

THE SOUL OF CENTRAL OREGON

# BEND

Magazine



## MAKING *Waves*

*Snowboarding goes back  
to its roots. pg. 72*

WINTER IN BEND:  
WHERE THE *fun*  
NEVER MELTS

2023 GIFT GUIDE  
CURATED FROM THE  
*heart* OF BEND

*explore* SEASONAL  
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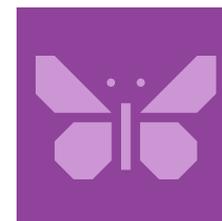
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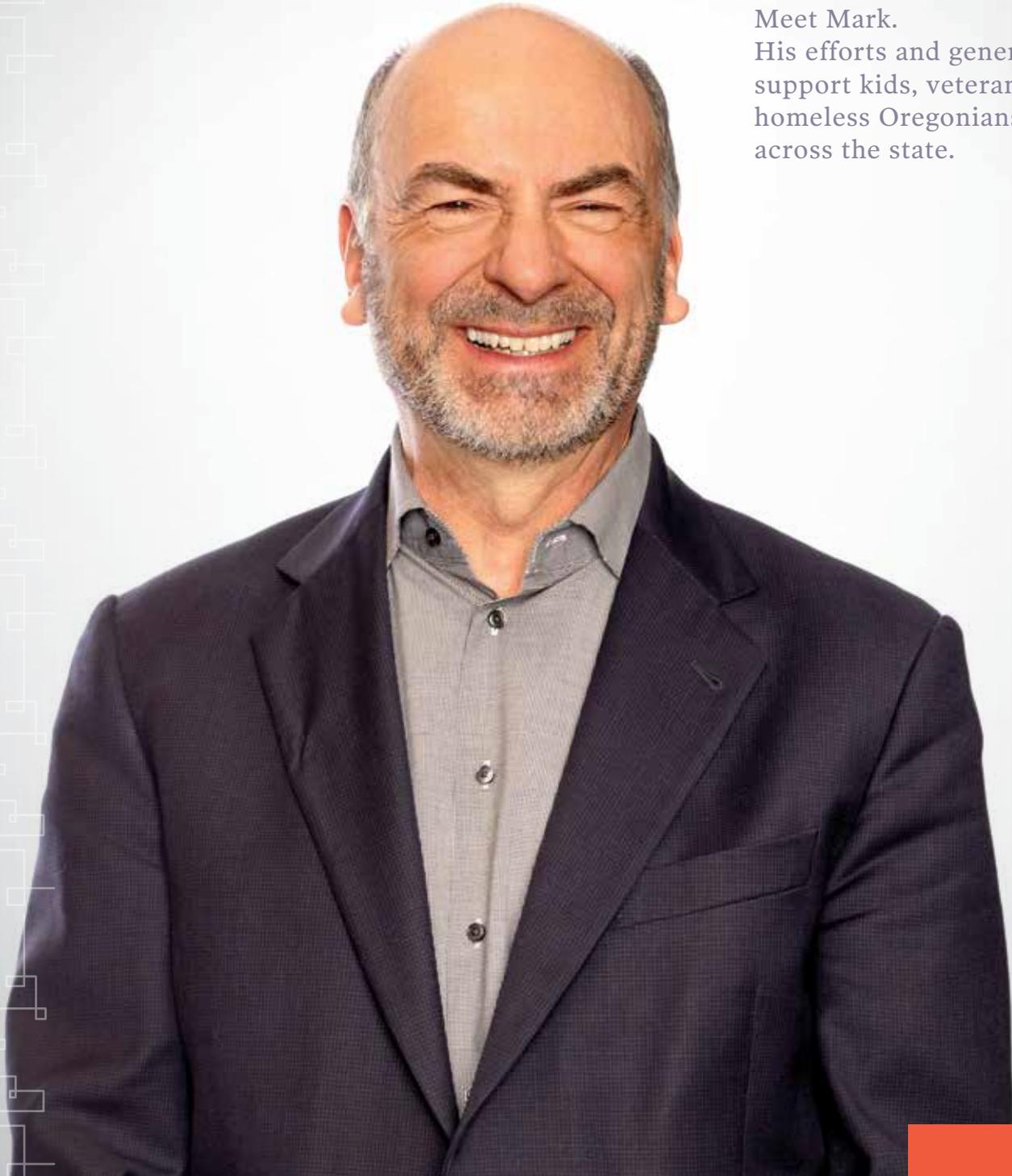
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# TABLE *of* CONTENTS



PAGE 84

72

## **SURFING MOUNTAINS**

Pow surfers carve snow with the grace and athleticism of surfers on a wave. It's a sport without bindings or apparent fear. Learn about pow surfing, its athletes and shaping boards in Bend. *Written by Annie Fast*

78

## **THOUGHTFUL HOLIDAY GIFTS**

As the calendar marches toward December, giving is made easy when seen in colorful categories of affection, action, nest, nurture and play. (Bonus: no shipping required.) *Curated by Bend Magazine.*

84

## **WELCOMING WINTER**

We asked our readers to share their favorite moments of the season and this is what they told us. Revel in memorable scenes, feelings and activities that define winter in the high desert.



## **ON THE COVER**

A wave of snow forms exhilaration and artistry.

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PHOTO KIMBERLY RIVERS

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# TABLE *of* CONTENTS



35



91



101

- 16 **CONTRIBUTORS**
- 20 **EDITOR'S NOTE**
- 25 **HAPPENINGS**
- 28 **FACES IN TOWN**  
Bendites who prove there are no limits to reaching their goals.
- 31 **TRAILS**  
Learn more about the Deschutes River Trail, segment by segment.
- 35 **RETREAT**  
Central Oregon resorts light up with holiday traditions.
- 39 **OUTDOORS**  
When the air chills, Bend prays for snow in a variety of ways.

- 45 **PURSUIITS**  
Teen Bianca Emery takes on the world of skeleton racing.
- 49 **GIVING BACK**  
Support community nonprofits with time, talent or treasure.
- 53 **COMMUNITY**  
Vámonos Outside creates opportunity for Latinx youth.
- 57 **HOME**  
Awbrey Butte homeowners reach for the stars with an observatory.
- 65 **VENTURES**  
Local booksellers thrive by educating and connecting community.

- 91 **SAVOR**  
Cookies are a work of art and heart, mixed with bunches of butter.
- 97 **RESTAURANT**  
Trattoria Sbandati has served tastes of Italy for two decades.
- 101 **IMBIBE**  
Honey mead wine at a Sisters farm.
- 103 **AESTHETIC**  
Molten glass takes form at the hands of artist Aaron Duccini.
- 107 **ART & CULTURE**  
Adell Shetterly's printmaking process results in colorful landscapes with bold contemporary design.

## WEB EXTRAS

Read more about JIA Asian Street Kitchen, a new restaurant in southwest Bend, and find reviews from our regional food and restaurant scene. Head to [bendmagazine.com/JIA](http://bendmagazine.com/JIA).

Stay connected to the community and sign up for our newsletter at [bendmagazine.com/newsletter](http://bendmagazine.com/newsletter).

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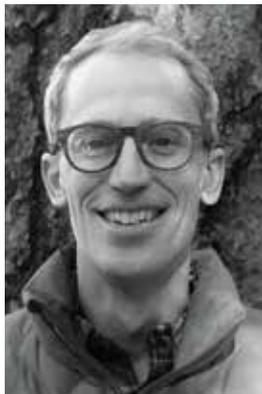
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# WORDS *and* PICTURES



**LUCAS ALBERG**  
WRITER

Lucas Alberg is a native Kansan who ventured west after college in pursuit of outdoor adventure in the mountains. Finding his happy place, he soon combined his creative pursuits with his new home. Alberg currently works for a Bend-based outdoor company. He has published two books, released two albums, loves to belt out a tune, and spends the bulk of his free time traipsing through the woods with his wife and two children. His experience with the publishing industry gave him insight for the article on local bookstores in this issue. Thumb through “The Next Chapter” on page 65.



**ANNIE FAST**  
WRITER

Annie Fast has made a living for the past 20-plus years as a writer and editor in the snowboard and ski industries. She’s covered four Olympic Winter Games, documented the progression of snowboarding from its earliest years through its heyday, and continues to write about the many approaches to the sport. In this issue, she drops into the throwback thrill of pow surfing on page 72. Fast moved back to Bend seven years ago with her family, having previously lived here in the mid-90s, snowboarding at Mt. Bachelor and working at the summer snowboard camps at Timberline.



**ANNA JACOBS**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

Born and raised in Vermont, Jacobs moved to Bend a decade ago. She divides her time between several ventures that indulge her passions for photography, real estate, and creative marketing. A photographer and real estate broker with an eye for architectural detail, Jacobs’ work is focused on shooting interior spaces. Six years ago, she and her husband Damian Schmitt opened Mountain Modern Airstream—listed by *Dwell* magazine as one of the seven best Airstream renovation companies in the nation. For this issue, she dove into the timeless allure of books on page 65.



**TARA LINITZ**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

Tara Linitz is a commercial food and beverage photographer in Bend who specializes in creating images that inspire and connect people to the food they’re eating. Linitz has been styling and photographing food for brands and local businesses since 2019. In addition to food photography, she is also a registered dietitian with a passion for baking. She loves how food brings people together—being able to capture those moments and meals is one of her greatest joys. In this issue, Linitz zoomed in on the art of baking cookies, creating a treat for the eyes on page 91.



**ELY ROBERTS**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

As a photographer for 15 years, Ely Roberts creates images with a timeless feel. With a sociology background, Roberts is interested in where people come from and what makes them happy, so he prefers photographing people more than landscapes. Whether selecting camera equipment and postprocessing, or making people feel more comfortable behind the camera, photography allows Roberts to improve both in skill and creatively. Other passions include family, travel, cooking, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and riding motorcycles. In this issue, Roberts captured the art of glassblowing on page 103.



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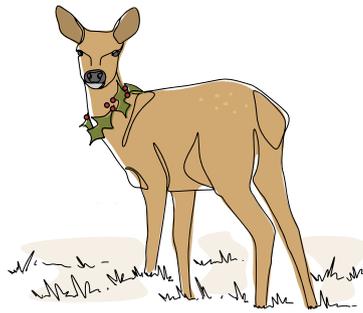
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“BUT WHAT IS IT THAT WE ALL REALLY WANT AND NEED? IT’S THE GIFT OF EACH OTHER. IF WE CAN’T BE TOGETHER WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS, THEN OUR WORDS MATTER EVEN MORE.”

## Editor’s Note

My thoughts went to some of the different ways we give at a recent renewal of vows. Guests led our procession dancing down a Bend city street and the groom arrived on the back of a white horse in Indian tradition. But what really stood out? The bride of now 25 years shared a moment she recognized she may have found true love: it was when her future husband gifted her a homemade Valentine.

’Tis the season for our Gift Guide which started on this reflection of how we give and receive. What are the gifts that matter most to us? I was happy to take on the research since I enjoy the act of gifting...I’ll write it, make it, bake it, or haul an offering across the world for people I care about. With each act of giving, it is my way of thinking of you and how I might make even a minute in your life a bit wiser, healthier or happier.

As winter approaches, we look forward to the gift of powder. In his story “Pray for Snow,” Gregg Morris writes about the ways we hope Mother Nature will bring us buckets of the fluffy stuff as we wax skis, rep squats and do a little snow dance in anticipation. It was as sweet as confectioner’s sugar (more on that in our story on holiday sweets, page 91) to learn about pow surfing. Writer Annie Fast shares how it’s done and who is shaping boards to carve snow with the same grace that surfers use to carve waves.

Then, Lucas Alberg tells us about the business of books. Now, there’s the best gift of all in my mind—to find and share ideas and words. The gift of a book is not only for the holidays but for all the days of the year. Plus, a bookshelf is a timeline of our lives, with dates and inscriptions inside front covers as reminders of who we were along the way and who was there as witness.

But what is it that we all really want and need? It’s the gift of each other. If we can’t be together with family or friends, then our words matter even more. In the groom’s promise for the future, he vowed to always make homemade Valentines. On that day, their childrens’ words pronounced them, “Still married.”

Thank you for reading *Bend Magazine* throughout the year. It’s our expression to this community we love and you’re invited to reach out to us, too. Write us a letter at 974 NW Riverside Blvd., Bend, Oregon 97703. That would be a gift.

Now, on to a little snow dance. Bring on winter!

Cheryl Parlon, Editor in Chief

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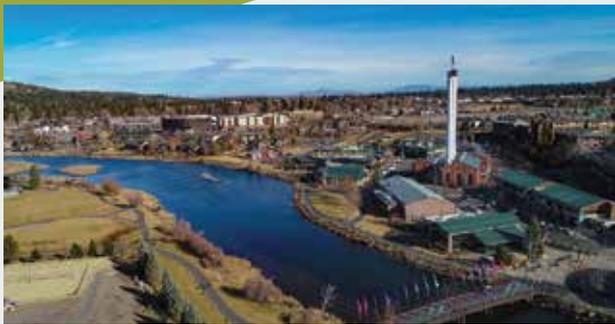
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The Eight is zoned for nightly rental, making it a fantastic investment opportunity. Then again, with everything it offers, we won't blame you if you choose to keep it all for yourself.



## THE EIGHT

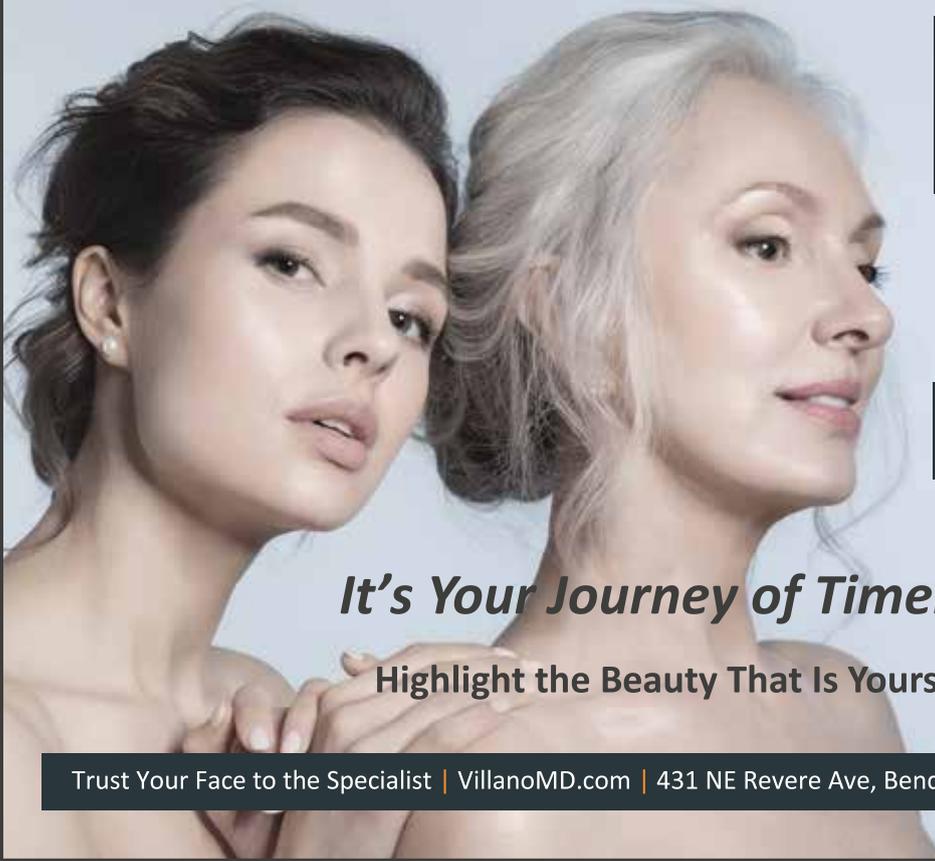
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# Postcard from Oregon

National mural project leaves a mark on Bend

A couple's mission to create murals in all 50 states is one step closer with the completion of a Bend-centric Oregon mural off of Franklin Avenue. The Greetings Tour project began in 2015 when Victor Ving, an artist based in New York City at the time, embarked on a journey with his wife, Lisa Beggs, to paint murals from Alaska to a basketball-court sized mural in Hawaii. The city's Downtown Bend Business Association won a grant out of 36 applicants to become the single mural representing Oregon. The murals are painted in collaboration with local artists in each area, such as Josh Ramp and Janessa Bork of Vivi Design Company in Central Oregon. Inspiration for the art comes from Ving's nearly complete collection of thousands of large-letter postcards from the '40s and '50s that advertised travel. Subtle stories are revealed within each mural, Ving explained. Inspired by conversations with passersby and online, Bend's mural includes hidden details related to history and culture. Look closely to find a silhouette of the former Pilot Butte Drive-in, "The Traveler" sculpture, an homage to the Fourth of July and the Bend Water Pageant. "Hopefully, the mural is meaningful to the community as long as it's there," said Ving. See [greetingstour.com](http://greetingstour.com). **B**



# News Shorts

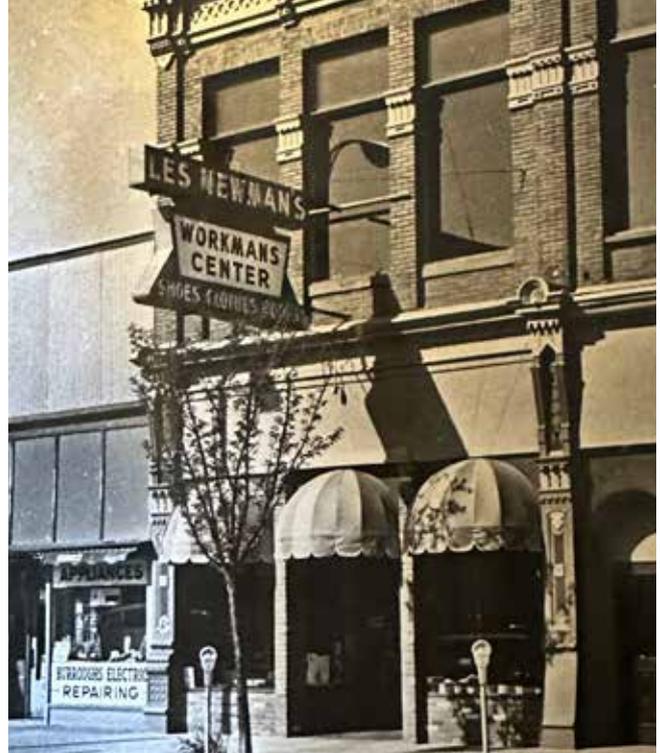


## CENTRAL OREGON TRAIL ALLIANCE COMPLETES ADAPTATIONS FOR 100 MILES OF MTB TRAILS

More than 100 miles of mountain biking trails are now available in Central Oregon for adaptive riders, thanks to a recent grant. Central Oregon Trail Alliance and Oregon Adaptive Sports partnered earlier this year to assess existing trails and the areas where adaptations were necessary. Central Oregon Trail Alliance continues to seek additional feedback from adaptive riders in their efforts to improve trails with the goal of adding all accessible trails by the end of 2023 to Trailforks, an online platform that serves as a trail database, map and management system. See [cotamtb.com](http://cotamtb.com) and [trailforks.com](http://trailforks.com).

