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PUBLICATION

JANUARY 2023

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

## The Sorenson Family

Photo by Kelcie Ragsdale

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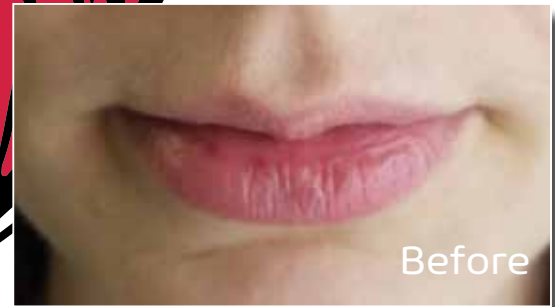
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Ted Jones, the firm's 2nd managing partner, at his farm



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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

# THE SOCIAL



Hello Neighbors,

Ready or not, we've arrived here in the New Year. We hope the outlook for 2023 is bright for each of you. You have survived and (hopefully!) thrived through the holiday season, and you're likely looking forward to slowing down a bit and enjoying some winter "chill" time! ;) If you're not sure what kinds of things to do in Southern Oregon for fun during this time of year, here are a few suggestions. Mount Ashland is open for skiing, and it is just a short drive from Grants Pass. If you prefer a more low-key winter adventure, you can try the Union Creek sledding hill up OR-62. If you're not interested in snow-centered activities, then hit up Cathedral Hills for some crisp hiking or head downtown and enjoy our seriously awesome variety of coffee shops, boutiques, restaurants, thrift shops, dessert spots, and much more.

The best thing about being in Grants Pass is that no matter where you go or what you do, you are very likely going to run into amazing neighbors or community members and get to enjoy some great company. We take a lot of pride in the kindness and generosity of our community and feel that we are very unique in how well we all get along. It is so great to see how much each of our Grants Pass businesses and residents care about this community and do what it takes to foster a positive and welcoming climate. It is an honor to start this New Year with you, and we hope that 2023 is one of your best years yet!

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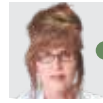
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## Expert Contributors



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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. 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 | **The Sorenson Family**

 by April Burger

“Sing choirs of angels” is a recognizable phrase from a well-known Christmas hymn, but little did Tim Sorenson know that one Christmas Eve would bring a special choir angel into his life. Tim and Rachel met at the River Valley Church Christmas Eve service where Rachel had sung with the choir. Tim was mesmerized by her voice. Forgoing the “Did it hurt when you fell from heaven” pickup line, Tim played it safe by asking Rachel if she wanted to hang out and build a rocket. “She said yes to hanging out, but we have yet to actually build that rocket.”

**R**ocket building may be on hold for the Sorensens, but building their lives together includes Tim’s job as the Campus Pastor of the Sunny Valley Campus, River Valley Church’s Local Outreach Director, and Rachel’s job as a first-grade teacher for the Grants Pass District 7 School. They have lived in Northwest Grants Pass for 5 years and home in their “Our house has us, and the area Their home is

perfectly near a park, near a school, and within walking distance of In-N-Out. The Sorenson family has since grown to include their 1-year-old daughter, Clara. They describe her as a paper shredding, hand clapping, bike riding, all-around happy girl. “She is filled with more joy and laughter than we thought she would be.” You can find Tim, Rachel, and Clara enjoying time together at the park or walking to their favorite local business, Wheelhouse Coffee. They also enjoy cheering for their favorite sports teams: Oregon Ducks, Portland Trailblazers, and the Portland Timbers. A touch of healthy rivalry works its way into their relationship when Tim’s



San Francisco 49ers and Rachel’s Seattle Seahawks are playing.

Rivalry doesn’t describe the relationship that Tim and Rachel have developed with their community. Tim feels connected to the Grants Pass community through striving to fulfil his role as pastor as he actively lives the church’s mission statement, which is “In the community for the community.” He says, “We try to be a light for Jesus and bring positivity and hope to those around us.” Rachel also feels a connection to the community through her eight years of teaching.

