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Magazine

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APPEAL OF
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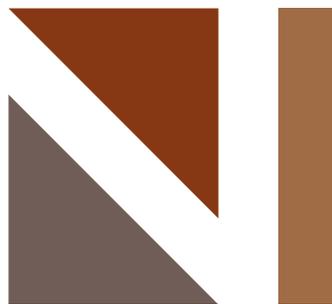
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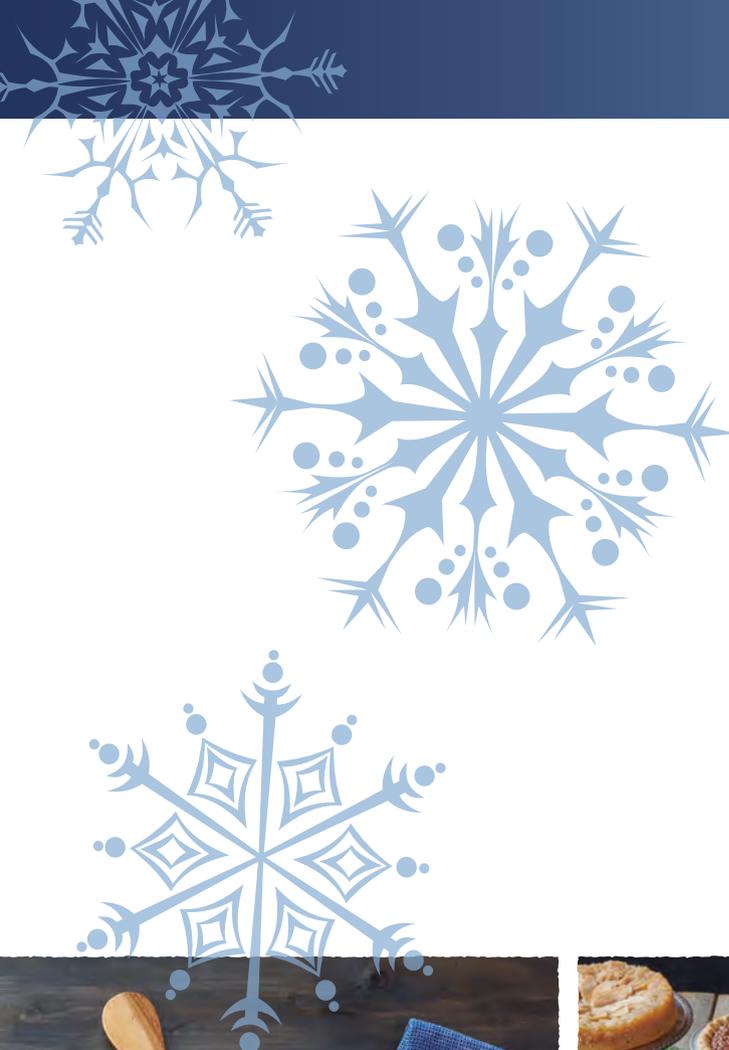
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WEATHER WATCHERS

Sometimes it feels like winter weather can make or break our days in Central Oregon. But for some, weather is just another day at the office. Read about the meteorologists, journalists, scientists and pilots who take weather watching very seriously.

WRITTEN BY SUZANNE JOHNSON

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INTO THE BACKCOUNTRY

The skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing to be found deep in the Cascade mountain wilderness is legendary, and the tales that adventurers bring back to town are wintertime storytelling for the ages. Read where to go and how to be safe while you're getting the backcountry stoke.

WRITTEN BY NOAH NELSON

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HOUSELESS IN CENTRAL OREGON

It's a challenge that can no longer be ignored. Homelessness in Bend is on the rise—a steep rise. Community organizations, city governments and caring citizens are stepping in to address and help everyone who calls Central Oregon home.

WRITTEN BY LUCAS ALBERG

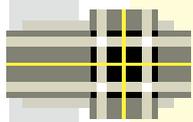


ON THE COVER

Winter stoke in the Three Sisters Wilderness.

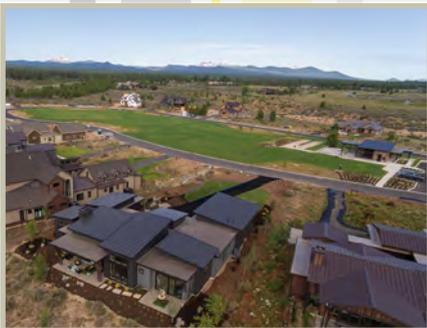
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WORDS *and* PICTURES

Contributors



• DAMIAN FAGAN

• Damian Fagan is an outdoor enthusiast, freelance writer, naturalist guide and snowshoe instructor for
• Central Oregon Community College's Continuing Education program. He has published numerous
• natural history articles and two wildflower field guides, *Canyon Country Wildflowers* and *Wildflowers
• of Oregon*, with Falcon Press Publishing. He enjoys breaking trail and is often heard tooting for owls as
• he snowshoes at night through the forest. He lives in Bend with his wife, Raven. For this issue, he wrote
• about Willamette forest getaways and overnight stays in fire lookouts (pgs. 35 and 41).

SUZANNE JOHNSON

Suzanne Johnson lives, writes and plays in the Cascade Mountains around Bend. Her writing focuses on nature and the environment, family and travel. Most of all, she loves to talk with interesting people and learn what makes them tick. For past *Bend Magazine* issues, Suzanne has written about the ice sport curling, the people of Deschutes County Search and Rescue, and Bend's 4-H kids. In this issue, Suzanne interviewed and profiled the pros who forecast and interpret Bend's winter weather (p. 80). See SUZANNEMYHREJOHNSON.COM.



• JOE KLINE

• Joe Kline is a portrait and editorial photographer, capturing storytelling moments. His style is
• informed by over a decade of documenting life as a newspaper photojournalist. Based in Bend,
• Joe enjoys the nearby peaks, climbing rocks and tasty local brews. For this issue, *Bend Magazine*
• dispatched Joe to do what he does best—capture portraits of Central Oregonians in their element. In
• this case, that meant Joe photographed the local professionals of weather forecasting for our feature
• story (pg. 80). See JOEKLINEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.

TIM NEVILLE

Tim Neville has been writing about the outdoors, adventure travel, and the influential forces behind both for 19 years—17 of which have been in Bend. He is a long time correspondent for *Outside* magazine and contributor to *The New York Times*, as well as a mouthy connoisseur of Ruebens (the sandwiches) and fondues (don't even). He lives in the Orchard District with his wife, daughter and Mamey "Rosie" Rose, the double doodle. For this issue, he wrote about outdoor survivalist Joel Van Der Loon (pg. 51).



• TYLER ROEMER

• Tyler Roemer is a dog dad, traveler and photographer based in Central Oregon. For almost two
• decades, Roemer has explored the globe pursuing a singular passion, capturing genuine life moments
• in the outdoors with athletes at play. His images are intended to tell a story of adventure, mishaps and
• all the moments that fall in between. Tyler captured the majestic Three Sisters Wilderness in winter
• for this issue's cover image. See TYLERROEMER.COM.

LESLEY ZACHARIAS

Before her recent move to Bend, Oregon, Lesley Zacharias spent 19 years in Anchorage, Alaska. Lesley's time in Alaska was split between being a commercial pilot for PenAir, a wedding photographer, a part-time business owner in horse training and riding instruction, and a mother to her son. She is currently employed as a real estate agent for LivOregon, with plans to continue freelance photography work locally. In this issue, Lesley photographed JW Terry with COVO for our Helping Hands story and Eryn Sisson with her son Paxton for our Home feature (pgs. 61 and 63).



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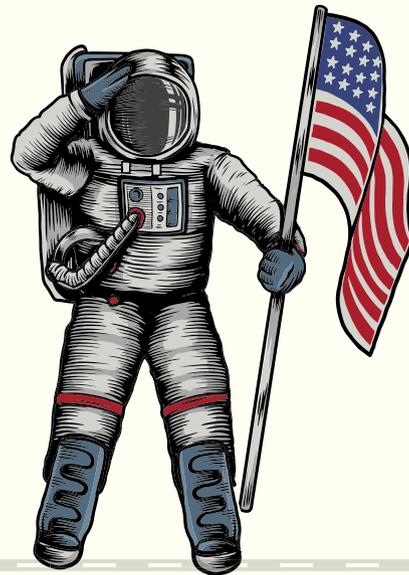
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FROM *the* EDITOR



Winter Storms

In Central Oregon, we spend an extraordinary amount of time focused on the weather. Life in Bend often means that we are blessed with clear skies, light precipitation and mild temperatures. We rave about the weather much of the time, relegating to temporary amnesia the epic events we've experienced over the years, including thunderstorms sweeping down from the mountains, snowstorms that blanket everything in white overnight, hailstorms that make only auto body repair companies happy, and ice storms that take down century-old trees. The weather can be wily here, and we never really forget it. That's why many

of us check the forecast daily before our slippers even hit the bedroom floor.

In this issue, writer Suzanne Johnson rounded up the professionals who live, breathe and sleep weather. Meet the meteorologists, avalanche forecasters, helicopter pilots, snow safety supervisors and state road crews who spend their days deciding when it's good and safe to ski, fly, drive, play and generally be outdoors at all.

For some Central Oregon residents, watching the winter weather is not just the luxury of seeking out bluebird days. For those whose homes are in tents or cars, the weather can be a matter of comfort at best, life and death at worst. Rates of houselessness and homelessness have risen in Bend, following the pandemic and considering the high cost of housing in our mountain town. Every one of us has a responsibility to raise our own awareness and consider what can be done when it comes to this issue. Writer Lucas Alberg tackles the subject of homelessness, including ways to help, in our feature "Crisis for All."

Winter backcountry adventures are celebrated in our feature story written by *Bend Magazine* staff writer, Noah Nelson. Outdoor adventure continues in our stories to the Willamette National Forest, Odell Lake, and regional fire lookouts and forest service cabins available for seasonal rental. On the milder side, we round up family friendly hikes near town.

Next, follow Sisters-based survivalist and reality television contestant Joel van der Loon around for a day. See the trail-inspired maps and artwork from local company Hikerbooty. Learn about the quest to preserve native arts undergone by Warm Springs basket maker Kelli Palmer. Finally, sink into favorite holiday dishes from local chefs, Bend-made wine from Lava Terrace Cellars and an après ski cocktail at Sunriver Resort.

As we settle into winter and the holidays, remember that this is the season of giving. What can you do to consider and help alleviate the plights of others? We are, after all, but one community.

Happy holidays,

Kim Cooper Findling
editor in chief



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LODGING

Rebuilt Ski Inn Reopens in Sisters

EIGHT YEARS AFTER A WIND-FALLEN TREE destroyed the Ski Inn on Cascade Avenue in Sisters, a new lodging and dining establishment has been resurrected in its place. The new Ski Inn Tap House and Hotel sits at the same location as the original, but is an entirely new building with a revamped concept and new owners. A soft opening of the restaurant took place in June, along with the first hotel room rental. The new Ski Inn features six boutique hotel rooms upstairs and a taphouse downstairs, with 16 taps of rotating brews, wines and pub food, with several large TV screens inside and seating areas that open up the outdoors. See SKIINN.COM.





■ **food security**

A New Home for The Giving Plate

Following a decade of growth and its biggest year of food collection and distribution ever in 2020, Bend's The Giving Plate food pantry has been hungry for a larger space to call its own. In September, the organization announced it would move into a new location at 1212 NE First Street in Bend, an 11,000-square-foot space that allows The Giving Plate to bring all of its programs under one roof. The new building came at the cost of \$1.65 million, and will need remodeling including new appliances and furnishings, so the organization is launching a \$3 million fundraising campaign to help cover the expenses, most of which were initially covered through a loan. The pantry will remain open at its current Third Street location over the next year while the new space is renovated. The Giving Plate opened in 2010 and distributes food boxes to individuals and families in need in Central Oregon. The organization envisions that the new space including a small grocery shopping area where guests can choose their own foods will offer more choices and dignity to the individuals that visit. See THEGIVINGPLATE.ORG.



■ **parade**

Holiday Festivities Resume

Tis' the season! After a pandemic-related hiatus in 2020, the Bend Christmas Parade is back in person for 2021. The parade organizers expect this year to be a big one, with plenty of people in attendance on the parade's route which floats down Newport Avenue, through downtown on Wall Street and across Mirror Pond on NW Riverside Boulevard. Since 1992 the parade has been run by a volunteer committee of Bend citizens who recognized the parade as an important cultural event. The committee has a mission to dazzle the people of Central Oregon with an event that "captures the spirit of Christmas" while connecting and unifying our community; this means welcoming floats of diverse beliefs and cultures. Citizens create and submit floats for the parade for a chance at winning one of eight awards. Santa-deniers will be stumped as they watch Santa's sleigh ride through downtown Bend, and everyone will be feeling the spirit of the holidays under twinkling winter lights. See BENDCHRISTMASPARADE.ORG.



■ **childcare**

Grants to Local Colleges Support Parents in School

In September, senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley announced that four Oregon colleges would receive \$400,000 from the Childcare Access Means Parents in School program; COCC and OSU Cascades were selected to receive \$60,675 and \$30,000, respectively. The funds were distributed with the purpose of supporting students who are parents. Merkley stated, "Every Oregonian who chooses to seek higher education deserves the support they need to succeed regardless of whether or not they are a parent." The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns were particularly difficult on families that are not wealthy enough to find childcare, or for families where one or both parents have been laid off. Dr. Laurie Chesley, president of COCC, said, "Funding from the Child Care Access Means Parents in School program will help these same communities complete their education and workforce training without having to worry about the cost and quality of their children's care." See WWW2.ED.GOV.

PHOTO BOTTOM ALEX JORDAN

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■ *public services*

New and Improved District Libraries on the Horizon

Patrons of the region's libraries will be excited to hear that plans for a new Bend library and other district updates are moving along. A voter-approved bond measure passed in November 2020, and this year, the Deschutes Public Library District Board selected Seattle's The Miller Hull Partnership and Bend's Steele Associates as the architectural team to oversee the upcoming projects. The bond is funding the design and construction of a new, 100,000-square-foot Central Library adjacent to U.S. Highway 20 on Robal Road in Bend, with an estimated completion of September 2024. Bond funds will also pay for doubling the square footage of the Redmond Library and will update existing libraries in downtown Bend, east Bend, La Pine, Sisters and Sunriver, with all the projects tentatively complete by early 2025. See DESCHUTESLIBRARY.ORG.



■ *first responders*

Sunriver Police and Fire Buildings to Get an Upgrade

The Sunriver fire and police departments have been struggling to operate in spaces that are too small for their growing forces; the police department has no space to detain suspects, and the fire department doesn't have the space for storage or to allow firefighters to wash up after a job. To accommodate for the growth of both departments, an addition to the existing fire department is planned. The building will become a public safety building, housing both departments. The cost of the renovation is estimated to be between \$16 and \$18 million, and the funds are expected to come from a levy that appeared on the ballot this fall. The Sunriver Service District hopes to have all plans finalized by the end of the year, citing a goal to make the organization more professional, with this new essential facility as necessary to that end. The new space will bring the fire department up to modern standards, as the current space does not comply with national firefighting standards. See SUNRIVERSD.ORG.



■ *natural resources*

Residents May Soon Collect Personal-Use Firewood from the National Forest

A new personal-use firewood program is coming to a forest near you. Starting next year, persons will be able to collect firewood for personal use at no cost in the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and Crooked River National Grassland from May through November. Permits will be required for this program and can be acquired from the National Forest Service website or one of its offices or vendors. Firewood season was put on pause from July until late September, due to extremely dry conditions. The purpose of this program is to ensure that, when the pause on firewood collection is lifted, residents will be able to make use of the local timber that sits just outside their backyard. Many rural Oregonians use wood for heat in the winter, and this program will help them collect what they need for the season in a fashion that is both legal and sustainable. When people cut firewood, they must also bring along a fire extinguisher, a shovel and a spark arrestor for any equipment used. The National Forest Service recommends that individuals should remain where they are for an hour after cutting to ensure no sparks have created fires. See FS.USDA.GOV/MAIN/DESCHUTES

TOP PHOTO: K&M ARCHITECTS IN COOPERATION WITH BEND LOCAL PINNACLE ARCHITECTURE

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SKI AND SHOE

EXPLORE

Winter in the Willamette

Dive into winter adventure in the forests and mountains near Highway 58

WRITTEN BY DAMIAN FAGAN

PHOTO FRANZISKA WEINHEIMER, OWNER OF HIKE OREGON

Oregon State Highway 58 climbs over the forested slopes of the central Cascade Mountains from the east side logging town of Crescent to Willamette Pass before descending along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River to Eugene. The road passes sparkling Diamond Peak, an 8,774-foot mountain that dominates the southern skyline, Crescent and Odell lakes, Salt Creek Falls, and the Willamette Pass Ski Area. For a winter retreat, the Willamette Pass area has it all: sno-parks from which to Nordic ski or snowshoe, snowmobile trails, a ski resort, overnight lodging and restaurants, plus a whole lot of wild places.

