

THE SOCIAL.

PUBLICATION

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

GRANTS PASS

SEPTEMBER 2022



Photos by Kelcie Ragsdale

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

The Pelson Family

C STREET DENTAL



Devin Nelson, DMD

ACCEPTING **NEW PATIENTS**



- Family Dentistry
- Same day Crowns
- Aligners
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Emergencies

(541) 237-5575 • info@cstreetdental.com • www.cstreetdental.com

505 NE 7th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526

Experience Matters

Cascade Hasson | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY
The Venuti Group



Wade Squires
Broker



Keyna Meives
Principal Broker, CRS



Megan Parker
Broker



Samuel A. Greenspan
Broker



CASCADEHASSONSIR.COM

The Venuti Group carries on the tradition of serving the Rogue Valley that began in 1996. Stop by our new Grants Pass office located at 201 SE 6th Street.

541.476.9616 • SouthernOregonHomes.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.
EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.



Our Mission is Your Beautiful Skin

We Listen and Evaluate Your Concerns

- Improve and Maintain
- Subtle Enhancement
 - Won't Oversell
- Affordable Choices

541.479.9772

Correct. Restore. Improve. Maintain.



1246 NE 7th St., Suite C • Grants Pass • www.aesthetispagp.com



K9 Reading Buddies

Every Tues | 3 – 4PM
Josephine Community Library Grants Pass Branch
200 NE C St, Grants Pass, OR



Fall Brawl II Pickleball Tournament

FRI SEP 23 | 6 PM – SUN SEP 25 | 9 PM
Grants Pass Oregon
205 SW 5th St, Grants Pass, OR



Grower's Market

SATs | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Summer Market
295 Northwest F Street, Grants Pass, OR



2022 Ride The Rogue

SAT SEP 24th | 7AM – 5PM
Palmerton Park
300 W Evans Creek Rd, Rogue River, OR



Rat Rod Rukkus ~ Pottsville Historic Museum

SAT, Sep 17 | 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Summer Market
295 Northwest F Street, Grants Pass, OR



Southern Oregon Flea Market

SAT SEP 24 | 9 PM – 3 PM
Josephine County Fairgrounds:
Commercial Building
1451 Fairgrounds Rd, Grants Pass, OR



Rogue Caveman BBQ Competition

SAT, Sep 17 – SUN, SEP 18 | 11 AM – 4 PM
Josephine County Fairgrounds
1451 Fairgrounds Rd, Grants Pass, OR



Paddle the Rogue

TUES, SEP 30 – SUN, Oct 2
Registration on YMCA website opens Sept 16
Reinhart Volunteer Park
1690 SW Webster Rd, Grants Pass, OR



Most home insurance doesn't account for inflation at claim time. Ours can.



Nicol Elsasser

Insurance Agent
1246 NE 7th St Ste A
Grants Pass, OR 97526-1440
www.countryfinancial.com/nicol.elsasser
nicol.elsasser@countryfinancial.com
(541)956-0299

Policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.
1020-522HC_25765-6/17/2022



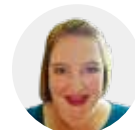
THE **SOCIAL** PUBLICATION Team



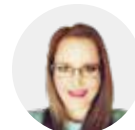
Tim Mikels Publishing Director
tim.mikels@thesocialpublication.com



