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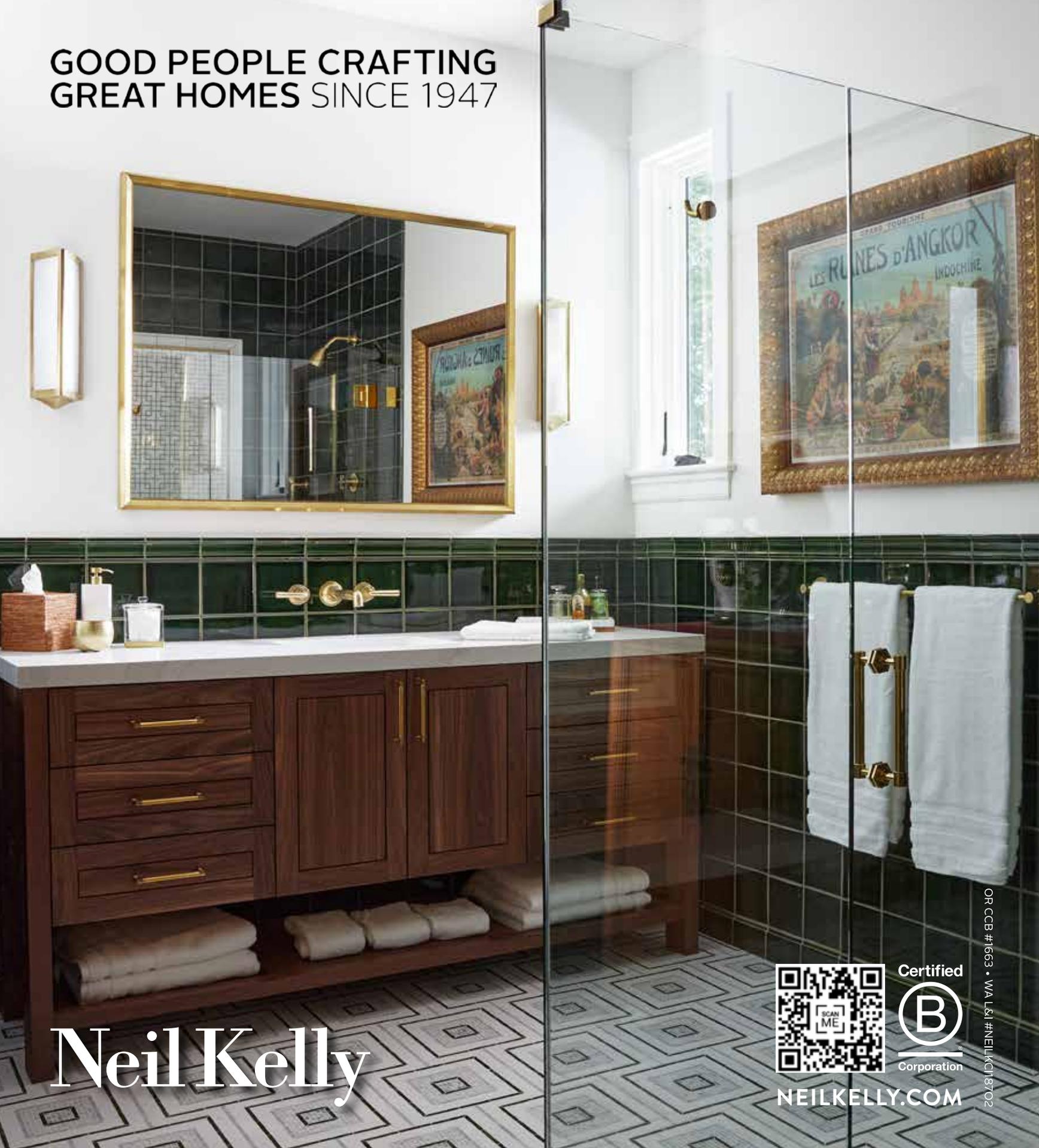
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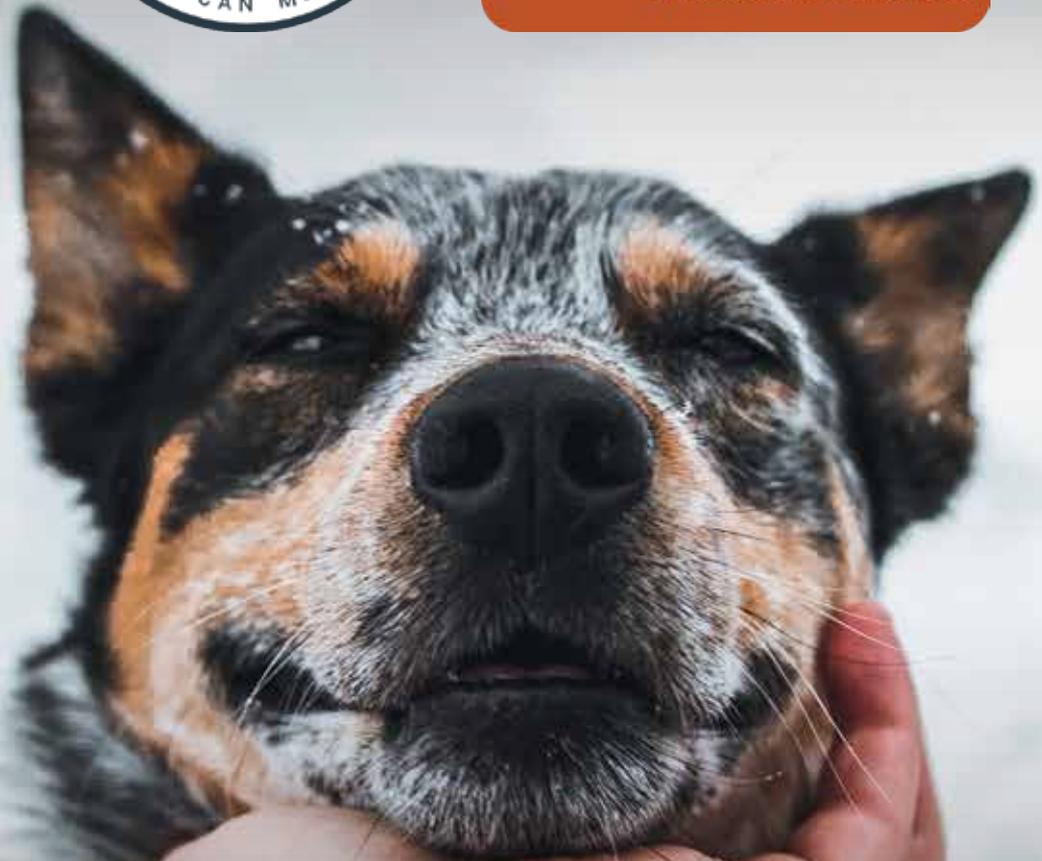


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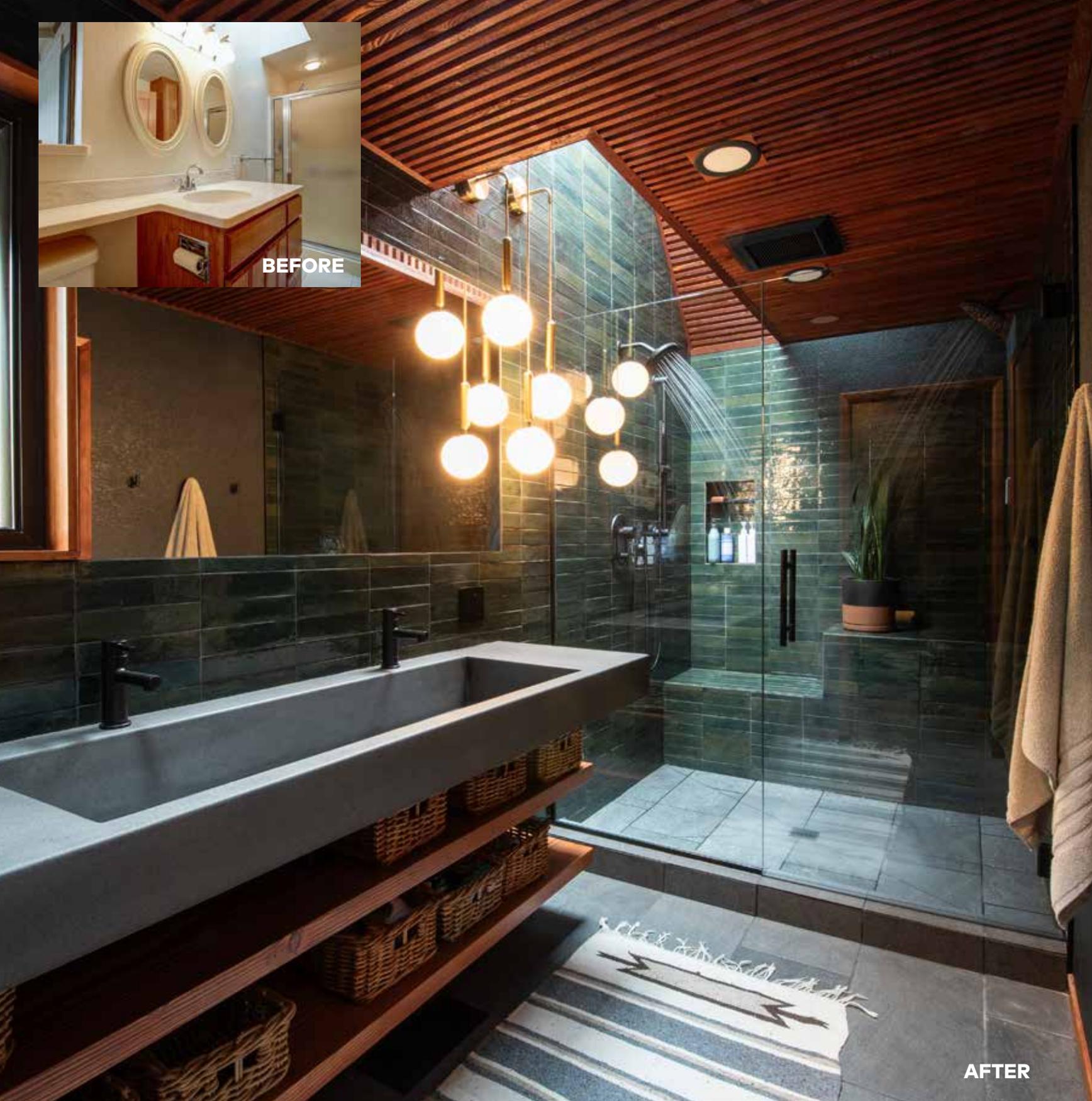
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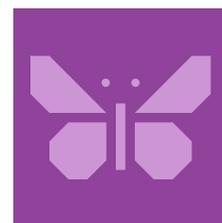
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DIGITAL EXTRAS

Ready to enjoy the area's culinary best? Search our dining guide to learn more about the top spots at bendmagazine.com/dining-guide.

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NIGHT MOVES

From night noshing or whiskey tasting around a fire to line dancing or skiing under the stars, there's plenty to discover in Central Oregon after the sun goes down. *Written by Cathy Carroll.*

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HOT SHOTS

Growing up with Mt. Bachelor in your backyard, some children learn to ski at the same time they learn to walk. Up-and-coming skiers inspire athletes of all ages. *Written by Annie Fast.*

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ON THE ICE

Central Oregon's ice sports have come a long way since the days of flooding and freezing Troy Field. Today, ice time is prime time for hockey, curling and figure skating. *Written by Ted Taylor.*



ON THE COVER
COVER PHOTO BY
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WORDS *and* PICTURES



CATHY CARROLL
WRITER

As a journalist who's covered many fascinating destinations for *Forbes*, *Travel + Leisure* and other publications, Cathy Carroll has experienced the after-dark scene from Bali's beaches to the underground clubs of Paris, but always loves discovering interesting things to do in her own backyard of Bend. Whether it was the human connection of dancing, sipping exotic cocktails, noshing new dishes or skiing a path lit by tiki torches, she was happy to write Central Oregon after dark in the feature "Night Moves," page 68.



ROSEANN DENNERLY
WRITER

Roseann Dennerly unearthed her love for storytelling as a humanitarian journalist in places such as post-disaster Haiti and war-torn Sudan. She regularly experiences the tension stated by Mark Twain: "Each day, I wake torn between the desire to save or savor the world...this makes it hard to plan the day." A transplant to the Pacific Northwest from the Sonoran Desert, Dennerly has an affection for connecting people to experiences through her work as a creative consultant for nonprofits and a freelance writer. Here, she explores lakeside cabins, page 37.



KELLY AND WALT SULLINS
PHOTOGRAPHERS

Bend-based photographers Kelly and Walt Sullins are dedicated to storytelling through imagery. Walt loves capturing the energy of sports, events and portraiture. Kelly draws from her experiences as the creative director of Iconic Dance to bring her visions of artistically dynamic images to life. They share their world with three beloved pups, and shared their work this month. Photographing hockey players, curlers and figure skaters took creativity, skill and navigating ice time. See the result, on page 80.



ARIAN STEVENS
PHOTOGRAPHER

Raised in the foothills near Lake Tahoe, Arian Stevens is now based in Bend. He began his photographic journey shooting scenic images of Yosemite National Park using film and a darkroom, and has continued to capture images of the outdoors and the people who roam there ever since. His work has been featured by companies, outfitters, nonprofits and in publications like *Adventure Journal*, *Field and Stream* and *Sunset*, among others. This month, he shot winter fishing, indoor gaming and multiple venues after dark for stories found on pages 31, 61, 68 and 95.



TED TAYLOR
WRITER

An award-winning journalist, Ted Taylor has spent time in newspaper and television newsrooms across Oregon, Colorado, Arkansas and Nebraska. He's nothing if not a sportsman, having raced mountain bikes and cyclocross, and competed in rec league adult baseball, basketball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, volleyball and, currently, ice hockey. He's a former assistant golf professional and is now the golf operations manager at Pronghorn Club. Taylor writes about Bend's obsession with ice sports at The Pavilion in the feature, "Ice Season," page 80.



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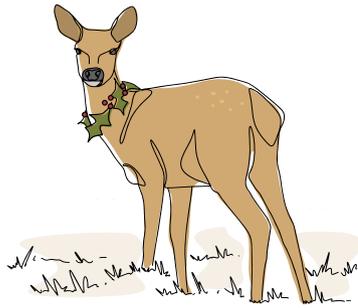


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WE HAVE ALWAYS MADE OUR COMMUNITY CENTRAL TO OUR WORK AND VIEW IT AS A PRIVILEGE TO TELL THE STORIES OF YOUR WORLD, TOO.”

Publisher's LETTER

This issue has us reflecting on some of our most important journeys and milestones. *Bend Magazine* will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year and it's incredible to reflect on the path we've taken to discover and share the Soul of Central Oregon with you during the past decade. Coincidentally, 2025 marks another important milestone: our 25th wedding anniversary. From a windswept engagement at the base of Broken Top—one that nearly blew us off the mountain—and saying “I do” in Sunriver's Great Hall, to raising our kids here and calling Bend home for almost 30 years, this special place has been an essential part of our story and has truly shaped our lives.

We have always made our community central to our work and view it as a privilege to tell the stories of your world, too. These experiences are touchstones of lives well lived—just like those for a magazine, or a marriage.

The celebrations wouldn't be possible without the incredible people that surround us. We're overflowing with gratitude for the talented team who pour their heart and soul into each issue of *Bend Magazine* to capture the essence of Central Oregon with such passion and creativity. In this issue, we invite you to fall in love with the magic of a winter in Bend's backyard over

and over again. Explore cozy cabin hideaways tucked away in snowy landscapes, try your hand at winter fishing on a pristine lake or river, and meet the athletes who inspire us with their dedication to winter sports—whether on powder or on the ice. We bring you along to discover the vibrant scene in Central Oregon after dark, whether you're seeking a night out or a cozy evening by the fire. This issue is an invitation to create your own winter traditions and take your own journeys into the new year and beyond.

We haven't reached these milestones alone. To our advertisers, thank you for believing in our vision and for partnering with us to share our community's stories. And to our amazing readers: thank you for being the heart of *Bend Magazine*. Your support means the world to us and pushes us to continually strive for excellence. Here's to many more years of shared stories, adventures, and a deep appreciation for this incredible place we get to call home.

