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PUBLICATION

MARCH 2023



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

The Miller Family

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 Josephine County Fairgrounds
 1451 Fairgrounds Rd, Grants Pass OR




Public Easter Event
 SAT, MARCH 18 | 12 PM - 4 PM
 Parkside Elementary School
 735 SW Wagner Meadows Dr, Grants Pass, OR




Mania: The ABBA Tribute
 TUE, MARCH 14TH | 7PM
 Rogue Theatre
 143 SE H St, Grants Pass OR




Yoga Sunday
 SUN, MARCH 19 | 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
 Weekend Beer Company
 1863 Washington Blvd, Grants Pass, OR 97526




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 FRI, MARCH 17 | 5:30-8:00PM
 Fruitdale Grange
 1440 Parkdale Dr, Grants Pass OR



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 FRI, MARCH 24
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"It's Your Lucky Day!" Kindermusik Playdate
 SAT, MARCH 18 | 11AM-12PM
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Josephine County Home Show
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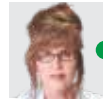
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Expert Contributors



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.



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.



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.



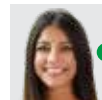
JENA HETH *Diversity Home Lending*
Jena Heth and her family have been Grants Pass residents for the past 19 years. Her husband is quite the fisherman, so this is a perfect place to live. She has been in lending for 30 years and has seen so much change in the industry. What she loves most about her profession 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!



BEKAH NUGENT *Dwell House*
Bekah is a licensed real estate broker, certified home stager and principal of Dwell House. Bekah loves houses, design and real estate. At 21 years old in between college classes her and her husband Matt worked hard to transform a 1960s house into their first investment property. After years in corporate marketing and branding she started Dwell House. In her free time you'll see her cheering on the sideline of a soccer field, boating, hiking Dollar Mountain, sponsoring local makers and hosting some kind of party or event somewhere.



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.



DEANNA ELLIOT *Centered Physical Therapy + Wellness*
In 2018 Deanna started Centered Physical Therapy & Wellness, where Physical Therapy is integrated in a holistic manner to help heal the body at the root of its problem. Specializing in women's health, she has dedicated her time to helping mothers restore balance prenatally, during pregnancy and postpartum. Although her passion resides in pre-conception, where "all the magic" happens.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

THE SOCIAL PUBLICATION



Hello Neighbors,

Spring is on its way and with spring time we have much to look forward to here in Southern Oregon and more specifically, Grants Pass. If you need reminding of how awesome it is to live in Grants Pass, get outside this spring! Go to a winery, walk around downtown, go to the park, take your kids or pet on a walk, or just sit in your back yard and soak up the smells and views of springtime. It's always interesting how we tend to forget the massive variety of flowers, trees, and wildlife that we get to experience in our area. Somehow, it feels like the brain forgets on purpose so that it can experience it again each year! Thank you, neighbors, for all you do to make Grants Pass such an incredible place to raise a family, have a business, or just be a human being! :) Having a strong community is often something that we take for granted, so this spring, let's count our blessings and look for all the positivity in our lives. Remember, you will always find the negative if you look for it and the same goes for the positive. The biggest difference is how you choose to look at the world. For all you families out there, we hope spring break is a breath of fresh air and that the April showers don't come too early! ;)

Stay positive, Shop Local, and Stay Social!

Sincerely, Tim & Tyler Mikels

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 by Melissa Strand

Nathan and Kaycee share a sweet love story that started off as a friendship built on a mutual love of their favorite sport, ping pong. Many hours of returning serves turned into returning glances, and through bonding across the ping pong table they fell in love doing what they both love most. They decided to spend the rest of their lives together and in a truly fitting and unique fashion, they even surprised guests at their wedding by bringing in a ping pong table to have a “first ping pong game” instead of a traditional first dance. To this day they bring their ping pong paddles everywhere they go, including trips to Chicago, Italy, Hawaii, New York, and Mexico to bond and keep the activity that sparked their beautiful relationship going strong.