Tyler Mikels Publishing Director
tyler.mikels@thesocialpublication.com



Michelle Campbell
Publishing Assistant
admin@thesocialpublication.com



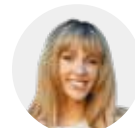
Kenna Adams
Content Director



Rex Mulholland
Creatives - Lead



Kelcie Ragsdale
Photographer



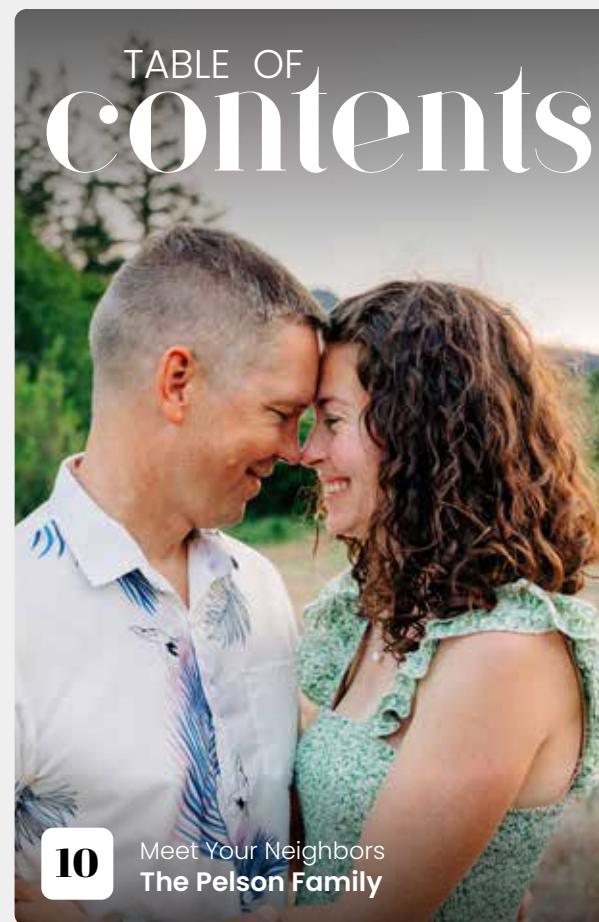
Lauren Vannucci
Editor

JOIN THE **SOCIAL** Team

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Community Contributors
- Resident Contributors
- Resident Writers
- Junior Writers
- Photographers

email us: admin@thesocialpublication.com



10 Meet Your Neighbors
The Pelson Family



14 Awesome Athlete
Bronx Ely



16 Petable Pets
Rocky



18 Local Nonprofit
Project Youth+

Business Partner Index



Bee Keeper
Noah's Bees
 (541) 254-2052
 noahsbees.com




Community Youth Services
Project Youth Plus
 (541) 476-8146
 projectyouthplus.org



Custom Aluminum Boats
D-Tech Custom Aluminum Boats
 (541) 295-5940
 dtechboats.com



Dentist
C Street Dental
Devin Nelson | (541) 237-5575
 cstreedental.com



Dentist
Pastrell, Buchanan, & Hartzell Dentistry
Dr. Justin Buchanan
 (541) 476-4199
 gpdentalteam.com



Education
Logos Public Charter School
 (541) 842-3658
 logoscharter.com



Exterior Home Cleaning
Fast Water Pressure Washing
 (458) 229-2404




Eye Care
Central Eyes Optometry
 (541) 237-0030
 centraleyesoptometry.com



Financial Advisor
Edward Jones
Susie Atondo | (541) 476-7790
 edwardjones.com/sisie-atondo



Furniture & Mattress
Gates Home Furnishings
 (541) 476-4627
 gatesfurniture.com



Gallery & Studio
The Glass Forge
 (541) 955-0815
 glassforge.com



Graphic Design
Orion Graphic Design
 (541) 787-0006
 oriongraphicdesign.com



Insurance Agent
Country Financial
Nicol Elsasser | (541) 956-0299
 countryfinancial.com/nicol.elsasser



Insurance Agent
State Farm
Nicole Whitcomb | (541) 474-2800
 nicolewhitcombinsurance.com



Jeweler
Hart Jewelers
 (541) 47-5543
 hartjewelers.com



Landscape Maintenance
Kruse Control Yard Care
 (541) 787-3125
 krusecontrolyardcarellc.business.site




Marketing
Logan Design
 (541) 474-7127
 oregonsigns.com




Medical Spa
Aesthetispa Laser & Wellness Center
 (541) 479-9772
 aesthetispagp.com



Mortgage Broker
Diversity Home Lending
Jena Heth | (541) 479-3377
 diversityhl.com




Orthodontist
Grants Pass Orthodontics
 (541) 474-0860
 grantspassorthodontics.com



Painting Services
Grants Pass Painting
 (541) 955-8888
 grantspasspaint.com



Photographer
Kelcie Jean Photography
 (541) 287-1002
 kelciejeanphotography.com



Pyrography
Woodburning by Marsha
 (817) 243-6008
 instagram.com/wood_burning_by_marsha



