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NOVEMBER 2022



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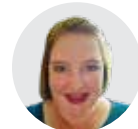
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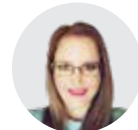
**Tim Mikels** Publishing Director  
tim.mikels@thesocialpublication.com



**Tyler Mikels** Publishing Director  
tyler.mikels@thesocialpublication.com



**Michelle Campbell**  
Publishing Assistant  
admin@thesocialpublication.com



**Kenna Adams**  
Content Director



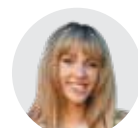
**Rex Mulholland**  
Creatives Director



**Destiny Poythress**  
Photographer



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Editor

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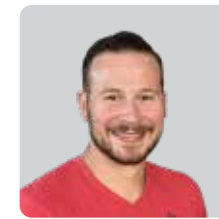
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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

# THE SOCIAL



Greetings Neighbors,

November is upon us and we hope you are all as excited as we are to take a little time to reflect and be thankful for both the little and the big things that make our community great! The harvest is just about finished up and now we get to partake in our favorite part of the month, the food! Bringing out those tried and true family recipes and adding some new recipes each year is so much fun. Check out our instagram for some new recipes for your thanksgiving meal and feel free to post one of your own favorites! We also have the best restaurants and seeing them get creative each year with our local seasonal produce and making phenomenal dishes is truly incredible. We encourage you to go to a new restaurant this month and try something you wouldn't normally order. We hope that each of you get to enjoy some pumpkin pie, apple cider, great wine, and allow yourselves to take in those last breaths of fall. Be sure to get out and savor the bounty of the Grants Pass fall harvest. You will likely see us eating at many of our favorite restaurants or enjoying the beautiful fall weather at one of our many local parks. We encourage you all to make that time to do the hike, go on that fishing trip, play that game of golf, or whatever it is that you planned to do, but just haven't had the time to pull it off. Remember that each day is as good as you make it. Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

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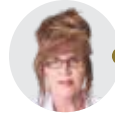
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## Expert Contributors



### MARLA QUINTANA *Aesthetispa Laser & Wellness Center*

Marla, a long time native of Southern Oregon, has raised four children in Grants Pass with her husband, Max. A nurse for over 38 years, she has practiced aesthetic nursing for the past 15 years. Marla is the owner of Aesthetispa Laser and Wellness Center and believes in building an enduring and rewarding relationship with her clients and community, through knowledge and superior service.



### BRENT ERICKSON DMD, MS IN ORTHODONTICS

*Grants Pass Orthodontics*

Born and raised in Grants Pass, Dr. Brent D. Erickson has been practicing in the Grants Pass area since 2015. His goal as an orthodontist is to create long-lasting smiles in a comfortable environment and to give confidence with joy. When not at the office, he enjoys adventuring with his wife, Ashley, their four kids and dog, Timber, doing all things outdoors, playing soccer and golf, going snowboarding, and playing video games.



### DEVIN NELSON *C Street Dental*

Devin Nelson, his wife Lena, and 5 kids have lived in Grants Pass since 2016. Before becoming a dentist, Devin had a unique job in Arizona as a mascot for the Phoenix Suns. He received his undergraduate at BYU and his doctorate in dental medicine (DMD) for the Arizona School of Dental and Oral Health (ASDOH). His dental practice treats all areas of dentistry including cosmetic & esthetics, oral surgery, crown & bridge restoration, preventive, and emergency dentistry.



### SHERYL ZIMMERER *Logos Public Charter School*

Since 2017, Sheryl Zimmerer has served as the Executive Director for Logos Public Charter School, the largest, non-virtual charter school in the state of Oregon. Under her leadership, the K-12 school that serves Jackson and Josephine County students has reported its highest graduation rate ever (95%) and has been voted one of the best non-profits to work for in Oregon 5 years in a row. Since her daughters have grown up, she now lives in Talent with her husband in the house they rebuilt after the 2020 Oregon Alameda wildfire with their two spoiled golden retrievers.



