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PUBLICATION

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

GRANTS PASS

DECEMBER 2022



Photos by Kelcie Ragsdale

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The Ditty Family

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Residential Stats	Jan-Oct 2018	Jan-Oct 2019	Jan-Oct 2020	Jan-Oct 2021	Jan-Oct 2022
Avg. Sales Price	\$306,842	\$329,842	\$357,664	\$424,903	\$447,882
Number of Homes Sold	1,091	1,170	1,113	1,181	1,087
Avg. Days on Market	59	83	63	27	42

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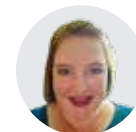
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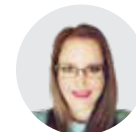
Tim Mikels Publishing Director
tim.mikels@thesocialpublication.com



Tyler Mikels Publishing Director
tyler.mikels@thesocialpublication.com



Michelle Campbell
Publishing Assistant
admin@thesocialpublication.com



Kenna Adams
Content Director



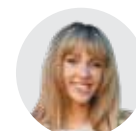
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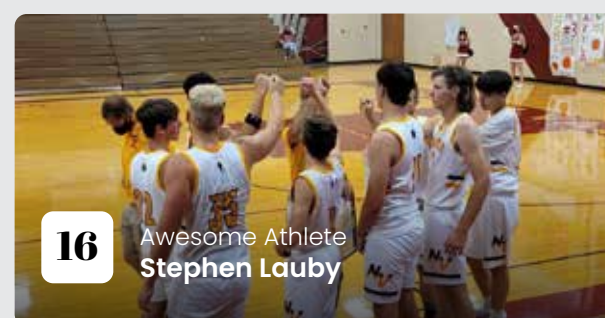
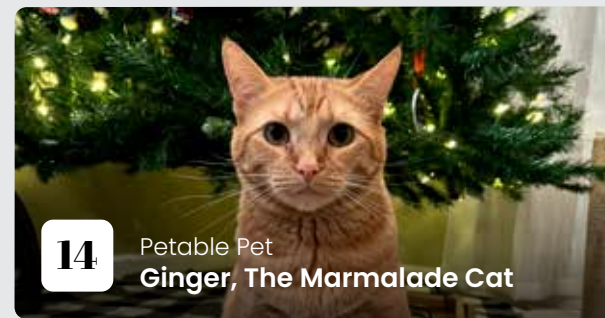


Nicol Elsasser
Insurance Agent
1246 NE 7th St Ste A
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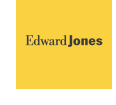
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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Happy Holidays, Neighbors!

We hope you all are doing well and enjoying this amazing season of friendship, family, and fun! We know that it can be tough to get in the holiday spirit when the daily grind is nipping at your heels, but we challenge you to channel your inner Saint Nick and be a jolly old soul this year! If you're panicking about a last-minute gift idea, keep in mind that we have some of the most unique and quality businesses right here in GP. Pop by the Glass Forge and make an ornament for someone special (or yourself!), visit Rainbow Baby boutique for those young ones, check out Juniper Beauty & Boutique for a fresh look and some stylish apparel, grab a delicious bite at The Bohemian, or get a cherished flashy item for your special someone at Hart Jewelers. I could go on, but unfortunately, we don't have the space to mention all of our amazing businesses. We are very lucky that many of them support this publication.

For most of you, this season is a time of tradition. We would absolutely love it if you would jump on our Instagram page and share some of your favorite holiday traditions with us, which we will then share with the rest of our community. If you're craving some holiday cheer, check out some of the great local events going on around town such as the Christmas parade or live music downtown. You can also have a blast coming up with your own way to spread holiday cheer. Whatever you end up doing this holiday season, please do us a favor and make the most of it. Live each moment to the fullest and make this year one of the best! You only get 2022 one time in your life, and it's on its way out!

Stay positive, shop local, and stay social!

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 PUBLISHING DIRECTORS

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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.



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 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!



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.



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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DR. BRENT ERICKSON GRANTS PASS ORTHODONTICS

Dr. Erickson and the team at Grants Pass Orthodontics have been amazing! They work hard to make sure every visit is a positive experience -- for kids and for the parents. They helped our daughter understand and feel comfortable with each new stage. Today was a huge celebration when she finally got her braces off. We can't say enough positive things about Grants Pass Orthodontics!" – Susan F.

