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



Lindsay Huddleston



Emma Coulter

NAI Cascade Commercial Real Estate announces two new additions to its property management team.

Lindsay Huddleston joins as property manager, bringing a strong background in financial administration, compliance and business operations to her role. She spent six years with Northwest Farm Credit Services, where she worked with loan documentation, title commitments, lien verifications and financial audits. Since 2008, Huddleston has also managed the bookkeeping and day-to-day operations of her family's businesses in Central Oregon, overseeing financial records, coordinating vendors and contractors, and managing ongoing operational needs.

Huddleston holds a degree in agricultural business management from Oregon State University. Her combination of financial experience, business knowledge and hands-on operational involvement provides a strong foundation for supporting property owners, tenants and the ongoing management of their properties. She brings that same practical, dependable approach to her work with the NAI Cascade team.

Outside of work, Huddleston and her family are actively involved in 4-H and the Crook County community. Their roots in ranching and agriculture, along with a shared love of the outdoors, are an important part of their connection to Central Oregon. Whether they're spending time on the ranch, hunting or exploring the high desert, they enjoy the lifestyle and community that make this region home.

Emma Coulter brings years of bookkeeping and customer service experience to the team. Having worked in her family's pharmacy since her teens, Coulter developed a strong foundation in financial recordkeeping, accounts payable and receivable, reconciliations and the day-to-day details that keep a business running smoothly. She also has experience managing financial records for ranch operations and serving as Treasurer for the Union County Fair livestock auction.

Originally from the La Grande area in Eastern Oregon, Coulter recently made the move to Central Oregon. Outside the office, she enjoys horseback riding and leads trail rides and seasonal sleigh rides in Sunriver. Having been involved in 4-H for many years as both a member and a leader, Coulter values the organization's emphasis on developing well-rounded, confident individuals through learning by doing.

When she's not working or horseback riding, Coulter is likely spending time with her corgi, whom she insists is pretty close to perfect.



Robert Lang

Salvaged Reverb: Inside the Legendary Robert Lang Studios has won Best Documentary at the 2026 Austin Short Film Festival. Directed by Bend filmmaker **Brian Craig Hinderberger**, the short takes audiences inside the handmade recording studio in Shoreline, Washington, that became part of Pacific Northwest music history.

Built over five decades with salvaged materials, Robert Lang Studios has welcomed generations of musicians, including Nirvana, Foo Fighters and Death Cab for Cutie. In the film, Lang leads the crew through the studio himself, sharing stories about the rooms he built and the artists who recorded in them.



Kiley Kahler

Deschutes Children's Foundation (DCF) welcomes **Kiley Kahler** as its new development manager beginning in November. Kahler brings a background in pediatric healthcare fundraising and event management, with experience building donor relationships, engaging sponsors and creating events that connect communities to a shared cause.

Her arrival comes at a critical time for nonprofits. Many are navigating reduced funding and growing needs, making the space and support DCF provides especially important. Kahler's fundraising expertise will help strengthen the philanthropic support that sustains this work.

In her new role, Kahler will work with MacQueen, board members, donors and community partners to strengthen support for DCF. Her professional experience spans fundraising event strategy and logistics, sponsor and stakeholder relationships, sponsorship fulfillment, volunteer coordination and communications.

DCF supports 24 nonprofit partners across four campuses in Bend, Redmond and La Pine. Together, these partners serve approximately 21,000 people annually. By providing space and shared support, DCF saves its partners an estimated $1.5 million each year — resources that can instead support services for children and families.

A Nebraska native and Drake University graduate, Kahler spent the past eight years in Des Moines, Iowa, before relocating to Bend with her partner, Ben, and their dog, Poppy. She looks forward to exploring Central Oregon and connecting with the community.

The **Latino Community Association** (LCA) has hired three new employees to support its volunteer and family-oriented programs.