Happy Trails,

Heather & Ross Johnson,
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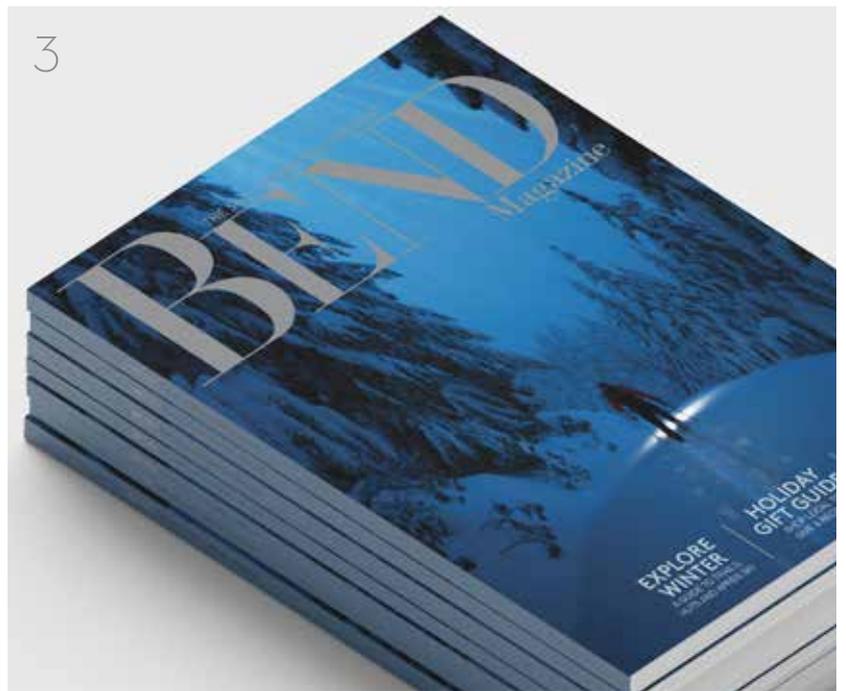


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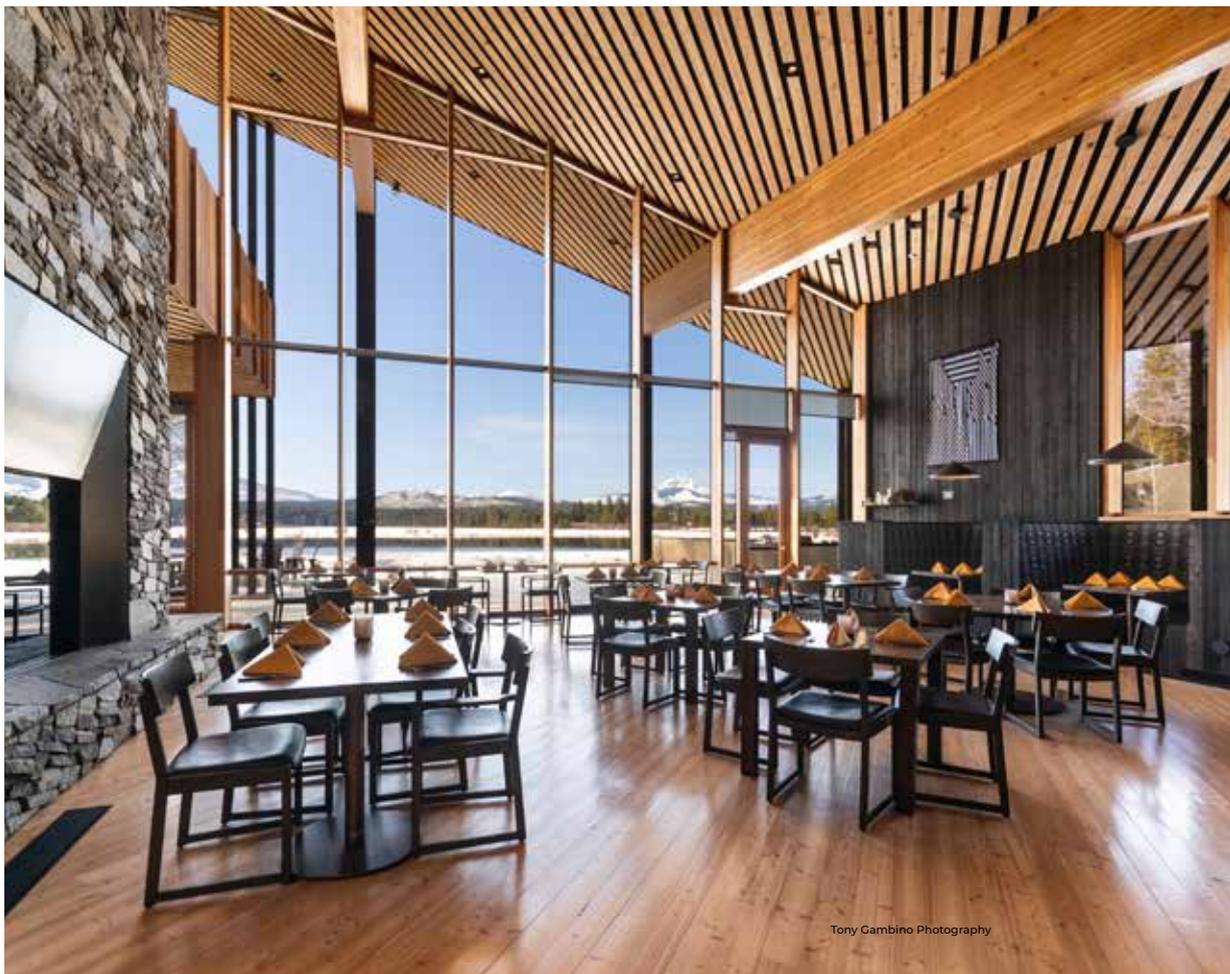
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Mt. Bachelor: Past and Future

Remembering Bill Healy and looking ahead

On what would have been Bill Healy's 100th birthday, Mount Bachelor Sports Education Foundation (MBSEF) and Mt. Bachelor celebrate his life and legacy on January 16 at the Tower Theatre. The founder of Mt. Bachelor Ski Area, Healy will be honored with a screening of the film, "Bill Healy: A Man Who Loved a Mountain," a tribute to his pioneering vision and how it transformed Central Oregon's identity.

Meanwhile, the future of Mt. Bachelor is in transition while the resort is for sale. A new owner will inherit strong local sentiment, grounded in Healy's commitment to community, but in a changing ski industry. With the proliferation of multi-mountain passes such as Epic and Ikon, there have been economic shifts for the parent companies, Vail Resort and Alterra, among others. Plus, Oregon has a complicated legislation background as one of the few states that nullified the validity of liability releases for resorts in 2014. New Mt. Bachelor owners will have to navigate more than mountain operations.

Stuart Winchester, founder and editor of the *Storm Skiing Journal*, explained at a December City Club forum that it's not inevitable a large company will purchase the ski area. He added that 75% of United States ski areas remain independently owned, a message that may resonate with a Mount Bachelor Community Inc., a coalition of local buyers.

The future owner of Mt. Bachelor will play a role in shaping Central Oregon's identity, one launched by Bill Healy's legacy of a world-class ski mountain in Bend's backyard. **IB**

News Shorts

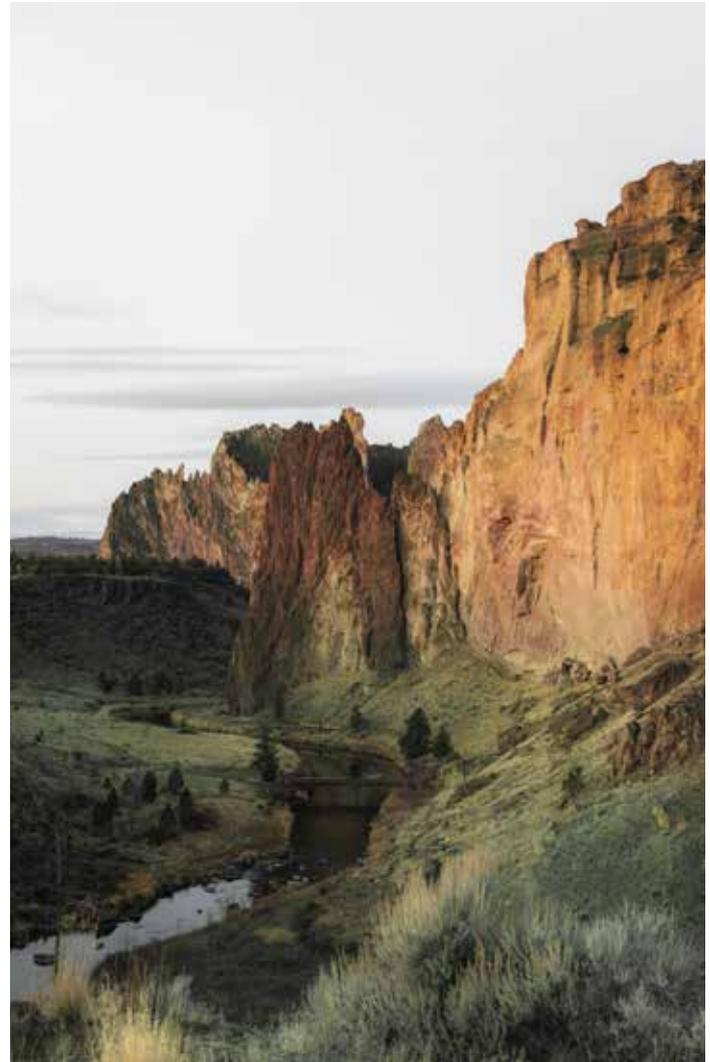
VETERAN ENTREPRENEUR PROGRAM IS LAUNCHED

The Small Business Development Center at Central Oregon Community College is one of only eight educational sites in the country to be named a designated partner for the new STRIVE program (Startup Training Resources to Inspire Veteran Entrepreneurship). Aiming to support veteran-owned businesses, STRIVE provides training, mentorship and post-program support to Central Oregon veterans, active-duty service members and military spouses of the inaugural cohort. See cocc.edu/sbdc.



REDMOND SOLAR FARM PROJECT PLANNED

A large-scale solar farm project by Enel Green Power North America LLC has been approved for environmental review on 4,037 acres of Bureau of Land Management land near Redmond. The initiative has the potential to generate up to 700 megawatts of power, contributing to the climate goals established by the Oregon Legislature in 2007 of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 45% below 1990 levels by 2035 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Public input will be sought during the review process, which may take up to two years.



MAJOR ENHANCEMENTS SLATED FOR SMITH ROCK STATE PARK IN 2025

Smith Rock State Park is set to break ground on significant improvements in late 2025 or early 2026, including a new welcome center, restrooms, improved day-use parking and enhanced trail connections. Funded by GO Bond resources and a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the project aims to improve visitor experience and accessibility. Design and planning will continue through spring 2025. See smithrock.com.



NEW FAT BIKE OPTIONS PROPOSED AT WANOGA

In addition to grooming 9.3 miles of fat bike terrain at Wanoga Sno-Park each winter, Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA) in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service has proposed adding a new Yeti Winter Fat Bike Trail. Throughout the year, nonprofit COTA maintains more than 600 miles of singletrack in Central Oregon. Yeti would provide 5 miles of new terrain and complement current trails that are groomed for biking. See cotamtb.com.

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Soul of Central Oregon

ANHELINA HRYHORENKO

OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

A 15-year-old Ukrainian refugee, Anhelina Hryhorenko is pursuing her Olympic dreams in Bend after fleeing her war-torn home. Inspired by her aunt, a Nordic skier for the Ukrainian Olympic team, Hryhorenko has been skiing since age 6 and has already earned 60 medals in competitions. The family sought refuge in the U.S. after Hryhorenko survived an air raid walking home from school and found support through the Uniting for Ukraine program, along with coaching and equipment assistance from Mt. Bachelor Sports Education Foundation (MBSEF), Mt. Bachelor, Fischer, One Way Sports and the Bend community. With podium finishes at junior national qualifying events from her first season racing in the United States, Hryhorenko is currently training for the 2025 season and will compete for MBSEF and Summit High School. "I am really excited to see where my abilities can take me," she said.



RICK DINGUS

PHOTOGRAPHER + VOLUNTEER

Bendite Rick Dingus is the recipient of the 2024 Outstanding Volunteer Award for his dedicated service to the Deschutes Land Trust. A career photographer whose work has been featured in more than 125 exhibitions, a wide number of museums including the Smithsonian American Art Museum and 130-plus books and articles, Dingus is now using his art form to capture the stories of Central Oregon's diverse landscapes and its people. "Making photographs is a way for me to search my surroundings and consider how all places and perspectives are part of the same story," Dingus said. His photography of the high desert highlights the Deschutes Land Trust's restoration efforts and inspires land conservation for future generations.



MICHAEL GESME

CONDUCTOR + ARTS ADVOCATE

Conductor Michael Gesme has led the Central Oregon Symphony for 28 years and is now helping lead the way for a new visual and performing arts center in Bend. He is a board member of Central Oregon Center for the Arts, the nonprofit behind a future venue poised to announce a location this spring. A professor of music at Central Oregon Community College since 1996, Gesme teaches myriad music courses on the Bend, Madras and Prineville campuses, and directs the Cascade Winds Symphonic Band and the Central Oregon Chamber Orchestra. "The arts are a bellwether for community vibrancy," Gesme said, "My goal is to continually strengthen them in Central Oregon so they will shine brightly for generations to come." A talented pianist, trumpeter and singer, he is known by his students and across Central Oregon for the connections he forms through music.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVI AUGU | RICK DINGUS PHOTO BY CAROLYN TATE STOW

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Winter Fishing: Angling Around Oregon

Bundle up and cast away for rewarding experiences

WRITTEN BY DAMIAN FAGAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARIAN STEVENS

Winter fishing in Central Oregon falls into the Big Risk, Big Reward category. The rewards, which outweigh the risks of cold temperatures and slick footing, center on a Zenlike tranquility of beautiful snow-lined rivers while testing one's fishing skills against the genetically wired instincts of a fish in the middle of winter.



Trout, like other fish, remain active in winter; however, cold water temperatures slow their metabolism. They still prey on the larval stages of aquatic insects, scuds (small shrimplike crustaceans) and smaller fish. Understanding the river's biology and a trout's seasonal dietary preferences are important additions to any angler's winter tackle box.

SALMONIDS 101

Not all trout are "trout," but rather are representative of the salmon family. Rainbow, brown and redband trout, as well as steelhead, are "true trout." Steelhead differ in that they are a "sea run" form of either rainbow or redband trout, meaning these fish migrate from freshwater to the Pacific Ocean where they live for several years before returning to their birthplace or natal stream to spawn. Kokanee, common in Central Oregon, are a non-anadromous form of sockeye salmon, meaning they do not migrate to the ocean. Brook, lake and bull trout may bear a trout name but they are char, a group of fish defined by a lack of teeth in their upper palate, and they bear various light-colored spots on their dark backs. Another salmonid, the mountain whitefish, is also found throughout Central Oregon.

WINTER FLY FISHING LOCALES

The Metolius River is a spring-fed river with its headwaters in the shadow of Black Butte near Camp Sherman where bull, rainbow and brown trout are found. The river runs north, clear and cold, gliding past the Green Ridge escarpment before reaching Lake Billy Chinook. Spectacular scenery is a bonus to this world-class



Fall River

fishery. Local angler Kacey Davey, a public information officer for the Oregon Department of Transportation, became hooked on fishing for bull trout, known as the “grizzly bear of the fish world,” along the Metolius in winter. She uses big streamers—artificial flies she creates with feathers that imitate small fish.

Both the Deschutes and Crooked are two tailwater rivers, meaning river flows are dam-controlled. The 9 miles below Bowman Dam on the Crooked has deep pools and pocket water—smooth water above and below a protruding boulder—to fish even during the low flows. Nymphing, lightly weighted artificial flies that sink and drift along the bottom of the river, is the preferred method for trout and mountain whitefish during the cold months, especially in the absence of insect hatches.

The Deschutes River is the premier rainbow trout fishery in Oregon; the Lower Deschutes Back Country Byway, from Maupin to Mack’s Canyon, is more angler friendly than the upper stretches in winter. Fall River is spring fed, resulting in clear and cold water year-round with many downed logs that provide cover for trout.

AN ICE FISHING OPTION

“Diamond Lake is one of the coolest spots to ice fish because everything is right there at the lodge, and it’s a really fun place to take the kids,” said RA Beattie, a filmmaker with Off the Grid

Studios, “You can walk right out of the lodge onto the ice.” Ice fishing requires minimal gear: a warm-water rod and reel with lightweight line, a tackle box, some bait and a chair or bucket to sit on. An ice auger bit attached to a power drill can be used for making holes in the ice. Powerbait works well for rainbows or tiger trout, a unique hybrid species named for its tigerlike stripes and aggressive behavior. These catch-and-release fish were stocked in Diamond Lake to prey on invasive bait fish.