Nathan and Kaycee have created a beautiful life together in Grants Pass. Before moving to the area, Nathan grew up in the Illinois Valley and he later ended in Grants Pass with plans to move on to a bigger city, but he found work in an industry he loved and fell in love with this area which ultimately became his forever home. Kaycee grew up in Davis, CA, and graduated from UC Davis before moving to Oregon and officially becoming a transplant to the area. Nathan and Kaycee live in their beloved Grants Pass neighborhood together with their three children, Preston (13), Clifton (3), and Clarke (2). They love how friendly their neighborhood is and are proud to raise their family in their warm and welcoming community. They recently completely redesigned their backyard to create a year-round oasis with a cozy fireplace and water feature, and love hosting friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors for

different hang outs and celebrations. They also appreciate their proximity to town, giving them the opportunity to walk or bike everywhere to venture out and enjoy the many outdoor activities that southern Oregon offers.

The three Miller kids all get along beautifully and take care of each other. Preston, the oldest, is athletic, patient, and funny. He plays basketball and runs track for his middle school and is skilled in video editing. He created a gaming YouTube channel which has turned his talent into a side hustle by offering his video editing services to others. Clifton, their middle child, is adventurous, curious, and brave. He loves to read stories, ride his bike, and play all sports, especially basketball and football. Clarke, their youngest, is sweet, nurturing, and independent. She loves animals, coloring, and wants to try anything her older brothers do. All three kids love being

outside, so they try to spend their time going on walks, riding bikes, and visiting different parks.

Nathan and Kaycee own and operate the property management software company, Rentec Direct, which is a software application for property managers and renters that Nathan founded and developed in 2007. Their company has helped over 1.3 million users nationwide and has been recognized on the INC 5000 list of fastest-growing companies in America for six years in a row.

Nathan and Kaycee work downtown and spend a ton of time walking to lunches or date nights. They love Steam Distillery for an evening date night, Twisted Cork for lunch, and during the fall you’ll find them at The Horny Goat watching football on Sundays cheering on their favorite team, the Seahawks. When not hard at work on their family business, Nathan enjoys creating things, whether it’s hand-crafting a new bed with their teenage son or coding an invention for others to use. After work Kaycee loves reading and writing and has spent many hours drafting short stories

and outlines for “maybe one day” books. She is a seasoned writer and has written articles for Entrepreneur, Forbes, Realtor Mag, Rent.com, and Realtor.com. She loves to get her creative fix by listening to podcasts or audiobooks throughout the day.

Nathan and Kaycee love connecting to their community through business advocacy. Their business is members of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SOREDI). Nathan is on the board of directors at the Chamber of Commerce and Kaycee serves on the SOREDI board. Both Nathan and Kaycee enjoy being involved in many of the local events that support local businesses and workforce. Nathan and Kaycee are actively involved in helping solve the local housing crisis by both collaborating with the city as well as helping build workforce housing in their area. Nathan helps keep their downtown vitalized and maintain its historic significance as a commissioner on the Historic Buildings and Sites Commission. His favorite part of it is being involved in ways to help downtown businesses



thrive. Nathan and Kaycee are grateful for all the local businesses that bring their community together, especially ones that contribute to recreation in their town. It’s clear how much the Millers love each other and have pride for their local community. Their philanthropic efforts and involvement towards preserving their beloved town is admirable and is helping to create a beautiful future for their children.



by Alexandra Hruz

For the last several years, Delani Cervantes has poured everything — her heart, soul, blood, sweat, and tears — into the creation of her business, Rainbow Baby.

