

## La Pine Welcomes New City Manager

The SLED Program would like to welcome Geoff Wullschlager as the new manager of the City of La Pine. Geoff has seven prior years of city management experience between the cities of Wheeler OR, and Garibaldi OR. He has been in public service for 15 years total. He earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in Environmental Studies and Master of Public Administration degree from Portland State University's Hatfield School of Government.

Geoff sees rapid growth in the Deschutes County region as an opportunity to build economic enhancement for La Pine, while being keenly sensitive to preserving the City's character and heritage. He is inspired to be joining the community at a time where there are so many advantages for the region, and it is his primary goal to contribute and administratively coordinate the City's efforts toward increased livability with economic, and recreational benefit for its citizens.



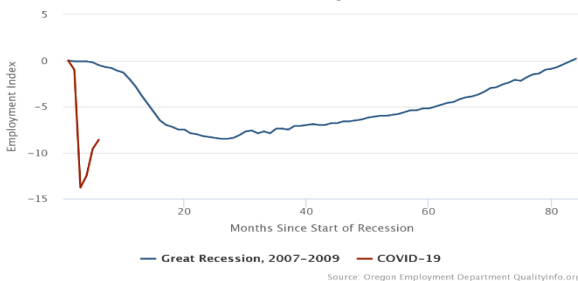
Geoff is an avid fly fisherman, skier, outdoorsman, and recreational pilot.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SLED INVESTORS



## Some Optimism Revealed During the Central Oregon Builders Association COVID-19 Construction Industry Impacts & Outlook Webinar

COVID-19 Job Changes Compared to Great Recession Job Changes  
by Industry  
Total Nonfarm, Oregon

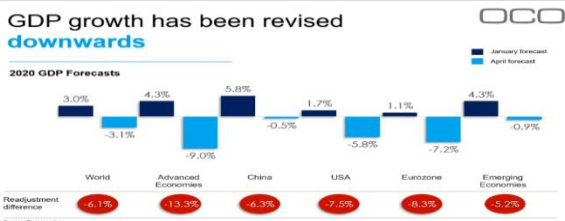


Damon Runberg, Regional Economist with the State of Oregon Employment Department, spoke during the recent Central Oregon Builders Association's (COBA) webinar - COVID-19 Construction Industry Impacts & Outlook. He reminded us that we are in a recession by definition - a fall in GDP in two successive quarters. However, for some locally, it doesn't feel like a recession. Some reasons for this optimistic feeling:

- Retail spending rebounded quickly thanks to the extra \$600/wk for the unemployed.
- Mortgage forbearance rates are very high, but most are unlikely to turn into foreclosures due to protections from the CARES Act.
- Bend and Central Oregon are an attractive place during a global pandemic both for tourists and new residents.

Click on the button below to hear Damon's full presentation along with other industry experts, Sara LaFaver, Principal Broker with Harcourts The Garner Group and Ryan Jennings, Operations Director with Hayden Homes, as they discuss how COVID-19 is impacting the construction industry.

[COVID-19 Construction Industry Impacts & Outlook Webinar Online](#)



## What's Happening in South Deschutes County

- There are currently six projects in the SLED pipeline. These will result in the creation of new jobs and capital investment to enhance the local economy. Stay tuned for project announcements in the near future.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is investing \$5.5 million in the La Pine Community Health Center, a nonprofit health clinic that provides essential primary care access for underserved areas of Central Oregon, announced State Director John Huffman. The investment will ensure continued health services for more than 22,000 rural residents.
- Business Oregon has ranked the La Pine Community Health Center as one of the Top 100 Workplaces in Oregon!
- Badlands Artisan Distillery is the first distillery to locate in La Pine, making cucumber gin and wine-cask and plum & sloe berry vodka. Look for their products at local stores in Central Oregon.
- 246 businesses in Sunriver and La Pine have been awarded \$9,998,374 in funding from the US Small Business Administration through the Payroll Protection Program.
- In the next 12 months at least three hundred new homes are planned in La Pine, Sunriver and Three Rivers.
- Check out the Newberry Country Trail, which offers three separate experiences in Central Oregon that take you from high lakes to high desert, and New Crater to Crater Lake, through all of the surrounding communities. <https://lapine.org/index.php/visit-newberry-country/> "We have it all!"



## Are you a Business interested in hosting an Internship in your industry? Check out what Youth CareerConnect has to offer in Central Oregon



**Youth CareerConnect (YCC)** is equipped to support virtual internships with local companies now that remote learning and remote work are the new norm. Students can access virtual training and support, including resume building, interview preparation, guidance for professional work ethics, and more. Today, YCC has over 200 business partners and has placed more than 260 students in meaningful internships.

For additional resources and information contact Larry Holeman at [larry@edcoinfo.com](mailto:larry@edcoinfo.com) | 541.388.3236 x8  
Visit [Youth CareerConnect \(YCC\)](#)



Funding for the SLED program comes from both public and private members and stakeholders. The City of La Pine and Deschutes County are key partners and contributors, as well as private businesses from around the county and Central Oregon that wish to support a stronger and more vibrant economy in South Deschutes County. Over the past six years, SLED has assisted eight new and existing businesses with capital investments of more than \$10.8 million resulting in the creation of 117 jobs.



**For more information about membership, please contact:  
Patricia Lucas, SLED Director  
[businessast1@aol.com](mailto:businessast1@aol.com)**