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CART TIME

Once just for a quick bite on the go, food carts have come a long way. From the works of great chefs to foreign flavors, these trucks will fill your foodie fantasies.

WRITTEN BY NANCY PATTERSON

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Features

March\April 2021

ON THE COVER

A fine day fly fishing the Crooked River.

PHOTO BY TREVOR LYDEN

PHOTO ALEX JORDAN

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March \ April 2021

Departments

Also in this issue

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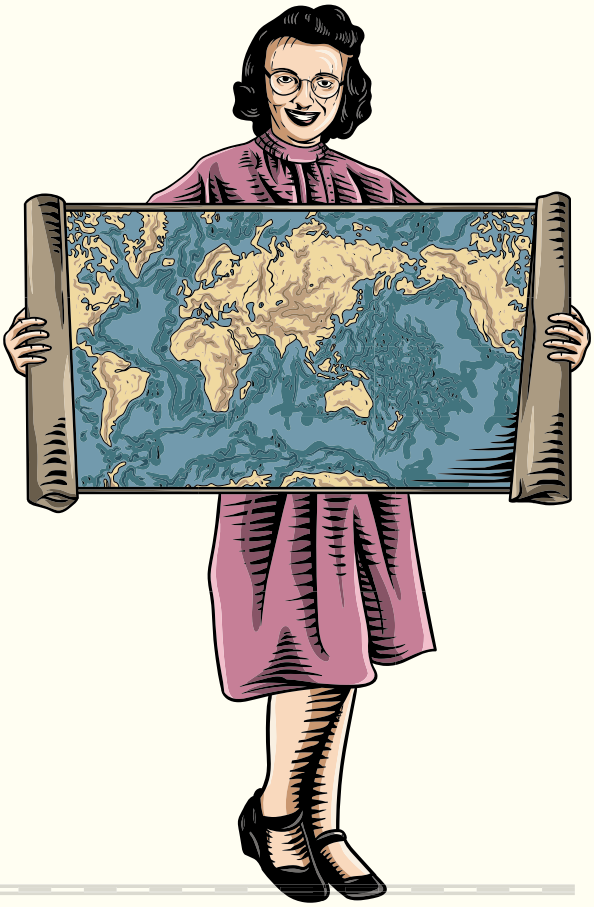

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DISCOVERY WEST

WORDS *and* PICTURES

MARISA CHAPPELL HOSSICK

Marisa is a photographer and storyteller who grew up in Bend. A globetrotter at heart, she spent her early adult years living in France and Australia, visiting any place she could in between. Fascinated by culture, history and languages, she uses these passions to enrich the stories that pique her interest. Marisa is the Communications Director for the Deschutes River Conservancy where she tells the stories of water in the Deschutes Basin. Marisa has a BA in French Literature as well as a Certificate in Applied Photography. In her free time, she addresses her "to be read" pile, knits and adventures with her husband and two wild little boys. In this issue, Marisa wrote about Prineville artist Greg Congleton (p. 106). See MARISACHAPPELL.COM.

TREVOR LYDEN

Trevor Lyden hails from Juneau, Alaska, but for the past seven years he has called Bend home. In 2017, he graduated from OSU-Cascades with a degree in tourism and outdoor leadership. When he's not shooting photos, Trevor is shooting rapids in his kayak, bombing trails on his mountain bike or snowboarding the backcountry slopes around Central Oregon. Trevor likes shooting action photography because it allows him to capture fast-paced extreme sports in a brief moment in time. For this issue, he photographed the angler featured on our cover. See TREVORLYDENPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.

BRANDON NIXON

Born and raised in Idaho, Brandon Nixon grew up in the mountains. Life, work and the outdoors took him through a journey from Idaho to Washington and then Oregon, where he finally landed in Bend. His passion for the outdoors combined with photography are his attempts to capture all the special places and moments that exist in the world. In this issue, Brandon photographed the equestrian estate featured in our home story (p. 59). See NIXON-PHOTOS.COM.

TOBY NOLAN

Toby Nolan is a freelance photographer based in Bend. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Nolan has spent the past fifteen years working primarily in the adventure tourism industry, from fly-fishing guide to sea kayak guide, boat captain to lodge manager. Toby has lived and worked in Ireland, South Africa, Malawi, Kenya, Canada, New Zealand, Alaska and Oregon. From the early years in the dark room to today, photography has been a constant. He shoots commercially for a wide variety of clients plus many of his favorite magazines and publications. In this issue, he captured Bo's Falafels in our restaurant story (p. 100).

NANCY PATTERSON

Nancy Patterson was born and raised in Sonoma County, where being a 'foodie' is nearly a prerequisite for residency. She fell in love with Central Oregon's diverse and eclectic restaurant scene after moving to Bend three years ago, documenting her exploration of hidden restaurants, divinely crafted cocktails, and superlative dishes in her blog, *Eat Drink Bend*. Nancy now spends most of her days photographing food and freelance writing about all things culinary, including home cooking recipes she develops in the kitchen with her baking-enthusiast daughter, Gemma. In this issue, she wrote about food carts of the region and Bo's Falafel (pgs. 92 and 100).

MATT WASTRADOWSKI

Matt Wastradowski is a travel writer based in Bend. He has written about beer, outdoor adventure, and travel for numerous outlets—including the *REI Co-op Journal, Outside*, and *Willamette Week*—and has written two guidebooks: *Moon Pacific Northwest Hiking* hit shelves in 2020, and *Moon Columbia River Gorge-Mount Hood* will be released in fall 2021. In this issue, Matt wrote about State Park day trips for spring (p. 30).

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FROM *the* EDITOR

River Walking

Every day, I try to fit in a little river time. In the winter, that might mean a frosty walk on the river trail by the Old Mill District. In the summer, perhaps it's a leisurely afternoon in the sun on the banks of the Deschutes at LaPine State Park. When work, weather and kids allow, there's hiking the long loop in the upper canyon not far from my home. And if time is tight, I can still manage to step outside of *Bend Magazine's* offices on Drake Park, cross the street and breathe in a minute of peace on Mirror Pond.

No matter what time or attention I have to offer the river, the river is always there for me. Even as the waterway shifts over the course of the year, from ice-covered January mornings to run-and-jump-in August afternoons, from the full rush of spring melt to autumn leaf-dappled fall currents, the Deschutes remains a constant presence. Every time I go looking, it's right where I left it.

This issue is dedicated to the Deschutes River, the sixth longest in Oregon, our region's lifeblood and a beloved everyday touchpoint by many more people than myself. Bend wouldn't be where, or what, it is today if it weren't for the river. Our very name refers to the bend in the Deschutes where early travelers gathered and stopped for respite.

And yet, when an entity is so many things to so many people, matters can become complicated. Over the past century, the waters of the Deschutes River have been stretched thin. *Bend Magazine's* managing editor Teresa Ristow examines the complex past, present and future of our waterway in this issue's feature story, "Dearest Deschutes." Whether you've been following along the river's story for decades or are new to the narrative, there's always more to learn about the regulations governing the river, and what we can all do to help it remain a sustaining force for wildlife, farms and recreationalists alike as we move forward in the 21st century.

In our Pursuits story, read about a trio who have devoted themselves to tidying up a stretch of the Deschutes, by diving near the Bend Whitewater Park. The items they retrieve vary from historic objects dating back to the time of the lumber mills that defined early Bend, to modern day trinkets and valuables lost by floaters, swimmers and surfers in the summer months. The Loot the Deschutes team uses social media to reunite people with their belongings, cleaning up the river in the process.

Also in these pages, we expand our focus beyond the Deschutes to other regional waterways, including the Metolius, the Crooked and the White rivers. Ever yearned to learn to fly-fish? Our feature story "Fishing for the Soul" by outdoor writer Lucas Alberg provides tips and where-tos for the aspiring fly caster among you. Backcountry skiing, state park day trips, Think Wild Animal Rescue, food carts, spring cocktails and much more are also in this issue.

As we welcome spring in Central Oregon, the next time you go river walking, pause to think about what you can do for the river that has given so much to this community. Even if it's only a brief nod of thanks that our river is here at all, the moment of gratitude might do you both good.

Kim Cooper Findling, *editor in chief*

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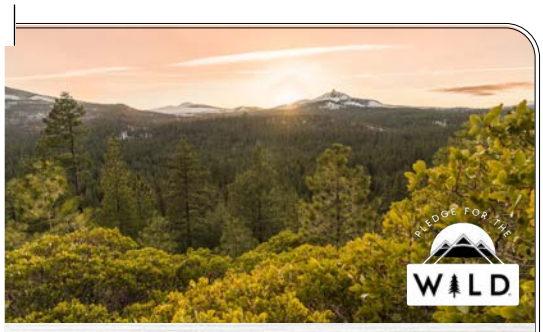

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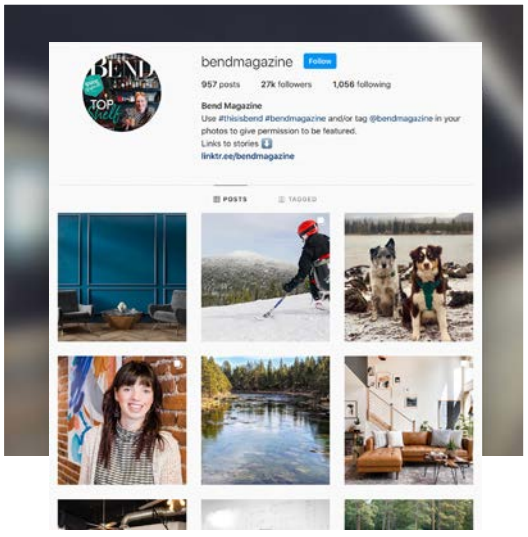

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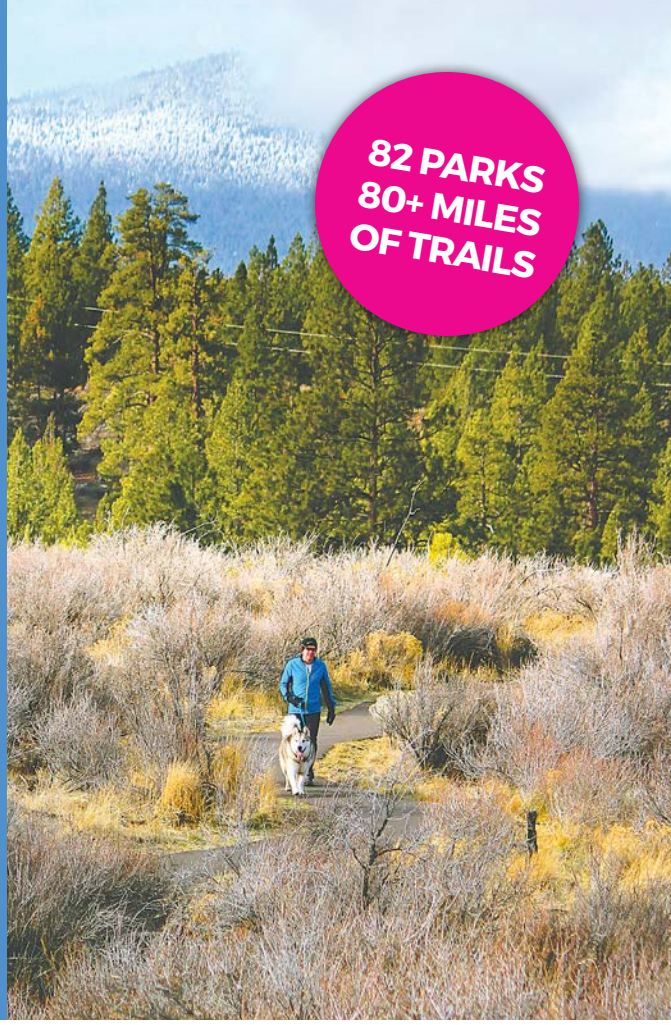

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ENVIRONMENT

Parks Forever Launches Tree Replanting Fund

AN AMBITIOUS NEW FUND FROM NONPROFIT OREGON PARKS FOREVER aims to plant at least one million trees in a state that's been significantly impacted by wildfires in recent years. The organization announced the establishment of its Wildfire Tree Replanting Fund in January, with each dollar donated to the fund being used to plant one tree in Oregon. Last summer, Oregon saw its second largest number of acres burned since 1990, with more than one million acres of trees lost, according to the organization. According to the Oregon Parks Forever's website, the goal of the campaign is to ensure areas burned by wildfires are replenished to once again be lush and green for future generations. "Depending on how much money is raised, we will work with the public land managers from the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Parks & Recreation and the parks departments of Clackamas, Marion, Lane and Jackson counties to determine the greatest need and potential impact," the website reads. Learn more and donate by visiting ORPARKSFOREVER.ORG.

■ *entertainment*

Les Schwab Amphitheater

Bend's iconic concert venue and event space, the Les Schwab Amphitheater, is undergoing renovations, with plans to increase accessibility and to attract a wider variety of performers. Phase 1 construction began December 14 and is expected to conclude right before a busy concert season in June 2021, with artists like Dave Matthews Band and Luke Bryan set to perform later in the year. More phases of construction are planned for the following years.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer the structural capacity necessary to host all of the amazing artists interested in making Bend a stop on their tour," said Marney Smith, Les Schwab Amphitheater's general manager. Smith added that in the past, Bend has missed out on some big name artists because of the old amphitheater's limited capacity. The new plans have a goal of attracting those big names without sacrificing accessibility for guests. The new stage will include pine accents that pay homage to the nearby Old Mill, and old pieces from the original amphitheater will be upcycled to reduce potential waste. The Les Schwab Amphitheater is estimated to bring $1.2 million per concert to Bend's local economy, a figure that is expected to rise upon completion of the renovations. See BENDCONCERTS.COM.

■ *give back*

Bend High Senior Builds Outdoor Classroom for Magnet School

Local Bend High School senior and Eagle Scout Colter Edde recently finished construction of an outdoor classroom at his former school, the Westside Village Magnet School. Edde was inspired by an older scout in his troop who recently finished a similar project for Pine Ridge Elementary. "I knew my old school would get lots of use out of it," Edde said. "It's especially useful to help kids get outside and more spaced out." The final classroom is about twenty-five feet in length and width, with two eight foot wooden boards in the front and six massive half log benches that run two rows wide and three columns deep. The classroom can fit a small group of socially distanced students, or more than thirty students after state regulations shift. Edde had twenty-seven people help in the project, while local businesses like Parr Lumber and V Works Construction donated their expertise to help the project along. Out of all of his volunteers, Edde wants to give a special thanks to his friends Yesenia Char and Nathan Cupit, who both saw the project through from beginning to end. This project promoted Edde to the rank of Eagle Scout.

■ *education*

Local Professor Wins National Award

On January 9, Central Oregon Community College English Professor Stacey Donohue, Ph.D., was awarded the Modern Language Association's 2020 Francis Andrew March Award, a national postsecondary honor that recognizes distinguished service in the field and study of English. In thirty-three years of the award, Donohue is only the third recipient from a community college. Donohue has been a faculty member at COCC since 1995. Since then, she has served the college through her teaching, study, and leadership in English. Annemarie Hamlin, Ph.D., instructional dean at COCC, commented on Donohue's award, stating that, "she has helped shape the discipline on local and national landscapes." Hamlin pointed out that the English professor now shares this accomplishment mostly with faculty from larger, four-year universities. "Stacey shares the roster with eminent scholars and leaders from ivy league institutions and major public universities, and her work has been every bit as essential to the organization as the work of those luminaries," Hamlin said. Although this is the most recent and prestigious award Donohue has received, it's not the only one. In 2018, she was awarded the Association for Women in Community Colleges' College Excellence Award and its Carolyn DesJardins Leadership Award. See COCC.EDU.

civic facilities

Redmond Kicks Off $19 Million in City Upgrades

A flurry of projects is on tap for the city of Redmond in 2021, including construction of a massive new water facility, transportation upgrades, new walkways and a new city park. The largest project is a new, $16 million water facility, aimed to meet the water needs of the growing city, which is now home to more than 30,000 residents. The facility in southwest Redmond near 43rd Avenue and SW Volcano Avenue will feature a 1,000-foot well, 4-million-gallon reservoir and 7,000-gallon-per-minute booster pump station. It's expected to be completed in the fall. Elsewhere in Redmond, city upgrades include updating three transportation corridors, including an overhaul of NE Hemlock Avenue between U.S. Highway 97 and NE Ninth Street. In the spring, the city is expected to get to work on a new park in south-central Redmond, at a cost of $700,000. The city sought public input for the development of the park, which will have a game area with horseshoe pits and bocce ball courts, a playground, perimeter trail and playground, along with features to preserve the area's natural high desert environment. The new Quartz Park at the southern end of Dry Canyon will help the city reach its goal of having a park within a half-mile walk of all residents in Redmond.

take out & delivery

Restaurants Embrace New Rules for To-Go Alcohol

It took several months and a senate bill, but restaurants across Oregon were finally granted temporary approval to mix up and sell to-go alcoholic beverages, including cocktails, mimosas and single-servings of wine. In Central Oregon, some of the early adopters of cocktails to-go included El Rancho Grande in Bend, which reported mixing up more than 400 margaritas and other drinks in the first two weeks of selling takeout beverages. Dogwood Cocktail Cabin in downtown Bend kicked off a cocktails-to-go special paired with pizza, and McMenamins is serving up bloody marys, coffee liqueur drinks and other beverages to pair with any meal. A handful of rules govern the new to-go drink policy, including that consumers must purchase a substantial food item for each drink they buy, that drinks have secure lids and that beverages aren't consumed in public or in a car.

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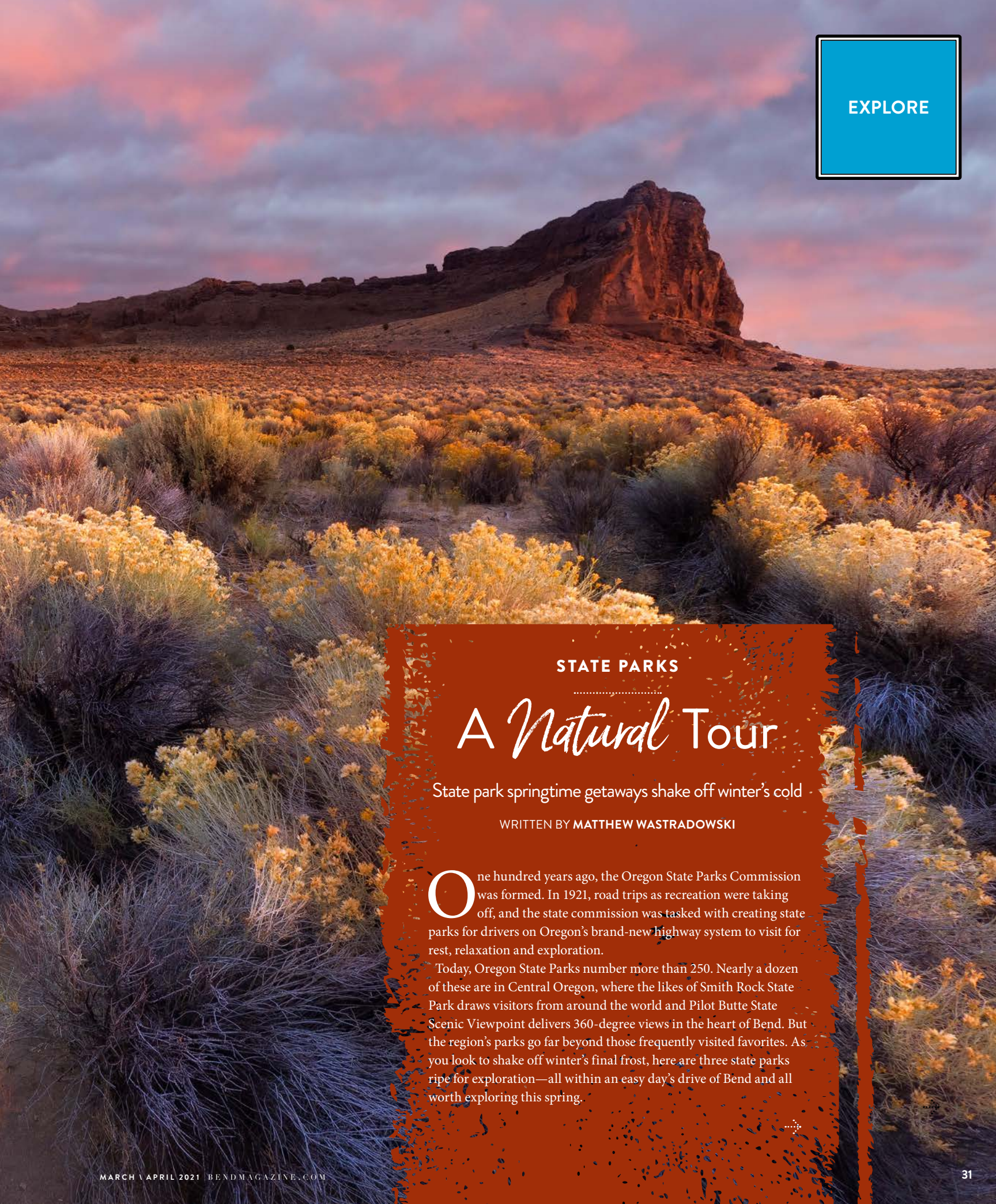
regional growth

Developers Sought for Prime Downtown Madras Property

Drivers heading north through Madras later this year may see a new development underway at a centrally located property in town. Jefferson County, the city of Madras and the Madras Redevelopment Commission are hoping to attract a new developer to a property between the northbound and southbound lanes of Highway 97 on the south end of downtown. Jefferson County recently bought the "South Madras Gateway" site from the Oregon Department of Transportation for $205,000. The site had sat vacant for five years after being used for a highway realignment project. The groups are seeking "creative, experienced development teams" to propose ideas for property, which sees an average daily traffic count of 18,000, according to a "Request for Expressions of Interest" document seeking proposals. According to the document, local leaders are seeking a new mixed-use development, a jobs-generating business that is either new to the area or involves the expansion of an existing business, retail or an office/commercial project. Jefferson County and its partners said the group is most interested in a proposal for immediate development. Interested applicants were asked to submit their proposals by early February with tentative selection of a development team planned for late March.

