue from approximately \$5 million to \$50 million while overseeing projects ranging from tenant improvements to multifamily, hospitality, and large-scale commercial developments. Throughout his career, North has built a reputation for transparent communication, trusted partnerships, and delivering successful projects that generate long-term client relationships.

One project that exemplifies North's approach to construction began with a simple conversation. After making Bend his full-time home in 2011, he met the owner of Sunriver Brewing while visiting the brewery. That organic introduction developed into a trusted relationship and ultimately led to North's team constructing the company's brewery, converting what had once been a storage unit into a thriving production facility. For North, the project reinforced a lesson that has shaped his career: strong relationships built on trust often create the greatest opportunities.

North is particularly excited about the opportunity to expand Compass Commercial Construction while leveraging the unique collaboration between the company's brokerage, property management, and construction divisions. He believes that bringing these services together under one roof creates meaningful value for clients throughout every stage of the commercial real estate process.

Central Oregon Community College's (COCC) Keith Sherrill, who oversees the Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) small business management program, has been named a 2026 Pat Tillman Scholar. The national honor, which recognizes leadership impact and service to others, awards academic aid to approximately 60 U.S. military service members, veterans or spouses each year. Fewer than 3% of applicants are selected.

Sherrill, a former U.S. Army Ranger and member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, has been the SBDC small business management program coordinator since 2023. He is currently in his second year of Ph.D. studies at Mississippi State University's community college leadership program.

Among other initiatives at COCC, Sherrill helped launch a program in Central Oregon called Startup Training Resources to Inspire Veteran Entrepreneurship, developed by Syracuse University, one of just eight in the nation. The program helps veterans successfully launch their own business and connect with mentorship.

COCC also announced that the board of directors recently selected member **Jim Porter** to chair the seven-person board for the 2026-27 year. Erin Merz will serve as vice chair of the board.

A former Bend Police chief, Porter represents Zone 6, most of northwest Deschutes County, and will serve as chair through June of 2027. He has served on the COCC board since 2023, holding the position of vice chair for the past year. Porter's college education began at COCC, where he later returned to teach criminal justice for a time. He also serves as board chair for Central Oregon Villages, a nonprofit that develops and operates temporary mini shelter homes. He has lived in Bend since 1991.

Board member **Erin Merz** of Bend represents Zone 5, which encompasses the central and south portions of the city. Merz is the marketing and communications director at Cascades Academy and has been a resident of Bend since 2020.



Jessica Higgins



Paul MaMillan

an integral role in its growth and long-term success. During his service, HDCM expanded its acclaimed concert series, launched new educational outreach initiatives, introduced the Celebrity Recital Series, and significantly increased its impact throughout Central Oregon. His thoughtful leadership, sound financial guidance, and steadfast commitment to HDCM's mission have helped position the organization for continued success.

Higgins, founder and managing partner of Invera Wealth Advisors LLC, will assume the role of Board treasurer. Higgins brings extensive experience in financial planning, wealth management, and nonprofit leadership. Prior to founding Invera



Keith Sherrill



Jim Porter



Erin Merz

High Desert Chamber Music (HDCM) announces the appointment of **Jessica Higgins** and **Paul MaMillan** to its Board of Directors while recognizing the dedicated service of longtime Treasurer and Board member **Rick Samco**, who concludes his board service after 15 years of leadership.

Samco joined the HDCM Board of Directors in 2011 and has faithfully served as treasurer throughout much of his tenure. Over the past 15 years, he has helped guide the organization's financial stewardship while playing

Wealth Advisors, she served as senior investment management specialist with Integre Wealth Management of Raymond James and previously worked as program manager for Humane Society International.

MacMillan is the vice president at Washington Trust Bank. Prior to joining Washington Trust Bank, he served as vice president at Bank of the Cascades and First Interstate Bank. MacMillan has also demonstrated a longstanding commitment to community service through his board leadership with Abilitree and Saving Grace.

Isaac Wanasika has joined **Linfield University** as dean of the School of Business. Wanasika joins Linfield after 16 years at the University of Northern Colorado. Most recently, he served as chair of the Department of Management and Hospitality and Event Management. He also served as professor of management. His career combines more than 15 years in higher education with 12 years at Royal Dutch Shell. Combined, those experiences give him a unique perspective on connecting classroom learning with today's business environment.

As dean, Wanasika will lead a School of Business recognized for preparing ethical, innovative leaders. Its personalized education is grounded in the liberal arts. In recent years, the school has earned repeated recognition from Colleges of Distinction for its strong teaching, experiential learning and career preparation. Undergraduate and graduate programs prepare students for careers across fields including accounting, finance, management, marketing, sport management and wine business. Across each program, students develop integrity, global awareness and hands-on experience.

Wanasika succeeds Jennifer Madden, the inaugural dean of Linfield's School of Business, who helped shape the school's identity and expand its academic offerings. Madden served from the school's inception in 2020 until 2025.