SAFETY TIPS

Before heading out, check myODFW’s Recreation Report and Oregon Trip Check online for seasonal closures, license requirements and road conditions. Stop by one of the many fly fishing shops in the region for information and gear. For those new to winter fishing, Beattie recommends hiring a guide to be safe and to enhance the experience.

“There’s no bad weather, only bad clothing,” added Davey. She bundles up in fleece under her chest waders, plus uses toe and hand warmers. She may slip traction cleats over her boots for better grip on slippery river banks, but boots with studs are kinder to the river bottom. Anglers fishing on ice-bound lakes should wear a life vest, too. With some planning and fortitude, there are plenty of opportunities to fish on a winter day in Central Oregon. See myodfw.com. **IB**

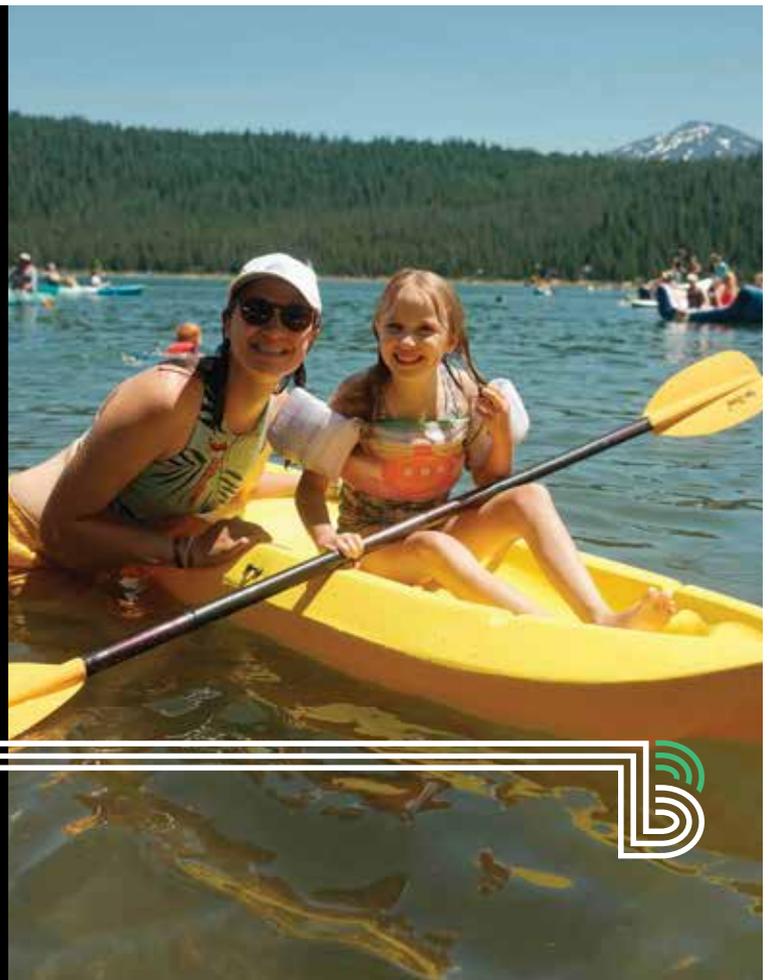


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Lakeside Locales

Snow is an asset at wintery waterfront cabins

WRITTEN BY ROSEANN DENNERY

Suttle Lake

One of the most captivating qualities of the Central Oregon wilderness is the ability to access its rugged beauty year-round. In winter, we trade our paddles for poles and our hiking boots for snowshoes as alpine meadows morph into miles of untouched, snow-covered canvases. Almost overnight the deep glacial waters of our region's nearly 150 high lakes transform into glassy sheets of frozen stillness, reflecting the surrounding peaks that rise behind their shorelines. It is a metamorphosis that unfolds as we witness nature's spectacular seasonal rhythms.

As the snow begins to fall, a lakeside cabin retreat is a perfect way to experience the blissful comforts of the season and the thrill of wintertime activities. Book a stay at one of these rustic lodges, which are sure to inspire an idyllic getaway for solitude, romance and everything in between.

THE SUTTLE LODGE

Suttle Lake is a gem for all seasons; its picturesque Americana setting feels like a living reenactment of a Norman Rockwell

painting. Come winter, the vintage summertime vibe gives way to an enchanted snow-blanketed wonderland. The Suttle Lodge is tucked in the wooded Deschutes National Forest, with lodging options from rustic rooms to deluxe cabins. During your stay, snowshoe the serene 4-mile loop around the lake or take a guided bonfire tour with Wanderlust Tours. Popular Hoodoo Ski Area is just a 15-minute drive away for Nordic, downhill and tubing adventures. After a day of exploring, enjoy a craft cocktail inside the Skip Bar near the roaring fireside hearth. The ambiance mixed with tunes from their local musician series creates a cozy vibe. (Tip: Time a stay for its anticipated Winter Beer Fest in February, a Bavarian-inspired outdoor gathering that brings together Central Oregon's best trifecta: brews, eats and tunes.)

ELK LAKE LODGE

As a treasured favorite among the upper Cascade Lakes, Elk Lake Lodge offers a blissful respite for winter wanderers. The 11-mile stretch from Dutchman Flat Sno-Park to the



The Suttle Lodge

lodge is accessible only by snowcat, snowmobile or cross-country skiing—so getting there is half the fun. The area surrounding the lake is a back-country recreationist's dream, boasting more than 100 miles of fresh snow to carve. The lodge requires a two-night minimum for a stay in one of its 13 cabins, so there is plenty of time to embrace the present. Take in the sunrise from the deck as snow-covered ponderosas frame picture-perfect views of nearby Mount Bachelor. In the evening, a storybook winter scene emerges outside each window under the glow of star-filled lights. Settle in with a piping hot bowl of the lodge's elk chili and a book from the community library.

PAULINA LAKE LODGE

The Newberry Caldera is inaccessible by car in the winter months, and the only way to explore the splendor of this diverse geographic area is a 6-mile trek from the Ten Mile Sno-Park. Nestled in the volcanic crater is pristine Paulina Lake and its accompanying lodge, built in 1929. In its nearly 100 years, Paulina Lake Lodge has offered a "down-home" experience for its guests, with 13 pleasantly modest cabins. Trek around the lake and enjoy expansive views of Paulina Peak or rent a snowmobile onsite to explore the epic 150 miles

of groomed trails. For the avid winter cyclist, take a scenic fat bike ride up the main road to neighboring East Lake. Every itinerary should also include a snowshoe outing to nearby frozen Paulina Falls to marvel at its icy curtain of suspended cascading water. Après-ski, enjoy a hearty pint and then retire back to the fire's warmth of the lodge's rooms.

SHELTER COVE

As the summer bustle quiets at Odell Lake, and the smell of warm earth and juniper gives way to the scent of damp pinecones, Shelter Cove Resort offers a classic winter destination. More than 100 years ago, Shelter Cove was the site of the Cascade Summit train station. Today, it offers 14 cabins and limited RV spots on Odell's western shore. Book in advance for an intimate stay at the historic cabin, formerly the train engineer's private residence. Directly from the resort, guests can access a sprawling network of Nordic trails or drive 3 miles to the Willamette Pass ski area for a downhill fix. As evening falls, a blazing communal firepit awaits on the lakeshore—a welcome contrast against the ink-black winter sky. Quell appetites with a wood-fired pizza and reflect on the day's adventures over roasted s'mores with new friends and old. **IB**

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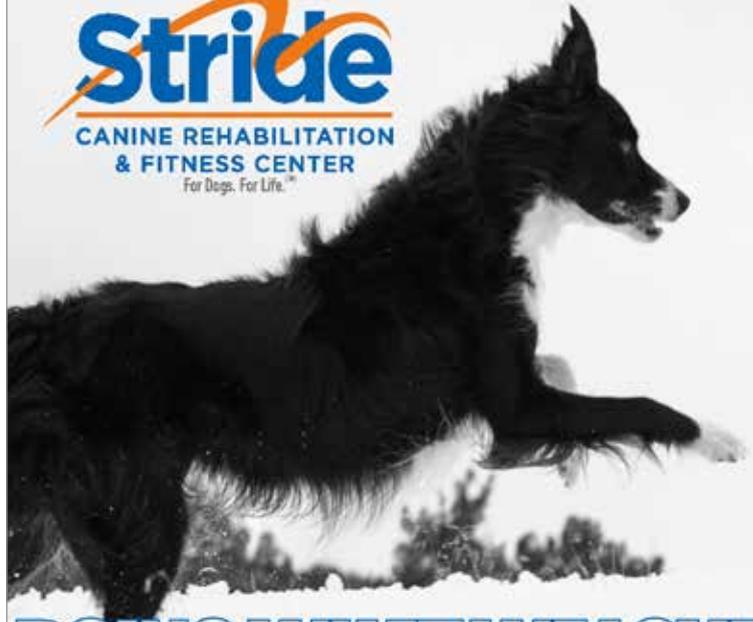


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Ski Your Backyard

These trails are closer than you think

WRITTEN BY JESS MCCOMB

Shevlin Park

PHOTO GARY BRUCE



Drake Park

As the ski season hurtles into gear and a conga line of traffic snakes up Cascade Lakes Highway, Bend's biggest powder hounds are chomping at the bit for untouched terrain. If the traffic puts you off, and snow blankets the streets, why not make tracks just outside your door instead? Across the high desert, people trade sneakers for buckled boots, and the infectious stoke of winter converts the town into its own ski resort. Whether you're gliding through Shevlin Park on cross-country skis, taking laps around Skyline Sports Complex under the field lights, hitting the sled hill in Drake Park or constructing your very own terrain park down the block, there's a little slice of ski paradise for everyone when prayers for snow are answered.

DRAKE PARK

On a morning after snowfall, Drake Park sits hushed and untouched with its white winter coat, and the Deschutes River gleams in the dazzling reflection of sun on snow. Steam clouds the windows of riverside businesses as the early birds collect their morning provisions and by afternoon, the park is ringing with laughter. On the sledding hill, kids and families get their fix of snow-day fun, coloring the slope in hues of winter wear. Along the trails, cross-country skiers can make

short loops through the park or proceed onto Riverside Boulevard and follow the river trail through the Old Mill District toward Riverbend Park. These iconic parks have seen many winters of Bendites stoked on snow, from the big dump of 1992 to 2017, when countless days off from school turned the parks into a kid's snowy playground paradise.

- ▮ **Activities:** Cross-country skiing, sledding and snowshoeing
- ▮ **Trails:** Pioneer Reach Trail and Deschutes River Trail
- ▮ **When to go:** When the trails are completely covered in at least 4 inches of snow.

SHEVLIN PARK

Tucked between groves of aspen trees and ponderosa pines, a network of powder-cushioned trails jog through Shevlin Park. Teetering on the city border, this wooded wonderland is a secluded cross-country ski haven in winter. The swishing of skis and nylon pants echoes through the park as skiers weave in and out of the trees and catch glimpses of the icy blue Tumalo Creek, dotted with snow-pillowed rocks and shrouded in frosted foliage. A flat, skiable portion of the trail snakes through the forest for about 2.5 miles, providing the ideal, leisurely out-and-back excursion for cross-country skiers. In

the '90s, when snow piled up in the park, volunteers groomed a track for classic and skate skiers, but since then, grooming efforts have shifted to Virginia Meissner Sno-Park, so the Shevlin has stayed wild and mostly untouched, save the faint two-track from skis that form over the trails.

- ▮ **Activities:** Cross-country, snowshoe
- ▮ **Trails:** Tumalo Creek Trail
- ▮ **When to go:** When the trails are completely covered in about 4 inches of snow.

SKYLINE SPORTS COMPLEX

Long-time Bendites might remember those few special winters in decades past when the sky was rich in snow and the Central Oregon Nordic Club towed grooming equipment around town to turn parks into pristine ski tracks. After nearly three decades, grooming in town returned in 2020 when JD Downing and David Smullin went to Bend Park and Recreation with a vision to revive the project at Skyline Sports Complex. The ski track is made by the community, for the community—volunteers perform the grooming, and funding is raised largely through donations. With just 6 inches of good snow, volunteers can hop on a snowmobile and tow rollers around the field to form a .6-mile groomed loop. The course is flat and beginner friendly, ready for first-timer laps and seasoned-pro training sessions. With field lights illuminating the track until 9 p.m., the energy at Skyline Sports Complex buzzes long after the sun sets.

Donations to keep the grooming project up and running can be made at xcoregon.org.

- ▮ **Activities:** Cross-country and skate skiing
- ▮ **Trails:** .6-mile groomed loop around Scanlon, Lundgren, Taylor and Robinson fields
- ▮ **When to go:** See bendparksandrec.org for announcements on when the track is groomed.

YOUR BACKYARD

Skis clash with stair railings up and down street blocks, and shovels meet snow as Bend's biggest park rats turn the city into their own terrain park. Miles Kempf, Bend resident and avid skier, has been street skiing since 2017 when he hit his first rail on a PVC pipe in his backyard. For Kempf, street skiing is a year-round process, and he's always scoping out spots in town to shred. When he finds a new place with potential to build into a jump or rail, he drops a pin on his phone to save for the next snow day. Over the years, he's racked up more than 100 pins. Some spots require a foot of snow and a couple of hours of shoveling to become skiable, others just an inch of dusting the grass for 15 minutes of prep. However ambitious the build, backyard skiing is a team effort. While he was creating his street-skiing film

"Central Urban," Kempf had more than 20 friends come out to help him build jumps and film shots. "A big part of it is the people," he said. "It takes a lot of hands to make street skiing happen, which is what makes it feel more like a team sport than skiing at Bachelor." **B**

- ▮ **Activities:** Park skiing, downhill skiing and sledding
- ▮ **Trails:** Anywhere, while being mindful of private land.
- ▮ **When to go:** As soon as there is snow on the ground.



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Just Look Up

The stars are a guiding light in a new film by
Bend filmmaker Sandy Cummings

WRITTEN BY KIM COOPER FINDLING

Charity Woodrum was in junior high school when she first imagined one day working for NASA. It was a lofty dream for a girl in rural Southern Oregon whose parents hadn't even graduated high school. But Woodrum was smart and motivated, and above all she found the stars overhead fascinating, holding the power to inspire her out of everyday troubles. Today, Woodrum does work for NASA, as a postdoctoral program fellow with the James Webb Space Telescope at Goddard Space Station in Greenbelt, Maryland. Her journey is a story of tenacity, tragedy, resilience and triumph. Just as the stars inspired Woodrum, her story has now touched others as the subject of a documentary film, *Space, Hope and Charity: The Incredible Journey of Charity Woodrum*, produced by Bend filmmaker Sandy Cummings.

The film follows Woodrum out of Canyonville, Oregon, to the University of Oregon, where, as a nontraditional student—married with a young son—she first embraced her dream by studying physics. Midway through her studies, however, Woodrum suffered an inconceivable, devastating loss of her husband, Jayson, and her son, Woody, in a drowning event that would change her trajectory forever.

THE POWER OF FILM TO HEAL

Woodrum and Cummings met through mutual friends. Cummings was struck by a desire to help Woodrum, but also by the power of her journey. "I thought a lot of people would be inspired by her story," recalled Cummings, former senior producer for NBC who has delved into tough subjects in film before, from inmate-artists to Ugandan orphans. Woodrum was uncertain about sharing her story publicly, but the thought that it might help others survive their own difficulties changed her mind.

The film debuted in early 2023, and the filmmaker, film subject and a growing entourage hit the film festival circuit. "A major theme of the film is connection," said Cummings. Woodrum's UO physics professor, Scott Fisher, was an important mentor to her and appears in the film. He has regularly attended screenings to participate in the Q&A, as have the film editor, filmographer and friends made along the way. "One of the best things to happen, because of the documentary, is the deep friendships I've formed," said Woodrum. "It's been a cathartic healing journey for me."

SCREENINGS AS CONNECTION

The theme of connection extends to audiences, and Woodrum recounts many meaningful conversations with viewers after

the film's screenings. "I feel like the good this story can do is tremendous," said Cummings. "I know that it is helping people process their own grief."

At the film's conclusion, Woodrum is off to the University of Arizona, where she would eventually earn a master's degree and PhD in physics. This past September, Woodrum moved to Maryland to work for NASA, where she continues her research into galaxies, studying how they formed in the early universe and why they eventually stop forming stars later in cosmic time. "I still can't believe it," she said. "I still get tears walking through the hallways here. Astronomy was my biggest dream, and now I'm doing it."