Jennifer Perez



Natalia Bedoya

Jennifer Perez, volunteer coordinator, grew up in Northern California and moved to Bend in 2008. She trained as a veterinary technician at COCC and eventually worked for the Oregon Department of Human Services. At LCA, Perez helped organize and recruit volunteers for the Welcoming Week mercado on September 10. She said she enjoyed creating a space where individuals of different backgrounds felt welcomed and supported.

Natalia Bedoya, family programs coordinator, grew up in Colombia with a strong appreciation for family, community and the importance of supporting one another. She earned a degree in government and foreign affairs and then worked in government and private sectors. Bedoya and her family moved to Bend several years ago and have made Central Oregon their home. At LCA, she wants to help build a strong, connected community.



Sherley Menendez

Sherley Menendez, affinity family group programs assistant, arrived in Madras at age three when her family immigrated from Peru, seeking a better future. She graduated from Madras High School and then earned a bachelor of science degree in apparel design at Oregon State University. Previously, Menendez worked as an office assistant at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. She came to LCA for help in the past and admired what the staff was doing to serve the community.

Bedoya and Menendez will help coordinate LCA's Family Empowerment Programs: Calma en el Hogar (mental health), Abrazando Comunidades (community leadership) and El Club de la Eterna Juventud (older adults).



Carin Vadala

The Deschutes National Forest announced the selection of **Carin Vadala** as the permanent Bend-Fort Rock District Ranger.

Vadala comes to the Deschutes National Forest from the Colville National Forest in northeast Washington where she was serving as the Newport-Sullivan Lake District Ranger.

Valada began her federal career as an outdoor recreation planner with the National Park Service in Alaska. She transitioned to environmental coordinator and planning roles with the U.S. Forest Service in 2014, working in Oregon, Colorado and Kentucky. She moved into district leadership within the agency in 2020.

Vadala grew up in west Texas. She holds a bachelor of science in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and a master of science in Environmental Education from Texas A&M University. She also earned a doctor of philosophy in Park, Recreation and Tourism Sciences from Clemson University.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends traveling and doing all sorts of outdoor adventures. She looks forward to the recreation opportunities Central Oregon has to offer.



(L-R) DAWN AND KRISTI | PHOTO COURTESY OF GREAT HARVEST BAKERY CAFE

This November, **Great Harvest Bakery Cafe** is giving back in a very personal way. Owner **Kristi** was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2024 and underwent chemotherapy and surgeries. Now cancer-free, she's reinvigorating the bakery, giving back to the community and celebrating her survival with a grand re-opening that took place on November 7.

To thank the community that carried them through, customers received a free cinnamon roll, breakfast roll or half loaf of cinnamon chip bread with purchase, while supplies lasted.

Locally owned and operated, Great Harvest has been a downtown Bend gathering place for 34 years. Kristi and her husband Jeremy bought the bakery in 2019 and are excited to bring new energy to the business, including open and baking seven days/week, extended hours and new menu items, ten percent student discount with a valid student ID, return of the Breadboard and catering and gifting.

Great Harvest will also give back through donations to staff at St. Charles Cancer Center. Kristi also wrote some of her cancer story to share with others; she hopes her honest experiences will bring happiness and comfort. In addition, Great Harvest held a raffle with 100 percent of the raffle proceeds going to the Silver Rail Recovery Fund.

A community award being presented by **Central Oregon Community College**'s Afrocentric Program will honor a member of the community whose courage and care strengthen the people around them. The deadline to nominate an individual for the Beatrice Morrow Cannady Ubuntu Courage Award is December 1. Visit cocc.edu/departments/multicultural/afrocentric to learn more.

Eligible nominees include secondary and post-secondary students, educational faculty and staff, community leaders and community members. Courage principles for nominee consideration include building community, encouraging collective action and serving the vulnerable.

Beatrice Morrow Cannady was a pioneering civil rights activist in Oregon who served as the editor and eventual owner of the state's leading Black newspaper, The Advocate. The founding member of the Portland NAACP chapter in 1914, she was the first Black woman to practice law in Oregon.