RIGHT PHOTO COURTESY TOM BROWN

PHOTO SEAN BAGSHAW



STATE PARKS

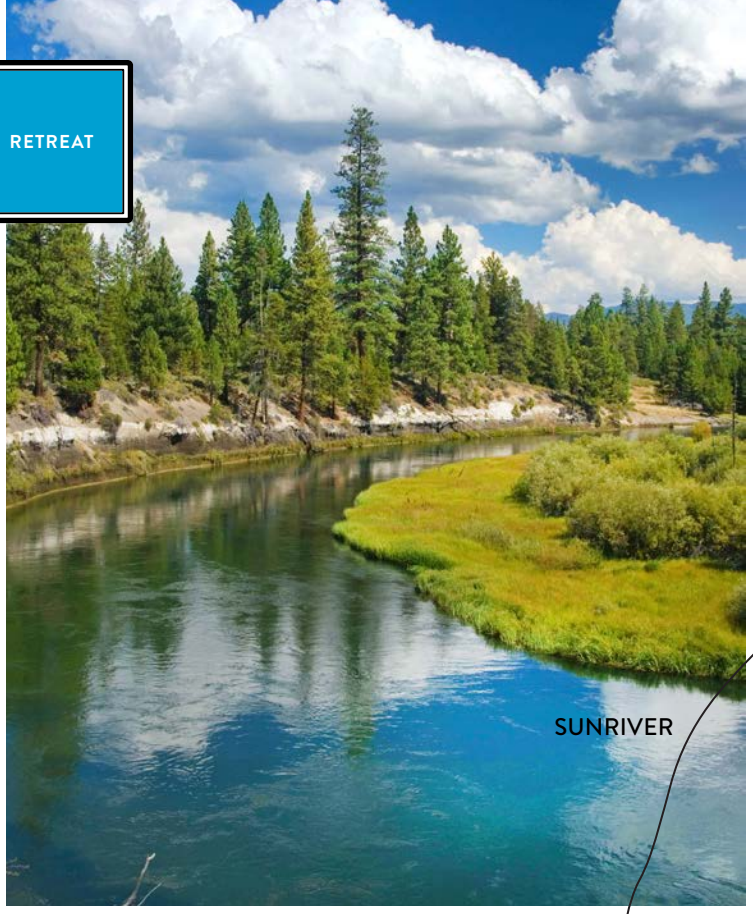
A *Natural* Tour

State park springtime getaways shake off winter's cold

WRITTEN BY **MATTHEW WASTRADOWSKI**

One hundred years ago, the Oregon State Parks Commission was formed. In 1921, road trips as recreation were taking off, and the state commission was tasked with creating state parks for drivers on Oregon's brand-new highway system to visit for rest, relaxation and exploration.

Today, Oregon State Parks number more than 250. Nearly a dozen of these are in Central Oregon, where the likes of Smith Rock State Park draws visitors from around the world and Pilot Butte State Scenic Viewpoint delivers 360-degree views in the heart of Bend. But the region's parks go far beyond those frequently visited favorites. As you look to shake off winter's final frost, here are three state parks ripe for exploration—all within an easy day's drive of Bend and all worth exploring this spring.

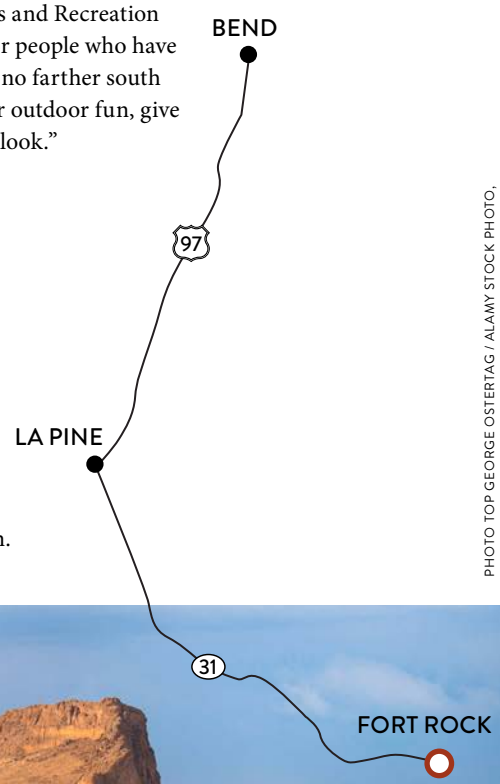


LaPine STATE PARK

Just a fifteen-minute drive northwest of La Pine, LaPine State Park teems with outdoor opportunities all year long, but it's in spring that visitors can quietly explore the park's ponderosa pine forest ahead of the summer crowds.

A stitched-together network of multi-use trails, totaling roughly 15 miles in all, links together the park's fun attractions, including "Big Tree"—at about 500 years old and 162 feet tall, the state's largest ponderosa pine.

The mostly flat paths flank both sides of the Deschutes River, generally remain in the park's shady forest, and give visitors plenty to see without demanding much effort. "The trail system at LaPine is underappreciated," said Chris Havel, associate director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. "For people who have generally looked no farther south than Bachelor for outdoor fun, give LaPine a serious look."



Fort Rock STATE NATURAL AREA

Fort Rock is a towering near-circle of rock—technically, a tuff ring—roughly a one-hour fifteen-minute drive southeast of Bend in the Fort Rock Basin. In prehistoric times, it sat in the middle of what was once an expansive sea; today, the citadel-like rock formation sits surrounded by a vast, arid region and hosts several easy hiking trails begging for further exploration.

For his part, Havel said Fort Rock sees far fewer visitors than most of the region's other parks, but that it also hosts colorful springtime wildflower displays and makes a fine gateway to the nearby Christmas Valley region.

PHOTO TOP GEORGE OSTERTAG / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, BOTTOM TETRA IMAGES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

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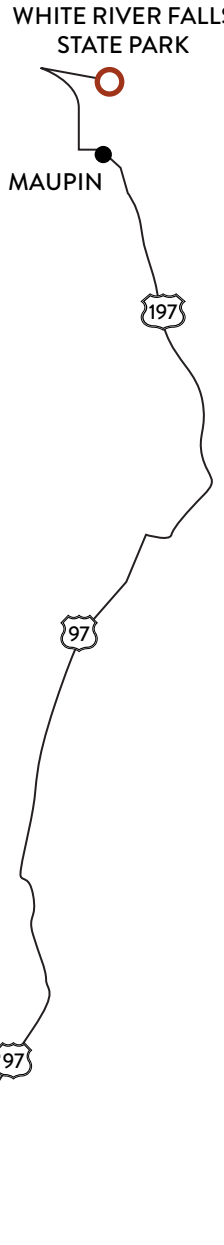
Discover Newport at Sunset



White River Falls
STATE PARK

In a sense, one could see all there is to see at White River Falls State Park in just five minutes: White River Falls tumbles ninety feet over a basalt shelf, its plume especially rich in spring, the result of winter runoff.

But Havel said a quick, in-and-out visit doesn't do the scene justice. "I think you'll have a hard time leaving the park after you get there," he said. "It's so mesmerizing—and the thunderous experience of a fully engaged waterfall coming off the Cascades, you just can't look away." The park sits in the Tygh Valley, an hour drive north of Madras, at the site of a decommissioned hydroelectric power plant. Today, a small overlook offers impressive views of White River Falls, and a short hiking trail heads to its base.

ADD THESE TO YOUR FUTURE ROAD TRIP PLANNER

HERE ARE A FEW MORE REGIONAL STATE PARKS, AND WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT SOON.

Peter Skene Ogden State Scenic Viewpoint: Just a half-hour drive north of Bend, the viewpoint honoring the early fur trader and explorer makes a worthy stop on your way to or from some of the region's other state parks. The rest area includes a stunning overlook that peers into the Crooked River canyon.

Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site: Currently closed due to COVID-19, the one-time Chinese apothecary dates back to 1865 and offers a fascinating look at life in the late 1800s and early 1900s for Chinese immigrants in the community of John Day. "Put it on your 'life list' of experiences," Havel recommends.

The Cove Palisades State Park: Roughly twenty minutes southwest of Madras, the park hosts two seasonal campgrounds, two swimming areas and boat ramps, and several miles of hiking trails, all centered around the manmade Lake Billy Chinook, where the Metolius, Crooked and Deschutes rivers meet.

PHOTO TOP JORDAN FOX / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

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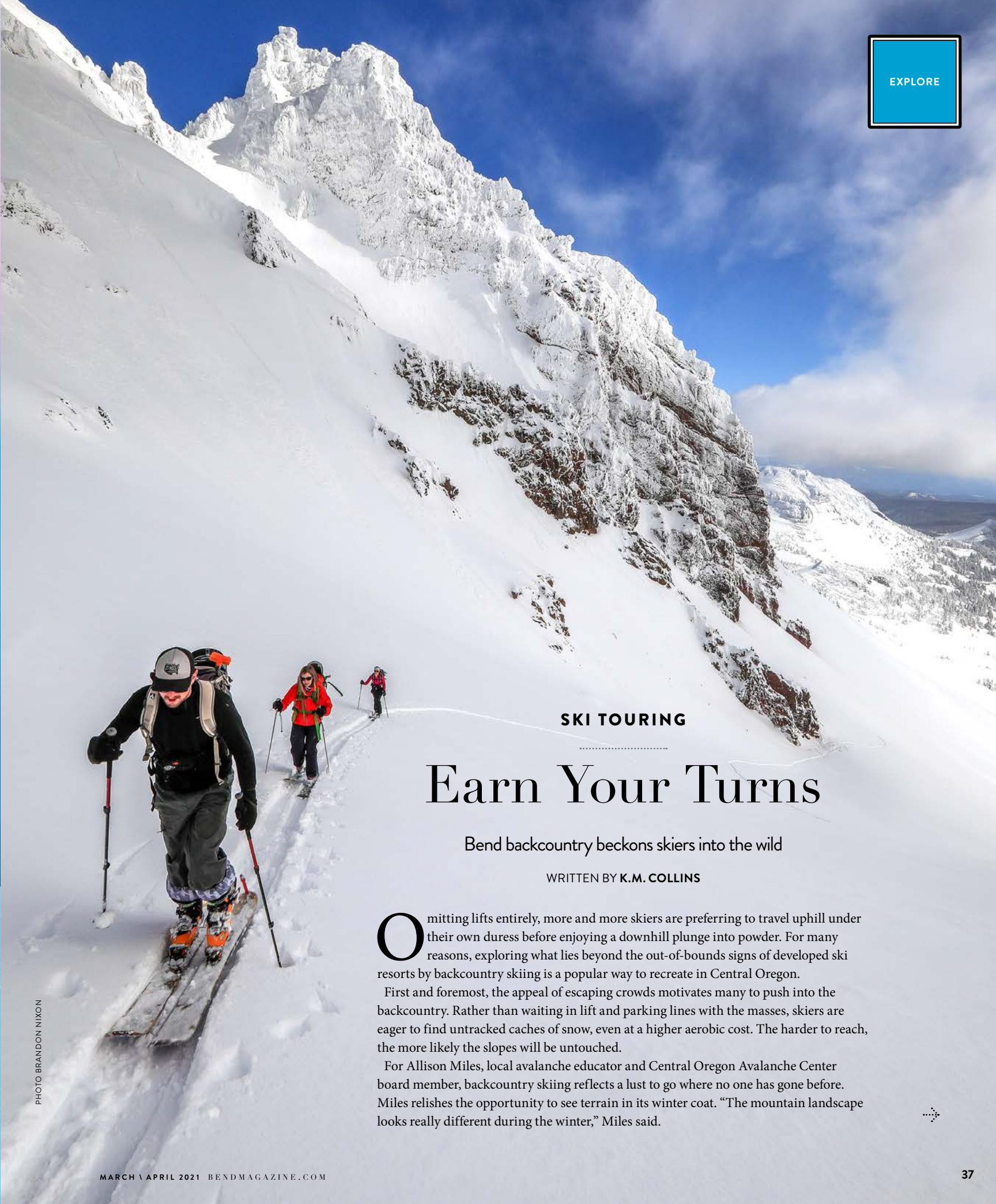

PHOTO BRANDON NIXON

SKI TOURING

Earn Your Turns

Bend backcountry beckons skiers into the wild

WRITTEN BY **K.M. COLLINS**

Omitting lifts entirely, more and more skiers are preferring to travel uphill under their own duress before enjoying a downhill plunge into powder. For many reasons, exploring what lies beyond the out-of-bounds signs of developed ski resorts by backcountry skiing is a popular way to recreate in Central Oregon.

First and foremost, the appeal of escaping crowds motivates many to push into the backcountry. Rather than waiting in lift and parking lines with the masses, skiers are eager to find untracked caches of snow, even at a higher aerobic cost. The harder to reach, the more likely the slopes will be untouched.

For Allison Miles, local avalanche educator and Central Oregon Avalanche Center board member, backcountry skiing reflects a lust to go where no one has gone before. Miles relishes the opportunity to see terrain in its winter coat. "The mountain landscape looks really different during the winter," Miles said.

Appreciating what motivates a person to venture into the backcountry is one thing. Understanding the gear is another world entirely. Backcountry skiing starts with a piece of fabric, akin to carpet, which is affixed to the bottom of the skis. This "skin" only allows movement in one direction—uphill. Specialized backcountry skis are also equipped with heel lifts which help reduce leg strain during what can be hundreds to thousands of feet ascending.

These features are also present on splitboards—the snowboarder's version of winter backcountry equipment. For both backcountry skiing and snowboarding, when it's time to cruise down slope from the top of the hill, skins are removed, heels are lowered and a split board is transformed back to a single plank.

Other requisite gear (besides that which you'd bring on the lifts or for a winter hike) includes a backcountry specific pack, avalanche beacon, probe and shovel. More on this in the safety section.

Wintertime solitude, scouting fresh tracks and touring the seemingly uncharted acres are just a few cherries on the summit Sundays calling many a snow enthusiast into the backcountry.

PHOTO BRANDON NIXON


The Cone


Tumalo Mountain


Broken Top Bowl

PHOTO TOP LEFT ADAM MCKIBBEN, RIGHT AUSTIN WHITE

TOP DESTINATIONS

The Cone

Adjacent to Mt. Bachelor's West Village parking lot, the Cone is the best place to start for beginners and a tried-and-true escape for quick sunrise or sunset sessions. With a descent of just more than 700 feet and a friendly gradient, this is a welcoming destination to those just getting their feet wet, or for those in a time crunch. Mt. Bachelor has guidelines on uphill traffic routes. Check the website for best practices. New this year: Reserve a free parking pass to enter the parking lot.

Tumalo Mountain

East of Mount Bachelor, across the saddle of the Cascade Lakes Highway, Tumalo Mountain beckons. While Tumalo can also be skied on a time crunch, the ascent is 1,900 feet over a three-mile cross section and conditions can vary. Access can be found from Dutchman Sno-Park. To ensure parking, a pre-sunrise departure is recommended as snowmobilers and Elk Lake Lodge visitors also utilize this modest lot. Routes up vary and are all up the west face. Once at the top, some choose to descend the same route traversed for summiting, while more experienced enthusiasts may choose to drop down the steeper east face. The route out after the east face descent circumnavigates the shaded, often icy, north face of Tumalo.

Broken Top Bowl

Shaped like a massive concave jagged bowl, Broken Top is located to the northeast side of Mount Bachelor. The seven-mile approach to the south face can be accessed by a thirty-minute snowmobile ride from Dutchman Sno-Park to the wilderness boundary near Todd Lake, with miles of hiking to follow. Many decent lines can be chosen from the summit ridge of Broken Top, all corresponding and named in reference to a clock face. This adventure can be accomplished in one day or some make it an overnighter. Because of the endurance and distance, consider contacting Oregon Ski Guides and enlist the services of a professional guide.

SAFETY & AVALANCHES

'Know before you go' is a quintessential phrase for the backcountry. This includes having proper equipment like an avalanche beacon, receiving knowledgeable instruction on how to use it and learning how to read snow conditions. Backcountry certifications are given in the form of American Institute of Avalanche Research and Education course levels 1-3. Trip check and conditions report tools include Central Oregon Avalanche Center and Northwest Avalanche Center. Be sure to adhere to leave no trace ethics while exploring. Be kind to the land and the people, and mind parking and trail etiquette.

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PHOTOS BRANDON NIXON

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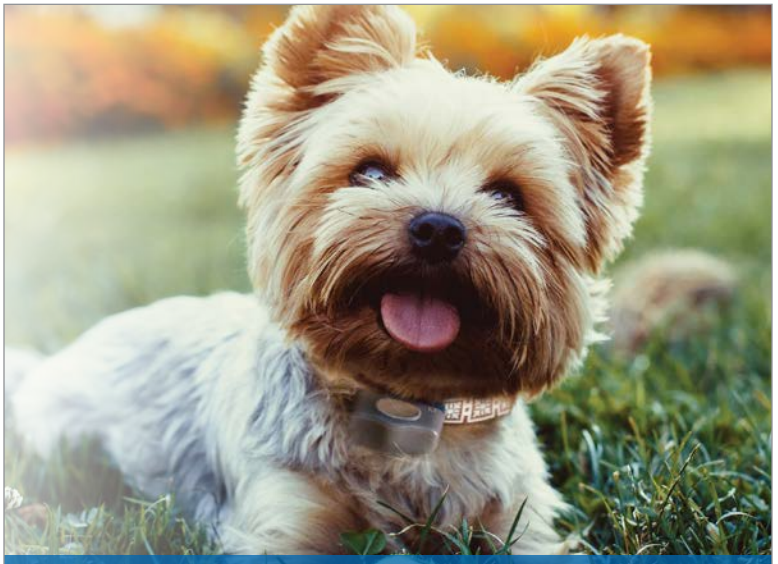

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NEW KID IN TOWN

Wily Fox

The rare Sierra Nevada Red Fox finds a home in Oregon's Cascades

WRITTEN BY **DAMIAN FAGAN**

PHOTO CHANEY SWINEY

A mystery fox with a white-tipped tail in Oregon's Cascade Mountains was recently identified through luck and scientific sleuthing. Spoiler alert: the "suspect" is the Sierra Nevada red fox (*Vulpes vulpes necator*) a rare subspecies of the red fox (Vulpes vulpes).

Before 2012, sightings of this secretive fox outside of its home range in the Sierra Nevada were few or attributed to another subspecies, the Cascade red fox (*V. v. cascadensis*). Nevertheless, the fox had been spotted roaming in and around the Three Sisters Wilderness more and more frequently.

To determine the identity, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and partners conducted a research project from 2012 to 2014 utilizing baited camera stations equipped with trail cameras and hair snagging devices. University of California at Davis conducted DNA analysis on the collected hair samples, and the wily fox's identity was confirmed.

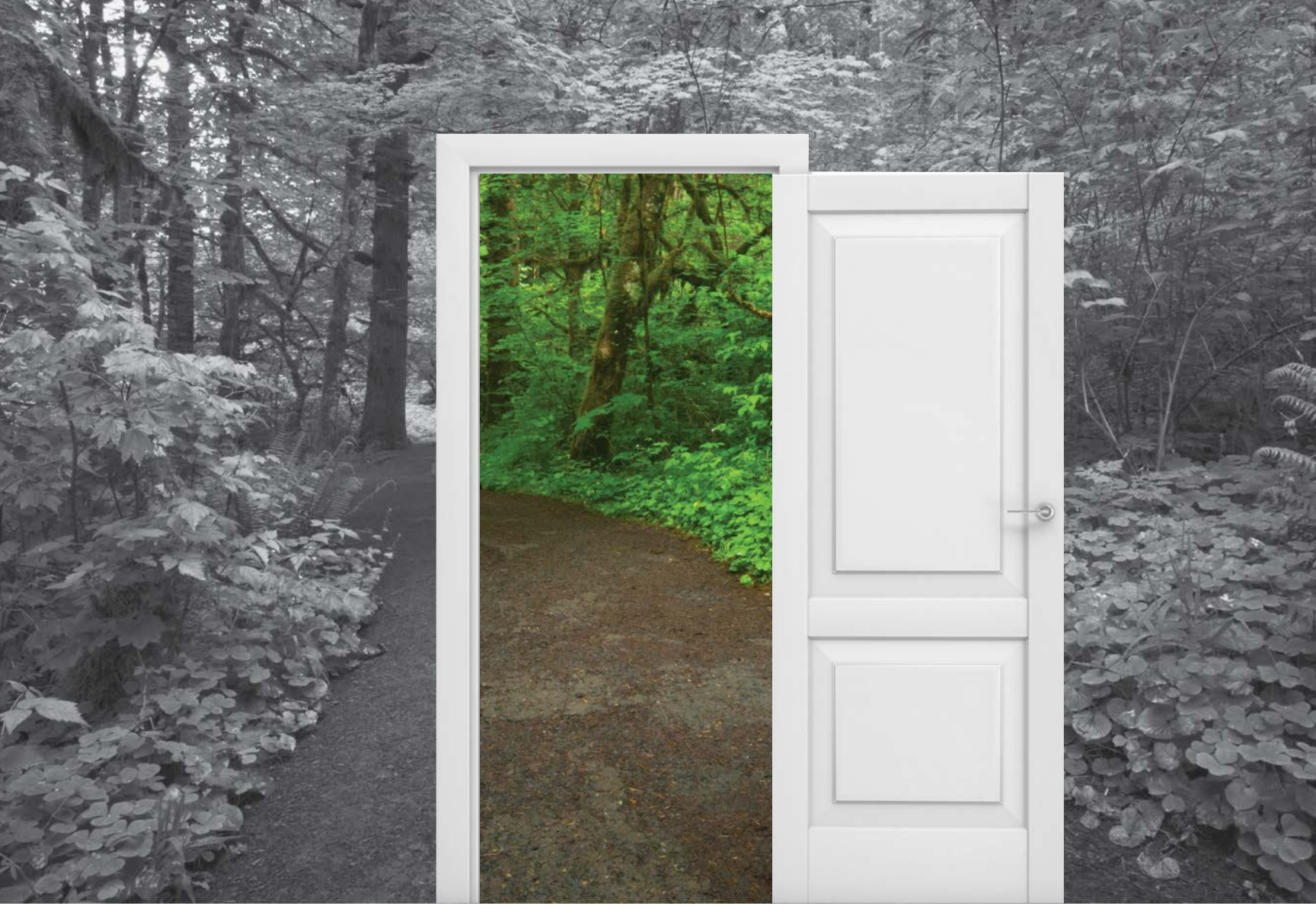
To gain additional information, ODFW live trapped foxes in 2017 and affixed GPS collars to them. "We trapped a total of seventeen unique individual foxes," said Jamie Bowles, ODFW assistant wildlife biologist. "The goals of our study were to assess the fox's home range, habitat use and den site requirements." Along with the GPS data, Bowles and volunteers spent many hours on the ground tracking and observing collared foxes.