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS | Matt and Shaun Ditty

by Melissa Strand

When high school sweethearts Matt and Shaun Ditty met in their 7th grade science class, they discovered they had chemistry which would lead to sparks flying later in life. In a twist of fate, Matt and Shaun both have parents that are high school sweethearts, so when they started dating at the end of their freshman year at Grants Pass High School and got married at the age of 19, they kept an incredibly cute tradition going! The Dittys jumped full speed into an adventurous honeymoon stage of marriage welcoming their first baby while going to college, and their second shortly after. Their adventure would continue over the next 16 years of marriage, living in eight different houses (in four cities and two states). They ended up settling in Grants Pass as closeness to family, the beautiful mountains, trees, and clean water were calling them back home.



They have lived in their Grants Pass neighborhood with beloved children Aliyah (12) and Mattéa (11) and “dog child” Hatcher (10) for just over a year and describe their home as an oasis and the calm in their crazy lives. They are very thankful for peaceful views of the surrounding mountains and hills, as well as friendly neighbors that they enjoy visiting with while taking walks with Hatcher. When not unwinding at home (watching Seinfeld or The Office at the end of a long day), they like to take bike rides and long walks, go paddle boarding/kayaking, take day trips to the beach, have family game nights and go out to eat. You can often find the Ditty family at The Haul, (for some churros and caramel sauce), Si Casa Flores, Cartwright’s, Wild River, Dutch Bros., and Chick-Fil-A. They love a good, loud worship session at River Valley Church, Redwood Campus (outside church is their favorite) or a dance party in the living room while cheering on the Dallas Cowboys on Sundays.

Matt is currently a Psychologist Resident (known affectionately to his family as “Dr. Ditty”), working toward licensure at the beginning of 2023. He started his business, Southern Oregon

Psychological Services, LLC last summer and stays connected to their community through providing therapy services for patients. When he’s unwinding from work Matt loves to relax by the river and collect his thoughts. Shaun is a Broker and Account Manager with SL Goodell Insurance Services, as well as a “pretend COO” (otherwise known as Chief of Other stuff nobody wants to do) of Matt’s business, a homeschooling mom through the local co-op TRIBE, and she likes to dabble in the health and wellness world through dance fitness classes.

The Ditty’s daughters are great friends and have a knack for making people feel welcome, and both girls have had a very strong sense of justice and values since they were young. Matt and Shaun feel watching their daughters character development daily brings them a huge amount of joy, and they are proud of their abilities to ask hard questions, find their own path, and think through tough subjects. Their oldest daughter Aliyah is described as a natural leader and a very respectful, quiet observer who loves to stay organized with calendars and planners. She enjoys school, bike riding, learning about animals, drawing,

paddle boarding and kayaking. Mattéa is the entertainer of the family who loves to make everyone laugh with her antics, has a vibrant personality, and wears her heart



and emotions on her sleeve. She loves a good wrestling match, snuggles, reading, and going to the park. They both love collecting Pokémon cards, aerial silks, dancing, writing books, hanging out with friends and family, hiking, camping, and swimming.

A favorite annual family tradition of the Ditty family is their living room “sleep out” around Christmas. It’s a self-described “exhausting” event, but totally worth it as the kids adore this tradition. They blow up air mattresses in the living room, watch movies, and have a fun dinner and dessert. The next morning, they open presents from each other before the rest of the holiday craziness begins. A nightly ritual for the Ditty’s involves taking turns coming up with the “The Question of the Day” they all must answer, which gives everyone a creative chance to get to know each other on a deeper level. It’s



clear the Ditty family has immense love and admiration for each other, and value quality family time, laughter, and bonding together. Shaun lovingly describes her relatable and real family best as, “We’re really just a bunch of homebodies who enjoy sarcasm and humor, try to live out our values, genuinely enjoy laughing and spending time together, and have fun when we’re not too tired.”



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 by Bobette Sudweeks



Have you ever seen a more beautiful marmalade cat?

Meet Ginger! She is a charming feline with a big heart. Her warm personality is as welcoming as her thick coat which calls to being petted. Originally found living at the Josephine County Humane Society, a volunteer was instantly attracted to the beautiful orange pattern on Ginger's coat. Looking lonely and sad, this cat needed to go home. The cat met the requirements of an unspoken checklist for the volunteer's sister and husband, Tyler and Corina Goens. This little, spirited kitty had found her way into their home and their hearts. It was pretty darn hard to resist the orange tabby who loves snuggles and cuddles. Now the 3-year-old cat is often happily referred to as Gingy, Loafy, or Muffin.