## DESCHUTES PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES \$1M GRANT

Deschutes Public Library received \$1 million from the Oregon Department of Energy's (ODOE) Community Renewable Energy Grant Program to construct a solar photovoltaic system at the planned Stevens Ranch Library in east Bend. The new library, which is designed to achieve LEED Gold standards, will include roughly 100,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space on 9.3 acres at the northeast corner of 27th Street and Wilderness Way in Bend. Construction on the new Stevens Ranch Library will start in early 2024. See [deschuteslibrary.org](http://deschuteslibrary.org).



## LES NEWMAN'S CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Charles Lester Newman opened his Salem shop in 1923 to sell clothes for logging, postal uniforms and general work wear. One hundred years later, Les Newman's Quality Footwear and Clothing store is found on NW Franklin Avenue. With a Bend location since 1999, the family-run business has carried on through one of the original employees, Milo Syverson, via his son Greg and nephews Greg and Ryan Pierce. Workwear from Filson, Red Wing Footwear and Carhartt, coupled with a knowledgeable staff and custom service have contributed to the store's longevity, said Ryan.

## INNOVATION DISTRICT IN THE WORKS

Setting the stage for the future of the Oregon State University-Cascades campus, the OSU board approved \$36 million toward preparation of 24 acres of land to be used as a future Innovation District. Designed to be a catalyst for economic growth in Central Oregon, the Innovation District will be a collaborative hub, connecting the community to university students and faculty for the advancement of research, technology commercialization, incubation and economic development. See [osucascades.edu](http://osucascades.edu).



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# Faces in Town

## DEBBIE SANDERL

JIU JITSU WORLD MASTER & MOTHER

Debbie Sanderl, mother of three, had no prior martial arts training 10 years ago when she decided to join a women's team at the gym where her children trained. This fall, she brought home the gold medal and title of World Master from the 2023 International Jiu Jitsu World Master Championships held in Las Vegas. The former gymnast and collegiate diver found balancing work, family life and training to be a challenge, but, jiu jitsu has her hooked. "The most rewarding thing about this accomplishment is not the medal or the title, but the opportunity to be an example to my kids and to others who share my passion," Sanderl said. "I want my kids to know and see that if you love something, you should pursue it with all your heart."



## JOHN MOWAT

PHYSICIST & CLIMBER

At age 94, John Mowat has always had a calling to summit high points. A technical climber and hiker, Mowat was part of a 1951 team that made a historic ascent to the Second Tower in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park. Today, Mowat and his wife Sue—residents of Oregon for 49 years—enjoy downhill and cross-country skiing, hiking, biking and their climbing group at Bend Rock Gym. Climbing, Mowat said, is a wonderful exercise for aging muscles, provides a social aspect and the walls pose a variety of challenges. "Looking down, I imagine I'm on Super Slab or Moscow at Smith Rock," he said. As for life goals, Mowat considers climbing and, especially mountaineering, to play into a lifelong spiritual journey, and there's no place other than Bend that he and Sue would call home.

## ALEXANDRA ALEECE

AUTHOR & ARTIST

Born and raised in Central Oregon, 19-year-old author Alexandra Aleece is driven by the desire to make a difference in people's lives. As a writer and artist, Aleece hopes to be an inspiration and create connection through her work, and she is currently a student of film and creative writing. Her recently published children's book, *Roice and the Red Cape* follows the magical adventures of a cat named Roice, instilling the beauty of family and the importance of second chances.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVI AUGUSTO

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# The Deschutes River Trail

Segments for all seasons

WRITTEN BY DAMIAN FAGAN

**T**he Deschutes River Trail (DRT) connects people to nature, history, neighborhoods and businesses as it courses through the heart of Bend. Locals know the 12-mile-long “river trail” offers opportunities to get outside and get in a walk, run, dog walk, bike ride, and, when the conditions are right, a cross-country ski. While a separate extension of the DRT goes from Good Dog Park, south of town, to Sunriver—passing Benham Falls and the Big Eddy rapids—there are five segments especially attainable from downtown Bend.

Bend Park and Recreation manages the section of the trail closest to Bend and breaks it into five reaches: South Canyon, Old Mill, Pioneer, River Run, and Awbrey. Remember: trail etiquette is to stay right and be alert for the call, “On your left!”



### **SOUTH CANYON REACH**

Access for this loop begins by heading south from Farewell Bend Park, a park named for John Todd who purchased the Farewell Bend Ranch in 1877 for \$60 and two saddle horses. This stretch has the most “natural” feel of the entire DRT, as ponderosa pines and riparian thickets line the trail. Occasional breaks provide nice views of the river as it cascades over rapids or slips around boulders.

After crossing the South Canyon Bridge, the west side trail connects to the Haul Road Trail, historically used to haul logs to a point where they were off-loaded into the river and floated to the mills. A newly constructed landing downstream of the bridge provides access to the river and has interpretive panels honoring the Native Americans who inhabited this region for thousands of years.

- Distance: 3 miles round trip
- Hiking Time: 1.5 hours
- Seasonal Access: Year-round, but prepare for ice and snow in the winter.



### **OLD MILL REACH**

This popular urban stretch of the river trail is a contrast in time. Walk north from the spot of the original settlement at Farewell Bend Park, to see the area that at one time launched the heyday of the logging industry, when two mills produced millions of board feet of lumber. Today, that spot is known as the Old Mill District, a vibrant hub of shops, restaurants, galleries and more.

Primary access is from Farewell Bend, Riverbend, and McKay parks. The level, paved trail consists of two loops: Mill A Loop (1.5 miles) and Logger Loop (1.3 miles). The Old Mill Flag Footbridge, the halfway point, is a prime spot to watch paddlers during the annual Holiday Lights Paddle Parade. In winter, numerous waterfowl line the river.

- Distance: 2.7 miles round trip
- Hiking time: 1-2 hours
- Seasonal access: Year-round, paved path is cleared in winter.

### **PIONEER REACH**

Bend’s early history links McKay Park (honoring pioneer Bendites Olive and Clyde McKay and their sons) to Pioneer Park on this section of the DRT as it passes through neighborhoods and Drake Park.

At McKay Park, enjoy the view from atop the footbridge of Whitewater Park where intrepid kayakers don drysuits and play in the waves in all seasons. The bridge connects to another historic ranch site at Miller’s Landing. Continuing past the landing, the trail follows the sidewalk along NW Riverfront Street through a section of “Old Bend” before reaching Drake Park, named for early 1900s developer Alexander Drake and his wife Florence.

The paved trail continues alongside the calm waters of Mirror Pond, shadowed by towering Douglas fir and ponderosa pines. On the eastern shore of the river, the trail joins a newly constructed boardwalk that arcs along the river to the lower end of Mirror Pond, with access points to divert to downtown Bend before the trail reaches Pioneer Park.

- Length: 1.7 miles one-way
- Hiking time: 1-2 hours
- Seasonal access: Year-round, moving from paved pathways to sidewalks.

PHOTO COURTESY BEND PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

## RIVER RUN REACH

This stretch of the trail connects Pioneer Park to Sawyer Park, with another access point at First Street Rapids Park. From Pioneer Park, the trail follows the river downstream, past towering willows and pine trees, and encounters the Tumalo Irrigation Company's diversion dam and fish ladder before crossing the footbridge over the river to First Street Rapids Park.

On the west side of the river, the level dirt trail passes lush riparian vegetation that lines the river, and drier slopes with juniper, wax currants, sagebrush, and bunchgrasses. This quiet stretch of trail is a good spot in winter to birdwatch or to scout for wildlife tracks. Eventually, the trail crosses Mount Washington Drive and slips past the River's Edge Golf Course to Sawyer Park.

**Trail length:** 1.7 miles one-way

**Hiking Time:** 1-2 hours

**Seasonal access:** Year-round, but prepare for ice or mud in the winter.

## AWBREY REACH

The Awbrey Reach is a quiet out-and-back stretch from Robert W. Sawyer Park, named for an early Bendite who moved here in 1912 and eventually became the long-time editor of the *Bend Bulletin*.

This section of the DRT utilizes the buried water pipeline right-of-way owned by the Tumalo Canal Irrigation Company. The wide trail of crushed gravel follows a somewhat level contour around Awbrey Butte to its end, where views of Black Butte, Mount Jefferson, and Middle and North Sister await. When snowfall is sufficient, this section of the trail is perfect for cross-country skiers.

Beyond the intersection to the Archie Briggs Canyon Natural Area to Mount Washington, there is a stunning view of the river as it makes a sweeping bend in the canyon far below. A well-placed bench is accompanied by a plaque which reads, "How perfect is this." Perfect indeed.

**Trail length:** 3.9 miles round trip

**Hiking time:** 2-3 hours

**Seasonal access:** Year-round, with wide trails for cross-country skiing when snow permits. 



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# Cherished Traditions

Experience holidays at Central Oregon resorts

WRITTEN BY HEIDI HAUSLER



Traveling over the mountains to Black Butte Ranch always signaled the beginning of the holiday season for Bend physical therapist Laura Cooper. Late fall walks amidst quaking aspen groves and early winter snowfalls scooped into sno-cones drizzled with maple syrup fill her childhood memories, and urged her and her husband Chris to choose Bend to raise their own family. Carrying on the magic, the Coopers' children now are devoted "Ranchers" themselves, following the tradition of ringing in the holidays at the Central Oregon resort. This winter season, resorts of the high desert draw visitors from around the world, across the mountains, and towns close by, to create their own holiday memories. Sprinkled with wonder and adventure, these getaways inspire traditions new and old, each with a captivating fire at its core.

## MEMORIES MADE AT SUNRIVER RESORT

Sunriver Resort's *Traditions* have added rosy-cheeked smiles to decades of cherished family memories. With a river meandering through its 3,300 sprawling acreage, Sunriver is situated on a meadow that was once a lake, creating a landing place for snow as far as the eye can see. Kicking off with the

Grand Illumination tree-lighting ceremony and fireworks show in mid-November, the holiday festivities commence and the resort's streets light up with holiday sparkle. A welcoming fire awaits in the Owl's Nest, the perfect spot for hot cocoa or hot toddy moments between experiencing the events of the season. Holiday light shows, sleigh rides, ice skating, winter spa specials, a scavenger hunt, a Holiday Glow Party and a renowned gingerbread village all are found at Sunriver Resort. "I loved imagining myself living in each of the gingerbread homes," said 23-year-old Bendite Mia Strobel. "It's such a cozy, nostalgic experience—I still go back every year."

Perhaps the most beloved tradition of all is the Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus that takes place every Christmas Eve morning in the historic Great Hall, a grand building of naturally cut logs and high beamed ceilings that was a former officer's club during World War II. Beneath its iconic spiral staircase, made of a 500-year-old single pine, an enormous volcanic rock fireplace sets the room aglow with the warmth of its flames. Built with 10 tons of locally quarried rock and 5,800 hours of stone masonry labor, the fireplace crackles, welcoming children young and old.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNRIVER RESORT

## A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT BRASADA RANCH

Marked by the historic Trestle Bridge, Brasada Ranch captures the allure of the wide open West. “We fell in love with the beauty, the climate, the lifestyle, the expansive sky and the awe-inspiring view of the mountains,” Brasada resident Juliana Howard shared, explaining how she and her husband sold their house in Portland to make Brasada home.

“The snow-covered hills, horse-pulled sleigh rides, beautiful lights and decorated trees make Brasada magical during the holidays,” she added. Whether saddling up for a sunset ride through its untamed natural surroundings or engaging in a hot cocoa scavenger hunt, the holidays at Brasada Ranch are filled with choices for a winter escape. Special seasonal dining, winter music, a local whiskey sampling and New Year’s Eve parties for all ages fill the holiday event calendar. Spa services entice for winter wellness and the Survival Skills Workshop offers an experiential invitation to build a natural shelter and start a handmade warming fire in the Brasada Ranch landscape.

At the heart of the resort, an alluring outdoor fire pit sits perched against views the Cascade Range, inviting a chance to take a moment’s pause during the busy holiday season. Guests gather under Pendleton blankets in the warm light of the outdoor fire to form connections new and old, roasting gourmet s’mores and gazing up at the starry high desert sky.

## WINTER MAJESTY AT BLACK BUTTE RANCH

Snow-capped peaks tower above Black Butte Ranch (BBR) making it a winter paradise. Amidst its pristine forested acres, cross-country skiing, sledding and snowshoe opportunities abound while twinkling lights set against the snow-laden meadow welcome all who arrive “home” to the Ranch. Carriage rides led by a team of drafts bring guests through a winter wonderland, an



Central Oregon holidays are celebrated with snowshoe tours, Santa and sleighrides.



enchanting experience only matched by the resort’s annual visits from Santa. Holiday dinners and elevated cocktail hours at the newly renovated Black Butte Lodge add elegance to this Central Oregon retreat, which has attracted guests from near and far since 1970. A copper-coned fireplace in the round creates a radiant gathering space with a nostalgic nod to the era of BBR’s origins. Sitting at the heart of the lodge is the grand fireplace, with stones layered in patterns reminiscent of the region’s volcanic rock formations and

a roaring fire to warm guests on cold winter nights.

Under the night sky of the high desert, the Ranch offers a snowshoe tour through a powdery forest to an amphitheater carved in the snow, set ablaze with a wood-burning fire to create connection and warmth in the winter darkness. Naturalist guides share knowledge of the solar system while sweet desserts and espresso vodka-laced hot cocoa warm the spirits. As conversations flow, the glow of the fire invites friendship through shared moments warmed by holiday magic. **BB**

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# Pray for Snow

Get ready for the Central Oregon ski season

WRITTEN BY GREGG MORRIS

**A**cross the high desert, skiers and snowboarders eagerly await Mt. Bachelor's opening day announcement. Hoping for the sight of snow-covered peaks isn't enough for many hardcore winter devotees, who are called to action at the first signs of snow. Increasing impatience leads them to check weather apps and text friends to see if their favorite preseason spot has enough snow for some short runs before the ski area begins its chairlift operations.

For those anxious to test their ski or snowboard legs and get a jump on the season, early November is the time to head out and earn some turns before the lifts open. Just don't forget to prepare mentally and physically to keep that childlike enthusiasm strong for all of winter and the better part of spring.



## TRAIN FOR THE SEASON

One essential component to making the whole season as enjoyable as possible lies in the mental and physical preparation. Boss Sports Performance Director of Performance Erik Jorgensen recommends single leg exercises and working on dynamic core strength to ward against early season injuries, such as knee ligament and hip flexor strains. "People should take their time building up to more intense ski sessions and longer days of skiing," said Jorgensen. "It's a long season and the snow only gets better." For support, find winter sports conditioning classes at gyms throughout town or work with trainers to reach individual strength goals.

## UPGRADE YOUR GEAR

Each year, manufacturers introduce new products to enhance the winter experience. Preseason is a great time to research new products and test existing gear for the upcoming season. When sticking with a trusty pair of skis or snowboard, make sure to get gear tuned and pack a backpack with the 10 essentials: navigation, light, sun protection, first aid kit, knife, fire starter, shelter, food, water and clothes.

"Without a doubt, the most important gear to carry in the backcountry, especially in avalanche terrain, is the snow safety trifecta of a beacon, probe, and shovel," said Kevin Ganey, general manager and buyer at the Bend-based gear shop Mountain Supply. "Get the gear, get the knowledge through a course, and then get out into the backcountry!"

Many local shops have annual fall parties with discounted, past-season winter gear and new arrivals. Check out Pine Mountain Sports Powderhound Preview and Fundraiser in November. In addition, gear shops begin their rental programs ahead of opening day at the mountain.