### SUSIE ATONDO *Edward Jones*

Born and raised in Grants Pass, Susie Atondo has been a financial advisor since 2006. She works with multi-generational families to develop unique strategies for wealth transfer, and with business owners in creating strategies for business succession, portfolio construction, and tax reduction. She married her husband, Paul, in 2001 and they have three children, Luci, Penny, and Finn. They enjoy hiking and going to the beach.



### WADE SQUIRES

*The Venuti Group at Cascade Hasson Sotbeby's International Realty*

Wade Squires, owner of The Venuti Group, became a Realtor in 2016 after spending over 10 years in construction as a lead carpenter, building new homes and performing extensive remodels. It was there he learned the value of communication, and as a Realtor, he has continued to make this a top priority. Whatever your real estate needs are, Wade would be happy to help you achieve your goals!



### CHRISTINE LOWE *Diversity Home Lending*

Born and raised in the Southern Oregon area, Christine Lowe absolutely loves enjoying the outdoor beauty we have here. With 25 years in the mortgage industry, ensuring that you make the right choice for you and your family is her goal and she is committed to providing her customers with mortgage services that exceed their expectations.



### KEYNA MEIVES

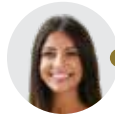
*The Venuti Group at Cascade Hasson Sotbeby's International Realty*

A Licensed Realtor since 2000 and owner of The Venuti Group, Keyna Meives is a seasoned realty enthusiast. Her optimistic and joyful countenance makes her a delight to work with and has contributed to her being a consistent top producer in her market area. She loves spending time exploring the outdoors with her husband and three children.



### JENA HETH *Diversity Home Lending*

Jena Heth and her family have been Grants Pass residents for the past 19 years. Her husband is quite the fisherman, so this is a perfect place to live. She has been in lending for 30 years and has seen so much change in the industry. What she loves most about her profession is her clients, some of whom have become dear friends. It's a profession based on knowledge and trust and her clients know she is always there for them.



### NICOL ELSASSER *Country Financial*

Nicol Elsasser is a long-time resident of Grants Pass, Oregon and loves the beautiful Valley we live in. This is why working in an industry that helps guide, support and protect people and their families in our community, is important to her. Being an agent with Country Financial Insurance for the last 5 years, she has been able to do just that and that is what makes her love what she does.



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## Nominate Your Neighbors

We are looking for more families, kids, athletes, pets, community events, and story ideas to feature in our upcoming issues.

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 by Bobette Sudweeks

**N**ovember 24th is coming! But not soon enough for Tyler and Corina Goens. It may be Thanksgiving for the rest of the nation, but the Goens' have a bigger focus. That day brings the brightest hope and joy with the arrival of their new baby. The nursery is nearly ready with a beautiful white dresser and freshly painted walls a muted color of sunflowers. The focal point is the beautifully fashionable wood-toned crib, the same one which held Corina as an infant. Mom thinks she will get more sleep when they can cuddle the sweet blessing from heaven, no matter how feisty her daughter seems right now! Names for this adorable baby are still being carefully considered and nothing seems to be exactly right, but they will have to settle on something soon! Corina and Tyler are both sports enthusiasts. However, they disagree on which sport their daughter will play. Will it be volleyball or soccer?



Originally from southern California, Tyler has lived in Grants Pass most of his life. His father, Mark, moved his family here to fill a youth pastor position at the First Baptist Church, which has been renamed the River Valley Church. Growing up in the area, Tyler is very familiar with local schools like Fort Vannoy Elementary, Fleming, and North Valley. He went on to complete his higher education at Simpson and Liberty Universities, completing his degrees in theology. It seems the family legacy continues as Tyler is now the pastor of River Valley Church at the Redwood Campus. He also coaches soccer at North Valley School and is on the board of Oregon Football Academy here in town. Being so involved with the community, Tyler purchased a home in the area almost six years ago to become a permanent resident. His involvement keeps him

closely connected to the people. With all this involvement in the community and activity within his church, it is no surprise that it was easy for him to become better acquainted with Corina.