Real Estate
Ford Real Estate
Cimberly Lewis
 (541) 450-2977



Real Estate
Ford Real Estate
Tyler & JoLena Mikels
 (541) 450-2977
 teammikels.com



Real Estate
The Venuti Group at Cascade Hasson Sotheby's International Realty
Keyna Meives | (541) 476-9616
 grantspasshomes.com




Real Estate
The Venuti Group at Cascade Hasson Sotheby's International Realty
Wade Squires | (541) 476-9616
 grantspasshomes.com



Real Estate - Residential & Commercial
Kendon Leet Real Estate
Kendon Leet | (541) 956-8582
 kendonleet.com



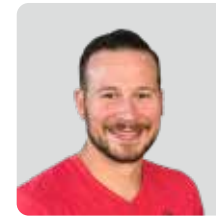
Restaurant & Bar
Bohemian Bar & Bistro
 (541) 471-7158
 bohemianbarandbistro.com



Senior Living
The Suites-Assisted Living & Memory Care
 (541) 955-9115
 thesuitesassistedliving.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

THE SOCIAL PUBLICATION



Hello Grants Pass!

The Social Publication is a new monthly community magazine devoted to sharing fun and engaging stories about people and local businesses in an effort to strengthen community. We love showcasing families, couples, kids, pets, local events, and businesses that serve the community. By sharing these positive stories of people (and pets!), we aim to highlight what makes living in Grants Pass the place to be. We are committed to bringing the community even closer together...and having a little fun!

See you around the neighborhood!

TIM & TYLER MIKELS
 PUBLISHING DIRECTORS



FAST WATER PRESSURE WASHING, LLC

• SOFT WASHING •

Grants Pass, OR 97526

CALL US AND BOOK AN APPOINTMENT NOW!

458-229-2404

• ROOF WASHING • HOUSE WASHING
 • GUTTER CLEANING

AubreyAlan@FastWatergwp.com

www.facebook.com/FASTWGP



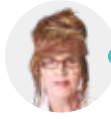
132 NE Savage St, Grants Pass, OR



HARD WORKING, HONEST & READY TO HELP YOU WITH THE SERVICE & PERSONAL ATTENTION YOU DESERVE.

kendon@kendonleet.com
KendonLeet.com
541-660-7996

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



WADE SQUIRES

The Venuti Group at Cascade Hasson Sotheby'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!



KEYNA MEIVES

The Venuti Group at Cascade Hasson Sotheby'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.

1660 Redwood Ave , Grants Pass, OR, United States, Oregon

WE STRIVE TO BE THE BEST ALUMINUM BOAT BUILDER IN THE INDUSTRY. WE FABRICATE EVERYTHING YOU CAN DREAM!

541-295-5940

Website: www.Dtechboats.com
Facebook: [@dtechcustomaluminumboats](https://www.facebook.com/dtechcustomaluminumboats)



Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Who are you investing for?

Investing is about more than money, sometimes it's about people. That's why at Edward Jones we'll work together to understand your goals—what you're saving for or who you're saving for.

Get in touch today to discuss what's really important: *your family.*



Susie Atondo Financial Advisor

116 Ne Steiger St
Grants Pass, OR 97526-1312
541-476-7790

MKD-8652D-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., LP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD

Nominate Your Neighbors

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

Send in your recommendations to:

kenna.adams@thesocialpublication.com



✉ KelcieJeanPhoto@gmail.com
🌐 kelciejeanphotography.com
📷 📱



September 2022 GRANTS PASS

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS | The Pelson Family

 by Lauren Vannucci

Jeff and Karissa Pelson live in a happy and vivacious home in Grants Pass filled with lots of love and laughter with their four kids Andrew (19), Anna Grace (17), Sasha (14), and Josiah (13) and their two dogs and a cat. There is truly never a dull moment in the Pelson household!

The Pelson parents love story originated in physics class at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR. Jeff was studying to become an optometrist and Karissa was studying to become a physical therapist. The two of them bonded over trying to study for their physics exams and ended up falling in love! Karissa grew up in Grants Pass and Jeff grew up in Tigard but Karissa's dad gave the couple advice of "work where you want to live" and for the Pelsons, that was Grants Pass.