My wife and I spent a mid-week winter retreat at the Odell Lake Lodge and Resort. Built in 1903, making it one of the oldest lodges in Oregon, the lodge is located on the southeast end of the lake adjacent to the lake's outlet. This cozy and laid-back resort offers rustic cabins with kitchens and gas heat, as well as rooms upstairs in the main lodge, which is what we chose. Downstairs is the Fireside Room, a communal space for enjoying the wood-fire warmth or sharing stories with fellow travelers on a cold winter night. The restaurant offers indoor and outdoor dining (during the summer) serving delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner meals, as well as dessert specialties: marionberry cobbler or mud pie.

Our days were spent visiting nearby sno-parks where we strapped on snowshoes or Nordic skis to explore miles of marked trails. Back at the lodge, we enjoyed after-dinner strolls along the lake's edge. In the Willamette forests, we found beautiful and rugged scenery, spectacular views, dense forests and uncrowded trails.

GOLD LAKE SNO-PARK

Nearly seven miles west of the resort along Highway 58 is the Gold Lake Sno-Park, a hub for many ski and snowshoe trails. At the sno-park, the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol volunteers operate out of a warming hut, providing information and rescue services. The volunteers shared great trail and history tips, including filling us in on early settler William H. Odell, for whom the lake was named.

On our first morning, we crossed back over the highway from the sno-park and struck out on snowshoes for Gold Lake. We passed through dark forests of Douglas fir, western hemlock, subalpine fir, and western white pine, all laden with fresh snow from the night before. The occasional "whump" of snow hitting the ground reminded us to beware of overburdened branches overhead. Blue diamonds marked the route and we enjoyed breaking trail to the lake and some side trails to the Marilyn Lakes, as well as having lunch in the three-sided Gold Lake Shelter, built in the 1940s, as snow continued to fall.

Odell Lake



Gold Lake Sno-Park Shelter

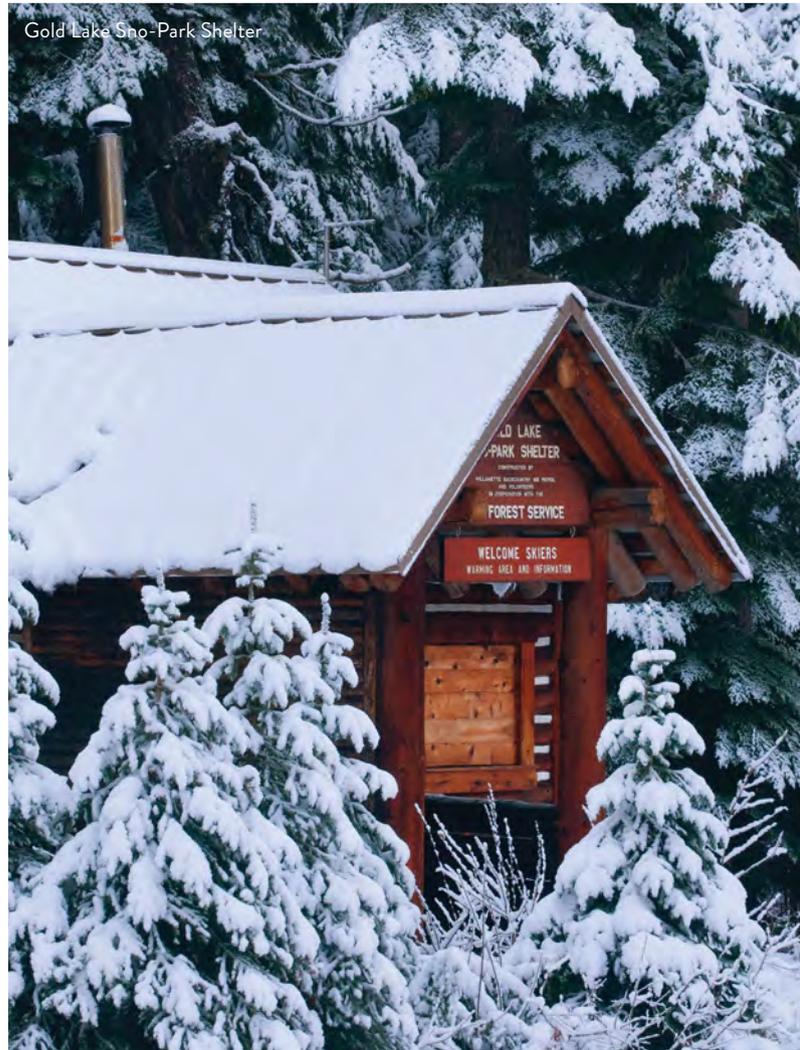


PHOTO LEFT: ALAMY STOCK / ALAMY STOCK
PHOTO ABOVE: BONNIE MORELAND



PENGRA PASS

The next day, we returned to the Gold Lake Sno-Park and this time put on our Nordic skis and headed south towards Pengra Pass and Eagle Rock, an overlook of Odell Lake along the Pacific Crest Trail. Pengra Pass honors B.J. Pengra, a 19th-century pioneer who promoted Willamette Pass as a military road and railroad route across the Cascades.

Though the trail intersections were well signed, we had to pay close attention to few-and-far-between trail markers. “We ain’t in the Deschutes anymore, Toto,” became a refrain regarding the difference between the Willamette and Deschutes national forests in terms of trail signage.

Although a low-cloud ceiling covered the high peaks as we reached the pass, we were graced with outstanding views of Odell Lake in a short while. Our snowy descent through the hemlock and fir forest resembled the slash marks of Zorro rather than the graceful curves of a calligrapher’s pen. I made a note to myself: stick with snowshoes.





SALT CREEK FALLS

We began our final morning by driving about eleven miles west of Odell to the Salt Creek Falls Sno-Park. We hadn't done much research into the falls, but we'd heard they were impressive; that turned out to be an understatement.

On snowshoes, we followed the closed road from the sno-park to the summer parking area and overlook. Salt Creek, which is also the outflow from Gold Lake, weaves through the forest on its way to the confluence with the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. At the overlook, the creek plunges nearly 300 feet over a lip of basalt. The scene was both beautiful and surreal at the same time.

Originally, we had planned to continue on our snowshoes to do the Diamond Falls loop, but the recent snowfall and road conditions made us rethink our time and our drive back to Bend. We opted to save this loop for another day, along with trails to Fuji Mountain, Fawn Lake, and Maiden Peak—an excuse to return.

For our next trip, perhaps we will try staying at Shelter Cove Resort, Crescent Lake Lodge or the Willamette Pass Inn, excellent options for overnight accommodations in the area. Nearby Manley's Tavern, located in Crescent Junction along Highway 58, looks a little funky from the outside but the staff is friendly, and the tavern is known for its delicious fried chicken dinner. A little farther away from Willamette Pass is the town of Oakridge, about thirty miles west of Odell Lake, where visitors find more choices for lodging or eating, such as the Westfir Lodge or the 3 Legged Crane Pub and Brewhouse, as well as a Ray's grocery store. Oakridge, once called the Shangri-la of the Cascades, also describes itself in winter as "above the fog line and below the snow line."

For folks in Eugene, the Willamette Pass winter wonderland is an easy jaunt up Highway 58. For Bendites, it's a bit more of a trek, but one worth making. **■**

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FIRE LOOKOUTS

On Top of the World

A unique rental program provides a “rangeresque” opportunity for wintry overnight stays

WRITTEN BY DAMIAN FAGAN



Have you ever dreamed of being a forest ranger or a fire lookout? Even if you never made that career happen, you can play make-believe with this popular winter activity: rent a forest lookout or ranger cabin for an overnight adventure. Because of remote locations, road closures and plenty of snow, these winter wonderland sites are sometimes only accessed by cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or snowmobiling. Scoring this particular night in the woods requires some advanced planning, but a little perseverance on Recreation.gov can result in awesome rewards, such as beautiful winter vistas, brilliant night-skies, a warm winter shelter and a truly unique winter experience.

Some of the structures are still used as fire lookouts or for seasonal staff during the fire season, but off-season, the lookouts and cabins are available to rent because of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Collected fees go into preservation of these historic structures, which would otherwise be decommissioned and possibly torn down. Each rental offers different amenities such as propane stoves, stocked kitchens, solar-powered lights and woodstoves, so peruse each site online to know before you go.

Here are a few of the fire lookout and forest cabin rentals to add to your bucket list.

PHOTO CHERYL HILL

HAGER MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

Perched atop Hager Mountain at 7,195 feet, the Hager Mountain Lookout is used during the summer as a fire lookout and in the winter as a rental. Located in the Fremont-Winema National Forest 15 miles south of Silver Lake, the six-to-eight-million-year-old volcanic dome is known for its summer wildflower blooms and inviting solitude. In winter, the trail to the lookout follows the closed road; the four-mile-long stair-master ascent for skiers or snowshoers gains 2,200 feet. The summit's viewshed is spectacular, stretching from Mount Shasta north to Mount Hood and east across the Basin and Range. The indigenous Klamath People called the peak "Chock-chock-lisk-se," which translates to "bald faced rock," a reference to the rocky summit and another early name for the peak—Bald Mountain. Early settlers also called the peak Hagerhorst Mountain after a local pioneer rancher from the Silver Lake Valley; that name has been shortened to Hager Mountain. No matter the name, be prepared to be blown away by the brilliance of the night sky.



Hager Mountain Lookout

FIVEMILE BUTTE LOOKOUT

Twenty miles west of Dufur (almost rhymes with obscure—as in the middle of nowhere) this 14- by 14-foot lookout is perched atop a 40-foot-tall tower in the southeast corner of the Mount Hood National Forest. Accessible in winter by ski, snowshoe, or snowmobile, on a clear day one can view numerous Cascade peaks from Mount Rainier to the Three Sisters and south to Mount Thielsen. Two trails loop to the cabin and though their distances seem short, three and four miles respectively, the ascent can still be a challenge due to weather. A 1960s-era lookout, Fivemile Butte has received several upgrades inside. Outside, there is a metal catwalk with a pulley system to lower and raise supplies such as firewood from the ground-level woodshed up to the lookout. The only downside is that the outhouse is at ground level.

OCHOCO RANGER CABIN

Located along Ochoco Creek in the Ochoco Mountains east of Prineville, this ranger cabin was built in 1940 and has had several upgrades. The two-story house has the luxury of indoor plumbing that the lookout rentals lack. Nestled in amongst towering ponderosa pines, the cabin offers excellent opportunities to explore Big Summit Prairie and winter trails originating from the Walton Lake Snow Park. Skiers, snowshoers, sledgers, and snowmobilers will all find terrain and trails that suits their passions. After a fun day exploring the snow and surrounding forests, the warmth of the cabin allows for folks to stretch out in the living room or snooze in one of the several bedrooms. Don't be surprised if your party is serenaded by howling coyotes or hooting owls at night.

FISH LAKE REMOUNT DEPOT

This Willamette National Forest site, located at Fish Lake near McKenzie Pass, brings history to life. Indigenous peoples used the area to hunt, fish, and forage for plants and berries for thousands of years before fur trappers and settlers began exploring the area or following the Santiam Wagon Road over the Cascades to the Willamette Valley. A way station at the site housed overnight travelers and, once the area became part of the National Forest system, rangers and mule packers. Today, the depot's Commissary Cabin and Hall House, both constructed in 1924, are two rentals available in winter. Renters can take advantage of trails right out their front door or visit seven different snow-parks within a 20-minute drive. Numerous marked Nordic ski, snowshoe, and snowmobile trails offer miles of winter fun through deep forests and open meadows. A group of retired Forest Service personnel formed Friends of the Fish Lake to help preserve this historical treasure and keep alive the echoes of freighters, indigenous peoples, and pioneers who passed through this region.



PHOTO TOP ELENA PRESSPRICH, BOTTOM BILL SULLIVAN



PHOTO RICHARD BACON

GREEN RIDGE LOOKOUT

This site near Camp Sherman is a sight to behold. Views of the snowy Cascades and dense forest sweep out below, and bird watching is perfect from here as well. The cabin sits on a two-story tower on the side of Green Ridge. A parking area leads to a boardwalk and catwalk to reach the one-room cabin, outfitted with a futon, a table and chairs, and a propane stove. Green Ridge Lookout is available for rent in the late spring and late fall; during the summer months, the lookout is staffed with Forest Service volunteers who help with forest fire detection.

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CLEAR LAKE CABIN LOOKOUT

This tower cabin sits on Clear Lake Butte, a 4,454-foot gently sloped hillside covered with fir trees, on the south side of Mt. Hood. Overlooking Clear Lake and Timothy Lake in the distance, views are readily on hand, as is fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing nearby. One of three Forest Service watchtowers on Mount Hood, Clear Lake Cabin is still used to spot fires during summertime each year. Originally 100 feet tall when it was built in 1932, the tower was replaced with the current 40-foot building in 1962. The cabin is atop a 40-foot tower and is surrounded by a wooden catwalk. The 14-by-14 room is furnished with a small bed, a wood stove and a propane cook stove. The lookout can only be accessed by skiing, snowmobiling or snowshoeing four miles from a parking area at the Skyline Sno-Park. 📍



PHOTO TOP AND BOTTOM RIGHT TYLER ROEMER, OTHERS ELENA PRESSRICH



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HOLIDAY HIKES

A Trail for Every Family

Three snow-free strolls for all skill levels get your family out of the house this season

WRITTEN BY KAILEY FISICARO

The weather might be cooler, but some trails typically remain snow-free and just right for an easy hike. Unlike some other winter activities, a walk in the woods doesn't require expensive equipment or expert skills, especially if you choose one of these trails the whole family can enjoy. Check the weather, bundle up, and head out for a morning or afternoon of early winter fun for all generations.

SHEVLIN PARK LOOP TRAIL START AT: SHEVLIN PARK PARKING

Marking its 100-year anniversary as a Bend park in 2021, Shevlin Park is a nearly 1,000-acre area offering a number of trails. Depending on recent snowfall, winter hikers may face only a little mud or packed snow. Choose an accessible stroll on the paved road or a number of single-track trails, including Shevlin Park Loop Trail, a 4.7-mile jaunt that's perfect for taking at your own pace. In winter, bring shoes you don't mind getting muddy. Expect forested high desert scenery, glimpses of Tumalo Creek, quaint foot bridges and frosted or snow-capped trees.



Shevlin Park



Old Mill District



McGregor Memorial Viewpoint

DESCHUTES RIVER TRAIL THROUGH OLD MILL DISTRICT

START AT: RIVERBEND PARK OR OLD MILL DISTRICT

The Deschutes River Trail covers a dozen miles through Bend. The paved stretch hugs the river through the Old Mill District and is a great way to get family members of all ability levels outside. With proximity to shops and restaurants, you can even promise hot chocolate. This trail provides a surprising amount of wildlife and nature viewing right in town. While many species of birds live and nest in the riparian zone, look carefully and you may even see beavers and river otters swimming, or bald eagles and ospreys soaring overhead. A pedestrian and bike-only bridge connected to the trail parallels SW Columbia Street and overlooks Bend Whitewater Park, where you're likely to see brave souls surfing and kayaking even in winter.