Since that fateful day, Ginger is pampered in every imaginable way. In fact, on a scale from one to ten, Ginger is comfortably spoiled at about 15. She is scared of the outdoors, so her favorite spots are in various places throughout the house. She loves to play hide and seek, chase the laser pen light or string, or bat around her stuffed star or even a cherry

tomato. Gingy gets excited when she finds Slapjack Tuna in her dinner bowl! Every once in a while, Ginger finds sucking on a blanket brings her comfort. However, things are changing rapidly for this cuddly orange cat. The new baby has stolen some of the attention. The new norm will soon be found as this sweet creature will find ways to adapt.



Don't get the idea all is sweet and rosey in this happy home. The Goens have restricted Gingy's ability to go underneath the bed because she likes to shred the underside of the box spring. When there becomes a short supply of pens, pencils, and even cough drops, the first place to look has been to lift up the couch where Ginger always has a nice little stash hidden away. And then there was the time an attempt was made to give the orange fluffy critter a bath! Bad idea! Total disaster!

For the most part, Ginger has found the best place to live and is very content with allowing her family to continue pampering her. The Goens are happy they have found the perfect pet to complete their family.



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by Alexandra Hruz

In the fall season, 17-year-old Stephen Lauby says there's no place he'd rather be than playing soccer. Stephen, a student at the Baker Early College charter school, competes in sports at North Valley High School. He's a center midfielder on the North Valley High School soccer squad, and he and his teammates prep for games and sharpen their skills during practices at either the North Valley soccer field or the field at Manzanita Elementary School. And it's not just soccer at which Stephen excels; he's a multi-sport athlete who also participates in basketball, golf, and track.



Stephen's passion for soccer has been years in the making; he's played soccer for most of his life. "I like how in soccer you can make all the difference personally during any given game through leadership and your level of effort," he says. "I also really like the guys I get to play with and the people I have met through soccer." Stephen's family is originally



from Nebraska, and Stephen played a few seasons of youth soccer there before moving between his second and third grade years. Upon arriving in Grants Pass, Stephen got involved in more competitive soccer play: He was on a small rec team in middle school and then eventually moved on to the high school team.

Stephen takes great influence and inspiration for playing soccer from his family. He is the youngest of five siblings, all of whom share his passion for sports, soccer in particular. Stephen adds that he gets his mentality to work hard from watching his dad and brothers. Another important part of Stephen's support group are the coaches he's had during his soccer career. His current head coach is Tyler Goens, a former soccer star for North Valley who also coached Stephen's brothers. Stephen hasn't met any famous footballers yet, but he does say that Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are two of the players he finds most electric to watch. Plus, he says that he can always



find time to watch highlights of the iconic Pele's plays. Watching these players and reflecting on his own years in the sport have taught Stephen that while playing soccer, hard work really does pay off. So far this season, Stephen has 17 goals and about 10 assists. During his career, he's been rewarded for his determination on the pitch, earning MVP honors during his



sophomore year and first team all-conference accolades in 2021. After many years playing soccer, Stephen says it's tough to narrow down all the memorable times he's had into one favorite moment. That being said, he does share that a couple of occasions have stuck with him, including when his team beat Hidden Valley in 2021, the time he scored in the last seven minutes of the Brookings win, and watching his team improve this season and head to the playoffs. He encourages those who may be interested in playing soccer to join up with a team—he says that, much like it's done for him, it might just prove to be life-changing.



freshman Stevie Lauby scored twice in his varsity debut, helped Klamath Union 8-0 by mercy rule.

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 by Alexandra Hruz

Given her level of talent, it might surprise some that Marsha Wilson, owner of Wood Burning by Marsha, is a self-taught artist. At her business, Marsha makes art through pyrography or woodburning; she works with a variety of mediums, burning images on wood, leather, and paper with heated metal tips. In this way, she combines incredible attention to detail, artistry, and creativity into distinctive pieces of art.



was beginning to show my art at outdoor festivals and trying to find local places to display when I separated from my first husband," she explains. "At that point, doing my wood burning became my full-time aspiration."