Delani is a Grants Pass native. She left the area to attend college but came back home to settle down; she is proud to raise her two sons, Dre and Dax, in the same community where she grew up. Delani explains that her kids were the inspiration behind her idea to start Rainbow Baby. “When my oldest son was born, I spent hours finding small business brands I loved that offered safe, trendy products to introduce into our home and into our family,” Delani says. “I fell in love with the process and eventually made it into a business.” She adds that she’s proud of the obstacles she’s overcome while starting the business (including becoming a single mom, surviving the pandemic, and feeling discouraged during hard times) and that she’s dedicated to staying grounded and focused. When she gets overwhelmed, she remembers why she started the business — her kids — and it keeps her moving.

Rainbow Baby is a modern boutique store for babies and children that offers trendy clothes, accessories, toys, and books. The mother-owned business has a variety of products and carries clothing sizes from newborn to 8-years-old. Delani says there is truly something fun for every kid at Rainbow Baby. “My customers know that what they’re buying is special and



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will be cherished,” she says. And Delani is working hard to add even more special products to Rainbow Baby. She’ll soon be introducing party and stationery supplies to the store, and she’s also collaborating with Paper Weight and Mariah Martinez, a balloon artist who creates unique pieces for events.

What sets Rainbow Baby apart is Delani’s desire to connect on a personal level with her customers and form relationships with those who come to the boutique. Her goal is to make a positive impact on each person she encounters and nurture connections to those living and working in the community. As a small business owner, Delani knows the importance of community support and connection for a company’s survival. She encourages people in Grants Pass to rally around the area’s small businesses, monetarily or otherwise. “There are so many ways to support your small, local businesses without spending a dime,” she says. “Here are a few simple ways: Leave a friendly review on Google, share with your family and friends, follow on social media, and share a post on your social!”

Starting Rainbow Baby and carving a niche for herself in the community have required a substantial amount of patience, perseverance, and hard work from Delani. As she looks to the

future, she aims to balance out her business and personal life: She wants to do more work behind the scenes while sustaining the business. Delani is eager to spend more time with her kids while also bringing joy to kids and families through Rainbow Baby.

TESTIMONIALS:

“This store is seriously one of my all-time favorite stores in Grants Pass! Not only is the owner one of the sweetest people you will ever meet, but you can see all her careful planning to bring the most beautiful, useful and top quality items to fill her space. I love how I can always go on without any plan of what to get, and come out with exactly what I didn’t know I needed! Prices are fair, product age ranges seem to continue to grow as my kids get older (PERFECT!), and supporting her business also support her family. Win, win, win! You need to check out this adorable shop. Go ahead and spoil yourself and your kids with the amazing finds you’ll discover.” — *Jacqueline Craig*

“When I first arrived in Grants Pass, I had a one-year old and heart filled with desire to love this town. I stumbled upon Rainbow Baby, and was greeted by such a friendly embrace; kind smile and Delani welcomed me with so much genuine excitement. The shop gave me hope, that this little town had so much more to offer than what meets the eye. The toys, clothes and accessories are all chosen with such love and care—for the mamas who are interested in Montessori and Waldford style of teaching, this is your place. The shop is beautiful. I pray this shop is open for decades to come!” — *Zachary Fernandez*

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT | Southern Oregon Dance Center

by Alexandra Hruz

For more than three decades, Karen Daggett Austin has been working to fulfill a singular mission: sharing the joy of dance with every person who enters the Southern Oregon Dance Center and inspiring and entertaining every audience for whom they perform.

Karen graduated from Long Beach State University with an education degree with a dance specialization. She worked in public and private schools in California and Oregon, creating dance classes and after-school programs and directing dance performance groups. She also performed in and choreographed regional musical theater productions. Then, in 1989, Karen had the chance to help some of her students make a name for themselves on the national stage when she submitted an audition video to the popular show, Star Search. Karen coached and did the choreography for three of her students who performed on the show and earned second place. After their runner-up performance aired, Karen was bombarded with calls from people asking her to open a dance studio. She felt like this was a sign from above and decided to hang out her shingle.