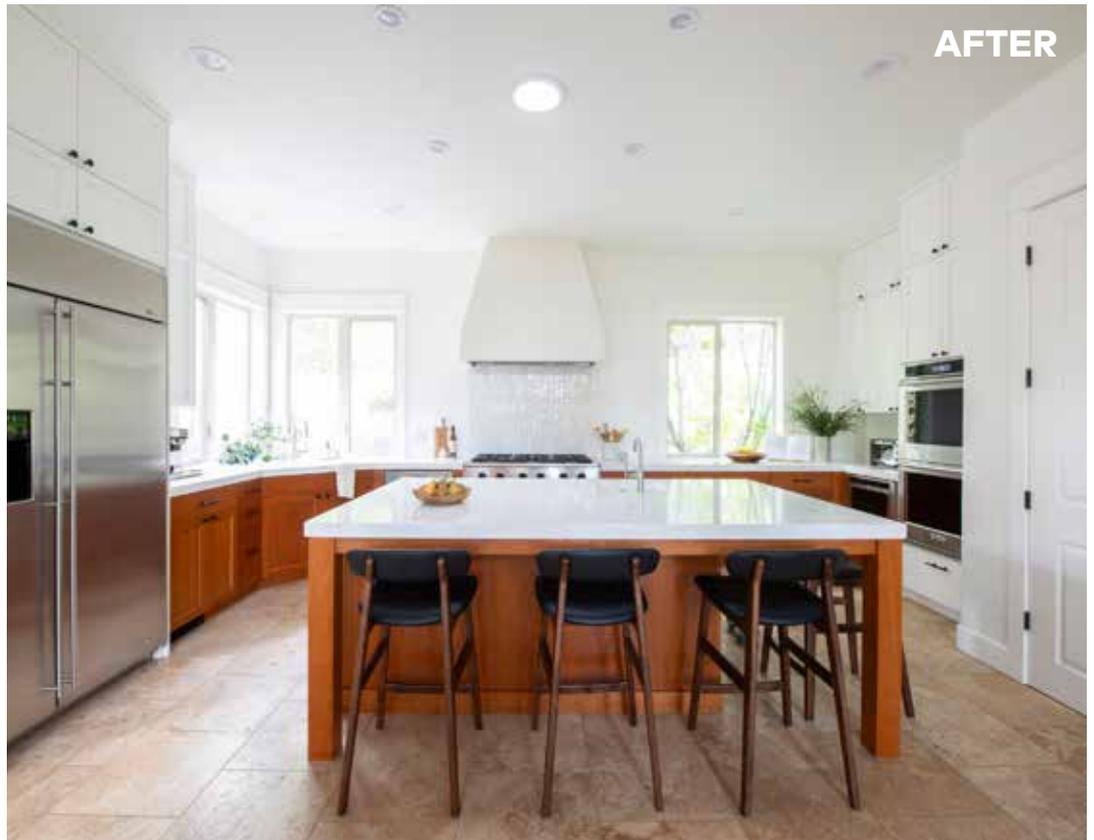
## FIRST TRACKS AND CONE LAPS

By far, the most popular spot for preseason runs lies on Mt. Bachelor's Cinder Cone with a hike that takes about 45 minutes to reach the top. The cone is located on Mt. Bachelor's northern flank with parking available in the West Village Parking Area. The Cinder Cone's approximately 180 acres of terrain include 715 feet of vertical drop, though preseason means finding the best snow and routes possible. Be careful with your line so as not to end up too far north, thus resulting in a longer hike back for your second lap. Also, take heed of preseason obstacles such as downed trees and rocks not fully covered by the new snow. Remember, all snow riders must obey Mt. Bachelor Ski Area's uphill travel policy and the cone is not patrolled so no emergency assistance is available.

After tackling Mt. Bachelor's Cone, explore other preseason options by heading across the street to Tumalo Mountain. This 7,775-foot butte is approachable for skinning or hiking up its 1,400 feet from the Dutchman Flat Sno-Park. Probably the area's most accessible backcountry



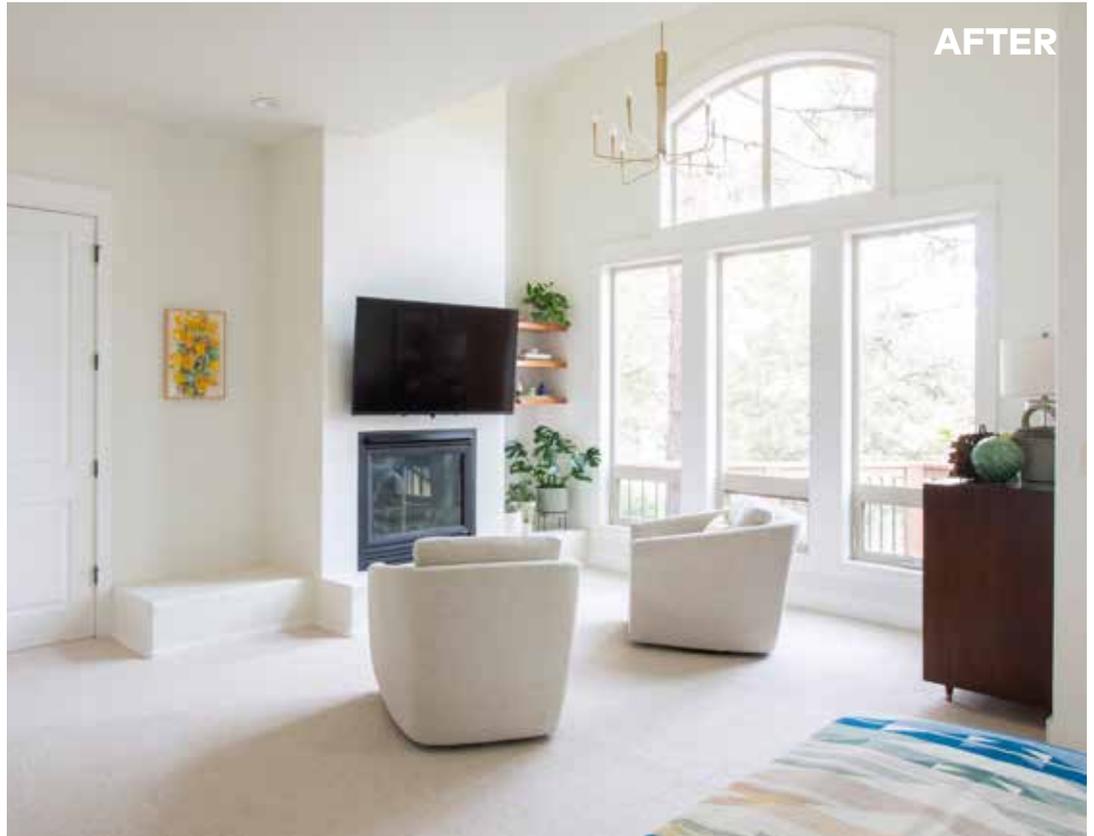
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spot, Tumalo Mountain allows backcountry enthusiasts to spend the day doing full laps up and down the south side, or dropping into the bowl and hiking back around. Go-getters wake early and take a few laps before work from the time snow hits until it melts in late spring.

When the snow is particularly good, and for some nostalgia, drive Skyliner road west of Bend and park in the Skyliner Sno-Park. Before the days of Mt. Bachelor Ski Area, the Norwegians built a ski jump on the hill that is directly in front of the parking area. People now use it for sledding in the winter.

Before Meissner, Wanoga or Swampy Lakes sno-parks have enough coverage, nordic skiers looking for early season fun can drive up the Cascade Lakes Highway, park at Dutchman Flat Sno-Park and head west into the more level Deschutes National Forest area.

### PREP FROM TOWN

To watch and learn from the masters of winter sports, Bend's Tower Theatre kicks off the preseason with a screening of ALL TIME, Warren Miller's 74th and final film featuring greats such as Olympian Jonny Moseley, "Maine's finest athlete" Donny Pelletier and an exploration of the birth of the country's most iconic ski towns.

Perhaps the local's choice to prepare for the coming of the winter ski season is grabbing a friend and heading to one of the many winter beer release parties. The parties usually include music, gear giveaways, ski and snowboard waxing, and of course, beer. The 10 Barrel Pray for Snow Party has become an annual tradition for more than a decade. Bend Brewing Company partners with Oregon Adaptive Sports each year for their "Sno'd In" Winter Ale release party. Locals have looked forward to the yearly release of Deschutes Brewery's Jubelale Festive Winter Ale and its accompanying artwork since 1988. So, check the forecast, finish a leg workout, grab a beer, and above all else, pray for snow! **IB**



PHOTO TOP COURTESY OF 10 BARREL BREWING CO. | BOTTOM BY WHITNEY WHITEHOUSE



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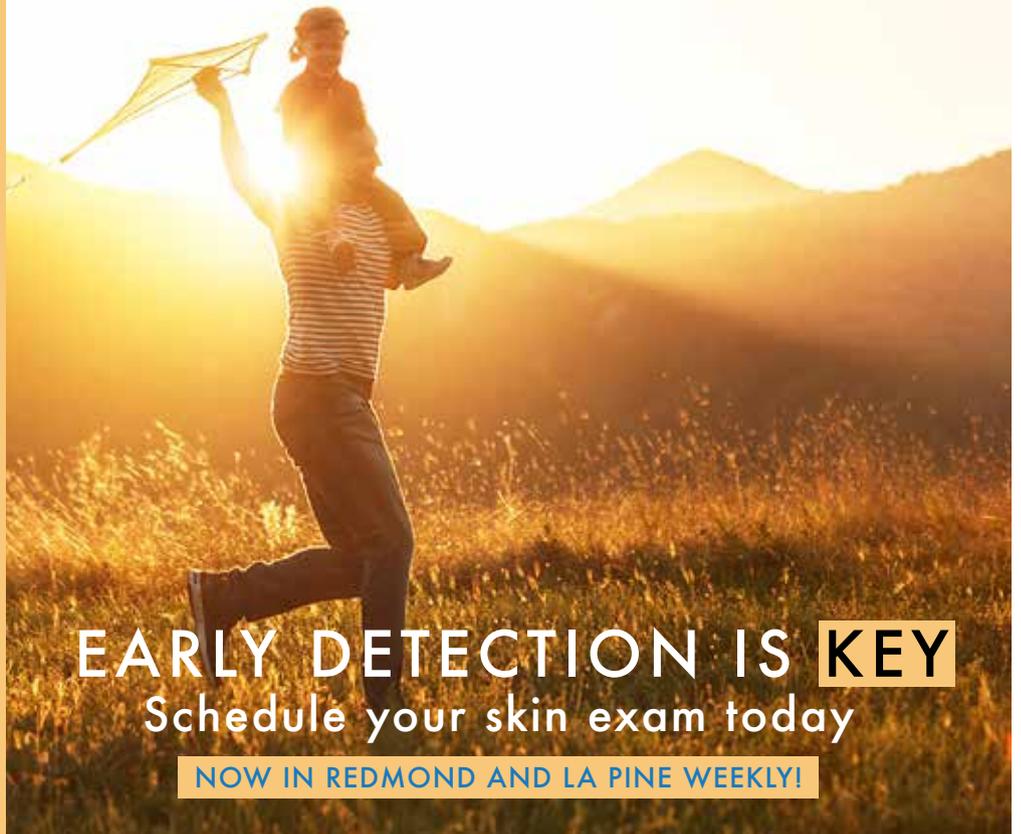


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# The Need for Speed

Bend's Bianca Emery is a top-ranked skeleton racer

WRITTEN BY SHEILA G. MILLER

**B**ianca Emery, a 16-year-old Caldera High School sophomore, doesn't have a driver's license. She doesn't even have a permit. Yet, she routinely cruises down steep hills, taking curves and hitting 85 MPH with no brakes.

Wearing spikes, a thin race suit and a helmet, this 16-year-old skeleton racer spends her days throwing herself head first onto a sled so small it looks like a boogie board. At dangerous speeds, she careens down a winding ice track. "Going fast is always fun," Emery said. "I really liked it after my first run."

Emery's father is a former bobsledder. When she was 14 and the family lived in Utah, her father suggested she try skeleton racing. "The first time sucks," she said, laughing. "It's really scary. I got bad ice burn and I hit basically every single wall the first time and I said, 'I never want to do this again.'" But she was hooked, and she discovered she had a natural skill for steering and judging turns. Though she said she's not much of a risk taker in other parts of her life, she found a need for speed. Each run takes about 50 seconds and covers close to a mile of ice.



A skeleton racer may cover close to a mile in 50 seconds.



THE G-FORCES TAKE A LOT OUT OF YOU...IT'S VERY UNFORGIVING."

### YOUNG BUT AT THE TOP OF THE SPORT

Though she's only been competing for a short time, at age 14, Emery became the youngest skeleton racer to ever start from the top of the track at Lake Placid. She's also the only female skeleton racer on the U.S. Olympic development team and is currently ranked eighth in the world, though she doesn't think her friends at school really understand what she does. Emery said, "I think a lot of people don't realize how much really goes into the sport."

With only two tracks in the United States—one at Lake Placid, New York, and one at Utah Olympic Park in Park City, Utah—Emery travels frequently to compete in Canada, South Korea, Austria and Norway, among other spots.

When she trains during these competitions, Emery is only allowed to do two training runs each day. "The G-forces take a lot out of you," Emery said.

The G-forces are at their worst on the curves, and Emery feels an incredible amount of pressure on her back, head and shoulders as she's slammed into the ice because of the force.

"It's very unforgiving," she said.

### TRAINING IN BEND

When she's not competing, Emery trains daily here in Bend, lifting weights and completing sprint workouts at the Central Oregon



Community College track. She also attends training camps, including visiting push tracks where she can work on sprinting, holding and pushing the sled, which weighs about 70 pounds. She also plays lacrosse for Caldera High School.

In a sport with little room for error, crashes happen. Biancha's mom, Michele Emery, remembers watching her daughter flip while racing at Lake Placid. She held onto her sled so she wouldn't be disqualified. It's this kind of athleticism that keeps her calm as she watches Biancha race.

"I have confidence in her. I have confidence in her ability. She's an amazing driver," Michele Emery said. "I

don't stress out. I just want her to have the best run she possibly can."

Emery competes in the Youth Series as part of the USA Bobsled-Skeleton team, a season that starts in October and runs through March, giving her the chance to compete in several international races before the Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon, South Korea beginning January 19.

After that, it's all up in the air, but Emery dreams of someday competing in the Olympic Games. She knows she'll still be too young in 2026 when the next Winter Olympics come around. By then she might even have her driver's license, though Emery's not interested in getting a car. She wants a motorcycle. **13**

PHOTO TODD SCOTT



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# Helping Hands

Three ways to support  
Central Oregon nonprofits

WRITTEN BY SARAH LAKEN LOGSDON

**L**ocal nonprofits are a sign of a healthy community. They solve problems, offer services, create programming where there was none, and serve as advocates for its residents. As the months draw to a close this holiday season, remember three things when it comes to offering support. Giving time, talent or treasure are valuable ways to make a positive impact in the community that gives so much to us every day.

## TIME

Every hour an individual spends giving back to the community changes Central Oregon in big and small ways. NeighborImpact is a nonprofit serving residents in Crook, Deschutes

and Jefferson counties, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. It assists one-quarter of the Central Oregon population with housing, finances and provides access to food and childcare. Volunteers help pack and distribute food, spend time with children, and help a new generation become homeowners and savers. See [neighborimpact.org](http://neighborimpact.org).

For nature enthusiasts, it's easy to join a clean-up crew with Public Land Stewards, a nonprofit sponsored by Discover Your Forest. With volunteer support, the organization removed more than 350,000 pounds of trash and old cars dumped in the wilderness in 2023 alone. This work keeps public land protected, accessible and clean for everyone. See [plsbend.org](http://plsbend.org).



NeighborImpact supports community.



Neil and Lisa, with Partners In Care, rake pine needles to help with fire reduction.

Don't underestimate the power of working as a volunteer in guest services, tabling an event, or taking tickets for an event. Nonprofits need to fill these roles throughout the year to take the load off permanent staff members who are often managing multiple tasks.

It's also important to remember the high desert's native critters. Think Wild is a nonprofit wildlife hospital and conservation center in Bend, where volunteers can help with everything from rescue and education to habitat restoration. See the volunteer calendar on Think Wild's website for events happening monthly. See [thinkwildco.org](http://thinkwildco.org).

### TALENT

Professional or trade skills can help fill gaps of need for nonprofits. Managing events, writing grants, reviewing legal contracts and building fences are all skills where nonprofits need help.

Community members are also invited to join a local nonprofit's board of directors, an opportunity to make a lasting impact. Check out Connect Central Oregon, which hosts volunteer and board fairs featuring nonprofits from across the region. Guests can talk with board and staff members about ways to help youth, seniors, people with disabilities, physical and mental health issues, housing and shelter, animals, the environment, and more. See [connectcentraloregon.org](http://connectcentraloregon.org).

Another valuable talent to consider is the ability to directly affect and care for those in need in the local community.

Consider making a one-on-one impact by caring for an aging adult, or help by running errands or providing relief to a caregiver, especially during the holidays when people may be grieving over a loved one. Nonprofit Partners In Care offers hospice, palliative care and home health services throughout Central Oregon. See [partnersbend.org](http://partnersbend.org).

### TREASURE

One of Oregon's unique treasures is undoubtedly the Oregon Cultural Trust's tax credit. Oregon is the only state in the nation to reward citizens for supporting arts, culture and heritage in this way. Donate to a favorite cultural organization by December 31—there are more than 1,400 nonprofits that qualify. Make a matching donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust, claim your tax credit when you file your state taxes, and receive your Cultural Trust donation back on your tax refund, up to \$500 for an individual, \$1,000 for a joint couple and \$2,500 for a class C corporation. The funds that are raised go through the Oregon Legislature's five state partners, which award grants to county and tribal coalitions, and other cultural organizations that rely on Oregon Cultural Trust grants. See [culturaltrust.org](http://culturaltrust.org).

Central Oregon Gives is a clearinghouse for donations in the way it collects funds that are then applied toward matching grants for local nonprofits. Incentives, such as discounts from businesses, provide an added boost. See [centraloregongives.com](http://centraloregongives.com). **IB**

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Wesley Heredia leads the ski and snowboard program.

# Vámonos Outside

Mentoring Latinx youth to connect in the outdoors

WRITTEN BY KASEY YANNA

**B**end may seem synonymous with skiing at Mt. Bachelor, rock climbing at Smith Rock and mountain biking at Phil's Trail, but imagine growing up in Central Oregon and never experiencing these outdoor activities, let alone owning skis, a chalk bag or a mountain bike. That's the reality for many Latinx youth in Bend, but the nonprofit Vámonos Outside is helping to change the story.

## FROM LATINO OUTDOORS TO VÁMONOS OUTSIDE

Vámonos is a Spanish verb that translates to "let's go," but as a nonprofit organization, Vámonos Outside is doing much more than getting youth outside. Its mission is to connect, engage and inspire Latinx families and communities to go outdoors. While it started in 2019 as a local chapter of Latino Outdoors, a national organization with a similar mission, it has evolved into a high-impact organization serving hundreds of Central Oregon youth and adults, and supported by several local businesses

and outdoor organizations. "The organization has grown exponentially," said Wesley Heredia, the program coordinator for Vámonos Outside. "From the number of students served and staff members, to our programs, funds, equipment and partners—we've grown in every area." Between the fall of 2022 and the summer of 2023, Heredia along with Eduardo Romero, program specialist, led Vámonos Outside and helped 65 young people experience the outdoor sports that Bend is known for. More and more Central Oregon youth who identify as Latinx are participating in Vámonos Outside's programs, thanks in part to the increase in partnerships with local businesses that donate products, gear, passes and time.

## INDIVIDUAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT

David Tello and Jose Vera are two young people who have felt the organization's support. Tello hadn't experienced an organized outdoor sport until 8th grade, when he went rock



Participants explore trails on mountain bikes, led by Eduardo Romero.



Eduardo Romero and Wesley Heredia

climbing with a friend. His first time on a run at Mt. Bachelor wasn't until high school when a school counselor told him about Vámonos Outside's snowboarding program. "I struggled with mental health when I was younger, but being outside has really helped," he said. "[At Vámonos Outside] we get exposure to new opportunities and new people, and there are a lot of opportunities for change and for growth."

While Vera did some camping and hiking when he was younger, it wasn't until he connected with Vámonos Outside in high school that he tried mountain biking, rafting and rock climbing.

### CAMP CHICA

Vámonos Outside is growing, not only by adding an increasing number of community partnerships, but the nonprofit recently acquired Camp Chica, expanding the age group of students served and increasing its program offerings. Verónica Vega started Camp Chica in Bend in the fall of 2022 to provide bilingual adventure programs for girls and non-binary youth ages 7-11. Today, she's the first female leader for Vámonos Outside, working as the program specialist and Camp Chica coordinator.

### OVERCOMING CULTURAL BARRIERS

The growing Vámonos Outside team spends their time connecting with Latinx families and inspiring students to explore their own backyard—the great Central Oregon outdoors. "Growing up, I didn't have role models for getting outdoors," said Jorge Aguilera Lopez, an Oregon State University-Cascades student who spent the past two summers working with Vámonos Outside. Despite growing up in and around Bend, Tello and Vera had similar answers to why they didn't experience outdoor sports: the barriers of Latinx culture, expensive gear and passes, and the culture of outdoor sports. Many Latinx families are unfamiliar with outdoor sports and are, therefore, hesitant to let their children get involved. For some families that might be more open to the idea, financial barriers keep many of them from starting, according to Vámonos coordinator Heredia.

Local businesses, outdoor organizations and volunteers are helping Vámonos Outside make it easier for Latinx families to access and experience Bend's popular outdoor sports. Grants and donations help remove the financial barriers for families, and as more Latinx youth get outdoors, cultural barriers are being chipped away. "Everyone deserves to be out here," said Lopez. See [vamonosoutside.org](http://vamonosoutside.org). **13**



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# Space for Family

An observatory tops off an Awbrey Butte home

WRITTEN BY TERESA RISTOW | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAN MURILLO







On their first date, Geoffrey and Laura Heller headed to the Seattle Cinerama for a showing of *Alien*, a science fiction film that begins with a deep space investigation. They could have never envisioned that two decades later they'd be settling into a new family home in Central Oregon, equipped with a theater-quality movie room and an on-site observatory, ready for space exploration of their own.

After building careers in Seattle, the Hellers sought out a mountain community, prompting a move to Bend. They envisioned building a new home with a spacious great room and indoor-outdoor connections. Also on the wish list? An observatory for the Hellers to dive further into shared hobbies of astronomy and astrophotography—Laura has degrees in aerospace engineering and business, and Geoffrey's background is in computer science with a focus on computer graphics and machine vision. By the summer of 2020, they had found a suitable lot on Awbrey Butte at one of the highest points on the hill to position the home closest to the sky, and the project was underway.

#### TIME TO DESIGN

The Hellers liked the idea of living on Awbrey Butte because of the community's dark sky policy, which made it good for their astronomical pursuits, but it meant working on a hilly lot that would pose unique challenges. Architect Jeff Klein provided the Hellers with an extensive client survey to kick off the architectural process, asking detailed questions about their design tastes, day-to-day activities, home office needs and more. Taking the couple's answers and a challenging lot into account, Klein got to work on a design.

The finished product is a home that utilizes a mid-level entry. Upstairs is the main living area, with a great room, kitchen, his and her offices and the primary bedroom. Downstairs is a bedroom for the Hellers' 13-year-old daughter, a guest room, laundry, access to a spacious three-car garage and an impressive home theater. Sci-fi and Marvel movies come to life on a 120-inch screen lit up by a 4K laser projector, and from an 11.1 Dolby Atmos sound system. The Hellers get cozy on cushioned chairs and couches, with the star-patterned movie-theater style carpet adding a cinematic touch to the space.



From the great room and formal dining area upstairs, the family enjoys partial views of North Sister and Middle Sister to the west and full views of Mount Jefferson and Mount Hood to the northwest. “Jeff also oriented the house so we get light without getting blasted by the sun,” said Laura, who enjoys watching the sunset with a glass of wine from the porch off the great room.

### LODGE MEETS SPA

The Hellers enlisted the help of Kirsti Wolfe Designs to build upon Klein’s architecture. “We both like the feeling of a modern lodge, and wanted a place we could relax in,” Laura said. “Kirsti helped bring some of those modern elements into the space.” Design choices included a modern hanging light fixture in the dining room with mountain-like curves, a stone wall between the dining and living areas, glossy gray subway tile on the backsplash of the great room bar and an oversized kitchen island with seating.

Opposite the great room on the main floor of the home are offices for the Hellers, who both work remotely in the technology field. His office features an interior window that helps bring light into the main area of the home, and her office doubles as an art space, where she enjoys painting landscapes.

### OBSERVATORY AT HOME

The most unique feature of the home is tucked in the Heller backyard, connected to the main house by a breezeway. This separate building features Geoffrey’s workshop downstairs and an observatory upstairs with a retractable roof that allows for observation using an astrophotography-ready telescope—the same design used in the Hubble Space Telescope.

The couple stumbled onto astronomy as a hobby about 15

years ago, when Geoffrey bought a telescope off of Craigslist. While camping, he positioned a point-and-shoot digital camera over the field of view and tried a 30-second exposure, capturing the Lagoon Nebula in his image. “From that point on I was hooked,” he said. Late this summer, about six months after moving into the home, he finished configuring the roof of the observatory, which slowly retracts at the push of a button using an electro-mechanical chain drive. “It’s certainly the largest scale mechanism I’ve ever built,” said Geoffrey, who also enjoys working with electricity, 3D printing and other forms of engineering. The couple planned to begin using the observatory more regularly this fall, and hope to pursue their interests in spectroscopy and their pursuit of discovering unique stars. The Hellers were recently granted access to use asteroid detection software from NASA, which Geoffrey plans to try along with exploring his own ideas for asteroid tracking. “We like the idea of being able to contribute to science,” said Laura, adding that they plan to invite students to the observatory for educational purposes in the future.

Settling into their new home, the Hellers have options, whether it be working their way through a puzzle upstairs, with endless night sky views just out the window, settling in downstairs to enjoy a movie sci-fi movie night or looking up to the skies for a real-world view of the planets. **■**

**Architect:** Jeff Klein, Klein Architecture | **Builder:** Mark Maxwell, SunWest Builders | **Interior design:** Kirsti Wolfe, Kirsti Wolfe Designs | **Structural Engineer:** Charlie Petzinger, Eclipse Engineering | **Landscape architect:** Brian Nierman, SZABO Landscape Architecture | **Firepit, hardscaping and planting:** Aspen Landscape Development



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# The Next Chapter

Central Oregon's independent bookstores thrive in a digital age

WRITTEN BY **LUCAS ALBERG**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ANNA JACOBS**

**F**or bibliophiles and casual readers alike, there's something inherently inviting about a bookstore. The familiar, nostalgic smells of printed paper combine with the wafting scent of freshly brewed coffee to create a welcoming space where time seems to slow down, a pause from the outside world. Even in an age when the digital realm has redefined the way we live, work, and even read, bookstores continue to prosper.

Big Story Bookstore

With half a dozen independent bookstores throughout the Central Oregon region, the enduring allure of the printed word is alive and thriving. Tom Beans, owner of Dudley's Bookshop Cafe in Bend, said independent bookstores across the country have been growing since late 2018 and Bend is a reflection of the overall industry. "We already spend too much time in front of screens with our jobs," he said. "Reading on screens is just not as relaxing. Print is that pushback." Aside from 2020 and the impacts of COVID, Beans has seen success in his shop during his 8-year tenure as owner. "Every year I've had the store, we've seen double-digit growth," he said.

Owner Lane Jacobson has seen a similar trajectory at Paulina Springs Books in Sisters. "The narrative of the dying bookstore is generally false," he said. "We have continued to grow and seen tremendous success. Every year for the past five years has been the best year our store has ever had."

### CULTURE OF THE COMMUNITY

According to Jacobson, the success of Central Oregon's bookstores is due to two primary factors. "First, only certain communities can support independent bookstores and fortunately, we're in an area that's perfect for it since we have a relatively affluent community," he said. The second is rooted deeper in the culture of the area. "People here really value what an independent bookstore stands for and the community it represents."

The thread of community is strong across all the region's bookstores. "Independent bookstores are possibly the last breed of what a mom-and-pop store could be," said Roundabout Books event manager Julie Swearingen. "Everyone treats our customers like family," she said. "We share stories and get to know our repeat customers. You just don't have that small town



feel elsewhere like you do in an independent bookstore."

Paulina Springs' Jacobson contends the shift to digital culture and online retail is directly correlated with the success of independent bookstores. "With the rise of Amazon, people began to see the demise of their downtown and have shifted to more of a local focus," he said. "Indie bookstores were one of the leaders in the localism movement and embody that community where people want to know real people." Jacobson added that along with farmer's markets and coffee shops, these are the outlets that represent the "third' place in your life. "You have your home, your work and one other spot," he said. "For some people it's their gym, for others it's their local coffee shop and for some people it's their indie bookstore."

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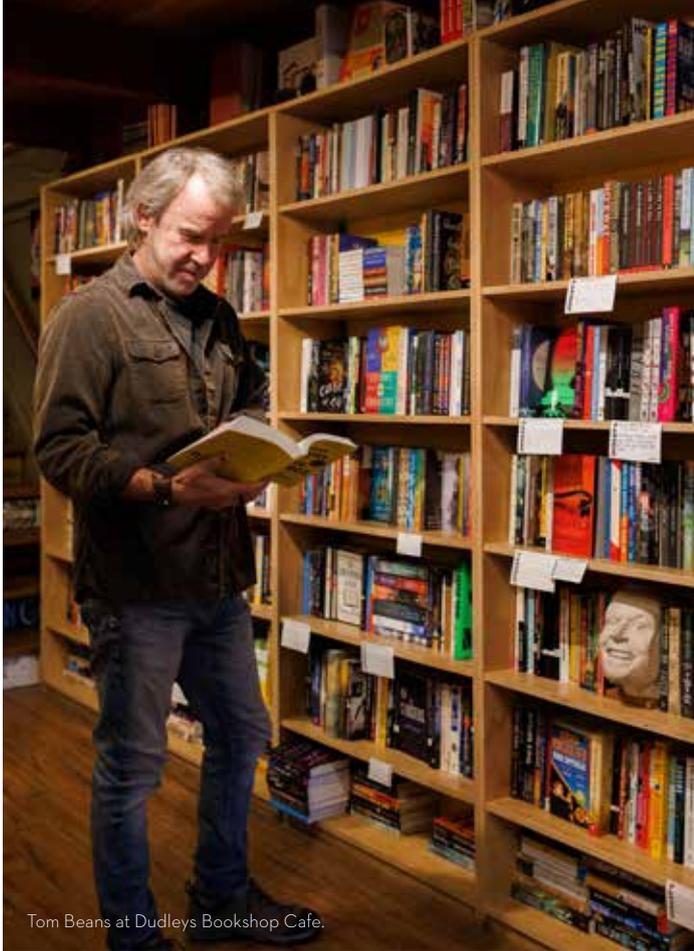


Alyssa and Rian Heim at Big Story Bookstore, see above.

### THE THIRD SPACE

Big Story Bookstore owners Rian and Alyssa Heim focus on creating that “third” space through a welcoming environment for their customers. “When we bought the store [in 2021], it had the beginnings of what we were looking for, but we wanted to make it more of a living room feel to add to the overall warmth and help draw people in,” said Alyssa. “We love it when people stay and engage with others as well as the books. We want it to be a space for people to feel comfortable in.”

Unlike most stores in the area, Big Story focuses primarily on used books, in addition to vinyl and movies. Rian said this was intentional. The margins on used books are better, he said, and it helps to remove books from the waste stream. But, ultimately, the choice to focus on being a reseller reflects Rian and Alyssa’s own passions. “I like sourcing and finding the books and records from people with my own hunch that I think others will enjoy [them],” he said. “I love seeing books receive a 2nd or 3rd life, especially those books that have a story to tell—both literally and figuratively.”



Tom Beans at Dudley's Bookshop Cafe.

### KEEPING LOCAL BOOKSELLERS IN BUSINESS

Even at the best of times, however, the reality is that independent bookstores are small businesses and every dollar counts. "Nobody is getting rich as a bookseller," joked Dudley's Beans. "The margins are what they are, which aren't great. A good month or bad month can be decided by very little sometimes."

"Bookstores need your support, local businesses need your support and the dollars you use at those businesses go a long way for the community," added Jacobson. "Only 30% of the dollars you spend at chain stores stays in the community, but 60% stays when you spend it at a local business," he said.

Tom Beans further emphasized the importance of shopping locally. "When people are deciding if they want to order online or at a store like Dudley's, it matters what they decide," he said. "Shopping local really makes a difference, and the good news is that people here have decided to do that—and we've stuck around as a result."

Dudley's recently celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023. "When you look at how many things could have derailed the store over the years, from the economic crisis to COVID, it's amazing," he said. "Businesses have come and gone, but somehow there's still a bookstore. It says a lot about Bend that it's supported an [independent] bookstore for 50 years."

At the end of the day, many Central Oregonians simply prefer to wind down with a good book. "There's a romanticism to books," said Paulina Springs' Jacobson. "There's nothing quite like holding a book in your hands and the sense of discovery." **B**

# BY THE NUMBERS PAGE TURNERS

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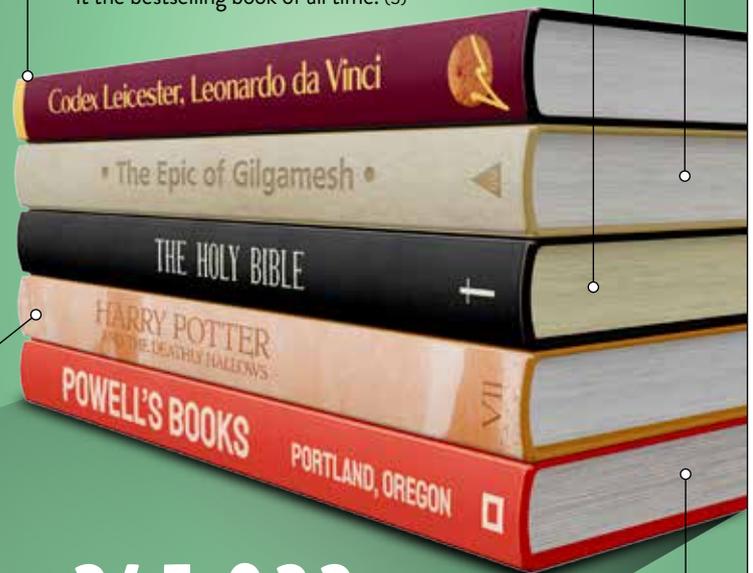
The amount paid by Bill Gates for the *Codex Leicester*, Leonardo da Vinci's science diary, making it the most expensive book ever sold. (1)

## 4,000

Years of age for the oldest surviving literary work, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. (2)

## 5+ BILLION

Copies of the Christian Bible sold, making it the bestselling book of all time. (3)



## 345,833

Copies of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* sold per hour when it was released in 2007. (4)

## 2,023

Independent bookstores in the United States in 2022. (5)

## 1 MILLION

Books at the largest bookstore in the world, Powell's Books, Portland, Oregon. (6)

## 50

Years in business for Bend's Dudley's Bookshop Cafe in 2023 (7)

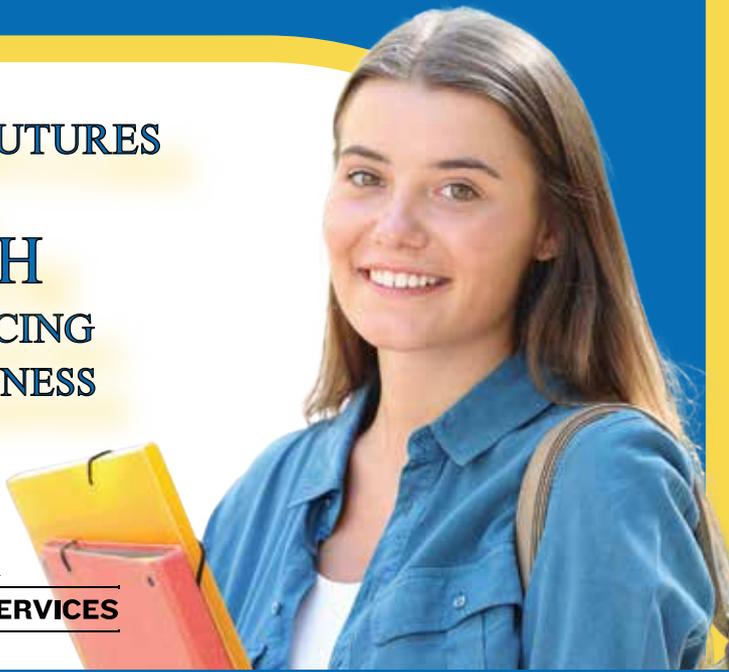
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## Pine Mountain Sports

Dan McGarigle is a community ambassador

A CONVERSATION WITH HEIDI HAUSLER

**A**n outdoor store dedicated to supporting the local community, Pine Mountain Sports is a dynamic community in and of itself. It is driven by a mission to make staff and customers feel welcome and important. At the heart of it all is Dan McGarigle, the shop's charismatic owner who wakes up every day, looks out his blinds and says one word: "Stoked." With a love for Central Oregon, McGarigle leads with gratitude, trust and the motto, "People will forget what you do and say, but they will always remember how you make them feel." *Bend Magazine* shares a conversation with Dan McGarigle, revealing not only the origins and impetus behind Pine Mountain Sports, but the humility and heart that has made it the champion of community it is today.