Throughout his career, Wanasika has championed innovation in business education. At the University of Northern Colorado, he transformed and expanded academic opportunities in areas including data analytics, hospitality and event management, and the executive MBA program. In addition, Wanasika developed entrepreneurship curricula across campus, a degree-completion pathway for adult learners and embedded microcredentials for career readiness.

Beyond academic program development, Wanasika has raised external funds and built strong partnerships between higher education, business, government and nonprofits. He founded the Weld Startup Ecosystem, a community collaboration in Colorado that strengthens entrepreneurship and regional economic development.

As dean, Wanasika will work closely with faculty, staff, students, alumni and business leaders. Together, they will strengthen experiential learning, cultivate strategic partnerships and expand the school's impact throughout Oregon and beyond. Building on Linfield's tradition of personalized education, he will help prepare graduates to lead organizations, launch ventures and contribute to their communities with integrity and purpose.

Bend Wealth Advisors welcomes **Cindy Hayes**, CFA, as its newest financial advisor. With more than 20 years of experience in corporate finance, strategic planning, valuation, and business advisory services across the U.S., New Zealand, and Japan, Hayes brings extensive expertise to the practice. She spent over a decade at Nike in finance leadership roles supporting strategic investments, financial planning, and global marketplace initiatives. Hayes has a particular passion for helping business owners gain clarity around financial decisions, improve operational efficiency, and achieve long-term goals. Known for her thoughtful, collaborative approach, she helps clients navigate complex financial matters with confidence and direction.

Bend Wealth Advisors also welcomes **Clay Trenz** and **Amanda Brinduse** to the practice following the merger with Acuity Wealth Advisors. Trenz joins as a financial advisor, bringing more than 20 years of experience and a disciplined, evidence-based approach to financial planning and investment strategy. Founder of Acuity Wealth Advisors in 2011, he has helped individuals, families, and businesses throughout Central Oregon pursue long-term financial goals with confidence. Brinduse joins as client relationship manager, leveraging nearly a decade of industry experience to provide exceptional client service, operational support, and personalized care. Together, they strengthen Bend Wealth's commitment to delivering trusted advice and outstanding client experiences.



Wendy Graunitz

financial futures. She regularly supports



Cindy Hayes



Clay Trenz



Amanda Brinduse

The **Family Access Network (FAN)** welcomes new Board of Directors member **Wendy Graunitz** of Bend. Graunitz brings over 30 years of experience in the financial industry, currently working as a mortgage loan officer at OnPoint Community Credit Union. Her financial background and commitment to serving the families of Central Oregon bring immense value to the Board. The FAN Foundation is the 501(c)(3) arm of FAN, founded in 2006 to support the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Family Access Network program.

Graunitz is passionate about investing in her community through volunteerism and financial education, believing that knowledge and access to resources empower people to build stronger

More Who's Who Next Page ►

Mid Oregon Receives Fifth Crystal Performance Award

by KYLE FRICK, SVP of Marketing & Community Relations — Mid Oregon Credit Union

Mid Oregon Credit Union received a 2025 Crystal Performance Award from Raddon. Raddon presents these prestigious awards each year to the participants in their Performance Analytics program. The outstanding institutions of 2025 are among the top three percent of institutions analyzed by Raddon, a Fiserv company.

Each recipient credit union was selected based on an analysis of key performance metrics focused on service, member relationships, sales, and financial soundness within their asset class on the Raddon Performance Index. Mid Oregon has received the Crystal Performance Award five times since 2020.

"It is a great honor to be recognized for the fifth year," said Kevin Cole, president and CEO of Mid Oregon. "This level of sustained excellence is a testament to the work our team does every day to build relationships that positively impact our members and the communities in which we operate. We are so honored that Central Oregonians have chosen Mid Oregon Credit Union and entrusted us to help them meet their financial goals."

"We applaud these organizations and their commitment to innovation, operational excellence, driving growth, and creating meaningful impact within their communities," said Bill Handel, general

manager, and chief economist at Raddon. "At Raddon, we are proud to partner with credit unions that set the standard for success in the credit union industry."

Mid Oregon Credit Union is a member-owned, full-service financial cooperative serving Central Oregon since 1957. With more than 53,000 members and over \$917 million in assets, Mid Oregon focuses on building relationships that positively impact people and communities. Beginning in 2026 the field of membership for Mid Oregon expanded to encompass 24 Oregon Counties. The credit union has been recognized as a Top Workplace in Oregon and Southwest Washington for four consecutive years, including 2025, and ranked the #1 credit union in Oregon by *Forbes* in 2023, 2024, and 2025. It also received the *Bend Bulletin's* Best of the Best Community Choice Award in the credit union category for 2023–2025.