Southern Oregon Dance Center (formerly known as All That Jazz studio) specializes in current popular contemporary dance instruction. The genres they teach include contemporary,

jazz, hip hop, rhythm tap, lyrical, musical theater dance, creative movement, and kids combo classes. But that's not all: The center also offers a full ballet curriculum with classes that range from pre-ballet to pointe. "Our contemporary style and mastery at telling stories on stage through dance is well-known in the Pacific Northwest as unique at capturing our audience's attention and engagement," Karen explains. "As a dance school from a small town, we have always dreamt big and aimed high." As a result, SODC has earned numerous regional and national awards for dance excellence, procured international performance invitations, and has been featured in dance magazine articles." One such international invitation was the Tanzsommer national dance festival, where the center's Advanced Production youth ensemble traveled and performed across Europe and were invited back multiple times.

One of the most special aspects of SODC is its positive and inspiring "dance family" atmosphere, with all ages and abilities welcome. For many years, they've

offered training from talented teachers in an environment that fosters the values of work ethic and commitment. The center produces two full-length dance concerts each year; the next one, Celebrate Dance, will be held at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center on June 10. SODC houses the only professional contemporary dance ensemble in the region, Southern Oregon Dance Collective, and that group will be guest performers at the concert in June. The team at SODC is excited to offer homeschool dance classes and music classes this year, reaching more students and growing to meet the needs of a wide range of people in the community.

Back in 1989, Karen saw a need in the Southern Oregon community for children wanting to study contemporary dance. Since then, she and her team have helped bring joy to students and audiences alike, and they're set to continue with this trend for years to come.

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KOOL KID | Mattéa Ditty

by April Burger

M meet Mattéa Ditty. She's 11-years-old, currently in 5th grade, and homeschooled through Logos Public Charter School. Her favorite subject is history, but she loves to read and write and aspires to be an author when she grows up. Mattéa loves super dark purple, being with her family, going places, playing games, hiking, and dancing.



Mattéa lives at home with her mom, dad, older sister Aliyah, and her dog Hatcher. She loves to wrestle with her dad and something they have in common is that they have a knack for recognizing songs and artists by ear. Mattéa and Aliyah enjoy spending time together playing in their room, but playtime often extends to other rooms and areas as they like to set up toy villages around the entire house. Hatcher is a 10-year-old pit bull and Mattéa loves him very much. Mattéa used to have another dog named Romo, and he lived to be fourteen years old!



Something Mattéa enjoys doing with her family is going on trips. Camping is a popular activity for their family, and Mattéa's favorite camping spot is Tugman, (Eel Lake, Hall Lake, and the dunes). Mattéa's family has a "secret sand spot" that they like to go to as well. If Mattéa could go anywhere in the world, she would choose to go back to her old house in Dundee, Oregon.

When the Ditty family is not traveling, Mattéa likes to go to dance and aerial silks classes. She does hip hop and jazz at Southern Oregon Dance Center and aerial skills at Ethereal Rebels House of Flight. She has only been doing aerial silks for a year and dance

since September, but she has learned so much in a short amount of time. Mattéa says, "The biggest challenge with these sports is that they take a lot of strength and flexibility." These skills take time to develop, and Mattéa loves and embraces the challenge. "My favorite thing about dance and aerial skills is that they are fun, and I like to make up my own moves," adds Mattéa.

Mattéa likes to laugh and make other people laugh. She's a Christian and enjoys going to church at River Valley Redwood. She's a deep thinker and feeler who lives life according to her values. She's a quick forgiver and is sensitive to others. She's a lot of fun!