BIG PINE LOOP

START AT: LA PINE STATE PARK BIG PINE TRAILHEAD

At 0.7 miles, the Big Pine Loop trail south of Bend near La Pine is a great hike for all skill levels that offers beautiful views of big pines, just as the name implies, plus sights of the Deschutes River. Layer up for a walk around the loop to breathe in the fresh scent of ponderosa pine and pause a moment at two special spots on the trail. First, McGregor Memorial Viewpoint where there is a gorgeous bend in the Deschutes River, and second, the affectionately named "Big Red," a 500-year-old, 29-foot-diameter beauty that's one of the world's largest ponderosa pines. It's a sight to behold. 📍

PHOTO TOP TALIA GALVIN

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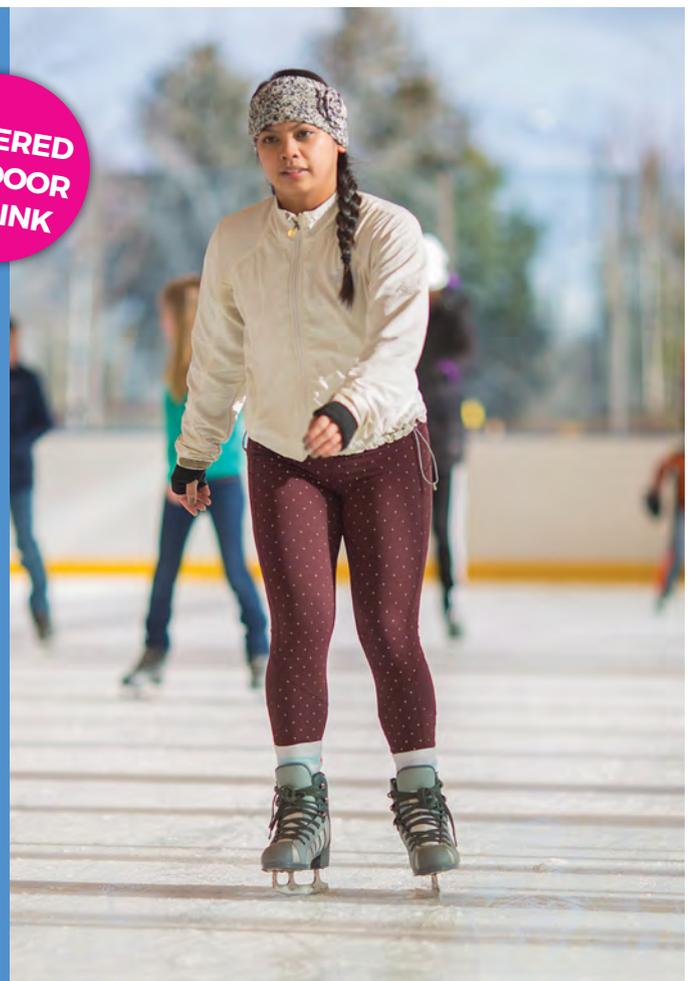
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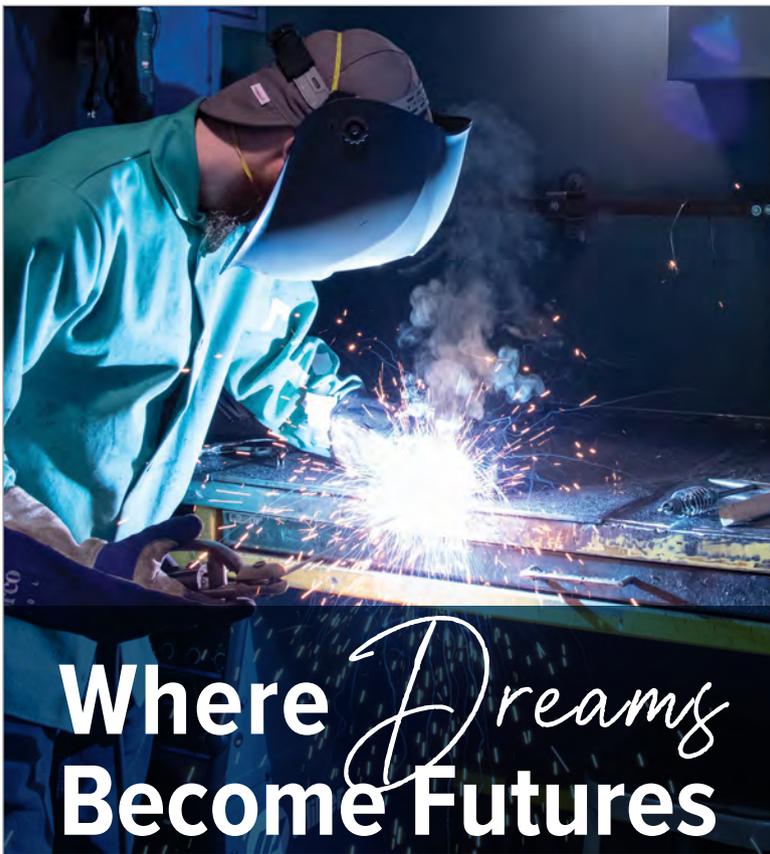
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SURVIVAL

Reality Check

Sisters resident Joel van der Loon took solitude to the max on the television show *Alone*

WRITTEN BY TIM NEVILLE

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HISTORY CHANNEL AND A+E NETWORKS®

If you consider yourself outdoorsy and haven't caught an episode of the History Channel's *Alone* reality TV series yet, which you can watch on Netflix and Hulu, you're behind on your studies. The premise of the show is simple but stressful; ten people get dropped off at separate sites deep in the wilderness with ten items of their choosing, with instructions to survive for as long as they can or until a medical team says they must quit. What these bushmasters do to find food, stay warm and not go absolutely mental in the supreme solitude makes your Three Sisters through-hike look like a staycation at Loge.

Given Central Oregon's outdoorsy cred, it is only fitting that someone from the area actually made it onto the series. About this time two years ago, Joel van der Loon, a survival skills teacher living in Sisters, was in the middle of season seven, holed up on a remote corner of Canada's Great Slave Lake in the subarctic trying to live on his own for 100 days, which was the longest any contestant on the show had ever done up to that point. The prize for doing so? \$1 million.

"I was just elated to be out there, like a kid in a candy store," says van der Loon, now 36. "It was this amazing opportunity to combine all of my skills in this area that sees very little human presence with this fantastic safety blanket. If anything goes wrong, you can push a button and someone comes and picks you up."

Adventure is nothing new to van der Loon, who approaches nature and bushcraft with an almost spiritual connection to ancient cultures. He grew up bouncing between a small sugar cane

THIS PAGE: Cast members of *Alone* crafted their own shelters by hand using few tools and the natural materials available to them.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: Joel ignites a tinder bundle using the hand drill friction fire method at the Los Coyotes reservation of the Cahuilla and Cupeño tribes in Southern California where he ran a survival school.

BOTTOM: Joel teaching a class of school kids winter survival skills at on the Los Coyotes reservation of the Cahuilla and Cupeño tribes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HISTORY CHANNEL AND A+E NETWORKS



“I was just elated to be out there, like a kid in a candy store. It was this amazing opportunity to combine all of my skills in this area that sees very little human presence with this fantastic safety blanket. If anything goes wrong, you can push a button and someone comes and picks you up.”



TOP: Joel on the set of the *Bushcraft Build-Off* in 2017.

BELOW: Joel lives in Sisters with his wife, Leah, and their four-year-old son, pictured here on a Central Oregon morel mushroom hunt. “Mushroom foraging is a great way to get kids engaged in the forest.”

community in South Africa and off-the-grid in the Tanzanian bush before moving to Sisters via California four years ago. Learning how to survive in the wild as our distant ancestors did has been a passion of his since he was at least five years old. That’s when his grandfather, Desmond, gave him a bow from the San Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert that ignited a curious spark.

That spark turned into an inferno later when his father, John, a cave diver who survived being lost at sea, separated from his mother, Michele, a professional bodybuilder, and built a home in the African bush. To keep the wild animals off the property, his father hired Maasai guards who began to teach van der Loon how to hunt, track, start a fire and other survival skills.

“I was just fascinated by them,” he says.

For three years van der Loon ran a full-time survival school in California—he still teaches once a month while working as a heating and cooling technician—but it wasn’t until 2017 that Hollywood noticed his skills. Producers at Discovery Channel tapped him to be a participant on a show called *Bushcraft Build-Off*, whereby he and two friends had to build a boat using only an axe, a chisel and the natural materials in their immediate surroundings. “It was a great experience but not a survival experience,” he says. “I mean, we got fed.”

That wasn’t the case on *Alone*. A friend of his, Dave Nussia, had appeared in season three of the show and recommended van der Loon as a candidate for a future season. van der Loon jumped at the chance. Of the thousands of people who applied, he was one of dozen to make the shortlist and one of ten to actually participate.

Van der Loon had no idea where he would be sent until about a month before filming began. In preparation, he packed on as much body fat as he could. Participants were then randomly assigned sites around Great Slave Lake and given a very brief helicopter tour of the area. Crews staying at a fishing lodge in the region would physically come out to check on him every ten days, and he had mandatory morning and evening check-ins via a satellite device. Otherwise, he was there alone and filming the experience himself with broadcast-quality camera gear he had to lug around everywhere he went. “A pain in the butt,” he said.

The show is strangely addicting. Throughout the course of it we watch van der Loon build a shelter straight out of eight-year-old boy dreams. We see him catch a surprising number of fish. And then we watch on tenterhooks when a wolverine, well...let’s give away no spoilers here.

And would he do it all over again?

“In a heartbeat,” he says. **IB**

To learn more or sign up for a survival class with van der Loon, see bushsurvivaltraining.com.



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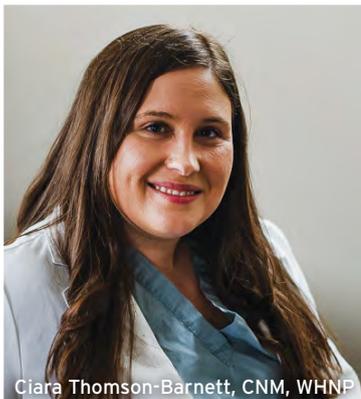
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WINTER SPORTS

Ghost Hills

A local historian documents the lost ski areas of Oregon

WRITTEN BY NOAH NELSON | PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 1965 Junior Olympics were held on Pilot Butte. Pictured is the ski jump competition, with spectators and fellow competitors watching from the sidelines.

Central Oregon is known nationally for outdoor recreation, and that's in part because of the amazing skiing around here. However, years before Bachelor Butte became a resort destination and people flocked to Bend for our snow, back when skiing was still considered a new sport in the United States, local clubs and residents tried their hand at skiing some other local spots. These old ski hills may have been lost to time, but a local historian is digging their stories back up.

Steven Stenkamp, a former firefighter and Bend city mayor turned local historian, has become an expert on lost ski areas. Through his independent research, he has found four forgotten ski areas near Bend: Overturf Butte, Skyliners McKenzie Pass, Skyliners Tumalo Creek and our very own Pilot Butte.

"A lot of the history we're talking about here wasn't written down, so much of it is largely unknown," Stenkamp said. "I'm really happy to help share that history and keep it alive."

To understand how Central Oregon grew as a ski destination requires an understanding of a certain old Bend club. The Skyliners Club, a group of like-minded individuals who enjoyed outdoor recreation, was formed in 1927. The group's first goal? Find a permanent and organized area for winter recreation, such as skiing, ice skating and old-school toboggan sledding.

"The Skyliners selected a spot seven miles west of the town of Sisters on Forest Service land, next to the original path of the Oregon Skyline Trail," Stenkamp said. "Construction of a small lodge, a toboggan run and ski jump were completed in time for a December 1928 opening." The lodge was expanded



TOP: The Bend Skyliners at the original McKenzie Pass ski area jump site in 1930.

BELOW: By 1935, the Skyliners had moved their ski area and jump to Skyliner Hill near Tumalo Creek. The ski jump judges' tower is pictured in the top right corner.

only a year later to accommodate for the popularity of the site, where skiing competitions regularly saw jumps of over 100 feet.

However, due to a combination of factors such as non-plowed roads, the distance from Bend and the somewhat inconsistent snowfall on the hill, the Skyliners would look for a new spot by 1934, killing the McKenzie Pass ski area by 1935. They moved up to Tumalo Creek, to a fledgling ski area that had first been established with an ice-skating rink in 1933. Over the years, the Skyliners worked to upgrade the hill, adding in lights for night skiing, a lodge, warming hut, a ski jump and even two rope tows to help skiers up the hill. "Before the rope tows, people really had to work to ski," Stenkamp said. "You really had to want it, to hike those hills over and over." The hill at Tumalo Creek remained popular until 1958 when Mt. Bachelor officially opened its ski runs.

While the Skyliners Club was doing their thing, other Bend residents were trying to figure out more places to hit the slopes. Overturf Butte began as a toboggan hill in the 1920s, but it wasn't long before skiers showed up. Eventually, the hill was upgraded with lights for night-time activities, but the toboggan hill proved to be a bit too steep and led to more than a few hospitalizations. Similar to the original Skyliners Hill west of Sisters, Overturf ski area died out due to the opening of the Skyliners Hill near Tumalo Creek.

In 1962, members of the community expressed their interest in reopening Overturf Butte as a local ski area, but decided to develop Pilot Butte instead when the landowners at Overturf refused. The proposed development included a nearly-too-large ski jump fit with a rope tow, artificial snow and lights that would be open all season long for years to come. However, fundraisers fell short as Mt. Bachelor grew in popularity, and the partial funds were instead used for a temporary ski jump and snow machines on the north side of Pilot Butte, above what is now Pilot Butte Middle School, used only for the 1965 Junior Olympics.

"The first jumper had too much speed and ended up in the sagebrush at the bottom of the hill," Stenkamp said. "The winner of the jump competition was also the smallest competitor; four-foot eight-inch Jerry Martin from Minneapolis, Minnesota."



Despite the success of the 1965 Junior Olympics, which had 2,500 people in attendance, Pilot Butte and the other smaller hills just couldn't compete with Mt. Bachelor. Aside from the new resort eroding the other hills' popularity, the smaller hills also dealt with more inconsistent snowfall and unplowed roads that made access more difficult. As Mt. Bachelor grew and gained resources, it began to plow roads, offer ski lifts, lodges, classes, competitions and more; all of these amenities were too good to pass up, and other hills were left high and dry, mostly forgotten to history.

That is, until Stenkamp uncovered their past. Thanks to the work of historians like Stenkamp, we can look back and remember the legacy of our community, when people came together for the love of snow. These early hills tell tales of perseverance that directly contributed to the huge popularity of Central Oregon as a winter recreation destination. Any avid skiers, snowboarders and more have these early developments, and the people who pioneered them, to thank for their modern passion. **■**

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OUTREACH

Giving Back to Our Vets

Central Oregon Veterans Outreach helps veterans and others too

WRITTEN BY NOAH NELSON

Central Oregon Veterans Outreach was founded in 2005 by members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #820 in Bend. They had a vision of an organization that could support veterans of every generation and followed through by interacting with the local homeless camps around Central Oregon. “This group’s first focus was to get these homeless veterans off the streets, fed and warmed up,” said COVO’s executive officer JW Terry (above right), a thirty-year Navy veteran and lifetime member of Chapter #820. “While those original vets have drifted apart, I know they are all proud of what COVO has become.”

Connecting with local homeless populations evolved into the homeless outreach program, which reaches both vets and non-vets. “A lot of people don’t know, but around 50 percent of the people we assist are non-veterans,” Terry said.

“We still sometimes get people who say ‘this donation has to go to a veteran’ and things like that, and for those people, we have ways of making

sure that specific donations go to certain places,” Terry said. “But over the years we’ve learned to not turn away anyone who needs our help.”

COVO regularly does outreach into homeless communities to build trusting relationships. This can be tough, as unfortunately in some instances, individuals have been seen taking advantage of these populations by inappropriately taking pictures and videos of them. “A lot of people don’t really understand that that tent is someone’s home,” said Ron Moore, a veteran who spent seven years living homeless who now works as an outreach specialist for COVO. “You can’t just go shoving a camera in someone’s home and expect them to be okay with it.”

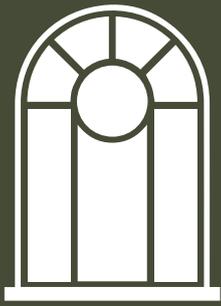
Once trust is established, COVO evaluates each client on a case-by-case basis to match them with the right program. COVO offers food, tents and clothing, as well as other programs that promote finding affordable housing, stable jobs, medical assistance and support along the way. Specifically for veterans, COVO offers healthcare, as well as supportive services for veteran’s families. “That transition can be a hard one,” said Moore. “Without support along the way, it can be possible for someone, even with an apartment and a job, to fall back into homelessness.”

The employees at COVO, many of whom are veterans who have experienced homelessness, wish members of the community understood that this is a complex issue. They outlined factors such as high medical bills, mental health issues, addiction, social isolation, high housing costs, low wages, and more as causes that can contribute to homelessness. During the pandemic, these factors hit communities harder than ever.

The future of COVO is a bright one, full of collaboration with NeighborImpact and the City of Bend. Terry said that in the ideal future, COVO wouldn’t exist, but he’s sure it will. “We’re still dealing with issues the Romans dealt with thousands of years ago,” Terry said. “These issues aren’t going to go away anytime soon. But, neither are we.”

For information on how to get involved, visit COVO-US.ORG.

PHOTO LESLEY ZACHARIAS



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HOME

Home at Last

Deserving homeowners settle into a west side home thanks to Habitat for Humanity

WRITTEN BY TERESA RISTOW



PHOTO LESLEY ZACHARIAS



In the best of circumstances, the road to homeownership can be complex, and the day the keys are finally handed over can be life changing. In more challenging circumstances, it's hard to put into words what it means. "It's night and day," said Eryn Sisson, who moved into her new home on Bend's west side in late July. "We feel safe and sound and secure and spoiled." Sisson and her son Paxton are the proud new owners of a two-bedroom, two-bath home in northwest Bend, in a mini neighborhood full of other new homeowners. The single mother and her son are just some of the faces of the latest Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity development, an eleven-home neighborhood off Northwest Juniper Street. For Sisson, the opportunity to buy a home through Habitat for Humanity couldn't have come at a better time.

ROAD TO HOME

Sisson and now 11-year-old Paxton learned in March 2020, just a couple of weeks before the pandemic set in, that their northeast Bend rental was under foreclosure. They'd paid the rent each month, but the owner hadn't kept up with the mortgage, and the bank was ready to step in. While Sisson scrambled to find another rental, a friend reminded her of Habitat for Humanity. She'd applied in the past, but never had quite the right qualifications to move forward. In order to pursue homeownership with Habitat for Humanity, applicants must fall into a specific income range, making more than what would qualify them for any public assistance, but less than seventy-five percent of the area's median

income when applying. Applicants must also have a solid credit score, have a steady work history, agree to 150 hours of volunteer work and help pay closing costs. Once they move in, they're expected to pay a mortgage that matches thirty-three percent of their income at the time they enter the program. "It's a massive commitment," Sisson said. "And meant for people who are living way below their means." Sisson has spent the past seven years as a paralegal, and with a steady work history and just the right circumstances, this time she was approved.

