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5, featuring a panel of prominent builders
is proud to present its second annual
Oregon Builders Association (COBA)
construction industry? The Central
region? What obstacles
outlook for builders in the
ondering about the current
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ondering about the current
region? What obstacles
and opportunities lie ahead for the
construction industry? The Central
Oregon Builders Association (COBA)
provides a 2019 breakfast event on March 5, featuring a panel of prominent builders and industry experts who will discuss local trends, challenges, and outlook. COBA instituted this important event in 2018 to educate members and the community about what is happening in the building industry through the actual
builders and experts. Given our current
construction climate, attendees will find the conversation extremely relevant, touching on the many boundary land
issues that impact our market, as well
as SDCs (system development charges)
and permit fees that builders must pay
even before beginning construction.
Other major challenges area builders
face include labor shortages in the trades,
increasing costs in all areas, lack of
infrastructure, and scarce land inventory,
among the many factors they are up
against.
Tim Knopp, executive vice president
of COBA, said, “This event was created
to present an accurate description of the
outlook of our industry and also provide
the opportunity for the audience
engage with these top builders and
industry experts.”
Mandy Weidman, senior vice president
of operations and sales manager for
COBA, added, “We have so many
COBA members who are going above
and beyond to create a better future
for our community. For example, Kirby
Naglehoff and SunWest Builders teamed
up and put together a group of other
COBA members to create a construction
training class at COCC. They have poured
their hearts, time, and money into this
program to get it off the ground; they
are truly invested in this community and
finding ways to help fill the trades. Those
are the things our COBA members are
a part of—they do great things behind
the scenes for the industry to build a
better future for our trades, industry, and
community.”
COBA also believes in making houses
more affordable for our workforce
and expends significant resources to
make that happen. For instance, Karma
Gustafson, COBAs vice president of
government affairs, and our members
worked with the City of Bend to allow
duplexes and triples in the residential
standard zone, which will make it easier
to build workforce housing in Bend.
Builders on the elite speakers’ panel
were handpicked for their knowledge
in their specific area and experience in
the industry. They will bring different
perspectives and answer questions on the
topics at the forefront of the construction
development in Central Oregon. This event will
be moderated by regional economist
Damron Runberg, who will also discuss
local housing trends and provide insight
into where the industry is heading as we
move into a new decade.
The COBA Builders’ Perspective
Breakfast will be held at the Riverhouse
Convention Center on Tuesday, March 5, from 8–10 am. Tickets are $39 for COBA
members and $49 for nonmembers. See
coba.org/events for more information.

### Speakers’ Panel

- Jeff Desswert, President, Kirby Nagelhoff Construction
- James Fagan, Owner, Timberline Construction
- Steve Kingsmore, President, Hayden Homes
- Kelly Ritz, President, Stone Bridge Homes NW
- Moderator Damron Runberg, Regional Economist

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