Corina's family escaped from the busyness and lifestyle of the Bay Area to settle here. With this move, she attended Fleming Middle School and North Valley High School, where she first met Tyler.

Corina and Tyler have been married for nearly three years. Corina was happy to give Tyler's house a women's touch. It has become a safe haven for their family. When you enter their home, you may be greeted by an immense, fluffy orange feline named Ginger. She thinks she owns the house and lazily takes command while everyone is gone to work. However, Ginger may be a little put out when that baby comes.

Corina is a devoted first-grade teacher

at Fort Vannoy Elementary. She loves working with the children and feels like she is making a difference, one child at a time. Corina enjoys spending her free time shopping for her baby at Rainbow Baby Store. She can also be found browsing the merchandise at Rita's Clothing Store or thrift stores searching for items to complete that perfect outfit for herself. Catching up with her girlfriends is done as they get their nails done together or have a quiet conversation over a hot cup of aromatic coffee. Corina also enjoys photography and music. She often spends time playing her violin. Sometimes she and Tyler take time to jam together when he joins in with his guitar. They enjoy the feeling that comes as they meld their separate talents into a beautiful musical duet.

Tyler spends his free time playing soccer, reading, writing, or running. He

has recently qualified and applied for the Boston Marathon in April 2023. He is subscribed to several podcasts and listens to them frequently. He is a huge fan of soccer and enjoys watching a good game involving the Portland Timbers or the Arsenal Football Club. Remember that rivalry? Without a volleyball league to watch, Corina prefers a football field to a soccer field any day. She favors the 49ers or the Oregon Ducks.

Tyler and Corina are fortunate enough to have tons of family nearby. They divide their time between both families. Friday nights are pizza nights with the extended Goens family, and on Sundays, they will sit around a dinner table with Corina's family. Corina has more than ten living grandparents and she promises holidays are always so much FUN. With the availability of so many family members nearby, it is easy to make



memories and establish close relationships.

With so many relatives close and the ability to have so much involvement in the community, it seems Tyler and Corina are creating their niche in society. They bring their many skills and genuine friendship to the community. They feel there is great strength in the community and are thankful they have such great neighbors who are so thoughtful and caring. They love being a part of things and look forward to sharing it with their daughter when she arrives.