Some results? These montane foxes range at elevations from 4,900 to 6,500 feet in mountain hemlock and white bark pine habitats in the Cascades. Their fur-lined feet act like snowshoes enabling the animals to easily move across the snow. Adults usually weigh from eight to ten pounds, and their pelage, or fur, color phases are red, silver, black or "cross" (silver with black across the shoulders and down the back). Prey includes rodents, birds, ground squirrels, snowshoe hares, pika and pine martens.

"We discovered that the foxes have large home ranges for their size, about sixty square miles," Bowles said. In addition to the forested habitats, the foxes also inhabit high elevation lava flows for hunting prey and denning. Some dens are close to areas of high human use such as Mt. Bachelor parking lots or area sno-parks, which is a concern.

"The number one mortality that I could determine for the foxes during this study was vehicle strikes," Bowles said. Also, numerous observations indicate the foxes are using ski and snowmobile trails to access warming shelters, perhaps scavenging for food scraps.

If you spot a fox while you're out recreating, count yourself supremely lucky, but return the favor to nature by not disturbing the foxes or their den, and picking up after yourself and keeping a clean camp when you are out in nature. Welcome the new fox to our region by protecting the "wild" in wildlife.



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TREASURE

Rusted Revolvers and Diamond Rings

Pulling treasure and history from the Deschutes River

WRITTEN BY **NOAH NELSON**

When the Bend Whitewater Park opened in 2015, avid surfers descended on the place, including husband and wife Kea and Miranda Eubank, and their friend Lled Smith, who they met on the banks of the Deschutes during the wave park's early days. But the trio soon discovered two key issues with the new park; it was often too crowded for them to enjoy, and people were leaving behind a lot of their belongings at the bottom of the river.

"You would get to the park and find it too crowded to use, but think to yourself 'I still want to get in the water,'" Miranda Eubank said. Already wet-suited up, the crew sometimes went diving as an alternative to surfing in those early days, a choice that eventually led to the creation of Loot the Deschutes, an informal organization dedicated to diving the Deschutes River and reconnecting people with lost items.

According to Miranda Eubank, Smith was one of the first people to ever dive the new section. "You could walk across the walkway, look down and see things shining down there," Smith said, "I would come up with handfuls of sunglasses."

ABOVE The Loot the Deschutes team finds all sorts of things in the river, from license plates to lighters to insulin pumps
RIGHT Kea and Miranda Eubank and Lled Smith near the outlet of the Bend Whitewater Park, in a rare moment of rest between dives into the Deschutes

As their diving jaunts became more purposeful, whether what the trio found was trash or valuable, they picked it up and stored it in an innertube they pulled along behind them. All of their diving is done without any breathing equipment. So far, they have pulled up nearly 5,000 pounds of trash.

But their finds are definitely not all trash. On one of his dives, Smith recovered a 96-carat diamond ring, glittering at the bottom of the river, and made a Craigslist post to see if the rightful owner would contact him. Six months later, a woman in Texas contacted Smith and told him the story of how she lost it.

"It turns out that the ring was gifted to the woman on her 30th wedding anniversary from her late husband," Smith said. "She even remembered the moment that a rope caught her finger and just slipped the ring right off."

Smith shipped the ring back to Texas to be reunited with its owner. After this successful return, Smith created an Instagram page to post pictures of lost items, and Loot the Deschutes was officially born. Since then, the trio have been diving the Deschutes, pulling up anything they can find, and posting on

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"You could walk across the walkway, look down and see things shining down there. I would come up with handfuls of sunglasses."

FAR LEFT Don't forget to pay the meter! **BELOW** The 30th anniversary ring that was returned to its owner, a woman from Texas **BOTTOM** Kea Eubank returning a bracelet to a woman who had it made in memory of her father, a deceased police officer

their page to help connect lost items with their owners.

Outside of returning valuables to river goers, the trio also discovered the historical value to their newfound hobby. The Deschutes is the lifeline of Bend, and played a key role in the foundation of the town. Through all of our history, the Deschutes has slowly collected an archival collection that could rival a museum, guarded in its murky depths.

Among keys and rings sit relics that remind us of bygone eras: early 20th century longshoreman hooks used at the lumber mill, WWI dog tags (eventually returned to the soldier's granddaughter), century-old revolvers, and vials of Wild West era medicine fit for a snake oil salesman. All historical recoveries have been kept in a growing collection. Through these relics, we glimpse the lives of people who came before us: the lumber mill worker whose labor helped found the town, the travelling salesman whose life is a reminder of the freedom and lawlessness brought on by the Old West, and the soldier who sacrificed his youth to fight violent nationalism.

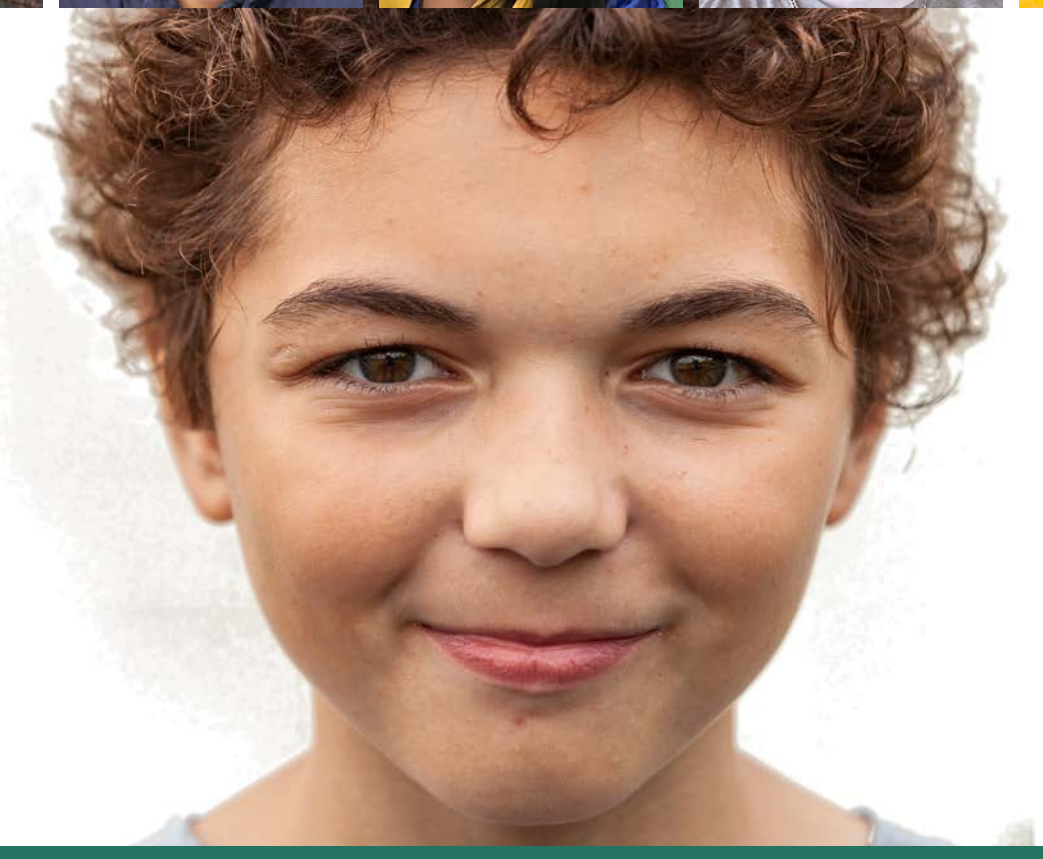
With a sudden responsibility to both return lost items and document the past, the trio now find themselves looking to the future. For now, they just want to go with the flow. The plan for Loot the Deschutes is to keep reconnecting people with their lost items, recovering history and having fun.

For any divers looking to loot their own treasure in this river, the trio at Loot the Deschutes has some advice: be careful. Smith was electrocuted when he nearly grabbed an exposed wire underwater, while the Eubanks have had their own close calls. "We see a lot of young people follow in our steps, and we want them to have fun, but the last thing we want is someone to get hurt because they wanted to be like us," Kea Eubank said.

If you do go diving and find an item that you would like to return to its rightful owner, contact Loot the Deschutes via their Instagram page @lootthedeschutes.







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HISTORY

The Neighborhood Market

Nearly 100 years later, Delaware Grocery continues to feed the community

WRITTEN BY **KAILEY FISICARO**

We may think our lives today are drastically different than those who lived 100 years ago. But one spot in West Bend has remained true to its origins in many ways, reminding us life might not be quite as different today versus yesterday as we might think.

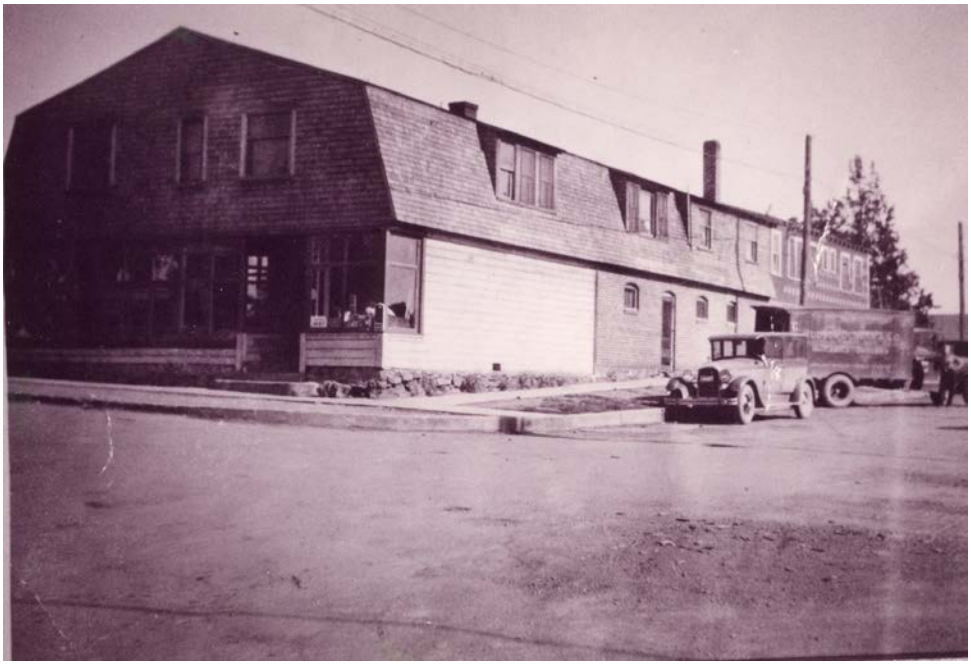
Today in operation as the cafe-style restaurant Jackson's Corner, the building at 845 NW Delaware Avenue was long known to locals as Delaware Grocery. Constructed just outside what used to be the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Mill, the originally Dutch Colonial-style building is estimated to have been built between 1921 and 1923, receiving major renovations about fifteen years ago, according to records at the Deschutes Historical Museum.

Aaron Christenson, co-owner of Jackson's Corner, said from the restaurant's opening in 2008, the founders wanted it to maintain the feeling of a neighborhood grocery. They created a market-cafe ambiance and style, including the sale of some groceries such as bread and pasta made onsite, plus beer, wine, milk and eggs, explained Christenson, who was a manager of the restaurant at the time it opened.

The restaurant leases the building, yet the building largely defines the restaurant. "The building is a huge part of who we are, so we have to reflect back on who we are, and carrying that legacy," Christenson said. Beyond selling groceries and hosting tenants in apartments upstairs, the old building's purpose has been maintained in the community feel of the operation, he explained.

At its start, the neighborhood provided housing for mill workers and their families, as evidenced by the many charming 100-year-old homes that remain today. Sometimes referred to as the oldest grocery store in Bend, Delaware Grocery benefited from its primo location just outside the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Mill gate. In one year during the 1920s, the business did $96,000 in gross sales, with $90,000 as the cost of the goods, according to *The Bend Bulletin*. In the 1920s, $6,000 was a sizable profit, considering for example that 10 pounds of sugar could cost just 85 cents, according to one 1924 ad for the store.

The original grocery store was built for brothers and Bulgarian immigrants Mike and John Todoroff in the early 1920s. The



TOP Deleware Grocery as it stood in 1936
ABOVE Jackson's Corner, present day
RIGHT Jackson's Corner owners Aaron Christenson and Parker Vaughan

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Partners In Care

THIS PHOTO AND INSET Deleware Grocery during renovation in 2005

men had arrived in La Pine in 1911. The brothers would later sell the building to Nick and Lillian Peterson in 1926. Born Nicklos Panagiotous, in Cletchos, Furnas, Greece, Peterson and his brother arrived in the United States as teenagers and worked their way west. Peterson filed for a homestead near Brothers in 1910, later receiving many medals for his service in World War I from April 1918 to May 1919 in France. After returning to Bend and working for the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Mill until 1926, he bought the grocery building with the apartments above.

Peterson and his wife Lillian enlarged the grocery and shepherded the business through decades, before passing it on to their son George Peterson in 1971. All in all, the Peterson family would own the local grocery for more than seventy-five years, and at times, live above the store among other tenants. Bonnie Peterson, daughter-in-law of Nick and Lillian Peterson, worked to get the building a historical landmark designation in the late 1980s.

In addition to serving as a neighborhood grocery and an easy spot for mill workers to stop in on their walk home, Delaware Grocery was also an ice house from 1936 to 2004. Before refrigeration was commonplace, ice was needed for perishables, including to stock ice boxes in people's homes. Even after refrigerators became more prolific, Delaware Grocery adapted to provide ice for personal coolers, wholesale and commercial use, and blocks for ice sculptures.

The store shows up in *The Bend Bulletin* archives over the years, most of the time in its print ads. But the grocery store address also showed up in a regular hospital ins and outs column by St. Charles, which announced not only when people entered and exited the hospital but also printed the patient's home address right along with it. Some of the Peterson family birth announcements were made in this fashion.

A series of ads in the 1920s also promoted grocery delivery. Featuring a cartoon of a crank phone's handpiece holding a picnic basket, the ad suggested "send the phone for groceries." Christenson was intrigued to hear how Delaware Grocery had pushed for grocery delivery, as the restaurant is encouraging phone orders for pick-up today. As Jackson's Corner adapted its service model in 2020 to focus on takeout, it bumped up some grocery item offerings again, too.

If the occasional challenges of operating a modern-day restaurant in a century-old building, from decades-old brick walls to the occasional drafts to contend with, weren't enough to remind Christenson of 845 NW Delaware's roots, there are always those little loops like those that remind the Jackson's Corner crew that they were, and are, an anchor in the neighborhood. While today, it's pizza and pasta being sold instead of 100-pound bags of potatoes, the business is still a "neighborhood-first place."

"People could view it as a con but I would view it as a pro—we have to hold ourselves accountable to being the next door neighbor," Christenson said. B

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HELPING HANDS

WILDLIFE

Think Wild Animal Rescue

New animal hospital rehabilitates wildlife in need

WRITTEN BY **NOAH NELSON**

As cities in Oregon continue to develop and expand, the likelihood of animals getting caught in the middle between city and country increases. Human activity increases the rates of injured and orphaned animals and contributes to local species becoming endangered and even extinct. Think Wild was founded as an effort to both save these vulnerable species and educate people about how they can help.

Think Wild is a wildlife hospital and conservation center based in Bend. In its first year, the organization responded to more than 100 calls to take in, rehabilitate and release injured Central Oregon animals. While Think Wild's goal is to accept any animal in need, operations last year were limited by incomplete construction that made housing large animals impossible.

All operations are overseen by Think Wild's Executive Director Sally Compton and Director of Wildlife Rehab Pauline Baker, who have both been with the organization since it began in spring of 2020. Together, this dynamic duo works around the clock to make sure that every facet of Think Wild is running smoothly, and with an organization like this, that means that the duo has to take on new and unique challenges all the time.

The story is the same for the organization's volunteers. Debra Merskin, a professor of media studies at the University of Oregon, said volunteering always keeps her on her feet. "Some days you're pouring concrete to help finish a new enclosure, and other days you're bottle-feeding baby squirrels."

Merskin got involved partly because her research in media studies pertains to how certain animal species are portrayed in popular media, and how these portrayals affect animal rights. She has always been passionate about volunteering her time to help animals, and finds that Think Wild gives volunteers a chance to experience something very impactful. Merskin recalls one such moment when she was bottle-feeding baby squirrels. This task had to be done in a way so that the baby squirrel did not grow any attachment to the person holding the bottle.

"As much as you might want to form a bond with the animals, you cannot forget that the goal is to eventually release them back into the wild. As much as you want to hold that cute baby squirrel and feed them every day, you know that would actually hurt their chances of survival," Merskin said.

Merskin realized that the best thing that can happen to any animal that gets rehabilitated is to never interact with a human again. She compared animal rehabilitation to parenthood, in that they share the goal of preparing something or someone to become successfully independent.

This responsibility is carried by Compton and Baker as they forge Think Wild into the future. Each is optimistic about what can be achieved this new year. Think Wild will be completing construction on a much larger space that can accommodate different kinds of animals, like birds of prey. They plan to expand educational programs to help prevent the need for animal rehab, and add many new internship positions.

If you find an injured animal, call Think Wild's animal help hotline at 541-241-8680. To volunteer, please visit the "Get Involved" tab at THINKWILDCO.ORG.

PHOTO LEFT COURTESY THINK WILD CENTRAL OREGON

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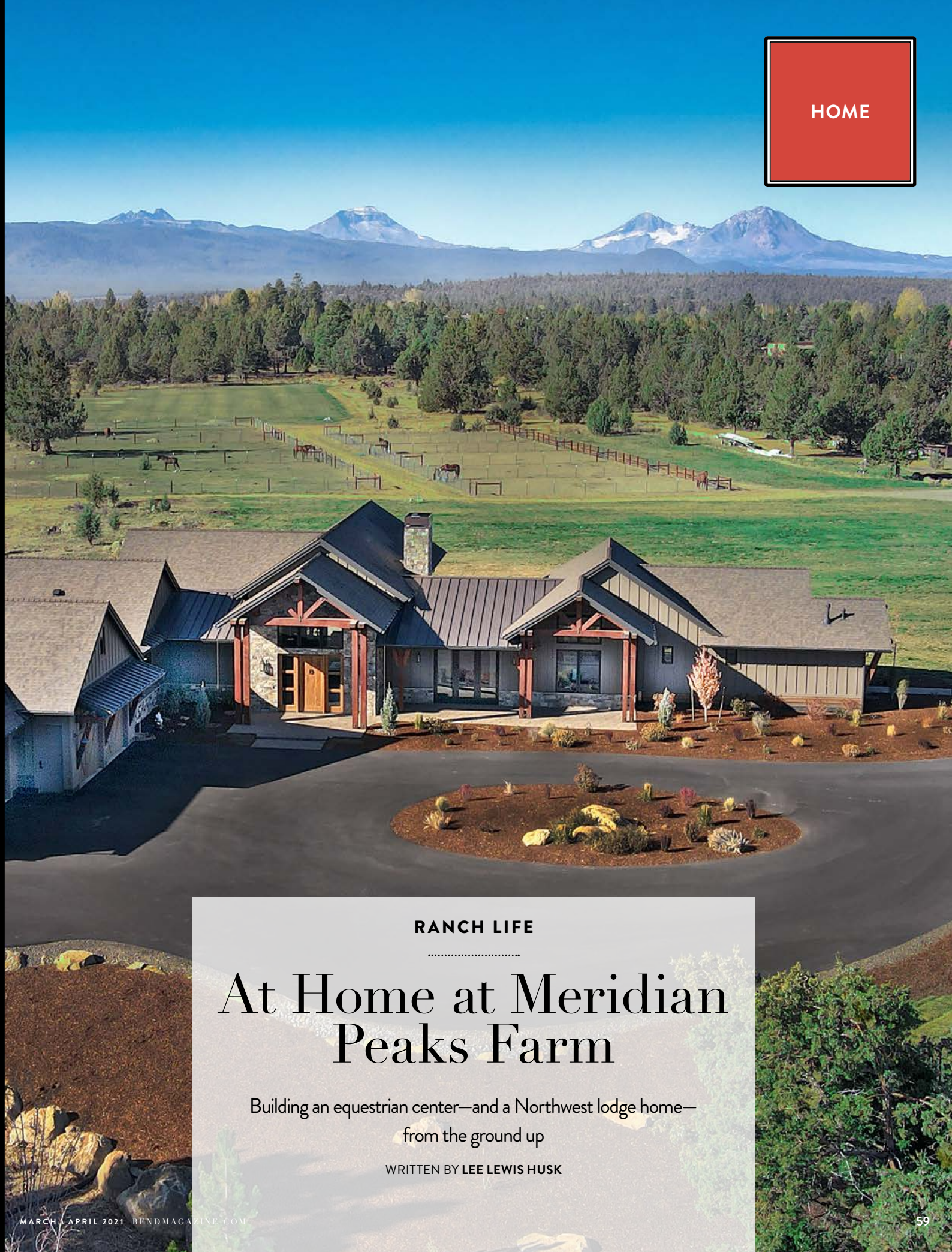


PHOTO CENTRAL OREGON REAL ESTATE PHOTOGRAPHY

RANCH LIFE

At Home at Meridian Peaks Farm

Building an equestrian center—and a Northwest lodge home—from the ground up

WRITTEN BY **LEE LEWIS HUSK**

Like buying a car, sometimes you have to test drive a few homes before settling on just the right one. Since visiting Central Oregon in the early 2000s and then moving to the area permanently in 2008, Lisa and Darren Pleasance have owned a vacation cabin and later a house on the Sunriver airport. "It was a pilot's dream," said Darren, who flew himself weekly to the Bay Area for his job at Google.