As the sole proprietor of her company, Marsha feels intensely committed to her business. She says that what sets her business apart is her ability to faithfully duplicate an image onto a surface, transforming ordinary pieces of wood, leather, or paper into pieces of art that

people are proud to display in their homes, businesses, or anywhere else. Marsha explains that she takes pride in the unique aspect of the work she does — she says that some people have never heard of the wood burning type of art she creates or have never seen it done to the degree of artisanship that she works. Marsha takes very seriously her ability to capture minute details of the images she recreates for her art pieces, and she says her clients often appreciate the attention to detail she brings to each project.



But Marsha is more than an artist and business owner; the Klamath Falls resident lived an interesting and eclectic life before becoming an entrepreneur. She has five daughters and took on the task of homeschooling each of the girls. But that isn't the only monumental role she's decided to work toward: Marsha also served as a full-time missionary in Ukraine and India. She adds that, thanks to her husband's job, she's been able to travel to shows and meet many wonderful people.

Marsha's mission with Wood Burning by Marsha is to capture memories and make them available for future generations to appreciate. She feels grateful that she's able to make a living as an artist who brings such joy to others through the art she creates, and she wants to continue delighting others in the Grants Pass community and beyond with the work she is so proud of. Marsha also offers a bit of inspiration to others who might be ready to pursue their own dreams: "The only limits are our imaginations."

TESTIMONIALS

"A very nice custom piece. The seller (Marsha) was able to do everything I requested and then some. Thanks so much. I hope it will be a very memorable gift for my son." Joyce
 "She (Marsha) absolutely went out of her way to make this amazing gift for my sister's birthday. Package paper with glitter, handwritten note and just an incredible job making it look perfect. Thank you!" Jamie
 "A really lovely work of art- certainly the best contemporary pyrography on Etsy- and I've looked at all of them- transcends the medium- I will certainly - buy isn't quite the right word- be honored to share more of her imagination and wonderful eye- Herb- immensely pleased."



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RECIPE | **Christmas Sugar Cookies**

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INGREDIENTS - Combine:

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter (softened)
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- *double for extra cookies*

Directions:

Beat at low speed 1-3 & then 2-3. Divide into 3 parts, wrap in waxed paper and refrigerate until firm 2 to 3 hours. Roll out dough 1/3 at a time to 1/4 inch thick. Place on an ungreased pan 400 degrees for 6-8 minutes.

Frosting:

- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup butter (softened)
- 3 to 4 tablespoons milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Beat until fluffy



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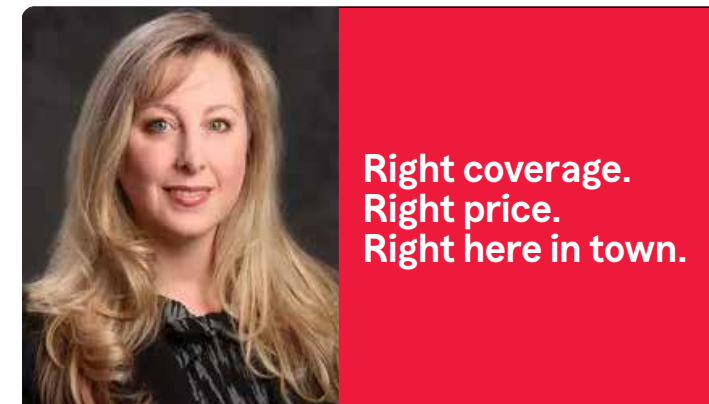
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1782 NW F Street	\$549,000		3	2	2,063	Active
2994 S River Road	650,000	\$530,000	5	3	2,449	Closed
2008 NW Sunview Place	\$600,000		3	2	2,087	Active
135 NW Caddis Place	\$649,500		3	2	2,149	Active
538 Curtis Drive	\$698,000		4	3	3,243	Active
1076 NW Starlite Place	\$869,000		4	4	3,489	Pending
3351 Bennett Lane	\$849,000		5	3	3,628	Active
1630 NW Olmar Drive	\$1,750,000		5	4	5,597	Active
222 El Camino Way	\$585,000		3	3	2,268	Pending
2215 SE Portola Drive	\$550,000		2	2	1,906	Active
289 E Park Street	\$535,000		2	2	1,506	Active

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