Jeff is an optometrist and has worked at Eye Care Group of Southern Oregon for 19 years. Karissa is a physical therapist



but has been homeschooling her four kids for the past 10 years! Since moving to their current home in 2007, they have bought an additional lot adjacent to their house and added a pool in 2016. The Pelson family LOVES the great outdoors and they all have a knack for adventure. Together (and individually) they love to go hiking, float the river, wake surf, ski, and go camping! After going to Africa with their church, River Valley, in 2016, Jeff felt called to set up an eye clinic in Uganda.

They returned to Africa three years later to do that in Koboko, Uganda, at one of their church's orphan rescue units.

The oldest Pelson, Andrew, is kind and methodological and has a natural balance of both hard work and play. He is very studious and responsible but is a natural-born athlete. He was able to graduate high school with his associates degree before heading to George Fox University where he is currently applying to Medical School for the 2023/2024



school year. He aspires to become an ophthalmologist and serve in the mission field before settling down. Andrew also competes with George Fox's climbing club and loves to paddle board, wake surf, run, swim, bike, and play piano!

The second-born, Anna Grace, is studious and sweet yet goofy and humorous. She loves to hang out with her friends and family and sing worship at youth group. She runs cross country and is on track to graduate with her associates degree at the end of her senior year! She is a pediatric cancer survivor

and was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in February of 2020, as a 14-year-old. She completed 18 rounds of chemotherapy at Doernbecher Children's hospital as well as a reverse total shoulder replacement with an internal prosthesis placement after the osteosarcoma was removed from her left humerus. She then underwent a lung surgery to remove a very small cancerous nodule in December 2021, and is currently receiving immunotherapy treatment at OHSU every three weeks. She doesn't let this define her, however! Anna Grace is a happy teenager who loves wake-surfing,

running, dancing, and playing with her puppy.

Sasha is compassionate, smart, and driven. She has a natural gift of being with kids that reflects her fierce heart. Her parents describe her as having all the characteristics of a natural born leader. Sasha has danced for the past 10 years and has served at MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) for the past three years. This teen is just as athletic as she is musically gifted! She competes in soccer, cross country, and loves to play the guitar.

The youngest Pelson, Josiah, has



to page 12


Meet Your Neighbors

wanted to be an international airline pilot since the age of just six! He is an awesome soccer player and has been playing for the last eight years. This awesome athlete also runs cross country! He has a knack for rhythm and plays piano and the drums.

As a family, they love to visit National Parks where they hike, bike, and camp in America's diverse landscape. The Pelsons also love to serve in their church together, and traveling to Uganda twice as a family has been a memory they will always treasure. As for local businesses they frequent? You can catch them at Casa Amiga, Dutch Bros, Matsukaze, and River's Edge. Serving and giving back to their community are the things the Pelson family values the most. It was a pleasure getting to know this wonderful family and wish them nothing but the best!




A great reason to smile!




**PASTRELL
BUCHANAN
& HARTZELL**

PERSONAL CARE FOR YOUR MOST INCREDIBLE SMILE


The best dentistry is patient centered. By learning your goals, respecting your concerns, and exploring all treatment options, Dr. Peter Pastrell, Dr. Justin Buchanan, and Dr. Chad Hartzell ensure every visit will have you smiling!



Dr. Peter Pastrell



Dr. Justin Buchanan



Dr. Chad Hartzell

"Everyone at this office is very kind and understanding. I am very happy with the service my family has received from this office over the last 5 years. I would highly recommend to all my friends and family to come here for dental appointments." ~Rocki M

(541) 476-4199 | 1050 SW Grandview Ave Grants Pass, OR 97527



Kruse Control Yard Care, LLC is promoting our quality landscape maintenance. Our company stands above the competition because we understand the needs of our clients in Grants Pass, OR.



(541) 787-3125
krusecontrolyardcarellc.business.site





**Hart
JEWELERS**

235 SE 6th Street
Grants Pass, Or 97526
541-476-5543









STEAKS. SMALL PLATE MENU & MORE.
CLASSIC MARTINIS - SPECIALTY COCKTAILS
LOCAL WINES, BREWS, MUSIC, ART AND EVENTS

**GREAT FOOD. CRAFT
COCKTAILS + LOCAL
BEER & WINE**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
**SERVING LUNCH, DINNER &
WEEKEND BRUNCH**
(NO DINNER SERVICE SUNDAYS)
HAPPY HOUR 3 - 6 MON THRU SAT

WE'RE
CELEBRATING
10 YEARS
IN
BUSINESS THIS
AUGUST!!!