Raddon, a Fiserv company, has been providing financial institutions with research-based solutions since 1983. Raddon works exclusively with financial institutions and has a unique understanding of the industry, resulting in the ability to apply practical know-how to the challenges and opportunities financial institutions face. Raddon combines best practices in



(L-R) KYLE FRICK, SR VP MARKETING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS; JEFF SANDERS, VP INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; ROBERT DENNIS, SR VP RISK MANAGEMENT; SARAH HIX, SR VP FINANCE; KEVIN COLE, PRESIDENT AND CEO; TINA AMATO, VP BRANCH SERVICES; KARI JOEL, VP HUMAN RESOURCES; MITZI SMITH, VP DIGITAL DELIVERY; DESIREE WALKER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT/CEO; MATT MITCHELL, CHIEF LENDING OFFICER | PHOTO COURTESY OF MID OREGON CREDIT UNION

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Healing Reins Receives \$25,000 Donation from First Interstate Bank's Believe in Local Campaign

by RYAN ASBURY

Healing Reins recently received a \$25,000 gift from First Interstate Bank and the First Interstate BancSystem Foundation as part of their fifth-annual Believe in Local grant campaign.

Serving children, teens, and adults ages 4 to 94, Healing Reins provides adaptive equine and outdoor-based therapeutic services designed to support emotional, physical, and mental well-being. Each week, more than 250 participants engage in programs ranging from adaptive riding and horsemanship to equine-assisted mental health services and ranch-based occupational therapy. These services support individuals navigating a wide range of challenges, including autism, PTSD, anxiety, depression, developmental disabilities, behavioral challenges, traumatic brain injuries, and emotional trauma. Led by certified instructors, licensed therapists, and supported by more than 200 dedicated volunteers, Healing Reins creates an environment where participants can build confidence, independence, connection, and hope. Their work extends beyond the arena, partnering with families, healthcare providers, and community organizations to ensure each participant receives

individualized support. "This support helps us ensure that more children, adults, and families can access these life-changing services regardless of their circumstances," said Polly Cohen, executive director of Healing Reins. Five employees from First Interstate's Bend area, including Lynn Spinoglio, senior commercial relationship manager, nominated Healing Reins for the donation. "Believe in Local has been a cornerstone of who we are for five years now," Spinoglio said, "and it never gets old to celebrate nonprofit organizations like Healing Reins that are making a real difference in the places we all call home. Bend is better because of the work they do, and First Interstate is proud to invest in that mission." First Interstate launched the Believe in Local campaign in 2022 to celebrate the Bank's longstanding commitment to the communities it serves. Each year, 40 nonprofit organizations across the Bank's ten-state footprint receive a \$25,000 gift in support of their mission. That results in a total of \$1 million given to nonprofits in the Bank's communities. Healing Reins was selected from a



PHOTO | COURTESY OF HEALING REINS

pool of over 640 nominations thanks to its alignment with the Bank's philanthropic goals.

Through the Believe in Local campaign and other community involvement, First Interstate directs a meaningful portion of our earnings back into the communities we serve. These funds aid in the improvement of workforce development, boost early childhood education, and help mitigate poverty.

healingreins.org
firstinterstate.com/believeinlocal
firstinterstate.com

Who's Who

Continued from previous page

youth and community members by sharing practical financial guidance and encouraging financial confidence. Outside of her professional life, Graunitz enjoys spending time outdoors and taking advantage of Oregon's sunshine.

Commission Chair **Dennis Doherty** has retired after more than four years of service to the **Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission** (OLCC), including nearly three years as its Chair. Commissioner **Alicia Hays** has been appointed by Governor Tina Kotek to serve as the Commission's next Chair, ensuring continued leadership as the agency maintains its mission of protecting public health and safety while serving Oregon's alcohol and cannabis industries. This change was effective June 24, 2026.

Doherty joined the Commission in 2022 in one of the most challenging periods in the agency's history. He later became Commission Chair in October 2023, and under his leadership, the Commission helped restore stability following a leadership transition while also taking steps to improve governance and transparency and restore public trust.

During his tenure as chair, the Commission appointed an executive director, oversaw significant progress on the agency's new 350,000-square-foot distilled spirits distribution warehouse in Canby; advanced the implementation of the Cannabis and Alcohol Management Program (CAMP); expanded the Commission from seven to nine members; and continued modernization efforts that positioned the agency for long-term success.

To this new role, Hays brings both her three years of service as an OLCC

Commissioner during a very busy time for the agency and her impressive public service background.

Hays joined the Commission in October 2023 and brings more than three decades of leadership in public health and human services. She retired as director of Lane County Health & Human Services after a distinguished career focused on behavioral health, disability services, public health, juvenile justice, and programs supporting children and families. A longtime advocate for equity and inclusion, Hays also served four terms on the Eugene School Board and was recognized as Oregon School Board Member of the Year in 2020.

As Chair, Hays will lead the Commission as it continues to modernize agency operations, strengthen regulatory oversight and ensure Oregon's alcohol and cannabis industries are regulated in a manner that protects public health and safety while supporting responsible businesses throughout the state.

