Message from our Board Chair

This month Karen Vineyard, market executive, global commercial banking for Bank of America, stepped into the role of OBI Board Chair. Join us in celebrating her new position and read her priorities as she takes over the job by clicking here.

Remember, you can share your thoughts with Karen by emailing her at karenvineyard@oregonbusinessindustry.com.

Featured Member

Tillamook

Did you know Feb. 13 is National Cheddar Day? Tillamook County Creamery Association, which is also one of the sponsors of the OBI Annual Meeting, began celebrating this delicious holiday last year on the company’s 110th anniversary.

But there is much more to Tillamook than cheese. Discover more about the company’s history and the role it plays in Oregon’s modern economy by reading the full profile on OBI’s website. Click here to read it.

Some fun facts:

- The ship on the Tillamook logo is the Morning Star, which the farmer-owned co-op used to send cheese to Portland a hundred years ago. Back then, the fastest way to get
products to market was by water. Tillamook honors its history by including it on every one of its products.
- In the past five years, Tillamook has created 200 new jobs. The company employs more than 900 people.
- Tillamook makes more than just cheese. It also makes butter, yogurt, cream cheese spread, sour cream and ice cream.

Is your business interested in being featured by OBI? Let us know! Contact Samantha Tipler, OBI communications specialist.

Annual Meeting – Thank You!

Thank you for attending OBI’s Annual Meeting. It was an exciting and interesting day with more than 200 members and guests joining us at the Salem Convention Center.

We heard updates from Washington, D.C., and Salem, with speakers including A.B. Stoddard and Gov. Kate Brown. We were proud to honor Reps. Jeff Barker, D-Aloha, and Shelly Boshart Davis, R-Albany, as the 2020 Jobs Champion honorees.

Click here for the press release about the event and watch our social media and webpage for photos. You can also watch the videos for the Jobs Champion awardees by checking out OBI’s YouTube channel. Click here for the tribute to Rep. Boshart Davis and click here for the salute to Rep. Barker.


At the Capitol

The 35-day short session in the 2020 Legislature has been non-stop since it started on Feb. 3. Just last night Democrats unveiled a 177-page amendment to SB 1530, the cap-and-trade legislation. The bill is expected to move out of Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and on to Ways and Means today. Republican leaders have not ruled out denying Democrats a quorum if the bill makes it to the Senate floor.

This week also saw a historic agreement between timber and environmentalist on forest management.

Stay up-to-date by reading the Capitol Central newsletter, which OBI is producing weekly, and by watching our social media posts on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.
OBI is also working hard on the regulatory side and continues to challenge seven potential ballot measures.

Do you have questions about pending legislation? Feel free to contact our team.

- Tax, fiscal policies and retail: Mike Stober
- Education and health care policies: Nathaniel Brown
- Employment policies: Paloma Sparks
- Environment and energy policies: Sharla Moffett

OBI Member Poll

Participate in OBI’s annual member survey. Click the button below to go to the survey page and fill it out. It only takes about 10 minutes.

And there’s something in it for you. Fill out the survey by March 20 and you’ll be in a drawing for a $500 Amazon gift card. Thank you for your feedback!

Help Flood Victims in Eastern Oregon

Disastrous floods hit Umatilla County and parts of Eastern Oregon and Washington last week. The damage was bad enough that local agencies and the governor declared an emergency. Recovery efforts are now underway, and the Blue Mountain Community Foundation is helping in relief and recovery efforts, working with local governments, towns and counties to help victims.

Learn more about opportunities to help in this East Oregonian article.

Oregon Economic Revenue Forecast – March 2020

Oregon’s economy continues to have stable growth, with more and more workers coming off the sidelines for better-paying jobs, according to the March Economic and Revenue Forecast from the state office of economic analysis.

Looking nationally, the forecast, released Wednesday, says the risk of recession is receding and the trade war with China is deescalating. It also mentions risks to the economy from the coronavirus, including impacts on trade and supply.

In the long run, the biggest risk to continued economic growth in Oregon is the same thing that’s helping fuel it: available workers for those well-paying jobs. Migration and working-age population gains have helped power the state’s growth, but those are slowing. This may come as no surprise to employers searching for the highly-skilled workers they need – an issue many OBI members have expressed concern over.
Meanwhile, the revenue forecast reports strong tax revenue for the state. During their presentation on the forecast to the House Revenue Committee on Wednesday, economists said lottery and general fund dollars will be up $183.4 million by the end of the biennium, an increase from the December forecast. The state has also been making deposits in the Rainy Day Fund and Education Stability Fund. The forecast expects Oregon to end the biennium with nearly $3 billion in reserves, or about 14% of the budget.

Read the forecast's executive summary by clicking here. Click here for a slide presentation, or click here for the documents from the economists’ presentation to the House committee. And click here for the full forecast document.

