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Sunriver Resort announces the appointment of **Jonathan Lee** as director of Food & Beverage (F&B). Bringing more than 25 years of experience across luxury resorts, hotels, restaurants, culinary operations and international food and beverage development, Lee will oversee a diverse portfolio of food and beverage operations at the 3,300-acre destination, including restaurants and cafés, banquets, convention services, events and culinary programming.

In his new role, Lee will provide strategic and operational leadership across the resort's food and beverage functions across 11 food and beverage outlets, banquets and convention services. Drawing on a career that spans professional kitchens and executive leadership, he will lead

and support F&B teams, oversee training and service standards, and work closely with culinary leadership to develop menus and experiences responsive to the local market. He will also drive new promotions and events, strengthen relationships with food and beverage suppliers and vendors, and identify innovative opportunities to enhance revenue and elevate the guest experience.

"Sunriver Resort is an incredibly special destination, and I'm excited to join a team that has such a strong connection to the Central Oregon community and the guests who return year after year," said Lee. "There is tremendous opportunity to build on the resort's culinary identity, celebrate the region's farmers, producers, winemakers, brewers and artisans, and create food and beverage experiences that are both elevated and approachable. I look forward to bringing my experience and passion for hospitality to Sunriver and becoming part of this community."

Lee joins Sunriver Resort following his role as vice president of Food & Beverage for Sun Hill Properties at Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City. Before that, he served as director of Food & Beverage at Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort, one of Hawaii's largest and most complex resort environments, where he led operations spanning restaurants, bars, banquets and high-volume resort dining.

Throughout his career, Lee has held leadership and culinary roles with some of the hospitality industry's most recognized brands, including The Ritz-Carlton, Four Seasons, InterContinental Hotels Group, Michael Mina Group and Ruby Tuesday International, in addition to independent hospitality consulting. His professional experience spans more than 20 countries and includes helping launch 36 restaurant locations across 17 countries over a five-year period.

"Lee's career path from professional kitchens to executive leadership has shaped an approach that combines culinary creativity with the operational, financial and strategic disciplines required to lead complex hospitality organizations," said Josh Willis, VP of Operations at Sunriver Resort. "At Sunriver Resort, he will bring that perspective to an expansive food and beverage program while helping ensure consistently elevated service and experiences for resort guests, owners and associates."

Lee's appointment comes as Sunriver Resort continues to evolve its food and beverage offerings, with a focus on showcasing the Pacific Northwest through seasonal ingredients, regional partnerships, distinctive dining experiences and events that bring guests and the local community together.



BRASADA RANCH | PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT CENTRAL OREGON

Central Oregon shines in the 2026 *Conde Nast Traveler* Readers' Choice Awards. Announced this week, three Central Oregon properties were recognized in the top ten resorts in the Alaska and the Pacific Northwest category:

- #2 - **Brasada Ranch**, Powell Butte
- #5 - **Tetherow Lodges**, Bend
- #8 - **Sunriver Resort**, Sunriver

Among the ten award winners, six resorts are located in Oregon. The *Condé Nast Traveler* Readers' Choice Awards are highly regarded annual travel industry rankings based entirely on reader votes and surveys. Readers vote for their top destinations, hotels, resorts, cruise lines, airlines, airports and experiences each year.

The **Children's Museum of Central Oregon** (CMCO) recently announced two major milestones in its journey toward opening Central Oregon's first children's museum. First, the organization has secured a nearly 8,000-square-foot building in Bend's Central District and will begin its transformation into a year-round destination for curiosity and discovery.

Second, with a new home comes a bold new name — **Ruckus: A Children's Science Museum**. The new name reflects the museum's belief that curiosity can be noisy, discovery can be messy, and some of the best learning happens through play.

"Ruckus is the sound of kids building, exploring, experimenting and learning, and this building gives that energy a home right in the heart of our community," said Erica Segal, museum director of Ruckus.

The announcement builds on two years of growing momentum. In 2024, CMCO launched its Mobile Museum to begin putting its mission into action by sparking

curiosity and creativity through playful STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) learning. Since then, the Mobile Museum has reached more than 24,000 community members at pop-up events across Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties. Demand has grown with every event, making one thing clear. Central Oregon families need a place to explore and learn together all year long, and they need it as soon as possible.

Central Oregon is one of the fastest-growing regions in the state and remains the only major metropolitan area in Oregon without a dedicated children's or science museum. Many children across the region lack consistent access to interactive, hands-on learning environments.