The loss of Jayson and Woody will never leave her, but Woodrum is happy that so many people get to know them through the film. Best of all, she said, is Woody's Stars, an enrichment fund and mentorship program for students created in honor of Woodrum's son. The program is intended to make higher education studies in the sciences more accessible to challenged students, as Woodrum once was. "Mentorship is a huge reason I've made it to where I am professionally, so it feels good to pay it forward in honor of Woody," she said.

Though Cummings remains in Oregon, and Woodrum is on the other side of the country, the two are in daily contact. They will continue to meet for film screenings throughout 2025, sharing the power of connection and following one's dreams with communities. As Woodrum said, "Resilience is being part of something that's bigger than you." ■

Space, Hope and Charity will screen at the Tower Theatre on January 18, 2025. See towertheatre.org. Woody's Stars Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, see woodystars.org.



Left to Right: Scott Fisher, Charity Woodrum & Sandy Cummings

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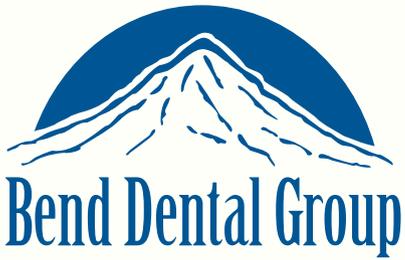
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Compassionate Canines has comforted Central Oregon with therapy dogs for almost 25 years

WRITTEN BY TERESA RISTOW

When Heather Wingate loads up any of her five border terriers for a therapy dog visit in Central Oregon, she's never quite sure what the experience will bring. Sometimes it's walking into a room of children and watching her dog Lily zero in on a child who had a rough morning at home. Sometimes it's a quiet moment with a hospital patient who has received unwelcome news. Many times it is walking through waiting rooms, classrooms or the airport to bring smiles, pets and pleasantries to all types of people. "There is nothing better than teaming up with a dog and sharing the same joy and love they give me with someone else," said Wingate, who most often

does therapy dog visits with her terriers Ozzy, Lily and Bunny, the three of her five dogs that seem to enjoy the work the most.

Wingate and her dogs are one of more than 80 human-dog therapy teams registered with Compassionate Canines, a volunteer-run organization that brings therapy dog teams into many locations across Central Oregon, including, but not limited to local hospitals and medical offices. Founded in 2001 by Mare Peters, the organization facilitates the certification of therapy dog teams, who then volunteer to make local visits where the dogs can interact with the public. This year will be the organization's 24th serving the community.

THERAPY DOGS 101

Different from service dogs or emotional support animals, therapy dogs are trained and certified to provide therapeutic and psychological benefits to the public by allowing people to pet, cuddle and hold them. Dogs can be any breed and need to be calm, confident and friendly in addition to having basic obedience commands down. Successful teams are made up of dogs and people who have a close relationship and good social skills, according to Jennifer Horsman, volunteer coordinator for Compassionate Canines. Horsman said service dogs should be the type who initiate socialization with other people with tails wagging, a soft face, good eye contact and calm behavior.

Compassionate Canines has therapy dogs who visit various settings throughout Central Oregon, including retirement communities, memory care facilities, a cancer center, elementary, middle and high schools, Redmond Municipal Airport and Central Oregon Community College during finals weeks.

COMPASSION FOR ALL

After years of therapy dog visits, many of the volunteers with Compassionate Canines have observed that the dogs often end up comforting people other than the intended recipients. Wingate has come to expect her intuitive 10-year-old border terrier Lily to sense who needs her attention the most. "Lily is pretty empathetic," said Wingate, recalling a memorable visit to an ICU waiting room. Lily showed little interest in the waiting room occupants and kept staring at the hospital's program coordinator across the room, who finally bent down to call over the scruffy terrier. As it turns out, that week had been difficult for the woman, who had spent the past few days cleaning out a garage full of her late husband's things. "Lily ran right over and put her entire body against her," Wingate said. "Lily definitely knew she needed her more than the family in the ICU did."

Wingate said it's experiences like those that remind her why she's so passionate about therapy dog work and so inspired by the moments of comfort that dogs can provide to people in need. "There is no better feeling than having that kind of purpose in life—I feel it, and I know that all five of my therapy dogs do, too."

To learn more about Compassionate Canines of Central Oregon, including information about requesting therapy dog visits for events or programs, or pursuing certification for a new therapy dog team, see compassionate-canines.org. 📖



Heather Wingate with
Bunny (left) and Lily (right)



Compassionate Canine Facts

- 86 registered therapy dog teams
- Handlers range in age from 18 to 80 years old
- Dogs range in age from 18 months to 13 years old
- 34 different breeds of dogs

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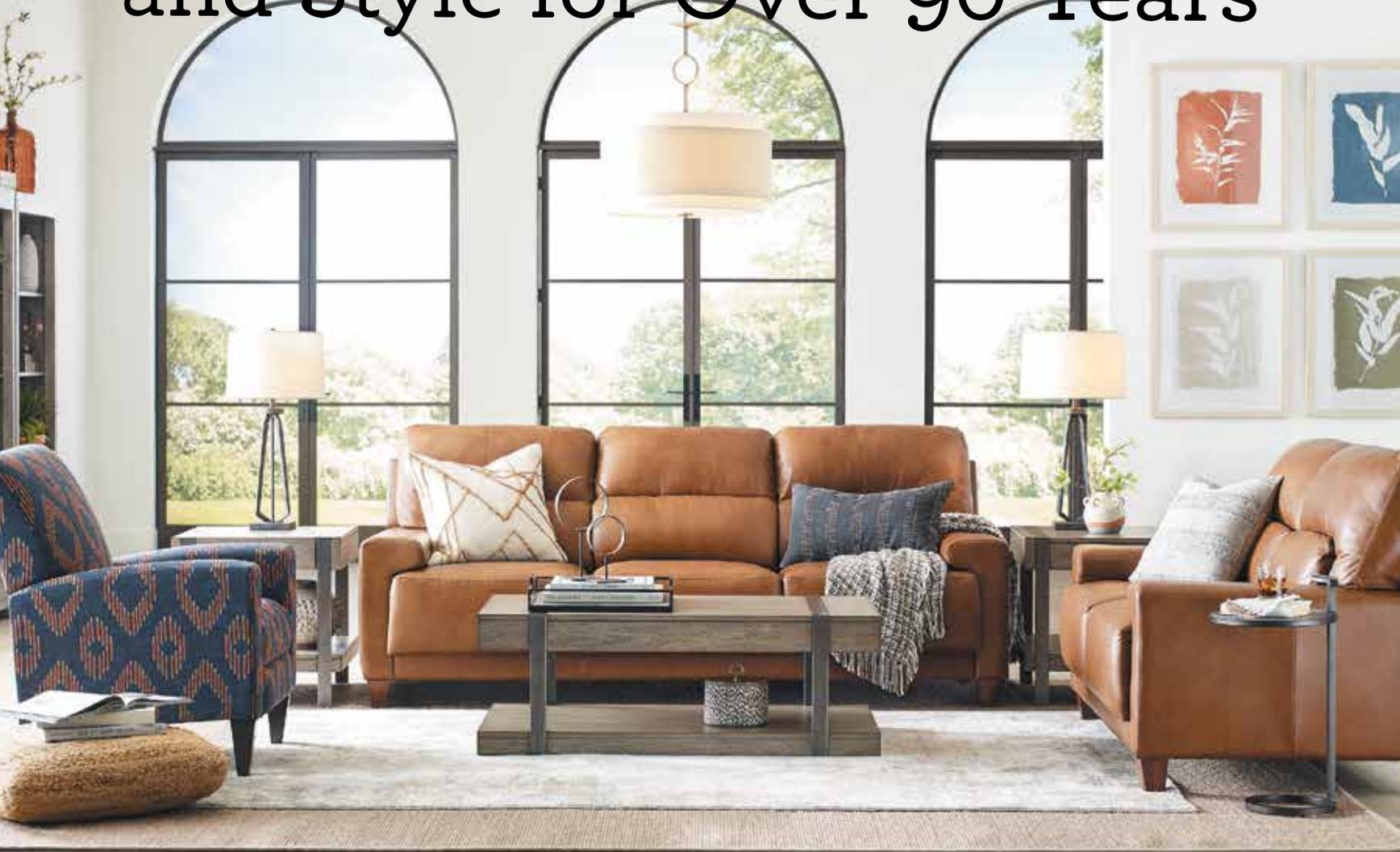
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Legacy Cabin

Honoring family at a Tumalo retreat

WRITTEN BY **HEIDI HAUSLER** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ZEE WENDELL**

Perched high on a steep canyon rim overlooking the Deschutes River sits a home affectionately known as “The Cabin.” At the end of its winding driveway, past a stable-turned-bunkroom and occasional sculpture made from old metal tools, the cabin greets visitors with an original Mt. Bachelor Summit chair sitting proudly by its welcoming front door. Warm lights from within cast a golden glow on dark knotty-pine posts and beams forming a cozy living space that embraces all who enter. As it grips the cliffside of a 10-acre lot split by the river 120 feet below, the cabin’s boards shift as the wind whistles past, and its wooden floors creak with every step—a celebration of all the footprints that have left their mark here.



Holding decades of memories, an old leather book with the word “Guests” scripted in gold on its cover sits on the cabin’s coffee table. Corners of thank you cards and pictures peek out of its bulging sides, bearing entries in 5-year old scribbles to polished cursive of moments dating back to 1967, the year the cabin became a centerpiece for Skip Frank’s large Portland family. Long before Portlanders began flocking to Central Oregon, Skip’s mother Paula encouraged her five adult children to join her in purchasing the Tumalo house as a family ski cabin. At the time, Bend had only 12,000 residents and Mt. Bachelor had just two chairlifts—Number 1 and Number 2 chairs. “My mom was a visionary,” Skip explained, “She found this place and bought it on the spot. We’re a fanatic ski family. But above all, she loved family and didn’t want our family to separate in any way.”

THE PATSY EFFECT

Skip and his late wife Patsy acquired the home as time went on. For decades, they traveled over the mountains from Portland for ski weekends, holidays and long summer getaways at the cabin, accompanied by their children, extended family members and friends from near and far. In 2004, the couple decided to move to Central Oregon and make the cabin their permanent home. With a creative eye, Patsy brought her passion for vintage collections and fashioning art out of ordinary items, filling the cabin with personality and charm.





"Patsy saw things nobody else could see," Skip said. Outdoor sculptures crafted from barbed wire, garden tools, pipes, branches and a satellite dish stand guard, welcoming all who make the journey. Inside, Patsy's collections of colorful vintage tablecloths, thermoses, metal picnic baskets, antique cameras, globes and typewriters are carefully displayed with a distinctively "Patsy" retro flair.

BUILT FOR LIFE

The home has been a space designed for the casual day-to-day realities of family life since it was built. Constructed in 1963 by the original owners for their three boys and one black malamute, the cabin has not changed drastically since, even as the world around it has. "Our rotary phone used to be a party line with all the neighbors up and down the street. You'd pick up the phone and hear someone else talking on the line," Skip laughed.

Resting atop a large stone hearth, a woodstove anchors the cabin and creates an inviting living space. Vaulted ceilings open up to a western-facing window that reaches the peak of the highest gable, letting in afternoon sunlight and tempting all to wander outside to the deck to witness its high desert views. Looking north and south, the meandering Deschutes River can be seen for a mile in each direction, and the snowy tips of Mt. Bachelor and the Three Sisters peek above the rim. The deck itself all but takes the breath away with its elevation and

closeness to the edge of the cliff. A Dr. Seuss-worthy staircase descends the steep rock outcropping toward the river—76 steps built by Skip's stepfather that have endured decades of winter storms. From the base of the steps, the journey down to the river follows a makeshift path between juniper trees, around tall boulders and past a hidden cave, giving it all the makings for a grand adventure.

As the sun drops behind the canyon's rim, the firelit warmth of the woodstove beckons. Hearty couches, chairs and a dining table made by Northwood Furniture appear to have been built with the cabin in mind. Still in perfect condition, the sturdy furniture was purchased by Skip's mother from Northwood's manufacturing plant in the former Army training grounds of Camp Abbot—now known to the world as Sunriver.

Just beyond the woodstove, a ladder from a Navy ship invites curiosity, a feature built into the original design. Visually dividing the kitchen and living room, the ladder is a fitting coincidence considering Skip's father was a WWII Naval officer, so his eldest son was given the nickname "Skipper."

The kitchen is light, bright and functional, renovated by Patsy with Old-World pantry doors, rough-hewn marble tops and open-shelving for her vintage displays. Climbing the ship ladder leads to a bedroom loft adorned in a handmade quilt, vintage fan and a collection of antique leather suitcases overlooking the golden canyon walls and the river far below.

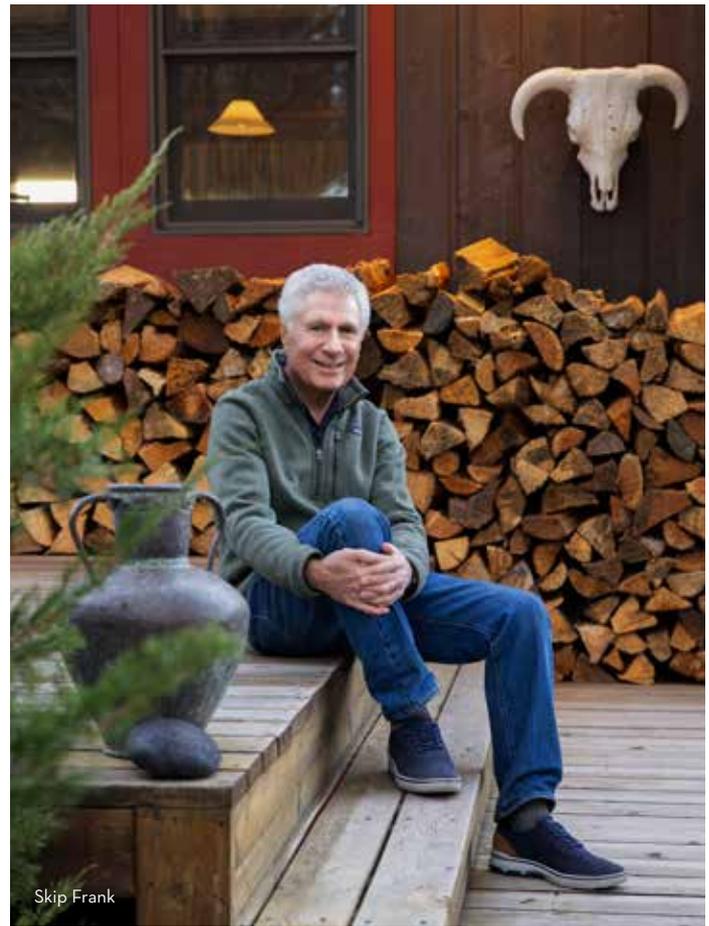
LEGACY IN EVERY DETAIL

A collection of ski gear and a pair of sleek leather riding boots attract the eye by the cabin's front door. Nearby, shelves of gathered treasures tell tales of family lore to those who pause long enough to listen. Among them, a magazine photograph of Skip's parents at the re-opening of Timberline Lodge after WWII; old-fashioned toy cars given to children from Santa Claus at the Portland department store the Frank family once owned; three rows of first-place Pole Pedal Paddle mugs and a signed portrait of Mother Teresa. Everywhere, stories await discovery.

Just beyond the shelves lies a bunkroom where the bottom row of bunks once served as study carrels for the original owners' three boys. Now there are six bunks, each with its own privacy curtain, ladder and reading light, creating a space where kids and wonder reign.

On the northside of the woodstove, a hallway leads past an antique wooden boot jack and an impressive collection of vinyl records. Beyond, the primary bedroom of the 1,900-square-foot home is announced by Patsy's favorite piece of art—a glowing fish that draws the eye to the room's floor-to-ceiling windows which afford a view of the Deschutes that's so expansive, it appears to be a mural painting. "We have the river," Skip said, gazing out at the canyon. "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

There's a word in the German language that has no English equivalent: *Gemütlichkeit* is described as a feeling of warmth, coziness and good cheer. After traveling across the world from Germany to spend time at the cabin, a guest shared in the guestbook at the end of her stay, "We enjoyed real old-style Bavarian *Gemütlichkeit*—it couldn't be better, even in Bavaria." **B**





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Into the Light

Embrace the new year and long days of darkness with light. Here, bright walls, bleached wood and an ethereal fixture evoke a higher place. Intentional design and focal points lead to places hidden from view, but close enough for refuge. **IB**

PHOTO ALAN BRANDT

Architects: Eric Meglasson and John Brockway
Builder: CS Construction
Design: Harper House
Light Fixture: Oly Studio through Harper House Design

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Play On

Gathering spots for gaming in Central Oregon

WRITTEN BY ELLEE THALHEIMER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARIAN STEVENS

Recreation in Bend might stereotypically look like snowboarders hurling through the air or mountain bikers screaming downhill, but there's an enthusiastic subset of locals who like to crowd around tabletop board games to laugh, drink, strategize and relax.