When they enrolled their two kids at Seven Peaks School, they moved to The Parks at Broken Top in Bend. Darren said he started missing a view, which they'd had in Sunriver. In 2014, a friend gave the couple a lead on 40 acres in Tumalo, with only an abandoned pink single-wide trailer. They got in touch with the owner who told them the property wasn't for sale. The Pleasances made several offers over the next three years.

PHOTO BOTTOM LEFT BRANDON NIXON, OTHERS CENTRAL OREGON REAL ESTATE PHOTOGRAPHY

With hope dimming, they bought a lot with a spectacular view by The Rim in Tetherow and hired an architect to design a home.

And that's when the owner of the Tumalo 40 acres finally said yes to their offer.

MORE THAN A COUNTRY HOME

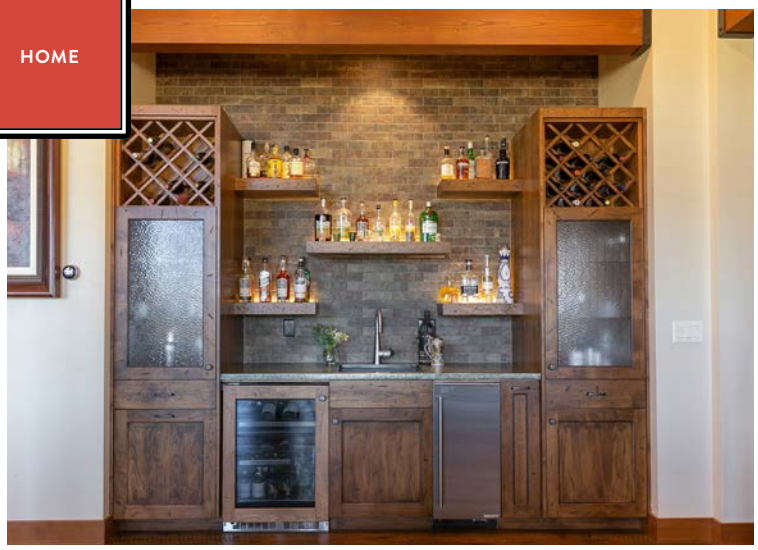
With the Tumalo land now in their possession, the couple made a ten-year plan for the property which would include an equestrian center. While the whole family enjoys riding, Lisa competes at the highest level in the "AA-rated" Hunter and Jumper circuit. Having her own show horses out the back door and a place for others to board, train and rehab their horses was a long-held dream.

For their residence, the couple decided to adapt the Northwest lodge style home intended for Tetherow to the more spacious country site. "We took those plans which included a two-level design and stretched them out into a single floor," Lisa said.

"While we wanted a ranch-y, comfortable feeling, we tried to avoid the cliché and focused on classic, timeless touches."

Capturing the unobstructed views of the Cascade Mountains from Bachelor to Jefferson became the number one priority. "The house was designed to honor the site and maximize the views while maintaining privacy from the equestrian center buildings and clients," said builder Scott Knox, owner of Madrone Construction. He noted that the "big beautiful front door has spectacular views to the mountains."

The layout of the 4,400-square-foot residence spreads across a north-south axis, placing the kitchen, dining and living rooms in the middle with wings on either side.



The home is faithful to the lodge style with soaring ceilings, exposed wood inside and out, stone and forged metal accents and arching roof lines. And while the common central area has traditional lodge pieces such as an authentic antler chandelier and a rustic fireplace, the style isn't overdone. "(Architect John Muir) scaled the home well," Knox said. He points to the dropped ceilings in the dining room and a slightly different elevation in the kitchen to add human scale.

Interior designer Sunny Maxwell added, "while we wanted a ranch-y, comfortable feeling, we tried to avoid the cliché and focused on classic, timeless touches."

Among the standout features are the hand-scraped, textured hickory floors tough enough to withstand dogs and dirt tracked in from the ranch, a farm kitchen sink made of solid granite and custom fireplace doors, countertops and stove hood forged from zinc by Ponderosa Forge in Sisters. One of the couple's favorite places is the great room with the view of South Sister and the drink bar and up-lit cabinet that displays spirit and wine bottles for entertaining and for pouring out a glass of wine to enjoy around the outdoor firepit after a long day on the farm.

The master wing includes the Pleasance's bedroom with a rare feature—views of both the sunrise and sunset from bed. Darren's office is conveniently located nearby. He now runs the Global Sales Strategy and Operations Teams for the high-tech firm Cisco and has worked from home during the pandemic. "His office was well thought out with a fireplace, providing a nice background for video calls," Maxwell said.

One of Lisa's favorite places is a special purpose mudroom off the master suite. It offers convenient access to and from the horse barn and a place to hang her riding clothes and drop muddy boots before heading straight into the shower or soaking tub.

The other wing consists of their two children's bedrooms and a combined bunkroom and media room. The large laundry and mudroom off the four-car garage has cubbies and hooks for outdoor gear, and a spacious dog wash for the three Golden Retrievers who cohabitate with the family.

PHOTOS CENTRAL OREGON REAL ESTATE PHOTOGRAPHY

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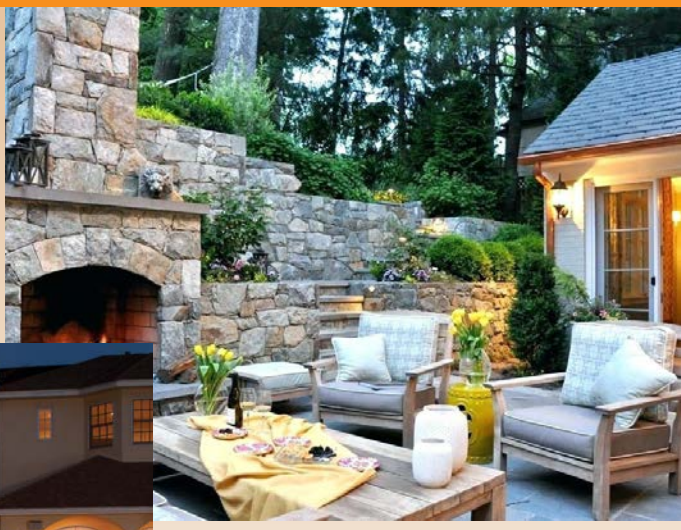

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"The Pleasances are extremely high touch and knew what they wanted to accomplish."

AN EQUESTRIAN CENTER FROM THE GROUND UP

Concurrent with starting the building permit process on the home, the Pleasances began with infrastructure for the equestrian center, which they would call Meridian Peaks Farm. "They're extremely high touch and knew what they wanted to accomplish," Knox said. He said they chose to do much of the work themselves when they could easily have outsourced it. For example, Darren rented an excavator, and a friend showed him how to use it to dig a trench for electricity and water lines. Along with contractors, they fenced the entire property, dug a well and installed irrigation to grow hay for horse grazing.

PHOTOS BRANDON NIXON

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PHOTOS BRANDON NIXON

"...built like an upper-class facility with high-end touches but homey and oriented to horses and their riders."

They finished the first barn in 2018 and within eighteen months added another barn, outdoor riding arena, a pond stocked with fish, a meandering riding path around the property, a large equipment storage shed and finally an indoor riding arena suitable for competition.

A lifelong friend and Hunter and Jumper competitor of Lisa's, Simone Starnes of Starnes Equestrian, runs the training business and manages the clients and their horses while Lisa oversees the day-to-day operations of the entire facility which has grown since its opening in 2018. Another handful of employees help both Lisa and Starnes with chores related to the care of about twenty-five horses on the property. Still, Lisa retains responsibility for feeding and tucking in all the horses each night.

Starnes said the indoor arena is a dream, "built like an upper-class facility with high-end touches but homey and oriented to horses and their riders." It was built with steel-framing so it could be bigger than wood-framed arenas and to withstand heavy snow loads. Lisa admits her horses are "super spoiled" with heated waterers and their own private turnouts during the day.

With a finished home in the rear-view mirror and a lifestyle complete with show horses, ponies, chickens and dogs, the former Bay Area residents are fully immersed in their new country lifestyle. Neither can imagine living anywhere else. B

Resources

Architect: John Muir
Interior design: Sunny Maxwell, Maxwell Design
Builder: Scott Knox, Madrone Construction

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ACCENTS

Spring Finds

Shop local this season for fun items for the home

Spring is the perfect time to buy new things for your home. We're shaking off winter and dying to bring a little color, light and inspiration into our abodes. From playful accent pieces to practical items that will last a lifetime, take inspiration from these local shops to spruce up your favorite home space this season.


1


2


3


4

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5


6


7

1 FLOPPY BUNNY SCULPTURES $88 and $108; *havenhomestyle.com*

2 RESIN BUTTERFLIES $12.95 to $28.95; 6" to 10"; *sandlilyhome.com*

3 PORCELAIN POD VASES $15 to $210; *larkmountainmodern.com*

4 COPPER WATERING CAN + POTTED PLANT Dracaena compacta 'Janet Craig'; 4", $10; blue striped pot; 5", $18; tall copper can $40; *somewheregreen.com*

5 ZINNIA ROUND BISTRO MOSAIC TABLE $930; 30"; *patioworldbend.com*

6 LANDON SWIVEL CHAIR $2,759; *bendfurnitureanddesign.com*

7 BEE & BUTTERFLY HOUSES $10.95 to $14.95; *pomegranatehome.square.site*

EDIBLES

The Little Squib That Could

Lunchbox Alchemy survives rapid growth and near bankruptcy to emerge a victor in the legal cannabis industry

WRITTEN BY **KIM COOPER FINDLING**

Eric Plantenberg and Caribou Martinez met in the early fall of 2014. There was a track they liked to walk together, and while they walked, they would discuss all sorts of things. Eventually, the conversation always turned to business. Plantenberg was the chief strategy officer of Humm Kombucha, an up-and-coming beverage business in Bend, and Martinez was the co-founder of a fledgling cannabis company called Lunchbox Alchemy, also in Bend. "We were just two entrepreneurs, both making consumable goods, in businesses with lot of similarities," recalled Plantenberg. "We had a lot of interesting conversations."

There was another thing the friends had in common, and that is that they were incarcerated. The track they walked was on the campus of the Sheridan Federal Prison Camp in Sheridan, Oregon. Plantenberg had been convicted of a misdemeanor for failure to file tax returns, and Martinez of mortgage fraud. "Cari was my best friend in prison," Plantenberg said.

Martinez grew up in Oregon and gained vast experience in the cannabis industry long before it was legalized. He had cut his teeth on legal cannabis extraction in Colorado beginning in 2012, and in 2014, Martinez launched Lunchbox Alchemy, an extraction, edibles and smokable vape producer, in Bend, with co-founder Cameron Yee. Soon enough, however, Martinez was forced away from the business to report to prison.

While Martinez was in Sheridan, business boomed. Emily Bennett, who also had a long history in the cannabis industry prior to legalization, went to work in sales for Lunchbox in 2014. "Cari and Cam were kindred lifelong brothers to me, my best friends, and now we were on this grand adventure together," she recalled. Originally, Lunchbox intended to focus mainly on extraction of THC and CDC from cannabis. "But then we made the squib, a gummy edible, and things just took off."

Lunchbox's squib gummy, made with a highly concentrated dose of cannabis oil and available in an array of flavors, was a best seller right out of the gate. In the early

Eric Plantenberg and Caribou Martinez in the Sheridan Federal Prison Camp

"We were just two entrepreneurs, both making consumable goods, in businesses with lot of similarities."

days of legal cannabis sales, Bennett recalls making a few trips to Portland and Eugene, tentatively knocking on dispensary doors to gauge interest in Lunchbox's products. But then, "We started winning cannabis cups at events statewide," Bennett said. Soon, she was putting 3,000 miles a month on her Subaru—stuffed to the gills with squibs—and being met with cheers when she showed up at cannabis shops. "We were bursting at the seams with popularity."

It was boom times everywhere in legal Oregon cannabis, and Bennett recalls it as a very exciting time that was also very challenging, as regulations and laws kept shifting. "There were lots things to quickly pivot on to stay compliant," said Bennett, who also had to keep an eye on production capabilities. "You have to be careful with growth like that."

By the end of 2018, Lunchbox was in trouble. Martinez, still unable to run his own business due to probation restrictions, rang up his old friend from the prison-track walking days.

"Cari called me in November of 2018," said Plantenberg. "Lunchbox was on the verge of bankruptcy. Business had gone from 50 percent market share to eight percent and racked up $5 million dollars in debt."

Plantenberg, who had been a key member of the team that steered Humm Kombucha to one of the U.S.'s leading beverage brands, stepped in as CEO of Lunchbox. (In a brief plot twist, Martinez went to work for Humm while Plantenberg took over Lunchbox). Plantenberg knew little of the cannabis industry, but business is business. "The first thing I did was create readable and consistent financial reports, clear profit

LEFT Caribou Martinez with Lunchbox Alchemy's 20-pound hydrocarbon extractor, manufactured by Bend company N.B. Oler

"To have the resources and capital we wanted, we needed to be folded into a bigger operation."

and loss by business unit statements, and an understandable balance sheet and cash flow." He also set forth to make sense of a rapidly changing, complicated industry. "From a regulatory standpoint it was complicated, as the business was two separate arms—manufacturing in Bend with its own licenses, and distribution at a different facility in Salem with different licenses and bank accounts. We began running both as separate but unified, to see where Lunchbox was succeeding."

Plantenberg compiled a top-notch leadership team, including a new COO and CFO, to compliment the highly skilled Lunchbox product development staff. "Basically, it was—how do we bring together people with a vital knowledge of the plant who were making amazing products with people who know the tenets of running a small business? How do we retool into a great company as well as a great product?"

During the first quarter with Plantenberg at the helm—the first quarter of 2019—Lunchbox Alchemy lost a million dollars. In fact, things didn't truly turn around for more than 18 months. Plantenberg said, "We turned our first quarterly profit the third quarter of 2020, just prior to Slang acquiring Lunchbox."

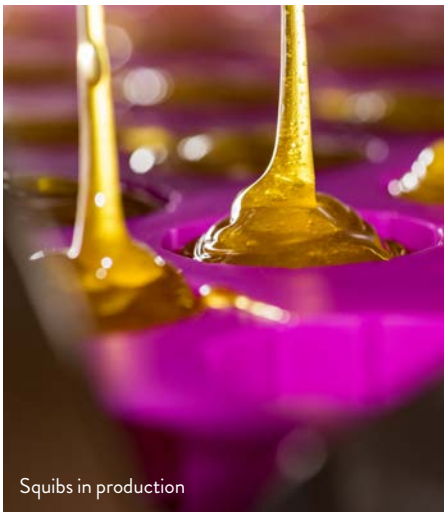
That's right—at the end of last year, Slang Worldwide, a multi-national, publicly traded cannabis company, bought Lunchbox Alchemy. "It was always our intention to partner with a larger organization," Plantenberg said. "As the cannabis industry evolved, it became clear that multistate operators have a clear advantage. To have the resources and capital we wanted, we needed to be folded into a bigger operation."

According to the Slang website, the company currently owns six distinct brands and a product portfolio of 65 SKUs, which are distributed from Portland, Oregon to Portland, Maine. John Moynan, COO of Slang Worldwide, said Lunchbox was a highly desirable acquisition.

"Lunchbox fit with our ideology," Moynan said. "Oregon is one of the most, if not the most, competitive cannabis markets. Lunchbox was one of the longest standing and greatest brands in Oregon. The brand fit our portfolio in terms of industry standards and was already well received on the market." An added value was the headquarters in northeast Bend, he said. "They really built a best-in-class production facility in Bend."

In what is a still a highly regulated industry, state-by-state licenses drive the ability to do business. "Our goals are to increase the success of the brand in Oregon, and then take the show on the road and plug it into our network," Moynan said.

Lunchbox's highly desirable squib, therefore, up until now only available in Oregon, will soon be made available in Slang's other operation regions. "The squib is a remarkable product, both the CBD and THC versions," Plantenberg said. "It's by far one of the most popular and most effective, partly because it has an incredibly diverse use. Some people use it to sleep, for back pain, for anxiety, for sports performance."


Squibs in production

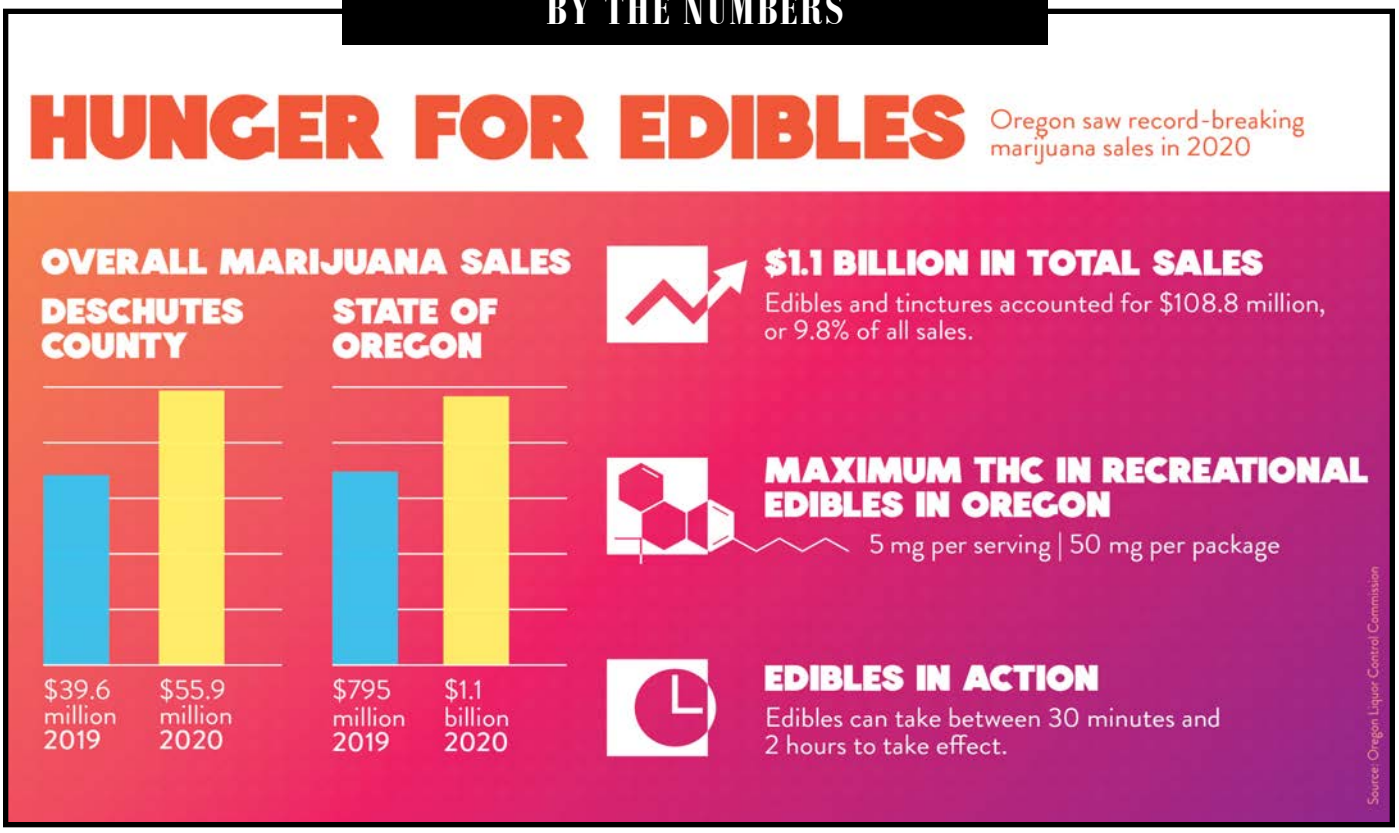
Through the acquisition, many of the Oregon Lunchbox team members kept their jobs. That isn't the case, however, for Plantenberg. Along with several members of the executive team, he's helping with operational transition and expects to phase out soon. "I'm currently title-less," he said—though knowing Plantenberg, that won't be the case for long. As for Martinez, he's living in Mexico for the time being, contemplating his next adventure.