"For the last two years, we've had the incredible opportunity to bring these experiences to families across our region, and we see the same thing every time: kids who can't wait to get their hands on our exhibits, and grown-ups who ask, 'Where are you located?'" said Segal. "Today, we're thrilled to share that we have a spot and are actively fundraising to make this dream a reality."

"As a parent of young children, I know how much our families need places like the one we're creating. And as an educator, I know how crucial it is to have partners and destinations that support the learning and development of our next generation of problem solvers."

"Welcoming more than 24,000 community members before we've even opened our doors is an extraordinary milestone," said John Winters, chair of the Ruckus Board of Directors. "This level of engagement demonstrates the tremendous enthusiasm and demand for Ruckus across Central Oregon. Our board is honored and energized to help lead this next bold step forward. From day one, Ruckus has been shaped by the passion, ideas and support of this community. Together, we are building a world-class destination that will inspire, empower and create opportunities for children throughout our region. We invite everyone who shares our commitment to empowering the next generation to join us as we bring this transformative vision to life."

Ruckus is working with AOA, an immersive experience design firm founded by former Walt Disney Imagineering leaders, along with regional partners, to design interactive exhibits rooted in the landscapes and industries of Central Oregon. Exhibits will be built around how children learn at every stage of development and aligned with state learning standards.

The Mobile Museum will continue traveling across the region after the building opens, keeping STEAM programming within reach of rural communities.

Recently, Oregon breweries and cidermakers celebrated 35 won at the prestigious **Great American Beer Festival**.

"Year after year, Oregon is among the most medal winners. We have the accolades to prove we're among the world's best," said Brett Thomas, vice president of the Oregon Brewers Guild and founding brewer of **Sunriver Brewing Company**, who won three medals this year. "Oregon breweries are facing major challenges with record closures and people drinking less. Please, seek out these award winners and toast to keeping breweries alive so they can win even more awards next year."

Yet another year in the top three, Oregon took home 35 awards out of 336, the third most of any state, behind California with 80 and Colorado with nearly 40. You can see the full list of winners at greatamericanbeerfestival.com/2026-winners.

Two Oregon breweries also took home best brewery of the year within their category size — **Upp Liquids** for a brewery between 251-500 barrels and **Breakside Brewery** between 15,001-100,000 barrels.

According to Beer Serves America data, Oregon is home to 300 breweries, brewpubs and taprooms generating more than \$8.9 billion in economic output, \$2.8 billion in wages, and creating 46,700 jobs in the state. So important to the local economy, Oregon is the fifth most beer-job-reliant state, accounting for one out of every 633 jobs in Oregon.

Equine Outreach Inc. (EOI) and **Mustangs To The Rescue** (MTTR) have announced that MTTR has taken over operational management of EOI's horses and programs as of October 15. EOI will then formally wind down, with its remaining assets transferred to MTTR to support the care of Central Oregon equines.

All five horses currently in EOI's care will continue to receive uninterrupted care, backed by MTTR's volunteer base.

Together, the organizations will continue to provide:

- Direct Rescue & Retraining: Welcoming at-risk and displaced equines for medical rehabilitation, retraining and placement into adoptive homes.
- Frontline Disaster Response: Mobilizing emergency evacuation, sheltering and feed distribution during Oregon wildfires and regional crises.
- Community Support: Providing clinics, feed assistance and resources that help owners keep horses safely at home.

"This is an exciting step forward," said Kurtis Hooley, executive director of Equine Outreach Inc. "Uniting with Kate Beardsley and Mustangs To The Rescue ensures our herd receives seamless care while expanding our collective capacity for disaster relief, rehabilitation and community impact. We would like to thank all our partners, specifically Sundance Meadows, Bend Equine Medical Center and Coyote Rock Ranch, that helped EOI service the community for these 20+ years"

Take a haunted walk through the library, but beware of the ghosts! Join **Deschutes Public Library** as we bring deceased authors to life at the fourth annual Literary Ghost Walk on October 28 from 6-7pm at the Central Library. All are welcome to meet the ghosts of dearly departed authors stationed throughout the library to hear more about their works.

For one night only, meet the spirits of writers like Mary Oliver, Eric Carle, Jane Austen, Ray Bradbury, Octavia Butler, Dolly Parton, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and more. The sounds of haunting live music will fill the library, and guests can participate in family-friendly crafts. New this year, authors are handing out limited-edition Literary Ghost Walk trading cards. Collect all of the trading cards given by our ghosts before they vanish.

Costumes are encouraged and the event is designed to be family-friendly with something for everyone — whether you're a paranormal ghost-hunter or want to learn more about great works of literature. But be careful as you walk through the stacks... you never know who you'll run into (or walk through).