These are the gamers. Some love Dungeons and Dragons, Sorry! or Code Names, while others are drawn to Magic: The Gathering, Warhammer or Gin Rummy. These days, gamers of any kind can meet up outside the confines of someone's living room and stake out a table at dedicated hubs such as Modern Games, a game shop in Bend, and Pangaea Guild Hall, a bar and restaurant in Redmond.



▲ CONTEMPORARY SPACE AT MODERN GAMES, BEND

"It seems that the event space and cafe model has been trending in game shops in the post-pandemic era," said John Stacy, executive director of the Game Manufacturers Association, a national nonprofit trade organization dedicated to advocating for the hobby games industry. "People want to hang out together, and it's been a useful way for owners to diversify revenue streams."

The isolation and dynamics of the pandemic inspired avid gamers Peter Askew and his wife Lindsay to buy Modern Games in The Box Factory between downtown Bend and the Old Mill District in 2022. Peter wanted to realign his life around his values and passions. He quit his management position at a commercial bakery to build this gathering spot for people who wanted a "third space," a place to relax and hang out outside of work and home.

"There's something magical about sitting around a table with people to play a game," said Peter. "It unlocks a special social dynamic. People come to the table without phones in hand and enjoy a connective moment."

That magic could be why the gaming industry is exceeding pre-pandemic growth. "The scope of the \$12.4 billion industry is forecast to grow to \$20 billion in the next 10 years," said Stacy. This is a growth industry."

Peter saw his business grow around 25% in 2024 as he positioned his store as a modern rendition of the traditional



Peter Askew, owner of Modern Games

game shop. Not only does Modern Games have snacks and beer for sale, the newly designed space has a completely different vibe.

"I've been going into game and card shops for 35 years," said Peter. "Shops all look the same: dark with wobbly folding tables and chairs and stained carpet. At Modern Games, we have skylights, a bay door and custom-made tables and shelving. It's a welcoming space for everyone. I have no qualms about bringing my 12-year-old daughter to play with whoever is there."

Most days of the week, there are themed gatherings at Modern Games, with Sunday morning Magic: The Gathering and Wednesday night Wargaming sessions being the most popular. But people are welcome

anytime during opening hours to crack open a game and settle in.

PLAY AND STAY AWHILE AT PANGAEA GUILD HALL, REDMOND

In downtown Redmond, customers are also encouraged to play and hang out at Pangaea Guild Hall, a bar and cafe dedicated to gaming which opened in May 2024. Though Pangaea doesn't sell games, it has tables for gaming and private game rooms decorated with different themes, including Dungeons and Dragons, Tarot Fortune Telling and a Zen tea room.

"We named it Pangaea after the supercontinent," said Christopher Trulsen, co-owner, general manager and Dungeon Master of multiple Dungeons & Dragons games. "It's a space for everyone of

Virtual World

BEND STUDIOS CREATES VIDEO GAMES WITH A NOD TO CENTRAL OREGON

"We have inspiration in our backyard," says Kevin McAllister, community manager at Bend Studios, a Bend-based video game producer headquartered in the Crane Shed Commons near the Old Mill District. "Central Oregon landscapes influence our art and stories. Our studio is unique—living deep in the tech world while embracing the outdoor lifestyle. Like our games, we have a grounded attitude."

Founded in 1993 by MIT graduates Marc Blank and Michael Beryln, Bend Studios is one of the oldest first-party studios in the PC and console gaming industry. Its first smash hit was Syphon Filter in 1999, when they had just 13 employees. Acquired by Sony PlayStation in 2000, it made Days Gone, a massive open-world third-person action adventure game set in post-apocalyptic Central Oregon, featuring places such as Diamond Lake, Mount Bachelor, and Crater Lake.

SOMETHING OLD (SCHOOL)

A spirit of the '80s and '90s lives within Vector Volcano Classic Arcade in downtown Bend.

Reverberating pinballs, exploding Asteroids and insatiable Pac-Man light up monitors in the family friendly space that serves craft beer for a winning strategy of play. See vectorvolcanoarcade.com.



PEOPLE NEED A PLACE TO PLAY
AND GEEK OUT ABOUT GAMES
TOGETHER, SO WE WENT FOR IT"



all different backgrounds to come together, whether it be business folks looking to hole up with their laptops, families with kids or senior citizens meeting for happy hour."

Trulsen and his wife Keri had noticed there was no tabletop gaming spot in Redmond. "There were dive bars that would tolerate gaming, but nothing else. The pandemic taught us that humans need face-to-face interaction. People need a place to play and geek out about games together, so we went for it."

Trulsen left his career in food manufacturing and food science and partnered with his brother, a bartender and bar manager. Every day they offer a different cocktail special, including Cosplay Saturdays—\$1 off a drink for anyone dressed up as their favorite game character. Their events aspire to bring the community together, such as a Murder Mystery dinner party series. So pull up a chair, grab an ale, and play through the winter in good company. **IB**

BY THE NUMBERS: GAMES

Units: 300,000,000

sold of Minecraft, making it the best selling video game of all time.¹



45-YEAR

anniversary of Pac Man. Google's first interactive doodle can still be played today²

Market Value:

150 BILLION

Global video game market value in 2023³

1972

Year Atari introduces Pong, the table tennis-inspired game that launched the video game industry



33 YEARS

Of operation for Bend-based video game developer, Bend Studio⁴

2,000+ YEARS OLD
The oldest puzzle, "Stomachion"
Made by Archimedes⁵



3 MILLION

Units of Chess are sold annually in the U.S., making it the top selling game⁶



1904

Patent granted for "The Landlord's Game" soon known as "Monopoly"⁷

1904

80 HOURS

The longest marathon playing a board game⁸

80 HOURS

3,500 B.C.
Date of an Egyptian Senet board game⁹



Sources:

1. Guinness Book of World Records
2. Guinness Book of World Records
3. National Library of Medicine
4. Bend Studio

5. Cornell

6. Fun.com

7. Briticana

8. Guinness Book of World Records

9. Interactive Design Foundation



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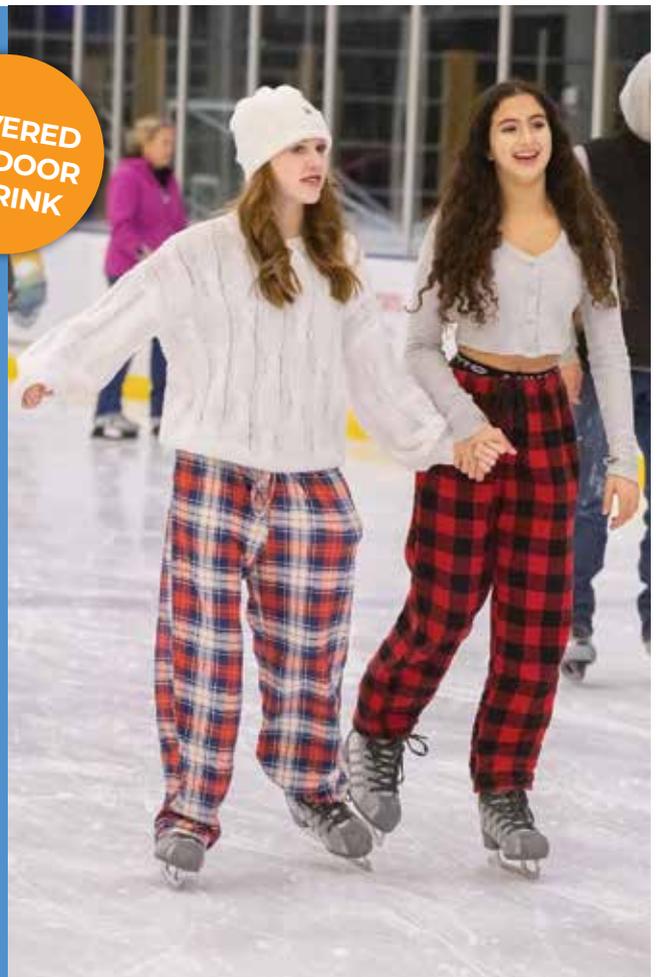
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play for life



Mountains at Home

Matt Capozzi and the big idea for North Drinkware

A FEW QUESTIONS WITH **CHERYL PARTON**

What do you get when two product design engineers, outdoorsmen and creatives sit over beers to brainstorm a side hustle? Tapping IPAs and ideas, Matt Capozzi and Nic Ramirez visualized a product combining two loves: mountains and craft beer merged in handblown glassware with geographic icons imprinted in each base. More than 10 years later, North Drinkware’s collection celebrates 17 mountains across the world, and also includes textiles woven at Pendleton Woolen Mills. The company keeps things local by manufacturing goods in Oregon, and connects purchases to the planet by giving back to the regions where each monolith is located. In Central Oregon, Mt. Bachelor glassware purchases give back to Deschutes Land Trust. Plus, the company just launched an unbreakable polymer outdoor set to bring on backcountry adventures. Capozzi helped *Bend Magazine* understand how the company helps people bring the mountains home.

◀ Matt Capozzi & Nic Ramirez of North Drinkware

Q *I understand North Drinkware was inspired by the mountains. What was the moment of inception for the company?*

A Nic [Ramirez] and I met when we were both working at Cinco Design in Portland, Oregon, in 2011. We led an industrial design group there designing products for Smith Optics, Nixon, Nike, Microsoft and others. We loved our work but missed designing and making products ourselves. In the spring of 2014, we went out for beers to brainstorm something we could do together as a small side project. We both have a deep passion for the mountains and for well-crafted products made in America. We had taken our product design team glass blowing a few months earlier and learned a bit about that process. In brainstorming over beers, we realized that handcrafted beers booming with love in Portland, and all over the world, were often consumed out of cheap, made-in-China glasses. A woman next to us had ordered a bottle of white wine and we saw the “bump” in the bottom: We asked ourselves, “What if that bump was Mt. Hood?” Our product design and engineering minds turned on, and a pencil sketch of a mountain in the base of a glass got jotted down in our Field Notes that night. I later shared the idea with my wife Leigh (our third founding partner). She thought it truly was a “big idea,” which was rare to hear from her as she’s heard thousands of terrible ideas I’ve had over the years.

There are intersections between art and technology to create each glass. How do the two come together?

All of our glasses are individually hand blown. It is quite a unique process which takes more than 15 steps over the course of two days to make just one of our glasses. We start with the 3D USGS [United States Geological Survey] data of the mountains that have meaning to us and our customers. We then take that data into

our 3D modeling program and explore how to best fit it into our glass. Sometimes it’s obvious like Mt. Hood which is very symmetric and easily fits into the glass. Sometimes it’s less obvious and we have to get creative to capture the spirit of a region.

We love the tagline, “Bring the Mountains Home.” How does North Drinkware give back to the mountains?

We’ve aligned with local nonprofits for every region that we have created a glass for, this way the glass you buy directly supports the natural environment in that glass. Our commitment is to donate 1% of the sales of each glass to these select nonprofits that are working to protect the mountains or improve the community surrounding each mountain featured in our glasses.

Your glasses are my “go-to” gifts, and I love the reaction when a person discovers a connection to a favorite place. Do you have a memorable customer moment?

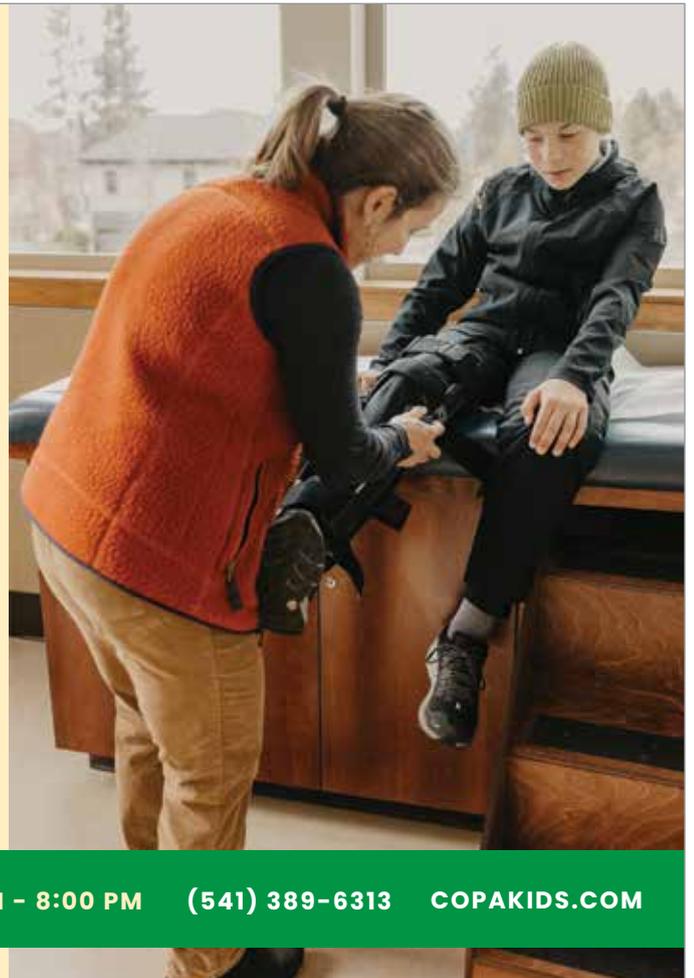
There are so many amazing stories we’ve heard about our customers’ connections to the mountains. There was a customer who shared that her daughter had been diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma. She was an avid backpacker and lover of the outdoors. During her days at OHSU, she was able to see Mt. Hood out her window, bringing constant inspiration. They decided when she was strong enough, they would take the Timberline Trail around Mt. Hood. At the time, she had no idea if they would get there—but it was important to have that goal. In September of that year, five months after her last chemo session, the daughter led her mother on a trip around Mt. Hood. She purchased a set of our glasses to commemorate her progress and the great time they had circling the mountain together. This story shows that there are many ways to be inspired by the mountains, and it really drives us forward every day as a business. See northdrinkware.com. 📍

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NIGHT

Moves

AFTER-DARK SIPS, SLOPES AND DANCE STEPS

WRITTEN BY CATHY CARROLL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARIAN STEVENS

Clide down a snowy mountain glistening as brightly as the stars above. Slip into dimly lit enclaves bubbling with banter. Sip smoky-spicy cocktails and nibble eclectic tapas. Seize country-hip-hop-swing moves that connect you to everyone on the dance floor. Even when the sun goes down early, there's plenty to satisfy everyone late into the night.

NIGHTTIME IS THE NEW NOSH TIME

Feel the warmth of Mayan and Mediterranean flavors whisk you away on a frosty January night.

SAN SIMÓN

Alleys take you off the beaten path. After dark, there's an air of intrigue. What better way to embrace the night? In Tin Pan Alley downtown, feel like a film noir character as you slip into one of the cozy wooden booths outside San Simón, with the chiaroscuro of lights strung above and the flicker of firepit tables. Slyly sip a concoction of freshly squeezed juice, spirit-lifting spirits and liqueurs made by mixologists intent on transporting you to another country in a glass. Nibble charcuterie, cheeses and briny bites of sardine and mussel *conservas* from Spain.

Linger here or step inside as you let loose your inner Bohemian amid the candlelit brick walls. Should some of your wishes for the evening not yet be fulfilled, consider invoking a favor from the bar's eponymous Mayan folk deity who smokes, drinks and answers prayers that would make saints blush.





The Capitol

▲ **BAR RIO**

Imagine burning cacti—warm and prickly—in an image Frida Kahlo might’ve painted. Then sip one: Bar Rio’s burning cacti cocktail is golden brown reposado tequila, peppery, roasted-chile Ancho Reyes liqueur, prickly pear, dark chili-rich simple syrup, lime and a rim encrusted with Tajín (ground dried chili peppers, dehydrated lime and sea salt). Revel in the lovely heat on a winter night.

Order Cuban pork sliders with prosciutto, pickles, spicy mustard, Jack cheese and Calabrian chili oil on a local Curmuffins hoagie, or get comfy with a small plate of lamb merguez sausage and orecchiette pasta, zucchini, basil, tomato, light gorgonzola cream and hazelnut-chorizo crumb.