The next eighteen months were kind of a blur. Sisson and her son spent time volunteering at the ReStore, Habitat for Humanity's secondhand store for home goods and tools. When construction started on their future home, they also pitched in on Saturdays, helping to literally raise the walls of the residence. Sisson learned about homeownership and budgeting through online classes and Zoom meetings organized by Habitat. In the meantime, Sisson continued her full-time job and Paxton stayed busy with remote schooling while the two lived in a temporary rental.

Eventually, near the end of the process, Sisson and her son visited a park in Bend where they were introduced to many of their future neighbors. Many have shared stories of overcoming hardships, but together Sisson envisions they'll become a tight-knit group of neighbors who support each other and recognize how significant the opportunity of homeownership is for them. "I can't even explain it, we are so grateful," she said. "And we deserve this, and I think every family in the neighborhood deserves this."



OVERWHELMING NEED

In Central Oregon, Sisson and her son are one of many families struggling with the region's lack of affordable housing, according to Robin Cooper Engle, vice president of resource development for Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity. The local organization, which is affiliated with the greater Habitat for Humanity but operated and funded independently, tries to plan a few years ahead on inventory of homes, but even with dozens of homes in the pipeline, the need is far greater, Cooper Engle said. "There are a lot more applicants than we can serve," she said. Habitat works with local cities, foundations, businesses and private donors to raise money for land and construction, and generates money from the ReStore, but the organization is always seeking more funds to keep up with demand. In the case of the west Bend development, the undeveloped land was donated to the organization, and Habitat will own and lease the land to the new homeowners, with an agreement that if the homeowners wish to sell, they must sell back to Habitat to ensure the home ends



PHOTO TOP: LESLEY ZACHARIAS; RIGHT: DRY SKY PHOTOGRAPHY



up in the hands of another applicant. “It’s just really about serving people with housing,” Cooper Engle said.

Cooper Engle and her daughter Carly went through the Habitat program themselves eleven years ago, when Cooper Engle was a single mother and Carly was three years old. The experience gives Cooper Engle a unique perspective and deep appreciation for the organization she works for. “Giving people an opportunity for homeownership is so transformational,” she said.

“Giving people an opportunity for homeownership is so transformational.”

MOVING IN

Sisson and Paxton moved into their new two-story home in late July. It’s 1,200 square feet (including a garage) and is just the right amount of space for the duo. Paxton, a sixth-grader at Pacific Crest Middle School, settled into the downstairs bedroom, and his mom moved in upstairs, taking advantage of a small walk-in closet and her own upstairs bathroom with a tub. The home has white cabinetry, light finishes and neutral walls, allowing Sisson to customize the space and add her own pops of color, which she quickly started doing late this summer. Just before they moved in, the home was staged with furniture from the ReStore for showings as part of the Central Oregon Builders Association Tour of Homes. When the family of two began moving in, they were gifted a beautiful coral couch from the staging, and Sisson designed the rest of the living room around it. It’s a comfortable sitting piece that’s well enjoyed by the family’s two cats—one-year-old Watson, and Pua, who was adopted this summer.

While the family was still settling in this September, Sisson was quick to share what they’re enjoying about the home so far. “It’s bright, and it’s happy and it’s everything we ever wanted or needed,” she said. Together, she and Paxton love cooking—they’ve

PHOTO DRY SKY PHOTOGRAPHY





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recently been making Asian dumplings—and Paxton is planning a tinkering space in the garage to work on projects. Paxton loves spending time outside the home, on his pogo stick, playing basketball or biking around. Sisson also just got a bike, a pink cruiser, which will be great for transportation around town. “I haven’t used my vehicle hardly at all since I’ve been here,” Sisson said. “We’ve just been walking everywhere.”

Finally moved in and able to reflect on their journey over the past year and a half, Sisson gets teary eyed thinking about how much has changed, and what their future looks like in their new home. “We’re going to build our life here—and we get to figure out what that looks like, inside these walls.” **IB**

COBA TOUR OF HOMES

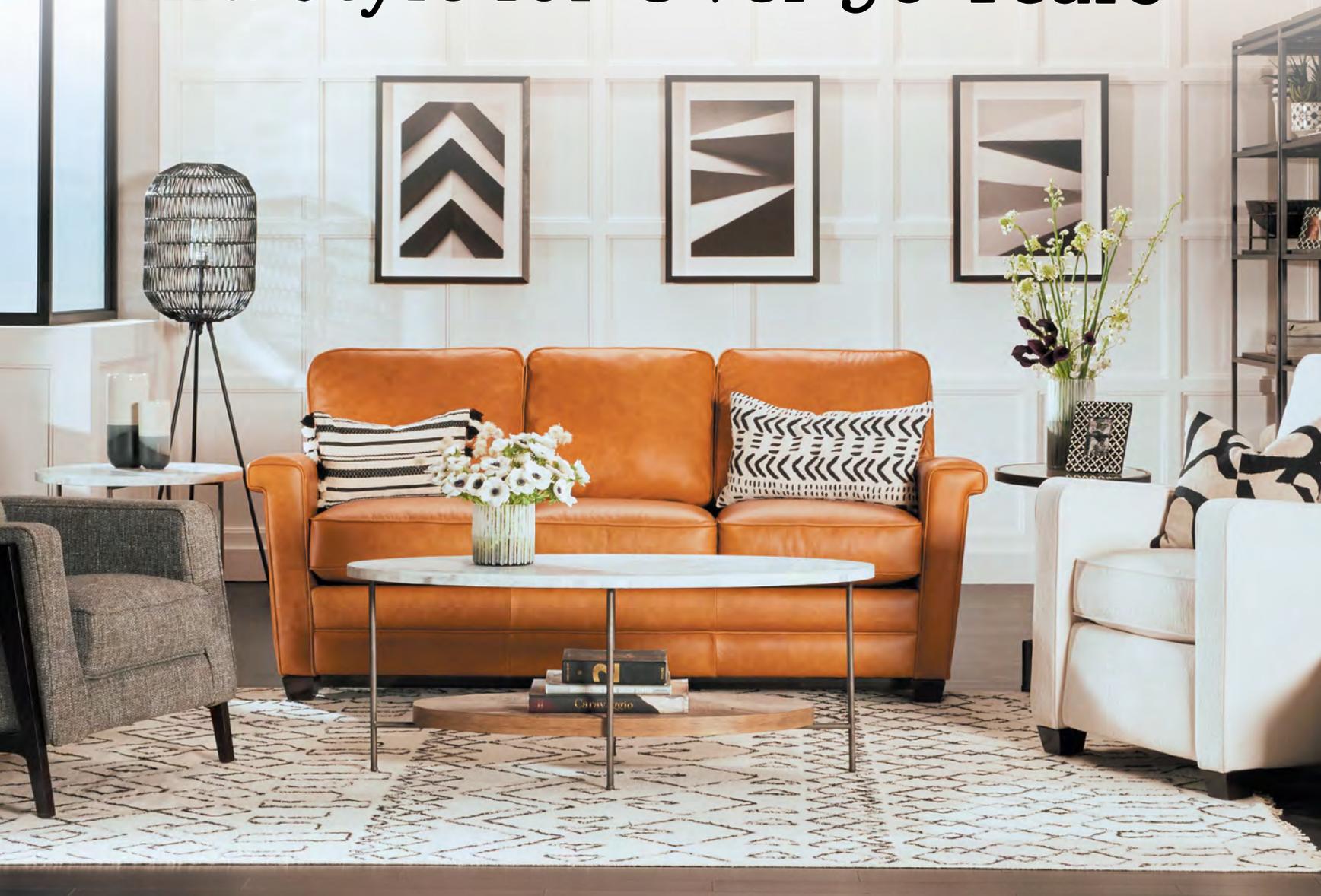
In July, the home was on display as part of the Central Oregon Builders Association Tour of Homes. It earned the tour’s Green Building award for homes valued at less than \$500,000 and was awarded best feature for homes valued between \$380,000 and \$400,000 for being a net zero residence. The home is outfitted with solar panels and energy-efficient heating and cooling.

*“It’s bright, and it’s happy
and it’s everything we ever
wanted or needed.”*

Resources

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TRENDS

Upcycling
Furniture

Refurbishing vintage furniture is popular, fun and saves old pieces from the landfill. Try these tips from a Bendite who has been bitten hard by the home furnishing redo bug.

BY KYLEA CIVELLO

**About KYLEA**

Kylea Civello is a Canadian expat who has lived in Bend for three years. Her love of thrifting, creativity and being a stay-at-home mom for her kids led her to begin upcycling furniture. @KYLEACIVELLODESIGN

1. GET CREATIVE

Begin by asking yourself, how can you breathe new life into this furniture? Does it just need a minor refresh, or could you revamp it into a completely unique piece with a new purpose? Use your imagination at the outset before diving into the nitty gritty of recreating the piece.

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MUSIC

Mix Tape

Smith Rock Records is a fresh spin on Bend's longtime record store

WRITTEN BY TERESA RISTOW | PHOTOS BY ALEX JORDAN





to Central Oregon, where he has helped with a sound and audio production company and been sales manager at audio equipment store Stereo Planet, among other jobs. As someone who appreciates music in its richest forms, including vinyl and CDs, Smith understands why the formats are making a comeback. “Hardcore music folks, they never stepped away from the record,” he said. “Records sound a lot more realistic. When someone hits a cymbal, it sounds like a cymbal.”

After taking over the store last June, Smith renamed it Smith Rock Records—which includes his own last name, the word “rock,” and is a nod to Smith Rock, a favorite climbing destination for Smith, who lives between Redmond and Terrebonne. While some loyal customers questioned the name change, Smith was quick to explain that Bend has been home to record stores of many names over the past few decades. In the early 1980s there was Great American Record and Plant, which split into Great American Record for music and Stereo Plant for audio equipment (today it’s called Stereo Planet). When Great American Record left town in 1982, Schroeder managed a store called Rising Run Records that popped up in its place. That store’s name later changed to Paramount Records and after it eventually closed in the early 1990s, Schroeder and a partner opened Ranch Records. While Smith has kept the “Ranch Records” illuminated sign in the window of Smith Rock Records for old times’ sake, he’s reorganized the shop to make it more

inviting to customers and made other upgrades, such as adding concert-quality trusses with stage lighting on the walls and adding wheels to displays to easily rearrange the space. Smith hopes to begin hosting events like album singings, acoustic shows and small concerts as soon as this winter.

Business has been steady through the pandemic, Smith said, with lines forming outside during times when the store capacity was limited. The holidays last year saw lots of gift-buyers and there were plenty of tourists over the summer, in addition to locals, he said. “The pandemic has helped quite a bit. People were just in the vinyl-buying mood and people really needed music,” Smith said. In 2020, vinyl sales across the country grew to 27.5 million records, rising thirty percent from 2019 and outpacing CD sales for the first time in thirty-four years. While Smith can’t predict the future of the record industry, he said he expects more classic record collections to surface in the coming years as the Baby Boom generation ages and passes on their belongings, boosting used inventory for shops like his. At the same time, artists today are producing more vinyl when they release albums, expanding new inventory for record stores. In the first half of 2021 alone, 19.2 million new records were sold. **B**

Check out the latest inventory and see what the vinyl resurgence is all about at Smith Rock Records, 117 NW Oregon Avenue in Bend, or visit facebook.com/smithrockrecords for store updates.

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WINE

A Volcanic Vintage

Lava Terrace Cellars crafts wine from high desert soils

INTERVIEW BY KIM COOPER FINDLING

After careers in beverage sales, wine distribution and brand marketing, Duane and Dina Barker planted wine grapes on their land east of Bend. In 2017, the couple took their first harvest to a winemaker. Today, Lava Terrace Cellars is a thriving, award-winning winery. Duane Barker answered Bend Magazine's questions about the naysayers, the challenges and the medals won along the journey.

Tell us about your background and how you ended up in Bend.

I grew up in Carmichael, California, where I worked summers helping my dad on his Coca Cola sales route. By the age of 23, I was a Coca Cola branch manager. Wine distribution and sales during Oregon's early wine industry days followed. Coca Cola of Bend brought me to Central Oregon, where I met and married Dina, and we started Brilliance in Branding in 2015.

How did you decide to launch Lava Terrace Cellars?

We already had a garden, chickens and a few cows, so the next thing to complete our sustainable farming would be a vineyard. We love to enjoy wine with a meal, especially one using ingredients grown on our five-acres in Bend. We were ready to start a new business. What makes us a great team is we both have the MacGyver mindset, allowing us to successfully work together to meet whatever challenges we encounter. Managing a vineyard takes a great deal of homework, ingenuity and sometimes spur of the moment decisions.



How did you choose which wine grapes to plant?

We researched what varieties would grow at 3,400' elevation and survive Central Oregon's cold winters. We wanted grape varieties with a later bud break and an early harvest. Our property was mostly sagebrush, lava rocks with incredible outcroppings and unusable slopes. We had to engineer stakes into the ground, using the lava rocks as stake posts. Everything we have done is a labor of love. It takes patience and tenacity to grow grapes—about five years from when the vines are planted to when they produce high-quality fruit to make commercial wine. In 2017, we took our first harvest to a winemaker. Today, our wines are produced in Bend at Elixir Winery.

What have been your most significant challenges and rewards?

The rewards are opening a bottle of our wine and enjoying it with friends and

family, and when someone tastes our wine for the first time and shares how much they love it. It's fun watching someone who has never heard of La Crescent, Marechal Foch or Marquette be wary and then seeing how much they enjoy it.

Every farmer worries about dealing with whatever Mother Nature throws their way. We have learned ways to protect our vines and grapes that allow them to thrive. We have a frost protection system for nights when it drops below freezing during May and June, and we are creating a canopy system to take advantage of warm days. Harvesting the grapes and seeing the winemaking process begin brings us a huge sigh of relief, and harvest is a time of celebration.

Tell us about your varieties.

We grow cold-hardy hybrid grapes that thrive in Central Oregon's climate. The hybrid grapes are created by crossing two or more of the French varietal species with Native American grape species. The grapes we grow are disease resistant, have shorter growing seasons and require less water. What is great is that powdery mildew is almost never a problem here on Central Oregon's high desert.

The white varieties we grow are La Crescent and Brianna, and the red varieties are Marquette, Marechal Foch and Crimson Pearl. The Brianna is related to Muscat and can be dry or sweet in style with flavors ranging from grapefruit to pineapple. We plan to use our Brianna to create a sparkling wine. Marechal Foch makes a deeply red wine with earthy characters as well as some jammy, dark-fruit flavors.

Which is your favorite?

We really enjoy pairing wine with food, so if we are having fish, pork or lamb dishes, we will pair it with our La Crescent or if we are having beef, pork or curry dishes, we will have our Marechal Foch, which is also awesome with chocolate desserts. Our Marquette goes well with a pasta, stew, beef, lamb or spicy recipe.

Tell us about the awards for your wine.

In 2020, we entered our first two wine competitions resulting in six medals and international recognition. At the 2020 Sunset International Wine Competition, Lava Terrace Cellars received silver medals for its 2017 Barrel Aged Marechal Foch and 2018 La Crescent. The 2020 San Francisco International Wine Competition awarded silver medals for its 2018 Reserve – One Barrel Marechal Foch and 2019 Marquette, and bronze medals for its 2018 and 2019 La Crescent.

There were many naysayers who said wine grapes couldn't be grown in Central Oregon. The recognition is a celebration

of proving them incorrect. We believe this is just the beginning for not only our success, but for our fellow vineyard and winery owners in Central Oregon. The Central Oregon Winegrowers Association supports and celebrates one another's successes. Receiving awards both inspires and motivates us to continue to grow high-quality grapes to make outstanding wines. We have learned a great deal about growing grapes and making wine in Bend in the last nine years, and we are happy to share what we know with anyone.

Oregon has 19 AVAs (American Viticultural Area) but none in Central Oregon. Do you expect us to get our own wine-growing region designation?

Lava Terrace Cellars is a member of the Central Oregon Winegrowers along with several vineyards and wineries including Faith, Hope and Charity and Redside Ranch. The goal is to eventually establish an AVA. Several wineries think Marquette may be the signature grape for Central Oregon, like pinot noir is for the Willamette Valley.



What does the future hold?

