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CASCADE BUSINESS NEWS

Enhancing & Promoting the Economic Vitality of Central Oregon Since 1994



Bend Teacher Takes Ownership of Boba Tea Business

— Page 7

Flat Fire Inspires Sisters Couple's Seasoning Business

by JEFF SPRY — CBN Feature Writer



PHOTO | BY JEFF SPRY

Adding a flavorful facet to the lives of Central Oregonians, Dru and Leslie Pade's Fire Proof Salt & Seasoning Co. offers a savory variety of small-batch smoked salt and spice blends inspired by the Sisters-area firefighters and EMS personnel that helped save their Whychus Canyon home from the devastating Flat Fire last year.

That dangerous wildfire that first erupted on August 21, 2025 just northeast of Sisters eventually raged across 23,000 acres and caused the evacuation of roughly 4,000 homes, including the Pade's. Those daring fire crews, hotshot teams and first responders became the inspiration for this small business which just launched its products at the Sisters Farmers Market this summer.

"My husband and I come from a medical background, we're both registered nurses," Leslie tells *CBN*. "We wanted to pivot and try something new and different that we could do together up in our community. One of our bigger focuses and why we started the business is that we wanted to give gift baskets to fire stations to keep and use. We call it 'Stock the Station' and we have a space on our website where you can go to order and sponsor a station with however many seasonings and we'll send them directly to them. We found out that very often firefighters pay for their own groceries. It depends on the fire station."

All of Fire Proof's natural salts and rubs are handcrafted with smoked sea salt or smoked spices and are free from MSG, gluten or any artificial flavors. The Pades also partner with local fire districts and national wildland firefighter organizations, with ten percent of their profits being diverted to firefighter and EMS crews in Oregon.

Another component of this spicy new business is to continue to build upon an

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Sisters Business Association Builds Resilient Business Environment

by ANDREA HINE, CBN Feature Writer

Increases in operating expenses (from labor and product costs to higher taxes) are among the challenges identified by small business owners in Sisters. An additional and unforeseen factor was the two consecutive years of devastating wildfires — the Flat Fire that burned 23,000+ acres in 2025, and the Akawa Butte Fire this July that scorched some 27,500 acres. "Wildfires have become a fact of life," said David Moore, president of the Sisters Business Association (SBA) and a small business owner himself. "They are a disaster you can't really budget for."

As Moore described, the Akawa Fire "disrupted the heart of our summer season, and tourism-influenced industries reported a 25% loss compared with the same time last year, which was itself also affected by wildfire. Added to this equation was the lack of snow last winter, which had discouraged visitors from coming to the area and playing in the snow. It was pretty tough."



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

Yet rather than "go it alone," entrepreneurs came together during this summer's blazes while making hard choices about staffing and operations. As Moore described, "The fire strengthened collaboration among business owners. We shared information, and supported one another. The situation became bigger than just individual survival — we were bound together."

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Sisters Spotlight — Pages 12-16

Sisters Art & Dining Venue Enters 15th Year

by JEFF SPRY — CBN Feature Writer

The fusion of fine art and fantastic bistro food is a perfect pairing that's served Dan and Julia Rickards' The Open Door Restaurant and The Rickards Gallery well since it first opened in Sisters on the corner of West Hood Ave. and South Oak St. back in 2012. Either enjoying a light meal and glass of wine amid the gallery's vibrant paintings or relaxing on the spacious patio, this well-loved artistic destination is one of the cornerstones of the Sisters art and dining scene, imbued with a welcoming ambiance that only a longtime family-owned establishment delivers.

Showcasing an eclectic blend of watercolors, oils, pastels, acrylics, glassware, bronze, woodworking, stoneware, and custom jewelry, The Rickards Gallery (formerly Clearwater Gallery) features the works of over a dozen diverse artists such as gallery owner Dan Rickards, David Mensing, Edie Shelton, Garth Williams, Chris Warren, Sarah Hansen, and many others.



PHOTO | BY JEFF SPRY

"We just started our 15th year now as The Open Door and The Rickards Gallery; the gallery is actually 25 years old now, and we continue to evolve," Dan Rickards tells CBN. "Trying to improve the experience that people have. We've really become a bigger venue now for a lot of receptions, birthday parties and anniversaries so that's nice when you can gather people."

Over the years this cozy campus has expanded to include a number of additional facilities and events spotlighting outdoor movies, art shows, a vintage camper trailer, local musicians, shuffleboard, and as an annual summer Quilt Show venue. The enterprise began as a marriage of the Rickards' affection for fine art and entertaining friends and clients. The original bar/bistro was blended into a

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Lonza Further Strengthens U.S. Manufacturing Presence

Constructs Large-Scale Commercial Spray-Drying Facility in Bend

Lonza, the world's leading contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO), recently announced plans to further strengthen its significant U.S. presence by constructing a large-scale commercial spray-drying facility in Bend.

The investment will establish Lonza as the leading CDMO provider of commercial-scale spray-drying PSD-

Continued on Page 30 ▶

Dry Canyon Arts Association Announces Inaugural Fundraiser: It's a Roaring Good Time Speakeasy

The Dry Canyon Arts Association (DCAA) announces its first-ever fundraising event, It's a Roaring Good Time Speakeasy, taking place on October 3 at 5pm. The 1920s-themed evening will bring community members and art enthusiasts together for a night of vintage glamour, live entertainment and more, all in support of the art programs of DCAA.

In the spirit of the Prohibition era, the exact location of the event remains a secret. Guests will receive the Redmond

Continued on Page 30 ▶



Bend Outdoor Worx Announces 2026 Breakout Pitch Event

Bend Outdoor Worx (BOW), the nation's first outdoor industry accelerator, will bring its annual BOW BreakOut Pitch Event back to Volcanic Theatre Pub on October 14, bringing emerging outdoor brands together for an evening of pitches, conversation and community.

This year's BreakOut, the longest running outdoor-exclusive pitch event, will feature five rising outdoor brands pitching their businesses and sharing what they're building as they compete for a $10,000 no-strings-attached cash award.

Following the pitches, founders will participate in an audience Q&A before

Continued on Page 30 ▶

Airport Director Departs City of Redmond Statement

After 11 years with the Redmond Municipal Airport, Airport Director Zachary Bass is taking off for his next career endeavor. During his time, RDM experienced impressive growth in passengers and air service as well as securing the financing needed to double the size of the airport terminal, which will be completed in 2027.

We wish Bass the very best in his next adventure.

City of Redmond Deputy City Manager and CFO Jason Neff will serve as the Interim Director of Redmond Municipal Airport. Neff has 20 years of experience with the city and oversaw the Airport Director since 2022. We have complete confidence in Neff and the Airport team to carry the work forward.

Neff commented: "I've been in an executive role for the City for many years and I am very comfortable with the Airport's team's ability to ensure business continuity, timelines, and commitments. The City's and the Council's priorities for the Airport remain the same."

flyRDM.com

Lease Crutcher Lewis Opens Bend Office

Lease Crutcher Lewis has been building in Central Oregon for 30 years. After years of working out of jobsite offices, the firm has established a permanent office in Bend and has a dedicated local team to serve clients across the region.

The new Bend office, located in the Old Mill District, builds on Lewis' existing foundation of local resources and is backed by the full capabilities of one of the Pacific Northwest's leading general contractors.

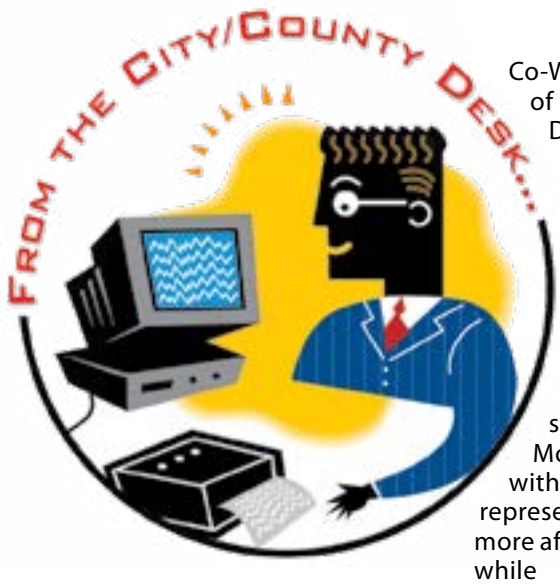
"Central Oregon has been an important part of our story for a long time now," said Tony Stewart, Lewis' Oregon division president. "Establishing an office in Bend allows us to be fully engaged in the communities where we live and work."

Lewis has been active in the region

Continued on Page 30 ▶



Business & Industry



DESCHUTES COUNTY

♦ Deschutes County recently released reports that show the transient lodging tax collection results for FY 2026-27, updated through the month of August 2026.

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

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

♦ Deschutes County Commissioner and Oregon Transportation Commission member Phil Chang, Bend Mayor Melanie Kebler, Bend City Councilor Steve Platt and clean transportation advocates gathered in Bend recently to spotlight how continuing investments in clean transportation would strengthen the City's and County's economy and create energy independence.

The event took place at the Haven Co-Working Space. It was part of the national Freedom to Drive summer event series focused on how clean cars, hybrids and EVs deliver cost savings and cleaner air to communities across the country and in Oregon.

With gasoline prices currently averaging nearly $4.90 a gallon, Bend residents are eager for relief from this spiraling financial burden. More fuel-efficient cars, coupled with hybrid and electric vehicles, represent a strategic leap towards a more affordable transportation option while bolstering American energy independence and resilience.

Speakers pointed to past federal funding which has encouraged the expansion of charging infrastructure in Deschutes County as an example of why continued federal funding for clean transportation is critical to a prosperous future.

With Congress currently debating transportation funding, speakers urged federal elected officials to stand up for our freedom to drive by supporting the country's clean transportation system. Electric vehicles and clean transit offer consumer savings and the freedom to breathe cleaner air.

BEND

♦ The community is invited to drop in to the City of Bend's Open House to learn about and provide feedback on two City transportation projects:

Neighborhood Connections (Better Connections and Slower, Safer Streets): This program aims to connect walking and biking routes and slow traffic speeds at various locations across the city. Projects can include sidewalk connections, sections of bikeways, speed humps, traffic calming tools, 20 miles per hour business districts and more. Community members can provide input on which projects to prioritize.

Transportation Standards Update: The City is expanding its traffic calming toolbox and looking for community input on which traffic calming tools to use on different types of streets.

The drop in Open House will be held Thursday, September 17 between 5:30-7:30pm at the Larkspur Community Center, Community Room, 1600 SE Reed Market Rd. City staff will be available to answer questions.

For those who can't visit in person, an online Open House will be available September 17-October 1.

♦ The City of Bend, in partnership with Earth Advantage, will be hosting a green career day on September 19, from 8:30am-1pm at Central Oregon Community College. The Central Oregon Residential Construction Career Day is an opportunity to learn about careers in sustainable trades, connect with industry leaders, access career support and scholarships, and learn how to apply for upcoming training program opportunities.

This is one event that is a part of the Sunny September: Pathways to a Cleaner Bend series. The events are being organized by a variety of local organizations; for more information about each event, contact the organizer.



SALEM

♦ On September 8, the Oregon State Legislature's House Interim Committee on Rules heard the status of federal interference with Oregon's vote-by-mail system, following the U.S. Supreme Court's August 24 decision lifting a lower-court injunction that blocked President Trump's executive order targeting mail-in voting.

The ruling addressed only the timing of the states' lawsuit, not whether the executive order itself is lawful, and it does not change Oregonians' ability to vote by mail this November.

"Vote by mail works, and Oregonians overwhelmingly support it," said House Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D – Tigard, Metzger, S Beaverton). "Oregon will fight any and all attempts to undermine our elections system."

Oregon's elections remain governed by Oregon law, and the Secretary of State has directed county clerks to continue administering the November election under existing state procedures and timelines.

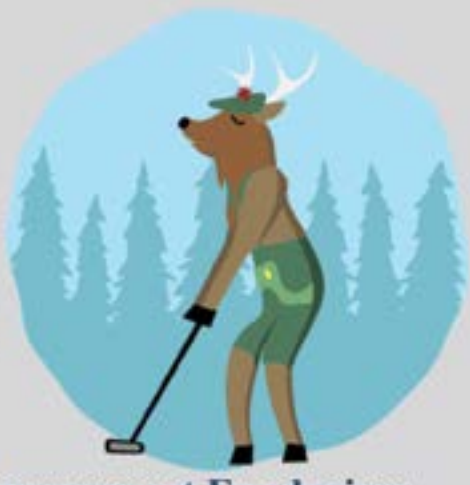
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SUNRIVER OKTOBERFEST



Putt Putt Golf Tournament Fundraiser
Friday, Sept. 25 at
Sunriver Resort's Gray's Trail

- Play 18 holes of putt putt golf in an hour - fun for all levels!
- Supports youth programs through Sunriver Resort, Sunriver Women's Club and the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Golfers can register as a two-person team or as an individual.

Select a tee time: 10 a.m.; 11 a.m.; 12 p.m.; 1 p.m.; 2 p.m.; 3 p.m.

Tournament fee per player:

- $30 - Register by Monday, Sept. 14
- $40 - After Sept. 15

Prizes: First, second and third place for individuals and teams. Plus other fun awards

Celebration: 5 p.m. at Sunriver Brewery Taproom in the Sunriver Business Park

Register: https://sunriverwomensclub.org/event-6781487 or contact exec@sunriverchamber.com

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Affordable Housing Production, Not Additional Bureaucracy

by RICK HANSEN, MBA, General Manager — Plus Property Management



Bend's housing problem is real. The City's HOME Committee report says Bend needs 21,168 additional homes affordable to households below 120% of Area Median Income by 2045. The Council has also set a 2025-27 goal of permitting 3,942 homes. We support those objectives. As Bend landlords, investors, and the operators of a local property-management company, however, we do not believe a mandatory rental registry, registration fee, or vacancy tax will help achieve them.

The committee's own analysis shows the mismatch. A registry and vacancy-tax system would require about $400,000 in initial investment, two to three additional City employees, and two to five years to implement. Its potential to create housing units is rated "low." With ambitious production targets and limited public resources, the City should prioritize policies that actually make it easier to add homes.

A registration fee would become another operating cost for rental housing. Property taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance, labor, and regulatory costs have already increased substantially. Landlords cannot absorb an unlimited series of new charges. Over time, those costs affect rents, discourage investment, and make it harder for small housing providers to remain in the market. The report itself recognizes unintended rent increases as a risk.

The proposed use of registration revenue is also too broad. The report suggests it could fund tenant education, market analysis, code enforcement, housing preservation, and other City initiatives. Rental-property owners should not be singled out to fund general housing policy simply because they are easy to identify and bill.

A vacancy tax presents even greater problems. Homes may be temporarily vacant because of repairs, tenant turnover, construction delays, insurance restoration, a pending sale, or other legitimate circumstances. Determining which vacancies are taxable would require complicated exemptions, reporting, inspections, enforcement, and appeals. Responsible owners could be penalized for circumstances outside their control.

No Oregon community currently operates a residential vacancy tax. The report describes legal challenges, enforcement problems, rejected proposals elsewhere, and uncertainty about whether these taxes reduce rental costs. The vacancy tax was not among the committee's three favored revenue mechanisms.

Council has better options. The committee identified targeted development-charge relief, property-tax exemptions tied to affordability, infrastructure assistance, financing tools, and support for community land trusts as higher-priority production strategies. Faster permitting and predictable development standards would also help.

This is not an argument for doing nothing. It is an argument for judging every proposal by three practical questions: Will it add housing? Will it lower the cost of providing housing? Will it encourage long-term investment in Bend? A rental registry and vacancy tax fall short of those standards. Cooperation and production incentives offer a better path toward the Council's housing goals.

Reach out to the Council to let them know not to spend public resources on an issue that only adds bureaucracy and does nothing to help the affordability crisis in Central Oregon. They can be reached at council@bendoregon.gov.

The above article was prepared by the author in his/her own personal capacity. The opinions expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Cascade Business News or of Cascade Publications Inc.

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When the Shift Hits the Fan

Managing Breaks in a Changing Work Environment

by SEAN RAY, Partner & CARSON HEIDEMAN, Law Clerk — Barran Liebman LLP

When the Shift Changes, the Rules Change



Sean Ray



Carson Heideman

Oregon wage-and-hour compliance depends on the workday that actually happened, not the one originally scheduled. Most Oregon employers understand the basic rules surrounding what breaks are required, including meal periods, paid rest breaks, and time to express milk. However, problems may arise when the workday departs from the plan. An employee stays late to close, a supervisor interrupts a lunch break, a sick call produces a closing shift followed by an opening shift, or payroll processes a separation before final time records are reconciled. Each of these events can unexpectedly alter the employer's obligations.

Break Obligations Turn on Exact Thresholds

Oregon's rules are not simply "one lunch break every six hours" and "one rest break every four hours." For most nonexempt adult employees, a shift that is exactly six hours long requires one paid ten-minute rest period and one thirty-minute meal period. At six hours and one minute, however, a second rest period is required. At ten hours and one minute, a third is required. At fourteen hours, a second meal period is required.

