

## Office Depot opens new Bend store

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

Ribbon-cutting Event Included Presentations to St. Charles Foundation; Central Oregon Battering and Rape Alliance (COBRA) and Hunger Prevention Coalition of Central Oregon; Remarks by Local Business and Government Officials

Office Depot celebrated the grand opening ribbon-cutting of its first store in Bend on Thursday at 3188 N. Highway 97. An all day grand opening is scheduled for Sunday, June 17.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Office Depot made \$500 contributions and donate a number of new children's™ backpacks to three local non-profit organizations: St. Charles Foundation, Central Oregon Battering and Rape Alliance (COBRA) and Hunger Prevention Coalition of Central Oregon. In addition, David Blair, Field Representative for United States Senator Ron Wyden; Mayor Pro Tem Linda Johnson; City Council Member Mark Capell and Mike Schmidt, President/CEO of the Bend Chamber of Commerce, offered welcoming remarks.

Special guests who participated in the June 14 ribbon-cutting ceremony include:

Non-Profit Organization Representatives:

Â· Dwight Heaney, Executive Director, St. Charles Foundation

Â· Janet Huerta, Assistant Director, Central Oregon Battering and Rape Alliance (COBRA)

Â· Robin Popp, President, Hunger Prevention Coalition of Central Oregon

Federal Official:

Â· David Blair, Field Representative for United States Senator Ron Wyden

City Official:

Â· Linda Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem

Â· Mark Capell, City Council Member, City of Bend

Chamber of Commerce Representatives:

Â· Mike Schmidt, President/CEO

Â· Tim Casey, SVP Marketing & Membership Services

The ribbon-cutting will be followed by an all-day Grand Opening at the new store on Sunday, June 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Office Depot customers are invited to attend the celebration, which will include product and vendor demonstrations as well as special Grand Opening discounts.

â€œOffice Depot is strongly committed to enhancing the quality of life in the communities in which we conduct business,â€• said Kelly Workman, Manager of the new Office Depot store. â€œWe are excited to open our first store in Bend and very pleased that we can assist these critically important non-profit organizations in their efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families in this area.â€•

The backpack donations are part of the Office Depot National Backpack Program, through which the Company will distribute 300,000 new backpacks to non-profit organizations and schools serving â€œat-riskâ€• children throughout the United States and Canada in 2007. Office Depot celebrated the donation of its one-millionth backpack through this program in 2006.

## About the New Office Depot Store in Bend

According to Workman, the new Bend store features Office Depot's industry-leading M2 retail format. M2 offers customers the most enjoyable shopping experience in the industry " in a format that is intuitive, logical and designed specifically for the way people make purchase decisions.

Products are grouped in highly visible, strategically located "pods," with core supplies at the outer perimeter of the store " signed for optimal visibility and easy purchase " and furniture and technology at the center " to better support consultative sales.

The new Office Depot store employs approximately 20 full- and part-time associates. It houses more than 7,500 technology, furniture and supply products as well as Design, Print and Ship services in 18,048 square feet of customer space.

Store hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The telephone number for the store is 541-318-3572.

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