In the early 1920s, Cannady visited Central Oregon on multiple occasions to speak on racial equity at local churches and social clubs. Cannady and the Rev. J. W. Anderson inspired the creation of the Bend Colored Men's Business Club in 1926. An elementary school in Clackamas County bears her name.

Award nominees will be announced on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and a community panel will vote and make a selection by February 1 to recognize the individual for COCC's Black History Month Celebration.

The **Sunriver Women's Club** launched its 2026 Power of Giving fundraising campaign with the theme Building a Stronger Community, Together. The initiative mobilizes member and local support to raise critical funding for nonprofits and public schools providing essential services across south Deschutes County. The goal

More Who's Who Next Page ▶

Deschutes Women in Business Partners with BendNEXT Foundation

Expanding Support for Central Oregon's Women-Led Businesses

by ASHLEY CHASE, Co-Founder — Deschutes Women in Business

Deschutes Women in Business (DWB), a community organization built for the women founders, operators, creatives and professionals shaping Central Oregon, today announced a partnership with the BendNEXT Foundation, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation of the Bend Chamber of Commerce. Under the partnership, BendNEXT will serve as DWB's fiscal sponsor, providing the nonprofit infrastructure DWB needs to expand its programming and reach across the region.

The partnership arrives at a moment when Central Oregon's women-led business sector is expanding. More than one in four businesses in the Bend-Redmond area are woman-owned, ranking the region 20th in the nation for women-owned business share. Oregon leads the country in women-owned businesses overall.

But numbers don't capture what those women share: building in relative isolation, often without the community, mentorship or connections their peers rely on. Whether they're founders, executives running teams remotely from Bend, professionals leading their fields or solo makers, most are building without the infrastructure that turns individual ambition into sustained momentum. That's the gap DWB was built to fill. Investing in that community isn't a niche interest. It's how Central Oregon grows a wider leadership bench and a stronger economy.

Founded in 2024 by Lisa Hovey and Ashley Chase, DWB has grown from a small gathering of local women into one of Central Oregon's fastest-growing professional networks. The community now reaches nearly 4,500 followers on Instagram and 1,300 email subscribers, and its monthly events regularly sell out at over 200 attendees.

DWB hosts monthly events across three formats: panel discussions with diverse cross-sections of successful women that get into real, tangible advice and transparent stories; workshops that provide immediate value from the moment you leave the room; and targeted networking built for impact and connection. The organization is led by a working board of women with experience across industries and stages of business, from startup to Fortune 500.

What the Partnership Makes Possible

The partnership gives DWB the nonprofit structure to grow while preserving the community-first identity that has driven its momentum. Through BendNEXT's 501(c)(3) status, DWB can now accept tax-deductible contributions, pursue grant funding and expand its programming and reach across the region. Under the fiscal sponsorship, DWB continues to operate independently, with its own board, programming and brand identity.

For the Bend Chamber and BendNEXT Foundation, the partnership reflects a long-standing commitment to leadership development, professional growth and business advocacy across Central Oregon. As the Bend Chamber marks its centennial in 2026, backing DWB is part of how it continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of local businesses and the people who work for them.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF DESCHUTES WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Inaugural Fundraising Event Early 2027

DWB will host its first annual fundraising event in February 2027. All funds raised will directly support expanded programming and new resources for the women DWB serves, including the launch of a member-based Connection Hub and future industry cohorts. Tickets and donations are tax-deductible through the BendNEXT partnership.

Leadership Perspective

"The Bend Chamber's role is to help create an environment where businesses and leaders can thrive," said Sara Odendahl, CEO of the Bend Chamber of Commerce. "That work is stronger when more people have access to the relationships, resources and support they need to succeed."