The Bohemian
cocktails • kitchen • late night

233 SW G St. Historic Downtown Grants Pass
541-471-7158



The Basics:

What's your first and last name? **Bronx Ely**
 How old are you? **12 yrs old**
 What school do you attend? **North Middle School** (entering the 7th grade)
 What is your Sport or Activity? **Track, Basketball & Football**
 What position do you play? **Hurdles & long jump. Shooting guard.**
Running back.

Are you part of a team and where do you usually practice?
 I am on a team and practice is usually at North Middle School
 How long have you been doing this sport?

I have been playing sports since Kindergarten, both my mom & dad were athletes during their school years.

What is your teacher/mentor's name?
 Mentor's that made a huge impact on my athleticism are Trent Thompson, Janeen Andrew & Coach Sara.

Fun Facts:

Who is your idol in this sport? **Michael Jordan is my idol.**
 Have you met anyone who is famous in this sport?
 I have personally met Justin Herbert & George Kittle.
 Have you traveled anywhere for this sport?
 Our team has traveled to Portland & Bend Oregon
 What big events have you been involved in? **Big Events were State AAU Championship & District Track Championship**
 Have you won any awards or honors? **I was Nationally ranked in both the 100meter & 200meter hurdles, long jump & 4x100 relay District champion. My time for the 200meter hurdles was 31 seconds. To date it was the fastest time in the nation for my age. Last Spring, I set school records in the 100 & 200m hurdles & the long jump.**

Tell us more:

What have you learned from this sport? **I have learned that teamwork, dedication, respect & work ethic is what these sports have taught me.**
 What do you like the best about this sport?
I love winning & or course playing the game.
 What is your favorite memory or moment? **My all time favorite moment is winning ALL four events that I entered at track districts.**
 What would you tell someone who is interested in this sport? **My advice would be Don't be afraid to fail, and it is fun just being able to play.**



1203 N Ross Ln, Medford, OR 97501
 admin@logoscharter.com
(541) 842 3658

Logos is an accredited, free, public school serving K-12th grade students across Jackson and Josephine Counties. Started as a small school in 2010, it has grown to the largest non-virtual charter school in Oregon. It's no wonder with a 95% graduation rate and our personalized learning approach that families love Logos. Our free choice-based public school program is personalized with an individualized curriculum, exciting campus classes, and access to classes or clubs in the community. In a traditional high school, time is the constant and learning is the variable. At Logos, we strive for learning to be the constant and time to be the variable. Time to create a program that stirs the interest and passion in a student to become a lifelong learner. Logos is truly innovation in education from kindergarten to career!

Visit Us at www.logoscharter.com
INNOVATIVE EDUCATION KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE or CAREER
 Logos Public Charter School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or age of its programs or activities.

NOAH'S BEES
Oregon's Finest Honey
 Local • Pure • Raw

SHOP NOW!
noahsbees.com
(541) 254-4052

AUTO GRAPHICS • VINYL & SIGNS
BANNERS • LOGO DESIGN
BUSINESS CARDS • PRINTING

LOGAN DESIGN
SINCE 1994

541.474.7127
 707 SE 7th Street, Grants Pass, OR

 by Mariah Jensen

In April of 2014, while on a social outing with some of her residents from work, Patty and her two sons, Houston and Bronx walked into one of the local humane societies here in Grants Pass, Oregon. The group walked along, looking at each animal and then passing to the next until they laid eyes on a black and white Border Collie. He was perfect! They filled out the adoption paperwork and excitedly took this cute puppy home. His name is Rocky and is also known as Rockstar.