We plan to complete the necessary steps to open our tasting room in 2022, with plans for some fun events to introduce more people to our wines. We are adding baby-doll sheep to the vineyard to oversee weed management. Wine aficionados can order our wine from lavaterracecellars.com, which we can deliver locally in Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook County. The wines can also be purchased at many local shops around Central Oregon. **BT**

BY THE NUMBERS

Oregon's Wine Country

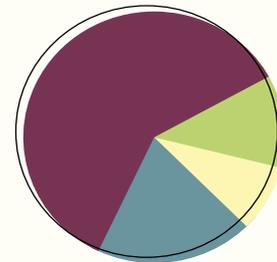
19 AVAs (American Viticultural Areas)

793+ wineries + **82** grape varieties

500+ wine tasting rooms

OREGON'S TOP VARIETIES

-  **Pinot Noir** 59%
-  **Pinot Gris** 14%
-  **Chardonnay** 7%
-  **Other Varietals** 20%



Source: Oregon Wine Board



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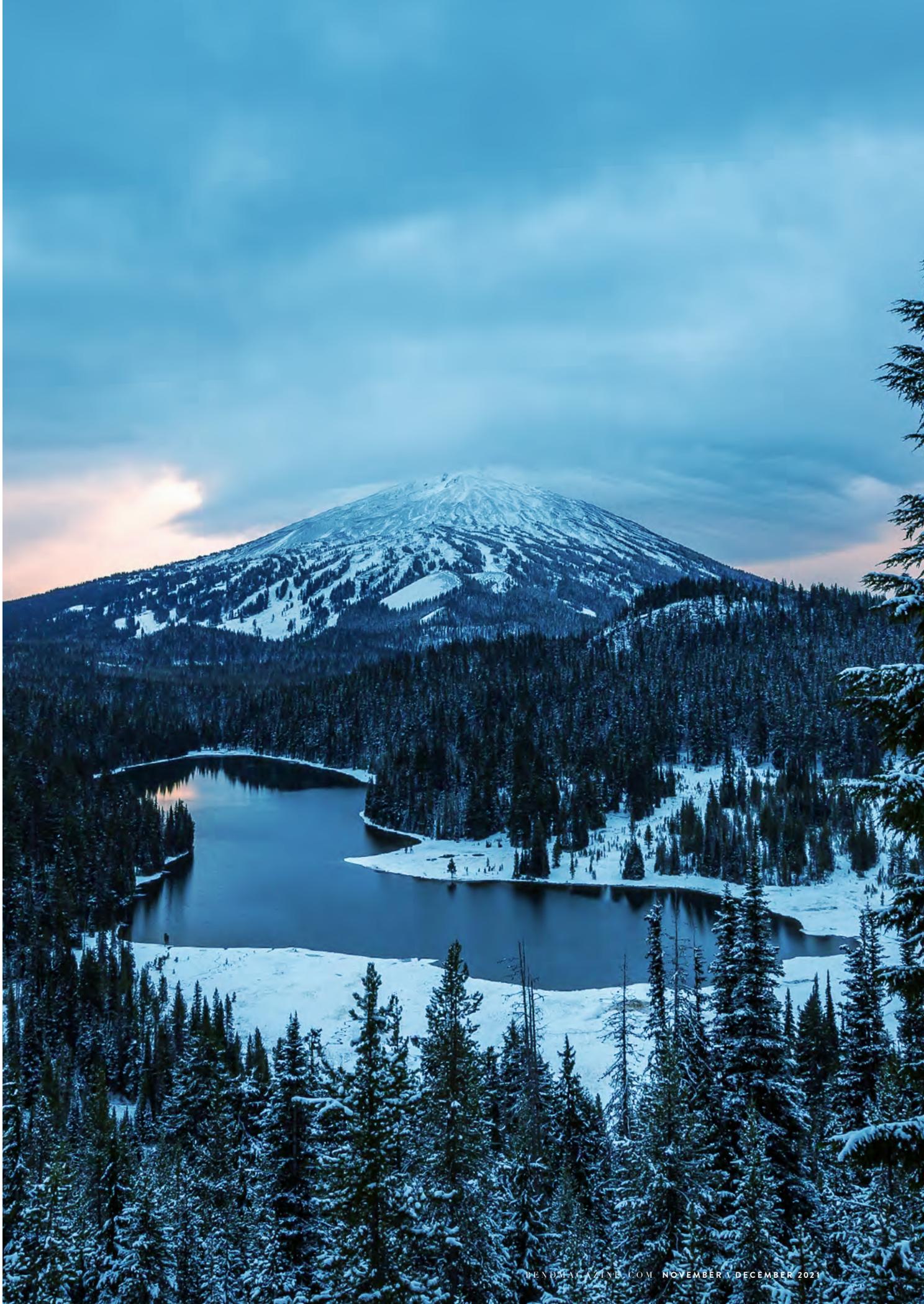
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WHO'S WATCHING THE WEATHER?





THE ART AND SCIENCE OF WINTER STORM TRACKING

WRITTEN BY SUZANNE JOHNSON

PORTRAITS BY JOE KLINE

As a helicopter pilot with Leading Edge Aviation in Bend, Nicole Orlich relies on high-tech weather forecasting every day. Aviation-specific platforms provide crucial atmospheric details for safe flying: she checks HEMS (helicopter and emergency medical services) to view low-level conditions in small areas, and Foreflight, an aviation app, to get weather briefings for her planned routes.

But Orlich's advice to others for predicting storms is simpler, requiring no fancy technology: "Go outside and look up," she said. "Weather apps and radars are important, but they're not enough. Pay attention to how weather systems look and feel." In that way, Orlich has developed a necessary instinct for weather that can change midflight.



Nicole Orlich

THIS PHOTO BY RICHARD BACON



While Nicole seeks out the calmest flight path between storms, her brother also keeps watch on the skies—in search of snow. Andrew Orlich flies closer to the ground than his sister, skiing in the backcountry or at Mt. Bachelor, where he is well known for his aerial maneuvers. Growing up in Central Oregon’s rugged climate taught them both to anticipate blustery weather, even on bluebird days.

Andrew bases his ski plans on weather cues from the jet stream, pressure systems and snow accumulation. “Winds from the north bring cold air; wind direction tells me which slopes might load with snow. Low pressure systems bring precipitation, and temperature projections tell me how to layer for the day. Then I make an educated guess about how conditions might change, so I can pivot if needed and still have an awesome experience,” said Andrew.

Few Bend locals delve into meteorology as deeply as the Orlich siblings, yet life in Bend revolves around the weather, from the tourist economy to the water supply to whether we ski on velvet or crust. Working behind the scenes are skilled experts who track the storms, interpret the data and layer science with gut instinct. These are the storm forecasters—the unsung heroes of winter.

LOCAL FORECASTING IN BEND

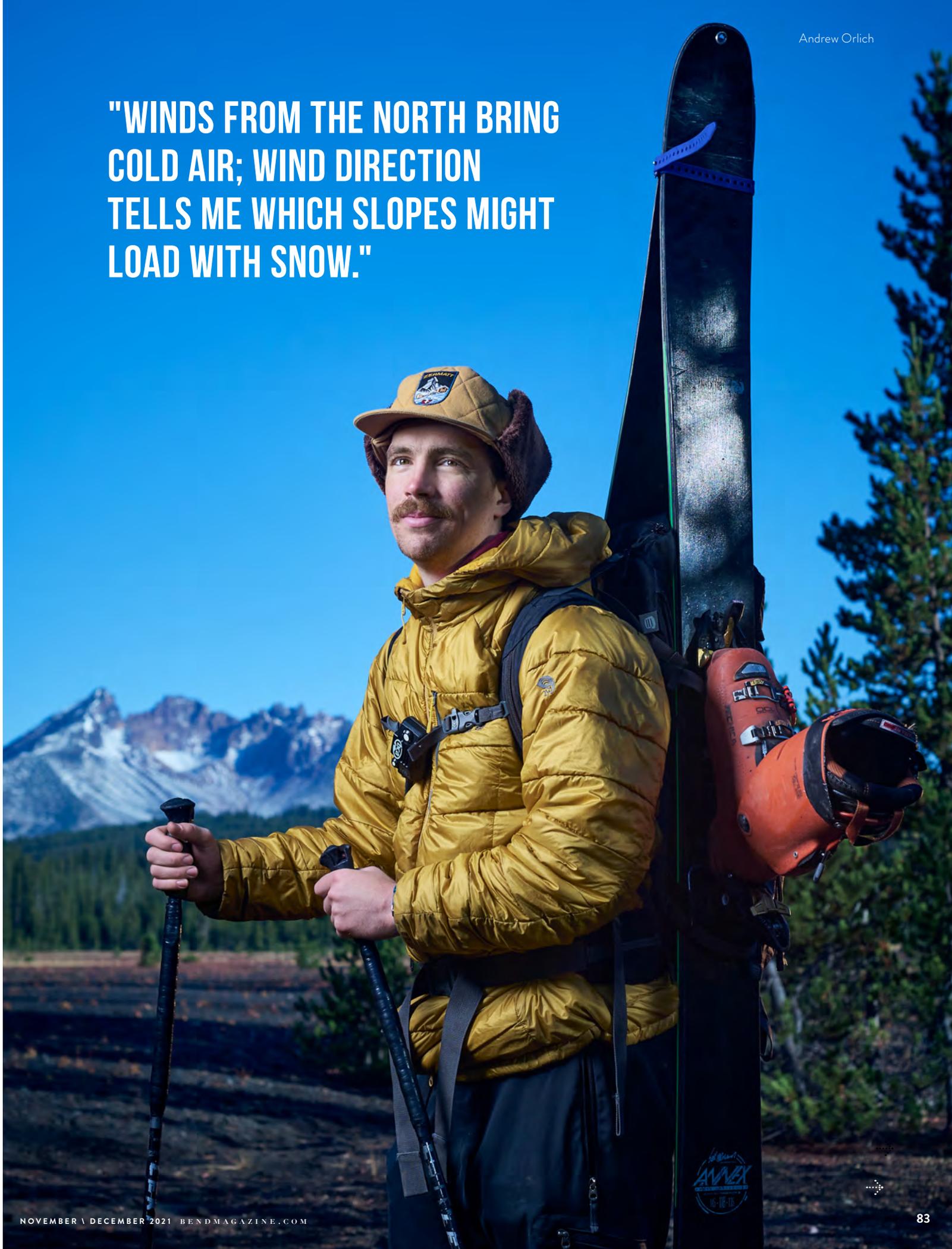
Many forecasters are life-long weather enthusiasts. For Katie Zuñiga, meteorology is a recently discovered passion. As a KTVZ journalist, she’s moved from producing to anchoring the news, but working with local legend Bob Shaw on weather reports was the spark that ignited her love of meteorology. “I get energized by learning the science behind the storms—how high-and low-pressure systems translate into snow and wind. I love sharing that science with others,” said Zuñiga.

“Weather reporting is unique because it’s unscripted. We never use a prompter for the forecast,” said Zuñiga. On a typical day, she studies the weather synopsis from the National Weather Service (NWS) station in Pendleton. Then she’ll compare multiple forecast models and review satellite and radar images, pulling significant elements from each layer of information. “Sometimes models don’t agree. Identifying the most likely outcome comes from deductive reasoning and experience,” said Zuñiga.

Storm forecasting in Bend holds two unique challenges, Zuñiga explained, and both are related to the geography of Central Oregon. The first challenge is a lack of radar information. The NWS operates weather radars in Portland, Medford and Pendleton. The radars send waves upward at an angle. By the time the radio waves reach Bend, they are miles overhead. “We get high-level radar information, but a lot happens between the ground and the radar image,” said Zuñiga.

The second major challenge is caused by the ground itself—that is, the changing elevation and ground angles. “Mountain regions have so many microclimates. Creating one forecast is a struggle,” said Zuñiga. Despite the variability, all KTVZ forecasts rely on data from the Redmond Airport, the nearest NWS certified weather station. “When I predict a two-inch snowfall, I know some spots will get a dusting and some way more. Precipitation and temperatures vary wildly from Warm Springs to LaPine—even across town. But we are committed to using only measurements verified by the NWS,” said Zuñiga.

"WINDS FROM THE NORTH BRING
COLD AIR; WIND DIRECTION
TELLS ME WHICH SLOPES MIGHT
LOAD WITH SNOW."



**"I GET ENERGIZED
BY LEARNING THE
SCIENCE BEHIND
THE STORMS—
HOW HIGH-AND
LOW-PRESSURE
SYSTEMS
TRANSLATE INTO
SNOW AND WIND."**



PENDLETON TO BEND: THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Meteorologists normally fall into two camps, according to Ed Townsend. There are forecasters who interpret and communicate current weather events, and there are researchers who develop new forecasting tools and technology. As the Science and Operations Officer at NWS Pendleton, Townsend gets to do both. He keeps one foot in operations—developing and defining forecasts—and the other foot in emerging science, leveraging new research into their daily work.

Pendleton may be more than 200 miles from Bend, but information from this office forms the foundation of every local forecast. Remote tracking of winter storms is more accurate than ever, according to Townsend, thanks to the latest generation of radar and satellites. “The advancements are staggering. High-resolution satellite snapshots map the movement of atmospheric rivers like the Pineapple Express, and our upgraded radars distinguish precipitation as rain, snow, or something in between,” said Townsend. Satellite images are especially important in places like Bend, where radar coverage is weak.

The recipe for Cascade winter storms involves three ingredients: a surge of moist air, mountain topography to lift the air, and freezing temperatures to support crystal formation. Add some atmospheric instability and voila! Bendites are in for fresh snow. Predicting whether the storms show up as howling blizzards or snow-globe-style powder dumps—that is where digital analysis and human instinct intersect, said Townsend. “Ultimately, our human strengths lie in recognizing patterns and extracting the critical pieces from big data,” he added.

Do the NWS models predict a ski-friendly winter season this year? Townsend is moderately optimistic. “There are no guarantees, but the odds are tilted toward a weak La Niña pattern,” said Townsend. Annual snowfall in the Cascades averages over 400 inches during a La Niña cycle. A bountiful snowpack impacts more than winter recreation: it’s critical for replenishing ground water and reservoirs throughout Central Oregon. After several years of below-average snowfall, much of the Cascades’ eastern slopes are experiencing serious drought.

As Townsend explained, climate change and meteorology are related sciences, but distinctly different in their scale and timeframes. The NWS Pendleton team stays focused on their core mission: analyzing current weather events and trends from the Cascades to the Wallowas, and providing solid forecasting data to support weather-related decisions made at a local level.

WINTER EXTREMES ON A VOLCANO

Understanding winter storms at Mt. Bachelor ski resort means adding a few key terms to the weather vocabulary: tree wells, wind slabs, freezing rime and storm recovery.

Dustin Balderach, Snow Safety Supervisor and head forecaster at Mt. Bachelor, keeps those terms in mind as he monitors storm events and snowfall throughout the ski season. Along with the ski patrol and management team, Balderach is constantly translating the forecast into potential impact on operations: Which lifts can run? What areas can open? Where are the avalanche risks?

“This 9000-foot volcano is the first obstacle to interrupt weather systems coming from the Pacific, so we get the full force of those winds. Combine that with our northern latitude, perfect for supercooling moist air into freezing rime, and you get gnarly, challenging mountain conditions,” said Balderach.

In addition to their own weather stations, Mt. Bachelor contracts with a private forecasting company for daily reports. They also rely on the University of Washington School of Atmospheric Sciences for models that predict snowfall intensity, and charts that graphically intersect freezing level with windspeed and direction.

Yet according to Balderach, nothing replaces real-time reports from ski patrollers with seasons of experience on the mountain. Mt. Bachelor storms follow predictable patterns. Each chairlift has a microclimate: Northwest experiences the brunt of incoming storms, with the harshest winds and rime. The intensity softens as storms wrap eastward around the mountain. Ski runs accessed by the easternmost chairlift, Cloudchaser, often feel protected on storm days...until the lift pops above the tree line, fully exposed to gale force winds. And Summit? “There are days the anemometer is frozen solid. And days it’s like skiing inside a ping pong ball, no visibility. But when we can open it, Summit is the most special place, with amazing views and ski runs in every direction,” said Balderach.

Along with the thrill of fresh powder, multi-day snowstorms bring hazards for skiers. Ski patrollers check for unsafe cornices, wind slabs that could collapse and slopes with avalanche danger. Tree wells are more difficult to mitigate. These hazards form when the lower branches of pine trees prevent snow from packing around the trunk. Skiers can easily fall into the pockets of loose snow and become stuck. Skiing with a partner and avoiding tree well areas are the best ways to stay safe.



DIY FORECASTING AND CITIZEN SCIENCE

Following the weather is addictive, some say. The more you know, the more you want to know. Interested in putting your meteorology knowledge to use? Citizen science opportunities for hobby meteorologists offer a way to contribute to local weather forecasting.



Join the network of NWS-trained volunteer storm spotters at SKYWARN
WEATHER.GOV/SKYWARN



Contribute precipitation measurements through the Community Collaboration of Rain, Hail & Snow Network
COCORAHS.ORG



Before you hit the road in Oregon, check Trip Check for detailed information about the weather, road closures and accidents on your intended route.
TRIPCHECK.COM



Collect storm data and share it through the mPING smartphone app (Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground)
MPING.OU.EDU

FORECASTING FOR BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURES

Backcountry skiers like Andrew Orlich, who forgo the ease of a chairlift, need to understand both weather and avalanche risks before they venture into backcountry terrain. The Central Oregon Avalanche Association (COAA) is dedicated to educating the backcountry community about how to stay safe.

Aaron Hartz works as a forecaster for COAA, in addition to teaching avalanche safety classes and managing his business, Hartz Science Explorations. For Hartz, the snowpack tells a story; the snow layers reveal the history of that season's weather events. One rainy day can create an unstable layer that lasts for months. Avalanche forecasting requires awareness of the entire snow season. Building the forecasts is like solving a puzzle, fitting together weather information to create a full picture.

Central Oregon's freeze-thaw cycles reduce avalanche danger by creating snow layers that stick together, but avalanches do happen. "Any snowstorm dropping ten inches or more is concerning, as are strong winds that push snow into huge slabs or cornices," said Hartz.