For Rachel, being at the Grants Pass District 7 School for eight years and living in Northwest Grants Pass for five years is quite different from how she grew up. Rachel was born into a Navy family and moved frequently. She has lived in Champagne, Illinois; Lemoore, California; San Diego, California; Oak

Harbor, Washington; Hawaii; and finally Grants Pass, where Tim was born and raised. While Tim’s lifetime in Grants Pass balances out Rachel’s lifetime of moving, there could still be another move in the Sorenson’s future. “Our family is quickly outgrowing this house, so we will be looking to move in the next year or so.” Wherever the Sorenson’s new adventure may take them, Rachel hopes it includes a backyard pool.

Rachel’s other hobbies and pastimes include gardening, playing piano, singing, organizing things around the house, and walking in the neighborhood. Tim spends his “me” time watching or playing sports, including fantasy football, and spending time with Rachel and Clara. Weekends are spent with sweatpants and popcorn on Saturdays, and grilled cheese with tomato soup on Sundays. Date nights happen at Si Casa Flores, and their

favorite place away from Grants Pass is Sarasota, Florida where they go to visit close friends.

The Sorensens live in the community, for the community, but the community is part of their lives just as much as they are the community’s. Grants Pass has been a place of growth, a place of security, and a place of love for Tim and Rachel. They enjoy countless connections through their schooling, church involvement, work, and support of local businesses such as Wheelhouse Coffee, Si Casa, Dutch Bros, and Del Rio Vineyard. If it wasn’t for that one Christmas Eve at the River Valley Church, where Tim was touched by an angel, Tim and Rachel’s lives may have turned out very different. Thankfully, Grants Pass will forever be the main setting in Sorenson family history. After all, it’s where their story began.

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 by Alexandra Hruz

The Grants Pass community is home to a unique schooling option that offers personalized education for students across their learning journeys.

Logos Public Charter School is an accredited K–12th grade free public charter school that is sponsored by the Medford School District. LPCS has 1,200 students in Jackson and Josephine Counties, making it the largest non-virtual charter school in Oregon. “The purpose of Logos Public Charter School is to graduate critical thinkers who can effectively communicate in the 21st century,” Sheryl Zimmerer, executive director at LPCS, says. “Logos facilitates a personalized learning program. We personalize education to meet our students’ unique needs.” Zimmerer adds that the educators at LPCS incorporate concepts of personalized learning, collegial relationships with parents, education in a “classroom without walls,” and strong community partnerships.

According to Zimmerer, many of the students enrolled at LPCS don’t fit in with the traditional school model. She says that some of the students came to LPCS



after struggling with a curriculum that moved too fast or too slow. Others sought an escape from drama or bullying at a previous school. Still others have health concerns that require greater flexibility. Some of the students at LPCS simply desire a more personalized approach to schooling. The mission at LPCS is to cater to all of these students in a variety of situations, providing performance- and standards-based learning programs that are personalized to each student and supported by the principles of learning styles, multiple intelligences, service-learning, and vocational readiness. This individualized approach sets LCPS apart

from other education programs. “It’s really a rare type of school, where students can take classes at school, online, or through our community partnerships,” Zimmerer explains. “It really allows us to meet kids where they are at and help them achieve their goals for their future.” One example of how the school is preparing students for the real world and secondary education is LPCS’ Scholars program. This program allows students to take college classes and receive high school and college credits simultaneously. The Scholars program has proven to be successful: Zimmerer says that each year, they have LPCS students who graduate with associate’s degrees.



In 2021, 12 students graduated with 16 college degrees while still in high school.

Zimmerer has been involved with LPCS since its inception, and she says the journey to this point and the experience she’s had has been extremely rewarding. “Being on the ground since the beginning and seeing this school grow from a few hundred students and not even having a school building at the beginning to 1,200 students on a beautiful campus in Medford

and another location serving Grants Pass has been one of my life’s biggest blessings,” she says. After several years in operation, Logos Public Charter School is thriving, with more students, programs, and opportunities than ever. Looking toward the future, the team at LPCS is excited to continue providing academic excellence through individualized education and promoting partnerships between families, the community, and public education.