Rocky definitely earns his keep, going to work with Patty each day. He has been adopted as the mascot for The Suites Assisted Living and Memory Care and carries out his duties very seriously. He dutifully wanders the halls and makes sure to get lots of pets from the residents in the building. He graciously accepts any treats offered him and loves his work! Patty shares that Rocky is a therapy dog and helps many of the residents with

keeping their spirits up and feeling happy. He also gets extremely spoiled with all the treats and petting he receives. When he is off duty, he enjoys going for walks without a leash, camping, visiting the lake and riding in the car with the wind blowing in his face.

Rocky prefers playing with his toys when no one is watching and is very obedient. He loves people, especially when they give him attention and he is

very loyal to his owners. He can sniff out Patty no matter where she is or has gone. Rocky is currently 12-years-old and Patty shares that it is tough knowing that Rocky is not getting any younger and wants to make sure he is cherished every day. She says Rocky has blessed and touched many people's lives and has a special place in the heart of her patients and residents at work.



A fundraiser for
PROJECT YOUTH+



5K
AND 1 MILE FUN
RUN WALK
FUNDRAISER

TURN YOUR MILES INTO OPPORTUNITY!

 <p>5K RUN/WALK OR VIRTUAL 8:00 AM</p>	 <p>1M SUPERHERO FUN RUN 9:30 AM</p>	 <p>FOOD, DRINKS & SHAVED ICE 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

LOCATION



2160 NW Vine St,
Grants Pass, OR
97526


REGISTRATION




**SATURDAY
OCT 1, 2022**
8:30 AM

SCAN TO SIGN UP

For more information visit www.projectyouthplus.org



ORION
GRAPHIC DESIGN




FROM IDEA TO REALITY

- ◆ Logo Design & Brand Packages
- ◆ Responsive Website Design
- ◆ Product & Label Design
- ◆ Sign & Banner Design
- ◆ Product Photography

SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION

541-787-0006 | OrionGraphicDesign.com
164 SE G St Grants Pass, Oregon




**Right coverage.
Right price.
Right here in town.**

STATE FARM® INSURANCE AGENT
Nicole Whitcomb, Agent
115 SE 6th St
Grants Pass, OR 97526-2403
License # 924990

Here's the deal. The right insurance should help you feel confident and comfortable. I'm the right good neighbor for that. Call me today.

Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2001290



 by Alexandra Hruz

In 1998, a pilot project was started to support a few dozen at-risk middle schoolers preparing for college. Today, Project Youth+ continues to thrive, now supporting 1,300 6th–12th grade students across Josephine, Jackson, and southern Douglas counties as they seek to reach their full potential.

Project Youth+ (formerly College Dreams) is dedicated to removing barriers and increasing opportunities for low-income, first-generation college students, and at-risk youth so they can thrive in school, careers, and life. “We contract with 22 schools in southern Oregon to serve youth in grades 6–12, as well as out-of-school youth up to age 24,” Development Director Azalea Lusch explains. “The youth we serve face multiple risk factors for opportunity gaps, including living in single-parent households, navigating the foster care system, being homeless, having disabilities, or lacking parental involvement due to mental



health or substance abuse issues.” The organization’s goals include supporting youth in learning about themselves so they can apply this knowledge to education and career paths, assisting the students in reaching their academic potential, and preparing them to transition into higher education or the workforce. Additionally, Project Youth+ aims to connect these youth with local partners and provide financial training and support.

The nonprofit’s team of dedicated

professionals create personalized resilience development strategies for each youth and operate four core programs. College+ uses one-on-one mentoring, skill building, and counseling to promote educational excellence and college readiness among underrepresented youth with high academic potential. Another program, Career Build, focuses on preparing youth with significant barriers for workforce success. Through the Whatever It Takes program, Project Youth+ helps those at high risk of



school dropout and extremely high-need youth by encouraging academic engagement and high school completion. Project Youth+ also has an +Accounts program; it provides a 5:1 matching college savings accounts and financial education. The nonprofit also offers parent engagement events, financial literacy nights, summer programs and day camps, and many other activities.

Over the last two decades, impact data on Project Youth+ shows higher graduation rates and college admissions, \$5 million saved through the matched savings accounts, and 85% of Career Build participants earning their GED or diploma. Some of the program’s alumni include doctors, nurses, engineers, financial advisors, and teachers—all people now paying it forward to help others succeed. The team at Project Youth+ hopes to expand two of its programs, College+ and Whatever It Takes, to reach more youth in Josephine and Jackson counties.