Bennett, who remains an account executive with Lunchbox Alchemy and Slang Worldwide—but these days puts far fewer miles on her Subaru in the process—said the merger transition has gone well. "I am delighted to be working with a stellar group of like-minded individuals," she said. "It's a really awesome company."

Moreover, she brings her own long perspective of decades in Oregon cannabis to Lunchbox Alchemy's evolution. "Cari and Cam were truly pioneers in this industry," she said. "I'm grateful to have been a part of the transition from fully illegal to legal cannabis. We have gone from the darkness to the light." B

Find Lunchbox Alchemy edible cannabis products at nearly every cannabis dispensary in Bend, as well as around Oregon.

BY THE NUMBERS



Kernutt Stokes Partners (left to right): Ron Boyd, Shelly Sorem, Terry Niegel, Jonathan Powell, Kevin Bell, John Mlynczyk, Dean Huber, Steve Ritchie, Warren Barnes, Haley Lyons, Pat Deming, and Don Lance.

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DRONES

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Long-distance drone delivery company Volansi lands in Central Oregon

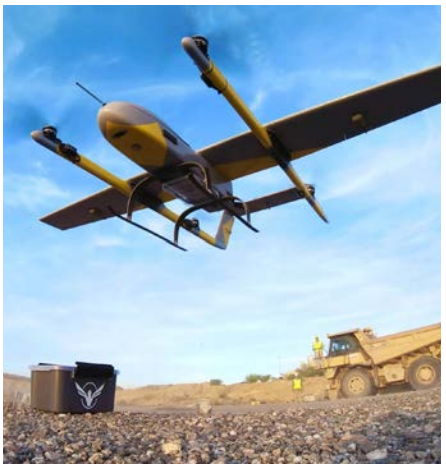
INTERVIEW BY **KIM COOPER FINDLING**

Bay Area-based Volansi, a provider of long-distance drone delivery services in the medical, oil and gas, mining, and defense industries, expanded to Bend this winter. The company will be moving its development, production and testing capabilities to Central Oregon. Volansi has ongoing operations in Africa, the Caribbean and the U.S. We sat down with Hannan Parvizian, CEO and co-founder of Volansi, to discuss the company's work.

Why was Bend, Oregon, the company's choice for expansion?
Bend was the obvious choice for co-locating the development, production and testing of our aviation technology. Central Oregon and the Pacific Northwest's long history and experience with the aerospace industry provides amazing access to great talent and innovation. There are many ideal supply chain options. Finally, the weather is ideal for testing our drones.

What segments of company operation will take place in Bend?
The Bend location will support the company's expansion as it develops, produces and tests its next generation of industry-defining drone delivery aircrafts. Oregon will be home to roles from business to flight operations, to engineering and production. The facility will also manufacture Volansi's existing delivery drones that are currently in production in our California location. We plan to have approximately seventy-five employees based in Bend this year with targets to grow beyond that in coming years.

How do you view the status and future of drone delivery in the U.S.?
We are a leader in commercial deliveries using long-range, heavy-payload drones



to provide delivery service for customers in commercial, defense and humanitarian sectors in emerging markets. Our drones can deliver payloads of ten pounds or more, 50 miles and beyond. We've combined the best of robotics and aviation technologies to develop delivery drones that have a hybrid propulsion system, vertical take-off and landing and the required autonomy to carry out these delivery services with award-winning operations and service teams. Our drone delivery service is designed to address our customers' biggest concerns: rapid delivery and safe handling of the packages, with flexibility on the payloads and distances.

Today, we're helping our customers in the mining, oil and gas, construction, medical, humanitarian and defense industries save millions of dollars in down-time costs by delivering to them critically needed spare parts equipment (and aid) where it otherwise faced unpredictable delays on the ground, helping to save time, money and lives.

Does Volansi have a role in the current COVID-19 vaccine distribution effort?
Currently we don't have a role in the COVID-19 vaccine distribution effort, but we are in discussions with pharmaceutical companies and governments around the world on how drone delivery could aid in the distribution of these vaccinations. Our current drone delivery project in North Carolina, with our customer, Merck, uses our drone system to deliver temperature-dependent, adolescent, teen and adult routine-health vaccines and medicine from a Merck finishing facility to patients at a nearby hospital. Our drones are uniquely capable for this type of delivery because of their vertical take-off and landing system, which requires no special infrastructure and allows it to deliver fragile cargo with a "soft touch" automated release.

Can the public see drones in action?
We are excited to be part of the Bend community and proud to show off our new facility. Once we are all moved in, and the coronavirus situation allows it to be safe, we plan to invite select community members for a tour, and later this year, we hope to offer a flight demonstration.

Any cool projects on the horizon?
Our mission is to positively impact society by rewriting the rules of supply chain logistics. From transportation to mobility, Volansi is at the forefront of impacting how essential parts, critical supplies or even people move from one place to another via high-speed, long-range autonomous drones. Using innovative technology, we want to help build a world free from the limitations of infrastructure; a future where autonomous flight is as common and accessible to people as mailing a letter. In the future, we envision people catching a "drone" bus as we enable more payload capacity. B

FISHING FOR THE SOUL

PHOTO BY RYAN CLEARY

THE MEDITATIVE, SCENIC SPORT OF FLY FISHING WILL GET YOU HOOKED

WRITTEN BY **LUCAS ALBERG**

Henry David Thoreau once said: "Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after." In the case of fly fishing, most anglers know exactly what they are after. The allure of fly fishing is one that has been deeply romanticized, so much so that it has been canonized in modern books, movies and TV shows as a sport so spiritual and pure that it is near godly. In fact, the opening line of Norman McLean's classic book "A River Runs Through It" reads: "In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing."

For many, the sport provides an opportunity for a deep connection to nature—to be a part of something greater and be one with it. In today's technological world, it can also be a way to escape the rigors of a busy and stressful life, and to exist on a more simple and natural scale while in harmony with the surroundings.

"There's a lot in the sport of fly fishing that takes you away from reality," said Scott Cook, owner of Fly & Field Outfitters in Bend. "When you're out there on the water and you're in a beautiful spot, fly fishing can separate you from all the stresses that are going on in the world."

This connection to nature, combined with the rise of social media platforms such as Instagram, has helped boost the popularity of the sport to record levels. According to the 2020 Outdoor Industry Association

report on fishing, a record seven million Americans went fly fishing in 2019.

Central Oregon fly and outfitter shops have seen the demand. “2020 was a record year for us despite being partially closed for six weeks,” said Paul Snowbeck, store manager of Fin & Fire in Redmond. “More people are spending time in the outdoors than ever before and fly fishing takes you to some incredible settings. Trout don’t live in ugly places.”

Snowbeck said that social media has broadened the sport’s appeal to younger audiences. “Fly fishing is not just an old man’s sport,” he said. “There’s been a massive uptick in female and youth participation.”

This new audience has also injected a much needed energy into the sport, according to Kim Brannock, Bend-based fly fishing apparel and soft goods designer who has worked with brands such as Simms, Patagonia and Redington. “It’s so important for it to feel fun for people,” she said. “The old mentality of it needing to be a ‘gentleman’s sport’ is outdated.”

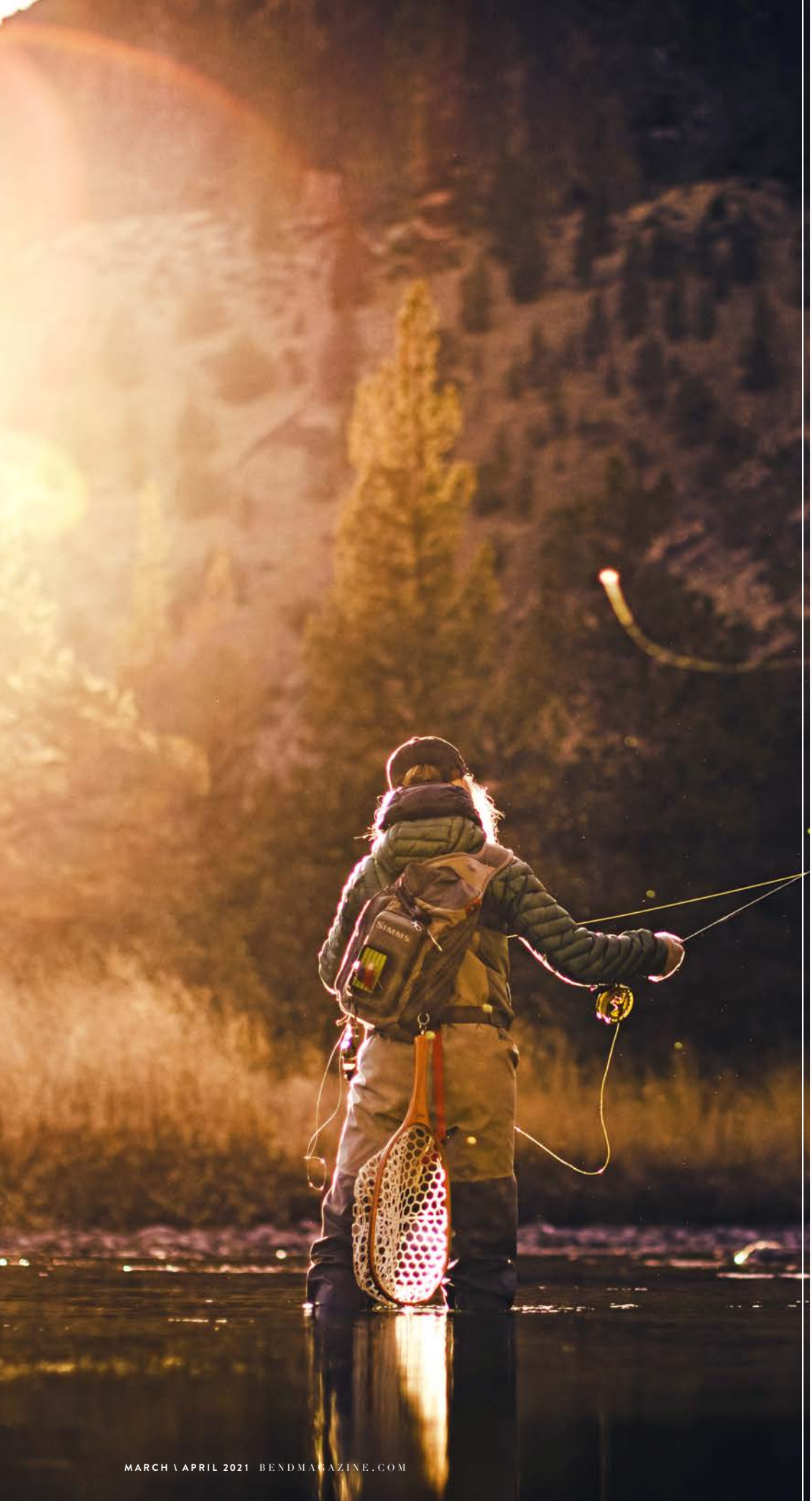
As a longtime angler, Brannock welcomes the changing of the guard. “When I started fly fishing, it wasn’t cool. There were no girls at all,” she said. “But in the last five years it’s been exponential. Social media has flipped it on its side.”

Both Brannock and Snowbeck caution against getting into the sport solely due to social media, however. “It’s a lot harder to catch the big fish than what you see on your phone,” said Snowbeck. “Unless you’re being taken out with a guide, chances are good you won’t be catching anything all that impressive.”

Brannock said “fishing for likes” has not only created some misperceptions of what fly fishing could be, but also can lead to some bad habits for newcomers. “When people are just starting out, they may not have received the best education on fish practices, such as handling fish or when not to fish, such as during a spawn.” To bridge that gap, Brannock recommends visiting a local fly shop, many of which have free classes and educational events.

Once you’re properly educated, the road of fly fishing can be a long, fulfilling one. “I’ve been fly fishing for over thirty years and I’m still absolutely obsessed,” Snowbeck said. “I do this for a living. And I still do it on my days off. That’s really all you can ask for.”

THIS PHOTO TREVOR LYDEN, LEFT TOP AND BOTTOM TOBY NOLAN, LEFT MIDDLE BRANDON NIXON



"IN OUR FAMILY, THERE WAS NO CLEAR LINE BETWEEN RELIGION AND FLY FISHING."

"ENJOY THE PROCESS FIRST—BECAUSE IT'S A PROCESS—AND THE RESULTS WILL EVENTUALLY COME."

PHOTOS TOBY NOVLAN

GETTING STARTED

If you're just getting into fly fishing, it can be an intimidating sport—the gear, the lingo and the mechanics are just a few areas where one can quickly get in over ones' head. For instance, a quick search through the beginner's fly-fishing dictionary on both Orvis and Redington web sites yield more than 200 fly fishing terms apiece.

According to Fly & Field's Cook, the sport doesn't have to be overwhelming. "It can be as basic as you want it to be, or as complex," he said. To help break it down, Cook suggests first visiting a local shop. "Find a fly shop you're comfortable with and look to spend your money there. Learn to cast, get a guide, and go out and experience a day or half day of fishing," he said. "Test drive it and see if you like it. If you do, then start to build your core knowledge and frequent that shop to build your education."

Once you get the basics of how and where to fish, practice, practice, practice. "Enjoy the process first—because it's a process—and the results will eventually come," said Fin & Fire's Snowbeck. "There's always room to grow and evolve. I am still continually learning new things."

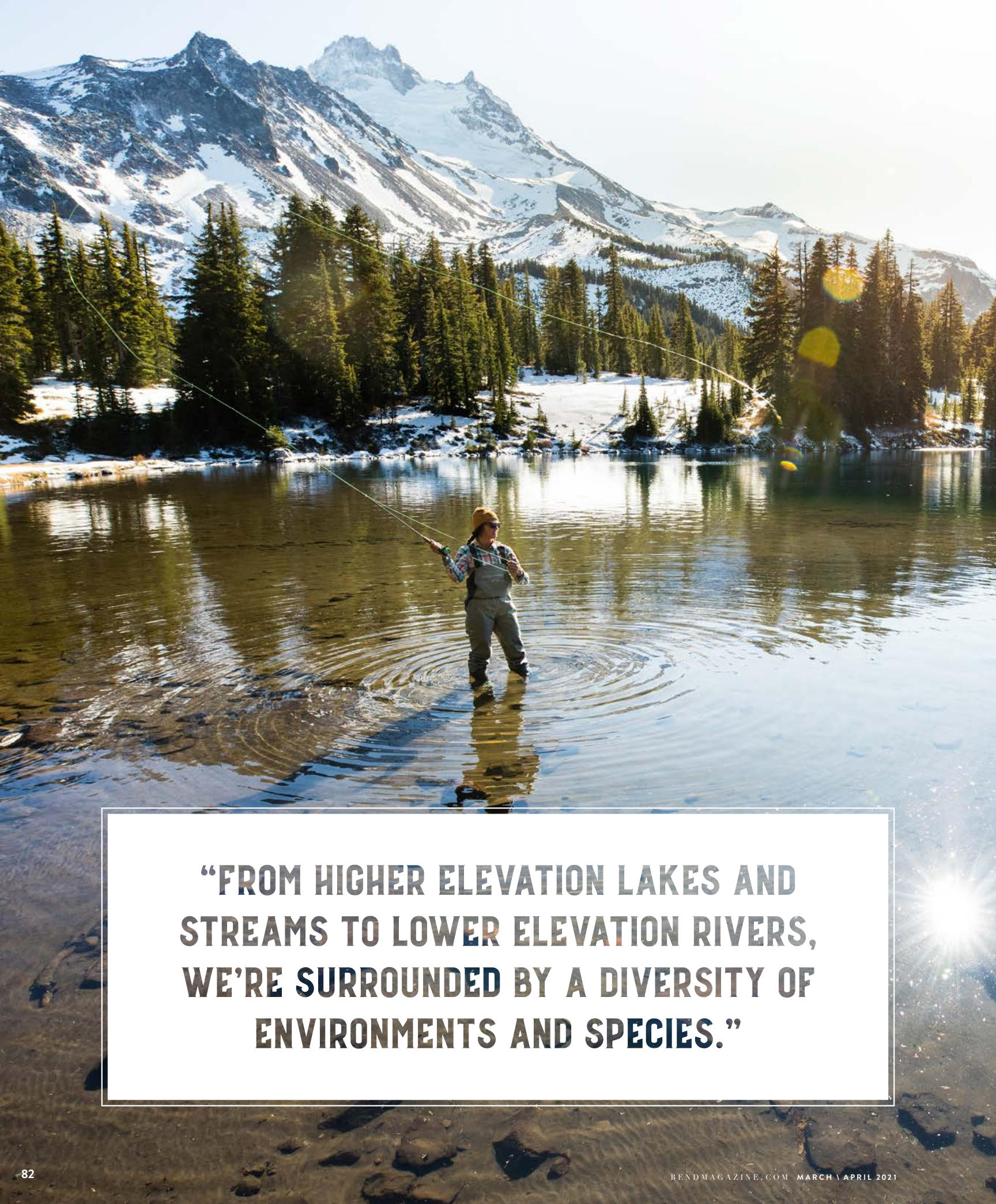
Jesse Armstrong, a Redmond high school teacher originally from Madras, has been fly fishing in Central Oregon since his teens. He notes that the progression of fly fishing is part of the appeal.

"It can be a defeating sport, but you have to know that you'll learn eventually and when you do, it opens up more possibility and in turn more appreciation."

Fly fishing begins with learning to cast and tying knots, both activities that can be practiced at home or in a park to help expedite the process. On the river, noticing when a fish has shown interest is usually the next step, followed by learning to set the hook. After, one can focus in on reeling in and landing the fish. Beyond this, there's a whole separate world to learn around entomology and the feeding habits of fish, along with reading the water and the environment.

In other words, the depth of the sport provides a continual opportunity to learn, which can last a lifetime. And for some like Armstrong, this is the draw. "There's a reason why anglers are anglers," he said. "It's a lifestyle that goes beyond hobby or activity. This is because of the depth—because of the learning, the ability to continue to learn. And on top of it, because it can put you in the most beautiful places in the world."

Armstrong said he's begun teaching his two young daughters to fly fish in hopes that the sport will provide them an avenue to appreciate nature in the way it has for himself. "The sport and the connection to the environment you can take with you your whole life," he said. "You can do it by yourself or with others and go nearly anywhere in the world. It's a lifetime of learning and connection."



"FROM HIGHER ELEVATION LAKES AND STREAMS TO LOWER ELEVATION RIVERS, WE'RE SURROUNDED BY A DIVERSITY OF ENVIRONMENTS AND SPECIES."

AT OUR DOORSTEP

Central Oregonians are fortunate enough to have some of the nation's top fly fishing right in our backyard. Cook said the area is a perfect place for new and experienced anglers alike because it provides a rich geographic diversity with some of the best opportunities within close proximity.

"You put an hour radius around our fly shop and you have about twenty-five different locations you can fish," Cook said. "From higher elevation lakes and streams to lower elevation rivers, we're surrounded by a diversity of environments and species."

Fin & Fire's Paul Snowbeck notes the Crooked and Fall rivers as two great places to start, no matter what your experience. "Both are approachable," he said. "The Crooked holds several thousand trout per mile so there are a lot more targets—it's great for beginners and advanced alike."

Other popular locations to fish are the Upper and Lower Deschutes (the latter of which is known for its steelhead and salmon), the Metolius (known as one of the most difficult rivers to fish) and along the Cascade Lakes Highway, Davis and Hosmer lakes.

Long time locals such as Brannock also point out that there are many locations beyond the popular ones. "People tend to put their focus on a few small areas and there are so many other places to explore," she said. "I've been fishing here nearly a decade and I'm still finding new spots."

A sport that keeps you learning and exploring beautiful Central Oregon makes fly fishing worthy of your devotion. Fish on!

PHOTO FACING PAGE TYLER ROEMER, THIS PAGE TOBY NOLAN

TYPES OF FLY-FISHING

Fly-fishing consists of five main styles:

1. The most commonly known style, **Dry Fly Fishing**, uses artificial flies that imitate food sources on the surface of the water. Popular in summer months during various hatches.

2. Nymphing is sub-surface fishing mimicking the aquatic insects in their juvenile or larval state. Close to 95 percent of a trout's diet is below the surface, which makes this an important style to learn for catching fish!

3. Originating in Japan, **Tenkara** fly fishing is a simple, lightweight approach that uses a rod but no reel. Great for backpackers and hikers who want to fish alpine lakes and streams.

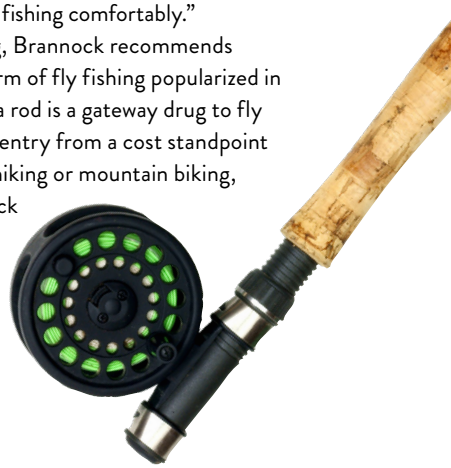
4. Spey Rod Fishing uses a longer, heavier two-handed rod and is used primarily for catching fish such as salmon and steelhead in larger rivers like the lower Deschutes.

5. Saltwater Fly Fishing, the only style not readily accessible in Central Oregon, uses streamer (bait) fishing techniques to catch saltwater fish, mostly in the Americas and tropics.