The timing of these breaks is important. Where a meal is required, a work period of seven hours or less generally requires it to be taken after the second hour and before the fifth hour begins. For a longer work period, it generally must occur after the third hour and before the sixth begins. Rest periods should fall near the middle of each four-hour segment or major portion thereof. They must remain separate from meal periods and cannot ordinarily be combined or used to shorten the workday. The employer always bears the burden of showing that required rest periods were provided.

A meal period must provide thirty continuous minutes free from all duties. A work call, customer question, email, or requirement to monitor the workplace can defeat that requirement. When an unpaid meal is shortened or interrupted, the employer must pay for the whole meal period. Only in very specific circumstances can these requirements be relaxed.

Current Oregon case law treats compensation for a shortened meal period as the employee's wages, potentially subject to a six-year limitations period and penalty wages for a willful failure to pay. That formula means that employees may be able to claim large sums of money when tiny errors add up over the years.

Employee Preference Is Not a General Waiver

An employee's willingness to skip lunch, combine breaks, or leave early usually does not excuse the employer. Oregon permits meal-period waivers for tipped food-and-beverage servers only through a detailed process involving a voluntary written request, required forms, and record keeping. Other exceptions, such as genuine undue hardship, an established industry custom for a shorter paid meal, or certain unanticipated events, are narrow and fact-dependent. Ordinary staffing pressure does not automatically create an exception.

Lactation Breaks Create a Separate Overlay

Oregon employers must provide a reasonable break each time an employee needs to express milk for a child eighteen months old or younger. Existing meal or rest periods should be used when feasible, but the employee's need determines frequency. A milk expression break that overlaps with a required paid rest period remains paid; additional time may be unpaid if the employee is completely relieved of duties.

Oregon requires reasonable efforts to provide a private location near the work area that is not a public restroom or toilet stall. Federal law generally requires a place other than a bathroom. The two laws also use different boundaries: federal protection generally lasts one year after birth and has a potential undue-hardship exception for employers with fewer than fifty employees, while Oregon protects employees for eighteen months and limits its small-employer exception to employers with ten or fewer employees that can establish undue hardship. Oregon now expressly covers executive, administrative, professional, and agricultural employees.

Predictive Scheduling Rules are Demanding

Oregon's predictive-scheduling law applies to certain retail, hospitality, or food-services employers, and certain carveouts may apply.

Covered employers must provide a written good-faith estimate upon hire addressing expected median monthly hours, standby-list information, and on-call expectations. Written schedules must be provided and posted at least fourteen days in advance. For schedules covering multiple workweeks, changes made outside the fourteen-day window for the affected workweek generally do not trigger the schedule-change rules. Later employer-requested changes can give employees the right to decline added shifts and can require additional compensation, while employee-requested changes and other exceptions are treated differently.

Covered employees generally have a right to ten hours of rest after the prior calendar day's shift or after a shift spanning two calendar days. Consent permits work within that ten-hour period, but consent does not eliminate time-and-a-half pay for hours inside the protected period. Same-day split shifts are treated differently. Records evidencing compliance with these rules must be retained for three years.

Termination Makes Old Errors Immediate

At separation, payroll should reconcile actual time, shortened meals, schedule-change premiums, and other outstanding wages, to be paid in accordance with Oregon statute depending on how the separation occurred (resignation versus termination). Failure to pay all wages owed at termination could subject an employer not only to the wages owed, but penalties, interest, and attorney fees.

The best protection against liability is not reliance on employee timekeeping and adherence to the handbook. Employers should compare planned shifts with actual punches, flag threshold crossings, review short meals and supervisor edits, document employee-requested changes, and use a final-pay checklist. Because the appropriate controls differ by workplace, a targeted review with employment counsel can identify where a compliant written policy diverges from actual operations, before the discrepancy becomes a claim.

To learn more about managing breaks in a changing work environment and many other employment law topics, register for Barran Liebman's 2026 Annual Seminar here.

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barran.com



Bend Teacher Takes Ownership of Boba Tea Business

by JEFF SPRY — CBN Feature Writer

Boba Tea, or Bubble Tea, is back in style in a big way and true believers in this popular sweetened tea-based milk beverage topped with floating tapioca pearls are flocking to Marci Griffiths' Boba Tea Bend cart at Elevation Bend on South Hwy. 97 to satisfy their cravings.

Originating in Taiwan in the 1980s, the Boba Tea craze has recently gone global, especially here in the United States. The fun fad has flourished and faded over the decades after migrating from Asian countries in the late '90s to become a fixture of American culture in shopping malls, food courts, nightlife areas, county fairs, theme parks and entertainment centers.

Griffiths is a longtime Bend music teacher at Silver Rail Elementary School who recently became a small business owner in March of 2026, balancing life in and out of the classroom while she and her husband Donny pursue this Boba Tea enterprise serving a thirsty community.

"I started as a music teacher in Oregon at Bear Creek Elementary and before that I was an educational assistant working with kids with developmental needs," she tells *CBN*. "I was also a music, art, PE, and kindergarten teacher in Nevada for three years. I love being at Silver Rail and being able to build a music program for the last two years. We started with very few instruments, so it's been a lot of grant writing and working with the Bend-La Pine Education Foundation. And members of the community have reached out with instruments so we can build a new program at the school. Music budgets for elementary teachers are $450 a year, so it's important we have so many wonderful people helping sustain, aid and protect the arts."



Griffith and her husband, the floor supervisor at ISCO Manufacturing for the past 19 years, had always entertained the idea of having a local food truck. They were acquainted with the previous owners of the Boba Tea business, who'd been operating for the past five years at the same location, previously known as the Bend Factory Stores and were moving out of the area.

"We talked about it for about six months and all of a sudden the universe made it possible and the help and funding came through with community partners such as Onpoint Community Credit Union," Griffith explains. "So, when the universe gives you a gift, you take a chance and say yes. Now this has turned into a pathway to a more solid financial future for us. It's been so amazing to have this small business where we see members of the community. Either students, teacher friends, or people I've met who I've built relationships with that come to our truck to say hi and get their drink."

As with any independent endeavor, there are the obvious challenges and obstacles that go hand-in-hand with the innumerable rewards.

"It is a small business and we both have other full-time jobs," Griffiths adds. "It does require maintenance, upkeep, funding, capital, and employees. So we have to have employees here to help us maintain the business while we work our other jobs. That balance is one of the hardest parts. The best part is the people we've met through the business. We meet friends every single day. And people are now following us on Instagram. You can get your Boba anywhere of course but we just got named Bend Source Weekly's Best Boba of 2026 and we're really proud of that."

Translated, Boba means bubble in Taiwanese and the Boba Tea trend has quickly picked up over the past couple of years. The coated tapioca balls are the most popular but customers can also choose from alternate toppings to suit their preferences. For non-Boba folks, Griffiths serves flavored lemonades, energy drinks, or



MARCI GRIFFITHS | PHOTOS BY JEFF SPRY

Boba beverages cold or hot, with or without tea.

"We also offer poppers, which are coconut, mango, watermelon and strawberry juice balls that pop in your mouth. And we have lychee jellies and rainbow jellies that have different textures and flavors. Our Boba Tea is non-dairy-based with various flavors, using black tea or green tea and a non-dairy creamer product. Fruit teas are green tea-based with pieces of real fruit. Our most popular flavors are Thai Milk Tea, a gently spiced citrus flavor, and our Classic Milk Tea, if you think of a black tea with creamer and milk. Mango and peach are probably the favorites."

Looking into the future, Griffiths would like to expand and add a second truck as Elevation Bend does not have power hookups, which requires Boba Tea Bend to run a generator non-stop.

"We're now going to be doing events and we just catered our first wedding and that was wonderful. We even catered a baseball tournament as a little pop-up and tomorrow we're doing Journey Church at Drake Park so we'll take the full trailer with us. We're learning a lot as new business owners and fingers crossed that second truck on the north side happens next year."

Boba Tea Bend is located at 61334 South Hwy. 97 at the Elevation Bend parking lot.

bobateabend.com • 541-350-5987

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From Blight to Beat

How General Duffy's Waterhole Helped Transform Downtown Redmond into Central Oregon's Cultural Hub

by MARY KNIGHT, Marketing, Events & Community Relations Coordinator — REDI

When a community's economy thrives, it expands beyond meeting basic daily needs. Economic prosperity creates the vital financial foundation that unlocks life's richer experiences, allowing a city to invest in fine arts, live performance, culinary variety, and vibrant public spaces. In Redmond, no business illustrates this economic flywheel better than General Duffy's Waterhole (General Duffy's) and The Annex Sports Bar.

Co-owned by Tanner Robertson alongside his parents, Susan and Dick, General Duffy's has evolved into more than a taphouse and food truck lot — it has become the beating heart of downtown Redmond's ongoing urban revitalization.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF REDI

Reclaiming the "Front Door" of Downtown

Prior to General Duffy's opening in March 2019, the properties at 404 SW Forest Avenue and 413 SW Glacier Avenue presented a serious socio-economic drain on the district. Located at the southern entrance to Fifth Street of Highway 97 — essentially the "front door" for locals and visitors entering Redmond, the area was anchored by a strip club and a severely deteriorated residential structure that had become associated with drug-related activity.

Instead of viewing the location as a risk, the Robertson family recognized a critical atmospheric billboard for the city. In a unique collaboration with several local fire departments, the team hosted a series of live "learn to burn" training exercises to safely demolish the unsalvageable residential structure, clearing the way for modern, purpose-driven redevelopment.

Where illicit activity once detracted from nearby investment, the property was transformed into a family-friendly destination featuring an expansive outdoor patio, food truck pod, taphouse, and indoor event spaces.

A Catalyst for Surrounding Investment

The arrival of General Duffy's triggered a domino effect of private capital and civic development across downtown Redmond. By demonstrating that locals and tourists alike were eager to gather downtown, the venue proved the commercial viability of surrounding blocks.

Key post-2019 development projects in the immediate vicinity include:

- **Local Paws (435 SW Evergreen Ave.):** Incubated as a mobile vendor at General Duffy's in 2020 before expanding into a permanent brick-and-mortar storefront down the street in 2022.
- **Sister's Smokehouse & Blacksmith Public House (308 SW Evergreen Ave.):** Transformed a former vacant fabrication shop into a lively food and beverage venue in 2022.
- **Summit Bank (538 SW Highland Ave.):** Brought expanded commercial banking infrastructure to the core district in 2024.
- **Nova Apartments (629 SW Fifth St.):** A 24-unit residential complex replacing former low-density structures in 2025.
- **Natural Grocers (732 SW Sixth St.):** Re-tenanting a former retail building to bring healthy grocery options downtown. — Coming soon!

Cultivating Culture: 200+ Events and 85,000 Visitors Annually

With General Duffy's Waterhole operating from 11am-9pm and The Annex Sports Bar running from 4pm-2am, the Robertson family keeps their doors open 20 hours a day, seven days a week.

That constant footprint allows them to host over 200 local and regional events each year, drawing roughly 85,000 guests annually. The venue seamlessly scales from intimate local gatherings such as birthday parties, corporate meetings, car and motorcycle shows, and community vendor markets, to large-scale outdoor concerts capable of accommodating up to 3,000 attendees for national touring acts.

"We take pleasure in serving people in our community and partner with local businesses, nonprofits, and anyone looking for a place for their friends and family to gather for food, beverage, and entertainment," said Robertson.

The Partnership Driving Strategic Growth

A key pillar of General Duffy's success is its deep integration into local business development networks, specifically Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI).

For Robertson, REDI acts as an essential ambassador and light-post guiding Redmond's broader economic strategy. When civic leadership and private operators align around a shared vision, local enterprise thrives and as a direct result, the entire community gains access to richer arts, entertainment, and social experiences.

Watch a video at youtube.com/watch?v=aSC2uJ0j9Pc that offers an authentic look at the atmosphere, venue space, and live entertainment experience that General Duffy's created during its early transformation into a major downtown event hub. No matter the occasion, good times start at General Duffy's!

generalduffys.com



Protecting What You Build

Insurance as Part of a Complete Financial Plan

by MONICA ELSOM, President — Insure Pacific



When people think about financial planning, investments, retirement accounts, real estate and building wealth often come to mind first. But accumulating wealth is only part of a successful financial strategy. Protecting what you have worked so hard to build is equally important.

As an independent insurance agent, I often work alongside financial planners, attorneys, CPAs and other professional advisors to help clients look at their financial lives more comprehensively. A strong financial plan should address investments and long-term goals, but it should also consider the risks that could significantly disrupt those plans.

For business owners, life insurance can play an especially important role.

Many successful companies depend heavily on one or two owners, partners or key employees. What happens if one of those individuals unexpectedly passes away? Would the company have enough liquidity to continue operating? Could it afford to recruit and replace a key employee? And what happens to an owner's share of the business?

Key person life insurance can provide financial resources following the death of someone who is critical to a company's success. Life insurance can also be an important funding mechanism for a properly structured buy-sell agreement.

Consider two partners who have spent 20 years building a successful company together. If one partner dies unexpectedly, that person's spouse or family may inherit the ownership interest. The surviving partner may want to purchase those shares, while the family may prefer to receive the financial value of the ownership rather than become involved in operating the business.

Without advance planning, that situation can become financially and emotionally difficult for everyone involved. With the right planning in place, the family can receive financial security while the surviving owner has a better opportunity to continue the business they worked so hard to build.

Life insurance, however, is only one piece of protecting a financial future.

Business owners also need to make sure the company itself is adequately insured. Buildings, equipment, vehicles, inventory, employees, liability exposures, cyber risks and business income can all represent significant financial exposure. A major loss that is uninsured or underinsured can quickly affect not only the company, but also the owner's personal finances and long-term financial plan.

The same principle applies to personal insurance.

As individuals and families accumulate homes, vehicles, investment properties, recreational assets and other property, their insurance programs should evolve with them. Liability limits and umbrella coverage should also be reviewed as assets, income and overall financial exposure increase.

One of the most common mistakes is assuming that an insurance program established five or ten years ago still reflects today's circumstances.

A lot can change in that amount of time.

Businesses grow. Revenue and payroll increase. Buildings are remodeled. Equipment is purchased. New locations open. Property values rise. Families buy additional assets. Children grow older. Retirement plans change. Personal net worth increases.

Yet insurance policies are sometimes left unchanged for years.

Insurance should not be something you purchase once and then put in a drawer.

Regular reviews with your insurance professional can help identify changes in exposure and determine whether your policies, coverage limits and overall insurance strategy still align with the assets and financial future you are trying to protect.

The strongest financial planning often happens when a client's professional advisors communicate with one another. Financial planners, insurance professionals, attorneys and CPAs each bring a different perspective to the table. Working together can help clients not only build wealth but protect it and prepare for circumstances they hope will never occur.

A good financial plan helps you build your future. A good protection plan helps make sure one unexpected event doesn't undo it.

insurepacific.com







Employment in Central Oregon: July 2026

by NICOLE RAMOS, Regional Economist — Oregon Employment Department



Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates hold steady across Central Oregon; Deschutes County sees slight decline.

Bend MSA (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties): The Bend MSA's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0% in July, unchanged from June's rate. Last year in July the unemployment rate was 5.1%.

The Bend MSA's employment losses were smaller than normal this July; total nonfarm employment was down 1,140 during the month (-1.0%), when an employment decrease of 1,320 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 180 (+0.2%) between June and July.

The public sector saw the largest losses (-1,740 jobs) with local education declining by 1,680 jobs over the summer. Private-sector losses occurred in professional and business services (-130 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-30 jobs); other services (-20 jobs); and information (-10 jobs). Gains were concentrated within the private sector with the largest gains seen in leisure and hospitality (+380 jobs), specifically in accommodation and food services (+330 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (+300 jobs). Smaller gains were also seen in manufacturing (+40 jobs), financial activities (+40 jobs), and private education and health services (30 jobs).

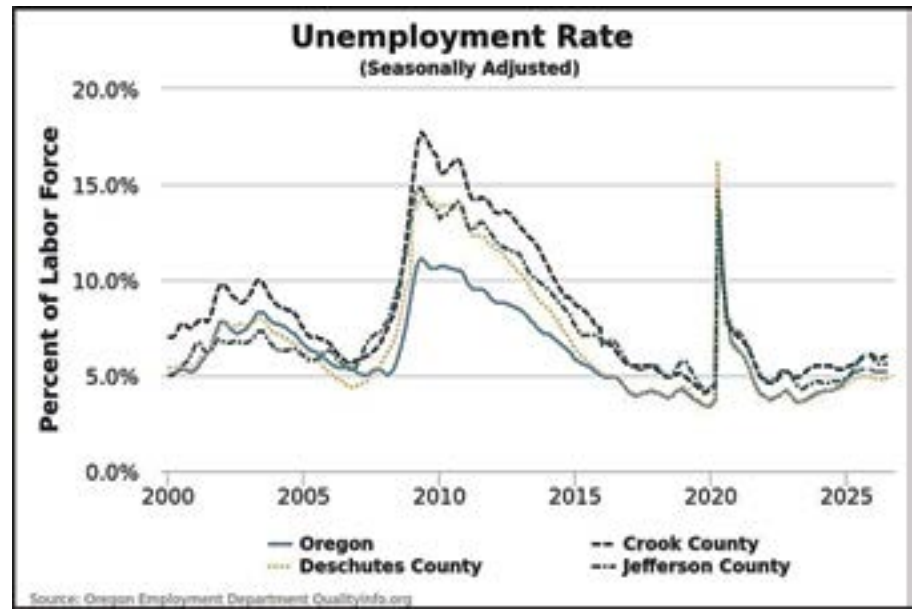
Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has gained 940 jobs (+0.8%) over the year. While a loss of 2,270 jobs was expected, total nonfarm employment decreased by 1,330 (-1.2%) jobs from July 2025 to July 2026. Over the year, the largest job losses were seen in professional and business services (-1,350 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-1,120 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-420 jobs). Smaller losses occurred in financial activities (-190 jobs), manufacturing (-70 jobs), and information (-30 jobs). Gains were strongest within the public sector (+880 jobs) and private education and health services (+870 jobs) with smaller gains seen in mining, logging, and construction (+50 jobs); and other services (+50 jobs).