**Q** *Pine Mountain Sports has been a cornerstone of the outdoors community in Bend since 2000. Tell us about its origins.*

**A** I was the kid with the garage where all the BMX kids hung out—I had all the little drawers with all the little bike parts. In the summer, we'd build ramps and fly off these big jumps into a pond. Then we'd go back to my garage and rebuild our bikes. In spring of '96, I moved to Bend and got a job working as a bike mechanic at Hutch's Bicycles Westside—I was there until 2000 when the guys at Hutch's jumped on an opportunity to open what was then the second outdoor store in all of Bend. I walked into Hutch's one day, and the manager said, "Dan, we want you to run this new store for us." So I did. After three years, I purchased Pine Mountain Sports from Hutch's and moved into [the Century Drive] location in 2004.

**To what do you attribute Pine Mountain's longevity?**

I love bikes and I love skiing. But I don't believe my passions for those activities would have fueled me to stay in this industry. Providing an outstanding experience to our guests and participating in the community at the level that a business can are the things that keep me passionate about what we do. The great thing is, it makes my mom smile. And if something makes my mom smile, I know I'm doing it right.

**Your Community Ambassador program has benefited so many nonprofits in our community. How did it get started?**

We were fortunate to have Bob Woodward work in the retail store for a year and that's like having Michael Jordan play on your 8th grade basketball team. He said, "You can continue to offer goods and services to the community and hope that they come to you, or you can go out to the community and tell them why." This was one of the first times I saw the difference between working in the business versus working on the business.

We started a 1% program—donating to five nonprofits here in Bend; but we weren't maximizing the story that could be told. So we designed the Community Ambassador Program—partnering with one nonprofit for an entire year—using our vehicle to tell their message. Nonprofits have a hard time connecting with small businesses and individuals, especially inside the outdoor community of Bend. That's where the magic of this program is—we're simply just connecting the dots. The money raised is essential, but what's more important is that we are giving nonprofits the opportunity to form new relationships. We focus on access to education, healthcare, shelter and food—the bare essential needs of a family. The magic about the nonprofit community here is that they truly lift each other up. That builds a lot of camaraderie, and we get to be part of that network. I don't know what feels better than providing a family shelter or making sure kids don't go through the weekend without a meal. It's just the right thing to do. And it makes my mom smile.

**What do you want people to say when they hear the name Pine Mountain Sports?**

"I love going there." We've learned that what we do is one small part of the whole picture—it's how we do it that matters. A while back, we had a customer named Wes who loved us, but we weren't providing him the best service. He actually wrote a song about us that went, "Danny, without consistency, you'll never have integrity." That messaging came at a really important time for the development of the organization, but also for my personal development. I wasn't taking the opportunity to evolve into a true business owner. I needed to learn. I wanted to become a better business leader, a better general leader and more importantly, a better person. Our goal is really simple: we want people to be in a better mood leaving here than when they walked in the door. What do I want people to say when they hear the name Pine Mountain Sports? I want them to say, "Man, I love that place." **■**



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# MOST ROMANTIC GETAWAY

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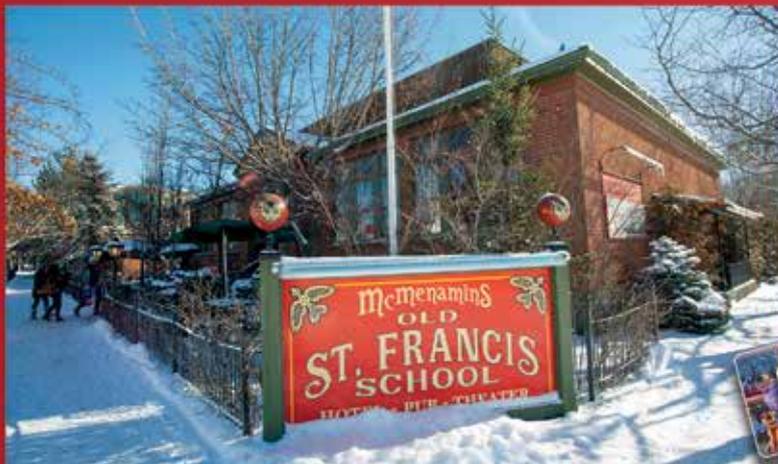
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WRITTEN BY ANNIE FAST

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BECKNAPHOTO

# POW Surf

It's a feeling of total freedom to float down the hill, surfing back and forth through powder, with snow blowing in a plume behind as you pick up speed. Gentle toe and heel-side pressure is all it takes to maneuver down the slope. With no bindings to hold you to the board, there's a new challenge to staying upright and slashing turns on a pow surfer. And this is one of the biggest draws for local riders who drop in here in Central Oregon.

My first time pow surfing didn't go as smoothly as the scenario above. I was at a backcountry snowcat lodge, the runs were steep and treed, and let's just say I was the last rider back to the snowcat, intact, but humbled. Fast forward to a sunny powder day at Kwohl Butte with a group of friends. The low angle, wide-open slope accessed via snowmobile off Cascade Lakes Highway couldn't have been more epic. The low-consequence slope was un-intimidating for that first moment of pointing the board straight downhill; it allowed for the confidence to explore my stance and the effort needed to initiate and hold turns, and when I did inevitably fall, I just dusted myself off and stepped back on board to keep surfing. It was a memorable day of riding powder, made even more memorable thanks to the opportunity to learn and progress on snow in a way that I hadn't since my early days of snowboarding.





Designer Ian Barker-Cortrecht (left) and Travis Yamada (right)

PHOTO, THIS PAGE COURTESY OF TRAVIS YAMADA.





## THE CHALLENGE IS A DRAW

Travis Yamada, a lifelong snowboarder and the founder of Cubicle surf-and riverboards shared his thoughts on the lure of pow surfing, "It's like the de-evolution of snowboarding, stripping it down to literally the roots of how it all started. It's super challenging. I think there's a beauty to relying on more skill than equipment." The sport is especially gaining popularity with experienced snowboarders looking for a new challenge and a throwback to the simplicity of yesteryears.

That simplicity starts with the board itself. Pow boards are a specific shape made from the same materials as a snowboard, but with a surfboard design that includes beveled rails and channeled grooves in the base of the board. The channels provide stability to keep the rider from sliding out, with raised rails that allow for turning similar to a surfer setting a rail on a wave. A generous nose keeps riders afloat. The boards are topped with thick traction pads similar to those found on a surfboard. A leash keeps the board connected to the rider and solidifies a surfing analogy.

There's no shortage of places to surf the snow in Central Oregon, including right off a lift—pow surfers are welcome on the lifts at Hoodoo Ski Area if they have a board with a leash. Both Mt. Bachelor and Willamette Pass require boards to have metal edges, disqualifying some (but not all) pow surfers.

Many riders however eschew the liftlines, opting instead to bootpack up a hillside to earn some turns. You don't need much vertical or steepness for a pow surf session. The relatively low-angle nature of the terrain in Central Oregon has no doubt helped fuel the popularity of the sport. According to rider Adam Short, "Any slope steeper than 15 degrees, long enough to make a few turns, and with half a foot of fresh snow, is game." According to Short, popular spots include Tumalo Mountain and Kwohl Butte.

A pow surfer isn't necessarily a replacement to a snowboard or skis. For most, it's more of an addition. Snowboard filmmaker Jake Price said, "Pow surfing really opens up the terrain in the Oregon backcountry. While the terrain is good for hitting jumps on our snowboards, it's generally a little bit too flat for snowboarding big lines, so we go surfing." Price also pointed out that pow surfing on lower-angled slopes is a great option on high avalanche days, when snow conditions on steeper slopes are unsafe. Pow surfing isn't just for snowboarders either—skier Lucas Wachs has been known to get on board. He said, "I love pow surfing. My favorite thing about it is how simple it is. You just need Sorel boots, a board and a hill."



## LEARNING IS HALF THE FUN

Most boardsport enthusiasts will find that their skills cross over to some extent, but there's more to pow surfing than some may think. Pro snowboarder Austin Smith, said, "It's one of those hybrid sports that's an anomaly—in the same way surfing the river wave doesn't totally cross over to surfing, pow surfing doesn't exactly cross over to snowboarding." This checks out. My early attempts were marred by edging too hard, which led to washing out. Pow surfing requires a finesse of gently setting the rail à la surfing, but diverges from surfing because you're also accommodating for the speed that comes with downhill gravity in a mashup of all kinds of boardsports skills.

Most riders find that the first challenge is to keep their weight centered on the board—initial attempts usually end up with a

memorable head-over-heels fall or a banana-peel bail off the back. Learning heelside turns usually come first, which is when you'll also figure out how to come to a stop. Next, much akin to the experience of learning to snowboard, comes mastering toeside turns. Linking those turns together is the next challenge. Smith said, "A good attitude is helpful. It's slippery, and you'll crash and that's also part of what makes it fun."

There's no right way to pow surf. Some like to ride a line, negotiating terrain features and catching air. Smith said, "Something you'd be relatively bored with on your snowboard, is the most exciting run of your life on a pow surfer." He added, "When you catch six inches of air on a pow surfer, it's the same feeling and as exhilarating of a moment as catching 50-feet of air on your snowboard." Skateboard-influenced sessions are another option. Smith said, "My



favorite pow surfing days have been on short slopes where you hike up the hill and try a trick like a pop shove-it or kickflip. You don't need much, just a little bump and you have a session." Smith regularly heads into the backcountry with friends and his now decade-old Äsmo pow surfer in hand.

Wolfgang Nyvelt, co-founder of Äsmo boards, is credited with crafting the original pow surfers in the mountains of Austria in 2013. As the sport has gained popularity, major manufacturers, including Burton and Jones Snowboards, (crafted by famed surfboard-shaper Chris Christenson), have begun offering their own pow surfers, but Äsmo continues on as the gold standard. This winter, Bend's own Cubicle brand will be stocking and shaping its own pow surfers. Cubicle is pairing the shaping expertise of brand founder Yamada, with the design skills of Ian Barker-Cortrecht, formerly of

SnoPlanks. These new pow surfers will be available alongside surfboards and riverboards to complete the full hydrological cycle of sideways sliding. Yamada said, "Pow surfing is a little weird subculture—it's a perfect match for Cubicle." Paired with fresh snow, it's a perfect match for Central Oregon. ■



**Hear more stories from pow surfers on The Circling Podcast. Listen at [BendMagazine.com/podcast](https://BendMagazine.com/podcast).**

THOUGHTFUL

# Holiday

GIFT GUIDE

FINDING THE PERFECT PRESENT TAKES TIME AND EFFORT. WE'RE HERE TO HELP WITH EDITOR-CURATED GIFT GUIDES FOR EVERY OCCASION AND RECIPIENT.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALYSON BROWN

As calendar days march toward the holidays, our thoughts turn to giving. In Central Oregon, spirits are high and are matched by the energy of shopkeepers who have carefully curated their wares in preparation for the season. Likewise, here at *Bend Magazine*, we've created a list of some of our favorite things. Whether shopping from a place of ACTION or AFFECTION; seeking to feather a NEST or NURTURE minds and bodies—smart shoppers remember to PLAY and enjoy the process. Use our gift guide to inspire thoughtful giving or to start your own wish list.

# Affection

From top:

■ **SEEING STARS:** Each of these pendants allow you to give the moon and beyond. Here, 18kt yellow gold shines bright, along with centerpieces that include mother of pearl and diamond accents. Saxon's Fine Jewelers, Old Mill District.

■ **SAY VOLUMES:** If you can't find the words, there's a poet that will help. Pablo Neruda's words in Spanish, translated to English, show affection isn't lost in translation. Mary Oliver's connections to nature and the human experience are gathered in *Devotions*. (On page 66, find local bookstores.)

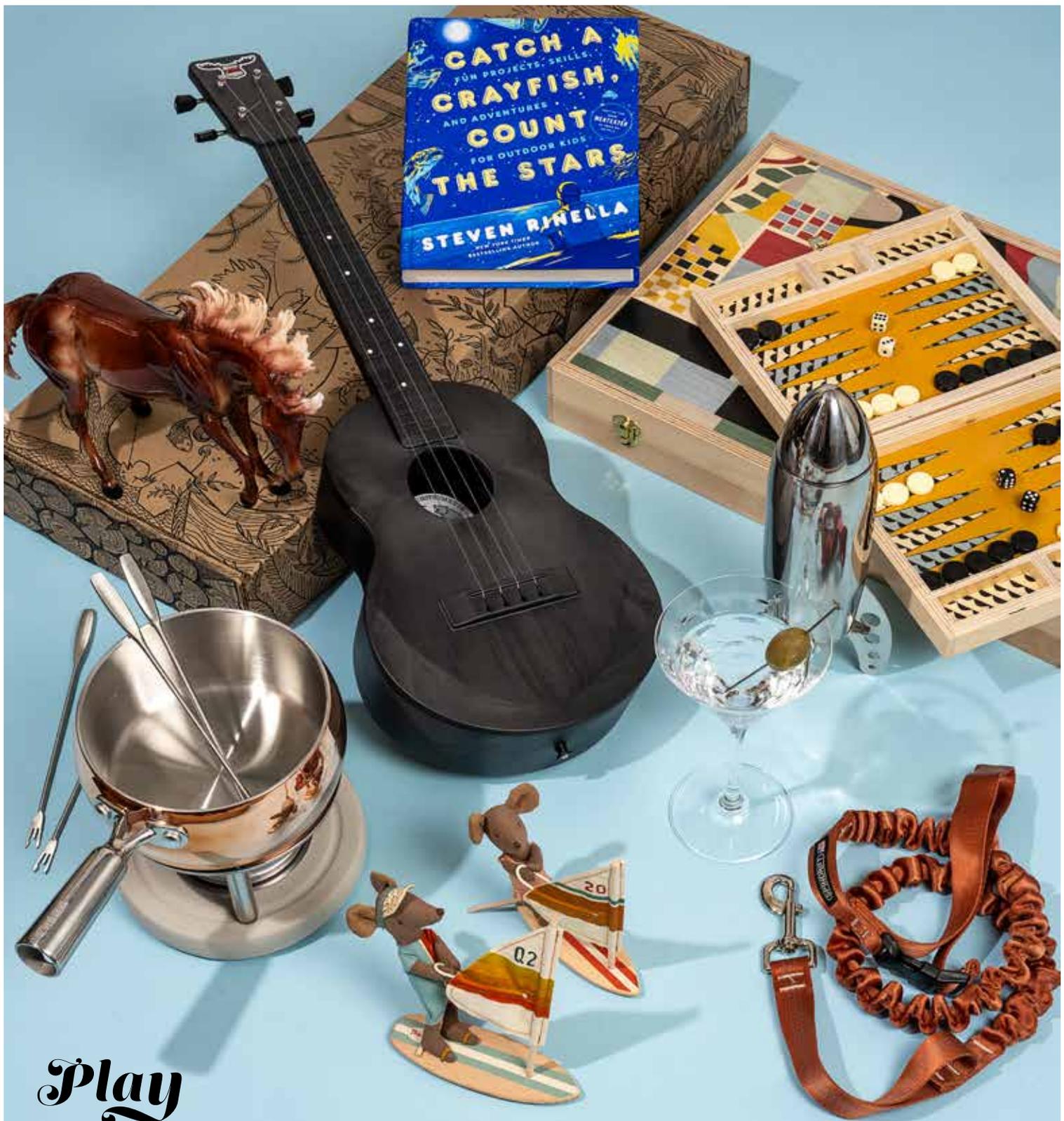
■ **MIDAS TOUCH:** A gold link necklace or geometric earrings are a simple touch of luxury to tuck in a stocking. Saxon's Fine Jewelers, Old Mill District.

■ **GIFT OF TIME:** Whether as a reminder of each precious moment or to keep your loved ones on time, the gift of a watch is not only old school, it's always in style. Shinola watches are made in Detroit, and found at Revolv'r Menswear, Bend.

■ **THE WAY TO A HEART...** is likely through chocolate. 80% single-origin Tanzania chocolate is used in this decadent cocoa mix made by Bend chocolatier Seahorse Chocolate.

■ **GIVE A HAND:** Bangle stacks and rings are affectionate adornments in 18kt gold with diamonds and jade. Artistry from Roberto Coin and other designers is available at Saxon's Fine Jewelers, Old Mill District.





## Play

■ From left: **PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD:** Copper and concrete fondue set at Wild Petals Provisions, Bend. **FOR KIDS AND COLLECTORS:** Breyer horses are beloved, from Absolute Horse, Bend. **MAKE MUSIC:** Carbon Fiber Ukulele by Outdoor Ukulele, with packaging illustrated by Megan Marie Myers, from The Bend Store, downtown. **PLAY OUTSIDE:** Author Steven Rinella provides oodles of playful ideas for kids of all ages in his book *Catch a Crayfish, Count the Stars*, available at local booksellers. **GAME TIME:** Artisan-made backgammon sets for travel or home, found at Merryweather Home Gift Design, The Box Factory, Bend. **SHAKEN AND SERVED:** Rocket cocktail shaker, from Furnish., Bend. Rolf martini glass etched with swimming fish from Pomegranate Home & Garden, Bend. **PET PLAY:** Leashes from local brand Spindrifit expand up to two feet, making walks safer (and more fun) for dogs and owners at Bend Pet Express, Bend. **SMALL WORLD:** Discover the adventurous world of Maileg mice at Hopscotch Kids, Bend.