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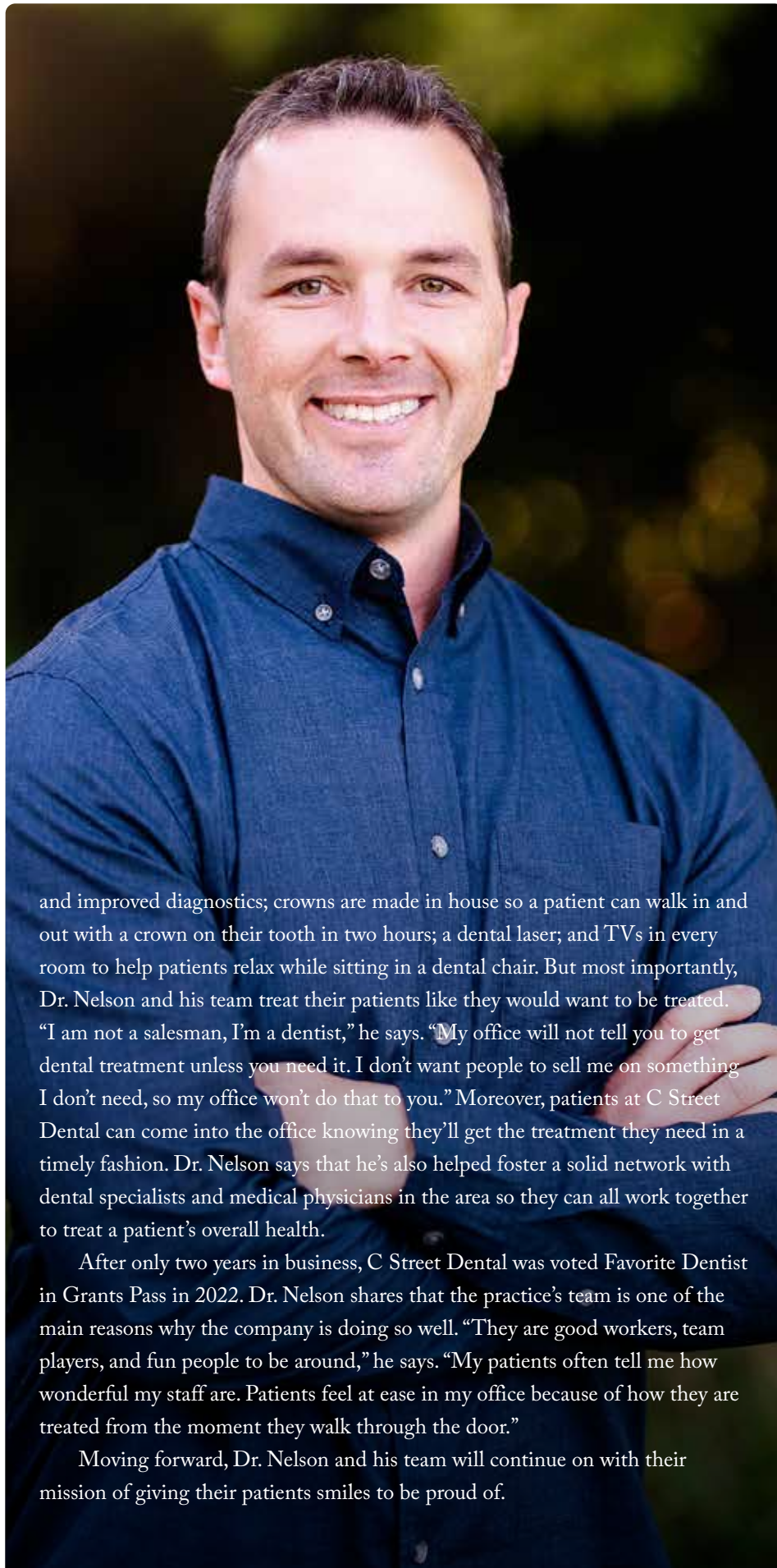
 by Alexandra Hruz



r. Devin Nelson's path to starting C Street Dental was not the straightest one, but the journey came with a host of experiences that helped shape his outlook on life and business.

Dr. Nelson wasn't one of those kids who knew what he wanted to be when he grew up—he instead lived off the idea that if he remained honest and worked hard, everything would work out. He faced a tough decision in his life when he didn't get into notoriously competitive dental school the first year he applied. "A left turn in life presented itself to take a job in Phoenix, Arizona to be a mascot," he explains. "That job was unique, fun, and I got to travel the world. It also presented opportunities that helped me get into dental school. Who would have thought?!" Dr. Nelson graduated from the Arizona School of Oral and Dental Health (ASDOH) with academic accolades and recognition in oral surgery. A Rancho Cucamonga native, Dr. Nelson shares that Grants Pass came up on his radar when one of his siblings who had moved to Southern Oregon found him a job. After a year in the area, he was invited to buy into a partnership dental practice and eventually left to build his own clinic on the corner of 7th and C Streets.

At C Street Dental, the practice is equipped to handle all dental hygiene needs, including cleanings, fillings, crowns/bridges, implants, dentures, root canals, teeth removal, aligners, and teeth whitening. The building has up-to-date dental equipment and technology. There is X-ray software, including 3D imaging, that allows for more efficient treatment



and improved diagnostics; crowns are made in house so a patient can walk in and out with a crown on their tooth in two hours; a dental laser; and TVs in every room to help patients relax while sitting in a dental chair. But most importantly, Dr. Nelson and his team treat their patients like they would want to be treated. "I am not a salesman, I'm a dentist," he says. "My office will not tell you to get dental treatment unless you need it. I don't want people to sell me on something I don't need, so my office won't do that to you." Moreover, patients at C Street Dental can come into the office knowing they'll get the treatment they need in a timely fashion. Dr. Nelson says that he's also helped foster a solid network with dental specialists and medical physicians in the area so they can all work together to treat a patient's overall health.