GEAR

Fly fishing gear can quickly add up, both in quantity and in price. Snowbeck said it doesn't have to be an expensive sport to start, however. "Let the employees at your fly shop know your budget, and they'll work with you," he said. "There are some great rod and reel combos for under $200 which will get someone out the door fishing comfortably."

If line management seems overwhelming, Brannock recommends beginning with a Tenkara rod, a simpler form of fly fishing popularized in Japan that uses no reel at all. "The Tenkara rod is a gateway drug to fly fishing," she said. "It's got a low barrier to entry from a cost standpoint and it's something you can take with you hiking or mountain biking, which is perfect for around here." Brannock said when it comes down to it, you can be fishing with three items. "A Tenkara rod, a spool of flies and a bit of tippet is all you need to start. From there, you can get into other things and build out."



DEAREST *Deschutes*

EFFORTS TO PROTECT CENTRAL OREGON'S VALUABLE WATERWAYS TAKE A PROMISING STEP FORWARD, WHILE RIVER ADVOCATES PUSH FOR MORE

WRITTEN BY **TERESA RISTOW**

On a frosty February morning in Bend, the Deschutes River drifts into town, as ducks and geese move about on flat mud banks, exposed by lower winter flows. With temperatures in the 20s, it's hard to picture the same stretch of river in warmer weather, crowded with innertubes and paddleboards, water flowing a bit faster and higher. By the time the water reaches the Old Mill District, the seasonal highs and lows are hard to spot to the untrained eye, and many would think the river is thriving and healthy. The Deschutes River is the lifeblood of Central Oregon after all—an economic driver, recreation hub, source of irrigation, habitat for fish and wildlife and scenic beauty. The river is dear to many.

Take a closer look at the beloved Deschutes, and it becomes the story of a hardworking river, stretched thin—simply not enough water for everyone hoping to get a bucketful, especially during an ongoing drought. The challenges of overseeing water in the Deschutes River Basin aren't new, and most agree there are no simple fixes. But, a new Habitat Conservation Plan twelve years in the making provides a glimmer of hope and stability for the future of the river, promising more consistent flows and protections for Central Oregon's fish and wildlife.

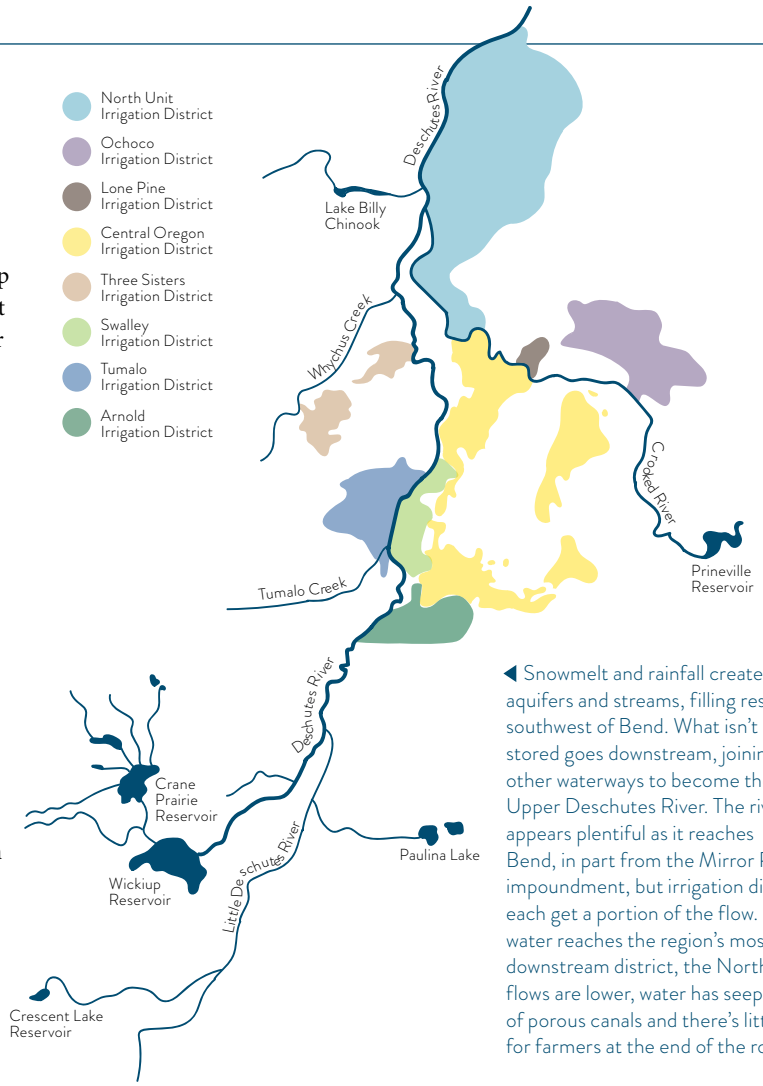
A voluntary effort by Central Oregon's irrigation districts and the city of Prineville, working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, the plan proposes that irrigators find ways to conserve water and stabilize seasonal flows in the river, and is part of an incidental take permit that will protect the applicants from endangered species litigation in the future. Irrigation districts agree the plan isn't a comprehensive fix for the river, but believe it's a great start, taking into account the needs of farmers, fish and wildlife, anglers, conservation groups and the public.

HEAD WEST TO WATER

Central Oregon's water woes are a product of historical practices that haven't necessarily aged well. In the late 1800s, Congress passed the Carey Act, allowing irrigation companies to set up shop and sell water across the arid west, which a handful did in Central Oregon by 1904. Settlers were offered land in exchange for the cost of water, and irrigation districts followed the state water policy of "first dibs" that remains the foundation for water rights today. Those first irrigation districts established priority dates from 1899 to 1916, which dictate when and if their patrons receive water today. The process is straightforward but antiquated, without built-in protections for fish and wildlife and with no consideration for where farmers or other types of water users end up on the food chain.

> In a Jan. 2, 1905 issue of *The Morning Oregonian* the state of Oregon advertised "free land in Oregon" offered for only the actual price of irrigation.

In Central Oregon, many commercial farmers end up having the least amount of water, because their location is within a district with lesser rights. "We're at the bottom of the list," explained Mike Britton, the manager of today's North Unit Irrigation District, which provides water to more than 950 patrons across 58,000 acres in Jefferson County. Depending on how the 2021 water year shapes up, farmers in Britton's district may only receive 1 or 1.25 acre feet of water this summer. Those in the nearby Central Oregon Irrigation District have more senior rights, and are likely to receive triple or quadruple the amount, even though they engage in less farming and many patrons use the water less efficiently.



◀ Snowmelt and rainfall create aquifers and streams, filling reservoirs southwest of Bend. What isn't stored goes downstream, joining other waterways to become the Upper Deschutes River. The river appears plentiful as it reaches Bend, in part from the Mirror Pond impoundment, but irrigation districts each get a portion of the flow. When water reaches the region's most downstream district, the North Unit, flows are lower, water has seeped out of porous canals and there's little left for farmers at the end of the road.

FORCED EFFICIENCIES

When Michael Kirsch returned to the farm in Madras ten years after leaving for college and exploring other careers, his dad was there to guide him in operating the 2,000-acre family business. With about thirty-five employees to lead, crop rotations to consider and a budget to manage, Kirsch's father told him the biggest focus would be on water. "He said the most important thing you're going to do on this farm is irrigation management," Kirsch said. This year, the budget calls for letting a third of the farm's acres go fallow, sitting idle because of an anticipated lack of water for irrigation. It's an increase from last year's 28 percent, and a huge hit to the farm, which grows grass and carrot seed, peppermint for oil and seed potatoes, among other crops.

Like others in the North Unit Irrigation District, Kirsch has doubled down on water conservation at Madras Farms. "We implement drip irrigation practices, we have converted flood irrigation farms to sprinkler irrigation and we've installed ponds to catch runoff from one farm that is downstream from another," he said. Kirsch sits on the North Unit board, and agrees with manager Britton that the district is among the most efficient in the state. "North Unit farmers have really been forced to be more efficient with the water they have, simply because they have less of it," Britton said.

> **"HE SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU'RE GOING TO DO ON THIS FARM IS IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT."**
>
> – MICHAEL KIRSCH

While farmers in the North Unit pride themselves on efficient water use, other landowners like those in the Central Oregon Irrigation District don't feel the same pressure to use their allocated water so efficiently. If they use less water after all, they're subject to the state's "use it or lose it" water policy, so they're encouraged to understand beneficial uses and use the water in appropriate ways each year. Part of Central Oregon Irrigation District manager Craig Horrell's work is educating landowners about water policy, understanding beneficial uses, exploring conservation projects and sharing options for landowners who no longer want or need the water rights they have. One option is putting water back into the river with in-stream leasing. "We're sometimes seen as a waste of water, but we're making great strides and changes," Horrell said. "We educate how to use water appropriately."

HIGHS AND LOWS

With a limited amount of water flowing through the Upper Deschutes River each year, irrigation districts work to monitor reservoir water storage, control flows and ensure the water is divided properly among patrons. Water rights call for eighty-six percent of water from the Upper Deschutes to be diverted for irrigation, twelve percent to remain in-stream and two percent for municipal city use (think drinking water, laundry and showers). And while there are many important uses for water diverted, the Deschutes itself must retain some water for fish and wildlife habitats and community use, like fishing and recreation.

The Deschutes River was once called the "peculiar river" for its notably consistent flows throughout the year. But flows have been dramatically altered for the sake of seasonal irrigation, causing damage to riverbanks, according to Kate Fitzpatrick, executive director of the Deschutes River Conservancy. In the winter, water is stored in reservoirs to prepare for spring irrigation, leading to lower flows on the Deschutes. In the spring and summer, the flows are ramped way up for irrigation. "The flow regime of low flows in the winter and high flows in the summer has absolutely devastated the Upper Deschutes River," Fitzpatrick said.

Seasonal swings were so significant in the early 2010s that flows in the Deschutes were as low as 20 cubic feet per second in the winter and as high as 1,800 cfs in the summer, dictated by climate conditions, dams and water storage practices and irrigation needs. During low flows, fish habitats like those for redband trout are degraded, riverbanks eroded and silt deposited into the river. High flows widen the riverbanks, wash away fish eggs and cause further habitat damage. For the Oregon spotted frog, low river flows have resulted in the loss of many of the once-common frog's river side-channel habitats. "They're just hanging on in a few places, where they would have been distributed throughout the river abundantly," said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

For fish, erratic highs and lows in river flows affect survival of fish species, and lessen opportunities for recreational fishing.

> **"THE FLOW REGIME OF LOW FLOWS IN THE WINTER AND HIGH FLOWS IN THE SUMMER HAS ABSOLUTELY DEVASTATED THE UPPER DESCHUTES RIVER."**
>
> –KATE FITZPATRICK

"We need clean, cold water to sustain trout, and if you lower the river enough it's not as clean and it's not as cold," said Tim Quinton, president of Central Oregon Flyfishers, a nonprofit group that promotes catch-and-release fly-fishing, river restoration projects and youth outreach. Quinton recalled a fishing trip to the Crooked River in the winter of 2015-16 when the winter flows had gotten so low, portions of the river were ice from top to bottom. "Obviously fish can't live in ice," he said.

The Deschutes River Conservancy and other conservation groups pushed for years to collaborate with irrigation districts in an effort to stabilize seasonal flows, but concrete change never came. In 2007, an effort to re-introduce threatened steelhead in the Upper Deschutes Basin kicked off a process to create the new Habitat Conservation Plan, which aims to ensure irrigation needs on the Upper Deschutes are balanced with fish and wildlife and river health. In recent years, it was the spotted frog that became the impetus of a lawsuit brought on by environmental groups, who argued that irrigation districts in Central Oregon and the Bureau of Reclamation had violated the Endangered Species Act through irrigation practices that harmed the frog's habitat, and failed to consult with relevant agencies.

A settlement in 2016 required winter flows to be at least 100 cfs for the time being, with hopes the Habitat Conservation Plan would spell out a long-term solution. While better than flows of 20 cfs in the winter, running the Deschutes at 100 cfs still impacts the spotted frog, which biologists have said needs flows of at least 600 cfs to survive.

1 cubic foot of water flow is equal to 7.48 gallons of water

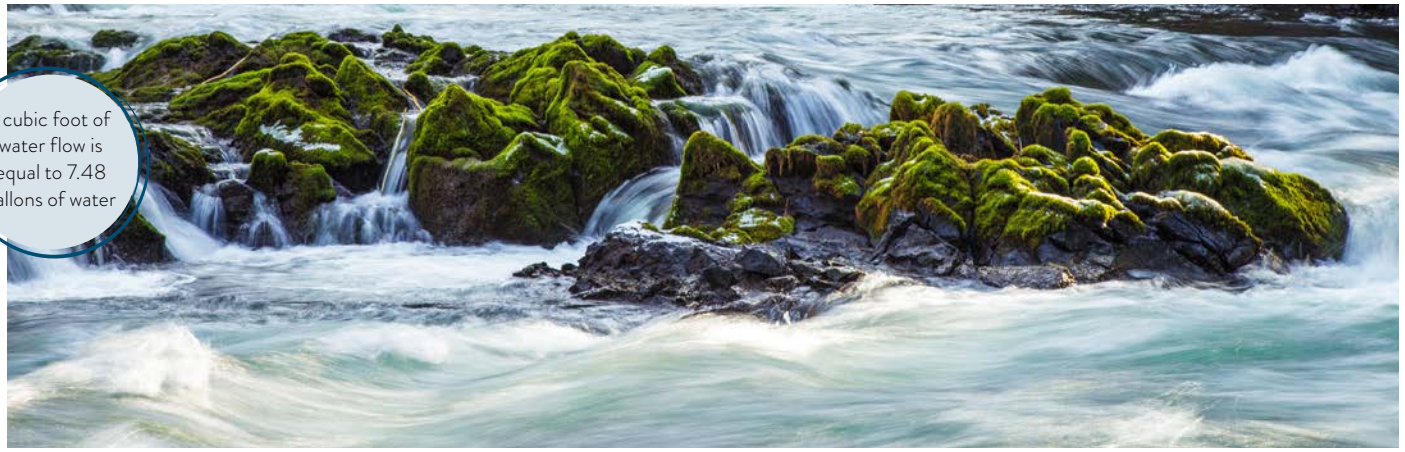


PHOTO BOTTOM ALEX JORDAN

A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

In December 2020, twelve years after work on the Habitat Conservation Plan first began, a final draft was released, gaining approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan puts forth a thirty-year roadmap for stabilizing flows in the Upper Deschutes to lessen such dramatic highs and lows in the river, improving conditions for the spotted frog and various fish species.

Irrigation district leaders are optimistic about the plan, as it lessens the possibility of litigation bringing forth sudden changes in water supply for their patrons, and offers for the first time a real commitment to the future of the river. "There's accountability," Horrell said. "I think that's the big thing. We finally signed on the line and have accountability to put water back in the river and do these projects."

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN GOALS

Minimum winter flows
By 2028, minimum flows in the Upper Deschutes must go from around 100 cfs today up to 300 cfs. By 2033, minimum flows should reach 400-500 cfs.

Maximum summer flows
By 2028, maximum flows must go from 1,600 cfs down to 1,400 cfs. By 2033, maximum summer flows should fall to 1,200 cfs.

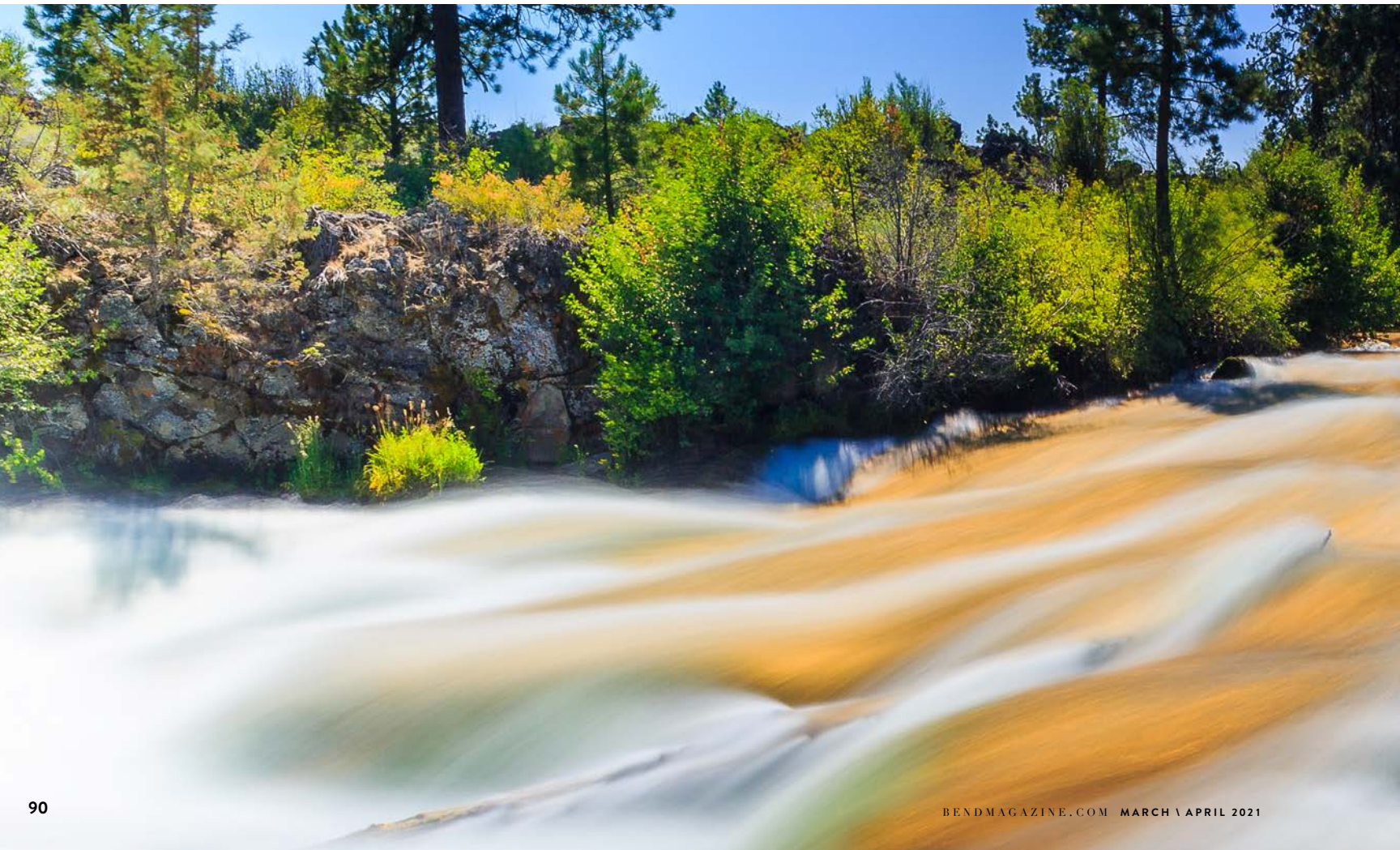
To accomplish the goals set forth in the Habitat Conservation Plan, irrigation districts must find ways to conserve water, one of which is through large-scale piping projects to modernize delivery systems and prevent water loss. In the Central Oregon Irrigation District, as much as fifty percent of water is lost to seepage through porous lava rock canals, so piping can improve efficiency in the district and free up water for other uses or a return to the river. It's costly, however. The district plans to undertake as much as $100 million in piping projects over the next ten years, starting with a 7.9-mile stretch of pipeline between Redmond and Smith Rock. That $33 million project is estimated to put 33 cubic feet a second of water back into the Deschutes.

PHOTO RIGHT TO BY NOLAN

Federal grant money to help pay for piping is attractive to irrigation districts, but shouldn't be their only focus, according to river advocates like Tod Heisler, rivers conservation director for Central Oregon LandWatch and former executive director of the Deschutes River Conservancy. Heisler would like to see irrigation districts focus more on true conservation of the water—teaching landowners to irrigate more efficiently and offering incentives to do so, or further developing a water market, where patrons with water rights can lease their allocation to farmers in need or send it back into the river. "It's very evident that most of their time and effort and focus has been spent on designing and working on this big modernization plan and piping their district," Heisler said. "But they should still set higher standards—you can't pipe your way out of a problem for a species that you helped create a threat for."

Horrell said the district is focusing on more than just piping, with efforts to increase in-stream leasing and encourage on-farm efficiencies. But large piping projects are important too, he said and will give the district a solid infrastructure for the future. "In order to make a change for a long time, we have to invest in the district," he said.