# Action

■ From top: **LAYER FOR ADVENTURE:** Lined denim jacket from Filson, at Les Newman's Quality Footwear and Clothing, Bend. **WEATHER OR NOT:** For rain or style, Ilse Jacobsen boots from North Soles Footwear, Bend. **ACTIVITY-FRIENDLY JEWELRY:** Hand-woven bracelets in a rainbow of colors from Bronwen Jewelry, Bend. **POURING FRESHIES:** A pressurized growler keeps beer both cold and effervescent, available at The Bend Store, downtown. **SIP:** Refreshments never looked better than in glasses etched with a pinecone motif from Pomegranate Home & Garden, Bend. **READY FOR SNOW:** Find snowy trails in a pair of snowshoes from Mountain Supply, Bend. **RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT:** Be ready to meet the fish of your dreams with a waterproof pack from Confluence Fly Shop, Old Mill District. **CATCH THIS:** A silver flask for good luck or hydration, at Pomegranate Home & Garden, Bend. **RUN FOR IT:** Top off the feeling of elated feet with a wicking runner's hat from FootZone Bend.





# Nurture

■ From left, clockwise: **PICK A FAVORITE:** Floral silk pajamas are just one style from a bouquet of choices in the pajama room of Lulu's Boutique, Bend. **RELAX:** Fill a bath, add mineral-rich elixirs from OSEA and hydrate with a Salt & Stone body wash of ocean botanicals and antioxidants found at Wren & Wild Clean Beauty, Bend. **REJUVENATE:** Give spa treatments at home with a soothing Knesko eye mask, jade roller and Black Pearl Resurfacing Serum from Evoke Healing Space & Spa, Bend. **CULINARY TREAT:** New, from Foxtail Bakery's Nickol Hayden-Cady is *Treats from the Den*, a cookbook collection of comfort foods. **SLIPPERS ALL DAY:** Embroidery details elevate UGs from Bend Shoe Co., Bend. **BALANCING ACT:** Tippy the Bird is a balancing bottle opener that is as much art as utility, from Furnish., Bend. **POUR A GLASS:** Share wine from Faith Hope & Charity Vineyards. **TEA TIME:** Serve a cup of tea in a proper English ceramic pot—this classic 1896 design from Great Britain is at Kara's Kitchenware, Old Mill District. **MOOD RINGS:** Find rings with stones as individual as the people who wear them from designer Jamie Joseph at Silverado Jewelry Gallery, Bend. **SAGE THOUGHTS:** Find dried bouquets accented with crystals at Evoke Healing Space & Spa, Bend.

# Nest

■ From top left: **NATURAL GLOW:** Zebra-agate table lamps warm a home space, from The Jewel, Sisters. **RETRO VIBES:** Countertops become galleries when appliances are art. Smeg toaster from Johnson Brothers Appliances, Bend. **GATHER TOGETHER:** A sipping tray signals time for a toast or aperitif. Find it at Arrange, Bend. **HOST WELL:** As a host gift, or as a gift to your own holiday home, Gingerbread Coffee Liqueur from Oregon Spirit Distillers. **PIECE BY PIECE:** Gather around and work together on a German-designed Ravensburger puzzle from Leapin' Lizards Toy Company, Bend. **LET THERE BE LIGHT:** Stained glass refracts a rainbow of color. Find this hanging art and the *House of Joy* book with ideas for cheerful living at Root Adorned, NorthWest Crossing. **B**



# 12 WINTER MOMENTS WE LOVE

## LOCALS SHARE FAVORITE MEMORIES OF THE SEASON

Winter arrives with feelings both familiar and transcendent. Perhaps the moment is signaled by a smattering of lightly falling snowflakes, or is boisterously proclaimed by the power of a winter storm. When the horizon line hosts the meeting of two rivers—both the Deschutes and atmospheric—the convergence is a winter wonderland in our backyard. However Jack Frost first appears, Central Oregonians await to celebrate the wonder of winter in the snow-filled landscape of the high desert. To highlight the reasons we love these winter months, *Bend Magazine* asked our readers why they love winter. On the pages that follow, community members and leaders share some of their favorite moments of the season.

PHOTO ADAM MCKIBBEN





# 1 *Winter Running*

“Every year I look forward to the first big snow storm, grabbing my running shoes and traction devices and heading out for a quiet run through Shevlin Park. (followed by months of longing for nice hot dry summer day trails).” — TODD DUNKLEBURG, DIRECTOR, DESCHUTES PUBLIC LIBRARY

# 2 *Skiing as a Family*

“My favorite memory of winter is our Christmas family tradition. We always wake up and have a big breakfast. After breakfast, we head up to the mountain and get a few laps in as a family and then have a nice post ski lunch at the mountain.” — JOHN MERRIMAN, MT. BACHELOR PRESIDENT AND GM

PHOTO TOP: STEPHEN MATERA | BOTTOM: COURTESY ELK LAKE RESORT



# *Snowmobiling*

“

SNOWMOBILING TO ELK LAKE FOR A TASTY LUNCH AND TOASTY WINTER COCKTAIL”

— LINDI W.





## 4 *Sledding*

“Every winter I love sledding with my young daughter and nieces and nephews, here in town or up at Wanoga snow park. Crunching up the hill, sipping hot chocolate and watching the grins on their faces is a family tradition I look forward to every year.” — MELANIE KEBLER, MAYOR OF BEND

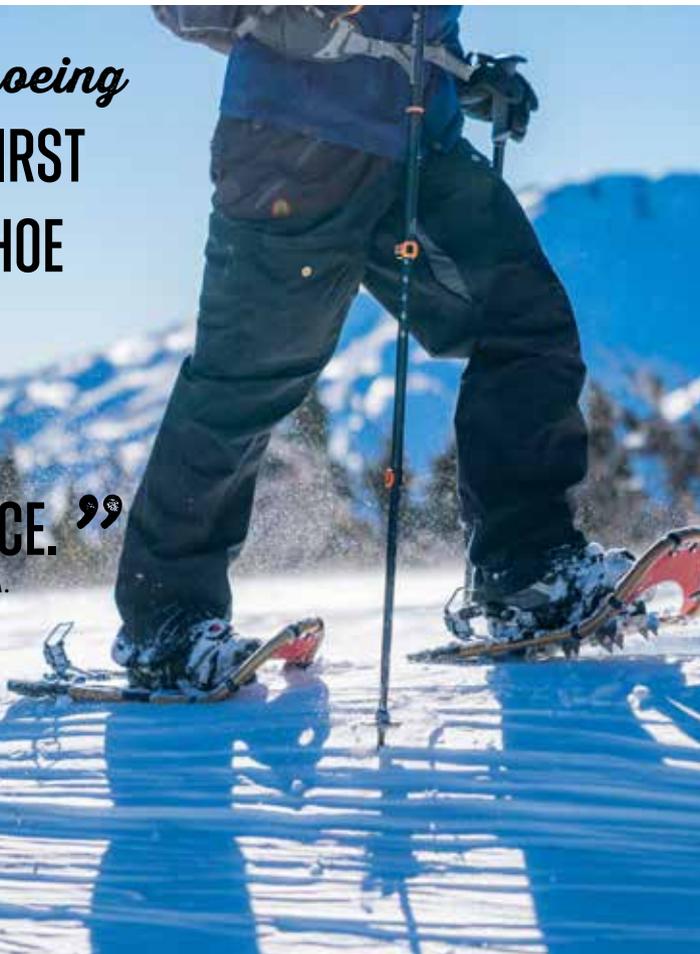
## 5

## *Snowshoeing*

“THE FIRST  
SNOWSHOE  
OF THE  
SEASON

IN SILENCE.”

— NATASHA M.



## *Wanoga Cookout*

“A favorite winter tradition in our family is the true challenge of a Wanoga cookout. While children and families sled and snowshoe around us, we get the shovels, wood, and perhaps a heavy dose of lighter fluid, going to roast veggie dogs and s’mores under the crisp Central Oregon blue skies. Our expert tip: an aluminum basting tray for the bottom of your pit!” —MELISSA BARNES-DHOLAKIA, CHAIR, BEND-LA PINE SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# 7

## Family Ski Day

“SKIING WITH MY LITTLE DUDE. HE’S 10, AND HIS FAVORITE THING IS TALKING TO NEW PEOPLE ON THE LIFT.”

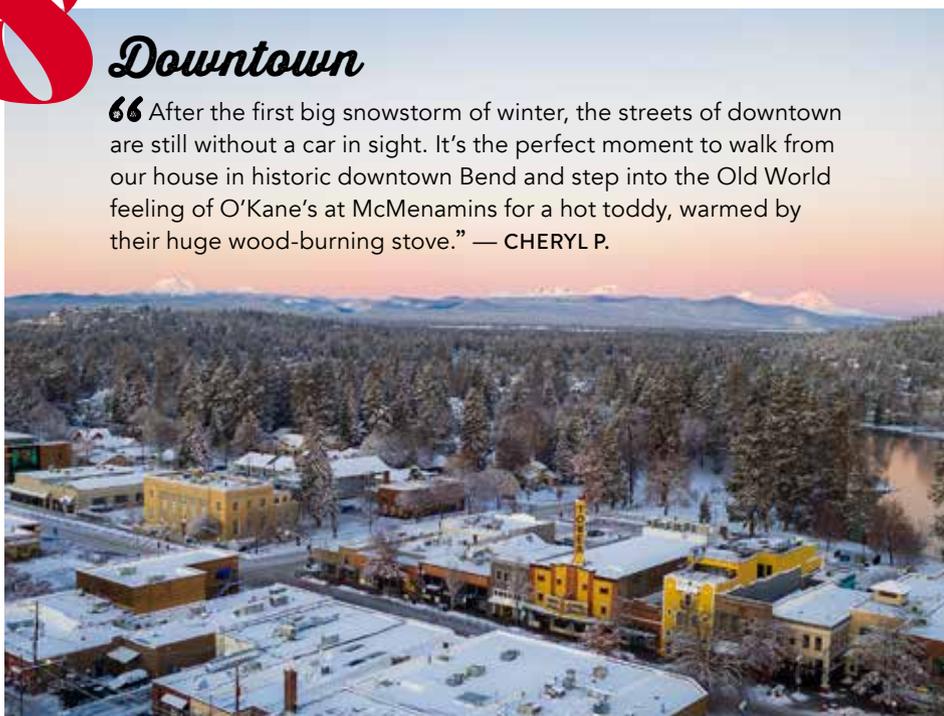
— TESSA S.



# 8

## Downtown

“AFTER THE FIRST BIG SNOWSTORM OF WINTER, THE STREETS OF DOWNTOWN ARE STILL WITHOUT A CAR IN SIGHT. IT’S THE PERFECT MOMENT TO WALK FROM OUR HOUSE IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BEND AND STEP INTO THE OLD WORLD FEELING OF O’KANE’S AT McMENAMINS FOR A HOT TODDY, WARMED BY THEIR HUGE WOOD-BURNING STOVE.” — CHERYL P.



## The First Run

“THAT FIRST EPIC RUN OVER TANGENT, OUT BITTERBRUSH, AND ON TO THE CINDER PIT WITH THE CRISP AIR, THE BEAUTIFUL QUIET, AND THE RHYTHM OF MY HEART AND MY SKIS GLIDING ON THE SNOW.”

— ANTHONY HINZ, M.D.  
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON,  
THE CENTER.

PHOTO TOP ADAM MCKIBBEN | BOTTOM RICHARD BACON

# 10

## *Building Memories*

“We’re looking forward to another fun winter. I love that my kids are able to soak up all the winter activities and make special memories together. From building “snow-people” to sledding and lots of cozy fires and hot cocoa treats! It’s truly a special season!”

— LAUREN

# 11

## *Cross-Country Skiing*

“Cross-country skiing early in the morning and watching the sun rise over the snow capped mountains.” — MARY T.



PHOTO BOTTOM LEFT WHITNEY WHITEHOUSE



# 12

## *Christmas Tree Hunting*

“I look forward to our annual Christmas tree hunt. Every year since we have been married, we have gotten a \$5 permit and hiked through the Deschutes National Forest to find the perfect tree. Over the years our pack has grown to include our two dogs and two kids so it’s generally chaotic. But when we finally have our perfect tree secured and we pour cups of hot chocolate from our thermos, I am filled with joy and gratitude. It’s the ideal way to kick off the holiday season and I look forward to it every year.” — AMARA S.

“Getting our Christmas tree in the woods and going to Suttle Lake Lodge afterwards.” — NW RAW

“Getting holiday trees out in the forest on horseback. And nighttime snowshoe and xc ski party to a warming shelter for chili, soup, beverages, music and treats.” — COLLEEN M.

“Going up into the mountains to Christmas tree hunt.” — DEBBIE S.

“Heading into the forest to cut down our Christmas tree! We always take Grandma with us and grab one for her too; sometimes we’re snowshoeing and shoveling out the perfect tree, and sometimes we take it easy and hit a lower elevation. Either way it’s a day spent together and enjoying this beautiful place we get to call home.” — APRIL P. IRI

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# Cookie Wonderland

It's the most delicious time of the year

WRITTEN BY MAISIE SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TARA LINITZ

'Tis the season for all things magical, when hearts of all ages beat a little faster in anticipation of sugary wonders. Why do we go utterly bonkers over cookies during the most wonderful time of the year? It's simple—cookies are a buttery hug, a burst of sweet nostalgia and a speedy path to straight-up joy. In Bend, the holiday cookie scene is nothing short of spectacular.



## MACARONS

### FRENCH FLAIR

Amidst the holiday frenzy, macarons emerge as festive jewels, and Too Sweet Cakes, the delectable brainchild of Shelbi Geyer, is a rendezvous point for these exquisite French delights. "They're one of my favorite things to make," said Geyer. "Details matter, and not everyone can master the macaron."

Too Sweet's macarons are a labor of love, crafted using the Italian method of blending hot sugar syrup with egg whites and almond flour to achieve that coveted shine. The true marvel is what's inside—a luscious buttercream filling with evocative holiday flavors such as peppermint, gingerbread and eggnog. These dainty delights—perfect for parties, gatherings or a secret stash—are tiny works of art that add a touch of French elegance to the season.



## BOTANICAL BAKING

### BUTTERY INDULGENCES

Step into a realm where holiday cookies take a surprising turn thanks to the enchanting creations of Andy Andreu, also known as The Flourist. With a culinary background and boundless curiosity, Andy ventured into botanical baking during the pandemic, forever pondering “What if?” as she experimented with edible flowers.

The Flourist’s pressed flower cookies bring a botanical twist to holiday treats. Made from shortbread dough, these crunchy, perfectly buttery delights are adorned with dried organic flowers and herbs that change with the seasons. Holiday flavors include cozy combinations like Turkish coffee spice and tahini chocolate.

Andreu has also perfected the madeleine, a cake-like cookie French mothers used to whip up as an afternoon treat for their children. Crispy on the outside and spongy on the inside, madeleines are perfect for dunking in tea, coffee or a steaming mug of hot cocoa. Andreu cranks up the creativity by dipping half of the madeleine in velvety white chocolate and sprinkling it with a blend of pistachio nuts and rose petals for a floral holiday indulgence.



## SUGAR COOKIES

### SWEET WHIMSY

Sugar cookies are timeless treats brimming with creative potential. When it comes to mastering this festive craft, the folks at Sparrow Bakery shine bright. Owners Whitney and Jessica Keatman have always held authenticity close to their hearts, striving to craft meaningful experiences for everyone who walks through their doors. What started as a scrappy word-of-mouth endeavor in 2006 has evolved into the bakery equivalent of Santa's workshop.

Sparrow's "Cookie Team" elevates creativity to the level of sugarplum dreams by plucking design inspiration from real life. Instead of following trends,

they create cookie collections from holiday shapes and colors that tell a whimsical story—bewhiskered elves and furry friends in a frosty forest, or a crackling fireplace surrounded by the family's stockings. The buttery shortbread crumble is lip-smacking, but the real magic is found in the joy their cookies give—like a long hug from a beloved Nonna. With meticulous icing and attention to detail that would make Santa's elves proud, each Sparrow cookie is almost too delightful to devour.





## CREATE A COOKIE WONDERLAND

Here are some tips and tricks from Bend's best bakers to ensure your cookies are as magical as a snowman at a penguin parade:

- Before baking, chill cookie dough until it's as cold as a winter night in Bend.
- Home ovens are consistently inconsistent. Use a separate thermometer and keep a watchful eye.
- Cool baking sheets with cold water between batches to ensure even baking.
- Elevate creativity by using a vibrant palette of food dye colors for icing. Instead of piping bags, consider using convenient squeeze bottles for precise icing control.
- For perfectly smooth icing, try "flooding." First, outline the area with icing that has a soft-peak consistency. Then, steadily and quickly fill the outlined area (or flood) with icing that's slightly thinner. Use a toothpick

to smooth air bubbles, and gently tap the cookie on the workspace to level the icing. Allow flooded cookies to dry for several hours before adding more decorations.

- Don't skimp on quality. Opt for premium organic flour and regularly replace older baking powders and sodas lurking in dark corners of the pantry.

Remember, the magic of cookies is found by spreading the love. Bake with joy and share those delicious creations with others. 🍪

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JUST SAY "HEY SIRI, I NEED A  
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# Italian Comfort Food

Trattoria Sbandati celebrates family and life

WRITTEN BY **DONNA BRITT** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **TAMBI LANE**





Just as a good book can take a reader to another place and time, a fabulous meal can transport a diner to another world. Enter Trattoria Sbandati of Bend where guests are transported to the world of peace, love and porchetta. “I think of my restaurant as an act of love. I can say that we still passionately and stubbornly love what we do,” Chef Juri Sbandati said of his restaurant tucked into an unassuming small business strip on Bend’s west side. “It is a way to celebrate life, family and, of course, the motherland Italia.”

Sbandati’s, as locals refer to the eatery, has been welcoming guests and treating them like family since 2009. That’s when Sbandati opened the doors, uplifting the local culinary scene with foods inspired by his native Tuscany. Sbandati’s cuisine tells a story, a tale of another land—the homeland of Sbandati—the capital of Italy’s Tuscany region and birthplace of the Renaissance—Firenze, also known as Florence. The restaurant’s emblem is the symbol of Firenze, the Florentine red iris.