After only two years in business, C Street Dental was voted Favorite Dentist in Grants Pass in 2022. Dr. Nelson shares that the practice's team is one of the main reasons why the company is doing so well. "They are good workers, team players, and fun people to be around," he says. "My patients often tell me how wonderful my staff are. Patients feel at ease in my office because of how they are treated from the moment they walk through the door."

Moving forward, Dr. Nelson and his team will continue on with their mission of giving their patients smiles to be proud of.

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 by Alexandra Hruz

In the US, there are not many sports that hold the same level of importance as American football. For James Charles Traylor III, who is 12-years-old, this sport is the one he's dedicated a significant amount of time to in recent years. James, a South Middle School student-athlete, says that football is his number one sport of choice, but he also commits some of his free time to a variety of other sports. Besides football, he also plays basketball and is involved with the track and field team.

On the South Middle School 7th grade football team, James plays a coveted position. He's the quarterback, which means he's responsible for the plays that are run on the offensive side of the ball. James and his fellow team members practice on the South Middle campus, perfecting their plays and figuring out the best ways to compete against other teams.

Since he was a young kid of 5-years-old, James has been working on becoming a



better football player. His love for the game was inherited from his dad, who was both his first coach and his number one fan. "He motivated me to be the best at whatever sport I play in," James shares. James' favorite memory when playing football came when he was just 6-years-old—that's the year he had his very first touchdown while playing in a Pop Warner football league. In seven years playing football, James has not only made great memories, he's also formed strong bonds with his teammates and created lasting relationships with team leaders, too. "I have had a lot of great coaches," James shares. "The most influential coach and mentor I've had is Jameson Davis." Through playing football, James has even been able to do some traveling. He's been all over Oregon to play games, and he recently traveled to Sandy, Utah this past summer to participate in the All Poly football camp. This major event was an important one in James' football career, and he's excited to do more traveling to football camps, games, and tournaments. Besides attending football events, James is

also working on racking up more awards in the sport: He won the Most Valuable Player award in the Cavemen football league for the 6th grade division. James shares that in his years playing football, the things he's come to like best about it is both the competition and the aspect of making new friends. "From football, I've learned teamwork, leadership, hard work, and good sportsmanship," he explains. For those who are interested in playing football or learning more about it, James has wisdom that seven years of experience have granted. "You have to be willing to put in the work, dedication, and love for the game," he says. But James is proof that making an effort and dedicating time, combined with perseverance, can lead to great results in the sport of football. Fall is football time, and James has surely been enjoying another season playing his favorite sport. As he continues practicing and learning more about football, he's excited to keep forming strong friendships and making plays on the field.



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 by Alexandra Hruz

**F**inding reliable help for completing home projects can sometimes be challenging. But Shawn Bellenbaum and Stephen Edwards, owners of Grants Pass Painting, are striving to debunk this thought while meeting and surpassing their client's expectations.

Shawn was inspired to strike out as an entrepreneur by his father, whom he watched work as a business owner while he was growing up. For 15 years, Shawn painted and put up drywall, and during that time, he dreamed of creating a company that served the community and supplied jobs and security to its employees. But he needed assistance in getting off the ground, and it was at that point that Stephen Edwards, co-owner of Grants Pass Painting, came into the picture. Stephen had earned a degree in business administration with a focus on entrepreneurship, and he had always wanted to own a business. He was also skilled in the world of painting and had an abundance of knowledge from his nearly 10 years of working at Sherwin Williams. Stephen says it



was Shawn who inspired him to leave the corporate world and become an entrepreneur. The pair started Grants Pass Painting LLC in April 2021, and since then, they've combined their strengths to work on more than 100 projects and counting.