PHOTO BELOW ALICE DOGGETT



FLOWING INTO THE FUTURE

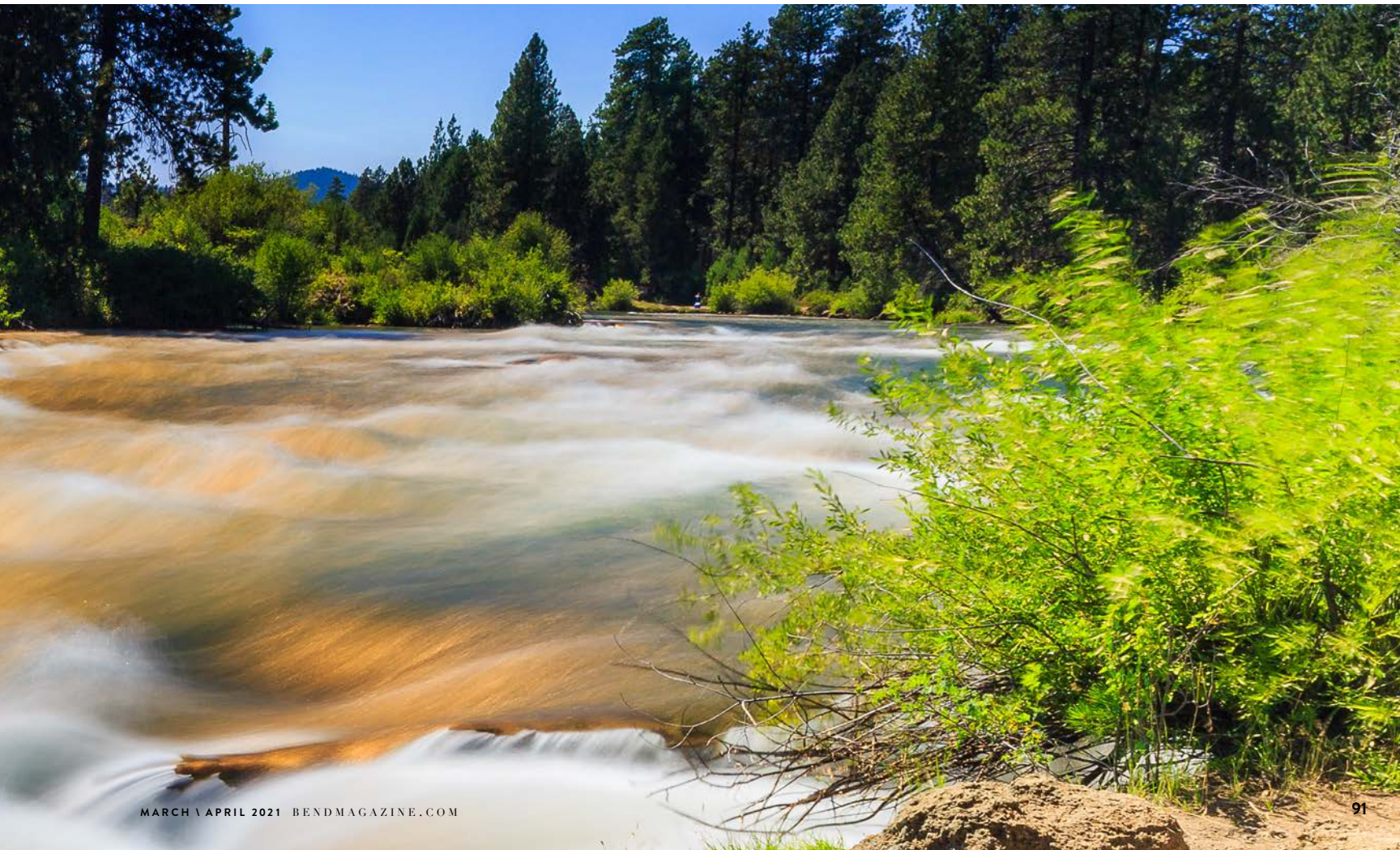
As of early February, the Habitat Conservation Plan was still under review by the National Marine Fisheries Service, a final cooperating agency that will weigh in on the plan for improvements in the Deschutes River Basin. The more consistent flows that will be achieved as part of the plan are a notable improvement from current river conditions, yet environmental groups worry that the process is taking too long, and that the Habitat Conservation Plan doesn't spell out exactly how the goals will be achieved. "From our perspective, we have a lot of concerns," Greenwald said. "Our primary concern is we're going to get to year eight, and they're going to say 'we can't do this.'"

While the plan doesn't require higher winter flows on the Deschutes until 2028, a more gradual increase in flows as conservation progress is made is possible, too. "I'm an optimist and I see this as an incredibly positive thing for the Deschutes River, with accountability that's never been there before," said Horrell, who has lived and worked in Bend for twenty-three years, the last seven leading the Central Oregon Irrigation District. "Growing up in Oregon and coming to Central Oregon all my life, I'm so excited to see this change in the health of the river."

Although the plan wasn't created to address drought conditions, it offers a sense of stability to farmers like Kirsch, who hopes to continue his family farm for decades to come. He's hopeful that through the steps outlined in the plan, and ongoing conservation efforts across the region, his farm will have a stable source of water, and hopefully more of it, in the future. "It's never going to be perfect for the farmers, or the recreational group or the fisherman—but we're all in this together and we need to find ways to make this work," said Kirsch, who also fishes and enjoys rafting. "As you get older, you learn to really appreciate the river and how it does affect so many people. The water is for everybody, as long as it's maximized to its fullest potential."

"I'M AN OPTIMIST AND I SEE THIS AS AN INCREDIBLY POSITIVE THING FOR THE DESCHUTES RIVER, WITH ACCOUNTABILITY THAT'S NEVER BEEN THERE BEFORE."

– CRAIG HORRELL



Cart Life

REGIONAL FOOD TRUCK OWNERS DRIVE, STRIVE AND THRIVE

WRITTEN BY **NANCY PATTERSON** | PHOTOS BY **ALEX JORDAN**

Food carts have come a long way. As Central Oregon has grown, so has its culinary scene. An abundance of food carts and food trucks are found throughout the region, their to-go nature only buoyed by the pandemic. Dishes that one might only expect from fine dining or brick-and-mortar restaurants can now be found at food cart lots, made by chefs who all share something in common: they serve the food they love with their community.

B's Teriyaki

PRINEVILLE

Ben and Lindsey Stuart never intended to open up a food cart when they moved from Washington to Prineville. But amid a pandemic and struggling with nine-to-five fatigue, they decided to take the leap. The Stuarts purchased a used food cart in early 2020 and took advantage of their time at home to hone their new craft. After fixing up the cart, they elected to focus on a dish that Prineville lacked: rice bowls. They kicked it into high gear, continued to adapt to change and launched B's Teriyaki. "We decided to flip the switch and start up right during the middle of the pandemic. Our first day of business was August 20, 2020," said Lindsey. The cart offers rice bowls with your choice of meat, salads topped with grilled chicken teriyaki, and the newest addition, Yakisoba noodles, all of which have been embraced by Prineville's patrons.

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
1255 NE 3rd Street, Prineville

Westside Taco Co.

REDMOND

The menu at Westside Taco Co. is unlike anything you might expect from a taco cart, with options like Thai curry chicken, root beer carnitas and the best-selling blueberry brisket. "The blueberry chipotle brisket is an Oregon favorite, and the root beer braised carnitas taco took second place overall in the biggest taco competition in the country, Tacolandia by the *LA Times*," said Amber Amos, co-owner and operator. Amos and her partner, Aaron Notarianni, relocated to Oregon from Southern California, where they owned and operated a catering company. "We grew up on street food, and it was something that we wanted to put a spin on. [Opening a food cart] was the quickest way to introduce our food to the community," she said of their decision to open Westside Taco Co. "The community support has been insane." The couple, who also own the Redmond restaurant Westside Local, attribute a few factors to their success: work hard, play hard and have a good sense of humor.

Open Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday: 12 to 7 p.m.; Thursday/Friday/Saturday: 12 to 8 p.m.; Sunday: 12 to 6 p.m.
245 SW 6th St #2108, Redmond

Sunny's Carrello

BEND

Amy and Courtney Wright sought to open up Sunny's Carrello shortly after catering an event at Ale Apothecary in 2019, where they paired some of the microbrewery's beers with an Italian-inspired menu. "Guests loved our '100-layer' lasagna and we were inspired by that," says chef Amy. Sunny's shares its namesake with their restaurant, Sunny Yoga Kitchen in NorthWest Crossing. They joined the River's Place family of food carts earlier in 2020 after relocating from the parking lot at Ale Apothecary. Although served quick and casual, the Italian fare at the *carrello* (Italian for 'cart') feels quite the contrary. Comforting rigatoni with vodka sauce, fettuccine Alfredo and best-selling Bronx tale—a house-made pasta tossed with marinara sauce, sausage, Parmesan cheese and a meatball—tastes like slow-made Sunday night supper any day of the week.

Open Friday through Tuesday
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
787 NE Purcell Boulevard, Bend

Wandering Chef

MADRAS

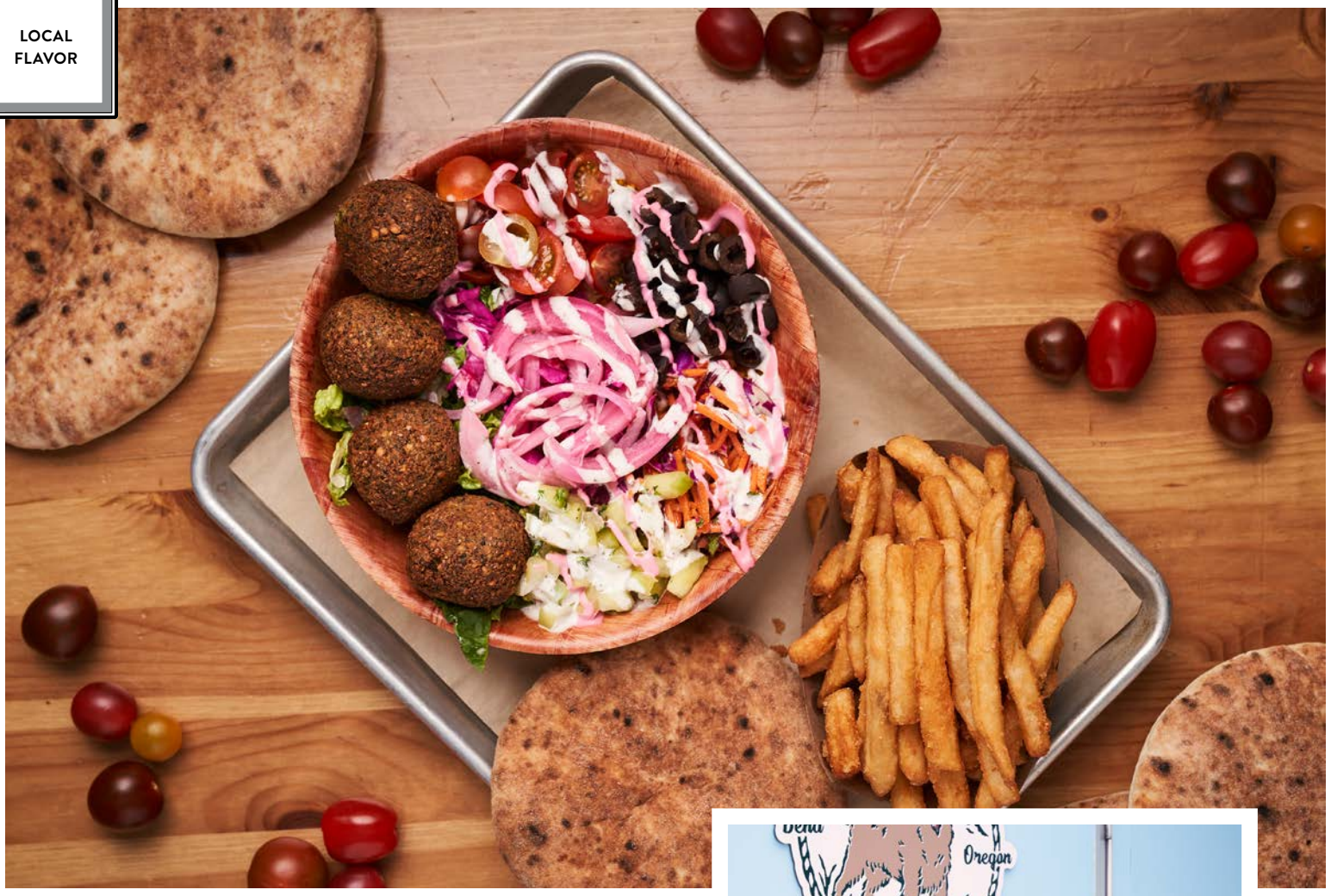
Thomas Lupinski traveled the globe in pursuit of culinary adventures. From Europe to Central America to Dillingham, Alaska, Lupinski eventually ended up in Madras in 2018 to settle down with his wife. Shortly before opening Wandering Chef, Lupinski received the news that he'd need a kidney transplant; still, he moved forward. Wandering Chef is a collection of sandwiches from around the world, formed into street fare. His best-selling Frenchman, a griddled ham and three-cheese sandwich dripping with fondue sauce, replicates a Croque Monsieur in food truck fashion. "My favorite compliment is when someone says, 'I'd have never tried that if you hadn't made it!'" Lupinski said. Instead of "Taco Tuesday," you'll find "Thai-Day Friday" along with favorites like the Asian pulled pork sandwich, a food truck riff on the classic Bánh mì. Lupinksi is on a waiting list for that kidney; wish him luck when you stop by for lunch or dinner.

Open Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
130 SW 5th Street, Madras

Hock & Jowl
REDMOND

Dan Volk can check "open a food cart during a pandemic" off of his list after launching Hock & Jowl in November of 2020. Located at the Rimrock Taphouse, the truck serves as the exclusive food cart to patrons of the brewpub in southwest Redmond. "I wanted to open my own truck, because it's the only thing I'm awesome at—besides golfing and fathering. I love it." he said. The cart serves an array of cuisine in which Volk specializes. "Ultimately, I just wanted to have an approachable menu, but also provide a few dishes that aren't super available here in Redmond like the chili verde and the Shoyu pork," said Volk, in regard to his diverse menu. Nevertheless, the cart's most popular dish is their specialty cheeseburger, made with organic beef, pork shoulder, and house-cured and smoked bacon. The patties are ground in-house for a burger that's packed with texture and flavor. "Everyone's support in the community has been really awesome, I appreciate it so much." he said.

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 12 to 6 p.m.
845 SW 17th St #301, Redmond



TAKEOUT

Bo's Falafel Bar

A Bend native ditches law to bring falafel to her hometown

WRITTEN BY **NANCY PATTERSON** | PHOTOS BY **TOBY NOLAN**

Sierra Phillips left her small pond in Central Oregon to pursue environmental law in Washington, D.C., only a few years ago. But after returning to her hometown to work in business law, she began to question her career. "Everything started to feel stressful for the wrong reasons. I wanted to stress out on my terms," she reflected. "I just knew that someday I would open a restaurant, and that belief coupled with my constant cravings for super herby falafel naturally grew my idea for a falafel shop."

Falafels have always been a favorite for Phillips, but finding a restaurant that made them to her liking was a challenge—even amid Bend's growing restaurant scene. "I don't get emotional about

Bo's owner Sierra Phillips

"I don't get emotional about too many legumes, but falafel has a special place in my heart."

too many legumes, but falafel has a special place in my heart. It played a role in my childhood, it was a comfort when I was a homesick broke college student and an even poorer law student, it was a staple when I was vegan and it connects me to who and where I come from," she said.

It wasn't until she drove past a small commercial space with a 'For Lease' sign in the window in the spring of 2019 that she decided it was time to take the leap. "It was definitely more of a journey on trusting my instincts than a detailed plan to leave the courtroom to make falafel," she said. Still, she and her husband had the lease for the building negotiated and signed a week later to launch Bo's Falafel Bar.

Because the 500-square-foot space lacks a commercial kitchen, all prep cooking was done at Prep, a local shared commercial kitchen. In early 2020, she seized on the opportunity to purchase a food truck. "We bought a food truck shortly before the shutdown, so we altered our plans and transformed it into a commercial kitchen to park alongside the shop," she explained.

After taking a four-month hiatus propelled by the initial shutdown in March of last year, Bo's Falafel Bar reopened in July 2020 with some modifications. The building, which previously hosted indoor dining and a "choose your own toppings" bar for falafel salads and pitas, now serves as a prep area for employees. Additionally, the outdoor patio—which sits adjacent to the Galveston Avenue and 14th Street roundabout—is now tented with a large, transparent covering to accommodate outside dining. Orders are now placed at a walk-up window next to the original building entrance, while food is prepared only steps away at their onsite food truck. "If we didn't adapt, we wouldn't be here," Phillips said.

Bo's, which gets its namesake from Phillips' golden retriever, also pivoted to cater to the breakfast crowds. Bo's Bagels made its debut in the fall, selling plain and everything bagels from their food truck on weekend mornings. "My recipe is equal parts passed down from family, trial and error at home, and from my time on the East Coast where they do bagels right," she said. Phillips plans to serve her bagels with a house-made cream cheese recipe that she's busy perfecting. "Our plan is to have fun with Bo's Bagels, seeing what we can do from our humble food truck."

Until then, Phillips continues to focus on making affordable, accessible, healthy and comforting food, along with connecting with her customers. Bo's plans to offer outdoor dining, as long as it's allowed by the state, where dogs are, of course, welcome. "I wanted people to know we are friendly and welcoming, and nothing says that better than a golden retriever," she said of the restaurant's namesake. The real Bo, by the way, does not eat the falafel—but is known to enjoy the fries.

Bo's Falafel Bar
1366 Galveston Avenue, Bend
bosbend.com
(541) 241-2074

A Patio Date with Elmer

SPRING COCKTAILING SEASON ON THE OUTDOOR PATIO AT SISTERS SALOON

The Hotel Sisters was built in 1912 and is arguably the most iconic building on the town's main drag—one of the original old West buildings that inspired an entire Western-themed town. It's been home to the Sisters Saloon and Ranch Grill since 2016, properly restored to its vintage charm, and continues on as a favorite watering hole of locals and tourists alike.

Head to the patio on the west side of the building, a well-protected space with plenty of tables and heaters. Order an Elmer the Mule to drink—it's the bar's version of a Moscow Mule named for Elmer, the Rocky Mountain elk head, who, for years, has kept watch from the saloon's wall. The local Cascade Street potato vodka gives good earthy character under the spice of the ginger beer and the sweet berry Humm Kombucha. Easy to suck down a few mules under the warm spring sun.

For food, the wonderfully crispy brussels sprouts are charred and tossed with a sharp, tangy balsamic reduction you'll want to put on everything. Sirloin steak bites are marinated tender, grilled and served with a cool horseradish dip. And the roasted beet and goat cheese salad builds flavors and textures with rich red and golden beets, creamy goat cheese, crunchy silvered almonds and apples, and a light, sweet orange vinaigrette.

Sisters Saloon and Ranch Grill also smartly reinvented their take-out system for pandemic times. Use the app from their website to place and pay for your order (including to-go cocktails). When it's ready, you'll head to a new pick-up window on the east side of the building. Push the call button and they'll hand you your food and drinks through the window. It's not quite the same as sitting in the cool old Western bar—but it will do for now.
– *Sara Freedman*

ELMER THE MULE

1.5 oz. Cascade Street potato vodka
Splash of fruity Humm Kombucha
Ginger beer
Lime wedge
Fill a copper mug with ice. Add vodka and splash of kombucha. Fill the mug to the top with ginger beer. Stir and garnish with a lime wedge.

EAT EXPLORE CENTRAL OREGON

Restaurants in the region continue to be nimble, with many offering outdoor seating, takeout and dine-in service, when permitted, while following social distancing guidelines and safety protocols. Central Oregon restaurants would love to receive your order. As always, buying a gift card is a great way to support your favorite eateries any time of the year. Contact individual restaurants for details.

PIZZA MONDO

Pizza Mondo, a longtime locals' favorite, has been serving award winning pizza from its landmark downtown Bend location since 1996. By the slice or whole pie. Take-out and delivery available. Seasonal pizzas, fresh salads and NW craft beer.

811 NW Wall St., Bend
(541) 330-9093
PIZZAMONDOBEND.COM

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1326 NE 3rd St., Bend
(541) 382-2929
PHOVIETANDCAFE.COM

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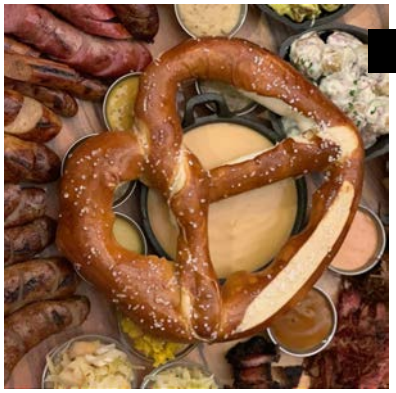
1004 NW Newport Ave., Bend
(541) 318-6224
KEBABA.COM



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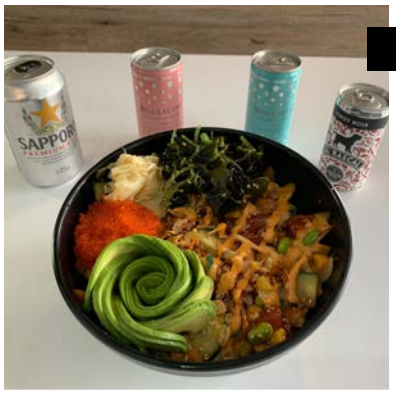

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POKEROW.COM

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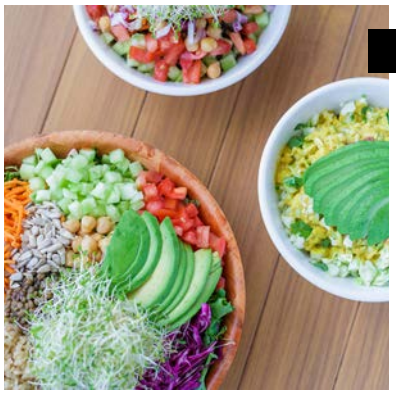

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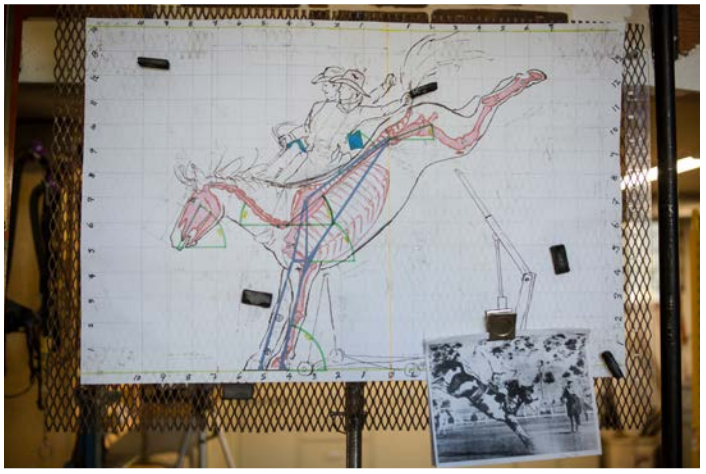
SCULPTURE

War Paint

Greg Congleton's sculptures are greater than the sum of their parts

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **MARISA CHAPPELL HOSSICK**

ARTIST



Growing up 56 miles east of Prineville on a cattle ranch along Beaver Creek, artist Greg Congleton learned to never throw anything away. "You just never knew what might be useful one day," he said. Back then, a scrap pile was an important resource to keep ranch equipment running; today, a scrap pile represents creative potential for Congleton. Rusted axe blades, dilapidated gears and worn-out springs are piled outside his workspace—items that could be mistaken for junk, but instead are the raw material from which he draws out magnificent beasts, regal personages, and scenes redolent of Central Oregon's frontier past.