Crook County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in July, holding at 6.0%. Crook County's unemployment rate has increased 0.2 percentage point from the previous year when it was 5.8%.

Crook County's employment gains in July were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment was up 100 (+1.4%) during the month, when a decrease of 20 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 120 (+1.7%) between June and July.

Construction, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and other services each gained 30 jobs over the month. Further gains occurred within the public sector (+20 jobs) and financial activities (+10 jobs). Losses were not as widespread and occurred in private education and health services (-40 jobs) and wholesale trade (-10 jobs). All other major industries saw little to no change over the month.

Over the past year Crook County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has lost 140 jobs (-1.9%); while no change was expected, Crook County employment decreased by 140 jobs (-1.8%).



GRAPH | COURTESY OF OREGON EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT QUALITYINFO.ORG

Private-sector losses were concentrated in construction (-120 jobs) and manufacturing (-110 jobs). Smaller losses occurred in professional and business services (-30 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-30 jobs); information (-20 jobs); and mining and logging (-10 jobs). Over the year, private-sector job gains were not as widespread and were concentrated within financial activities (+30 jobs), leisure and hospitality (+20 jobs), and private education and health services (+10 jobs). The public sector gained 120 jobs from July 2025 to July 2026, with local government up 140 jobs and state and federal government down 10 jobs each.

Deschutes County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8% in July, a slight decrease from June's rate of 4.9%. A year ago, in July 2025, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9%.

Deschutes County's employment losses in July were smaller than normal; total nonfarm employment was down 1,010 (-1.0%) during the month, when an employment decrease of 1,150 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was up 140 (+0.1%) between June and July.

Continued on Page 30 ▶

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Redmond's Trades Industry Spotlight

Fuel Safe Systems

by MARY KNIGHT, Marketing, Events & Community Relations Coordinator — REDI



PHOTOS | COURTESY OF FUEL SAFE SYSTEMS

Who is Fuel Safe Systems?

One of the reasons Redmond's economy is thriving is its diverse industry mix of traded sector businesses — companies that sell their products outside of the region, bringing wealth and new investment into the community. For over 35 years, Veteran-owned and operated, Fuel Safe Systems has been one of Redmond's leading mid-size AS9100 Certified Manufacturers, helping employ over 60 Central Oregon workers. At the recent Made In Redmond Tour, a few of Redmond's citizens were lucky to see firsthand how Fuel Safe Systems is quietly and confidently making an impact on Redmond's economic growth.

Fuel Safe Systems designs and manufactures specialty fuel and fluid containment systems used in motorsports, aerospace, defense, oil and gas, and industrial markets. Its core technology includes safety fuel bladders for vehicles and aircraft, and ultra-lightweight fuel containment systems for products such as unmanned aircraft and autonomous vehicles. Fuel Safe's customers range from race teams and vehicle builders to aerospace and defense organizations. Fuel Safe's products are designed to help safely contain fuel and other fluids in the event of a crash or other serious incident, helping protect people, equipment, and critical operations.

According to Bill Hare, owner and operator of Fuel Safe Systems, the most exciting thing happening in the fuel cell industry is the growth of uncrewed systems. Lightweight, reliable fuel containment is critical in many drone, counter-drone, and specialty vehicle applications. Hare also noted how his team is embracing new technologies, resulting in more efficient production of certified quality systems from product concept to completion.

Why Choose Redmond for Business?

There are many reasons Fuel Safe Systems chose Redmond to operate, with the most obvious being the Central Oregon lifestyle. Other main factors giving Redmond high consideration were its business-friendly atmosphere, readily available industrial land, lower cost of living relative to other local communities, and access to an extensive pool of employees from around the region. "Fuel Safe is proud to call Redmond our home," said Hare. "Being in Redmond has allowed us to grow in a community that supports manufacturing, workforce development, and long-term business investment."

Business Collaboration with REDI

Since 2006, Fuel Safe Systems has connected with Redmond Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) as a business resource throughout the company's growth and expansion. Hare noted the importance of having a one-stop resource to go to when he needed assistance and advocacy for his business growth, noting that REDI was instrumental in finding a suitable location, recommending key partners in the design and construction of its facility and has provided support in growing its workforce as the company has expanded into new markets.

"We look forward to continuing our expansion, building our employee base and ensuring that we remain the recognized leader in high-tech fuel and fluid containment systems, and we're hiring," said Hare. "Access to regional partners, local talent, and organizations like REDI has helped us continue building a company that serves customers across highly specialized industries while remaining rooted in Central Oregon."

Companies like Fuel Safe Systems are the backbone of Redmond's sustainable and diversified industry mix. This is only one example of how REDI is here to help businesses expand, support new business recruitment, advocate for business challenges and continue to build a thriving and resilient community.

fuelsafe.com





EDCO's Strobel Helps Businesses 'Operate in a Healthy & Successful Fashion'

by ANDREA HINE — CBN Feature Writer

Eric Strobel, Sisters Country Director for EDCO, has been a busy man in efforts to attract traded-sector businesses to the town's Industrial Park. "About 60 percent has been leased," he said, "which shows really great growth — with three new buildings that offer a total of 40,000 square feet of available, light-industrial space for expansion." In fact, he noted, "they are getting leased up right now." As Strobel summarized:

Industrial Park Activity

GFP Response, a premier provider of emergency mobile services, specializing in base camp solutions and emergency management, has expanded into new buildings totaling 43,000 square feet, and has plans to create a storage yard for trailers and trucks being deployed to Sisters from other areas.

BASX, Deschutes County's largest commercial employer, expanded from its Redmond location with a new 21,000-square-foot building, employing 40 workers who operate seven days a week across two shifts assembling surgical clean rooms.

Holy Kakow manufactures organic chocolate sauces, café syrups, and cacao powder — "using only the best quality, responsibly sourced ingredients. Period." Having relocated from Portland six years ago, the company has experienced ongoing retail and wholesale growth — frequently introducing new flavors such as chestnut and jasmine — and is moving from its previous building to a new 30,000-square-foot facility.

Humm Kombucha has expanded into Sisters with a production facility, complementing its primary roots in Bend. The company moved into a 16,000-square-foot building formerly occupied by Laird Superfood "that was perfect for their needs and required just a couple of changes. Now it's getting up and running," Strobel said, "and currently developing a two-ounce energy shot drink."



OWNERS OF LAZY Z RANCH, JOHN AND RENEE HERMAN, OPENED THEIR TASTING ROOM IN 2025 | PHOTOS BY ANDREA HINE





SHOWN IS ONE OF THREE NEW LIGHT INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN THE SISTERS INDUSTRIAL PARK | PHOTO COURTESY OF EDCO — SISTERS COUNTRY

Cascade Spirits will be making tenant improvements to the former Laird Superfood warehouse and plans to move in by Q4, marking a large expansion of its own warehouse operations. As Stobel explained, plans for its new Broken Top Whiskey tasting room on Cascade Avenue are moving forward, but won't occur after the expansion is complete.

Boxkill, which is developing compact modular homes built from precision-engineered metal components, recently completed construction of its first prototype, a 230-square-foot home that "marks a major step forward for a company that only a few years ago existed mostly on paper," according to the company's website. Boxkill has leased a second 8,000-square-foot building — formerly occupied by Laird Superfood — as it continues to expand production "and open sales for its exciting product," Strobel said.

According to Strobel, "The building owner had a heck of a time leasing Laird's space, which had been built to the company's specific production requirements, and are really happy to have Boxkill, Humm Kombucha, and Cascade Spirits move into those buildings. It's a good fit."

He added that "As Boxkill moved from concept to prototype, EDCO helped connect the founders with potential investors and facilitated introductions throughout the regional business community. And, as the City of Sisters currently doesn't have a code for placing the kind of compact modular home Boxkill fabricates on a lot, we also familiarized leaders such as the city manager, city council, and city planners with the concept, which included seeing what the new prototype looks and feels like."

Regional Expansion

"As it takes years of lead time to build a new campus, versus being able to lease space and begin operating in a month, we're seeing that some of our Sisters-based companies are expanding regionally — willing to make a short commute in order to start up their operations quickly," Strobel said.

Sisters Coffee Company has added two Bend locations (Old Mill and Jackstraw Apartments), and was chosen as a concession tenant at the Redmond Municipal Airport's new dining area — part of RDM's multi-million-dollar terminal expansion slated for completion in November 2027. It Is also being considered for Costco's Bend store, Strobel said. He foresees the company expanding its roasting facility in Sisters to accommodate this growth.

Sisters Meat and Smokehouse, which established its Sisters store in 2016, added a second location in Redmond in 2023, and recently opened its third in Bend at Bend's Jackstraw Apartments.

Crosscut Warming Hut # 4 — Serving craft beer, cider, wine, and a selection of whiskey — as well as having a food truck operation — in its "family-built and dog-friendly environment" in Bend's Old Mill District, Crosscut Warming Hut #5 is opening a second location (projected for this November) next to the 35-acre Sisters Woodlands on the town's west side. Currently under construction, Crosscut Warming Hut # 4 will have three private commercial kitchen suites available for lease.

New Businesses

Domino's Pizza opened in July on the north side of town at the site formerly occupied by Subway. The locally owned store is "hiring for 20 open roles," according to *the Source*.

Lazy Z Ranch Wines, a family-owned bee ranch and winery that crafts small-batch fermented honey wine (mead) using regenerative agriculture, opened a tasting room in fall 2025. Strobel described it as "having a lot of character, with beautiful views of the Cascade Mountains." Homesteaded in 1885, the historic property sat alongside what was then a "dusty wagon road carrying families into the High Desert frontier," which eventually evolved into Hwy. 20.

As EDCO's Sisters Country Director, Strobel — in helping local businesses start, grow, and expand in the area — views his role as "connecting companies to people in the community in ways they need and to people they might not have known."

And although EDCO's focus is traded-sector companies, he emphasized that "both traded-sector and retail/restaurant businesses are important for Sisters. Having both types operating in a healthy and successful fashion creates a good economy for a small town such as ours."

edcoinfo.com



TASTING ROOM MANAGER SPENCER MORGAN SHOWS OFF TWO BOTTLES OF MEAD WINE WITH LABELS DESIGNED BY CO-OWNER RENEE HERMAN

Sisters Art & Dining

Continued from page 1

remodeled artists' gallery and landscaped garden courtyard that has operated as an entertainment spot and reception area for a multitude of special functions.

"We also did away with our custom picture framing but it opened some space for private parties and more consistent dining. The new stage we have on the west part of the property on the yard side is where we do the Folk Festival music, and the old stage has been transformed into a sort of garden dining section outside and that's been fun. Other than local fires and things like that, we've kind of hit our stride and we're just trying to embrace the community we live in and really loving all the people we see day-to-day. There's nothing better than knowing people by face and name as they walk through the door. It reminds you of why you live here in the first place.

"People still recognize, even more so now, that we are an art community. We've established quite a few galleries per capita so we have more galleries than most towns for the amount of people who live there. And it's the Folk Festival and the Quilt Show and all the arts-related events that define our town I think more than people realize that it does. It creates an atmosphere and a vibe and people are immersed in it and we've definitely benefited from that."

On Friday, October 2 from 5-9pm and Saturday, October 3 from 12-8pm, Dan Rickards will host *Between The Lines: An Exhibition by Dan Rickards* at the Open Space Event Studio at 220 NE Lafayette Ave. in Bend. The show will present an absorbing collection of Rickards' numerous achievements and expressions in the mediums of acrylic, charcoal and graphite.



PHOTOS | BY JEFF SPRY



DAN RICKARDS WITH WIFE JULIA (L) AND DAUGHTER EMILY (R) | PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN RICKARDS

"I'm super excited about it," he reveals. "I picked a subject matter that has always been maybe a little scary. After many years of painting certain things I wanted to challenge myself with something creative in a different way. The human figure is something that's been exploited in a lot of negative ways, and yet it's one of the most timeless beautiful things ever. So I chose to take that on as a subject matter. I thought this would be a couple-year endeavor and instead it's gone on for 12 years. I'm finally wrapping that up next month.

"So I'll have a show of 50 or more pieces all in one spot and that's something I've never done, where the show itself becomes a work of art and tells a story. They're largely monochromatic. I used 11 different female models, including family members. It's an exercise in vulnerability and a little humbling. All the models I know personally, so there's a real human connection. I'm trying to discover the beauty within that, especially from a woman to look at it and find the beauty, and not have it just be the perspective from a man."

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RE/MAX COMMERCIAL

Sisters Spotlight

Fire Proof Salt & Seasoning Co.

Continued from page 1

online firehouse directory. Customers can go onto the official website and find a link to discover where all the regional stations are located, their phone number, and what areas they serve.

"After we were evacuated from the Flat Fire for about ten days, we came back to our neighborhood up on the canyon and everything smelled smoky like a campfire. So we came up with the idea that we would smoke our salt and use it in all our seasonings and have them fire-themed. So the names we use are all fire-related, like Hotshot Cajun, Campfire Catch, Wild Fire, and Five Alarm. Right now we have our plain smoked salts and seven other seasoning blends. I think where we're heading is more seasonings and rubs. We've had some requests for some salt-free and sweet mixtures so we may expand upon doing some different varieties."

Currently Fire Proof has been a regular vendor at Sisters Farmers Market all season this year and they recently started selling their wares at the La Pine Farmer's Market. Plans are also in the works to be stocked at some area holiday boutiques come Christmastime.



PHOTOS | BY JEFF SPRY

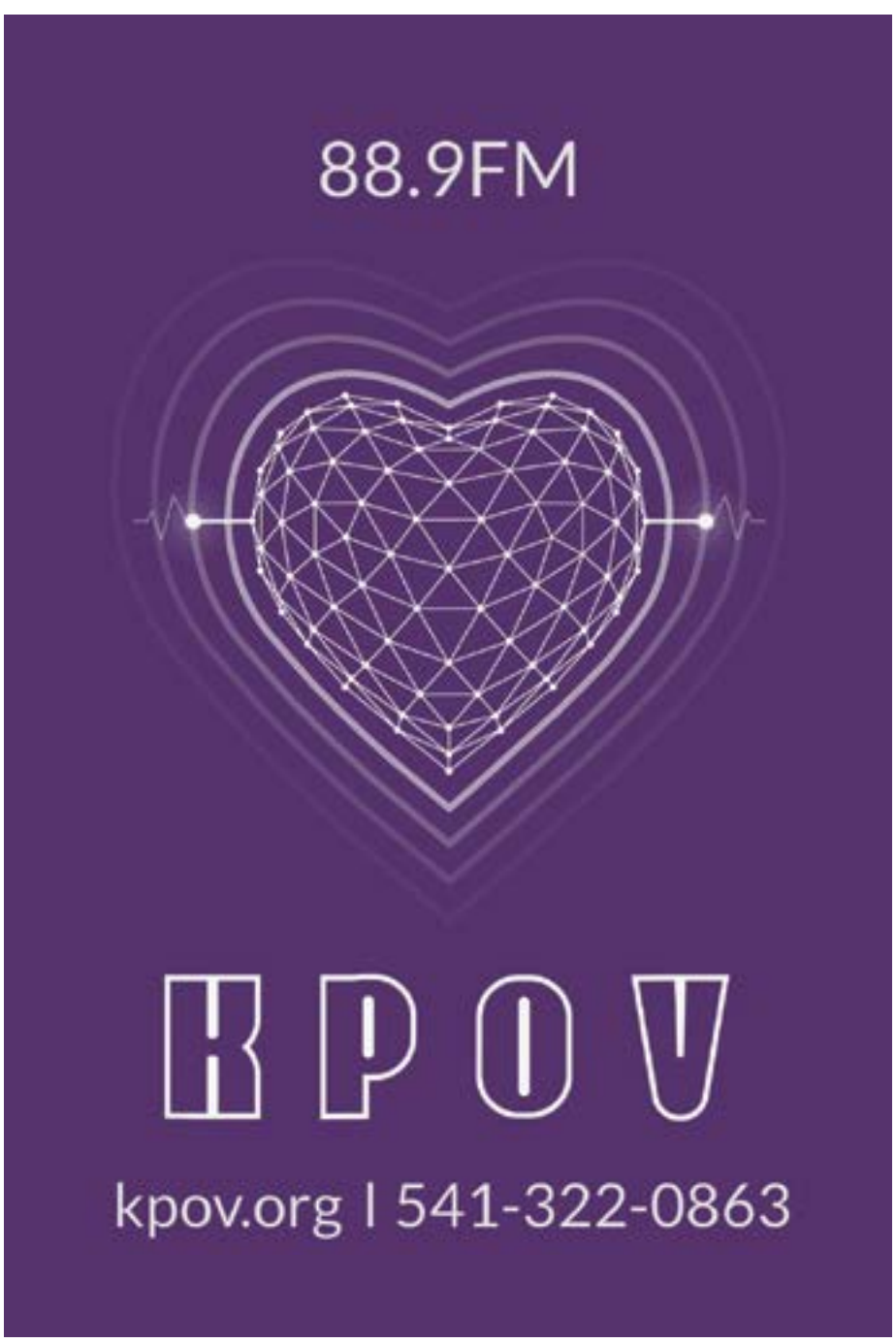


"We use a cold smoke process which doesn't have any heat and we smoke with applewood wood chips," she adds. "So it's a milder, less acrid type of smoke you get. We found a great company out of New Zealand that makes a good cold smoking process. We've been working on our recipes and our licensing since the beginning of the year. Our first product was our gift basket to the Oregon Wildland Firefighters in May and then in June when Sisters Farmers Market kicked off. We've had really positive response and we're learning from other vendors. All our interactions with the fire teams have been amazing and getting to know more about our local fire station. It was so fun to go down there and take them their big barbecue gift basket."