"Deschutes Women in Business is filling an important need by creating a founder-led community for women from all career paths who are looking to further themselves and their potential across Central Oregon," said Sara Odendahl, CEO of the Bend Chamber of Commerce. "We are proud to support their work as a fiscal sponsor and help provide a strong foundation for their continued growth."

"We started DWB because Central Oregon had the talent, the ambition and the leaders, but no place designed to bring them together as one community," Lisa Hovey, co-founder of Deschutes Women in Business. "Two years in, that community exists, and it is growing faster than any of us projected. The partnership with BendNEXT gives us the foundation to keep growing without losing the community-first approach."

deschuteswomen.com • bendchamber.org

Who's Who

Continued from previous page

of the program is to build a strong network of services in the community.

As rising everyday costs for food, housing, gas and healthcare continue to strain household budgets, local service providers are seeing increased demand for support. One hundred percent of every dollar raised through the Power of Giving campaign remains local, directly supporting five priority areas:

Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention and Intervention: Protecting vulnerable children and stabilizing families through partners like CASA of Central Oregon — which expects to serve 32 local foster youth in 2026 — and Mountain Star Family Relief Nursery.

Education & Youth Development: Providing long-term mentorship and academic support through organizations such as Friends of the Children Central Oregon, which expanded to La Pine to support 16 additional at-risk youth.

Hunger Prevention: Delivering nutritious meals and food boxes to homebound seniors, single parents and individuals with disabilities through partners like St. Vincent de Paul of La Pine and The Giving Plate.

Safe Housing: Funding essential home repairs and housing stability for fixed-income seniors and veterans through Habitat for Humanity of La Pine Sunriver and Thrive Central Oregon.

Physical & Mental Health: Fostering youth confidence, health and life skills through initiatives like Girls on the Run at Three Rivers and La Pine Middle Schools.

The Power of Giving campaign directly funds grants, and the Club awarded $96,000 to 20 local organizations in 2025 and distributed $92,250 in Spring 2026..

To jumpstart the effort, long-time supporters Jane and Jay Daniel have pledged to match all campaign contributions dollar-for-dollar up to $5,000, doubling the impact of every gift.

Central Oregon Collective is inviting community members, businesses, trades professionals, volunteers and donors to partner in a Housing Repair & Safety Initiative aimed at preserving safe, comfortable and accessible homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Central Oregon.

For more than 40 years, Central Oregon Collective has provided support and housing services that empower individuals with IDD to live meaningful, independent and inclusive lives in the community.

Today, many of the homes where adults with IDD receive 24-hour residential care and support are showing their age and require important repairs, safety improvements and accessibility upgrades.

Why We Need Partners: The need is especially critical as IDD services across Oregon continue to face funding challenges. Services are funded through fixed Medicaid reimbursement rates that do not cover the cost of facility maintenance care. As a result, nonprofit providers must rely on grants, donations, volunteers and community partnerships to bridge the gap and maintain high-quality living environments.

Central Oregon Collective is seeking support in a variety of ways, including financial contributions, building materials and supplies, skilled labor and contractor services, volunteer project teams and corporate and community sponsorships.

Every improvement made through the Housing Repair & Safety Initiative is an investment in dignity, independence and belonging for the individuals who live in these 24-hour residential homes.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF CANYON TIMBERGON MODULAR

Canyon Cottages is a newly completed 16-home modular cottage community developed by **Timbergon Modular** in Redmond. Located just blocks from downtown with direct access to the canyon trail, the project offers approximately 550-square-foot, one-bedroom homes designed for comfortable, efficient living.

The homes were built off-site in a controlled factory environment, then transported to the property for installation and final utility connections. Completing much of the construction before delivery helped shorten on-site construction time, reduce disruption and streamline the building process — demonstrating how modular construction can help bring much-needed housing to Central Oregon more efficiently.

Each home includes a private fenced backyard, a full kitchen with appliances, an in-unit washer and dryer and dedicated parking. A shared central courtyard adds outdoor gathering space while preserving the privacy of individual homes.