The COAA weather station on Moon Mountain sends basic-but-important measurements to their website by modem. Any backcountry adventurer can check real-time temperature, wind speed, relative humidity and air pressure before they venture out. Hartz advises that weather analysis shouldn't stop there. "Keep asking yourself throughout the day if conditions are what you prepared for," he said. "Is visibility or snowfall changing? Do I need to adjust my route or timeframe?"

WEATHER ON THE ROAD

Monitoring the weather is always partially about safety, maybe in no area more than when it comes to car travel. "We are in the business of keeping roads open. That's why we're here. If a road is closed, know that there is a good reason why," said Peter Murphy, Public Information Officer for Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in Central Oregon. Murphy is responsible for sending out emergency road alerts to first responders, news stations and county road managers.

Murphy's team bases decisions on NWS Pendleton's daily conference call, and stays in close contact with plow drivers and emergency responders. Because Bend is a travel destination, they monitor both sides of the Cascades, plus weather along the Columbia gorge, explained Murphy. "Certain spots on roads to and from Bend are known for a classic combo of high winds and ice buildup, like the gorge or mountain passes," he said.

The best way to avoid winter road hazards is to use ODOT's TripCheck.com, an online resource for road conditions and closures. Taking a moment before hitting the road lets drivers preview road conditions through live webcams and check the interactive state map for road closures and snow hazards where traction tires are needed.

This winter, when you think about the weather, perhaps you'll think a little bit more like a scientist—or at least remember to thank a scientist for the forecast you consider. When in doubt, simply go outside and look up. **B**



**"WE ARE IN THE
BUSINESS OF
KEEPING ROADS
OPEN. THAT'S WHY
WE'RE HERE."**

Peter Murphy



ADVENTURE,
ADRENALINE,
& AVOIDING CROWDS



PHOTO ADAM MCKIBBEN

A GUIDE TO BEND'S BACKCOUNTRY

WRITTEN BY NOAH NELSON





Around Bend, people hear the term “backcountry” thrown around pretty often. Backcountry skiing, backcountry snowmobiling, backcountry snowshoeing... you get the idea. Bend’s backcountry is alive and well, with more people choosing to explore these areas than ever before. While breaking into the backcountry can be intimidating for beginners, backcountry enthusiasts swear by the experience and say that the freedom and the sense of exploration is unparalleled. Ready to get started?

PHOTO JULES JIMREINAT

WHAT IS BACKCOUNTRY?

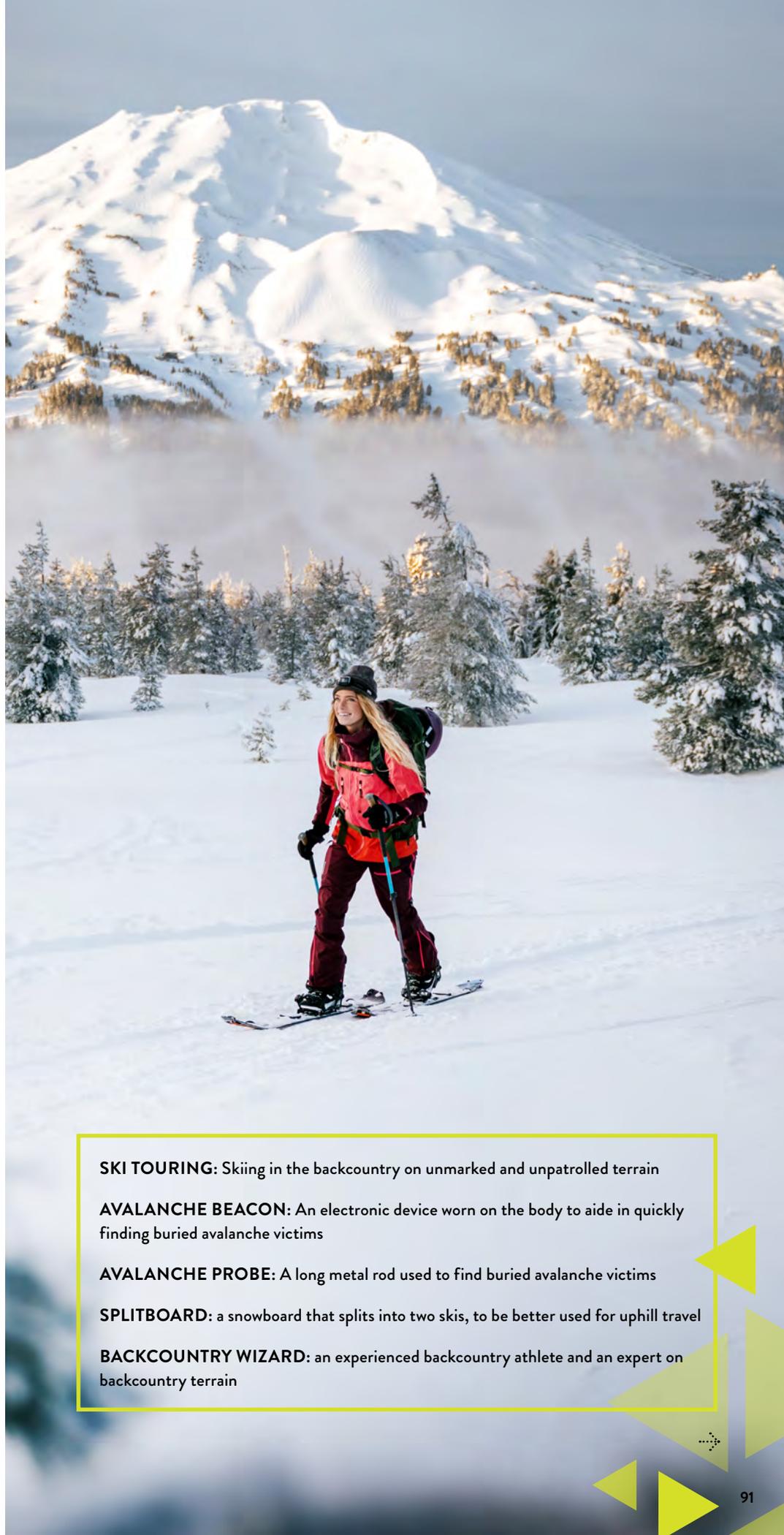
A backcountry area is any area of wilderness that is sparsely populated, and undeveloped; this means fewer people, but also fewer resources, should someone need something like food, equipment or medical attention. Locally, there are three main backcountry areas that athletes, explorers and adrenaline junkies frequent: Tumalo Mountain, Three Sisters Wilderness, and Tam McArthur Rim.

“Those are the most popular backcountry areas around Bend,” said Zoë Roy, a development director on the board of directors with the Central Oregon Avalanche Center. “Splitboarding, ski touring and snowmobiling are the most popular activities, but snowshoeing and cross country skiing can be added as well.”

SKIP THE RESORT

These popular backcountry activities can be accomplished in areas that are more developed and safer, like a ski resort, but to Roy and other backcountry enthusiasts, that doesn't matter so much. The backcountry provides athletes more independence, a cheaper day-to-day cost, and way fewer face-to-face interaction with strangers. “The backcountry is an amazing alternative to resort skiing because there are fewer crowds and once you have the equipment, it's free,” Roy said. “The backcountry is peaceful, beautiful and quiet, which I think more and more people are appreciating.”

Barry Wicks, the sports marketing director at Kona Bicycles, head consultant at Hella Sweet Ink, professional mountain biker and avid backcountry skier, echoes these statements. “I started skiing when I was 2, mostly terrorizing the mountain in what we referred to as the ‘Flying Wedge,’” Wicks said. After taking a skiing hiatus post-high school to focus on racing mountain bikes, Wicks got back into skiing when he moved to Bend in 2010. “I was pretty tired of riding chair lifts, and skiing in the backcountry gave me all the sensations I was familiar with and loved from riding mountain bikes: freedom, a sense of adventure and exploration, and escape from the crowds.”



SKI TOURING: Skiing in the backcountry on unmarked and unpatrolled terrain

AVALANCHE BEACON: An electronic device worn on the body to aide in quickly finding buried avalanche victims

AVALANCHE PROBE: A long metal rod used to find buried avalanche victims

SPLITBOARD: a snowboard that splits into two skis, to be better used for uphill travel

BACKCOUNTRY WIZARD: an experienced backcountry athlete and an expert on backcountry terrain



*"THE BACKCOUNTRY IS PEACEFUL, BEAUTIFUL
AND QUIET, WHICH I THINK MORE AND MORE
PEOPLE ARE APPRECIATING."*



PHOTO TYLER ROEMER,
SNOWBOARDER/JOSH DIRKSEN





PHOTO TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM ADAM MCKIBBEN, TOP RIGHT BRANDON NIXON

OK, I'M IN! WHERE DO I STAY?

As exciting as the backcountry might sound, there are some barriers for people wanting to join in the action. Finding lodging can be one of these barriers, but it can also create another excuse for adventure. Tent camping in the backcountry, especially during winter, should only be done by those with experience and the proper equipment. The temperatures at night can easily drop below freezing and into the negatives, so staying warm and bundled up is essential, and will require having gear that is tested and approved for extremely low temperatures. The safest way to camp overnight would be in a camper or RV, staying at one of the nearby sno-parks. Kapka and Wanoga Sno-Park both have overnight RV camping spots available, and both of them can access the backcountry through skiing and snowmobiling trails. Renting a cabin is also a great alternative, with a few options offered locally.

Nordic ski huts are available in the Three Sisters Wilderness area, and there's even a guided, multi-day ski tour that has guests staying in the huts. Yurts are available for private rentals as well, in the same area. A bit closer to Bend but still near the action, the winter cabin rentals at Elk Lake resort offer a bit of mountain luxury to any backcountry experience.

However, the most popular choice of lodging is your own bed. Many backcountry enthusiasts opt to start their day in their own home and hit the sno parks early, around 5 a.m, then drive back home before nightfall to avoid the hassle of winter lodging. Out-of-towners should consider renting a spot for the weekend in Bend, Redmond or Sunriver.



PHOTO CHRISTIAN MURILLO



"I TRY HARD TO BE A STUDENT OF THE MOUNTAINS, PAYING ATTENTION ALL THE TIME TO CHANGING CONDITIONS, TERRAIN AND WEATHER."





THIS PHOTO RICHARD BACON,
TOP RIGHT LANE PEARSON



SAFETY FIRST

It is crucial to remember that backcountry sports have little to no safety net. Crashing on skis and injuring yourself on Mt. Bachelor property will get you an express ticket to the bottom of the mountain via mountain rescue and a snowmobile. Injuries in the backcountry don't have the luxury of a quick rescue, and that is why it is so important that backcountry athletes have experience in their sport and an understanding of their own limits.

Skiing at a resort means that the runs have been groomed, tested and ranked based on their difficulty. The backcountry won't have that, so athletes must determine what is safe and what isn't, on their own.

The biggest safety concern in the backcountry is avalanches, especially when using a snowmobile. "More people are using snowmobiles to get farther and faster into the backcountry," Roy said. "This is awesome, but also important to remember that snowmobiles can travel in avalanche terrain and sometimes they break down. Be prepared for both scenarios!"

This writer remembers backcountry snowmobiling growing up in Bend, and dozens of times where it felt like we spent more time digging the snowmobiles out of deep powder than we did riding them. Lesson learned, backcountry athletes always need to be prepared to get themselves out of a bind,

especially avalanches; we would never leave the house without a shovel, a handsaw, food, water, extra layers and medical supplies.

"It's so important that people are heading into the backcountry with the correct avalanche equipment," Roy said. "It's one thing to carry an avalanche beacon, shovel and probe, it's a whole different thing to know how to use them. Education is just as important!"

On safety, Wicks said, "I've taken avalanche classes, spent time with backcountry wizards, and I try hard to be a student of the mountains, paying attention all the time to changing conditions, terrain and weather." Wicks also recalls a moment where an avalanche took a member of his skiing party, and quick action led to a rescue without incident. "Being in the backcountry can be scary, but it does not have to be," Wicks said. "Wise decision making and conservative choices can help mitigate risk, but I always have the mindset that anything can happen at any time, and I try to be ready for any eventuality as best I can." ■

Three Sisters Backcountry, Oregon Ski Guides and Central Oregon Community College all offer multi-day avalanche education courses. Central Oregon Avalanche Center hosts free, monthly refresher classes that are a good place to brush up on, or begin, your education.

A CRISIS

for

ALL

AS MORE AND MORE CENTRAL OREGONIANS BECOME HOMELESS, THE QUESTION IS—WHAT CAN WE, THE COMMUNITY, DO?

WRITTEN BY LUCAS ALBERG

Editor's note: The names of some individuals have been changed for privacy and identity protection.

Like hundreds of other Central Oregon parents, Anthony Harper drops his 9-year-old son off at the bus stop and then leaves to go about his busy day with Zoom calls, chores and errands. Unlike most parents, however, Anthony is homeless. For the past four years, he and his son have split time between shelters and their small RV in various locations in and around Central Oregon where they can feel safe and seek refuge.

Anthony is one of a growing population of homeless in Central Oregon. According to the most recent Point in Time count (PIT), an initiative that counts the homeless population on a single night in winter, the number of homeless has grown in Deschutes County to 1,098 individuals—an alarming 13 percent increase from the previous year. Pair that with another 12 percent increase the previous year, and the city has seen a whopping 25 percent increase since

2019. These figures are likely low as well, according to Bend City Counselor Megan Perkins. “It’s not perfect. They take numbers on one night and there are a lot of people that are not reached,” she said. “The likelihood is that it’s much larger.”

The growth is visible. The number of pitched tents appears to have grown exponentially in the area over the past few years, with ramshackle camps sprouting up in vacant lots, deserted streets and on/off ramps around the city. Just outside of town, along areas such as China Hat Road, dilapidated RVs and trailers dot the forest roads where houseless individuals are living out of their vehicles. The numbers of tent camps and vehicles are difficult to estimate, but Anthony Harper says he’s seen the forest roads transform over the past few years. “It used to be you’d have to walk a good distance to find anyone,” he said. “Now, you’re surrounded by people.”



ILLUSTRATION BY PUNNARONG/ISTOCK PHOTO

“AFFORDABLE HOUSING’ DOES NOT ALWAYS ADDRESS WHAT PEOPLE CAN REALLY AFFORD, NOR DOES IT ACCOUNT FOR WAIT LISTS AND OTHER VARIABLES.”

OUR NEIGHBORS WITHOUT WALLS

According to Colleen Thomas, Deschutes County Homeless Services Coordinator and Chair of the Homeless Leadership Coalition, which serves Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties along with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, homelessness is very individualized as everyone has their own reasons for being homeless. “I’d be lying if I said there weren’t individuals in our community who do not struggle with either mental illness or substance abuse,” she said. “It’s a large percentage of the homeless population. Chronic homelessness and mental health or substance abuse go hand in hand.”

However, Thomas is also quick to debunk several stereotypes of the homeless, including that many are transient or just passing through town. On the contrary, most of the individuals are our former neighbors and classmates, according to Thomas. “Eighty percent of the people surveyed from the most recent point in time (PIT) count were last stably housed in Oregon,” she said. “When we look at chronic homelessness, it’s individuals who have been in our community for years.” Additionally, many individuals who are homeless are employed. “We hear a lot where community members think there are jobs available and wonder why they don’t work, but the reality is that many already do have jobs,” she said. “But ‘affordable housing’ does not always address what people can really afford, nor does it account for wait lists and other variables.”

Anthony Harper has experienced this himself. A Bend resident off and on since 1999, he previously worked as a skilled machine operator and prior to that had a photography business working with clients such as Hoodoo Ski Area. Due to financial struggles and unforeseen hardships, however, he was not able to keep up and eventually was forced to move into the RV. “I made close to \$40,000 but still couldn’t find housing,” he said. “People don’t understand. You need rental history; you need IDs and letters of recommendation. You need insurance. And where do you wait while you’re on a wait list?” Eventually, after losing hundreds of dollars in application fees and getting nowhere, Harper says he gave up and turned back to the RV. Since COVID, he’s gone back to school full time and will be graduating from OSU this winter. Upon graduation, Harper says he’s done with Central Oregon. “Once I graduate, we’re out of here,” he said.

THE NEED FOR MORE SERVICES

Affordable housing and financial struggles are primary reasons for many individuals being homeless, but Bend City Counselor Megan Perkins says the lack of services is a close second. “There are not enough treatment programs in Bend, not enough beds in the shelters and not enough mental health programs,” she said.

John Lodise, the Director of Emergency Services at Shepherd’s House, which provides emergency services for men, women and children in Bend and Redmond, said the demand for shelter continues to rise. “We now have more capacity than ever before but we continue to see more requests coming in to meet that demand,” he said. Lodise noted that this past winter, between Thanksgiving and March, 371 individuals utilized the Bend Shepherd’s House shelter and 106 stayed overnight at the Redmond facility.

Colleen Thomas agrees that more effort needs to be put toward service providers and acknowledges the current gap between policy and funding and actual execution. “Elected officials can throw money and policy at the issues all day long, but we need to think more about how we can support these projects with staffing and boots on the ground,” she said. “All of our service providers are at capacity and stretched thin.”