For event schedules and more information visit the Fire Proof Salt & Seasoning Co. website.

fireproofsalt.com
info@fireproofsalt.com
541-907-1696





Sisters Business Association

Continued from page 1

As part of this collaborative effort, SBA members "put our thoughts into a survey that pinpointed what the small business community needs in the next 3-5 years," Moore said. (Initial results were submitted to the Sisters Country Vision Implementation Team.)

As he summarized: "The strategic question is not simply how to attract more visitors. How does Sisters build a business environment resilient enough to withstand winter seasonality, wildfire disruption, labor shortages, rising costs, and changing visitor patterns while preserving the businesses that are already succeeding and increase business confidence going forward?"

Credit for these efforts — both during the summer and in planning for the future — goes in no small measure to the SBA, which — when starting up in mid-2024 — attracted 16-20 people, a number that doubled in 2025, and now includes 63 members. "We're gaining traction as an association," Moore said. "When the City of Sisters joined, I knew that we had something going. We now have a seat at the table."

He continued by saying that "The SBA's goal is to support engagement and collaboration among members, share information, and enhance confidence in our town. The focus should be on all of us working together so everyone gets fed."

sistersba.com

Wildfires Add 'Another Layer' to Explore Sisters Messaging Equation

by ANDREA HINE — CBN Feature Writer

Although businesses in Sisters were "on pins and needles" after the impacts of the 2025 Flat Fire and soft winter tourism, Scott Humpert, executive director of Explore Sisters, was optimistic about attracting visitors during this year's peak season. "For a region built around drive-to destinations, outdoor recreation, and short regional getaways, the fundamentals look favorable," he said in a June presentation that touted the favorable Memorial Day weekend for local merchants, and an uptick in lodging reservations. "Barring a damaging fire season or broader economic disruption, Sisters should see another strong summer," he predicted.

Then on July 16, lightning triggered the Akawa Butte Fire, which became the nation's highest-priority wildfire for resource allocation because of the threat it posed to nearby communities, and — at the peak of the blaze that scorched some 27,500 acres before being contained — had more than 1,000 firefighters assigned to the Sisters area.

"Although we're the welcome wagon that inspires people to come visit, Explore Sisters has to balance the boost tourists bring to the local economy with the health and safety of the town overall, and we need to be very careful with our messaging," Humpert said. "We have to tiptoe that line."

So while the Akawa Butte fire raged, forcing Level 1 through Level 3 evacuations and causing traffic jams on local highways, "we turned off our marketing on social media entirely, and consolidated information about official wildfire resources on our website to help alleviate visitor confusion; that's the last thing we needed."



THIS PHOTO IS SHOWN ON THE EXPLORE SISTERS WEBSITE THAT EXTOLS THE TOWN'S MANY ACCOMMODATIONS — MORE THAN 16 IN TOTAL | PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVEL OREGON

Humpert continued: "We listened to community members and first responders to learn when it was safe to go back to normal. And when we got the green light, Explore Sisters reinvigorated its marketing activities, emphasizing that the town itself was safe, open, and ready for visitors."

He explained that "we used to rely on a more static marketing strategy that focused primarily on the many attractions and activities available in the Sisters area. But now wildfires are becoming a way of life; it's not a matter of 'if,' but rather 'when,' which adds another layer to the equation."

As a result, "marketing campaigns need to be nimble and more dynamic, so we're ready to pivot based on current realities — whether it's lack of snow in a given winter, or smoke-reduced visibility in July and August. Even in the worst-case scenario of wildfires, no two events are the same. Each can behave differently, and our messaging needs to reflect that."

Toward that end, said Humpert, "we have developed a crisis communications plan to have in our back pocket so we can move quickly."

He also emphasized that "much of what Explore Sisters does is based on partnerships with local and regional groups, as opposed to operating independently. We all face similar challenges — wildfires being a dramatic example — so there is a lot of overlap in our promotional efforts, and in coordinating our communications strategies."

More than half of Sisters' economic base is tourism, Humpert said, with 2024 spending totaling more than $50 million. "In addition to visitors eating in our restaurants and shopping in our stores, this money — which includes transient lodging taxes for hotels and short-term rentals at a rate of 8.99 percent — goes into the Sisters general fund."



SISTERS BAKERY HAS BEEN SERVING BOTH VISITORS AND LOCALS FOR MORE THAN FOUR DECADES | PHOTO BY ANDREA HINE

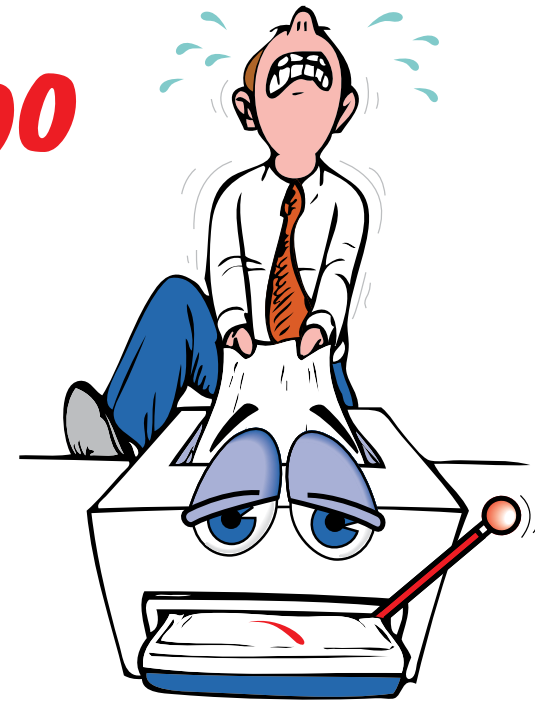
Last year, he said, "hotel tax revenues added up to $1.2 million, of which one-third was reinvested in marketing efforts. The remaining two-thirds is used to support the city's programs and services such as safety (such as contracting with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office), park maintenance and infrastructure development. This connection underscores the importance of our marketing efforts."

Bottom line: "Our job is to communicate that the greater Central Oregon area in general, and Sisters in particular, still offer a great experience year-round," said Humpert. "As our website extolls, 'Life is short. Spend some of it in Sisters.'"

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City of Sisters Staff Is Watching the Clock

by ANDREA HINE — CBN Feature Writer

"We're up against a deadline to obtain approval for our UGB expansion application," said Scott Woodford, after some 32 months of effort on Sisters' part (and an "almost nonstop engagement in the process"— not counting all the background work entailed).

As he explained, from his vantage point as Community Development Director, "If approval for the UGB expansion application isn't secured by the Deschutes County Planning Commission and its Board of Commissioners by the end of 2026, the city will be forced to redo significant portions of its planning work — including housing needs assessments, and possible master plan updates — which would set the timeline back. "The County is aware of our impending deadline, and City of Sisters staff is watching the clock," Woodford said.

(Urban Growth Boundary is a planning tool used in Oregon to ensure communities have enough space for growth over the next 20 years.) As Woodford noted, the population of Sisters is projected to approximately double during that time, "and we have to make sure there is sufficient land to meet our identified future needs for housing, employment opportunities — including retail and light industrial — and parks and schools."

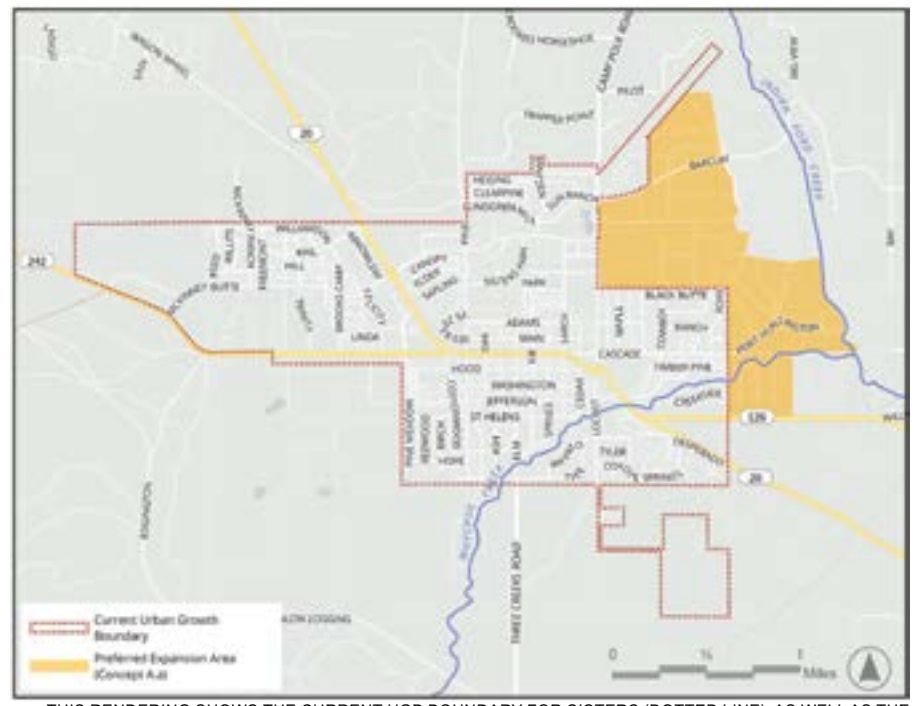
Woodford predicted "ebbs and flows in the population over the next two decades, kind of a zigzag. And if population exceeds estimates, we'll adjust our land needs over time. It may also be less than predicted, in which case the expansion land will remain undeveloped. It's like trying to create a perfect crystal ball, knowing that many factors are beyond our control."

Affordable Housing

UGB efforts are inextricably tied to the continuing need for affordable housing in Sisters, where the median single-family home price has reached $833k (as of the June 2026 Beacon Report) — compared to $728k in Bend and $515k in Redmond — while median household income is approximately $95,000, according to recent census data estimates.



THE LOCAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IS OBSERVING ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY AND COMPLETION OF ITS 100TH HOME. SHOWN IS THE RESTORE ON E. CASCADE | PHOTO BY ANDREA HINE



THIS RENDERING SHOWS THE CURRENT UGB BOUNDARY FOR SISTERS (DOTTED LINE), AS WELL AS THE PREFERRED EXPANSION AREA (YELLOW) | RENDERING COURTESY OF CITY OF SISTERS

"There is no doubt a discrepancy exists between income and housing costs in Sisters," Woodford said, "providing another reason to expand the town's boundaries, as the additional acreage will provide an opportunity for more housing choices, and opportunities for our workforce to live and work in the area. It's one of the City Council's highest priorities, which has been backed by the city's continuing financial support for several affordable housing projects."

Among them are the 40-unit Trinity Place Apartments, and the 26-home Larch Street Commons — both currently under construction. The latter is being built by the local Habitat for Humanity, which is observing its 35th anniversary, and the completion of its 100th house.

"We are building more than just houses," said Peter Hoover, executive director of the Sisters affiliate. "We are building the infrastructure of a sustainable community, ensuring that Sisters remains a place where everyone who contributes to our vibrant life here can afford to stay."

Audit of City's Development Code

On another front involving the Community Development Department that Woodford directs, "Sisters has received a grant to hire planning consultants to perform an audit of the city's development code compliance with laws passed by the state," he said. "The audit contains 35 pages of line items, which are recommendations, rather than requirements."

To elaborate, "The audit is intended to provide more flexibility in adding to existing housing stock, particularly affordable units — rather than opening up new areas for development," Woodford noted.

Dark Sky Designation

Joining Oregon's Sunriver and Antelope, Sisters has been recognized as an official dark sky community for its work in "preserving and protecting its night sky from artificial light pollution — through responsible outdoor lighting policies and public education — to ensure future generations can still see the stars," according to the International Dark Skies Program (IDSP).

"We're working on implementation of these standards," Woodford said, "primarily through community outreach and education, which is a big undertaking. Efforts include swapping out non-compliant lighting, and the city is offering a lighting rebate program to encourage participation."

Planning for Future Growth

"While many in the community might prefer to maintain the town as it is," Woodford said, "we must plan for, and accommodate, projected future growth. Not only because we are required to do by the State, but because it is smart to be proactive and plan properly so growth doesn't overwhelm us. Instead, we'll be able to work toward meeting identified community needs — such as building homes for our workforce, and setting land aside for future parks and open spaces — to help maintain the small town feel that we know and love."

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Does Your Financial Future Have Cracks You Don't See?

by MAT HUNNICUTT, Partner — True Wealth Group



Every home looks solid from the curb. It is only when you look closely, in the attic, along the foundation, that you find cracks forming long before anyone notices a problem. The good news is that cracks found early can be reinforced, on your own terms, long before a storm ever tests them.

Financial plans work the same way. A portfolio can look strong and on track, but the investors who feel most confident during a downturn are rarely the ones who got lucky. They are the ones who looked closely at their foundation ahead of time and built a plan that lets them act with confidence rather than react out of fear.

What History Teaches Us About Market Pullbacks

Markets move in cycles, and history offers a genuinely encouraging pattern: every downturn on record has eventually given way to a recovery. The 1929 crash erased nearly 89 percent of the market's value and took roughly 25 years to recover. The 1973-74 bear market cut stocks nearly in half, recovering in about seven years. The dot-com collapse of 2000-2002 wiped out close to 49 percent of the market's value, again taking roughly seven years to reach breakeven. The 2007-2009 financial crisis brought a decline of about 57 percent, the steepest since the Depression, taking close to four years to set new highs. The 2020 pandemic crash fell about 34 percent but recovered in only a few months.

We cannot know when the next pullback will arrive or how long it will last. What history tells us is that downturns are normal and recurring, and each one has eventually passed. For prepared investors, a pullback is not only something to weather. It can be a window to put money to work while prices are lower.

A Different Kind of Crack: Concentration You Might Not See

For many everyday investors, the biggest risk in a portfolio is not the one they chose. It built up quietly, as years of strong performance in technology and AI-related companies pushed those stocks to make up a historically large share of major indexes and widely held mutual funds. An investor who believes they are broadly diversified may actually be far more concentrated in a handful of companies than they realize. That is not a reason to avoid these companies. It is a reason to see the full picture, so how much of your future rides on them is a choice you made on purpose.

Turning Preparation Into Opportunity

This is where being proactive pays off. Investors who keep flexibility, whether cash reserves, a rebalancing strategy, or a clear sense of what they would buy, are positioned to act when prices pull back rather than watch from the sidelines. Rebalancing during a decline can mean buying more shares at a lower cost, which may work in an investor's favor if markets recover, as they historically have. This does involve real risk. Prices can fall further before they turn, and no strategy is guaranteed to produce a profit. Preparation does not remove risk. It puts you in a position to choose, instead of reacting out of fear.

Diversifying Without the Heavy Tax Bill

For investors sitting on a concentrated position, whether a long-held stock, employer shares, or years of growth in a few names, the instinct to diversify often runs into a real obstacle: the tax bill that comes with selling. Tax loss harvesting uses losses elsewhere in a portfolio to help offset gains, reducing what is owed in a given year. Certain exchange fund structures, often built around Section 721 of the tax code, let an investor contribute appreciated stock into a diversified vehicle in exchange for an ownership interest, potentially deferring the capital gains tax a direct sale would trigger. These strategies open options for investors who have felt stuck, though they involve rules and tradeoffs worth reviewing with an advisor and a tax professional first.

Building a Foundation You Can Feel Good About

A well-built foundation does more than protect you when a storm rolls in. It gives you the confidence to see a pullback for what it has historically been: temporary, and often an opportunity for those who were ready. If you would like a second set of eyes on your own foundation, whether that means checking for hidden concentration or exploring tax-smart ways to diversify, we would love to have that conversation.