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**Member Updates**

**CFM Advocates**

CFM Advocates is the new business name for CFM Strategic Communications, Inc. The new name better reflects the firm’s primary services – federal affairs, state affairs and public affairs, which all involve advocating on behalf of clients. CFM Advocates has a new website: www.cfmadvocates.com. And click here to read the full press release.

*Does your business have news or announcements they’d like to share with fellow OBI members? Tell us about it! Send us an email at communications@oregonbusinessindustry.com.*

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**January New Members**

**Eagle Plywood Specialties (Eagle Veneer, Inc.)**

*Grants Pass*

[Click here](#)

Eagle Plywood Specialties provides quality plywood products for many uses, including concrete forming, transportation, marine, agricultural, material handling and more. The
Rogue Valley Habitat for Humanity

Medford
www.roguevalleyhabitat.org
Habitat for Humanity Rogue Valley is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization that builds homes, communities and hope. They are dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

Kelleygreen Nursery

Drain
www.facebook.com/KELLEYGREENNURSERY
Kelleygreen Nursery specializes in Japanese maples. They have as many as 300 varieties in production each year, producing between five and 15,000 of each variety.

NuStar Energy

Portland
www.nustarenergy.com
NuStar Energy is one of the largest, independent liquids and pipeline operators in the U.S. They firmly believe that if you take care of employees, they will take care of the company, its customers, investors and communities.

Southern Oregon Auto Care

Medford
www.soautocare.com
Southern Oregon Auto Care is an automotive repair and maintenance company offering a wide range of services from oil changes to electrical work, to engine repairs. They offer amenities to their customers while taking special care of their cars and trucks.

Triton Transportation

Beaverton
Triton Transportation is a freight shipping company operating out of Beaverton.

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Member News

Pacific Power Matching Oregon Energy Fund Donations 2-to-1

A Spark for the Local Economy – featuring Medford Fabrication

The Standard Promotes Greg Chandler to Vice President of Information Technology

The Standard Earns Perfect Score on 2020 Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equity Index

Columbia Sportswear Tim Boyle as Chairman of the Board

Diamler Executive Honored for Supporting National Guard and Reserve Employees

Kaiser Permanente Will Donate $5.1 Million to Help Homeless with Disabilities

Did your business appear in the news? Let us know! Share your news with us at communications@oregonbusinessindustry.com

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The OBI Team: Meet Nathaniel Brown!

Nathaniel joined OBI almost a year ago as the government
relations representative for education, workforce development and health care. Nathaniel advocates for the importance of getting Oregon students ready to be the employees and job creators our state needs in the future. He has a personal investment in this, as he and his wife welcomed their first baby, a daughter, in September 2019.

Where did you grow up? I was born and raised in the Portland area, having lived most of my life in the Cedar Mill neighborhood just west of downtown, in the same neighborhood my mom grew up in. I went to Sunset High School and was grateful to grow up in that community, but now live in the Multnomah neighborhood of southwest Portland. I am very happy to be setting down my own family’s roots here.

What has your career been like? I started working in government affairs in college, when I interned for U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio and worked in the University of Oregon’s Public Affairs Communications department. After I graduated, I landed a job at the Portland Business Alliance, supporting the government relations and downtown services teams – but was promoted to government relations specialist after about a year. In that role, I advocated for business priorities at the city, county and regional level. Now, about three years later, I’m here at OBI learning the ins and outs of state policy and how to be an effective state lobbyist.

What are you looking forward to in the 2020 legislative session? I am looking forward to continuing to build relationships with legislators and other organizations. I love the sense of community at the Capitol and have immense respect for the legislative process. Important conversations are happening around education and health care and I want to be sure OBI members have a voice on those issues.

Did you set any new years’ resolutions? I am trying to drink a bottle of water before I leave the house in the morning and have been meditating every day. Overall, just trying to be healthier and more mindful at work and at home.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Save the Date: Eastern Oregon Economic Summit**

This event brings state, regional, and local leaders from across private and public sectors to Hermiston to discuss issues and set goals to improve our Eastern Oregon communities and region.

- July 23: Regional industry and issue tours
- July 24: General session and breakout discussions

[Click here](#) to learn more

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**LegalPLUS Program**

Did you know, by being an OBI member you can get free legal advice? OBI and Innova Legal Advisors provides members 15 minutes of free legal consultation each month through the LegalPLUS program. Contact Bob Blackmore at Innova Legal Advisors: Phone: 503-479-7175; email:
Wholesale Fuel Pricing

OBI has partnered with MCP Petroleum to drive down OBI members’ fuel cost. OBI is leveraging the collective purchasing power of our membership to get wholesale fuel pricing for our members. In addition to fuel savings, OBI members will have access to a comprehensive fuel management system that will reduce slippage, save valuable employee time and provide accountability and oversight of your company’s fuel consumption.

To find out how to save on your fuel cost, contact Nancy Marquay for more information.