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## RECIPE | Winter Vegetable Chili

by Kathy Gunst

**B**utternut squash, sweet parsnips, leeks, onions and chickpeas are the base of this vegetable-driven chile. The seasonings include chile powder, cinnamon, ginger, cilantro and hot pepper sauce. For an extra kick of flavor and texture, roast some chickpeas with cumin and chile pepper and sprinkle on top of the chili. It can be made two days ahead of time or frozen for up to a month.



### Instructions

In a medium to large pot, heat the oil over low heat. Add the garlic, onions and leek and cook, stirring, for 10 minutes. Add salt and pepper and half the cumin, ginger, chile powder and cinnamon. Stir and cook for about 30 seconds. Add the squash, carrots and parsnips, and stir into the spices; cook for 2 minutes. Raise the heat to high and add the celery, tomatoes, chickpeas and broth and bring to a boil. Add half the cilantro, reduce the heat to low and whisk in the remaining cumin, ginger, chile powder and cinnamon. Add salt and pepper to taste. Simmer, partially covered, for about 20 to 25 minutes, or until the squash and carrots are just tender and not falling apart. Add the vinegar and a splash of hot pepper sauce; season to taste.

Serve hot sprinkled with the remaining cilantro, avocado cubes, scallions, sour cream and roasted chickpeas, if desired.

### Serves 4

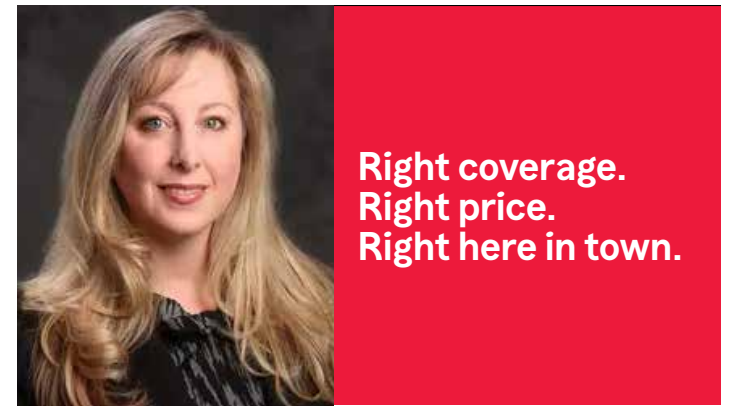
### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 1 leek, white and light green sections thinly sliced
- Salt and fresh ground black pepper
- About 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- About 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- About 3/4 teaspoon chile powder
- About 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 small butternut squash, about 1 1/2 pounds, peeled, deseeded, and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 parsnips, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 ribs celery, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 cup crushed tomatoes
- 1 cup cooked chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- Splash hot pepper sauce
- Toppings: avocado cubes, chopped scallions, sour cream and roasted chickpeas (recipe below)



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 by April Burger

**K**atelynn's Krafts may be small, and Katelynn herself may not be 100 feet tall, but Katelynn is an 8-year-old who is building her own business up from the ground. Katelynn is proving that the world is big, but little people can turn it around.

Katelynn and her mom, Heather Martinez, are very close. They love to twin, and they spend a lot of time crafting together. It is through this close relationship that Katelynn's Krafts was born. "I love crafting with mom as mother/daughter time," Katelynn says, "Then I started making gifts for friends and they loved them and started ordering more crafts from me." Katelynn made matching t-shirts for the family trip to Disneyland. She didn't just make one set of matching t-shirts; she made a set for every day they would be there.

Katelynn is involved in a variety of sports including cheerleading, gymnastics, and basketball. Katelynn's love for crafting knows no boundary, and she has found a way to blend crafting and sports together. "Once my mom and I stayed up until 2am making cheer bows and then I cheered the next day at 8am," Katelynn says. Katelynn ran a pop-up tent at a Grants Pass Youth Football game, and she also made cheer baskets for her squad at the end of the season.