Doherty's retirement marks the conclusion of a transformational chapter for the Commission. It's part of a new beginning, an era of leadership focused on continuing the agency's progress and commitment to its mission, ensuring all Oregonians can enjoy the benefits of our well-regulated system for generations to come. That's Oregon's way.

The **Bend-LaPine Education Foundation** announces a recent grant award from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation. The \$5,000 award will help to fund the Foundation's Classroom Enrichment projects.

The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians has a longstanding tradition of supporting its communities. In 1997, the Tribe formalized this commitment by creating a grantmaking foundation. The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations that serve the public in Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lane counties. Its primary areas of support include basic needs, abuse prevention and intervention, education, health and wellness, and community support.

How to Support Oregon Wildlife During Fire Season

by **MOLLY HONEA, Development & Communications Manager — Think Wild Central Oregon**

As summer heats up, wildfire season is back in Central Oregon, with wildfires throughout the state causing evacuations, poor air quality, and concerns around life and property. At Think Wild, Central Oregon’s wildlife hospital and conservation center, nearby fires including the Akawa Butte and Brewer Fires along the Jefferson-Deschutes County line, and the Rowe Creek Complex to the north, and associated poor air quality have renewed questions around how wildfires affect Oregon wildlife and how people can help.

Fortunately, Oregon’s native species are adapted to forest fires, but that doesn’t mean that many won’t suffer or lose their lives. Wildfires cause immediate habitat loss and potential die-offs, and they change ecosystem structure for years to come. Some species that depend on mature forests — tree cavity-nesting owls, for example — may experience population reductions while those that thrive in young forests, like songbirds and burrowing mammals, may increase.

In the short term, with the severity and scale of the current wildfires, wildlife may be more likely to enter urban areas and exhibit unusual behavior while fleeing smoke and fire over the next few weeks. They will also be in search of food resources, which will be significantly depleted in the immediate aftermath of the fire.

“It’s mid-July, which means we’re right in the middle of nesting and baby season. Our hospital is admitting new baby birds and mammals every single day,” said Sally Compton, Think Wild Executive Director. “That makes this an especially vulnerable time for wildlife to face fire. Nestlings, fledglings, and young mammals are less able to flee smoke and flames than adults, and a fire moving through nesting habitat can separate or orphan young animals very quickly. On top of that, fires diminish territories and available habitat, making resources more scarce and increasing competition, which is especially hard on young wildlife still learning to hunt or forage.”

Heat, wildfire, and poor air quality can also have similar effects on wildlife that we experience ourselves. “During times of extreme heat or poor air quality, animals may experience dehydration, heat exhaustion, general disorientation, and respiratory issues,” said Think Wild’s Interim Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Savanna Scheiner. She advises people to “watch for wildlife traveling through your property and along roadways fleeing fire, seeking shelter and looking for food and water. Drive slowly, and do not panic or approach these animals. If necessary, monitor at a safe distance. If you notice wildlife exhibiting odd behaviors or come across a nest or young animal that appears abandoned or injured, please contact your local wildlife rehabilitation center before intervening.”

As wildfire seasons become longer and more severe, healthy riparian ecosystems are increasingly important for protecting wildlife and reducing the impacts of fire across the landscape. Through Think Wild’s Beaver Works Oregon program, we restore these critical waterways by installing Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) and planting native vegetation to support beaver population recovery and the natural processes that create more fire-resilient habitats. BDAs, along with natural beaver dams, slow water flow and increase water retention in creek systems, creating wetter floodplains that are less susceptible to wildfire. These restored wetlands also provide critical refuge for wildlife fleeing fires in drier upland habitats, offering food, cover, and water when



AKAWA BUTTE FIRE, CROOKED RIVER RANCH | PHOTO BY AMANDA CARDENAS, THINK WILD BOARD DIRECTOR

surrounding landscapes are burning.

“Restoring riparian habitat, so beavers can move in and take over, is one of the most effective things we can do for fire resilience,” said Dr. Maureen Thompson, Think Wild’s Beaver Works Oregon program manager. “More late-season water impoundments (AKA beaver dams) mean more fire resilience for everyone who lives nearby, human and wildlife alike.”

This work has never been more important. In fact, this week Think Wild was forced to cancel an in-stream restoration project because an active wildfire near the project area created unsafe conditions for volunteers. As fire seasons become longer and more severe, restoring these natural, fire-resilient ecosystems is becoming both more urgent and more challenging.