Shepherd House’s Lodise says the real challenge is with staffing and figuring out what is required to effectively provide the services needed to the homeless on the streets. “How many folks does it take to work alongside these individuals [in camps]?” he said. “We don’t know the answer to this, but it’s a lot. It’s hard work, and you have to find people who are committed to doing the work, which is difficult.”

The strong growth of the homeless population has forced the city to take notice and it has responded in several ways. According to the homelessness page on the city website, “The City of Bend is working with public agencies and community partners to support homelessness solutions for our community. This includes finding ways to keep people in their homes, provide temporary transitional housing and increasing the availability of affordable housing.”

Organizations That Help

BETHLEHEM INN, BEND AND REDMOND

A high barrier overnight shelter for adults and families with locations in both Bend and Redmond. Additional services include meals and case management.

BETHLEHEMINN.ORG

SHEPHERD’S HOUSE, BEND

A faith-based emergency shelter with overnight facilities in Bend and Redmond. Additionally, Shepherd’s House has long-term programs for men and women in two separate locations in Bend and warming shelters in Bend and Redmond.

SHEPHERDSHOUSEMINISTRIES.ORG

CASCADE YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTER, BEND AND REDMOND

A division of J Bar J Youth Services, Cascade Youth and Family Center provides shelter for runaway and homeless youth, including transitional living programs (The LOFT) and support for pregnant girls and young mothers (Grandma’s House).

JBARJ.ORG

REACH, BEND

Provides street outreach, bringing basic needs such as food, water, clothing, mail and other services to individuals experiencing homelessness. REACH also runs the Safe Parking program, which provides houseless individuals a safe location to park for the night.

REACHOUTCENTRALOREGON.ORG

DESCHUTES COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, BEND

Addresses the basic health and wellness of county residents, including mental health and substance abuse.

DESCHUTES.ORG/HEALTH

FAMILY KITCHEN, BEND

Provides nutritious meals to anyone in need, in a safe environment.

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CLOSING THE GAP

Realizing the gap that exists between the policymakers and the service providers doing the work, the city established the Emergency Homelessness Task Force (EHTF), which began convening in early summer 2021. The group currently consists of a mix of government employees from the City of Bend and Redmond, the county and fifteen service provider liaisons. According to a City of Bend website, the group was established “to bring the most informed minds on homelessness together to inform both the city and the county on collaborative opportunities with countywide resources and to develop actions toward ending homelessness in Deschutes County including interim actions to address real-time needs.”

City of Bend Counselor Megan Perkins serves as the council liaison on the EHTF, and said she hopes the combination of government and service providers will bring a more unified front to the fight against homelessness. “One of the things we didn’t want to do was just barrel ahead without getting input from the people doing the work,” she said. “These are the people that respond most to the homeless in the community.”

Carolyn Eagan, who serves as the City of Bend’s Recovery Strategy & Impact Officer and EHTF member, said the task force is first prioritizing three main areas: creating authorized encampments, or managed camps, within the city of Bend, developing permanent supportive housing and formalizing emergency protocols to keep people safer during extreme weather events.

Eagan heads up the subcommittee to find a more permanent location for the managed camps. “We need these immediate authorized encampments,” she said. “The current camps are not safe places for individuals to camp.” Eagan said the target is to launch one camp before the winter season sets in to serve as a pilot, take the learnings and then apply those learnings to one-to-two additional managed camps. She said the camps would cost approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000 per year to run, which does not include the additional services by those on the ground. The city has \$1.5 million in funds slated for the initiative while the county has \$750,000 earmarked, with potential for an additional \$750,000.

Eagan stressed that the solution is meant to be temporary until more permanent, affordable housing is built. Until then, the managed camps will provide a stable address for individuals. “It’s easy to become disenfranchised when you lose your home because you lose your address and everything attached to it,” she said. “But if we can find a semi-permanent location and give them an address, we can get them an ID, get them back on OHP [Oregon Health Plan] and get them treatment if needed. There’s a lot of concrete value in having an authorized encampment that’s properly managed.”

Permanent supportive housing (PSH) is the second priority being worked on concurrently by the group. Colleen Sinski, program

manager at Central Oregon FUSE, a non-profit established to address frequent users of health care and law enforcement, is leading the initiative and subgroup for the task force. In a recent EHTF meeting, Sinski stated the goal is to “combine affordable housing with on-site services—health care access, substance abuse treatment, community programs—to meet the needs of folks who are the most vulnerable in the community.” She stressed the need for long-term funding for the project for it to work. “It’s not just funding the operations,” she said, “but how do we have 10 to 15 years of secure funding so that the residents have the support they need to be successful over the long term,” Sinski said funds would be pulled from dozens of sources and the group recently put out an RFP for consulting and development.

The third priority is developing and formalizing the emergency protocols to address real-time needs for the homeless during heat waves, fire season, cold and inclement weather, and other unforeseen or unpredictable circumstances. “What are we doing when the smoke or the heat don’t go away?” said EHTF member Carolyn Eagan. “We need to be formalizing this process to provide relief for folks that don’t have a place to go.”

According to the city website, the EHTF has an aggressive timeline and hopes to have strategy and plans in place to begin executing the initiatives in winter. Eagan said the group is making strides but still has a long road ahead. “We’re making progress,” she said. “It’s been the easy progress so far, but the next few months are going to be the difficult progress.”

Still, the group is feeling optimistic. Deschutes County behavioral health homeless services coordinator and EHTF member Colleen Thomas said she feels Bend is finally going in the right direction. “I’ve been doing this work for a long time, and when we talk about homelessness and addressing it, there’s usually a buzz around the winter months or the holidays, and then it usually fizzles out,” she said. “But now it’s not fading anymore. The community is opening their eyes to the problem.” Thomas said she believes part of it is the shift in elected officials who are now looking to create solutions. “It’s a bumpy road, and there’s always room for improvement, but we’re heading in the right direction.”

HOW TO HELP

While the city and service providers strategize for both short-and long-term solutions, citizens can also lend a hand—or in some cases, just a smile. “Just greet someone and smile,” said Anthony Harper. “Even though we might not smile back it doesn’t mean we hate you. We’re just having a hard time.”

Colleen Thomas said the easiest and most impactful action the community can make is to treat all individuals with dignity and respect. “It seems very basic but it goes a long way,” she said. “The second thing people can do is educate themselves on the topic and the resources. And lastly, volunteer—serve meals, educate, advocate; help in any way.” ■



“ THE COMMUNITY IS OPENING THEIR EYES TO THE PROBLEM. IT’S A BUMPY ROAD, AND THERE’S ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, BUT WE’RE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. ”

PALATE





Tastes Like the HOLIDAYS

LOCAL CHEFS COOK UP THEIR FAVORITE FESTIVE MEALS

WRITTEN BY KATRYNA VECELLA | PHOTOS BY TAMBI LANE

'Tis the season to dust off those hand-written recipe cards and recreate the aromas and flavors of fond holiday memories. At the end of a long day serving up dishes to paying customers, local chefs unbutton their coats and hang up their aprons for some well-deserved time with family. As quickly as they're home, their toque is back on to whip up dishes for a new set of clientele—those who may be more apt to give critique, but also help out a little, in the kitchen. Local Bend chefs shared some of their favorite holiday meals with us—dishes they make at home, and if we're lucky, may share at their restaurants this festive season.

Considerate Dining

A quick note before continuing on to four amazing dishes from some of our favorite local chefs. The last year-plus has been an unprecedented time for restaurants, during which understaffing and long lines have become daily occurrences. When we reached out to local chefs and owners this season for holiday dish recommendations, many were busy hurdling labor shortages and managing shifting COVID-19 guidelines. Let's all do our best at being gracious, patient guests. Kindness and generosity should be our go-to approach when dining out this season—and every season.



Strata

*Brian Walczyk,
Chef at Washington*

On Christmas morning as a kid, Brian Walczyk's mom would make strata, a baked casserole made with bread, eggs, cheese, and any other ingredients you may have on hand. "Christmas day for me was always the most anticipated day of the year so I've always associated strata with family being together and winter break," said Brian Walczyk.

Now, Walczyk makes strata for his son and continues to instill the importance of enjoying the fun of a free day spent with family.

"Growing up, my mom would make one with bacon and one with just cheese because my sister didn't eat meat," said Walczyk. "What I make now is with lacinato kale, Italian sausage, reggiano, mozzarella, and jack cheese."

This dish is ideal for the relentless pace of the holidays as you can use leftover bread and have the meal prepped the night before while still wowing your guests with gourmet breakfast. Keep a lookout for Washington's brunch menu around the holidays, as this Walczyk tradition is sure to make an appearance.



Eggnog

Cliff Eslinger, Executive Chef of 900 Wall

Cliff Eslinger knows the start of the holiday season has arrived when the leaves begin to change, the town quiets down, and he and his wife, Sara, make the first batch of eggnog in October. "Eggnog ties to the downshift of summer and the start of the best months to live in Central Oregon," said Eslinger.

The recipe is simple: mix egg yolks and sugar, whisk in the milk and cream and finish by adding brandy and dark rum. Eslinger recommends leaving the ingredients in a glass receptacle and letting them sit in a cooler for at least a week and up to a month, shaking every other day. Time removes the harsh mouthfeel taste, leaving only the sweet cream flavor with a hint of spice. Finish this holiday classic with freshly grated nutmeg and a small spoonful of whipped cream. Find eggnog along with other seasonal dishes at 900 Wall this holiday season.



Lamb Osso Bucco

Thad Lodge, Owner of Marcello's Cucina Italiana

When Marcello's Cucina Italiana closes for the day during the busy holiday season, owner Thad Lodge enjoys sharing the afternoon with his family. He slow roasts and braises lamb for the traditional northern Italian dish lamb osso bucco. "The hours of slow roasting and braising the lamb offers a great opportunity to sip on wine and spend time enjoying company," said Lodge.

Lodge's version of the dish is made with root vegetable stew, red wine, garlic, carrots, celery and mushrooms. He typically serves the dish with local chanterelles but recommends simply finding the best in-season mushrooms. "Another part you can get creative with is, traditionally you do the dish over polenta, but it's also fantastic over any type of pasta or even mashed potatoes," said Lodge. "It's fun to play with."

Lamb osso bucco will be served at Marcello's Cucina Italiana in Sunriver this holiday season.





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Stuffed Baby Pumpkin

Jamar Adams, Chef at Solomon's at Tetherow

Jamar Adams has created a beautiful and delicious fall dish with a baby stuffed pumpkin. Adams roasts the baby pumpkin then stuffs it with festive flavors of hazelnut and cranberries and trumpet mushrooms to create vegetarian “meatiness.” The dish is topped with chimichurri and lemon tahini.

The plate is a creative twist on the flavors of his grandma’s holiday cooking, which Adams ate growing up, along with a twist on a long-time friend’s acorn squash dish. “My grandma used to always do a pumpkin stuffing that had a lot of similar ingredients so that’s where the stuffing part of the pumpkin comes from,” said Adams. “The similar flavors remind me of that.”

The dish is always an option for a special meal through the fall and is a great vegetarian option to serve for holiday festivities. Solomon’s will be hosting a four-course pre-set Thanksgiving dinner on November 25 with the stuffed baby pumpkin as a vegan main course. **13**





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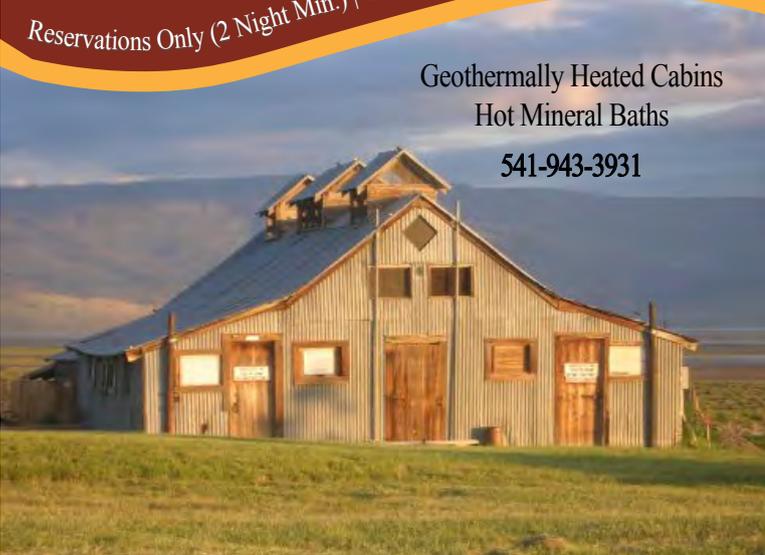
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À LA CARTE

Inspired Italian

The long-anticipated opening of a gourmet,
European-inspired west side eatery

WRITTEN BY **NANCY PATTERSON** | PHOTOS BY **TAMBI LANE**

It's been nearly two years since chefs Nate King and Bill Dockter announced the launch of their new Italian eatery, BOSA Food and Drink, just outside of downtown Bend. The fact that the doors finally opened just this past summer says it all—the road to opening BOSA was far from smooth.

King and Dockter first met in Aspen, Colorado, at Cache Cache restaurant. King spent 17 years in various positions at the classical French cuisine restaurant, while Dockter worked as their sous chef. Over the past six years, the two discussed the idea of operating an Italian restaurant together. In 2019, the pair reconnected in Bend, resurrecting their collective dream of opening their own eatery.

King and Dockter were relishing in excitement after signing the lease for a vacant space on Galveston Avenue, next door to Sunriver Brewing's pub, in February of 2020—only to face an array of challenges just weeks



Nate King (left) and Bill Dockter (right)



“We always love when new farms or artisans reach out to discuss working together.”

later. The two chefs had to make a choice; move forward and open their dream restaurant during uncertain times or take the offer to withdraw from their commercial lease. Lucky for Central Oregon, the two chose the former. “We definitely went through a roller coaster of emotions and had to dig deep into whether to stick it out,” said Jenny King, BOSA’s manager and wife of Nate King. “Our landlord gave us the option to walk away from the lease, but after discussing how much we wanted to make the BOSA concept a reality, we also knew that we wanted it to be in that location as well.”

After endless delays and many pivots, the King and Dockter families opened the doors to their own restaurant in July of 2021. The restaurant’s namesake, a town in the Sardinia region of Italy, bears a striking resemblance to Bend. “We came up with the name Bosa first and then found that the town of Bosa in Sardinia had such a great comparison to Bend, with the river bending through the town and the colors of the architecture resembling the colors of the Bend trees in autumn,” King reflected. “Though the name comes from a town in Sardinia, the menu itself isn’t based on Sardinian cuisine, but more on the regions of Italy as a whole.” On a mostly Italian-inspired menu, diners also find many influences from France and the Mediterranean.

BOSA’s menu follows the trajectory of a traditional Italian dinner. All of BOSA’s plates are served family-style and intended to be shared. Starters include a variety of seasonal “cold” and “hot” appetizers; burrata is a permanent staple on the antipasti menu, served with focaccia croutons and heirloom tomatoes. Patrons who enjoy a shared plate of calamari will love BOSA’s grilled calamari spiedini. Tubes of calamari are slightly charred and skewered and served over a potato-olive-tomato salad, which is dressed in a garlic cream and warm sherry vinaigrette.

Per the recommendations of the chefs and Italian tradition, pasta is served as a shared dish between the antipasti and main courses. A popular and comforting course during the cooler season is their tagliatelle pasta, handmade fresh every day and cooked al dente. It’s tossed in a rich beef and pork ragù and dusted with parmesan cheese, chili flakes, and parsley. BOSA’s tagliatelle is so perfectly prepared that it maintains its texture and consistency from the first bite to the last. Shared main courses include a half-roisserie chicken, pork Milanese and a hearty bone-in ribeye steak. All courses and side dishes are offered a la carte, which allows guests to choose from whipped potatoes, creamed corn and pommes frites—to name a few—to pair with the meal.

While the menus will change with the seasons, there’s one thing that will stay the same: BOSA’s commitment to sourcing its ingredients both locally and seasonally. “We currently work with many local companies, including getting produce directly from farms like Windflower [Farm], Boundless [Farmstead] and Sungrounded [Farm], to name a few. We always love when new farms or artisans reach out to discuss working together,” King said. “We also love to represent Bontà for our gelato and sorbet, Metolius Teas, Lone Pine Coffee and Village Baker for some of our artisan bread.”