It is very important to Katelynn to be the one who makes these gifts because many of her friends have uniquely spelled names, which requires someone to customize the gifts. Katelynn understands that predicament since her own name is spelled differently. Being able to customize things for people is one of the



unique features of Katelynn's Krafts. "I can customize almost anything. My name is not spelled the normal way and I have lots of friends who don't have the normal spelling of their names, so now they can order items and crafts with their names on it," Katelynn says proudly.

Katelynn is learning more than just how to make different crafts; she is learning important aspects of business. Heather is the manager, and she helps Katelynn buy the crafting supplies and equipment, but Katelynn does all the ordering, finances, inventory, advertising, and promotions. "I know how to do gross and net profit, I use Excel spreadsheets, and I do my own invoicing and inventory," says Katelynn. Katelynn is also learning the ins and outs of managing money accounts

Katelynn's advice to someone wanting to start a craft business would be to "Start small and get really good at a few things and then grow your business." Katelynn plans to continue to grow her business. She has already begun to do so by making tumblers for a business in Maui for their grand opening. Katelynn loves owning her own business and is so glad that mom/daughter crafting time opened the opportunity for her to start her business from a young age. It only goes to show what little people can do!





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
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 by Melissa Strand

**A**t a very early age, it was clear Delaena had a gift for creating beautiful art. Through hard work and dedication, she has developed and fine-tuned her skills over the years, and at the age of 13-years-old her abilities and talents as an artist have grown exponentially. She is a truly gifted artist that sees opportunities to create wherever she goes. "Everything around me turns into my canvas; from condensation on the shower glass or bathroom mirror, to take-out boxes in a restaurant," says Delaena. Her talents are admired by many, leading to her art winning awards in the 2020 and 2022 Grants Pass School District Holiday Card Contest in two categories.