► **BAR RBC**

Make your way down the long, narrow bar or up the stairs to an intimate, loftlike

space that’s perfect for sharing nighttime secrets. Time for a French Kiss—here, it’s a brandy-soaked prune shamelessly stuffed with foie gras—the start of a smooth, oaky-sweet, buttery party on your palate. Pair it with gintonic (as it’s known in Spain), and the housemade tonic’s serious bubbles will make you feel effervescent, too.

Then bring on the ocean. Bite into grilled octopus with the mild heat of piperade and a cilantro-jalapeño-mayonnaise-Parmesan aji verde. Dip salt cod fritters into aioli, and order that second libation.

Suddenly, it feels as if sea air is tousling your hair under a full moon, and your evening’s just getting started.

DANCING IN THE DARK

Going out at night to dance is more than a mere pastime. “On a biological level, dance is something that connects us in a very human way,” according to Alex

PHOTO BOTTOM BY KAI DUNN

Reininger, a marine biologist and a dance teacher at Cross-Eyed Cricket Watering Hole where the focus is on fun and line dancing. Lessons out on the floor make line dancing easy for first-timers, whether it's kicking it to '90s classic country, hip-hop country or swing. All ages are welcome, no need to bring a partner, and kids' lessons in the early evening get parents out there, too. Dancing is not only fun and noncompetitive, it's health-boosting, said Reininger. "If we can find these fun outlets for movement, such as line dancing, you can let loose. You can be a little silly. And when we dance, we're kind of connected in a nonverbal way. It's very physical...similar to fish in the school. Dance is a way that we can communicate and express and tap into our creativity and connection as a species." Dancing also taps into deep cultural roots, she added.

The vibe goes south—longitudinally speaking—at a few venues in Bend. At the vaguely equatorial lands of The Flamingo Room, the dance vibes heat up on the last Sunday of every month. Escape to a tropical foliage-packed hideaway with creative cocktails, where you can dance an early winter's night away from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Miraculously, you'll be in bed before the clock strikes *nueve*.

Nothing lets you feel the heat of Latin culture quite like the tango. Take a lesson and practice your moves Wednesday nights at the (not-so-Latin sounding) Sons of Norway Hall. The weekly sessions called Tango in Bend have gained popularity over the past decade, with teachers Tyler Haas and Emma James. Although the couple is taking a break from the endeavor, the sessions aren't skipping a beat in 2025 with students trained to step into their role, Haas said.

On the first Thursday of every month, venture underground to The Capitol for Latin dancing that starts at 8 p.m. and goes late. Discover DJs playing a range of Latin genres or live music by BENDiciones Salsa Orchestra. It pays to heed the Flamingo's call on social media: "What the world needs now is dance, and love, and dance." Whether you think of yourself as a dancer or not, they encourage people to join in creating good energy—and that's good for you, too.



Bar RBC

KINDLED SPIRITS

Embers swirl, scarlet flames leap and your cheeks glow beside the iron firepits. Raising a glass of rich amber single malt, you take in the toffee-almond buttered popcorn aroma. The powerful warmth and caramel finish envelop you—body, mind and soul. You're among like-minded members of the Whiskey Club on the spacious patio wrapping around the intimate O'Kane's at McMenamins Old St. Francis School, the 1936 Catholic school turned brewery. Peruse the members' Whiskeys in the Shed menu for a rare special release, hard-to-find whiskey or a limited-edition McMenamins library spirit. A quarterly release of small-batch spirits rounds out members-only shenanigans, along with Whiskey Rambles:

tastings and small bites with the distillers on tours of the production spaces.

The patio with strings of lights and foliated arbors attracts dozens imbibing McMenamins creations such as Bamberg Obsession, a 2023 International Beer Awards gold-medal winner. Their Munich Helles lager's beechwood smoked malt suits the atmosphere perfectly amid the smoldering wood, the bar's massive, kettle-like Round Oak stove from 1896 and the aroma of cigars, also a throwback (to 2007 when O'Kane's was grandfathered in before the state ban on smoking in bars).

Firepit studded pubs, such as Crux Fermentation Project and Crosscut Warming Hut No. 5, have popped up since O'Kanes, the OG which opened 20 years ago. Back then, old-school bartender recruits said no one would want to sit



outside at night and drink when it's cold. But they were dead wrong, and it set a trend, said O'Kanes General Manager Freestar Yost.

▼ HOODOO NIGHTS: ONESIES, THRIFTYS AND TIKIS

Stars up, skis out. Long known for its nighttime slope action, Hoodoo Ski Resort has more reasons to head up the mountain in Sisters after the sun has slipped below the horizon: family-and-wallet-friendly fun and a romantic option, too. This year brings the new Onesie Wednesdays—don a vintage '80s ski suit or zip your plush unicorn, hedgehog or Minion pajama over functional gear to ski or ride 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for \$30. The tradition of

Thrifty Thursdays continues: wear anything for the first chair through the last at 9 p.m. for \$35.

Even in the dark, you can soak up Hoodoo's locally owned and operated, noncorporate, family-first culture. "We're not the biggest mountain, we don't have the most terrain, but what we do have is a ton of heart," said Jennifer Davis, marketing director at Hoodoo. "We don't have a lot of rules. We get to be unique individuals, and when you come to Hoodoo, you feel that and...fall in love with us."

Night skiing Wednesday through Saturday includes Friday Night Lights with live music, bonfires and giveaways. For the first time, the annual Enchanted Nordic Trek will be held on Valentine's Day this year, with Nordic skiing or snowshoeing on a loop lined with tiki torches. Nibble chocolate-covered strawberries and hit the downhill trails afterward. **13**



CENTRAL OREGON'S HOT SHOTS

& THE NEXT GEN OF RIPPERS

WRITTEN BY ANNIE FAST



The mountains aren't just a playground; they're launchpads for world-class athletes. For Bendites, much of that credit goes to our local resort, Mt. Bachelor. It boasts an insanely long season, 360 degrees of challenging terrain, fun transitions that demand (and develop) expert edge control and, of course, the stellar parks and pipes. But the accessible backcountry must not be overlooked, including nearby Tumalo Mountain and deeper into the Deschutes National Forest. Here, eager skiers and snowboarders find steep slopes and narrow couloirs, plus perfect transitions for catching air.

PHOTO CREDITS: Asa Silver, Snowboarder: Kai Huggin | OPPOSITE PAGE: Grant Myrdal, Skier: Ashley Thornton





What stands out in Central Oregon is how seamlessly the culture of skiing and snowboarding is enmeshed in young athletes' lives. Lifelong friendships are forged while sliding on snow. The uppermost possibility of a professional career is right in front of them in the professional snowboarders and skiers on the slopes daily—from Olympians, including Alpine racer Tommy Ford and halfpipe snowboarder Ben Ferguson, to big-mountain icon Sage Cattabriga-Alosa and Youth Olympic Nordic standout Neve Gerard—to name only a few.

This season, the next generation of rippers are making a name for themselves, including skier-turned-adventure-videographer Morgan Tien and budding extreme skier Tyndall Wells. The duo are evolving their racing and jibbing skills honed

at Mt. Bachelor into bold feats documenting their alpinism adventures. This is exemplified in their successful two-week tour across the mountains of Kazakhstan resulting in the film, "Tien Shan Dream." Bode Barrett and brothers Sebastian and Dominic Bowler are freeskiers also pushing boundaries, with the Bowler brothers eyeing the 2025 Winter Olympics representing Brazil. Freeskiers Kainoa Pyle and Tatym Smith and snowboarder Marlo MacMillan are local high schoolers who are already making waves on the USASA Futures Tour circuit. Bend's next generation isn't just looking to take its turn, it's here to set a new standard.

PHOTO CREDITS | TOP: Aaron Staylor, Skier: Josh Reports | BOTTOM: Justin Ewing, Snowboarder: Jen Jones | OPPOSITE PAGE: Max Rhulen, Skier: Cody Winters





PHOTO CREDITS: Aaron Staylor, Skier: Jaclyn Wallis
OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: Tyler Roemer, Skier: Nora Beck
OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: Garrett Lockrem, Skier: Milo West



MT. BACHELOR'S LIL' RIPPERS

Oh, to be a kid growing up on the slopes of Mt. Bachelor, where young skiers and snowboarders evolve into fearless phenoms. While much credit goes to an abundance of gentle, fall-line groomers, these little rippers also benefit from expert instruction. Kids as young as 3 can learn how to make their first turns with Mt. Bachelor Ski & Ride school. Before long, Dilly Dally Alley and its entry-level natural transition and jumps have them hooked, with longer, faster runs waiting just around the corner. The elite training starts as young as 8 years old in Mt. Bachelor Sports Education Foundation's (MBSEF) racing, Nordic and freeride programs; It's a launching pad for taking their skiing and snowboarding to new heights and learning the ropes of competitive racing and freestyle comps. Soon enough, these former groms are catching big air, ripping through halfpipe transitions and carving high-speed turns around the gates.

Future Nordic stars get their start in Bend Endurance Academy's Mini Nordies program at Meissner Sno-Park, where kindergarteners merge the fun of snow play with the basics of sliding on snow.

There's no shortage of talent in Bend's youth athlete pool. Among the youngest standouts are snowboarders Milo West, Jack Clark, and brothers Hampton and Cannon Coon, along with freeskiers Rowan Smith and Finley Flanagan. They have all competed at the premiere competition event of the season, the USASA Nationals. Keep an eye on these young rippers—they're only getting started. **B**

THE BEST OF THE BEST



Adam Orosan, Bend Rapids 12U



ICE SEASON

CENTRAL OREGON GLIDES INTO THE FUTURE

WRITTEN BY TED TAYLOR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WALT & KELLY SULLINS

Roughly 71 hours and 58 minutes before most adult hockey pickup games in Bend, a ritual ensues. Phone alarms go off, cars pull to the side of the road, ski days and vacations are interrupted. Wi-Fi connections are checked and meetings are put on hold. Many take a deep breath. Some crack their knuckles as they log in to their Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD) account. The world, for these die-hard hockey players, comes to a stop. They settle in at their computers or focus on their phone as the clock moves forward. When they're officially 72 hours from game time, registration opens. Sixty seconds later, it's over. The rosters are full. The unlucky ones—those unfamiliar with the process or who foolishly logged in a minute too late—rattle off a text to their buddies that usually begins with "Damn it!"





"I feel like I spend the whole winter living 72 hours in advance so that I can get signed up," said Kirsten Romney, a veteran of Bend's adult hockey D-League. "I do the sign ups for my wife too, so I have this pressure to not let her down. The exhilaration of getting a spot is unbelievable, but the crush of defeat is pretty rough if I don't get in."

This ritual will happen dozens of times through early April as the ice season at The Pavilion comes and goes. Because while Bend has been known as a ski town since the 1960s, it's an ice sports town now, too.

BEND ICE

For more than 100 hours each week, Bend's only full-size sheet of ice is filled with open public skating sessions, adult and youth hockey leagues and lessons, figure skating programs and curling leagues. Today, there are 375 players in BPRD's adult hockey league and another 80 were on an initial wait list, hoping to get in. A separate lunch league features 60 players and 100 more on a waitlist.

But even more telling about ice sports in Central Oregon: 350 people are registered for learn-to-play and learn-to-skate programs with 150 more on waitlists.

"More and more people are getting interested in hockey. It's a growing sport," said Pavilion Manager Clare Gordon. "Our learn-to-play programs are doing really well and more kids are interested. We're really trying to guide people through that process if they're interested in playing—to promote growth through fundamentals."

Outside BPRD's programs, the Bend Rapids youth hockey program has nearly 125 participants across multiple age levels, and the Bend Ice Figure Skating Club has about two dozen members.

"Every season for the past five or seven years has filled up," said Aaron

Olson, president of Bend Ice, the organization that includes the Bend Rapids, the Bend Curling Club and Bend Ice Figure Skating Club. "The popularity is definitely there...the big struggle is availability for use. We have one rink to run all this programming on."

Rusty Merritt, an adult-league hockey player and president of Bend Ice Figure Skating Club says the camaraderie among hockey players is "phenomenal. It's all walks of life—young and old playing together—which I think is special in its own way," he said. "I think you have a group of people who are really committed to persevering and participating in whatever level they have here, but would enjoy more opportunities to see programs develop and participate at a higher level."

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL SKATE

It wasn't always like this. In the '50s, BPRD flooded part of Juniper Park and Troy Field downtown for public ice skating. In the '70s, small ice rinks were built at Seventh Mountain Resort and The Village in Sunriver. The facilities hosted skating lessons and makeshift youth hockey programs, but it was a far cry from the real thing.

Ice sports options were limited until voters narrowly passed a \$29 million park district bond measure in 2012 that called for, among other projects, an NHL-sized sheet of ice at a multipurpose pavilion near the Old Mill District. Construction started two years later, and The Pavilion opened for business in 2015. It's been a frozen frenzy ever since.

NO SKATES REQUIRED

"I feel like we've seen the excitement over ice sports grow since The Pavilion opened," rink Manager Gordon said. Merritt said he's had conversations with people who have moved to Bend

Left to right: Connor Farron, Michael Coe and Jason Burge

SKI S E



Ava Schoesler, Bend Ice Figure Skating Club

CENTRAL
OREGON'S
LOVE FOR
ICE IS MORE
THAN A
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A WAY
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because of the rink. One of the biggest attractions at The Pavilion has nothing to do with skating.

Curling enthusiasts say all you need is an interest in the sport and a desire to have fun. Few people grow up with a curling background, so everyone kind of starts at the same level. "It's a really accommodating sport and a really welcoming sport," said Billy Duss, the social media manager for the Bend Curling Club, which has nearly 70 members.

Curling is always a hit during the Olympics, and local interest jumps a bit every four years, Duss and Gordon both said.

The game is relatively simple: "Get your stone closer to the center of the target circles—called "the house"—than your opponent," according to the Bend Curling Club's Curling 101 Facebook page. The club's website has a ton of useful videos and information to help people get started and learn the game. There's beer, funny outfits and plenty of camaraderie during every curling event at The Pavilion.

Duss has taken to the ice and curled in a variety of costumes over the years. He's dressed as a chicken, curled in shorts and a tank top and competed dressed as one of those old-school concession-stand plastic cups. "It's a quirky sport," he said. "You can be as serious about it or as social about it as you want and have a great time. I've never met a curler who was a jerk."

The park district runs leagues and learn-to-curl programs, and the Bend Curling Club runs several more. "That speaks to the growth of the sport and the potential of the sport," Duss said. "There's a huge interest in the learn-to-curl programs. It's just hard for The Pavilion to try and balance it all. There's so much demand—it's wild how full it is."

FIGURE SKATERS GLIDE FOR TIME

Figure skating in Bend is also growing in interest, and the BPRD lesson programs are as tough to get into as the ever-popular and always-full swim lessons. Most currently have a waitlist. Lily Clark started ice skating at the rink in Sunriver when she was 10 years old. Now, the 17-year-old competes regionally and helps coach younger skaters with the Bend Ice Figure Skating Club. "The club has grown so much since I first joined," she said. "Our new development academy has really brought in so many kids, which is amazing because it's growing our town's next generation of skaters."

ICE, ICE MAYBE?

About the only thing missing from Bend's ice sports repertoire is the opportunity for more ice sports programs. Talk to anyone involved in the hockey, figure skating or curling community and the one thing they hope for is a

second full-sized sheet of ice that's open year-round. "So much of this town is seasonal," Olson said. "To have an opportunity to have a seasonal sport year round, where kids can develop and be more competitive across the state, region and nation will only benefit the region as a whole."

There's long been whispers of the possibility of an indoor rink, but nobody's holding their breath. A new Central Oregon SportsPlex Alliance (COSPA) has recently mobilized and started community discussions on a regional multisport facility with eyes on the Deschutes County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, which is looking at ideas for its next phase of expansion. It's a massive project that even its organizers say is years, if not decades, from coming to fruition. It's still very much in the exploratory phase.

"It's never as quick as any of us wants it to be," said Derek Berry, a Bend resident and president of the alliance.

His 12-year-old daughter is part of the Bend Rapids hockey program and also plays for the Coeur d'Alene Girls Hockey Club. "We need more ice here in Central Oregon, not only for providing more youth opportunities and growing youth sports, but we need more space to meet the needs of all our ice sports, like learn to skate, curling, adult hockey, figure skating and adaptive ice programming," he said, adding that his daughter practices at 5:30 a.m. due to limited ice time at the rink. Berry believes our region is "closer than we think we are" to adding at least one indoor facility. But it's not currently in the plans for BPRD.