Congleton got his start at the age of 16 through an art correspondence school. He studied this way for a few years until the rigors of college forced him to focus on his bachelor's degree. For twenty-eight years, Greg ran a Bend-based construction business while raising his family. After his children had grown, Congleton turned his focus to his art. In 2001, he took a weeklong sculpting workshop in Scottsdale, Arizona. He initially started with bronze, then moved toward sculpting in steel with found objects. It was partly thrift, but Congleton was also motivated by the joy and raw creativity he found in making a unique and valuable work of art from something that had been cast away.

Congleton's talents in both carpentry and drawing have a place in his art. He builds the foundation of his sculptures much as he would frame a home. Every line is measured, and every angle is exact. The endoskeletons, as he calls the interior support structures, are perfectly engineered to bear the weight of the hundreds of pounds of steel they must hold. He draws sketch after sketch and studies structural models of humans and animals before he ever starts piecing together the rusted metal flotsam that eventually becomes a horse, or a buffalo or a rodeo rider.

In 2019, Greg was selected by the city of Prineville to create a sculpture for a newly built roundabout. The city had a theme in mind—a high-spirited rodeo horse named War Paint who threw off nearly every rider. There's a bit of Prineville in this story. There's grit, determination and a sense of identity.

TAKE YOUR OWN GREG CONGLETON TOUR

BEND

Two Bits, Farewell Bend Park (Found object steel sculpture of a horse pulling logs)
Spires, The Pavilion (Steel sculpture celebrating the athletic attributes of aspire, perspire and inspire)

REDMOND

Air Traffic Control, Western 'Y' on the road to Sisters (Heroic-sized bronze sculpture of an eagle)
Western Swing, Northern 'Y' where 5th and 6th Streets converge (Heroic-sized bronze sculpture of a "cutting" horse, a cowboy and a yearling calf)
Papoose, Redmond Chamber of Commerce (Found object steel sculpture of a Native American woman with a baby)

PRINEVILLE

Maverick, Prineville City Hall (Heroic-sized bronze sculpture of a cowboy and two horses)

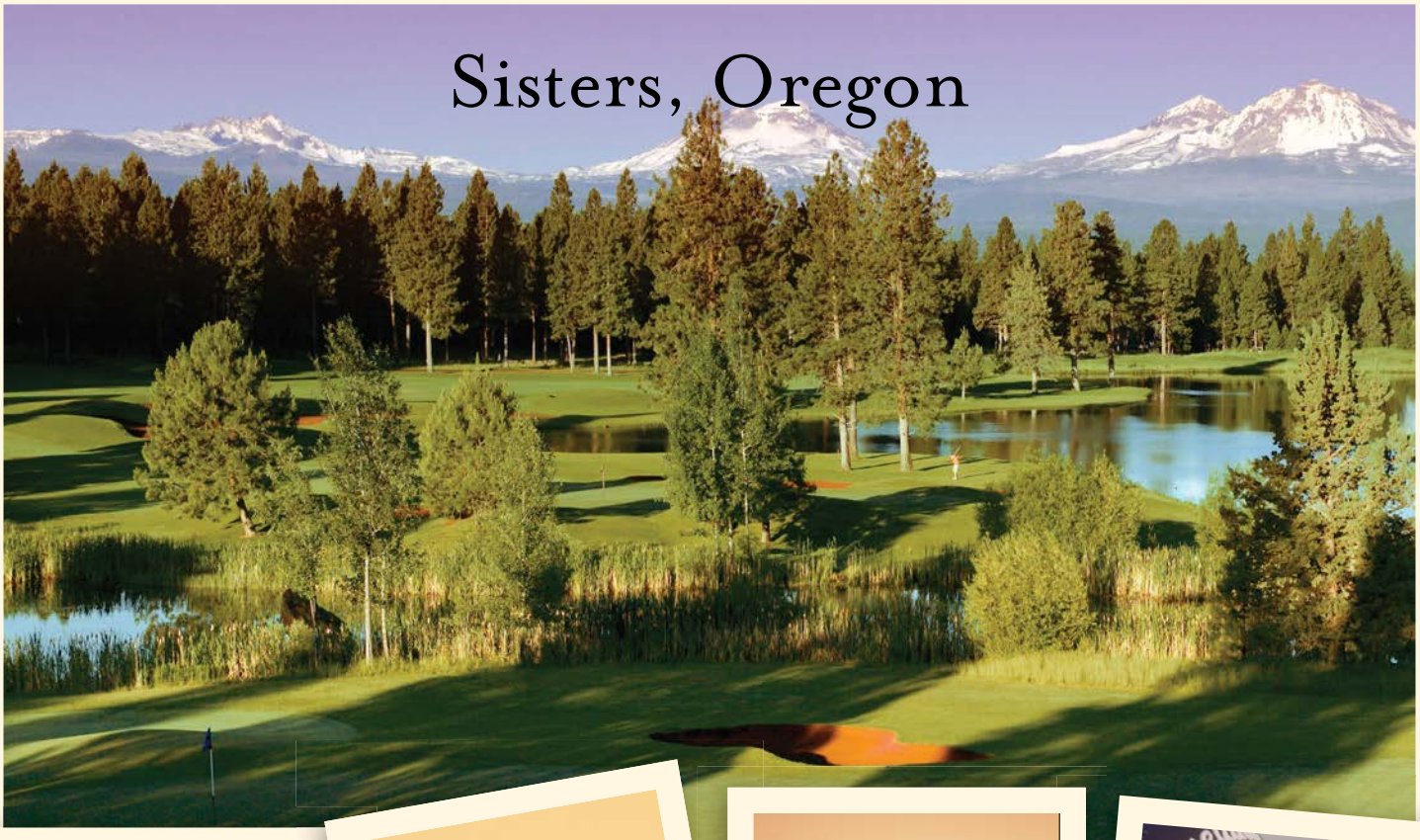
There's the will to hang on, even when things get tough. This town was built by people like this. People like Congleton's granddad, Charles, who established a cattle ranch in the early 1900s. People like Congleton's parents, Lowell and Florence, who met as shipyard welders during WWII. And people like Congleton himself, who built homes and businesses around Central Oregon to make a life for himself and his family.

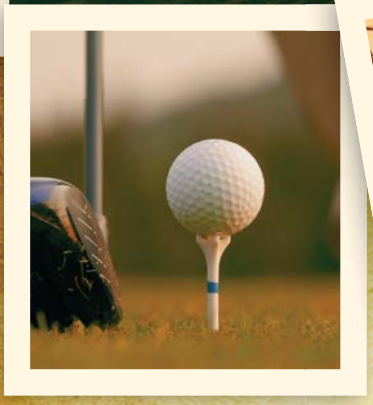
Once Greg has a solid sculpture armature, it's time to choose the layers that will differentiate this sculpture from any other. The selection is deliberate. Humor and storytelling play a large role. Four-inch wood screws and nuts create the cowboy's head and forks are bent into eyebrows and hair. Two manure forks become a rib cage with an oil pan for a chest. The cowboy's chaps are made from metal grating, lending the rider a subtle sense of movement. A conveyor chain represents the horse's backbone that bucked so many hopeful riders. Inside War Paint's head is an iron level, no doubt an apt choice for this stubborn bronc. Two antique rifles are situated in the horse's belly along with an iron sign letting the viewer know that "we don't call 911." This whole process takes more than six months.

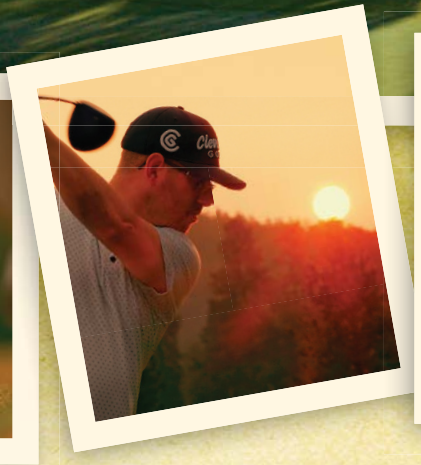
Greg's unique sculptures have captivated collectors and museums alike. There are several of his sculptures in prominent places around Central Oregon, including pieces in bronze, new steel and found object steel. Each piece tells a story. For War Paint, it's the story of Prineville's rugged, pioneering past. The story of holding onto things you might need. It's the story of building something new from the past. It's the perfect full circle for an artist who grew from this land and has now left his indelible mark, creating something beautiful from a pile of old parts.

War Paint is currently on display at the Prineville Courthouse through April. It will be installed permanently in the Tom McCall roundabout on Highway 26 before the grade descending into Prineville.

Sisters, Oregon







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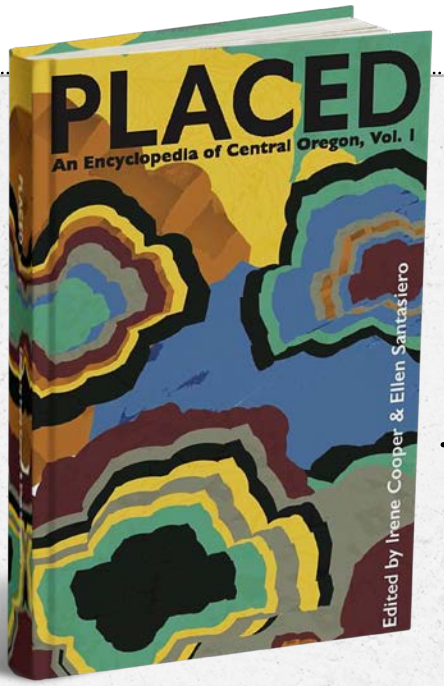
ANTHOLOGIES

This Place We Call Home

Central Oregon captured through an encyclopedia by local writers

WRITTEN BY **SHEILA G. MILLER**



In some ways, *Placed: An Encyclopedia of Central Oregon* is exactly what it sounds like. Locals who pick up a copy will recognize some of the topics right away—Pandora moths, Sparrow Bakery ocean rolls, wildfire, juniper trees and the specific way our red-tinged volcanic dust smells.

But really, *Placed* is much more. The anthology, released last fall, takes care to go beyond the typical Central Oregon grist and delve deeper. Edited and privately funded by Ellen Santasiero and Irene Cooper, *Placed* is organized into an encyclopedia format, an A-to-Z of all things high desert.

Initially, five women came together to work on the encyclopedia after getting the idea from former Oregon poet laureate Kim Stafford. "It was really with a wink and a nod, you know? Here's this thing, go do it," Cooper said. The group got started, then hit a big snag—a global pandemic. Santasiero and Cooper decided to press on and complete the project.

The result is a broad look at Central Oregon in all its diversity, and lack thereof. *Placed* doesn't read like a practice in creative nonfiction. There are poems, expository writing, even a work of fiction. And its voices are not typical, either. Small regions like Central Oregon tend to have insular communities of writers, and this book goes beyond that cadre of the usual suspects, grabbing work from professional writers and newbies.

Cooper said the group started by asking people they knew from their writing network to submit two pieces, each under 800 words. Then the group talked about what topics they knew they'd want included, for example a piece on the local food scene. Turns out, one of Santasiero's neighbors worked for High Desert Food & Farm Alliance, and while she wouldn't call herself a writer, she had written a piece about her work for friends.

At times, the book can feel a bit disjointed, jumping around the landscape and from idea to idea. But that approach becomes part of the charm. This motley band of writers reveled in Central Oregon's natural beauty, and then added its own twists. "We didn't talk about it," Santasiero said of the variety of styles and ideas featured in the book. "It wasn't an overt thing. We just feel like writing is writing, and a different genre can reveal the optics or subject in a different way. We just left the doors wide open and were excited to see what we got."

Those who pick up the book may notice it's labeled as volume 1. There's no funding for another volume, said Santasiero, but she is hopeful *Placed* will garner attention and lead to a second edition. "It's this sort of glimmer in our eye right now because this was a labor of love. I have faith, but it's just going to be an organic process."

"I would call it my love letter to Central Oregon… it's something I feel like, personally, is giving back to the community that has supported me."

Cooper, for her part, believes there are plenty of topics that haven't been touched yet. "There's more to say about how people have navigated lockdown and quarantine. There's more to say about what relationships and what community looks like in the past year," she said. "I think one of the things I'm fairly impassioned about is avoiding the socioeconomic homogeneity that has affected so many towns in the West. That's always been a concern of mine—hearing from people whose voices are fairly soft in the community. If we were to cast our net again, I think we'd be pleasantly surprised by what we'd find."

"I would call it my love letter to Central Oregon," Santasiero said. "I moved here thirty-one years ago, and I've made a really good life in Central Oregon. I think of it that way, it's something I feel like, personally, is giving back to the community that has supported me." B

Pick up *Placed* in Bend at Dudley's Bookshop Cafe, Roundabout Books, the Bend Store or The Workhouse, or order through your favorite bookseller.

■ ***acrylic painting***

"Emotion on Display" at the Box Factory

The Box Factory is a celebrated place to eat, drink, shop, and gather in Bend. Now it's also a place to view art and give back to the community. "Recently, in an effort to support local artists, we've begun featuring various original work in our Box Factory Breezeway instead of the old historic photos of the mill we had prior," said Hannah Ellison, social media manager for the Box Factory. "We also partner with local non-profits and a percentage of each piece that sells goes towards the organization of our artist's choice."

Local artist Zach Filkins will display his artwork in the Box Factory Breezeway through March 26 in an exhibit titled "Emotion on Display," a series of large, six by four feet acrylic paintings. "This show is an exploration of emotion through a heavy use of color," Filkins said. "The premise stems from my view of the world. I think nature and people alike are loaded with intentional design, which leads to obvious value, and eventually purpose! I try to convey this through personal faces and scenes of nature. I'm excited for people's reaction to the show because there is no incorrect way to view this show, it's so interpretive." Filkins' paintings will be available for purchase and a percentage of proceeds will go towards The Giving Plate, a local nonprofit dedicated to feeding the hungry. See BENDBOXFACTORY.COM.

■ ***photography***

Weathering Time is a personal examination of aging

Bend artist Nancy Floyd has been photographing herself since 1982, with the aim of taking a photo a day. The result is her first book, *Weathering Time,* published in February by London's GOST Books. Comprised of more than 2500 images grouped into categories such as Mom, Dad, Shirts with Words, Good Hair, Pets (all), and Evolution of the Typewriter, the project is a meditation on the passage of time, loss and aging. "While this is a personal archive, and I am mining the archive to address issues of the female body, the family snapshot and loss, I am also interested in producing images that suggest some of the experiences of my generation," said Floyd. "Indeed, the photographs underscore the cultural, technological, and physical changes that have occurred over the past thirty-eight years—from my youth to the dawn of my old age." *Weathering Time* was featured in *The New Yorker* last year. See GOSTBOOKS.COM, PHOTOEYE.COM, or NANCYFLOYD.COM to order copies.

■ ***film***

Balance: Bike, Ski, Life

"The idea of balance is a simple concept, and can be expressed in many different ways," says the narrator in the opening line of a new film featuring local athletes called *Balance.* The film highlights an often-overlooked aspect in the life of a professional athlete: balancing their work and their life. The fifteen-minute long film features a cast of four athletes, two from Bend, who discuss how they balance their work, play, and overall life, set to images and videos of snowy mountain peaks and rivers winding through tall trees. Mount Bachelor, in all of its skiing and mountain biking glory, is one of the backdrops in the film.

The film was released by Teton Gravity Research, a company dedicated to capturing action sports in, well, action. Since 1995, TGR has released thirty-two films, varying in length from short films to full, feature length movies. *Balance* features two local athletes, Cam McCaul and Sage Cattabriga-Alosa. Mountain biker McCaul reveals that being a musician helps him balance his life. The North Face skier Cattabriga-Alosa balances his winter on the slopes with an equally thrilling summer sport—mountain biking.

The full film can be accessed on the Teton Gravity Research website. While TGR does have a paid membership program, the film is free to watch, following TGR's original philosophy: to showcase the most progressive riding on the planet, and to spread a love of action sports to fans around the world. See TETONGRAVITY.COM.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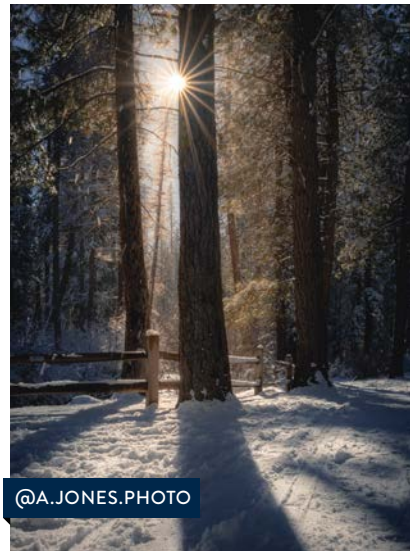
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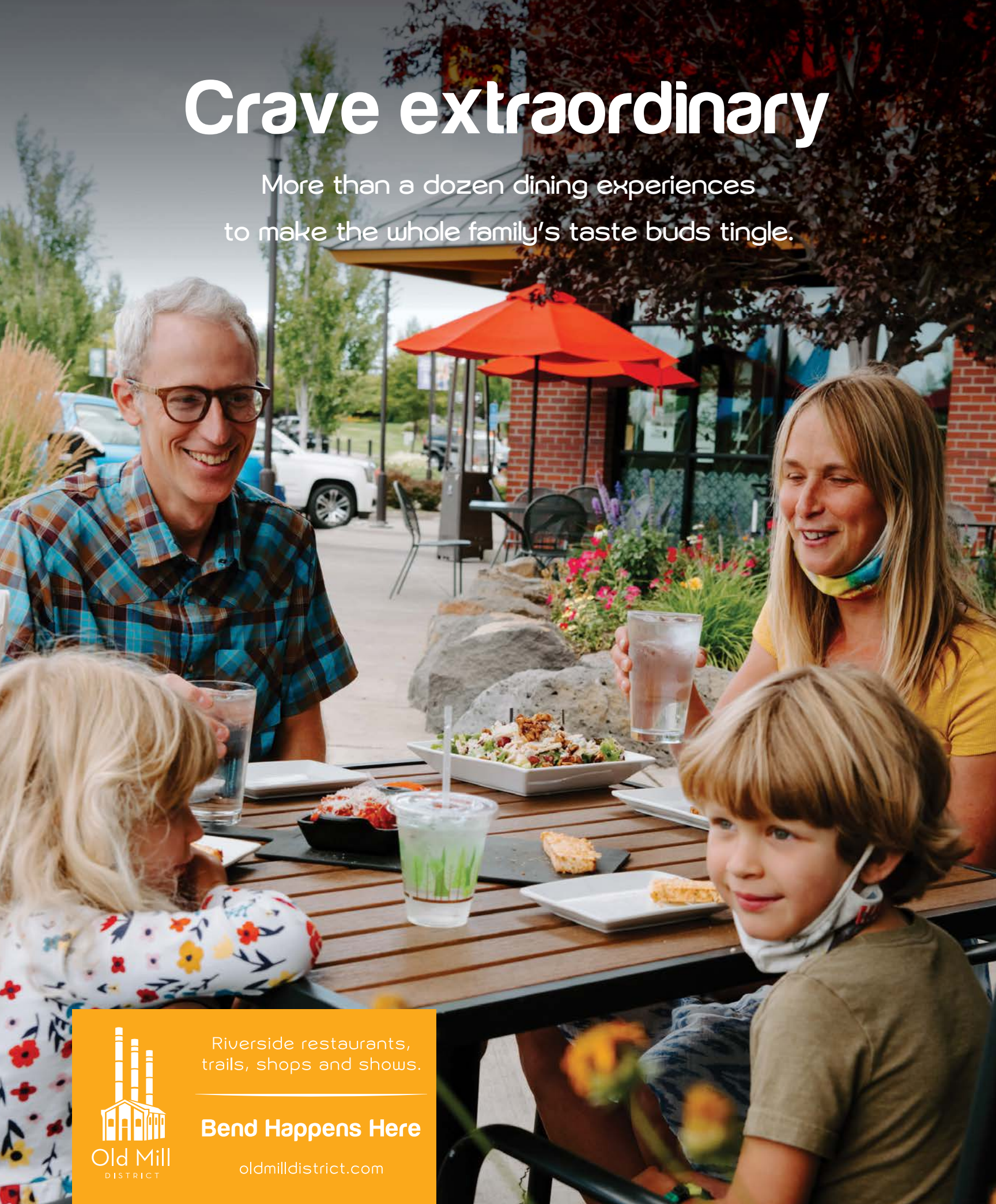
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