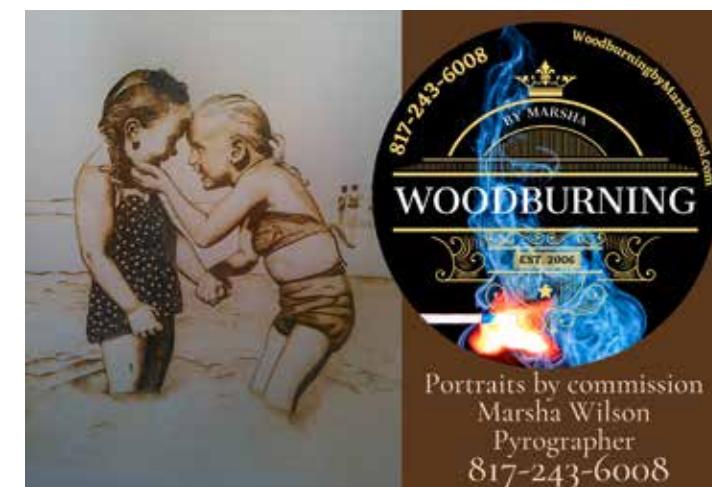
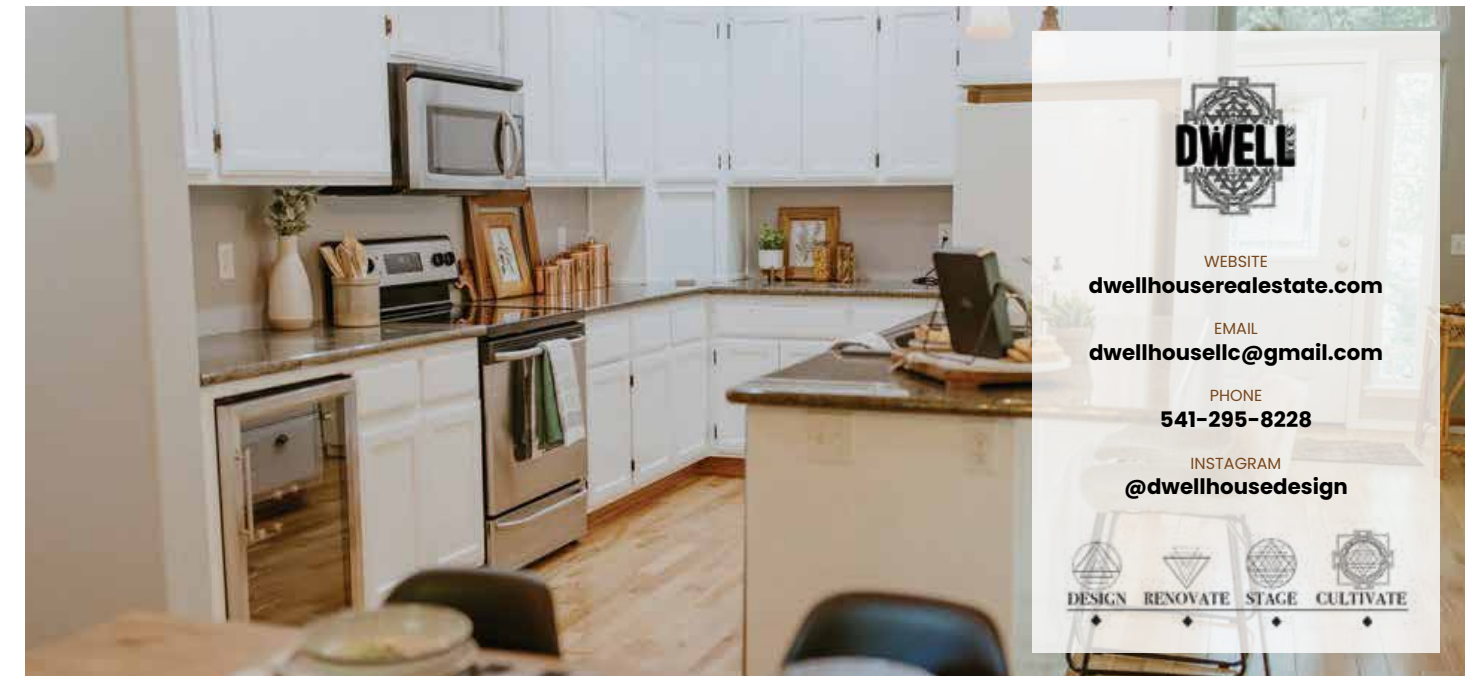
Delaena is an 8th grader at South Middle School, where she enjoys attending Language Arts and Art classes. She absolutely loves all types of animals and has many at home to play with and love. They currently own a cat named Minnie, who they adopted from the Humane Society three years ago. They also adopted another cat cleverly named Mickey the same day they welcomed Minnie into their family, but Mickey sadly crossed the rainbow bridge shortly after. They also have five chickens who have been with the family since they were a few days old, and three rabbits named Trixie, Biggy and Sugar Bun. Shortly after they welcomed Sugar Bun into their rabbit family, they discovered seven babies in their hutch. They gave the daddy along with four of the babies to friends and kept Sugar Bun and three babies for their home. They lost one of the babies at only 10 months into its life, but Delaena appreciated the opportunity to experience so much of the life cycle of a rabbit.

Along with her talents in art, Delaena has many interests and hobbies. She loves dancing, has played golf and soccer since she was five, started volleyball this year and last spring participated in her first season of track. She loves many aspects of all sports she participates in and feels golf is wonderful for making new connections, soccer and volleyball creates bonding time with teammates, and track is great for trying something new. She thinks participating in sports presents a good opportunity for enhancing communication skills and speaking up for herself.