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Financial & Investment Advisors & Stock Brokerage Firms *(Listed Alphabetically)*

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
Ascend Financial Solutions LLC 1295 NW Promontory Dr., Bend, OR 97703	541-410-3875	N/A	www.ascend-financial.com belinda.afs@gmail.com	Belinda Britt Adler	1	2018	Financial consulting, business lending & bookkeeping.
Ascent Capital Management, LLC 395 SW Bluff Dr., Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97702	541-382-4847	541-388-1124	www.ascentbend.com scott@ascentcap.com	Devin Harrigan, Scott Agnew	6	2001	Registered investment advisor.
Axiom Wealth Strategies, LLC 243 SW Scalehouse Loop, Ste. 5B Bend, OR 97702	541-389-7777	541-508-5400	www.axiomwealthstrategies.com Neal@axiomwealthstrategies.com	Neal Richards	5	2021	Financial planning, asset management, wealth management.
Becker Capital Managment, Inc. 1051 NW Bond St., Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97703	541-410-3778	503-223-3624	www.beckercap.com sgueck@beckercap.com	Sharon Gueck	42	2021	A boutique investment firm providing customized investment management, wealth planning & advisory services tailored to the unique goals of high-net-worth individuals, families, nonprofit organizations & institutions.
Bend Wealth Advisors 523 NW Colorado Ave., Ste. 100 Bend, OR 97703	541-306-4324	541-588-5609	www.bendwealth.com stu@bendwealth.com	Stu Malakoff	7	2020	Retirement guidance, divorce planning, investment management, generational succession planning, business planning, strategic tax planning, insurance & risk management & more.
Black Diamond Financial, LLC 855 SW Yates Dr., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97702	541-647-8718	N/A	www.blackdfinancial.com paul@blackdfinancial.com	Paul Svendsen	16	2008	Financial planning, estate planning & investments.
Capstone Wealth Management Group, LLC 404 SW Columbia St., Ste. 230 Bend, OR 97702	800-267-5022	541-330-0254	www.capstonewmg.com mike@capstonewmg.com	Michael Conrads	5	2003	Registered investment advisor. Independent, fee-based, customized portfolio management, wealth management & tax, financial & estate planning strategies.
Cascade Financial Strategies 243 Scalehouse Lp., Ste. 1A Bend, OR 97702	541-678-5475	541-678-5476	www.cascadefs.com jack@cascadefs.com	Marc Eppinger, Jack Schniepp	3	2013	Fee-only investment management, comprehensive financial planning, socially responsible ESG investing, risk management, savings maximization & preservation.
Charles Schwab 744 NW Bond St., Ste. A Bend, OR 97703	541-389-0580	888-754-2782	www.schwab.com/branches/bend?branch_id=2073 Chaz.Egbert@Schwab.com	Chaz Egbert	5	2025	Full-service brokerage firm with comprehensive wealth management offerings to support with investing, retirement planning & tax & estate planning.
Cold Stream Wealth Managment 65 NW Newport Ave., Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97703	541-306-2374	N/A	www.coldstream.com info@coldstream.com	Anne Marie Stonich	2	2021	Comprehensive financial services including wealth management & family office, tax & consulting, institutional investment advisory, investment banking, strategic advisory, fund management, endowments & more.
Country Financial 8283 11th St., Ste. 4 Terrebonne, OR 97760	541-548-0930	541-548-1466	www.countryfinancial.com/ray.austin ray.austin@countryfinancial.com	Ray Austin	34	1925	All lines.
D.A. Davidson & Co. 360 SW Bond St., Ste. 300 Bend, OR 97702	541-330-8964	541-330-1293	www.dadavidson.com dpollock@dadco.com	Dave Pollock, Jacquie Burchard	11	2000	Full service investment firm featuring asset management, financial planning, investment banking, research & public finance.
Edward Jones 247 North Main St. Prineville, OR 97754	541-447-7013	888-805-0812	www.edwardjones.com darrel.wisseman@edwardjones.com	Darrel Wisseman, Oliver Wisseman	4	2002	Financial planning, asset mgmt. & investment advisory services. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, cd's, government & tax exempt municipal services: variable annuities, life insurance, long term care, estate, retirement planning & more.
Edward Jones & Co. 701 NW Arizona Ave., Ste. 210 Bend, OR 97702	541-617-8861	877-843-3790	www.edwardjones.com austin.ouderkirk@edwardjones.com	Austin Ouderkirk	2	1968	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 334 NE Irving Ave., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97701	541-389-0100	888-232-0664	www.edwardjones.com danielle.baptist@edwardjones.com	Danielle Baptist	2	1968	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 1247 NE Medical Center Dr., Ste. 2 Bend, OR 97701	541-382-0853	888-452-0159	www.edwardjones.com john.morgan@edwardjones.com	John Morgan	2	2002	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 1705 SW Highland Ave. Redmond, OR 97756	541-923-5135	866-462-7274	www.edwardjones.com jeanie.eberle@edwardjones.com	Jeanie Eberle	2	2002	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 1020 SW Indian Ave., Ste. 103 Redmond, OR 97756	541-923-8848	888-239-6409	www.edwardjones.com/michael-bishop michael.bishop@edwardjones.com	Michael Bishop	3	2013	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 823 SW 14th St., Ste. 1 Redmond, OR 97756	541-923-2532	888-516-6327	www.edwardjones.com john.l.meyer@edwardjones.com	John Meyer	1	2002	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 655 SW Greenwood Ave., Ste. 4 Redmond, OR 97756	541-923-7773	800-303-0134	www.edwardjones.com joshua.wener@edwardjones.com	Josh Wer	1	2002	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 695 NW York Dr., Ste. 210, Bend, OR 97703	541-330-4329	866-411-6564	www.edwardjones.com eric.carmichael@edwardjones.com	Eric Carmichael	1	2002	See above.

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Edward Jones Investments 413 NW Larch Ave., Ste. 203 Redmond, OR 97756	541-548-1300	866-229-7019	www.edwardjones.com annette.vardanega@edwardjones.com	Annette Vardanega	2	2002	Financial planning, asset mgmt. & investment advisory services. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, cd's, government & tax exempt municipal services: variable annuities, life insurance, long term care, estate, retirement planning & more.
Edward Jones Investments 1345 NW Wall St., Ste. 300 Bend, OR 97703	541-389-4363	888-449-5591	www.edwardjones.com kate.gaughan@edwardjones.com	Kate Gaughan	1	2002	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 16345 Sixth St., Ste. 101 La Pine, OR 97739	541-536-8822	866-462-0145	www.edwardjones.com bob.cox@edwardjones.com	Bob Cox	2	2002	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 8222 N Hwy. 97, Ste. 103 PO Box 174 Terrebonne, OR 97760	541-504-7817	855-379-0714	www.edwardjones.com hadi.sale@edwardjones.com	Hadi Sale	2	1968	See above.
Edward Jones Investments 320 SW Upper Terrace Dr., Ste. 103 Bend, OR 97702	541-330-4096	877-566-9510	www.edwardjones.com mark.schang@edwardjones.com	Trent Oki, Mark Schang	3	2002	Asset management & investment advisory services. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CD's, government & tax exempt municipal services: variable annuities, life insurance, long term care, estate, retirement planning & more.
Elevation Capital Strategies 775 SW Bonnett Way, Ste. 220 Bend, OR 97702	541-728-0321	541-639-3456	elevationcapitalstrategies.com info@elevationcapitalstrategies.com	Ryan Sanford	10	2009	Offers comprehensive wealth management with a focus on preservation, appreciation & income generating solutions.
First Interstate Bank Wealth Management 1070 NW Bond St. Bend, OR 97703	541-617-6883	N/A	www.firstinterstatebank.com	Customer Service	2	1977	Full service trust, investment management, financial & retirement planning.
Focus Partners Wealth 1777 SW Chandler Ave., Ste. 205 Bend, OR 97702	541-317-1617	866-371-7889	www.buckinghamadvisor.com/locations/bend alaferriere@buckinghamgroup.com	Lex Grecu, Ann LaFerriere	4	2002	Fee-only fiduciary: investment management & retirement planning.
Henderson Asset Management, LLC 2900 NW Clearwater Dr., Ste. 100 Bend, OR 97703	360-608-8650	800-317-7416	www.hendersonassetmanagementllc.com diana@hendersonassetmanagementllc.com	Diana Henderson	1	2023	Fiduciary financial planning & portfolio management. CRD# 150876.
InsureBend 1720 NE Fourth St. Bend, OR 97701	541-382-6400	N/A	insurebend.com henrik@insurebend.com	Henrik Jahn	8	1986	Financial advising.
Jones & Roth CPAs & Business Advisors 300 SW Columbia St., Ste. 201 Bend, OR 97702	541-382-3590	541-382-3587	www.jrcpa.com info@jrcpa.com	Evan Dickens, Brian Newton, Jordan Dawley	13	1946	Tax, audit, assurance, advisory, business transitions & retirement plans for companies of all sizes. Specialized industry practices in construction & real estate, dental, medical & nonprofit organizations. Retirement plan audit specialists.
LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC 50 SW Bond St., Ste 101 Bend, OR 97702	541-382-9212	541-610-1880	www.josephferrinlpl.com joseph.ferrin@lpl.com	Joseph Ferrin	3	1994	Full service private money management.
Mackeson Advisory 777 SW Mill View Way, Ste. 200 Bend, OR 97702	541-323-6300	541-323-6301	www.mackesonadvisory.com eric@mackesonadvisory.com	Eric Maki, Tyler Mackeson	4	2015	Investment strategy & financial planning.
Mainspring Wealth Advisors LLC. 25 NW Irving Ave. Bend, OR 97703	541-330-7590	541-749-2729	www.mainspringwa.com amber@mainspringwa.com	Amber Billeter, Kristin Artman	2	2007	Financial planning, retirement planning, investment management, risk management.
Merrill Lynch 755 SW Bonnett Way, Ste. 2200 Bend, OR 97702	541-382-4373	541-326-0291	www.ml.com	N/A	13	1994	Financial planning, asset mgmt. & investment advisory services. Stocks, bonds, mutual funds, cd's, government & tax exempt municipal services: variable annuities, life insurance, long term care, mortgage financing, estate & more.
Mid Oregon Wealth Management 557 SW Bluff Dr. Bend, OR 97702	541-322-5745	541-389-0103	www.midoregon.com m.cabanilla@lpl.com	Marc Cabanilla	3	2002	Wealth Management.
Morgan Stanley 705 SW Bonnett Way, Ste. 1200 Bend, OR 97702	541-389-1282	541-382-7329	www.morganstanley.com john.lorenz@morganstanley.com	John Lorenz	6	1974	Full-service brokerage firm.
Northwest Quadrant Wealth Management 650 SW Bond St., Ste. 250 Bend, OR 97701	541-388-9888	541-388-3492	www.northwestquadrantwealth.com tyler@northwestquadrantwealth.com	Tyler Simones	9	1981	Fee based wealth management, financial planning, estate planning, retirement & charitable planning.
Northwestern Mutual 225 SW Scalehouse Lp., Ste. 102 Bend, OR 97702	541-389-7878	541-383-3846	www.northwesternmutual.com	Customer Service	4	1975	Insurance planning, investment products & services, retirement planning, education funding, estate & business planning, long-term care, disability insurance.
Northwind Financial LLC 2445 NE Division, Ste. 204 Bend, OR 97703	541-318-7871	888-320-7095	www.northwindfinancial.net BJ@northwindfinancial.net	B.J. Boeck	3	1985	Customized wealth management.
Ocean's Edge 334 NE Irving Ave., Ste. 102 Bend, OR 97701	541-382-1456	541-382-2172	www.oceansedge.com Abbie@OceansEdge.com	Abbie Summers, Rilee L. Johnson, Duane J. Silbernagel	4	1984	Fee-based financial planning, retirement & estate planning, wide variety of mutual funds, annuities, life insurance, money market accounts.
OneDigital Wealth Management (formerly ASI Wealth Management) 15 SW Colorado Ave., Ste. 280 Bend, OR 97702	541-617-0898	541-617-0498	www.onedigital.com Susie.langdon@onedigital.com	Susie Langdon, Brian DeBels	16	1998	OneDigital Wealth Management, formerly ASI Wealth Management, provides fee-only wealth management & institutional consulting throughout the Pacific Northwest, serving individuals, families, retirement plans, endowments, foundations, trusts, corporations & nonprofits. Personalized guidance & strategic insight, HR consulting, Medicare consulting, employee benefits & more.
Paltzer Wealth Management 2334 NW Frazer Lane Bend, OR 97703	541-389-3624	541-389-3579	www.jakepaltzer.com jake@jakepaltzer.com	Jake Paltzer	2	2009	Comprehensive wealth management & investment advisory for successful individuals & families.
RBC Wealth Management 2220 NW Labiche Ln., Ste. 210 Bend, OR 97703	541-385-5026	N/A	www.rbcwealthmanagement.com cal.blethen@rbc.com	Cal Blethen	23	1909	Financial planning, asset mgmt. & investment advisory services, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, government & tax exempt municipal services: variable annuities, life insurance, long term care, estate, retirement planning & more.
Seglund Financial Group 750 NW Charbonneau, Ste. 108 Bend, OR 97703	541-647-8157	N/A	www.paulseglund.com paul@seglund.com	Paul Seglund	2	2007	Services include: independent investment advisory & financial planning. Business retirement & benefit plans. Business exit planning strategies & asset protection analysis.
Sherpa Wealth Strategies LLC 444 NE Norton Ave., Ste. 101 Bend, OR 97701	541-633-7728	541-633-7759	www.sherpawealthstrategies.com brian@sherpawealthstrategies.com	Brian K. Stallcop	3	2011	Business exit planning, investment advisory, financial planning, insurance.

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The Power of Financial Planning

by ERIN SCANNELL, CEO — Heritage Wealth Advisors



When it comes to financial planning, a lot of Wall Street firms have products they're trying to sell. At Heritage Wealth Advisors, everything we do starts with the plan we create together. Our clients' goals and priorities are always front and center. And once we've established those goals, we build forecasts and use data to help them optimize their resources to not only meet those goals — but in many cases, we're finding efficiencies and opportunities our clients' previous advisors haven't identified, often allowing clients to get even more out of the resources they already have.

Financial planning isn't just about preparing for retirement — it benefits people in every stage of their lives, from planning for a vacation home, to creating additional income streams for yourself, to legacy planning in your golden years. It's more than an action plan for growing your wealth; it's about making all your financial decisions from a strategic and educated place. The planning process also focuses on protecting your wealth through entity planning, reducing your taxes, proper insurance, implementing savings and distribution plans, and more.

Read on to learn the various ways that engaging in our holistic planning process has benefited our clients across generations.

Reason #1: Goal Achievement

According to the Huffington Post, just the simple task of writing down goals increases the odds of those goals being achieved by 42%. That can be truly life-changing — and that's just the second step in planning. The possible impact jumps even further when we go beyond writing goals down, to include building specific projections and scenarios, running informed calculations, and incorporating expert coaches to help facilitate conversations — to consistently ground all decisions to those goals and the plan, and to improve accountability.

Reason #2: Confidence Levels

The dramatic increase in confidence is another big reason why financial planning can be beneficial. According to the CFP Board survey, 52% of those with a plan feel "very confident" about managing money, savings, and investments — while just 30% of those without do. This means you have a significantly higher chance of feeling very confident about your finances when you engage in planning.

Reason #3: Increased Happiness

We hear the refrain "money can't buy happiness" often. But what about planning — where you're setting goals and creating a plan to achieve them? There's quite a bit of research that shows planning *does* make a difference in happiness levels. For example, 66% of those working with a financial advisor self-identify as "happy," while only 34% of those DIYing their finances say the same.

The 'Happiness Gap'

This trend is even more prevalent when it comes to higher-net-worth folks. The 2021 Consumer Financial Behaviors Study found that individuals with assets over $1.2 million that had an advisor displayed far more satisfaction than those that did not. Interestingly, the level-of-happiness increase driven by planning went up with higher net worths: By the time household assets reached $6 million or more, the "happiness gap" between customers with and without advisors was higher than at any other level.

A psychologist involved in the study said this gap stemmed from anxiety resulting from "decision paralysis," because people with more assets have more options available in using those assets, from things like vacations to goods to philanthropy. And that's what they call the paradox of choice: According to Harvard Health Publishing, while we think we're happier when we have more choices in front of us, we're actually less happy the more choices we have. We second-guess decisions we make after having made them. But the bottom line here is that data shows people that engage in formal goal-based planning are significantly happier than those who don't.

Reason #4: Generational Growth

Lastly, financial planning can have positive effects not just on one individual person, but throughout entire families. The only thing that makes a bigger impact than planning is when it happens across generations — if you haven't started already, there's no better time to begin planning for your financial future, or your children's.