Dining at Sbandati’s is a joyful trip to the Old Country where artisanship is at the heart of the culture, where creating food with two hands in the pursuit of beauty is still honored and revered. The chef’s craft shines through

in his menu, and the food itself comforts and nourishes; simple ingredients meld together in perfection for bites that satisfy the soul. “The core of our menu is a tribute to my family origins. And we have curated an all Italian wine list,” Sbandati said.

In classic Italian style, the trattoria’s menu begins with antipasti. Those starters naturally include bruschetta, cured meats and the *piatto di formaggi misti* which is a selection of imported Denominazione d’Origine Protetta Italian cheeses served with organic Italian fig jam, walnuts, pine cone syrup, sliced pears and aged balsamic from Modena. The combination is simple perfection and just enough to stimulate the appetite for more.

The *primi* (first course) selections range from soups of the day to pastas. The trattoria regularly has seven different kinds of handmade pasta on the menu, made only with 100% Italian flour and Sicilian sea salt. One of the customer favorites, according to Sbandati, is the pasta dedicated to his wife, the Rebecca Special. The handmade saffron pasta is tossed in a sauce of olive oil, garlic, black olives, oil-soaked sundried tomatoes, cayenne pepper and soft burrata.

There’s also the penne pasta tossed in spicy tomato sauce,



I THINK OF MY RESTAURANT AS AN ACT OF LOVE. I CAN SAY THAT WE STILL PASSIONATELY AND STUBBORNLY LOVE WHAT WE DO.”

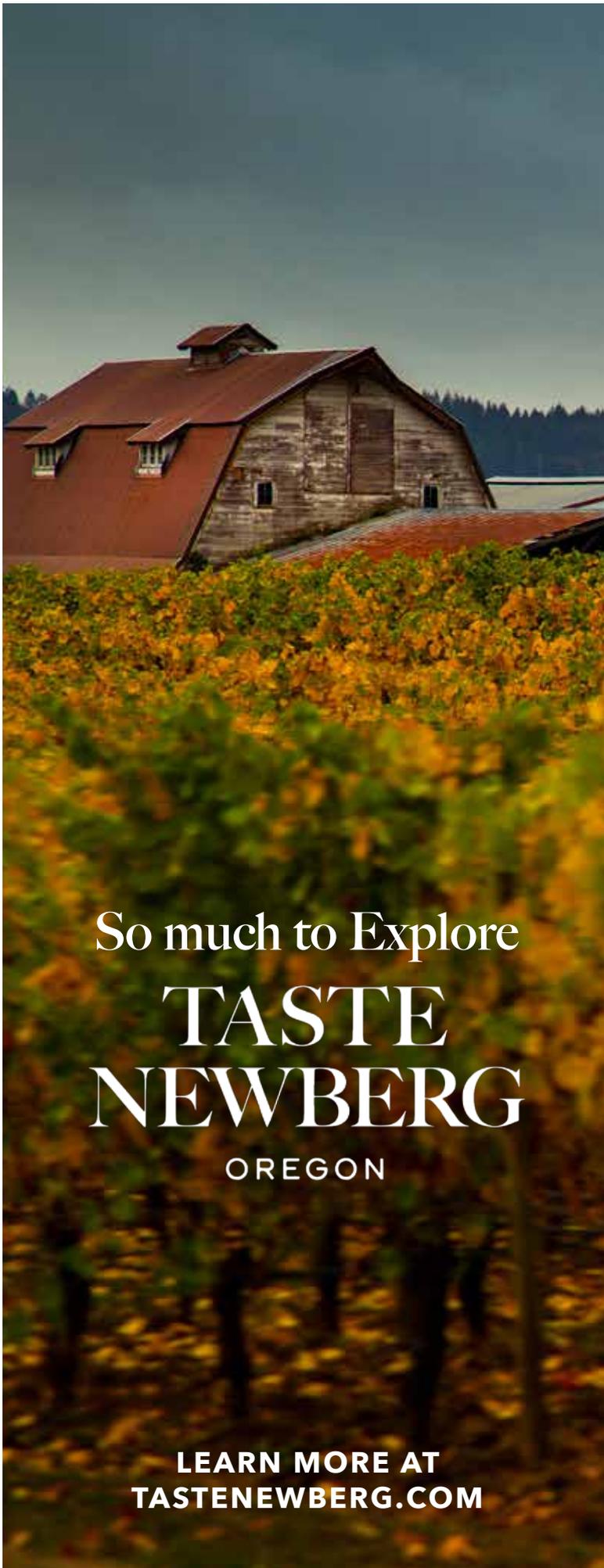
a hand-cut spaghetti and *pappardelle alla Chiantigana*. This house made pappardelle is served with a traditional sauce from the Chianti region made with Italian sausage, fennel, tomato, leeks and Chianti wine topped with Parmigiano Reggiano.

Sumptuous *secondi* courses (main courses) include the restaurant’s well-known *polpette*, a must-have featuring chef’s family recipe of tender ground beef meatballs cooked and served in tomato sauce with melted mozzarella on top and a delicious side of sauteed spinach. Tuscany is also famous for its beef. The seasonal special *Tagliata di Lombatello con Cavolo Verzotto e Acciuga*, hanger steak with sauteed savoy cabbage, does not disappoint. Not only are the dishes beautifully plated, the flavors are amazing, transporting the eater with every bite to a place of love and connection.

The final dessert course or *dolci*, must not be skipped but rather savored and lingered over. The tiramisu, based on a Sbandati family recipe, is made with mascarpone cream, ladyfingers dipped in coffee and a chocolate finish. A sweet cream panna cotta with fresh berry sauce also graces the dolci menu, as well as a *bongo*, the Florentine version of a profiterole—an éclair stuffed with cream and topped with melted dark chocolate and powdered sugar. *Buon appetito!* 🍴

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# Sip Elixers

Ancient mead from  
Lazy Z Ranch Wines

WRITTEN BY SARAH WOLCOTT  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TAMBILANE

Celtic mythology bestowed magical powers upon the ancient, fermented elixir of honey and water known as mead. John and Renee Herman, owners of Lazy Z Ranch Wines in Sisters, are one of the first to introduce this age-old alcoholic drink into Central Oregon with their modern farmhouse production. Lazy Z Ranch is one of a handful of the earliest ranches founded in the Sisters area, and it was once measured at 1,400 acres in size. With their contemporary spin on a traditional mead, the Herman's addition of Lazy Z Ranch Wines brings the historic working ranch back to life. Lazy Z Ranch Wines combines John's brewing education with his former fermentation experience working for Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. Not so different from the process of making wine, mead uses honey instead of grapes as the sugar catalyst to make alcohol. The Hermans work with hyper-local ingredients such as native pollinator habitat to manifest property-specific honey made by honeybees who live at Lazy Z Ranch. A big reveal: mead can range dramatically in terms of sweetness. The "Estate Traditional Style" is considered semi-sweet, while John refers to the "Lavender Blossom" option as the "Pilsner of mead," a more delicate drink that is lighter in style. The couple's goals include continuing the community vibe of the Lazy Z Ranch. John is part of the Sisters Public Works Advisory Board and the HOFFA Agricultural Advisory Committee, and Renee works as a therapist when she's not wrangling honeybees or helping make mead. The Ranch's historic red barn will be the future home of the Lazy Z Ranch Wines tasting room, opening in 2024. **B**

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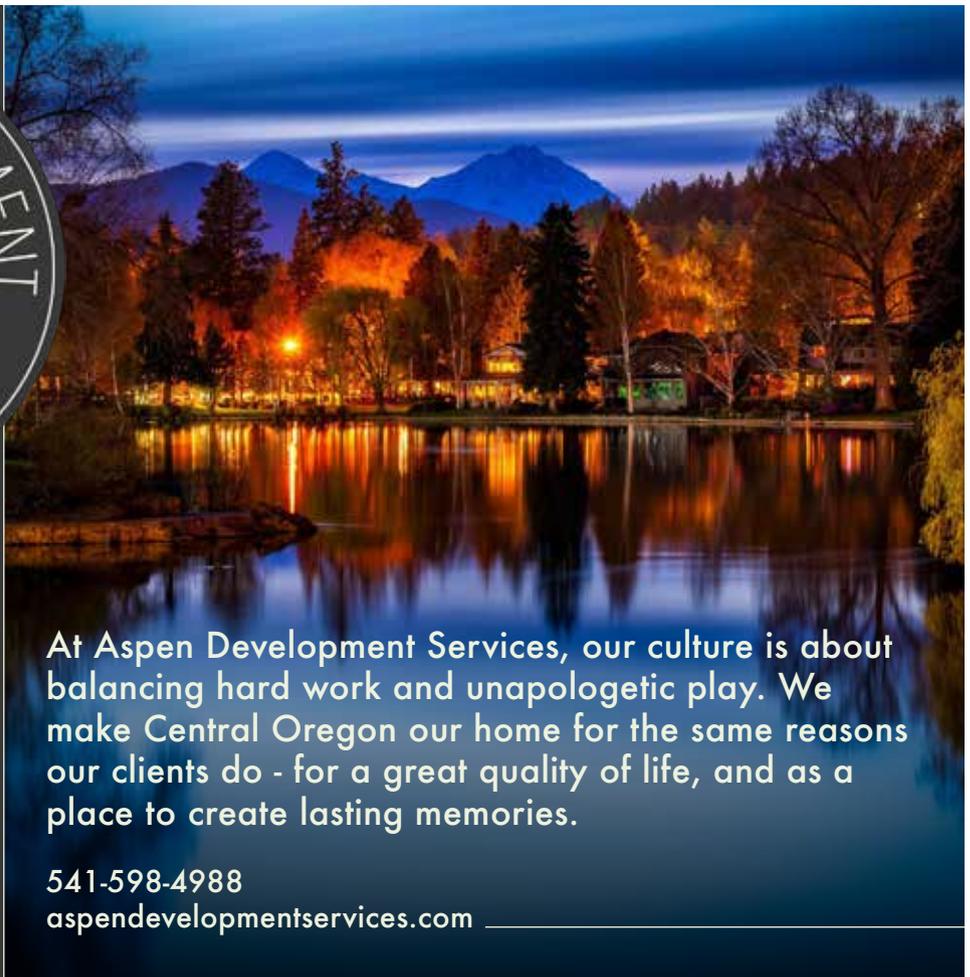
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# Flame and Form

Aaron Duccini on the art of fire and glass

WRITTEN BY CHLOE GREEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELY ROBERTS

**F**rom its ancient beginnings to crafting by modern-day artisans, the art of glass blowing has held its allure for centuries. At his studio just off Century Drive in Bend, Aaron Duccini offered insights into the mesmerizing processes and intricate challenges of working with fire and glass.

Growing up in Northern California, Duccini's creative spark was ignited early, evident in his childhood sketches. While exploring various artistic disciplines, including architecture and graphic design in high school, he stumbled upon the world of glass blowing at age 17. A chance encounter with a few videos and demonstrations opened up an entirely new realm. The fiery dance of molten glass and the way it transformed under the hands of skilled artisans had him hooked. This marked the start of Duccini's passion and the decades of work it has taken to refine his glassblowing skills.

Today, he specializes in crafting custom art pieces such as hand-blown glasses, cups, plates, bowls, vases, urns, seasonal items, wedding accents and sculptures, blending traditional techniques with innovative color applications and sculpting. In 2013, Duccini relocated to Bend, and in October 2017, he brought his long-held dream to fruition by lighting up the furnaces in his own studio, AD Glass + Design in Bend.

## TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES AND PERSONAL TOUCHES

A practice that dates back to Syrian artisans of the 1st century B.C., glass-blowing involves manipulating molten glass to create artistic and functional glass objects. Despite being refined by Italian artisans in the 15th century A.D., the techniques have remained largely unchanged throughout history. Duccini emphasizes the reliance on traditional methods and tools, using both gas and electric furnaces at AD Glass & Design, while also enhancing safety with the vigilance required to work with glass at dangerously high temperatures.

Glassblowing is both an art and a craft. After mastering the craft's foundational forms, such as spheres, cones, teardrops, triangles and cylinders, artists like Duccini can experiment with their individual artistic expression and develop distinctive styles. Duccini's style draws inspiration from nature, capturing Central Oregon sunsets' vibrant hues and the Painted Hills' stunning landscapes in his work.

## STEP-BY-STEP

The process of blowing glass is physical and requires precision that comes from a practiced hand. To begin, glassblowers gather molten glass onto a blowpipe, a hollow metal tube, and then the initial gather is shaped on a steel table called a marver while controlling the glass's temperature and viscosity through reheating in a furnace. The glassblower then blows air through the blowpipe, creating a bubble within the glass. An array of tools, including jacks, tweezers and shears, carefully manipulates the glass into its final form, often with the assistance of a skilled partner. Each piece is then annealed for strength by slow cooling in a kiln to relieve internal stresses.

Glassblowers infuse their creations with stunning colors through "color overlay." This technique involves adding molten colored glass to the clear glass gather, expertly layering and manipulating the two types of glass for intricate color patterns. Colored glass rods, known as canes or stringers, can also create specific designs or details, enhancing the aesthetic appeal and offering a broad spectrum of creative possibilities.

## COMMUNITY AND PRESERVATION

Glassblowing is a dwindling art form, and Duccini is dedicated to its preservation. His studio offers public demonstrations, lessons and immersive experiences to inspire a new generation of glassblowers. "It's turning into a lost art," Duccini shared. His demos and lessons aim to reignite interest in this timeless craft. Since 2007, he has mentored aspiring glassblowers of all ages, sharing his extensive knowledge and skills while introducing them to the captivating possibilities of glassblowing. He said, "Working with glass is almost limitless. Almost anything you can think of, anything you can draw, you can bring to life with glass." ■



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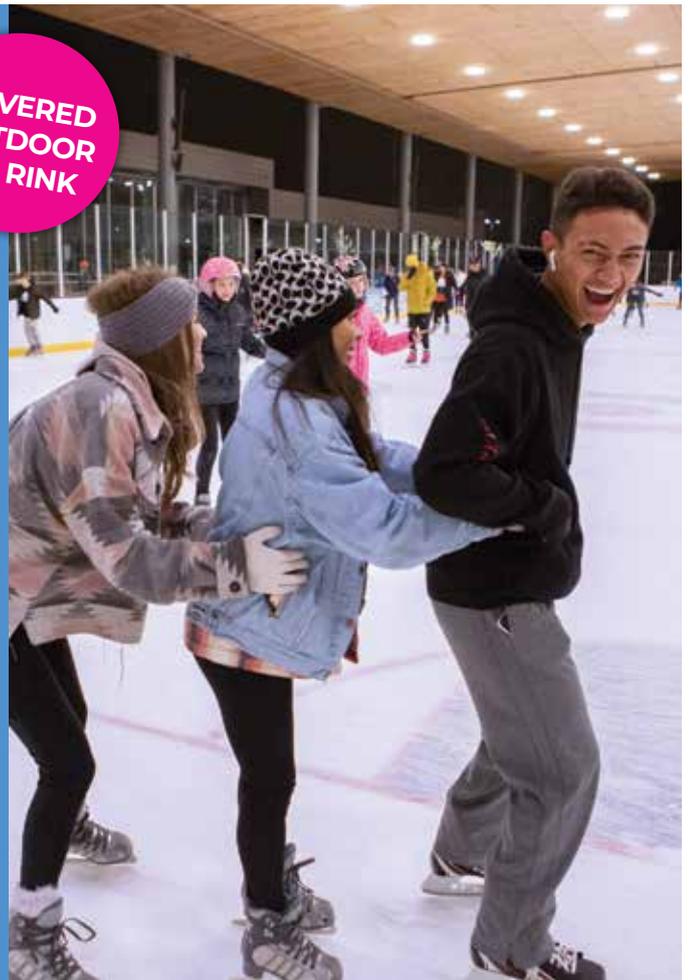
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# Pulling Images from Imagination

Printmaker Adell Shetterly embodies organic curiosity

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER DELAHUNTY

**A**lthough artist Adell Shetterly is a careful person by nature, once she enters the printmaking studio in her Bend home, all caution falls away. "A shift happens when I start working. I enter a flow zone where I am thinking about what I'm making, but I'm mostly going on instinct. I'm constantly asking, 'What if...?'"

"Twilight and Tranquility,"  
monotype



THIS Adell Shetterly in the studio  
OPPOSITE Tools of the printing process.



ADELL IS SO OPEN  
TO LIFE AND THE  
ART-MAKING PROCESS,  
AND SHE EXPERIENCES  
AND EXPRESSES  
SO MUCH JOY.”

—  
*Dawn Boone, printmaker  
and former executive  
director of Atelier 6000*

What if she turns a piece of plexiglass four times to see how the same image overlays on the paper? The engaging monoprint “Trailhead” emerges. What if she makes a stencil of hot glue and places it on a Teflon sheet before pressing it? A monoprint called “Blossom and Bloom” is the joyful outcome. What if she grabs a piece of grass from a recent hike and embeds it in silver electrician’s tape before running it through the press? Nothing short of magic is a result.

“Adell is very curious and experimental,” said Susan Luckey Higdon, a Bend painter who shows her work with Shetterly at the Tumalo Art Company. “While her work is abstract, she draws much of her inspiration from the natural world.” Luckey Higdon describes Shetterly’s work as both “imaginative and organic.”

Becoming a printmaker was something that Shetterly, even as a planner,

didn’t see coming. She trained as an elementary education teacher and developed programs for Troutdale’s Park and Recreation department before she and her husband Brian moved to Bend in 2001. On a whim, she volunteered at the Art Station, which was located in the historic train station in the Old Mill District. Before she knew it, she had a job developing programs and coaching teachers for Art Central’s education offerings. She had taken art classes in college but had been diverted by teaching and family responsibilities.

Shetterly took her first printmaking class from the esteemed printmaker Pat Clark, former chair of the art department at California State University, Long Beach. After retiring in Bend, Clark founded Atelier 6000 (A6), a printmaking and book arts studio; Shetterly not only took classes at A6 but built the program, designed the website and did public relations work.