- Here are some ways that you can support native wildlife during fire season:
- **Do not feed wildlife.** Human food can cause harm and encourage animals to remain in urban areas where they’re more likely to come into conflict with humans. If you maintain a bird feeder, clean it regularly to help prevent the spread of disease.
 - **Provide clean water.** A shallow dish or bird bath placed away from your home can provide a much-needed drinking source during hot, dry weather. Refresh the water frequently to keep it clean and reduce mosquito breeding.
 - **Make backyard water features wildlife-friendly.** If you have a pond, trough, or other water feature, ensure wildlife can safely climb out by adding rocks, branches, logs, or wildlife escape ramps.
 - **Protect your pets and wildlife.** Keep cats indoors and dogs leashed or supervised,

Continued on Next Page ►

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BUSINESS
EVENTS



August 5
5pm City of Bend Virtual and In-Person City Council Meeting at Bend City Hall Council Chambers.

August 6
11:45am-1pm Connect W Munch & Mingle at Feast Food Co.

August 11
10-11am Bend Chamber Membership 101 at Bend Chamber Conference Room.

August 13
8-9am Madras - Jefferson County Chamber Coffee Cuppers at Carolyn’s Coffee.

August 13
10-11:30am Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Team Meeting at Jefferson County Commissioners Office.

August 13
11:45am-1pm Connect W Munch & Mingle at Currents at The Riverhouse.

August 15
10am-6pm Bend Chamber Ribbon Cutting and Grand Re-Opening at Rise Modern Wellness.

August 18
11:30am-1pm Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Team Meeting at Warm Springs Resource Center.

August 18
5-6:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Redmond Library.

August 19
1-3pm The Cascades East Transit (CET) Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee Meeting at Cascades East Transit, Hawthorne Conference Room, Bend.

August 19
4-6pm Raise the Deschutes Tour: Flows and Farms in a Changing Landscape, Deschutes River Conservancy: Flows and Farms in a Changing Landscape, at Fields Farm, Bend.

August 19
5-7pm Connect W’s Food Cart Social at River’s Place.

August 20
10-11:30am Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Team Meeting at Cascades East Transit, Hawthorne Conference Room, Bend.

August 20
11:30am-1pm City Club August Forum, Redefining the Region: Urban Renewal in Central Oregon, at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

September 8
8-9:30am Bend Chamber Commerce & Coffee at Bend Magazine.

September 8
5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.

September 9
4-6pm Bend Chamber Bend ET Expert Lab: Value-Driven and Empathic Conversations in the Workplace at COCC.

September 15
5-6:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Redmond Library.

September 22
5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.

October 13
5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.

WORKSHOPS
& TRAINING



(Ongoing)
COCC Small Business Development Center Virtual Classes.

Building Permits

DESCHUTES COUNTY 7.14.26 & 7.21.26 & 7.28.26

\$849,728.00	-	Commercial (New) 6,400 sf. at 63205 Gibson Air Rd. Bend 97701 OR Owner: Aero Facilities, LLC 62765 Powell Butte Hwy Bend, OR 97701 Permit # 247-26-001645
\$2,036,822.00	-	Commercial (New) 11,224 sf. at 5801 Northwest Way Redmond 97756 OR Owner: City of Redmond 411 SW 9th St. Redmond, OR 97756 Permit # 247-26-001360
\$174,000.00	-	Commercial (Tenant Improvement) at 155 W Lundgren Mil Dr. Sisters 97759 OR Owner: Lundgren Mill Lots, LLC 865 Ellis Ave. Lake Oswego, OR 97034 Permit # 247-26-003480
\$75,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) at 19310 Tumalo Reservoir Rd. Bend 97703 OR Owner: AT & T 64697 Cook Bend, OR 97703 Builder: Ericsson, Inc. 469-266-1818 Permit # 247-26-003156
\$25,000.00	-	Commercial (New) 160 sf. at 7505 NW Eagle Dr. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: MX13 7505 NW Eagle Dr. Redmond, OR 97756 Permit # 247-26-002338

CITY OF REDMOND 7.14.26 & 7.21.26 & 7.28.26

\$300,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) at 657 SW Glacier Ave. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: Personalized Learning, Inc. 628 SW Glacier Ave. Redmond, OR 97756 Builder: Keeton King Contracting, LLC 541-923-0704 Permit # 711-26-001511
\$35,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) at 3800 SW Airport Way Redmond 97756 OR Owner: Deschutes County PO Box 6005 Bend, OR 97708 Builder: Pilgrim Communications, Inc. 253-887-8464 Permit # 711-26-001510
\$340,805.00	-	Commercial (New) 1,600 sf. at 1938 SW Elkhorn Ave. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: City of Redmond 411 SW 9th St. Redmond, OR 97756 Builder: Bar Seven A Companies, Inc. 541-548-4747 Permit # 711-26-001492
\$96,655.00	-	Commercial (New) 1,025 sf. at 465 SW Rimrock Way Redmond 97756 OR Owner: School District #2J 145 SE Salmon Dr. Redmond, OR 97756 Permit # 711-26-001520