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AWESOME ATHLETE | **Zoe Brower**

THE BASICS:

- What's your first and last name?
- *Zoe Brower*
- How old are you?
- *16*
- What school do you attend?
- *North Valley High School*
- What is your Sport or Activity?
- *Dance*
- Are you part of a team?
- *I'm part of the Southern Oregon Dance Centers advanced production competition team.*
- Where do you usually practice?
- *Southern Oregon Dance Center*
- How long have you been doing this sport?
- *A little over 9 years*
- What is your teacher/mentor's name?
- *Karen Daggett Austin*

FUN FACTS:

- Have you met anyone who is famous for this sport?
- *Greg Russell and Wes veldink*
- Have you traveled anywhere for this sport?
- *I've performed in Portland Oregon, Vancouver Washington and in Disneyland.*
- What big events have you been involved in?
- *I performed at places like the Boatnik parade, home and garden show, and heartland dance studios "Land of sweets".*



TELL US MORE:

- What have you learned from this sport?
- *I've learned how to work well with others.*
- What do you like the best about this sport?
- *I like that I'm able to do the thing I love and surrounded by the people I love.*
- What is your favorite memory or moment?
- *My favorite memory was going out to get dinner after our last competition, we showed our waiter our dances and it was a very memorable night.*
- What would you tell someone who is interested in this sport?
- *Dance is a fun, creative way to express yourself without having to say anything. Through dance, you can tell a story and create a bond with people.*



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HISTORY | Caveman Bridge

 by Alexandra Hruz

For nearly 100 years, the Caveman Bridge in Grants Pass has been an indelible landmark in the region, making its mark as one of the community's most iconic structures.

Many of Grants Pass's main buildings, including the first courthouse and church, were erected in the 1880s. During that time, the town's leaders began harnessing the power of the region's rivers to power the growing population's needs, and settlers had built timber bridges to span the area's many waterways. By the early 1900s, Grants Pass had evolved from a modest settlement to a bustling center of activity. According to one source, the Caveman Bridge is the fourth bridge located at the site; in 1886, a timber bridge was built so settlers could make their way across the Rogue River with ease. Before the Caveman Bridge was erected, the Robertson Bridge, a 583-foot three-span steel through truss structure built circa 1909, was moved from its original location in 1929. The bridge was replaced by the Caveman Bridge when that structure was erected in its place in 1931. The Caveman Bridge, also known as the Rogue River Bridge, derives its moniker from the location of Grants Pass at the gateway to the Oregon Caves National Monument.

The Caveman Bridge is a rainbow arch bridge that spans the Rogue River on Southbound US 199 in Grants Pass. It has three 150-foot reinforced concrete half-through arch spans and two 50-foot concrete deck girder approach spans. This structure, one of only a few half-through arch bridges in Oregon, has unique design features, including ornate bridge railing, lampposts, bracketing, and arch rib segments. The bridge was originally on the old Pacific Highway and was used to promote



tourism throughout the region. Although the two structures are very different, the Caveman Bridge and San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge share a common characteristic: They both serve as portals to the Redwood Empire, with the Golden Gate Bridge welcoming guests from the south and the Caveman from the north. A sign on the Caveman Bridge reads "Right Lane for Redwood Empire, Oregon Caves, Golden Gate Bridge."

The three lead collaborators on the Caveman Bridge project were construction supervisor Arthur Jordan, contractor John K. Holt, and bridge engineer Conde B. McCullough, who left an impressive legacy. Born in 1887, McCullough started his career designing bridges with James B. Marsh, a leader in the engineering field. After working under Marsh, McCullough moved on to work for the Iowa State Highway Commission, where he helped design bridges throughout Iowa. After a brief tenure as a professor at Oregon Agricultural College, McCullough was appointed by the Oregon State Highway Department as the Oregon State Bridge Engineer in 1919, a position he held through 1935. Using his past experiences, McCullough developed a three-pronged bridge-building philosophy: make the structure fit the site, create the bridge cost-effectively, and emphasize aesthetically pleasing designs. His years as the Oregon State Bridge Engineer were remarkably fruitful: At one point, in a two-year span, McCullough and his team designed and constructed five major coastal crossings that measured between 1,600 and 5,400 feet in length. Reinforced concrete arch bridges, of which the Caveman Bridge is one example, were McCullough's most well-known bridge designs. During his career, he became quite the expert on this type of