Thanks to the commitment and belief of the nonprofit’s board members, donors, and the local, state, and national foundations who support the organization’s mission, the lives of many youth in local counties have been positively impacted.



“Project Youth+ reflects our community’s willingness to believe that young lives are worth saving,” Azalea explains. “Just think about how many dreams we can build with the right resources. And, just think about the positive changes this will make in our community for generations to come.”

To learn more about Project Youth+, visit www.projectyouthplus.org.



Bringing Color to Life in Your Home
(541) 955-8888

GRANTS PASS PAINTING



WOODBURNING

817-243-6008

Woodburning by Marsha Wilson

Portraits by commission
Marsha Wilson
Pyrographer
817-243-6008

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



@socialpub_grantpass

 by Alexandra Hruz

During life's most challenging moments, people find comfort in knowing there's a trusted and knowledgeable advisor in their corner. Nicol Elsasser, insurance agent at Country Financial, is one such person. She feels humbled to be able to provide insurance to her clients, giving them peace of mind that they'll be protected, no matter the situation.



Country Financial is a multiline insurance company that offers a wide range of products that protect clients, their families, and their assets. The company specializes in auto, home, life, farm, and business insurance, and the team prides itself on personalizing service that best suits each client's unique needs. Nicol says she feels a kinship with her clients, which is why she is especially apt to assist them with their insurance needs. "As a small business owner, wife, and mom, I understand how hard you've

worked to provide a home for your family, a place to share a meal, relax, and grow together," she explains. "I also understand that what's important to you may not be the same for everyone. As an insurance agent with Country Financial, I want to help make sure the things that are important to you are fully covered at a price that fits your budget, which is why we offer a variety of policies, discounts, and options." Nicol adds that she's available by phone or email at all times and is her clients' first line of contact

about claims, policy changes, or billing. Nicol and her family have lived in Southern Oregon for more than 20 years. Her husband works in the community as an arborist, and her son is a high school freshman who plays percussion in the Grants Pass High School Marching Band. They also have a furry family member: Ashes the cat. When she's not busy running her company, Nicol enjoys camping, outdoor concerts, dirt bike riding, and spending time with family and friends. She's a biker as well and loves

exploring the Southern Oregon valley on her Dual Sport motorcycle.

After more than two decades living in the Grants Pass community, Nicol feels deeply committed to serving the people in the region and bettering the area through her business. One program her company facilitates is Operation Helping Heroes. Through this program, which focuses on assisting first responders, teachers, medical professionals, and military service members, Country Financial has purchased band equipment for local schools, donated funds to buy

fire equipment for the local county fire department, and bought restaurant gift cards for local medical offices, teachers, first responders, and military service members. "We see how hard they all work and how they are such a big part of our community—we want to help take care of those who take care of us," Nicol shares.

For the future, Nicol aims to continue on her current trajectory, giving peace of mind and providing exceptional service and products to her clients that protect not only them but their families and most important assets as well.



FREE
HOUSEWARMING
PACKAGE FOR ALL
NEW CUSTOMERS
SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.
700 SW 6TH ST GRANTS PASS, OR 97526
SEE MORE AT GATESFURNITURE.COM

THE GLASS FORGE
GALLERY AND STUDIO

Watch us create hand made glass using traditional techniques practiced for over 2000 years

Come watch Unique Art Glass Created

DEMONSTRATIONS

Make your own Ornament!

501 SW G St., Grants Pass, OR 97526
541-955-0815 fax 541-955-0816
www.glassforge.com Hours: M-F 8-5/Sat 10-4

CENTRAL EYES OPTOMETRY
Experience Modern Eye Care

Central Eyes Optometry offers comprehensive eye care services and in-demand lenses and frames to Grants Pass and the surrounding communities. Call us to schedule the quality vision care you deserve.