"The next 10 years are going to be interesting as ice sports continue to grow," The Pavilion's Gordon said. "For us, as a parks district, we have to be cognizant of the overall recreation needs and the overall community needs." And the community needs change when the weather warms up. Come summer, The Pavilion's sheet of ice transforms into a sports court for roller hockey, skating, basketball and a child care program that's critical for parents while school's out.

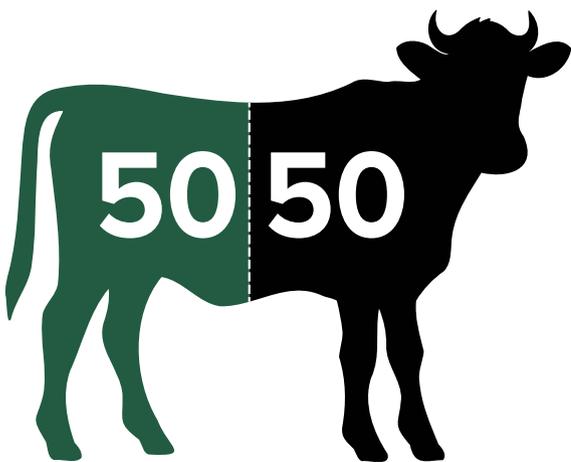
BEFORE THE MELT

As the final skates hit the ice at the Bend Ice spring figure-skating showcase in April, the community celebrates another season of growth and camaraderie. From fierce competition in pickup hockey to the quirky joy of curling and the elegance of figure skating, The Pavilion has created a thriving hub of ice sports. Although ice time remains limited, dreams of a second rink and expanded facilities are alive, fueled by rising demand and unwavering commitment. For now, Bend's skaters, curlers and hockey players continue to carve out a unique place in this town's recreational landscape, proving that Central Oregon's love for ice is more than a seasonal affair—it's a way of life. **B**

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Sip Different

Raising a glass to zero-proof drinks

WRITTEN BY MAISIE SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALYSON BROWN

Central Oregon loves a good shake-up, and what's in the cocktail glass is no exception. Zero-proof drinks are no longer the wallflowers of the menu. They're unapologetically bold, with flavor that doesn't just show up—it owns the room. These drinks aren't about what's missing, they're about what's possible. Crafted to celebrate connection and creativity, they ensure no one misses out on life's moments or wakes up Googling "how to cure a hangover in five minutes."



Terra Kitchen, Neruda

HIGH DESERT HIDEAWAY: THE DEZ

By day, Palate coffee fuels Bend's caffeine faithful. But when the clock strikes five, the space transforms into The Dez, a low-lit, zero-proof cocktail lounge that's part eclectic hangout, part global escape, part your best friend's living room. Think candles, world beats and cozy corners. The "Dez Den," a velvet-draped nook, is perfect for intimate gatherings, while Foxtail Bakery desserts and local charcuterie add a bit of indulgence to the experience.

Owner Corrine Coxey's vision started years ago as she filled notebooks with recipes, ideas and dreams that reimagined what "going out for a drink" could mean. At The Dez, there's

no FOMO. Every drink and detail is designed for connection, reminding folks that what matters most isn't what's missing—it's what's shared. The crowd-favorite Blue Guava Kava Colada is a burst of tropical joy, complete with coconut cream and vibrant blue spirulina, while the Lively Lavender serves sophistication in a coupe with Pentire Coastal Spritz, delicate herbs and a citrus twist. Served hot, the Elderberry Elixir is made from wild-foraged elderberries, ginger and other herbs and spices, and a dusting of cinnamon on the rim. "We aren't a sober bar," Coxey said. "We've created a space where meaningful connections thrive—that just happens to not serve alcohol."



Blue Guava Kava



Left to right: Oh Beehave, Blushing Babushka, and Lola's Espresso Martini

COOL GRANDMA ENERGY: GIGI'S

Walking into Gigi's feels like stepping into a grandma's house—if she were impossibly cool and swapped the candy dish for Ayurvedic elixirs. “We wanted to design a space where people feel cared for, where every drink has a story and a purpose,” said owner Emma Thompson, an Ayurvedic practitioner and the creative mind behind Gigi's. Tucked inside the Pantry in Bend, this weekend bar is cozy and warm, much like its muse, Thompson's mother-in-law “Gigi,” whose joyful wisdom inspired the space's name and energy.

At its heart, Gigi's is a love letter to Ayurveda, an ancient Indian medical system that balances the body through a deeper understanding of the five elements—earth, fire, water, air and

space. Each drink is crafted with these elements in mind, landing somewhere on a spectrum of cooling to heating, grounding to uplifting. The Blushing Babushka, a rosy twist on a White Russian, calms the nerves with vitality-boosting collagen, cardamom, and activated charcoal. With saffron honey, citrus bitters and a subtle hint of Palo Santo, the Oh Beehave delivers all the flavor of a bourbon sour—minus the booze. For something more cozy, the Gam Gam reimagines the Painkiller with housemade chai syrup, coconut milk, pineapple and Anima Mundi Cerebrum, a memory-enhancing herbal tonic. “Our drinks are meant to be a meaningful experience in themselves and are served with a poem to share their origin story,” Thompson reflected.

“CHILL” AS A SECRET INGREDIENT: HOSMER BAR

Hosmer Bar, located in Bend's Waypoint Hotel, brings zero-proof drinks to the forefront in a reimagined, inclusive hotel bar experience. Owner Mike Aldridge saw a glaring lack of effort and creativity in alcohol-free options and decided to change the narrative: Every drink at Hosmer Bar begins as zero-proof, with the option to add booze. A subtle flip of the script places nondrinkers at the center, offering cocktails crafted with the same care as their boozy counterparts. "It's not about what's left out," said Aldridge. "A great zero-proof cocktail is all about what you put in."

Fresh-squeezed juices, housemade syrups and a rotating menu of specials highlight Hosmer Bar's creativity and bold experimentation. The Cultus Lake Caipirinha is a bright,

refreshing mix of strawberry, balsamic reduction, basil and sparkling water, and the Green Lakes Jalapeño Margarita cranks up the heat with muddled jalapeños and zero-proof tequila. For something different (that also feels familiar), the Smoky Old Fashioned features woodchip-smoked zero-proof whiskey with a depth that rivals the real thing.

Hosmer's centerpiece—a stunning 16-foot epoxy and maple wood bar shaped like its namesake lake—is designed for gathering and connection. The vibe is no fuss, all chill—think lingering with friends, not rushing for last call. Pair a spicy margarita with a Deluxe Boi burger from the MidCity SmashedBurger truck parked outside, and the night feels complete.



Left to right: Green Lakes Jalapeño Margarita, Smoky Old Fashioned & Cultus Lake Caipirinha



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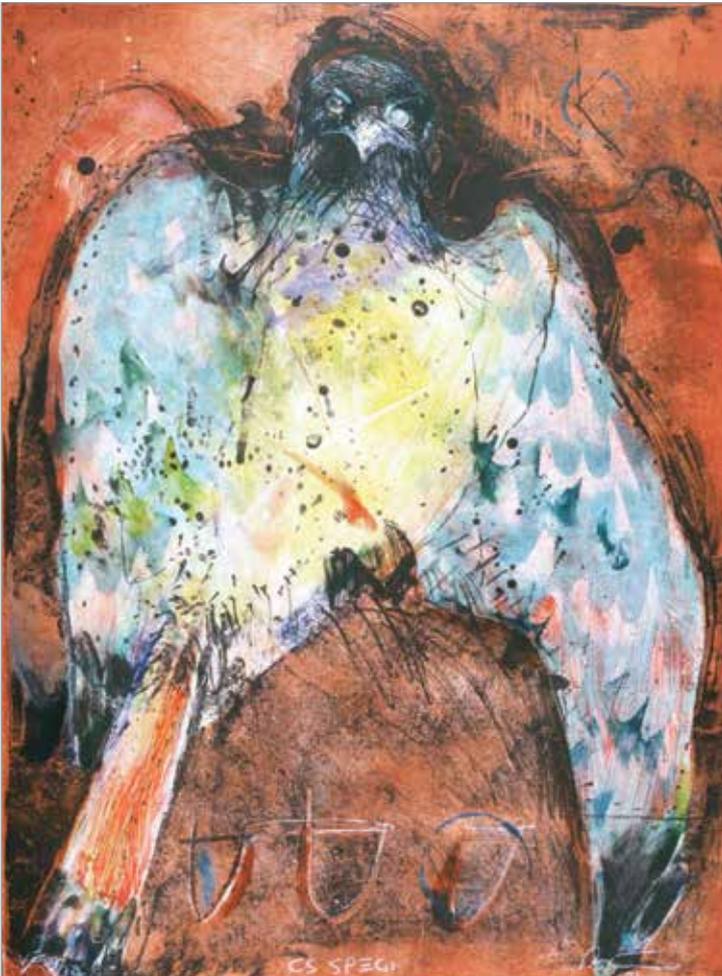


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MORE SIP-WORTHY SPOTS

Restaurants and bars across Central Oregon are reimagining what a drink can be. At Lady Bird Cultural Society, prohibition-era cocktails get a zero-proof glow-up with creations like the Never Been to Spain, crafted with alcohol-free gin, cucumber, citrus and DRAM adaptogenic soda, and the Milan Darling, a sparkling blend of Wilderton aperitivo, roasted pineapple, lime and a splash of NA prosecco. Redmond's Terra Kitchen brings the flair with drinks like the Neruda, a tangy-sweet mix of fresh lime, house

grenadine, cinnamon syrup and bubbles. For beer lovers, Crux Fermentation Project's hop-forward NØ MØ beer lineup includes the River Refresher IPA and Sunset Summit Hazy IPA. Spork spins global inspiration into sippable art with original cocktails like the Thai Kondo, a zesty mix of cucumber, lemongrass and mint, and the Spice Queen, made with strong black tea, lemon, Morita chili and other tongue-tingling spices—a punchy reminder that zero-proof is anything but zero flavor. **B**



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PHOTO BY ARIAN STEVENS

Church of Pizza

Grace and Hammer offers a culinary congregation in Redmond

WRITTEN BY DONNA BRITT



It's a few minutes after 4 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, and a steady stream of folks are pouring through the front doors of the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Redmond. No, there's not a Friday night sermon taking place, but there is a "Preacher of Pizza" in the house.

In 1912, the First Presbyterian Church was built on the site at the corner of SW Cascade Avenue and 7th Street. Along with housing congregations, the historic, steepled white clapboard has been home to a dance studio, various events, classes and weddings, and since 2019, a pizza place.

The minute founders Chad and Cinnamon Nemec laid eyes upon the beautiful old church building, their imaginations kicked in and a new dream began to form. They envisioned reusing and modernizing the original building, maintaining its historic shape and feel and making it home to a new eatery concept, Grace and Hammer pizzeria.

The Nemecs had recently sold their successful 187-acre ranch and restaurant in Austin, Texas, so they decided to purchase the First Presbyterian building and move their business west. Along with their prized wood-fire pizza oven, they lured "Preacher of Pizza" Adam Valentine, who also made the trek from Texas. Valentine had been with the Nemecs' company since 2015 and is now a partner-owner of Grace and Hammer.

Valentine smiles when he talks about pizza being a labor of love. "Everything is so specifically handcrafted, and we take pride in everything—from getting every ingredient arranged just right to the placement of the pie in the oven. It's just pizza, but we take it seriously. It's edible art." And edible it is. Grace and Hammer's menu of a dozen pizza pies, several fresh salads and a few small plates, including crispy jumbo chicken wings or its Chosen Cuts charcuterie board, has delighted palates since its opening day.



PHOTOS BY TAMBILANE



Nestled in The Grove in the Northwest Crossing neighborhood, Sebastian's Seafood & Specialty Market is a seafood lover's paradise. In the seafood case, you'll find a variety of fresh fish like PNW Wild King Salmon and Hawaiian Ahi Tuna. Shellfish is plentiful too! You can find Alaskan King Crab Legs, succulent Oysters, house-made Crab Cakes, and more. At the seafood counter, you can grab fresh Poke made in-house daily. The grocery shelves are stocked with international ingredients and local finds. Beyond the Seafood Market, you'll find Sebastian's Cafe. The Cafe boasts a quick-service seafood menu with items such as Cod Fish & Chips and Garlic Shrimp Hawaiian Mix Plate. Don't miss out on the house-made Clam Chowder. Enjoy your meal in the Grove's indoor seating area.

SEBASTIANSSSEAFOODBEND.COM



In a tip of the hat to the restaurant's Texas roots and the namesake of one of that state's most famous residents, Willie Nelson, the Willie pie has become a local fave. The pizza is akin to a mouthwatering brisket sandwich with its house BBQ sauce, slow-smoked brisket, sliced red onions, freshly cut jalapeños, a bit of cheddar cheese and fresh mozzarella. It's topped with cilantro and served with a side of dill pickle slices.

If you like your pizza on the traditional side, the Smithy offers house red sauce, fresh mozzarella, speck (Italian smoked, cured pork), cherry tomatoes and a helping of arugula for an extra peppery kick. The Purist pie is as simple as it gets with red sauce, mozzarella, tomatoes, basil and extra virgin olive oil.

For the meat lovers, there's the Saint Stanley with pepperoni, Italian sausage and Calabrian chilis or the Gratitude with prosciutto, caramelized onions and truffle oil. If veggies are your thing, the Propriety features a blend of bechamel sauce, mozzarella, goat feta and mushroom, while the Benevolent Bird's lemon herb chicken breast is highlighted with basil-arugula pesto, roasted tomatoes and Manchego cheese.

While the toppings may be a pizza's selling point, the crust is the foundation of any pie. The Grace and Hammer dough recipe is straightforward, but it does take time to make, as all good things usually do. "It's incredibly simple," Valentine said. "[It's] only water, flour, salt and yeast. The magic happens when you allow it to ferment, which we do for 72 hours. That's where you get the added character."

Then there's the sauce. Again, Grace and Hammer keeps it basic. "We use imported San Marzano plum tomatoes to make a true Neapolitan sauce, adding only a bit of salt and garlic for a bright, fresh, incredible flavor," Valentine explained.

That flavor is what keeps the locals pouring in, and for that, the "Preacher" is grateful. "I have so much gratitude and appreciation for this community and the reception we've received. The people have made it home for us here." ■

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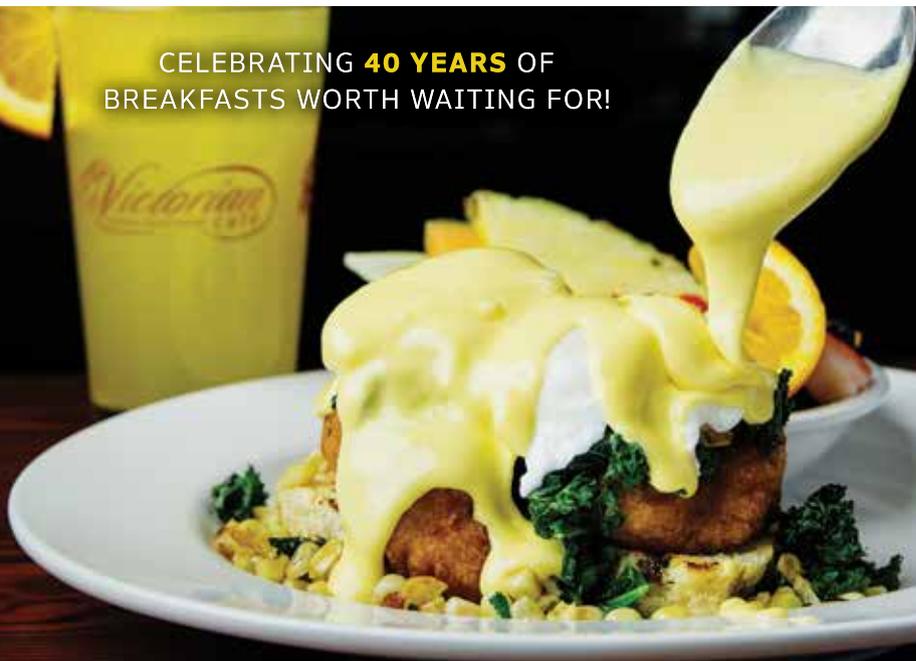
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Japanese Treats

Take away sweet (or savory) *shokupan*

WRITTEN BY SIENA DORMAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TINA PAYMASTER



For those craving a grab-and-go sandwich of a different ilk, James Gage, owner of Kita Café, creates authentic Japanese sandwiches that are a welcome surprise in a lineup of takeaway fare. These sandwiches are built around *shokupan* (食パン)—Japanese milk bread. Shokupan isn't your typical sandwich bread. Each loaf has a golden crust with a snow-white interior, yielding a pillowy yet sturdy texture and hint of sweetness.