Our goal is to offer an experience that's different from what you'd typically find with more mainstream financial firms. From our team of specialists that focus on every part of our clients' financial pictures, to being an independent firm where everything we do is centered on a client's plan rather than pushing products — we're committed to providing actionable, goal-based advice that's anchored in a deep, personal understanding of our clients' needs and expectations. If you'd like to learn more about how our team can help simplify your financial life so you can focus on the things that really matter, use the QR code to request a free consultation today.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Company / Address	Phone	Fax	WebSite/Email	Contact	Staff	CO Year Est.	Services
Sundowner Capital Management, LLC 725 NW Broadway St. Bend, OR 97703	541-389-3311	541-389-3322	www.sundownercapital.com doug@sundownercapital.com	Douglas Downer	3	2000	Portfolio management for affluent investors.
The Bahnsen Group 5 NW Minnesota Ave., Ste. 220 Bend, OR 97703	541-604-8603	N/A	thebahnsengroup.com pnwoffice@thebahnsengroup.com	John Swanson	4	2014	Asset management, financial planning, wealth management.
The Pacific Wealth Group at UBS Financial Services Inc. 600 SW Columbia, Ste. 6200 Bend, OR 97702	503-225-9225	855-333-1711	www.ubs.com/team/pacificwealthgrou jim.mead@ubs.com	Jim Mead	16	1997	Our team has extensive experience in guiding prominent business owners up to, through & long after the sale of their business.
True Wealth Group 750 NW Charbonneau St., Ste. 211 Bend OR 97703	541-588-5008	541-588-5009	www.mytruewealthgroup.com ian@mytruewealthgroup.com	Ian Laimbeer	6	2024	CFP fiduciary financial planning, wealth management, tax planning, equity compensation planning, business exit planning.
U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management 86 SW Century Dr. Bend, OR 97702	541-633-1205	541-388-8704	www.usbank.com/wealth-management charles.yeaman@usbank.com	Cody Michael, Chuck Yeaman	6	1891	High net worth wealth management banking services including personal & business lending. Retirement & financial planning, trust services & more. usbank.com/wealth-management/private-wealth-management/bend-or.html.
UBS Financial Services Inc. 600 SW Columbia St., Ste. 6200 Bend, OR 97702	541-617-7020	N/A	www.ubs.com cy.aleman@ubs.com	Cy Aleman	9	1998	Full-service brokerage firm offering financial planning wealth management, consulting, discretionary & non-discretionary portfolio mngmt, equities, fixed income, cash mngmt, lending, equity research & retirement planning.
United Financial NW 424 NE Kearney Ave. Bend, OR 97701	541-388-1708	541-388-1710	www.unitedfinancialnw.com ed@unitedfinancialnw.com	Ed Wettig, Courtney Marlatt	5	1993	Investment management, IRA rollovers, comprehensive financial planning, retirement income strategies, insurance & annuities, Medicare plans.
Wells Fargo Advisors 320 SW Upper Terrace Dr., Ste. 200, Bend, OR 97702	541-388-1221	541-388-4274	www.wellsfargoadvisors.com	Customer Service	14	1986	Full-service brokerage firm.
WestPac Wealth Partners Bend, OR 97701	541-382-6400	N/A	www.westpacwealth.com henrik@westpacwealth.com	Henrik Jahn	3	2010	Financial advice, risk management, income tax planning, business exit strategies.
Wychick Investment Advisors Inc. 70 SW Century Dr., Ste. 100-448, Bend, OR 97702	866-992-4425	N/A	www.wychick.com gparker@wychick.com	Stein Swenson, Glenn Parker	2	2005	Investment advisory services, retirement planning, financial planning, trust administration.

This is a sampling of Central Oregon Financial & Investment Advisors & Stock Brokerage Firms.
If you would like to be added to this list, please email cbn@cascadebusnews.com.



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Six Lessons Aviation Can Teach Us About Investing

by CLAY TRENZ, AAMS, AIF, Wealth Advisor — Bend Wealth Advisors



What better way to explain the intricacies of personal investing than by combining two of my passions: helping others improve their financial lives and flying aircraft? That's right. I am an investment advisor representative, and an Airline Transport rated (ATP) instrument instructor pilot. While growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, Trans World Airlines (TWA) constantly flew over my parents' home which inspired me to ride my bicycle to the local airport, Spirit of St. Louis (KSUS). Several years later, I became a corporate pilot for prominent business leaders who eventually inspired me to transition from the cockpit into the business world.

You might be thinking, "How can aviation have anything to do with personal finance?" Well, here you go! Here are six ways aviation and investment planning are surprisingly alike:

#1: Stall Recovery and Market Declines

Both occurrences can cause people to panic. Stalling a plane can be scary, and seeing the stock market go into a tailspin can be equally worrying. It is important during both situations to stay calm and level-headed. When a stall occurs, a pilot must remain calm, regain a safe aircraft configuration, and return to stable flight. If the market takes a turn for the worse, your goal is to stay focused on what you can control (portfolio risk level, savings vs. expenses, and your financial plan) until the markets recover.

#2: Air Traffic Control and Financial Guidance

Pilots always communicate with ATC prior to conducting takeoffs and landings, and often during the middle of a flight. Pilots communicate with ATC about conflicting traffic, terrain, weather conditions, ride quality, and occasionally even a weather balloon gone astray. ATC is there to keep all of us safe and informed! The same holds true for your relationship with a financial advisor. Your advisor is there to keep an eye on the financial environment and make sure you stay on track. As an advisor, I keep to a scheduled review process and recommend touching base when you have questions or experience an unexpected "life event." Regular communication often helps prevent unwanted surprises.

#3: The Preflight Checklist Before Major Purchases

A thorough pilot always completes a preflight checklist prior to takeoff. Similarly, you should take a close look at your finances before making a major purchase, whether it's a new home, car, vacation property, boat—or even a plane. Be certain your day-to-day financial needs are sorted out and will not be negatively impacted by acquiring a big-ticket item.

#4: Navigating Turbulence in Life and Investing

Turbulence is an inevitable part of flying, just as financial setbacks and life challenges are an inevitable part of life. Try not to sweat it, stick to the flight plan (your financial plan) and you will reach smoother air soon, and ultimately your destination (your financial goals).

#5: Small Trim Tab Adjustments, Big Financial Results

For those not familiar with the term, a trim tab is a small secondary control surface which is adjustable and allows a pilot to remove unwanted forces on the controls. A small adjustment to the trim tab allows an aircraft to fly with minimal human input at a given airspeed; it is almost effortless to fly a properly trimmed aircraft. A small adjustment in your savings habit can have a real impact on your financial future. Saving a little more today may not seem significant, but small, consistent adjustments can produce meaningful results over time.

#6: Lowering Risk on the Approach to Retirement

Prior to landing an aircraft, the pilot deploys wing flaps to reduce the aircraft's stall speed. This configuration allows the aircraft to land more safely at a slower speed. The same can be said about nearing retirement. It is important to evaluate the risk/reward profile of your investment portfolio to determine if you are taking on too much risk. As retirement approaches, many investors benefit from reducing portfolio volatility and focusing on preserving the wealth they've spent years building.

Whether you're climbing toward a major financial goal, riding through a period of turbulence, or beginning your descent into retirement, you don't have to fly solo. Every successful flight begins with a destination, a thoughtful plan, and periodic course corrections along the way. Your financial journey deserves the same attention. If you'd like to review your investment strategy and ensure you're still on course, contact your advisor here at Bend Wealth we'd be happy to help.

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Financial Focus

Planning Your Business Exit: Start with the End in Mind

by MICHAEL J. BISHOP, AAMS, Financial Advisor — Edward Jones



If you own a business, you've probably spent countless hours thinking about how to grow it, manage daily operations and serve your customers. But have you thought about how you'll eventually step away from it? While it might seem premature, planning your successful exit from your business is one of the smartest moves you can make as an owner.

The reality is that most business owners have 80% to 90% of their net worth tied up in their companies, according to the Exit Planning Institute. That's a significant investment that deserves careful planning to protect. Unfortunately, 70% to 80% of businesses put on the market don't sell, and about half of all business exits are involuntary due to unexpected circumstances like health issues, family emergencies management disputes or economic downturns.

Exit planning is more than preparing for retirement. It's taking control of your future and ensuring you can transition away from your business when and how you choose. You can start with the end in mind — a proactive approach that can inform your current business decisions and help increase your company's value and marketability.

Begin by articulating your personal goals for both the transaction and your life afterward. Maybe you want to sell only a portion of your business, stay on as a paid consultant or use the proceeds to start your next venture. Understanding your vision helps shape everything else.

You'll want to calculate how much money you'll need to fund your desired retirement lifestyle, accounting for expenses that may be currently covered by the business, like your cellphone, vehicles, travel and health care. Don't forget about your legacy goals too — what you want to leave for your family or charitable causes.

Getting started requires building a strong professional team. At the center should be a financial advisor who can help you through the planning, execution and post-sale phases. You'll likely also need a tax professional, legal advisor, commercial banker and business valuation expert. Depending on your exit strategy, you might later add specialists like business brokers, investment bankers or employee stock ownership plan advisors.

Understanding your business's current value is crucial. It's a good idea to get a calculation of value at least three to five years before your planned exit. This isn't as formal or expensive as a qualified appraisal, but it gives you a realistic range of what your business might be worth.

This step may reveal a gap between what you need financially and what your business could sell for. If so, don't panic. You have several options: work longer, adjust your spending expectations, save more outside the business or focus on increasing your company's value. You can boost value by increasing profits through higher market share, new products, better pricing or reduced costs. You can also improve intangible assets like employee expertise, operational systems and customer relationships.

Finally, consider who your successor might be. Selling your interest to family members, business partners or employees often provide more control over timing and lower transaction costs, though they may result in lower sale prices. Selling the business to third parties typically bring higher proceeds but less control over the process.

The key message is simple: it's never too early to start planning your exit. Whether you're thinking about stepping away next year or in the next decade, taking proactive steps now puts you in control of your business's future and your own financial security.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Oregon Estate Tax

Could Your Family Be at Risk?

by JUSTIN THOMPSON — Capstone Accounting & Tax



Estate planning is often something people put off. It can be uncomfortable to think about what happens after you die, particularly when you are focused on running a business, raising a family, or enjoying retirement.

But there are two things in life that are inevitable: death and taxes.

For Oregon residents, those two issues can intersect in ways many families do not expect.

Estate Tax

Oregon estate tax generally applies when a decedent's gross estate exceeds $1 million.. It is the lowest estate tax threshold in the nation and has remained unchanged since 2002.

The value of your estate for tax purposes is the fair market value of all bank accounts, investments, retirement accounts, your house, vintage cars, and ownership in the family business on the day that you die.

Above the $1 million threshold, your estate is taxed at 10-16%. Many families now clear $1 million simply with a house and 401k, it doesn't only apply to those perceived as ultra-wealthy.

What Happens When You Die?

Estate tax is paid by the estate before assets are distributed to beneficiaries.

For families with significant assets, this can create an unexpected financial obligation. And unlike a bank account, some assets, particularly real estate, businesses, and other closely held investments, may not be easy to convert to cash.

Without advance planning, heirs may be forced to sell family property, liquidate investments, or borrow against business assets to generate the cash needed to pay the tax.

Agricultural Families Have Additional Planning Opportunities

Oregon provides a special estate tax exemption for qualifying natural resource property used in family farm, forestry, or fishing businesses.

Under current law, up to $15 million of qualifying property may be excluded from the value of your estate up, but specific requirements must be met. Those requirements include ownership timeline and how the property is used, both before and after death.

Done correctly, this exemption is an incredible benefit for ag families who often have a sizable portion of their estate tied up in farming property.

It is also a good example of why estate planning should begin well before a transfer occurs. Meeting the requirements may take years of planning and documentation.

Planning Is About More Than Paying Tax

Estate planning is ultimately about making sure your assets are transferred according to your wishes while minimizing unnecessary tax and administrative burdens.

That may involve trusts, gifting strategies, business succession planning, beneficiary designations, life insurance, or other strategies depending on your circumstances.

The right approach is different for every family.

Next Steps

Review your estate plan if it hasn't been reviewed since any major life changes. Marriage or divorce, the birth of a child, starting a business, buying property, and receiving an inheritance are just a few examples. Contact the Capstone Accounting & Tax team to review your potential Oregon estate tax exposure and identify planning opportunities.

We work with families and business owners to coordinate tax planning with their broader estate and succession goals.

capstoneaccounting.com



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



Dean Huffine

HWA Civil Engineering & Surveying announced that **Dean Huffine** has moved to Bend and joined the company. Huffine is a native of Oklahoma City and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with experience in civil engineering design and project management, including work on large-scale public infrastructure and land development projects.

Huffine will support a variety of civil engineering projects, helping HWA continue its mission of delivering thoughtful, high-quality solutions tailored to the needs of Central Oregon.



Kristyn Fix

Kristyn Fix, business and community engagement manager at **East Cascades Works** (EC Works), has earned the Certified Workforce Development Professional (CWDP) with Business Services Endorsement credential through the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals.

Fix is one of only nine active CWDPs in Oregon and the only CWDP in the state to hold the Business Services Endorsement. The nationally recognized credential validates expertise in workforce development, while the endorsement recognizes specialized competencies in business engagement, workforce solutions, economic development and talent pipeline development.

At EC Works, Fix builds relationships among businesses, community partners, education and training providers, and workforce organizations to connect resources and develop collaborative solutions that strengthen the regional workforce system and support businesses and communities.



Cameron Stearns

Cameron Stearns, CEO and CFO of **Mountain Rose Herbs** (MRH), has been appointed to the Purpose Pledge Board, joining a coalition of business leaders advancing a more accountable and purpose-driven approach to commerce.

Created by Dr. Bronner's, One Step Closer, and LIFT Economy, Purpose Pledge provides a framework for companies seeking to align business operations with the well-being of people, communities, and the natural systems on which all prosperity depends. The initiative reflects a growing movement to measure success not only through financial performance, but also through positive social and environmental impact.

Stearns' appointment recognizes Mountain Rose Herbs' longstanding commitment to stewardship. For nearly four decades, the company has championed organic agriculture, ethical sourcing, environmental responsibility, and community investment while demonstrating that purpose and profitability can work hand in hand. As an Oregon Benefit Company and a member of Purpose Pledge, Mountain Rose Herbs has formally embedded its commitment to serving people, communities, and the environment alongside financial success.

Stearns, a licensed CPA with a strong financial and operational background, will serve alongside other leaders to help guide the continued evolution of Purpose Pledge and support companies seeking practical ways to integrate purpose into governance, operations, and long-term business strategy.

Stearns' appointment reinforces Mountain Rose Herbs' role within a growing movement of organizations working to redefine business success through transparency, accountability, and long-term stewardship.



Tiffany Huey



James Erickson

COCC welcomes two new advisers, **Tiffany Huey** and **James Erickson**, to the COCC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) team. Both bring fresh expertise, practical experience and a shared commitment to helping Central Oregon businesses start, grow and adapt.

Erickson is an entrepreneur with more than 20 years of experience building and operating businesses. He founded, bootstrapped, and grew StrideBox, a subscription company, from startup to more than $3 million in revenue. He worked with and consulted with hundreds of consumer brands, applying his experience in marketing, sales, operations, customer acquisition and financial management.

Before StrideBox, Erickson owned and operated a marketing agency, helping businesses develop marketing strategies, strengthen customer acquisition and identify growth opportunities.

He is a Marine Corps veteran and holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Oregon State University. His practical experience gives him perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Huey brings more than 25 years of experience in marketing, ecommerce, brand strategy and executive leadership across consumer packaged goods, retail and food service. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in international relations and economics from American University and completed executive education at The Wharton School.

As a fourth-generation business owner, Huey has firsthand experience revitalizing and growing a heritage company from strategy and pricing to cash flow, operations, wholesale, ecommerce and customer acquisition. She understands both the big-picture decisions and everyday realities of running a business.

At the SBDC, she helps owners clarify priorities, solve problems creatively, strengthen their financial and marketing foundations and turn ambitious ideas into achievable next steps.



Melissa Lovemark



Jeff Gullickson

Bethlehem Inn recognizes **Melissa Lovemark** for her dedicated service on our Board of Directors and as Board treasurer, while warmly welcoming **Jeff Gullickson** as a new board member and Treasurer.

Lovemark has been a valued member of the Bethlehem Inn family, generously sharing her time, financial expertise, and thoughtful leadership in support of our mission. During her service as treasurer, she helped provide important financial oversight and guidance as Bethlehem Inn continued to navigate the changing needs of our organization and the community we serve.

Beyond her professional expertise, Lovemark brought a genuine commitment to the people behind our mission. We are incredibly grateful for her service, her partnership, and the many ways she has helped strengthen Bethlehem Inn. We wish her all the best and thank her for the lasting impact she has made.

We are also excited to welcome Gullickson to the Bethlehem Inn Board of Directors and into the role of treasurer. He brings valuable experience, a strong connection to our community, and a willingness to put his skills to work in service of others. We look forward to the perspective and leadership he will bring as Bethlehem Inn continues to grow, strengthen our programs, and pursue new opportunities to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout Central Oregon.

Volunteer board leadership is an essential part of a strong nonprofit organization. We are fortunate to have community leaders like Lovemark and Gullickson who are willing to share their experience, time, and talents in support of our work.



Martin Girardi

Martin Girardi, an alumnus of the University of the West of England, Bristol, has been selected as a 2026 Video Systems Engineering Intern in the Science & Engineering Internship Program and will sail aboard Ocean Exploration Trust (OET)'s Exploration Vessel (E/V) *Nautilus* during its 2026 expedition season. Originally from Bend, Girardi was selected as one of 19 interns from hundreds of applicants and will join the team aboard E/V *Nautilus* in September and October to explore the ocean around the Hawaiian Islands. This 20-day expedition will start and end in Honolulu and utilize the ROV, mapping, and telepresence systems of E/V *Nautilus* to survey previously unsurveyed deep seafloor around the Hawaiian Islands, with a focus on unexplored ridges and seamounts in the eastern portion of the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary, and abyssal plain habitats southwest of the Main Hawaiian Islands.

Ocean Exploration Trust, a nonprofit founded by Dr. Robert Ballard, operates with a mission to explore the unknown parts of the ocean, seeking out new discoveries while pushing the boundaries of technological innovation, STEAM education, and outreach. Expeditions center on scientific exploration of the seafloor, collaboration with the broader scientific community, and engagement of audiences of all ages via telepresence technology. The team has traveled around the world, helping understand the deep ocean and sharing discoveries live with the world through NautilusLive.org.