(541) 237-0030
1891 NE 7th St. Grants Pass, OR
www.CentralEyesOptometry.com

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR GRAND OPENING
First 20 people get a free gift!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Europa Frame Show featuring
Raffle for a chance to win eyeglass frames, sunglasses, or a gift basket from Lemon Drop Basket Shop

Central Eyes Optometry
1891 NE 7th Street
Grants Pass, OR

Raffle tickets \$5 each OR
bring a non-perishable item in exchange for a raffle ticket
Proceeds go to Josephine County Food Bank

April Napier, OD, FAAO
Barrett Napier, OD

The Real Estate Rumble

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Square Feet	Status
1630 NW Olmar Drive	\$1,750,000		5	4	5,597	Active
3580 Redwood Avenue	\$1,350,000		4	5	3,956	Pending
543 NW Valley View Drive	\$ 1,250,000		4	4	3,446	Pending
2815 Lower River Road	\$998,000		4	3	2,891	Active
41 SE Hogan Way	\$949,000	\$889,000	5	4	3,359	Closed
1076 NW Starlite Place	\$ 869,000		4	4	3,489	Active
600 Coutant Lane	\$875,000		5	3	2,766	Active
1000 SW Zane Grey Court	\$839,000		4	4	3,054	Active
1858 NW Sunview Place	\$739,900	\$733,000	3	3	3,185	Closed
2155 SE Portola Drive	\$869,000	\$729,500	4	4	2,978	Closed
222 El Camino Way	\$710,000		3	3	2,268	Active
1214 NW Cooke Avenue	\$547,500	\$526,294.8	4	3	2,322	Closed

This real estate information has been obtained by sources deemed reliable by The Social Publication. Agent did not participate in all of these sales. Please contact a local real estate agent for more information.



TYLER MIKELS
License # 201234083
(541) 450-2977

JOLENA MIKELS
License # 201233860
(541) 727-1877



FORD
REAL ESTATE
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

We are dedicated Realtors who always puts the needs of our clients first. We work with the latest technology to help people buy and sell property as efficiently as possible.





CIMBERLY LEWIS
License # 201225974
(541) 646-4505

Team Mikels • jolena@fordrealestatepros.com • tyler@fordrealestatepros.com • Cimberly.propertyofsouthernoregon.com

• teammikels.com • 1867 Williams Highway #282, Grants Pass, Oregon • Cimberly.PropertyofSouthOregon.com



Embrace Your Journey

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

SERVICES: FIRST VISIT, EARLY/TEEN/ADULT ORTHO, INVISALIGN®, INVISALIGN TEEN®, EMERGENCY CARE, ORTHOGNATHIC SURGERY, PALATAL EXPANDERS, RETAINERS, TEMPORARY ANCHORAGE DEVICES (TADS)

541-474-0860 • 859 NE 7TH ST., GRANTS PASS, OR

Dr. Brent Erickson

YOUR ORTHODONTIST IN GRANTS PASS, OREGON, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Brent and the crew are awesome and willing to take such good care of their patients. A great experience for me and two of my children. Thank you!

~Shauna B.





1301 SE Parkdale Dr. Grants Pass, OR 97527

Life Lives Better At The Suites!

Can it really be different? More than just maintenance free, at The Suites...Assisted Living and Memory Care comes to life! Our emphasis on exceptional well-being is evident in the options available to you and it's easy to live life to the fullest with our dedicated and talented staff ready to serve you. It can be different... Let The Suites show you how.

Tel: **(541) 955-9115** | Fax: **(541) 955-9591**



www.thesuitesassistedliving.com | administrator@thesuitesassistedliving.com

Afford Your *Dream Home*

Owning a home is more affordable than you think.

We have a wide variety of options for affordable housing, first-time homebuyers, and zero down payment.



With over 30 years of experience and a wide variety of loan options, we are industry leaders in Affordable Housing. Find out how we can help you own a home.

Contact Us Today!



Jena Heth
Branch Manager
NMLS # 232765
541-218-5156
Jena@DiversityHL.com



Christine Lowe
Mortgage Loan Originator
NMLS # 214532
541-659-8838
Christine@DiversityHL.com



All applications are subject to underwriting guidelines and approval. Not all programs available in all areas. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. This form may not be reproduced. Mountain West Financial and the mountain logo are registered trademarks of Mountain West Financial, Inc. Mountain West Financial, Inc. DBA Diversity Home Lending. Oregon Mortgage Lender License #ML-5112. NMLS# 164497. ap 8/22