CITY OF BEND 7.14.26 & 7.21.26 & 7.28.26

\$500,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) 111 sf. at 63455 N Hwy 97 Ste. 4 Bend 97703 OR Owner: CVSC, LLC Builder: J. Hughes Construction, Inc. 425-745-6341 Permit # PRRE202504402
\$90,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) 16,933 sf. at 395 SW Bluff Dr. Ste. 110 Bend 97702 OR Owner: Old Mill Holdings, LLC Builder: Fortress Group, Inc. 541-320-7000 Permit # PRRE202602126
\$30,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) at 61170 27th St. Bend 97702 OR Owner: Multiple Permit # PRRE202602401
\$28,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) 809 sf. at 1314 NW Galveston Ave. Bend 97703 OR Owner: Pines by the Pond, LLC Builder: VIP Remodeling, LLC 541-797-9531 Permit # PRRE202602479
\$20,000.00	-	Commercial (Addition) 140 sf. at 1501 NE Neff Rd. Bend 97701 OR Owner: School Dist #1 520 NW Wall St. Bend, OR 97703 Permit # PRAD202604196
\$33,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) 316 sf. at 130 SW Century Dr. Bend 97702 OR Owner: Moran Holding Company, LLC Permit # PRRE202600607
\$231,780.00	-	Commercial (Addition) 2,111 sf. at 62000 Broken Top Dr. Bend 97702 OR Owner: Broken Top Community Club, LLC Builder: Kellcon, Inc. 541-312-4034 Permit # PRAD202601470
\$60,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) 12,335 sf. at 395 SW Bluff Dr. Ste. 30 Bend 97702 OR Owner: Old Mill Holdings, LLC Builder: Fortress Group, Inc. 541-320-7000 Permit # PRRE202602593
\$45,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) at 2300 NE Neff Rd. Bend 97701 OR Owner: Multiple Permit # PRRE202604033
\$42,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) 1,860 sf. at 1300 NW Wall St. Bend 97703 OR Owner: Deschutes County PO Box 6005 Bend, OR 97708 Permit # PRRE202600647
\$21,000.00	-	Commercial (Alteration) at 500 NW Wall St. Bend 97703 OR Owner: Multiple Builder: Empire Construction & Development, LLC 541-389-0070 Permit # PRRE202604583
\$10,000.00	-	Commercial (New) 493 sf. at 21085 Don St. Bend 97701 OR Owner: MWSH Bend Bear Creek, LLC Permit # PRNC202602261

Oregon Wildlife
Continued from previous page

especially during periods of poor air quality and when wildlife may be displaced by wildfire. This protects both your pets and vulnerable wildlife seeking refuge.

• **Give wildlife space.** Never approach or attempt to care for wild animals yourself. If you find injured or orphaned wildlife, discover a nest of baby birds or mammals, or observe wildlife behaving unusually, contact your local wildlife

rehabilitation center for guidance.

• **If you find a burned animal, do not feed or give water unless directed by a wildlife rehabilitator or veterinarian.** Instead, gently place the animal in a ventilated box lined with a soft 100% cotton towel or cloth, keep it in a dark, quiet location, and contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately.

• **Use water wisely.** Conserving water during drought and wildfire season helps maintain streamflows and wetlands that wildlife depend on for survival.

• **Help prevent wildfires.** Follow all local fire restrictions, properly extinguish

campfires, avoid parking vehicles on dry grass, and stay aware of conditions, as even small sparks can quickly become large wildfires.

• **Volunteer to restore wildlife habitat.** Healthy riparian areas and wetlands are more resilient to wildfire and provide critical refuge for wildlife. Consider joining a local habitat restoration project to improve habitat before the next fire season.

• **Support your local wildlife hospital.** Wildlife rehabilitation centers, including Think Wild, receive little to no government funding and rely on community support.

During baby season and wildfire season, donations of supplies such as formula, heating pads, enrichment items, and cash gifts help ensure injured and orphaned wildlife receive the care they need.

This list is non-exhaustive, but we hope that you find it helpful. If you ever have questions, Think Wild’s wildlife hotline, 541-241-8680, is available seven days a week from 8am-5pm. Think Wild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and tax-deductible donations can be made at thinkwildco.org/donate or mailed to PO Box 5093, Bend, OR 97708.

[thinkwildco.org • info@thinkwildco.org](mailto:info@thinkwildco.org)

SBA Disaster Assistance

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Grant, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Morrow, Polk, Wasco, Wheeler, and Yamhill California: Modoc and Siskiyou

- Who Can Apply
- Small businesses
 - Private nonprofits & faith-based organizations
 - Small agricultural cooperatives & nurseries

- Small aquaculture enterprises
- Loan Assistance Available
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans: Working capital assistance for operational expenses caused by the disaster.
- Key Loan Details
- Up to \$2 million in loan funding
 - Interest rates as low as 4% for small businesses and 3.625% for private nonprofit organizations
 - Loan terms of up to 30 years
 - No interest or required payments during the first

12 months following disbursement

Apply online: sba.gov/disaster

Application Deadline: Economic Injury Disaster Loans: March 1, 2027

Applicants may call the SBA Customer Service Center with questions regarding their application at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance

City Club

Continued from page 3

exploring one of the primary tools used to achieve these goals: urban renewal.