Along with a full bar, BOSA offers a diverse wine list that’s likely to rotate throughout the year. “In addition, we also have great personal relationships with wineries in Oregon, California and Italy,” King shared. “We love to keep the wine list super fun and represent some of these great producers and the fruits of their hard work.” And, of course, the wine list will always feature Oregon-grown Pinot Noir to sip alongside your pasta of choice. **B**

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ADULT HOT CHOCOLATE

Fireside Sipping

Sunriver's S'mores Hot Cocoa warms winter bones and bellies

WRITTEN BY SARA FREEDMAN

Whether you are a local or a visitor to Central Oregon, it's a treat to go to the Sunriver Resort lodge for a drink or a meal. Built in 1969, the iconic building has been updated over the years, but the bones of the beautiful structure remain the same. Head up the stairs to the Twisted River Tavern—the bar offers great westerly views of the winter sky. After a day of hitting the slopes, trekking trails or sledding down hills, warm up with a hot drink in front of the tavern's large rock fireplace. Try the S'mores Hot Cocoa—it's a grown-up take on the favorite childhood treat. Steaming hot cocoa is poured over housemade marshmallow-infused vodka and hazelnut liqueur. Garnished with whipped cream and a sprinkle of graham cracker dust, it's a perfect drink to celebrate the winter holiday season. Just twenty minutes from Mt. Bachelor and even closer to good snowshoeing and cross-country skiing trails, the cozy lodge at Sunriver Resort is an ideal spot to recharge after a day outside, and to plan your next adventure.

S'MORES HOT COCOA

- 1 ½ oz. marshmallow vodka (infuse your own or buy it)
- ¾ oz. Frangelico hazelnut liqueur
- Hot cocoa
- Whipped cream
- Graham cracker dust

Add marshmallow vodka and Frangelico to an eight-ounce mug. Fill remaining mug with steaming hot cocoa. Top with whipped cream and graham cracker dust. **B**

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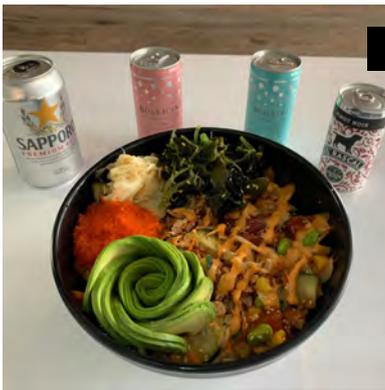
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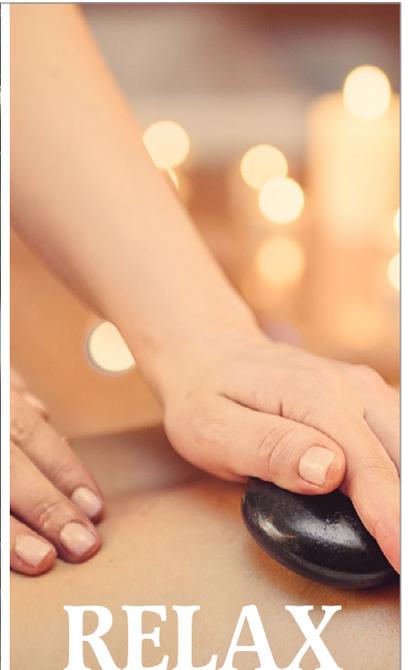
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Celebrating Oregon

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OREGON CULTURAL TRUST'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY, a new license plate was released on October 1 that aims to celebrate and showcase Oregon's diverse landscapes and cultures. Oregon Cultural Trust board chair Niki Price commented on the importance of recognizing Oregon's unique cultures. "Cultural expression is how our communities define themselves - how they live their everyday lives, their traditions, their heritage, their creativity, their celebrations, their values and how they connect with one another." The new license plate design, which is a colorful landscape with cultural symbolism mixed into the various mountains and hills, celebrates all of these things. The artwork was created by Eugene artist Liza Burns and includes 127 symbols that all mean something special to various Oregonians. The license plate design will also be installed as a mural in the Eugene, Portland, Medford and Redmond airports in their full size, allowing visitors from every destination to learn a bit about the state they are visiting. See CULTURALTRUST.ORG.



■ festivities

Holidays at the Tower Theatre

Just in time for the holiday season, the Tower Theatre will be premiering Valerie Holgers' Académie de Ballet Classique production, *The Nutcracker: A Child's Tale*. The story follows a young girl, Clara, who befriends a nutcracker on Christmas Eve. After the nutcracker magically comes to life, he saves Clara from an evil mouse king and attempts to whisk her away to a land of sugar plums and snow fairies. Both showings are scheduled for Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. That weekend of shows kicks off the holiday season at the Tower Theatre, and is followed by five other holiday performances in December, such as Jake Shimabukuro's *Christmas in Hawaii*, Patrick Lamb's *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and more. The last holiday performance scheduled, on December 29, is *Winter Song* by Merideth Kaye Clark, who you may recognize from her work in *Wicked* and *Portlandia*. Tickets are available for in-person showings with social distancing enforced, and a virtual format so you and yours can watch these holiday specials in the comfort of your own home. See TOWERTHEATRE.ORG.

■ television

Celebrity Chef in Bend

The king of flavortown himself, Guy Fieri, the host of Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, made a visit to Bend in June with plans of featuring three local restaurants on his show. The restaurant community was buzzing with anticipation, with chefs and owners waiting to see who would be featured on one of the most popular reality shows to exist. By the end of the visit, Fieri had stopped by Zydeco, Rockin' Dave's Bistro & Backstage Lounge and Dump City Dumplings. Although not quite a diner, drive-in or dive, anyone who's eaten at Zydeco will understand why the restaurant was featured. Fieri arrived only eighteen hours after his production crew gave notice to Cheri and Steven Helt, the owners of Zydeco. Steven Helt, also the head chef, said "Sure enough, Friday afternoon at noon they're like 'Hey, Guy is going to be there at seven o'clock tomorrow.' So when Guy got here he's like, 'Hey man, we've shot like 1,500 of these episodes, you're the shortest lead we've ever given anyone in the history of this show.'" Even so, Zydeco still wowed the frosted-tip chef with their BBQ shrimp; a perfect way to showcase their Cajun flare. The episode featuring Zydeco aired on October 1, while the airing times for the other two episodes featuring Rockin' Dave's and Dump City Dumplings are currently TBD. See FOODNETWORK.COM.



Guy Fieri



■ exhibits

Rethinking Fire

On October 16, the High Desert Museum unveiled a new art exhibit that seeks to explore the duality of nature—life and death, forest and fire. Artist Bryan David Griffith includes a mix of mediums in his work, using burned wood sculptures, beeswax and sometimes even fire itself. His work illustrates the way in which humans have sought to control fire and nature, and how oftentimes, this ends up causing unintended consequences. The exhibition, entitled *Rethinking Fire*, allows viewers to create their own questions and have valuable conversations around forest use, conservation and the growing issue of forest fires in the Pacific Northwest. "We are experiencing landscape-altering wildfires more frequently in the high desert," said museum executive director Dana Whitelaw. "Rethinking Fire offers a different vantage point through art, demonstrating that a force like wildfire that can be intensely destructive can also create awareness, resilience and a call to action." See HIGHDESERTMUSEUM.ORG.



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MAPS AS ART

Treasures of the Trail

The founding of Hikerbooty and the mission to protect public lands

WRITTEN BY NOAH NELSON | PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY HIKERBOOTY



“I’d like it if someone could pick up that book and realize that exploring the outdoors isn’t so intimidating.”

“After completing the PCT, I wanted something to remember the experience. I thought a map would be perfect, but nothing I could find captured why the PCT was so important. No map I found mentioned all the trail angels and amazing stops that made the hike special,” said D’Antona.

As a result, D’Antona drew up her first map of the PCT, posted it to social media, and the rest is history. “That first map I posted took off more than I expected it to, I had people telling me they’d like to purchase something similar, and Hikerbooty grew from there,” she said.

Now, D’Antona works with Brian McGregor, who joined Hikerbooty in 2018 as a visual artist specializing in illustration and watercolor, and the duo collaborate on a multitude of projects that highlight the beauty of America’s public lands.

“Working with Brian makes me feel a little like I’m in college again,” D’Antona said. “It’s fun to bounce ideas around and hype each other up.”

The name, Hikerbooty, stands out for obvious reasons. “I could have picked something mundane and boring, but I wanted the name to mean something,” D’Antona said. She goes on to explain that Hikerbooty can mean a few things. To some, it can be a reminder of the treasure-memories and experiences-that are found on the trail. To others, it is a reminder of a certain tradition in the hiking community where, upon summiting a peak, hikers take a barebutt photo. “It’s a camaraderie thing, among hikers. A reminder that you just worked your butt off,” she said.

While the name is a lighthearted reminder to never take oneself too seriously, the mission behind Hikerbooty is a serious one: as the population of Central Oregon continues to grow, more and more people are in need of education on how to properly take care of and respect public lands. The mission of Hikerbooty is to draw people into these public lands so that they can enjoy them, but then also take on the responsibility of advocating for the same lands. “It’s really about doing your part! If you’re going to take the time to use and enjoy public lands, it only makes sense that you should care about their preservation,” D’Antona said. “People have life altering experiences in nature all the time, and we should all want to keep our public lands safe for future generations to enjoy as we have.”

For the future of Hikerbooty, D’Antona is optimistic. “For now we’ll have to keep things to the United States, but I’d love to offer a public lands map of each state, and I eventually want to make a book of my artwork surrounding Oregon’s public lands, full of fun facts and anecdotes. I’d like it if someone could pick up that book and realize that exploring the outdoors isn’t so intimidating.”

Find Hikerbooty art in Bend at The Bend Store, Wild Roots Coffee and Powderhouse, or see hikerbooty.com.



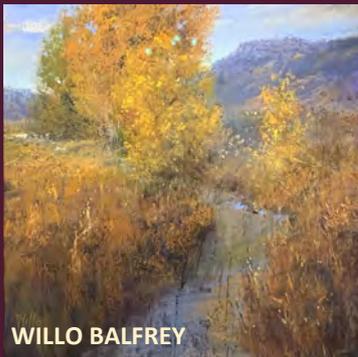
D’Antona on the Pacific Crest Trail in 2015



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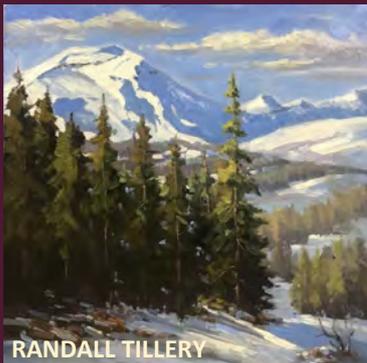
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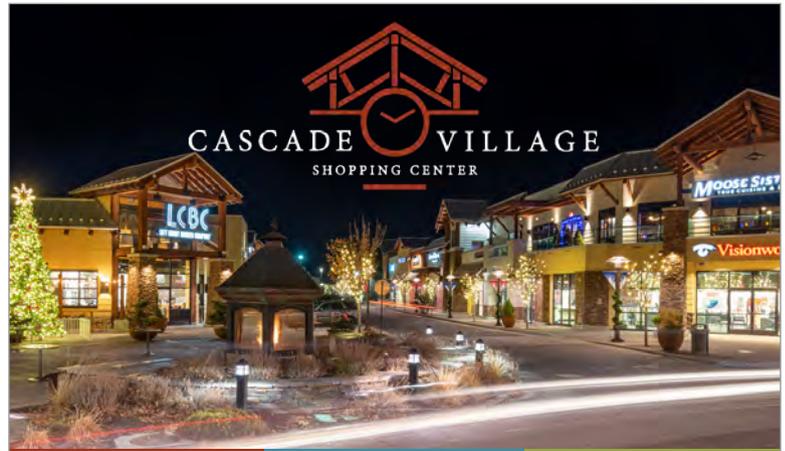


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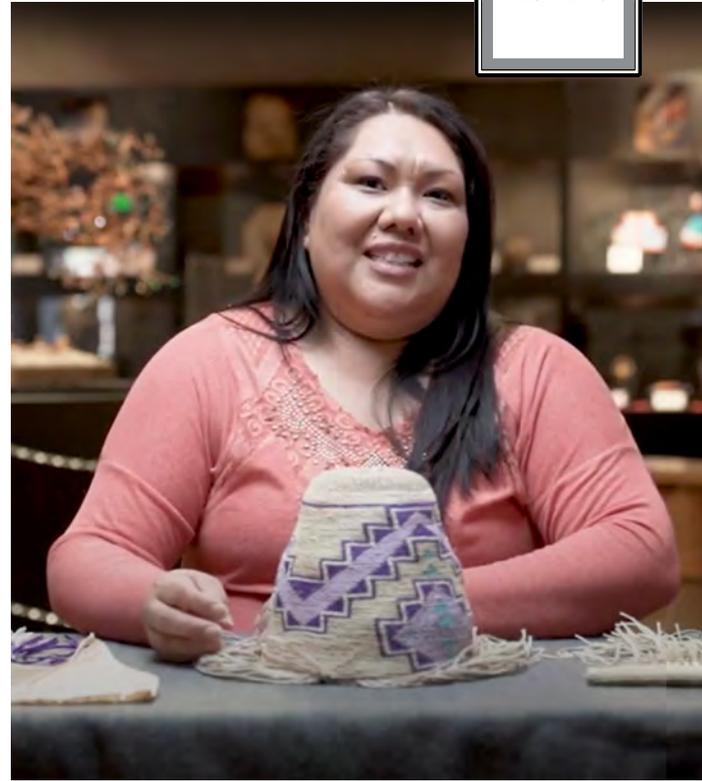
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BASKETRY

Weaving History

Warm Springs master basket weaver Kelli Palmer

WRITTEN BY LEE LEWIS HUSK

Agile fingers twist and turn, patiently weaving beauty from simple string and corn husks. It's Kelli Palmer's way of tapping into ancient traditions, helping to keep them alive. "People say corn husk weaving is a dying art, but I'm trying to get the art back," Palmer said as she laid bundles of hemp and rayon raffia on my dining room table. A bowl for water kept the corn husk wet and pliable. Palmer is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, which includes the Wasco, Warm Springs and Paiute peoples, and is also part Shoshone, Hoopa and Yakima. At 12, she attended a tribal culture camp and learned basic basketry but set it aside for years. In her mid-20s, she attended another basket making class that ignited her love of the art form.

She sought one of the region's most skilled teachers, her mother Eraina Palmer, but the elder Palmer encouraged her daughter to learn from other people. "Mom inspired me to keep going, but I wanted her to teach me. One day, when I knew she was teaching my uncle, I 'snuck' into her home. I hadn't been invited but just happened to stop by," she laughed. "I was 30, a few years after my divorce and still searching for something to make myself whole."

Her mother relented and mentored her daughter until Palmer became a master basket weaver herself. While the title honors and respects the artist, she feels unworthy, even at 45. "I'm still perfecting my work," she said. Still, her reputation grew and another master basket weaver, Pat Courtney-Gold, convinced Palmer to teach. She has taught corn husk basketry at workshops around the Northwest, at the High Desert Museum and Central Oregon Community College.

At my table, Palmer regarded traditional corn husk hats called putlapas, originally used as women's head coverings during longhouse religious ceremonies and contemporarily used at pow wow dances. She also brought flat corn husk baskets, once used to store dried roots, fish and meats and now prized as purses and decorative regalia for horses.

Palmer demonstrates the three-step, false embroidery technique on a partially completed basket. It's so complicated that she holds my fingers and hand in hers, and in about two minutes, I manage to complete one stitch. At this rate, I could finish a small flat basket in roughly the time it took her uncle to finish his basket—about 15 years.

Even in Palmer's hands, a putlapa takes anywhere from two months when she doesn't have a job to a year when she's working full time. Beyond twining, the hats are patterned, which requires a complex grid for most practitioners. But Palmer no longer needs to graph her designs. "I go with whatever strikes my fancy," she said, which may include a traditional pattern like the Wasco deer or more contemporary motifs. An Idaho basket collector commissioned several putlapas from Palmer, which enabled her to stay at home during the pandemic. Back at work now, she finds time to teach because "lots of people want to learn, even if it is hard," she said. "I encourage people to keep going until they find their rhythm."

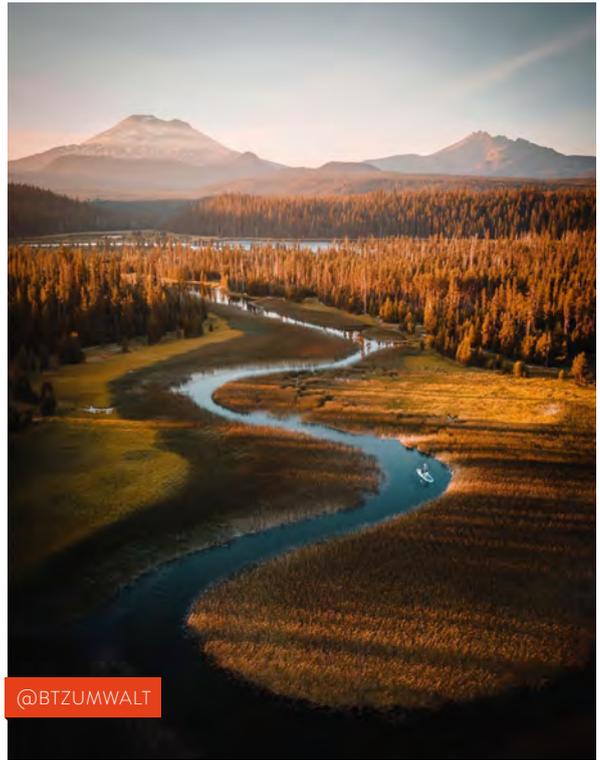
Getting into her rhythm means contemplating herself, finding her zen. "I do this because it makes me happy and keeps me calm." ■



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