engineering, assisting in the creation of different design and construction methods for these concrete arch structures as well as writing textbooks on the subject. After his tenure in Oregon, McCullough chased his engineering dreams further by heading to Central America, where he designed bridges for the Pan-American Highway for the Bureau of Public Roads. Upon returning to Oregon, McCullough served as assistant highway engineer until his death in 1946. Under his leadership, Oregon cultivated an impressive array of bridges, many of which are still in use nearly 100 years later. A few of his most iconic designs (besides the Caveman Bridge) include Winchester Bridge in Roseburg, Yaquina Bay Bridge at Northport, and the Siuslaw River Bridge at Florence. The Coos Bay Bridge in North Bend

was dedicated in 1947 as the Conde McCullough Memorial Bridge in his honor.

Although the Caveman Bridge stands nearly identical to when it was built, it has been renovated in recent years. In 2019, the structure underwent an 18-month, \$5.3 million renovation, its first major update since it was built. The upgrade project included both structural and cosmetic repairs, like seismic stability improvements, new rails and lights, bridge deck resurfacing, and complete renovation of the nearly century old structure's concrete surface. The project organizers also gave a facelift to the historical Redwood Empire/Oregon Caves neon sign. As it nears its centennial anniversary, the Caveman Bridge continues to serve as an important piece of past and present history in Grants Pass.



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 by Melissa Strand

A second-chance encounter for a “forever” home landed Augie, a happy Border Collie and Labrador mix, with his loving family that feels, for them, it was meant to be. Pet parents Heather and Mario nearly missed their opportunity with him when another family started the adoption process first, which led to a four-hour journey for little Augie, who was just 10-months-old at the time, to meet his potential family. Once he arrived, the other family decided he was too hyper for their family, and he made the long and lonely voyage back to the shelter. The shelter put Augie’s listing on their Facebook page, and when Heather and Mario saw his photo, they had to meet him. They had two Border Collies at the time and felt he too would fit in with the family, so they brought their dogs and their son Brandon to meet him. When they arrived, he jumped right into playing with their dogs and excitedly dragged Brandon around the parking lot. In that moment, Heather and Mario knew his lovable energy was perfect for their family, and he would be one of their forever dogs.



Augie, affectionately nicknamed Augusto, Augie Doggy, and Augiers, is now ten years old and as he has grown older, his family has grown as well. Brandon is now 18, and during Augie’s time with the family, Heather and Mario welcomed daughter Katelyn (8), and another dog named Cody (3). They also have two cats named Chloe Kitty (10) and Spot Kitty (11) that have been with the family since Augie joined the household. Augie is a big pup but loves to curl up and snuggle and will climb on your lap like he is a small lap dog. Once while camping, he hilariously even tried to climb into Katelynn’s lap while she was in a little camping chair. Although he has several large dog beds in the house to choose from, he typically sneaks onto the couch or Katelynn’s bed for a cuddly nap.

Augie’s personality is truly unique and lovable. He smiles all the time (and will even smile for a photo!) and often

“talks” to verbally communicate his needs or to show he’s happy. He enjoys chewing tennis balls and will play fetch, but instead of bringing the ball back, he just likes to take it to his doghouse as a prize. He loves going to the lake and lounging on a big raft, chasing sticks in the water and camping. But above all, his favorite thing to do is go on car rides. Every morning, he sits at the front door and blocks it to ensure he’s the first one to the car to take Katelynn to school, and he happily “talks nonstop” the entire ride.

Augie is truly a perfect family dog, who is very devoted and protective of the kids, never leaving their sides. Heather and Mario feel the most rewarding thing about being a pet owner is all the love, kisses and hugs from their animals and the joy they bring. They feel Augie is one of the best dogs they have ever had and is the happiest dog they have ever known.

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