The forum, Building Tomorrow: The Role of Urban Renewal in Central Oregon, will examine how urban renewal districts and tax increment financing (TIF) shape communities, the projects they make possible, and the questions they raise about public investment, economic growth, and long-term community priorities.

The discussion will be moderated by Jonathan Bach, reporter for The Oregonian, and will feature a panel representing government, community advocacy, and the private sector:

- **Chuck Arnold**, City of Redmond

- **Corie Harlan**, Central Oregon LandWatch
- **Jonathan Taylor**, Bend Urban Renewal Agency
- **Kirk Schueler**, Brooks Resources Corporation

Together, the panelists will explore how urban renewal districts are established, how tax increment financing works, and the role these investments play in addressing infrastructure needs, supporting redevelopment, attracting private investment, and expanding housing opportunities. The conversation will also examine the tradeoffs and public policy questions that accompany urban renewal, including transparency, equity, and balancing community priorities.

“Urban renewal is one of the most significant economic development tools available to local governments, yet it’s often not well understood,” said Amber Thacher, executive director of City Club of Central Oregon. “Whether you’ve heard the term many

times or are learning about it for the first time, this forum will provide valuable context for understanding how these decisions affect our communities today and for decades to come.”

As with all City Club forums, audience members will have the opportunity to submit questions and engage in a moderated community discussion.

Building Tomorrow: The Role of Urban Renewal in Central Oregon on Thursday, August 20 from 11:30am-1pm at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon. Tickets at bit.ly/3RegZIK, for more information or to register, visit events.cityclubco.org/events.

If cost is a barrier to attend, complimentary registration is available using code CivicCO when registering. This is made possible with the support of grants from St. Charles Health System and The Pacific Power Foundation.

cityclubco.org

Les Schwab

Continued from page 3

At the heart of the new Les Schwab fair experience was the Blue Ribbon Club, a dedicated hospitality space created exclusively for FFA and 4-H exhibitors and their families. They enjoyed complimentary boot shines, family photo opportunities, snacks and beverages. Inspired by the way elite athletes are recognized, the Blue Ribbon Club gave young exhibitors a place to relax, recharge

and celebrate during one of the biggest weeks of their year.

Fields to Fairs is the new name for Les Schwab’s longstanding support of FFA and 4-H. For more than 70 years, Les Schwab has grown alongside the agricultural communities that helped shape the company. In 2025 alone, Les Schwab Tires invested \$2.8 million in supporting FFA and 4-H activities across the 15 states where Les Schwab Tires operates. Employees from nearly 500 Les Schwab Tires stores attended more than 200 fairs, and the company supported 4,335 young people by purchasing 2,127 animals they raised for auction.

Fields to Fairs is the next chapter in that commitment, celebrating the young people, families and traditions that continue to define those communities. To mark the launch of Fields to Fairs, Les Schwab is committing to expanding its support of future leaders in agriculture in Deschutes County, with plans to work alongside Deschutes County Fairgrounds leadership to identify the greatest long-term impact for exhibitors and agricultural education.

“The Deschutes County Fair is one of the biggest and most cherished community

events in our region, and we’re proud to be part of it,” said Jill Rankin, chief marketing officer at Les Schwab Tire Centers. “Alongside a new level of long-term local support, we wanted to create an experience worthy of the fair — one that gives FFA and 4-H exhibitors and their families the recognition they deserve while inviting every fairgoer to discover a different side of Les Schwab. Fields to Fairs is how we’ll continue investing in these communities and celebrating the people and traditions that have shaped our company for generations.”

lesschwab.com

Natural Grocers

Continued from page 3

that advances the agency’s mission to spur private development, revitalize key commercial corridors, and expand essential amenities for the community.

Natural Grocers’ new Redmond location is expected to open in the first quarter of 2027.

“We’re excited to welcome Natural Grocers to Redmond’s downtown community,” said Brandon Cook-Bostick, Chair of the Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee. “Their investment will bring new life to a prominent

commercial location while expanding access to healthy, affordable food options for residents, especially those who currently lack a walkable grocery store in the downtown area.”

Natural Grocers plans to invest approximately \$2 million in substantial building improvements to transform the site and support long-term operations. Planned upgrades include interior and exterior renovations, modernization to meet operational and customer service standards, and the addition of energy-efficient systems that align with the company’s sustainability commitments.

“At Natural Grocers, we believe every community deserves access to affordable organic and natural groceries,

high-quality supplements and free nutrition education,” said Raquel Isely, vice president of marketing for Natural Grocers. “We’re excited about the opportunity to bring those resources to Redmond. As a family-founded company, we care deeply about becoming part of the communities we serve, and we appreciate the collaboration and support we’ve received from the city throughout this process.”