At Grants Pass Painting, the team strives to serve people in the community through their high-quality painting and construction offerings. Shawn, Stephen, and their team pride themselves on their responsiveness, craftsmanship, and professionalism. They believe communication is one of their top priorities when working with their customers. Stephen says that they take great pride in finishing each job and making sure that each customer is completely satisfied with their work. Further, their aim is to make the entire experience as painless as possible. "We want to take the pain out of painting and give our customers the best experience and finished product as possible," he says. Both Stephen and Shawn are quick to point out that the people working for them are a large part of why the business works as well as it does. "Our employees work so hard, and if you read our reviews, our customers just love them," Shawn says. "When I am closing a job out and the customer is raving about the crew, it makes my day."



When they're not focused on their business, Shawn and Stephen fill their time with family and hobbies. Stephen, his wife, and two kids enjoy going camping and being outside. Shawn and his wife are raising two daughters, and they also spend time as West Coast swing dance instructors and competitors.

Although they've been in business less than two years, Stephen and Shawn have their eyes on serving more people in the future and are looking at having more of a presence in the Medford Valley. At Grants Pass Painting, the guys and their team are prepared to set new goals and make each client's project exactly what they wanted it to be.



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 by Alexandra Hruz

hris Lowe and Jena Heth, co-workers at Mountain West Financial, have more in common than just being employees at the same company. The two are also pet lovers who share their respective homes with their favorite furry friends.

Chris Lowe's fur child is Tucker, a 5-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog. "Tucker is a big goofball who loves to go anywhere with me and loves kids!" Chris says. "He is extremely spoiled and thinks he is a 120-pound tri-colored lap dog." The fluffy and gentle giant has been with Chris since he was a pup, when she picked him out of a litter from a reputable breeder in Cove, Oregon. Chris shares that she loves and can't say enough good things about the Bernese Mountain Dog breed — she had another male of the same breed named Sergeant, who she says was full of personality, just like Tucker. Dogs have always been an important part of Chris's family, and she says that in the past, she's had yellow Labradors, a Doberman, a Rottweiler-Labrador mix, and a miniature dachshund. "Dogs have been a part of our family as far as I can remember and always



will be," she says. With Tucker providing lots of love and plenty of fun to Chris's life, that surely won't be changing anytime soon.

The other half of the business partnership, Jena Heth, has two dogs of her own. Takoda (it means "friend to everyone" in a Native American language) is a 4-year-old Australian heeler. She got Tak in Grants Pass; he was the only long-haired pup in the litter. But Jena quickly discovered that Tak was the one who was

making the decisions. "They say heelers pick their alpha, and he picked me, the hand that fed him," she shares. Tak was originally Jena's husband Tom's dog, but his allegiance soon switched when Tom went on a fishing trip. Jena explains that Tak is super smart and that when he looks at someone, it's like he's reading minds. He's also very agile and loves to play catch — he'll jump three feet off the ground to get a ball. Jena and Tom also have Hunter, a 2-year-old Labrador, whom they found



in Salem when he was just a puppy. The couple wanted a companion and friend for Tak, and they looked for a dog that loves everyone. Hunter is the couple's fifth Labrador, and they say that he's the largest one of the breed they've had. "He's not very coordinated, and he has a funny personality," Tom says. "He will hover over Tak, and it's quite funny. When I

play fetch with Tak, Hunter will stand over Tak so he can't move to catch a ball." Hunter loves playing fetch, and he's good with the couple's cats and other animals, too. Tom and Jena say that they've always had at least one dog in their home, and they're grateful for Tak and Hunter and the wonderful companionship they both provide.



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1143 Annabelle Lane	\$799,950		4	4	2,160	Active
450 Whispering Pines Lane	\$580,000		3	2	1,400	Active
1630 NW Olmar Drive	\$1,750,000		5	4	5,597	Active
5264 Leonard Road	\$1,695,000		4	5	5,277	Active
1218 SW 5th Street	\$12,950		4	4	4,569	Pending
3351 Bennett Lane	\$849,000		5	3	3,628	Active
623 Alderbrook Lane	\$675,000		4	3	2,187	Pending
2215 SE Portola Drive	\$650,000		2	2	1,906	Active
410 Woodbury Lane	\$699,999	\$635,999	3	2	1,787	Closed

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