“PETS MOTIVATE  
US TO *play*,  
BE *affectionate*,  
SEEK *adventure*  
AND BE *loyal*.”  
—UNKNOWN

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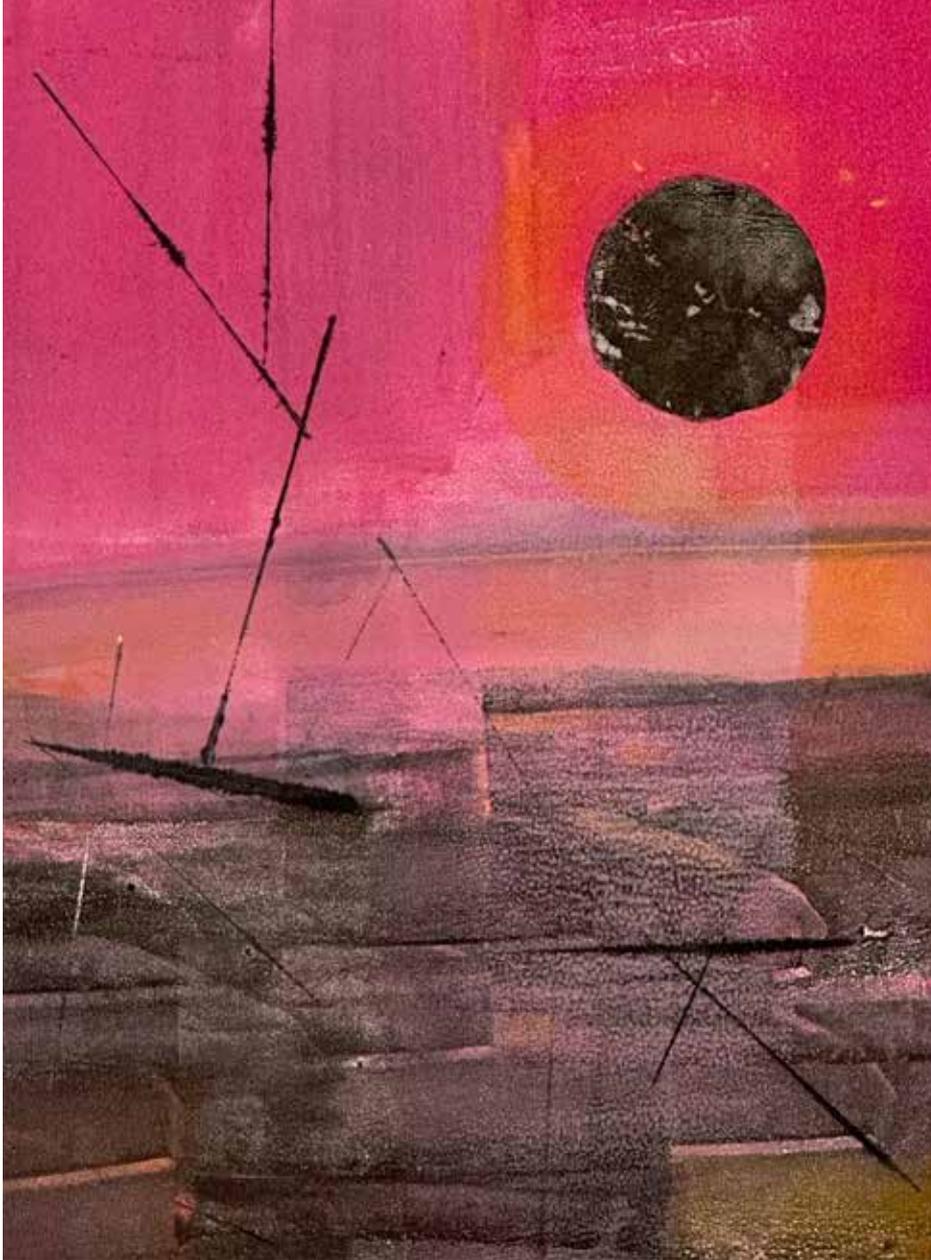


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Clark, who passed away in 2021, helped many area artists find their way. "Under Pat's watch, I began thinking of myself as an artist," said Shetterly. Clark never directed Shetterly or her other students; instead, she nudged, asked questions and modeled intense curiosity. "Pat taught me to be comfortable with my own decisions," says Shetterly, concluding that "A6 was my art school." A6 and its next iteration—the Bend Art Center—are now closed, but an offshoot printing studio exists in Sisters today.

The joy Shetterly feels in the medium is obvious to those around her. While working together at A6, printmaker and former Executive Director Dawn Boone watched Shetterly emerge as an artist. "It was such a lightbulb moment for Adell. She found her medium and said 'yes!' She became a sponge, absorbing as much as she could about printmaking." Boone continued, "I consider Adell a true artist. It's such a pleasure to watch her journey unfold. She's so open to the process." While Boone says Shetterly has a recognizable style, "her work is constantly evolving."

Shetterly's aesthetic draws inspiration from the natural world and integrates abstraction, color and texture. "My prints are about imagination," she said. "People look at them and discover what they want."

While Shetterly describes herself as a "homegrown" artist and said, "My resumé is the history of arts organizations in Bend," she is always an eager student. During the pandemic, she took an online workshop from a New Zealand artist to study collagraphy—a process by which materials are collaged and then printed. She also studied art books exhibiting the color field theories of mid-twentieth century artists who inspire her work.

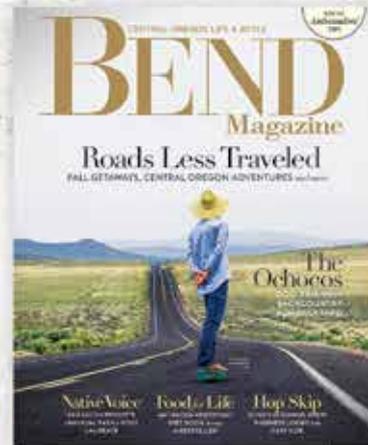
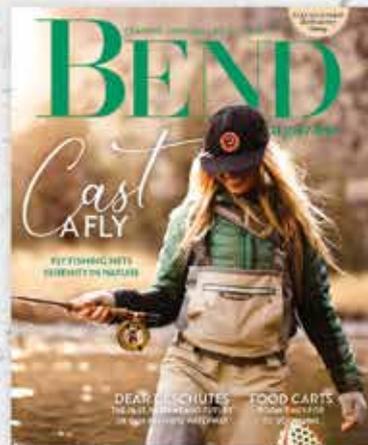
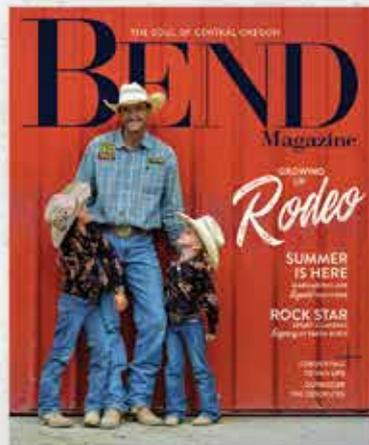
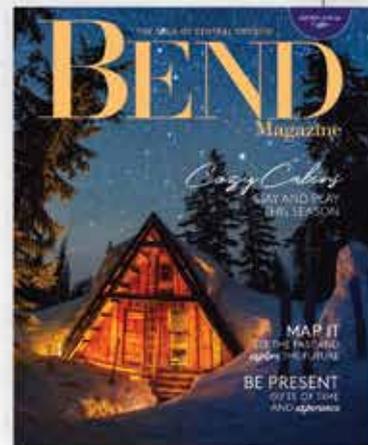
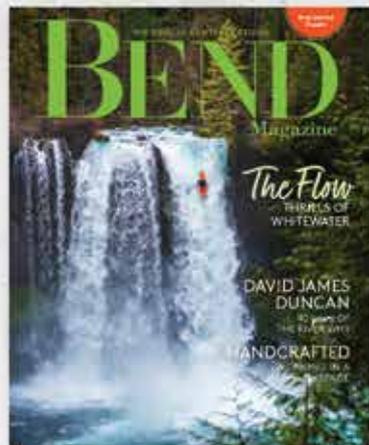
"My journey will just continue," said Shetterly. "I won't ever retire from this work." See [adellshetterly.com](http://adellshetterly.com), [tumaloartco.com](http://tumaloartco.com). **B**



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# Culture *Shorts*



## SCALEHOUSE COLLABORATIVE FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS THE ART OF BERGEN BOCK

In the exhibition, "Memories in the Ground," Bend-based artist Bergen Bock uses vibrant colors and expressive brushwork to convey themes of grief, love and resilience. With influences ranging from folk to street art, Bock's work challenges assumptions and encourages empathy, inviting viewers to engage in honest conversations about shared humanity. Find the Scalehouse show at The Annex in the atrium at Franklin Crossing through December 21. See [scalehouse.org](https://scalehouse.org).



## LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER RELEASES NEW BOOK

For decades, Swiss photographer Christian Heeb has captured beauty in portraits and natural landscapes. He tells his story in the recently published book *Coming to America: A Photographer's Tale*. In 1986, Heeb embarked on a journey to the United States that launched his career as a travel photographer. Now residing between Bend and Mexico, Heeb reflects on more than 30 years of work and he provide insights into American culture, Switzerland and more. See [heebphoto.com](https://heebphoto.com).

## MAKERSPACE ACCEPTING PROJECTS

Through its new program Client Projects, Makerspace at Oregon State University-Cascades offers design consultations, prototype fabrication and manufacturing advice from staff and trained undergraduates. Members of the Central Oregon community may utilize the facility's 3D printers, scanner, laser engraver, CNC milling and sewing machines. See [osucascades.edu](https://osucascades.edu).



## ART STATION MOVING TO LARKSPUR PARK

A new location for the Art Station is coming to Larkspur Park. Bend Park and Recreation District, which took over Art Station programs in 2016, anticipates the shared staffing and programming opportunities at Larkspur Park will enrich art options for youth and adults. The construction, estimated at \$2.5 million, is slated to be complete for a summer 2026 public opening. See [bendparksandrec.org](https://bendparksandrec.org).

## NEWLY RENOVATED THEATER PLANS REOPENING

Cascade Theatrical Company will reopen on December 23 with a larger performance space, upgraded theater seats, improved lighting and sound equipment, a new roof, modernized HVAC and sprinkler systems and a striking marquee. Made possible by the Bend Sustainability Fund, the new design offers accessibility to a more diverse audience and expands opportunities for both productions and educational events. See [cascadestheatrical.org](https://cascadestheatrical.org).



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THE GREATEST VIRTUE, BUT THE  
PARENT OF ALL THE OTHER VIRTUES.”

— CICERO

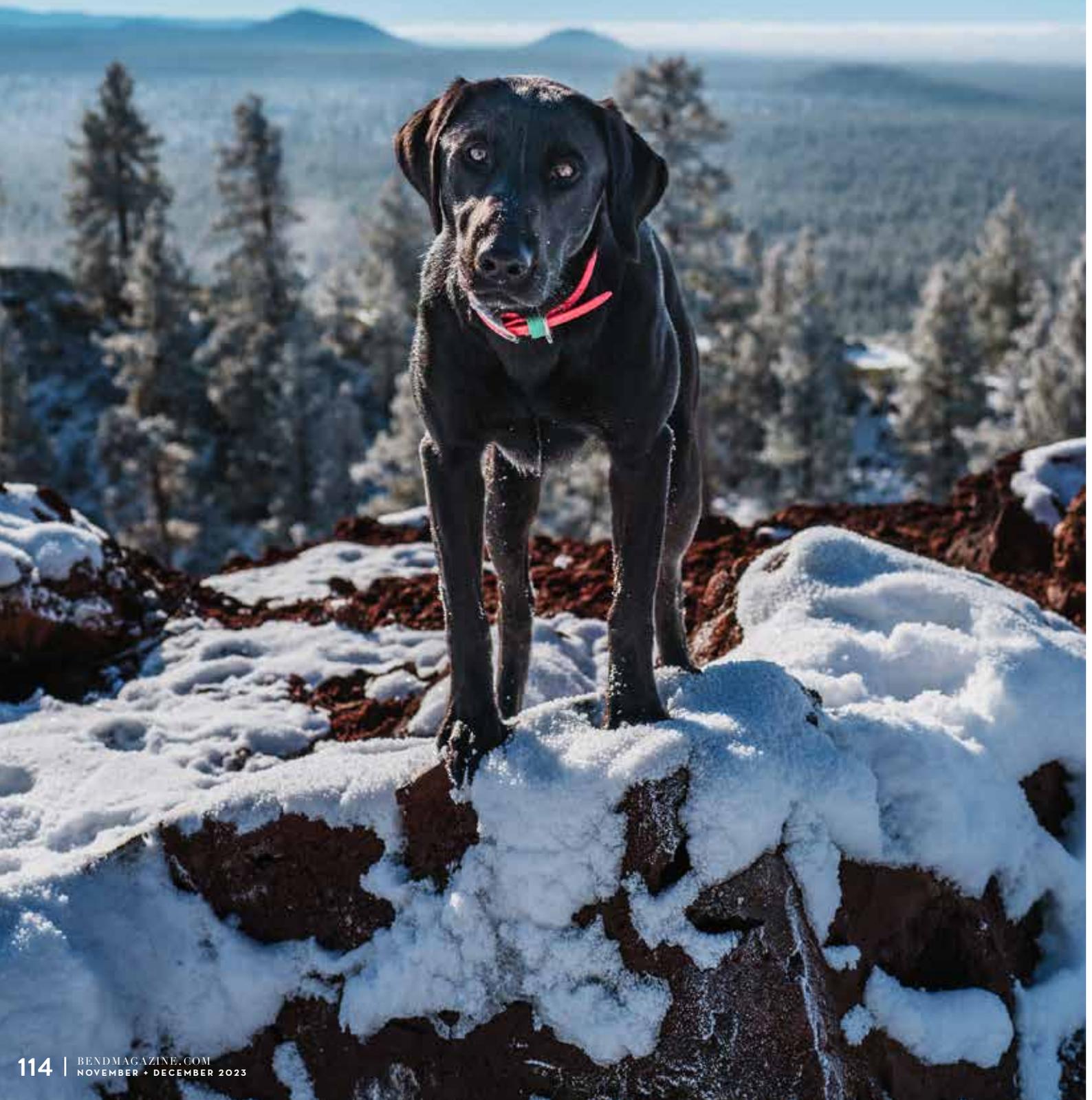


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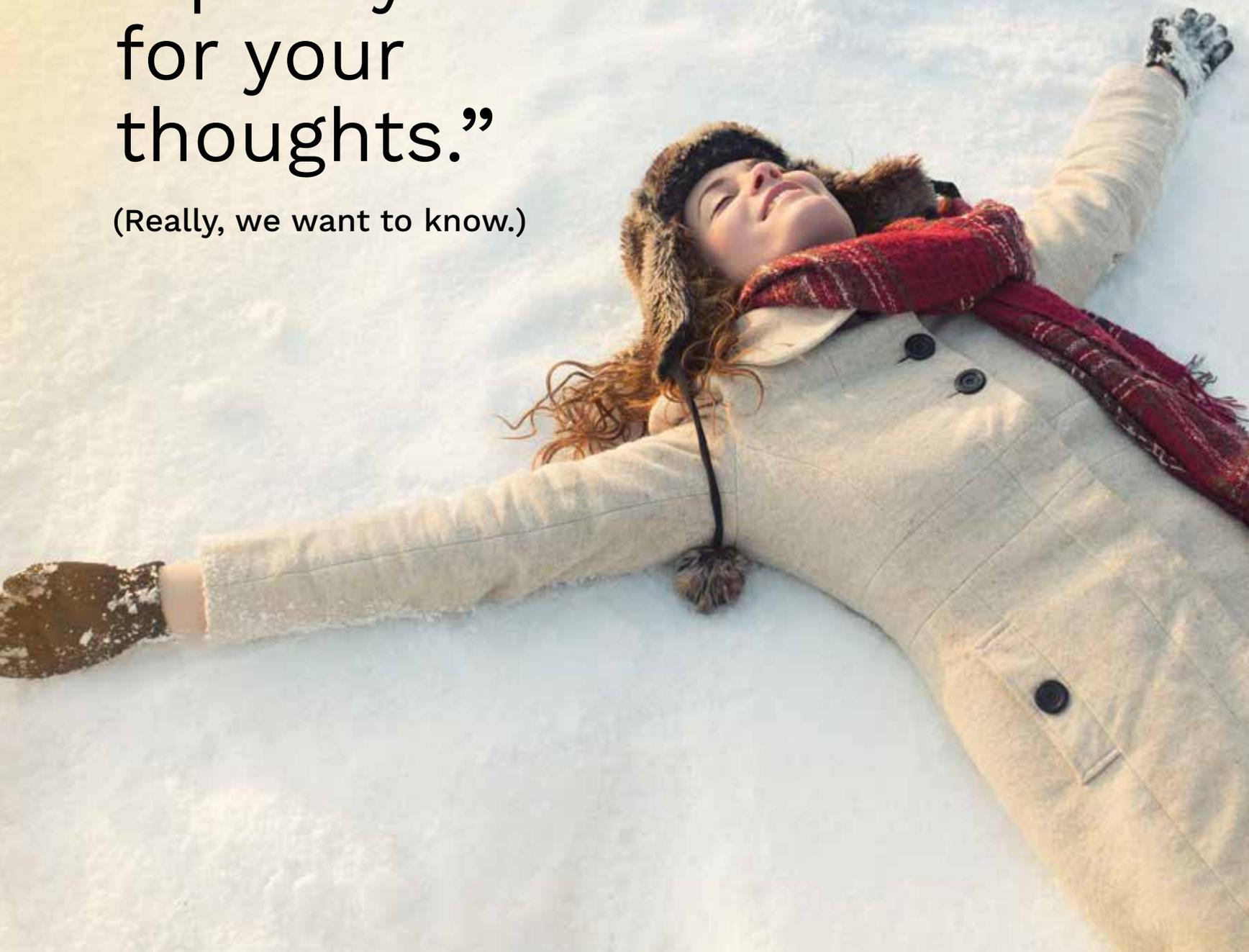
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