It's this special bread that forms the foundation of Kita Café's wholesale business, where Gage has mastered the notoriously demanding dough through countless iterations. "That's one of our biggest selling points, the fact that we make our own bread," Gage said, noting

how he now mixes the dough by feel rather than using precise measurements.

The visual appeal of Kita Café's fruit sandwiches is bold and immediate—the precisely cut sandwiches reveal cross-sections of fresh fruit, such as strawberries or mandarin oranges, nestled in a sweet cream and arranged as edible art between slices of the cloudlike shokupan. The bread's tender composition and sweetness create the perfect canvas for both sweet and savory fillings.

Each sandwich requires complete attention, from hand-selecting and washing individual strawberries to cutting slices of bread by hand. This careful preparation shows in the final sandwiches, whether it's different

varieties of fruit sandwiches, egg salad or chicken katsu resting between two slices of shokupan. Beyond sandwiches, Kita Café's pick up and go offerings include other Japanese classics such as *onigiri* (rice balls), chilled somen noodles and castella cake, all made fresh by Gage. These and other seasonal offerings are available at six specialty markets around Bend.

While Gage looks forward to introducing a brick-and-mortar cafe in the future, his current wholesale model has found success in bringing these Japanese tastes to customers on the go, offering a taste of Japan and creating meals that are as beautiful as they are delicious. See [@kitacafeco](#). **B**

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Meditative Strands

Lindsay Wiseman weaves functional works of art

WRITTEN BY CASEY HATFIELD-CHIOTTI

One essential characteristic for a weaver is tenacity, said Lindsay Wiseman, founder of Central Oregon Textiles, a boutique weaving studio based in Bend. "I've definitely found myself in spots where my warp was entangled, or my yarn was too twisted, and you have to cut it off," she said. "You have to have patience and be able to get over any self-doubt or frustration."



When Wiseman weaves a scarf in her studio that's equipped with everything from an eight-shaft Gilmore jack loom to a Kromski spinning wheel, she embarks on a process. It can take several days to several weeks. She begins by measuring out strands of yarn, known as the "warp"—a scarf will be around 100 ends while a tea towel will be around 240 ends—to act as the foundation of the fabric. After the warp is threaded onto the loom, weft—or horizontal—yarns are woven horizontally across. Even though it can seem tedious at times, Wiseman loves the methodical process.

"I love being able to get into a flow state," said Wiseman. "You're really starting from a blank canvas. Once you learn the technical basic setups, then it's up to you to create and interpret a vision."

ART AND INSPIRATION

Wiseman founded Central Oregon Textiles in 2016 after moving to Bend with her husband, who grew up in Prineville. She creates blankets, scarves and travel accessories from her own hand-dyed and handspun yarn.

Garnering millions of views on TikTok, her videos showcase the beauty and intricacies of weaving, such as a time-lapse video of setting up a loom to make tea towels—something that takes about six hours before weaving can begin.

Some of her creations use soft alpaca wool from Crescent Moon Ranch in Terrebonne. Using cotton, linen, wool and bamboo, Wiseman weaves scarves in an array of hues, from burnt orange to blue-green.

"My personal aesthetic is very black, white, gray, and so I feel like [weaving] gives me an extension to play with color without feeling committed to color," said Wiseman.

A high school job at Hancock Fabrics introduced Wiseman to textiles and set her on the weaving arts path. "It really opened my eyes to how things are made," she said.

Wiseman studied mechanical engineering and material science at Washington State University and earned a master's degree in industrial engineering at Oregon State University. Her technical know-how and love of structure is displayed in products such as woven cosmetic bags and jewelry organizers, which she designs to keep earrings and other jewelry from getting entangled or broken while traveling. Her home items, such as kitchen towels and handwoven centerpieces, are both beautiful and functional.

"I'm a practical person, so I love incorporating art into that," said Wiseman.

Raised by a homicide detective and nurse in Seattle, Wiseman explained that her childhood felt "intense" at times. Bend feels peaceful in comparison, and she finds a wealth of inspiration in nature, from birds and flowers to mycology.

"Living and working in Bend, you have time to yourself to recharge. And that recharge, for me, has been weaving," she said. "Weaving forces you to be present. It's almost a meditation." One of Wiseman's 2025 goals is to begin offering classes at Fancywork Yarn Shop in Bend, where a selection of her hand-dyed yarns are sold. She would like to introduce more people to the art of turning fibers into yarn for use in crocheting, knitting and weaving.

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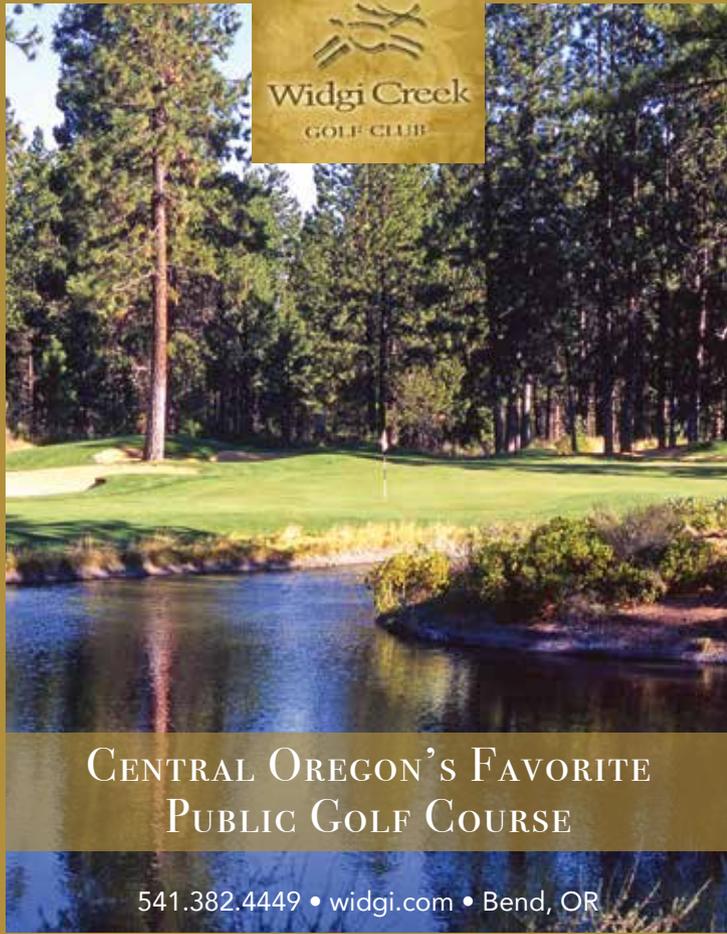
Sewing and weaving is a side job for Wiseman, the director of supplier quality and compliance for Hydro Flask's parent company Helen of Troy. Despite her robust social media following, Wiseman jokes that her sewing and weaving business is a "circular" economy where she generates enough income to continue purchasing materials.

She is a company of one and Wiseman said that while a photographer or a painter can take a picture and create a print, in her business, "Everything has to be done by my hands, from scratch."

Still, weaving is where she puts her heart and soul. When she's traveling for work, her Turkish drop spindle, which collapses, is always in her luggage, and when at home, she often brings her spinning wheel outside to enjoy the beauty of nature as she creates.

"I rarely repeat color themes because I want to feel inspired," Wiseman explained, "and I don't want to feel like another piece of machinery in the process."

Wiseman said the joy of weaving lies in the painstaking process of making things by hand, even when it takes nine hours to create a single scarf. See centraloregontextiles.com. **B**



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"What Lies Beneath"

Life and Death

Jake Kenobi's layers of paint are a portal to human connection

WRITTEN BY **CHERYL PARTON**

With layers of paint, Jake Kenobi creates tableaux that mimic layers of the human psyche—bright glimpses of colorful palm trees and flamingos are juxtaposed with macabre symbols of death.

At his studio in northwest Bend, the artist, who goes by the moniker Spring Break Jake, presents contradictions. Dressed in black from head to toe, his wide grin offers a welcome to his world, one he shares with his young son, Casper, age 2 ½, and his wife, Kait, owner and graphic designer at Midnight Grim. Surrounded by paints and works in progress, Kenobi uses art as a tool for connection with others and the world around him.

Creative from a young age in Minnesota, where he was born and raised, he had an intense bout of depression in high school that led him to express himself through the arts—first music, then graphic design, and ultimately, fine art. "The

depression taught me empathy," he said. "I realized, 'What if everyone was going through something?' I found compassion through art, and it gave me an outlet to share a message."

In Bend, Kenobi credits a 2019 mural project and his 2021 residency at Scalehouse Collective for the Arts as cornerstones for his work as a full-time artist. Spending eight months painting in the Patricia Clark Studio reinforced the wiring of his brain, he said. Painting full time allowed him to communicate his past experiences.

Scalehouse was an incubator, and his show at the Scalehouse Annex was an emergence from the dark into a new phase. "He has chosen to work with symbolic motifs which not only define an aesthetic, but help him to express himself as an artist," said Marley Weedman Lorish, operations and programming manager and incoming executive director of Scalehouse.



His paintings begin with handmade wood panels prepared with gesso. He adds layers of acrylic paint, incorporating found materials to create spots with a sculptural quality. He equates building depth and three-dimensionality with exploring the layers of his life experiences. A painting may have five to 15 layers of paint, with final top coats of black. The visible colors or white are negative space, and Kenobi creates the outlines of those shapes first, so that they remain portals to the base, much as a glimpse into the psyche.

His work can appear simple, with few elements on each canvas, but each painting has a deeper meaning. The overt subject matter of skulls and tones of darkness belie



"Now You Must Keep Living"



I HOPE TO CREATE
VULNERABILITY IN
MY PAINTINGS BY
LOOKING INWARD."

Kenobi's deeper thinking of subjects such as neuroscience and philosophy. For Kenobi, the irony of the playful name Spring Break Jake provokes thoughts of how we should celebrate life. The philosophical concept of *momento mori*, Latin for remembering death, is a theme in his work, he said. *Memento mori* is a motivation to live, with the understanding that time, and life, are finite. There's a playfulness to the graphic design work Kenobi has done for companies such as Avid Cider, 10 Barrel and Somewhere That's Green. Skeletons dance in a series he created for Visit Bend's Bend Ale Trail as a reminder to live fully while we are still alive.

His new collection, "Night Life," diverges in its palette from pinks to swaths of yellow, green and grey, and focuses on themes of insomnia and the vulnerability of a human mind that goes without regenerative hours of sleep. The body of work will debut at a solo show, opening June 1 at the Purple Door gallery in Portland.

"I hope to create vulnerability in my paintings by looking inward," Kenobi said. "Ultimately, I want to create solidarity and compassion around a shared experience," he added. "Once a piece is done, it's not about me anymore." See springbreakjake.com. 

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Culture *Shorts*

PORTRAITS OF CHANGE AT THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

The High Desert Museum's new exhibit, "Frank S. Matsura: Portraits from the Borderland," opens February 1 and continues through September 7, 2025. The show documents a moment in history of the Syilx people in Okanogan, Washington at the turn of the 20th century. In 39 photographs and contemporary video portraits taken by Japanese immigrant Frank S. Matsura, the preserved imagery serves as accurate and revealing historical and regional records of Indigenous Plateau communities during a time of significant cultural change. See highdesertmuseum.org.



NEW VENUES OPEN IN MADRAS

Madras welcomed two new venues to expand the community's dining and entertainment options. The Spot, a taproom, food and event venue on 5th Avenue, offers an outdoor space for food trucks, a full-service kitchen and community events. Nearby, The Fortress, the city's first brewery, introduces locally crafted beers after nearly a decade of efforts to bring a brewpub to downtown Madras. Both of these projects aim to strengthen the local economy and provide gathering places for the community.

PHOTO TOP RIGHT KAI HUGGIN



SNOWBOARDING FILM PREMIER

Photographer Pete Alport has worked with some of the best athletes in the snowboarding industry in his 20-year career. The new snowboarding film produced by Alport, "4-LO," premiered fall 2024 at Volcanic Theatre Pub. Alport donated \$5K of the premier proceeds to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon. Now available on YouTube, "4-LO" follows four young up-and-coming snowboarders from Bend—Griffin Biancucci, Kai Huggin, Haden McAlister and Elijah Pyle—on their season-long journey to create a movie with no budget in a celebration of Bend's talented snowboarding community.



DESCHUTES LIBRARY SYSTEM EXPANDS REDMOND'S LIBRARY

Redmond's remodeled library is set to re-open in late January, featuring a 40,000-square-foot, net-zero building at its original downtown location. The two-story space includes an automated book return, a drive-through window, an interactive maker space, large meeting rooms and a children's learning center. This community-forward library is equipped with solar panels, EV charging stations, a large civic patio and contemporary art. See deschuteslibrary.org.



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WHAT WE DO TODAY IS WHAT MATTERS MOST.”

— BUDDHA

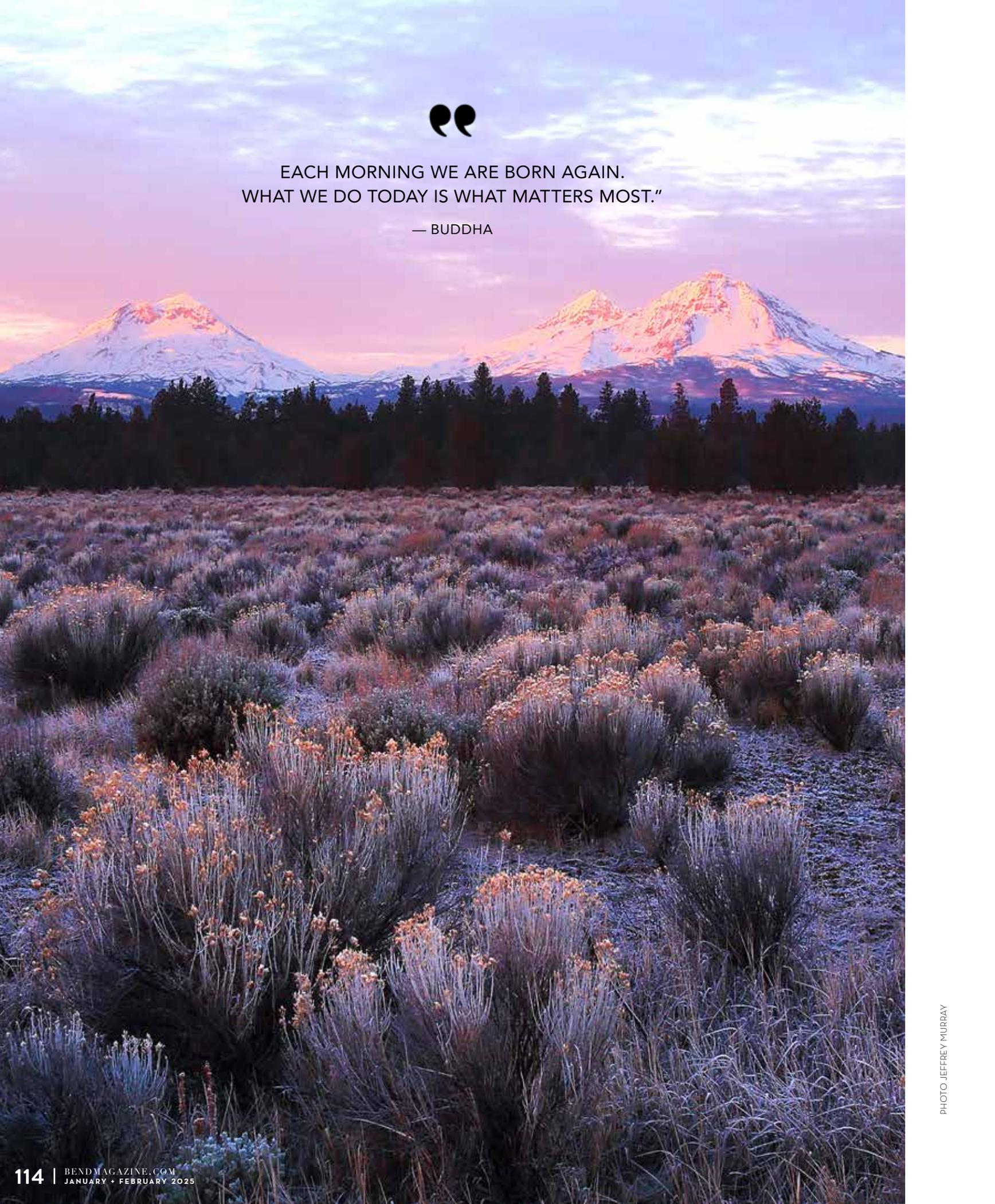


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