The addition of Natural Grocers is expected to strengthen Redmond’s retail diversity, increase local access to health-focused products, and support ongoing economic development downtown. Additional details, including construction timelines and opening dates,

will be announced as the project advances.

Since 1995, RURA has worked to attract businesses and downtown investment as prescribed in the Downtown Urban Renewal Plan. Grant and loan incentives are available to support new and existing businesses to help make projects a reality. In 2025, over \$110,000 in Urban Renewal resources were invested in partnership with 11 small businesses, leveraging nearly \$1 million of new projects. Stated another way, every \$1 of public funding has catalyzed \$9 of private investment in downtown Redmond resulting in growth of the total property valuation of over 600%.

redmondoregon.gov

Tetherow Resort

Continued from page 3

freshly made pizzas; and the Patio Bar, where Oregon-inspired cocktails meet sweeping views of Cascade peaks and the resort’s scenic golf course. Reservations are now available at tetherow.com/dine/coorie.

At the helm is Executive Chef Tanner Hansen, whose classical French training and 17 years of experience across some of the country’s most respected kitchens bring both technique and heart to Coorie’s kitchen. Hansen’s cooking is rooted in bold, seasonal flavors and thoughtful ingredients,

with a deep personal connection to the craft that has run in his family for generations. Drawing inspiration from global techniques while sourcing with intention, the menu prioritizes local farms, ranches, fisheries, and purveyors whenever possible, with seasonality as its guide. Plates strike a balance between indulgence and lightness across dishes like Hamachi Crudo, Culver Farms Duck en Croûte, and a Cedar River Farms Tomahawk Ribeye. The full menu can be viewed online at tetherow.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Coorie.pdf.

“We’ve been working toward something like Coorie for a long time,” said Chris van der Velde, Tetherow Managing Partner. “Great food, a space that feels genuinely warm and

welcoming, and a chef who holds himself to an incredibly high standard every single day. We’re excited for our community and guests to experience Chef Hansen’s technique and creativity reflected in Coorie’s menu and seasonal dining experience.”

Coorie occupies a reimagined space at Tetherow, formerly home to Solomon’s restaurant. Natural materials, mountain light, and open sightlines echo the high desert surroundings, while warm interiors and sweeping views of the resort and golf course create an atmosphere that feels both refined and relaxing. There’s a lively hum to the space, and the guest experience is designed for lingering: sophisticated in its service and attention to detail, yet

genuinely welcoming in its energy. The restaurant reflects Tetherow’s broader Scottish-inspired identity, from its Heathland-style golf course designed by David McLay Kidd to its vacation homes designed for guests who want to settle in and make the most of everything the resort has to offer.

At the heart of it all is Tetherow’s award-winning Scottish Heathland-style golf course, designed by David McLay Kidd, architect of Oregon’s famed Bandon Dunes. With world-class skiing, hiking, fishing, rafting, mountain biking, and the restaurants and shopping of Bend all within easy reach, Tetherow is the ideal base camp for exploring the best of Central Oregon.

tetherow.com

Town & Country

70 Years Young: Celebrating Peaches

A beloved 1956 Morris Minor brings friends together at Commonwealth Pub to celebrate seven decades of memories, laughter and serendipity.

Photos courtesy of David Rosell



David Rosell and Heather Ewing toast to Peaches turning 70



David Rosell and Emma James, partners of Exemplar Wealth Advisors (formerly Rosell Wealth Management)



1956 Morris Minor convertible



Colin Gladden and David Rosell



Vintage pint glasses with peach cocktails



Peter Grube and David Rosell



Steve and Laura Gowdy and Jeff Monson



Patty Warden and Peaches



Scott Philiben (CiES) and Dan Warden (Cvl)



Jeff Martin, Ann and Roger Egle



David Rosell and Dave Rink with Turtle Wax gift



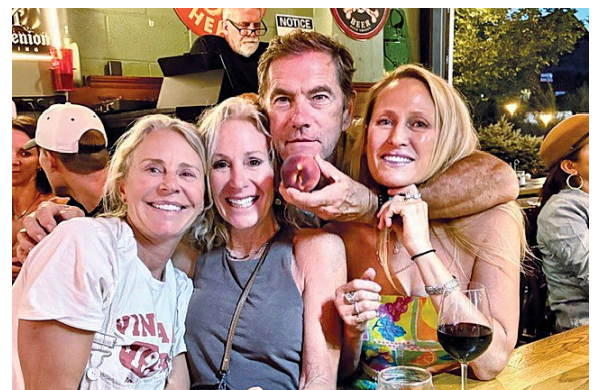
Teresa Payne and Emma James



Jay Walsh and Peaches



Jeff Monson and Heather Webster



Heather Ewing, Morri Wykoff, Bob O'Conner and Annette Johansson



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