

## Community Comes Together for Bend, La Pine & Sunriver Students

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

### Tools for Schools campaign exceeds donation expectations

Thanks to donations of hundreds of backpacks, thousands of pencils and crayons and piles of notebooks and calculators, local businesses and residents have assured a successful start of the school year for more than 1,100 area students in need.

“We literally have mounds of new school supplies coming in every day for the kids, it’s phenomenal, the materials just keep pouring in,” says Cindy Miller, Bend-La Pine Schools Family Access Network (FAN) Advocate.

Miller says she and other Bend-La Pine Schools FAN liaisons have already distributed supplies to hundreds of students. More than 1,100 students benefited from the program last year.

“The outpouring of support is terrific. We just can’t say thank-you enough for making the start of school a positive experience for our all of our community’s students,” she adds.

A partnership between Bend-La Pine Schools, Mid-Oregon Credit Union and Bend Radio Group, the Tools for Schools Campaign collects much needed materials for students who might not otherwise have access to school supplies, backpacks and learning tools.

“Thanks to the work of our major sponsors, dozens of other businesses stepped up and got involved this year. Costco and Wal-Mart, Summit Mortgage and Fish Financial, and Les Schwab and Staples were just a few of the businesses inspired enough to make major donations of backpacks, cash and supplies,” said Miller. “Even local churches got caught up in the excitement and made donations.”

This is the sixth year for the Tools for Schools campaign in the Bend-La Pine Schools.