Delaena is a bright, energetic kid who loves eating soft tacos



and Chick fil-a, listening to pop and country music, picking up a guitar and exploring learning some tunes, cheering on the Oregon Ducks, and relaxing by watching some of her favorite shows, such as Stranger Things, anything on Disney+ or the Hallmark channel or her favorite movie, Coraline. When she's not drawing, she loves to be with her family including her two siblings, older brother Drake (17) and her younger sister Danika (9), play with her animals, play games, and travel with her family to new and exciting places. Her favorite vacation destination is Anna Maria Island or exploring the open seas on a cruise ship to any destination. Her dream vacation would be a magical trip to Paris. When Delaena grows up, she dreams of being a Disney animator/artist or an elementary school teacher, and in her free time would work on some photography. She loves traditions with her family and making new ones, is dedicated to the Bible and truly feels blessed with her life, family, and friends. It is clear Delaena is an amazing kid with big dreams, talent, and heart.





# The Real Estate Rumble

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Bedrooms	Bathrooms	Square Feet	Status
1340 SE Priscilla Lane	\$1,475,000		4	5	3,958	Active
5061 Lower River Road	\$3,499,000		4	5	2,381	Active
356 Westwood Drive	\$1,199,000		3	3	2,657	Active
600 Coutant Lane	\$815,000		5	3	2,766	Active
3351 Bennett Lane	\$849,000		5	3	3,628	Active
623 Alderbrook Lane	\$675,000	<b>\$675,000</b>	4	3	2,187	<b>Closed</b>
135 NW Caddis Place	\$595,000		3	2	2,149	Active
2008 NW Sunview Place	\$600,000		3	2	2,087	Active
222 El Camino Way	\$710,000	<b>\$550,000</b>	3	3	2,268	<b>Closed</b>
2215 SE Portola Drive	\$550,000		2	2	1,906	Active
5250 Lower River Road	\$565,000	<b>\$545,000</b>	3	3	1,875	<b>Closed</b>
1462 Darneille Lane	\$629,000		5	4	2,455	Active

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# PETABLE PET | Hatcher

## THE BASICS

- How did Hatcher get his/her name and does it have any significance? **We're Dallas Cowboys fans, and we have a tradition of naming our dogs after the last names of players. Hatcher is named after former Cowboys player Jason Hatcher (our first dog was Romo).**
- Does Hatcher have a nickname? **Probably too many... Hatch, Hatchy, Hatchy Boy, Hatcher Gregory (that's his middle name), Hatcher Tina (after the llama in Napoleon Dynamite because sometimes he has to be told to eat his food).**
- How old is Hatcher? **He turned 10 in June.**
- What type of animal or breed is Hatcher? **American Pit Bull Terrier. AKA giant, heavy baby/couch potato.**
- What is Hatcher's gender? **Male**
- When and how did you get Hatcher? **We got Hatcher in September 2012 at Perfect Pet in Grants Pass. Matt purposely picked out the laziest pitty in the litter, and he's been just that!**
- Who are the other family members, including you? **Matt, Shaun, Aliyah, and Mattéa Ditty**

## FAVORITES

- What is Hatcher's favorite treat? **Coconut oil, dried seaweed, and bananas (he has severe allergies, so these are the few treats he can eat)**
- What is Hatcher's favorite toy? **His antler. The only one he can't destroy in two seconds.**
- What is Hatcher's favorite game? **He likes to wrestle, but he LOVES playing fetch. We have to stop him or else he would play until he passed out.**
- What is your favorite thing to do together? **Day to day, snuggle on the couch; it doesn't matter how many people are already sitting on the couch, this 70 pound beast will find a spot to squeeze into. And how can you say no to that? We also love to go on walks and to the beach together.**
- Do you go outdoors? If yes, where is your favorite place to go together? **Yes, mostly on walks around our neighborhood, or local parks. Favorite place to go is the beach... we always giggle when he puts his giant snout way in the air to sniff the ocean breeze.**



## MORE INFO

- Is Hatcher spoiled? How much? **Yes. Mostly in vet bills, special food for his allergies, the fact that he basically owns the couch and all of the blankets on it (and is allowed to stink everything up), and gets lots of daily snuggles from his humans.**
- Do you stylize Hatcher? **He has a nifty collar with his name on it, and a scarf he wore once. That's about all the styling he'll put up with.**





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