As a Video Systems Engineering Intern, Girardi will learn to operate camera controls for the ship and subsea video systems, and work with lead engineers in the operation and maintenance of all video systems aboard *Nautilus*.

OET's internships train students in the at-sea environment and provide real-world experience to further develop academic interests and professional career paths via participation in the Nautilus Exploration Program. These interns come from community colleges, undergraduate, service academies, and graduate programs in ocean and atmospheric sciences, seafloor mapping, systems engineering, film, and electrical, mechanical, aerospace, and robotics engineering.

People worldwide can engage with Girardi and the explorers onboard via NautilusLive.org, a 24-hour live-streaming web portal that brings expeditions from the field to explorers on shore through telepresence technology and social media. Local schools, summer programs, and community groups are encouraged to schedule free, live one-on-one Q&A sessions with explorers on the ship available daily.

Rimrock Trails Treatment Services welcomes **Dani McCallister** to the team as the assessment and resource center program lead at the Prineville Outpatient Clinic.

McCallister brings 18 years of human services experience in community connections for youth and families, including launching the System of Care of Central Oregon. Born and raised in Prineville, she is passionate about serving and strengthening services in her hometown.

In her new role, McCallister leads the Assessment Resource Center (ARC), which offers same-day behavioral health assessments and connects youth ages 18 and under with mental health and substance use treatment.

More Who's Who Next Page ▶

Bend's Public (Rock) Choir Celebrates Ten Years & the Release of Creator Deena Noroian's New Book, *Loud*

by GENENE CHEATHAM — VOICE UP, LLC

Ten years ago, Bend voice coach and professional singer Deena Noroian, formerly Deena Kamm, had a simple idea: give her voice students a place to actually use what they were learning.

That idea became Public (ROCK) Choir — and what began as an opportunity for local singers to get out of the lesson room and sing together has grown into a beloved Central Oregon community event that has brought thousands of voices together over the past decade.

On Monday, September 7, Public (ROCK) Choir kicks off its tenth anniversary season with its regular monthly event from 6-8pm at UPP Liquids in the Box Factory in Bend. Public (ROCK) Choir takes place on the first Monday of every month, September through June, bringing the community together for a new night of music each time.

Admission is $20, and newcomers are welcome. No auditions, no singing experience and no ongoing commitment are required. The event is recommended for ages 18 and older.

Public (ROCK) Choir is not a traditional choir.

Participants are encouraged to "SING YOUR FACE OFF" alongside a live rock band in a fun, non-threatening environment where all skill levels are welcome. Noroian leads the group through an entire evening of well-known rock and pop favorites, giving everyone in the room the chance to sing great songs — LOUD. No hymns, chanting or folk spirituals. Just well-known rock and pop songs you know from the radio and pop culture.

"I created Public (ROCK) Choir because my students needed somewhere to go sing," says Noroian. "Voice lessons are awesome, but ultimately the voice is meant to be used out in the world — by everyone! I wanted people to experience what happens when you put a whole room full of voices together and give everyone permission to really let go and sing."

Over the next decade, PRC became a regular part of Bend's music and community scene, bringing together people of different ages, backgrounds and levels of musical experience around one very simple philosophy: Sing Your Face Off.

The ten-year anniversary also comes as Noroian celebrates another milestone: the release of her new book, *LOUD: The Voice That Cures Everything*.

The book grew in part from what Noroian observed over decades of teaching and leading her choir — including what happened when ordinary people were given permission to use more of the voices they already had.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF VOICE UP LLC

LOUD explores the connection between the human voice, the diaphragm, the body and emotional well-being, and asks a deceptively simple question: What if the human voice isn't just a communication tool — but an overlooked part of our physical and emotional health?

Noroian's work has since expanded well beyond singers. She is the founder of VOICE UP, LLC, where she brings her work with voice, communication and human performance to executives, organizations and other professional voice users. She also continues to operate Sing Bend, her Central Oregon voice studio.

But Public (ROCK) Choir remains the community laboratory where much of it began.

"For ten years, I've watched people walk into PRC saying, 'I can't sing,' and then watched them become part of this enormous sound," Noroian says. "There is something incredibly powerful about that. You don't have to be a professional singer. You don't have to audition. You just have to show up and use the voice you came with."

singbend.com/public-rock-choir

The Future of Food is Local

Edible Central Oregon Connects Readers to the Source

by REBEKAH ALTMAN, Publisher & Editor — Edible Central Oregon

A new publication launched this summer that highlights our region's vibrant food culture with compelling storytelling, luscious imagery, and recipes to savor in every issue.

Available four times per year in print and digital formats, *Edible Central Oregon* shares stories of the people who nourish us and bring Central Oregon flavors to life, featuring a broad range of topics that appeal to foodies and novices, locals and visitors alike.

Edible Central Oregon acts as a community hub to amplify the work of local food growers and producers to an audience of 5,000+ readers, partnering with regional markets, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to share this message. High Desert Food & Farm Alliance (HDFFA) is one such partner.

"HDFFA is excited to partner with *Edible Central Oregon* because we share a commitment to celebrating seasonal, regional food and the people who produce it," says Ann Pistacchi-Peck, HDFFA associate director and market manager for the Bend Farmers Market. "Connecting more people with local farmers, ranchers, and food businesses leads to a stronger local food system, which also boosts our entire economy."

The magazine is free at distribution locations such as markets and boutiques; restaurants, coffee shops, and breweries; and hotels, museums, and visitor centers. Publication is made possible by a diverse and growing group of advertising partners.

If your business would like to reach a passionate, well-informed audience while broadcasting its support for a thriving regional community, *Edible Central Oregon* offers a small number of advertising placements each issue. The deadline to be included in the winter issue is October 8.

ediblecentraloregon.com

advertising@ediblecentraloregon.com



PHOTO | COURTESY OF REBEKAH ALTMAN

Who's Who

Continued from previous page



Tyler Mackeson

Dickey Educational Endowment welcomes **Tyler Mackeson**, founder and lead advisor of Mackeson Advisory, to its board of directors.

Mackeson brings two decades of leadership, business and investment experience to the organization. Since 2009, he has served hundreds of families as an investment and financial advisor. He currently leads a team of professionals focused on providing clients with attentive service, stewardship and financial guidance.

An Oregon native, Mackeson's personal mission is to positively impact the lives of others. His passion for addressing substance abuse is rooted in success stories within his extended family, his faith and his belief that lasting change can happen in an instant.



Craig Biss

Most golfers spend a lifetime chasing a single hole-in-one. **Bend Golf Club** member **Craig Biss**, who turns 75 this month, made two on consecutive days. The second came at a moment no one at the club will soon forget.

On Thursday, September 10, Biss aced the club's 180-yard 6th hole. The shot was witnessed by his playing partners Todd Steimer, David Lyon and Bevan Nicolaisen, Bend Golf Club's membership director.

The next morning, Friday, September 11, Biss did it again. His tee shot on the 115-yard 11th hole found the bottom of the cup beneath a commemorative American flag flown in honor of the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. That ace was witnessed by his wife, Peggy Biss; his daughter-in-law, Kelsey Biss; and family friend Kathy Bruckner of South Dakota.

The odds of an amateur golfer making a hole-in-one are commonly estimated at 12,500 to 1. Achieving two on consecutive days is far rarer, and no odds can capture the extraordinary timing of the second: on the 11th hole, on the morning of September 11, beneath a flag flown in remembrance.

Wells Fargo Foundation Invests $100,000 in the Future of Central Oregon's Workforce

by LEANNA WILLIAMS — Heart of Oregon Corps

Heart of Oregon Corps recently announced that it has received a $100,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to support its new youth workforce development campus in Redmond. The funding recognizes the power of career-connected opportunities to help young people build financial stability and self-sufficiency.

"This investment from the Wells Fargo Foundation is a powerful vote of confidence in the potential of Central Oregon's young people and the role they play in our region's future," said Laura Handy, Executive Director of Heart of Oregon Corps. "We are incredibly grateful to Wells Fargo Foundation for recognizing the importance of this work and choosing to invest alongside us in our youth."

Heart of Oregon's new campus will serve as a regional hub for local youth on the workforce track--bringing training, education, and support services together under one roof to provide young people with clear, accessible pathways into employment, skilled trades, education, and self-sufficiency. Purpose-built classrooms, hands-on training spaces, and integrated supportive services will allow Heart of Oregon to better meet the needs of young people across Central Oregon—and build a Central Oregon workforce equipped to answer our region's greatest employment needs.

Heart of Oregon's WORK-EARN-LEARN model helps local youth and young adults gain meaningful work experience, earn wages and stipends, develop job skills, and pursue industry-recognized credentials that allow them to work toward their futures.

For a young person stepping into their first job, a paycheck can mean more than money. It can be the first step toward independence. A new skill can become a career. An industry-recognized credential can open a door that once seemed out of reach. And the confidence that comes from making an impact in community can change the way a young person sees their future — and their own ability to direct the course of their own lives.

Members of the media and community are invited to celebrate the campus grand opening and ribbon cutting at 11am on September 30. Guests will hear from regional leaders and alumni, tour the new campus building, and enjoy a free hot dog BBQ lunch. Learn more and RSVP at hoccampus.org.

Heart of Oregon is proud to recognize corporate campus donors at the following levels. Thank you for your support of the Legacy 25 Campaign.



GIFT ADVANCES A REGIONAL HUB FOR YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND OPPORTUNITY | RENDERING COURTESY OF HEART OF OREGON CORPS

- **Legacy Leader ($75,000+):** BASX, The Bend Foundation, Hayden Homes, PGE Foundation, and Wells Fargo Foundation.
- **$25K Club ($25,000+):** Aperion Management Group, First Interstate Bank, Les Schwab, Mike's Fence Center, Pahlisch Homes, R&H Construction, and The Rosendin Foundation.
- **Gold ($10,000):** Budget Blinds, Compass Commercial, Johnson Brothers Appliances, Mid Oregon Credit Union, Pacific Catalyst, Taylor NW, and US Bank.
- **Silver ($5,000):** Bank of America, Bradford White, Building Solutions, Madras Sanitary Services, PCC Structural, Scott's Roofing, Severson Plumbing & Fire, Sherwin Williams, WaFd Bank, and Woodhill Homes.
- **Bronze ($2,500):** Bright Wood, Central Oregon Garage Door, Central Willamette Credit Union, Crooked River Sanitary, Deschutes Construction Corp, EC Electric, Mt. Bachelor, Parr Lumber, QXO, Redpoint Construction Management, Skanska, Solaire Homebuilders, SunWest Builders, TDS Telecom, and Technology Design Associates.

heartoforegon.org

Emergency Preparedness Begins with Context

by SKYLER KRUGER, Founder — Mallowa



Every person receiving care carries a body of knowledge that lives almost nowhere. What a good day looks like for them, and what the first hour of a hard one looks like. Which change in routine tends to unsettle them, and what steadies them once it has. How they say they are in pain when they don't use the word. Who to call, in what order, and what the second person on that list already knows that the first one doesn't.

I spent four years as a direct support professional in Central Oregon, supporting children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their own homes, and that knowledge was the whole job. Not the tasks. The context. It was what let you see a difficult afternoon coming while there was still time to change its course, and it was the thing most often missing when someone new walked through the door.

Here is what I came to believe emergency preparedness actually means. The responsibility for providing that context falls, almost always, on the family or on the person themselves. It falls on them at intake, at every new appointment, with every substitute, and in the emergency, which is precisely the moment they are least able to carry it. A parent trying to explain a decade of history to a stranger in a hallway. An adult managing their own care who cannot, right then, establish context themselves. Preparedness is the work of lifting that burden off them before the moment arrives.

In Central Oregon that moment has a particular shape. The wait for an appointment is measured in months. The wait to be seen, even when it is urgent, is measured in hours. And when you are finally in front of someone, they have a few minutes and no history. Whatever context makes it into those minutes is what the person gets treated with.

So the most useful thing a household can do this week costs nothing. Write one page, and write the context first. What this person is like on an ordinary day. What a hard moment looks like as it begins, what tends to set it off, and what has helped before. How they communicate, especially when they are overstimulated or unwell. Then the things every form asks for: allergies and what a reaction looks like, current medications with doses and the date of the last change, and three people to call with their relationship written beside the number.

Print it. Put one where it will be found, one in the bag that goes everywhere, and one with whoever steps in when you can't. If you are managing your own care, this is the same page, and it may matter more: you are the one person who cannot be asked to explain yourself in the moment it is needed.

One page will not fix the waitlist. It will make sure that when the wait ends, the person at the center of it arrives already known.

We keep a free printable version of that page at mallowa.com/resources, with no account and nothing to sign up for. If you have 20 minutes this week, they are well spent here, for someone you love or for yourself.

Skyler Kruger is the founder of Mallowa, a Bend-built care record that families and supported individuals own and share on their own terms. Before founding it he spent four years as a direct support professional in Central Oregon.

mallowa.com

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon Celebrates Big Brothers Big Sisters Month This September

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

This September, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon (BBBSCO), a program of J Bar J Youth Services, is celebrating Big Brothers Big Sisters Month and the powerful impact mentorship has on young people throughout Central Oregon.

Each year, Big Brothers Big Sisters Month provides an opportunity to recognize the people at the heart of the organization's mission—volunteer mentors, known as Bigs; the young people they mentor, known as Littles; as well as families, staff, supporters and community partners.

This year, BBBSCO will serve more than 220 young people across Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties through one-to-one mentoring and additional programs designed to help youth build confidence, develop meaningful connections and create brighter futures.

"September is a chance for us to celebrate everyone who makes this mission possible," said Jenn Davis, program director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon. "We celebrate our Bigs who continue to show up month after month, our Littles who inspire us every day, the families who trust us, our staff who pour so much into supporting our matches, and a community that continues to stand behind our young people. Mentorship may begin with one relationship, but its impact reaches so much further."

For BBBSCO, mentorship is about more than spending time together. Bigs provide young people with another caring, consistent adult in their corner. Someone who listens, encourages them, celebrates their successes and helps them navigate challenges.

Behind every match is a dedicated team of BBBSCO staff who recruit and enroll volunteers and youth, thoughtfully create matches, provide ongoing professional support, plan activities and experiences, and connect families with resources. Their work helps ensure that Bigs, Littles and families have the support they need to build strong, lasting relationships.

Throughout the year, BBBSCO also provides opportunities that extend beyond one-to-one mentoring. Through programs such as CARES and Big Futures: Graduation & Beyond, young people and families can access academic support, career and post-secondary planning, basic-needs resources, enrichment activities and experiences designed to help youth thrive.

While September is a month of celebration, it is also a reminder of the continued need for mentors in Central Oregon. Over 80 area young people are currently waiting for a mentor.

"You don't have to be extraordinary to be a great mentor," Davis said. "Our Littles are looking for someone who will be consistent, spend time with them and believe in who they are and who they can become. A few hours a month can build a relationship that has an impact for years."

BBBSCO encourages the Central Oregon community to celebrate Big Brothers Big Sisters Month by learning more about mentorship, sharing the mission with friends and family, supporting local mentoring programs or taking the first step toward becoming a Big Brother or Sister.

bbbsco.org

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Oregon Launches New Afterschool Program at The Community Center in La Pine

by NICOLE YBARRONDO, Marketing & Communications Manager — Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Oregon







PHOTOS | COURTESY OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL OREGON

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Oregon (BGCCO) announce the grand opening of its new La Pine afterschool program hosted at The La Pine Community Center, 16405 First St. in La Pine.

Designed specifically to serve students from La Pine Elementary, Rosland Elementary and La Pine Middle School, the program aims to provide local families with a safe, affordable and engaging environment for youth after the school bell rings.

The new program directly addresses the growing demand for reliable working-family support in La Pine. BGCCO staff will safely supervise and walk La Pine Elementary students directly to La Pine Club, while BGCCO transportation will be provided for Rosland Elementary students.

Operating every school day until 6:30pm, the program provides structured grade-grouped activities, academic support, STEM projects, creative arts and active play.

To celebrate the launch, BGCCO is offering special enrollment promotions: the first 36 students to register will have enrollment fees (a $25 value) completely waived, and the entire first week of programming (Wednesday, September 9-Friday, September 11) will be free ($45 in complimentary programming).

BGCCO invites local families, partners, and community members to a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, September 18, 2026. Guests will begin gathering at 2:45pm, with the ribbon cutting taking place at 3pm at the La Pine Club.

"Expanding into La Pine allows us to directly support working families who need safe, high-quality afterschool care they can trust," said Michael Baker, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Oregon. "Every child deserves an afterschool environment filled with fun, discovery, and support. Bringing our programs to La Pine delivers both — offering safe, high-quality care for working families while unlocking exciting new opportunities for La Pine kids."

The program's daily curriculum combines fun and foundational skill-building, including:

- **Academic Support (Power Hour):** Dedicated academic assistance, reading support and staff tutoring.
- **STEM & Creative Arts:** Hands-on science experiments, robotics, building challenges and art exploration.
- **Health & Active Recreation:** Team sports, cooperative games and social-emotional wellness guidance.
- **Flexible Schedules & Extended Hours:** Open Monday through Friday until 6:30pm to support working parents' schedules.

BGCCO is utilizing space at The Community Center through local facility support to ensure La Pine youth have access to outstanding enrichment activities in a centralized, accessible location.

Registration for the La Pine Afterschool Program is now open for the 2026-2027 school year. Families can enroll by creating an account on the BGCCO MyClubHub Family Portal and selecting the La Pine Afterschool Program. While the first 36 members will pay $0 in enrollment fees, standard annual youth memberships are $25, and financial assistance and scholarships are always available to ensure no child is ever turned away due to an inability to pay.

bgcco.org



BOW

Continued from page 3

attendees cast their votes to help determine the event's winner.

More than a traditional startup pitch competition, BreakOut offers an inside look at the challenges, opportunities and experiences that come with building an outdoor brand. The event also brings together outdoor entrepreneurs, industry leaders, founders and members of the broader outdoor community.

"This is our favorite night of the year," said Gary Braceiln, BOW founder. "This evening is a glimpse of all of the work our team has accomplished over the co-hort. It's a room packed with five entrepreneurs/founders, one stage, and a community that shows up to back the future of the outdoor industry — that's BreakOut in a nutshell."

Attendees are invited to arrive early to meet BOW founders and mentors, learn more about BOW programs and check out the Oregon Outdoor Alliance (OOA) Silent Auction featuring incredible outdoor gear — with all proceeds benefiting OOA.

The BOW BreakOut Pitch Event will be held Wednesday, October 14, at Volcanic Theatre Pub in Bend. Doors open at 5pm, with the event running from 6-8:30pm. Tickets available at volcanictheatre.com.

The BOW BreakOut Pitch Event is part of the High Desert Innovation Week.

BOW events are sponsored by White Summers Law, OMEP, City of Bend, U.S. Bank, Sorren, Ruffwear, Oregon Community Foundation, Embark Coworking Space, Central Oregon Innovation Hub, OEN, Tokyo Starfish, Relativity Agency, Algofy Outdoors, Focus of the 40 and 10 Barrel Brewing.

bendoutdoorworx.com

Lease Crutcher Lewis

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since 1996, from a renovation of The Great Hall at Sunriver Resort to multiple projects with Bend Research (now Lonza). More recently, Lewis completed Central Oregon Community College's Wickiup Hall, the Jackstraw mixed-use development, and Sisters Coffee's newest café. In July 2026, Lewis broke ground on CASCADA Bend, a 130,000-square-foot wellness destination featuring a boutique hotel and thermal spa.

The company also brings nationally and regionally recognized expertise in alternative delivery methods — including progressive design-build — to Central Oregon. The Bend team combines that depth of experience with local knowledge, providing clients with a partner that understands the community and has the relationships to deliver complex work.

The company's newest office is led by project executive Matt Wycoff, a long-time Bend resident. Wycoff has been building projects throughout Central Oregon for 20 years and serves on the Board of Directors of Economic Development for Central Oregon. Other local team members also live, work and play in Bend.

"We're committed to responsible development in Central Oregon because we're part of the community," Wycoff said. "We understand the need to provide our clients with the best possible service and value while being good neighbors to those affected by our projects. We're here for the long term, and we're excited to continue building in Central Oregon for years to come"

With established teams in Portland and Eugene, Lewis continues to provide Oregon clients with local expertise and capacity backed by the resources, experience and passion of a 100 percent employee-owned company that's been around for 140 years.

lewisbuilds.com

Lonza

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4 capacity in the US. Lonza will offer a full range of spray-dried dispersion (SDD) capacity to support customers across both clinical and commercial programs. Through its integrated end-to-end offering, Lonza will support the development and manufacturing of small molecules and other modalities, including biologics and mRNA.

SDD technologies are increasingly relevant in modern drug development, as the industry addresses the growing complexity of molecules and their related bioavailability challenges. The demand for SDD CDMO services has grown alongside the increasing scientific complexity of pharmaceutical pipelines, driven by the increasing prevalence of poorly soluble drug substances. Today, a significant share of molecules in the clinical pipeline requires bioavailability enhancement. The Bend expansion is intended to meet this growing market demand, with a particular focus on the US demand, enabling Lonza to provide customers with an additional option to access complete and integrated end-to-end development and manufacturing solution for SDDs.

"The investment in the Bend site reflects our conviction that the United States will remain a leading source of pharmaceutical innovation and a key market for Lonza," Lonza CEO Wolfgang Wienand said. "It also delivers on our One Lonza strategy, powered by the Lonza Engine, to invest where we can create the greatest value for our customers and, ultimately, for patients. By significantly expanding our commercial-scale spray-drying capabilities, we strengthen a technology that can fundamentally improve the delivery and bioavailability of medicines. With this, our world-class particle engineering team in Bend will be even better able to support our customers in turning their breakthrough innovations into viable products and to manufacture the medicines of tomorrow."

"The growing number of complex drug molecules is increasing demand for advanced particle engineering technologies," added Christian Seufert, Lonza head of Advanced Synthesis. "With decades of expertise in spray-drying, our Bend team helps customers address formulation challenges and progress their programs efficiently. This investment expands the capacity and capabilities needed to support customers from development through commercialization."

The new facility will be equipped with two state-of-the-art PSD-4 spray-drying units, allowing for future capacity expansions as demand continues to grow. Additional upgrades to the Bend site include supporting infrastructure for solvent handling and storage. The project also integrates energy-efficient utility and process systems and enhanced emission control technologies to reduce overall facility energy demand.

The new facility, expected to be completed in 2029, will be delivered through a significant capital investment and will initially create more than 80 new jobs, highlighting Lonza's commitment to expanding its manufacturing footprint in the U.S. The expansion enhances proximity to key customers and supports more resilient, regionalized supply chains for critical therapies.

To find out more about Lonza's spray-drying offering, please visit bit.ly/4ilcXmW.

lonza.com

DCAA

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downtown venue address and a mandatory entry password upon ticket purchase. Guests are invited to embrace the era with optional 1920s attire and enter the Costume Contest for a chance to win a custom portrait painted in costume.

The immersive evening will feature prohibition-era cocktails by Gompers Distillery, live jazzy music, fine art raffle with curated pieces donated by local artists and interactive games and surprises.

"This inaugural fundraiser marks a major milestone for our organization," said Beth Hanson, DCAA board member. "Every ticket purchased directly funds our mission to provide accessible arts education, community events, and a permanent home for local creatives, including the upcoming expansion into 1,400 square feet of classroom space. We wanted our first major event to be unforgettable, and this speakeasy theme is the perfect mix of mystery, community, and celebration."

The Dry Canyon Arts Association is a non-profit organization in Redmond dedicated to fostering a vibrant arts community in the Central Oregon region. Through a public art center and gallery, educational programs, and community outreach, DCAA works to enrich lives by making the arts accessible to all.

Tickets are $100 per person and include a welcome drink, catered buffet and access to all games and entertainment.

To maintain an intimate and mysterious atmosphere, attendance is limited to 80 tickets. Due to the limited capacity, organizers anticipate the event will sell out quickly.

Get Tickets at drycanyonarts.org/event-details-1/dcaa-speakeasy-fundraiser.

drycanyonarts.org

Employment in Central Oregon

Continued from page 10

The public sector saw the largest losses (-1,480) with local education declining by 1,440 jobs over the summer. Private-sector losses occurred in professional and business services (-160 jobs); other services (-50 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-20 jobs); and information (-10 jobs). Gains were concentrated within the private sector with the largest gains seen in leisure and hospitality (+330 jobs), specifically in accommodation and food services (+280 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction (+250 jobs). Smaller gains were also seen in private education and health services (+60 jobs), financial activities (+40 jobs), and manufacturing (+30 jobs).

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment has gained 680 jobs (+0.7%) over the year. While a loss of 1,980 jobs was expected, total nonfarm employment decreased by 1,300 (-1.3%) jobs from July 2025 to July 2026. Over the year, the largest job losses were seen in professional and business services (-1,370); leisure and hospitality (-1,190 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-500 jobs). Smaller losses occurred in financial activities (-230 jobs) and manufacturing (-40 jobs). Gains were strongest in private education and health services (+910 jobs) and the public sector (+780 jobs) with smaller gains seen in mining, logging, and construction (+220 jobs); other services (+110 jobs); and information (+10 jobs).

Jefferson County: The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.6% in July 2026, unchanged from June's rate and 0.3 percentage point below the July 2025 rate of 5.9%.

Jefferson County's employment losses in July were larger than normal; total nonfarm employment declined by 220 (-3.2%) during the month, when a decrease of 190 jobs would be expected. As a result, seasonally adjusted employment was down 30 (-0.4%) between June and July.

Job losses were concentrated within the public sector (-290 jobs) with all losses occurring at the local level. Gains were concentrated within the private sector with the strongest gains occurring in leisure and hospitality (+20 jobs). Smaller gains of 10 jobs each were also seen in construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation, and utilities; financial activities; and private education and health services.

Over the past year Jefferson County's seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment added 60 jobs (+0.9%); while a gain of 10 jobs was expected total nonfarm employment increased by 70 jobs over the year. Gains were concentrated within manufacturing (+80 jobs) with smaller gains seen in trade, transportation, and utilities (+20 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+20 jobs); private education and health services (+10 jobs); and financial activities (+10 jobs). Losses were largest in the public sector (-30 jobs) and professional and business services (-20 jobs). Smaller losses occurred in information (-10 jobs) and other services (-10 jobs).

employ.oregon.gov

Event Details at CascadeBusNews.com/Business-Events

BUSINESS EVENTS



September 16
5-7pm Connect W's Networking Event at The Winery at Manzanita.

September 17
8-9am Madras - Jefferson County Chamber Coffee Cuppers at Jefferson County Sheriff Office.

September 17
11:30am-1pm City Club of Central Oregon September Forum, The Ripple Effect – How Changes to Medicaid will Impact Everyone in Central Oregon, at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend.

September 19
3-6:30pm Heart of Oregon Corps Endless Summer Nights at Bend Park & Float. Tickets: $30 per adult, $15 per kid for ages 6-12, ages 5 and under are free, family bundles are available.

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

September 23
5-7pm Bend Chamber Bend ET Social at X-Golf.

September 24
8-9am Madras - Jefferson County Chamber Coffee Cuppers at Plateau Travel Plaza.

September 30
11am-12:30pm Heart of Oregon Corps Centralized Campus Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting at Heart of Oregon Corps, Redmond.

September 30
5:30pm League of Women Voters of Deschutes County Candidate Forum 2026, Redmond City Council, followed by Redmond Mayoral Candidates, at COCC Redmond Technology Center Community Room.

October 5
5:30pm League of Women Voters of Deschutes County Candidate Forum 2026, Bend Mayor followed by State Representative 53rd District Candidates, at Deschutes Central Library, Bend.

October10
11am League of Women Voters of Deschutes County Candidate Forum 2026, U.S. Congressional District 5 Candidates at Ridgeview High School, Redmond.

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

October 14
5pm Bend Outdoor Worx BreakOut Pitch Event at Volcanic Theatre Pub, Bend.

October 14
5:30pm League of Women Voters of Deschutes County Candidate Forum 2026, Deschutes County Commissioners followed by Sheriff Candidates, at Deschutes County Government Bldg., Sawyer Room, Bend.

October 19
6pm League of Women Voters of Deschutes County Candidate Forum 2026, Sisters City Council Candidates, at Sisters Firehouse Community Hall, Sisters.

October 20
5-6:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Redmond Library.

October 21
1-3pm The Cascades East Transit (CET) Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee Meeting at Cascades East Transit, Hawthorne Conference Room, Bend.

October 21
6pm League of Women Voters of Deschutes County Candidate Forum 2026, La Pine City Council, followed by La Pine Mayoral Candidates, at La Pine Park & Recreation Community Center Gym.

October 27
5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.

November 10
5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.

November 17
5-6:30pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Redmond Library.

November 24
5:30-7pm SCORE Free, Confidential One-on-One Small Business Counseling at Bend Central Library.

December 8
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 9.1.26

$1,194,930.00 - Commercial (New) 9,000 sf. at 63190 Powell Butte Hwy Bend 97701 OR Owner: Juniper Investments 1733 NE Pinewood Dr. Bend, OR 97701 Permit # 247-26-001687

CITY OF BEND 9.1.26 & 9.8.26

$750,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 192 sf. at 61284 S Hwy 97 Ste. 150 Bend 97702 OR Owner: University Plaza, LLC Permit # PRRE202603705
$1,435,842.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 20,038 sf. at 2500 NE Neff Rd. Bend 97701 OR Owner: Multiple Builder: Skanska USA Building, Inc. 973-753-3579 Permit # PRRE202603670
$359,303.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 16,997 sf. at 2230 NW Labiche Ln. Ste. 120 Bend 97703 OR Owner: Shevlin Crossing, LLC Builder: Stilson Builders 541-728-3322 Permit # PRRE202604269
$350,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 2,000 sf. at 2500 NE Neff Rd. Bend 97701 OR Owner: Multiple Builder: Southland Industries, Inc. 714-901-5800 Permit # PRRE202604397
$150,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) at 2500 NE Neff Rd. Bend 97701 OR Owner: St, Charles Medical Center 2088 NE Kim Ln. Bend, OR 97701 541-322-4714 Permit # PRRE202604026
$81,461.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 4,366 sf. at 62915 18th St. Bend 97701 OR Builder: CS Construction 541-617-9190 Permit # PRRE202601011
$27,500.00 - Commercial (Alteration) 1,370 sf. at 604 NW Harriman St. Bend 97703 OR Owner: Thiele Industries, LLC Builder: Bigfoot Contracting, LLC 541-904-5438 Permit # PRRE202604253
$25,000.00 - Commercial (Alteration) at 222 SE Reed Market Rd. Bend 97702 OR Owner: Multiple Permit # PRRE202605659

CITY OF REDMOND 9.1.26 & 9.8.26

$47,850.00 - Commercial (Alteration) at 4695 SW 43rd St. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: Three Peaks Real Estate, LLC 4699 SW 43rd St. Redmond, OR 97756 Builder: Pure Energy Group, Inc. 541-936-0980 Permit # 711-26-001782
$400,898.00 - SFD 2,070 sf. at 4107 SW Pumice Ln. Redmond 97756 OR Owner: Monte Vista Homes 4116 SW Pumice Ave. Redmond, OR 97756 Builder: Cloudcrest Homes, LLC 541-699-4340 Permit # 711-26-001595
$252,000.00 - Commercial (New) 1,878 sf. at 675 SW Rimrock Way Redmond 97756 OR Owner: School District #2J 145 SE Salmon Dr. Redmond, OR 97756 Builder: Pence Contractors, LLC 503-252-3802 Permit # 711-26-001708

Watch for Upcoming Editions of CASCADE BUSINESS NEWS

2026 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

ISSUE DATE	SPECIAL SECTIONS	INDUSTRY LISTS
October 7 Deadline Sept 30	Nonprofit Profiles/Accomplished Under 40	Nonprofit Organizations, Accountants, Bookkeepers
October 21 Deadline Oct 14		Manufacturers in Deschutes, Crook & Jefferson Counties, Garbage/Recycling
November 4 Deadline Oct 28	Redmond Profile/Fastest 20	Bio-Tech, High Tech Firms, Telecommunications, Utility Companies, Heating/Cooling Companies
November 18 Deadline Nov 11	Made in Central Oregon	Products Made in Central Oregon
December 2 Deadline Nov 25	Aviation	Law Firms, Security Companies
December 16 Deadline Dec 9	Top Commercial Projects/Construction Review	Commercial Contractors
January 2027 Deadline Nov 25e	Book of Lists	

Central Oregon is our *business.*

From entrepreneurs putting down roots to families making their next move, real estate is about more than property. It's about the people, businesses, and communities that make Central Oregon what it is.

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62313 McClain Drive

$3,750,000

An exceptionally rare opportunity in coveted Westgate, this custom estate occupies a premier 2.5-acre homesite with breathtaking Cascade Mountain views. Soaring ceilings, walls of glass, designer finishes, a 1,100+ sq. ft. owner's retreat with spa-inspired bath and private hot tub patio, Thermador appliances, custom cabinetry, and an oversized four-bay garage create an extraordinary blend of luxury, comfort, and functionality.

3 BED | 3.5 BA | 3,782 SF

Listed by Tab Howard
Broker



RIVER'S EDGE

3083 NW Hidden Ridge Drive

$1,099,000

Like-new single-level living in Bend's Rivers Edge community, this thoughtfully designed home backs to the 13th hole with beautiful golf course views and offers an open great room, upgraded kitchen, spacious primary suite, and three-car garage with dedicated RV bay. Enjoy a covered porch, private patio, established edible gardens, and convenient access to Sawyer Park, the river trail, and downtown Bend.

3 BED | 2 BA | 1,989 SF

Listed by Nick Wilhite & JP Faherty
Principal Broker & Broker



WOODSIDE RANCH

60309 Tall Pine Avenue

$999,999

Set on 2.4 private acres, this custom-built 5-bedroom estate is offered for the first time by its original owners, combining soaring ceilings, abundant natural light, and timeless gathering spaces. With a main-level bedroom and bath, spacious primary suite, three-car garage, and generous guest rooms, the home offers exceptional space and a solid foundation for its next chapter—ready for personalization and updates.

5 BED | 3 BA | 2,790 SF

Listed by Matt Robinson & Grant Ludwick
Principal Brokers

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