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PUBLICATION

MAY 2023



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Out & About
Calendar Picks



Central Point Wild Rogue Pro Rodeo
 THURS, MAY 18 - 20 | 7 PM
The Expo
 1 Peninger Rd Central Point, OR 97502



Wild Rogue Relay
 JUNE 16-17 | STARTING AT 5 AM
Applegate Lake to Brookings, Oregon
 Register at <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/63905/the-wild-rogue-relay-2023>



Murphy Outdoor Market
 FRI MAY 19 | 9 AM - 1 PM
6890 Williams Hwy,
 Grants Pass, OR 97527



Rogue Music Festival
 JUNE 16 -17
The Expo
 1 Peninger Rd Central Point, OR 97502



Boatnik 2023
 THU, MAY 25 - MON, MAY 29 | ALL DAY
Riverside Park
 304 E Park St, Grants Pass, OR



"Celebrate Dance": A Southern Oregon Dance Concert
 SAT, JUNE 17TH | 7 PM
Grants Pass Performing Arts Center
 313 NE Olive St Grants Pass, OR 97526
 Get Tickets @ [SouthernOregonDanceCenter.org](https://southernoregondancecenter.org)



Hillah Shrine Circus
 FRI, MAY 26 | 6:30 PM
 SAT, MAY 27 | 2 PM & 6 PM
 SUN, MAY 28 | 12 PM & 4 PM
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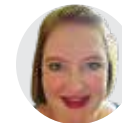
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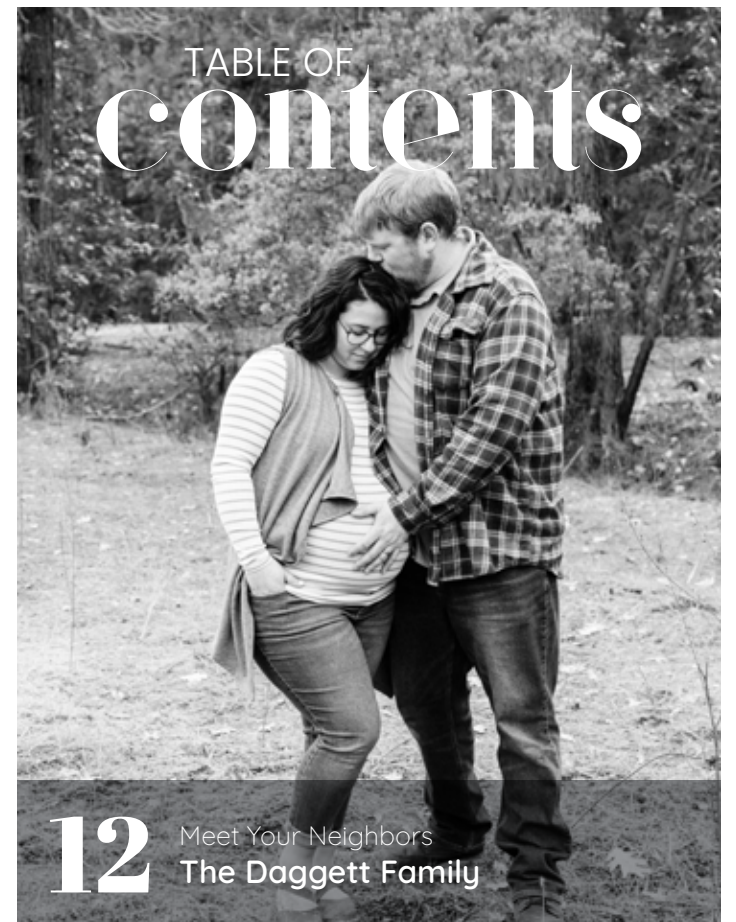
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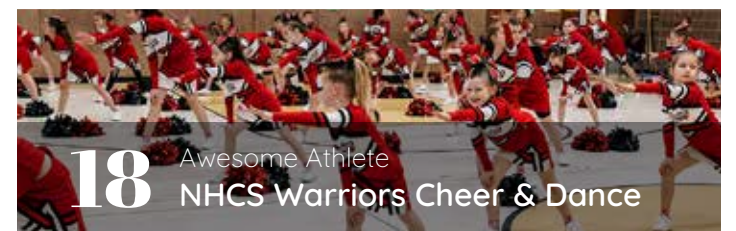
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 The Daggett Family



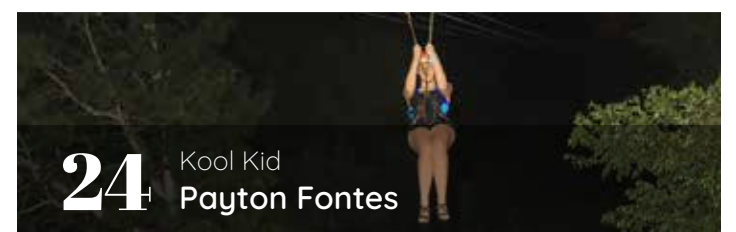
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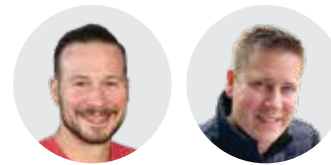
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE
THE SOCIAL
PUBLICATION



Greetings Neighbors,

The grass is green, the trees are awake, and we hope you are all enjoying some much-needed outdoor time in the spring weather! This year definitely felt like an unusually late cold and rainy season, so it's really refreshing to be moving into one of the best months of the year here in GP! In May, we can expect fresh air, perfect temperatures, beautiful vegetation, and a variety of outdoor activities. May reminds us of why we love Grants Pass so much and the oasis it can be. We challenge you to get outside and find a new hike, park, restaurant, or special place that you have not explored yet. When it comes to enjoying the spring weather, Grants Pass is one of the best places to be. We would like to invite you to jump on Instagram and share photos or videos with us @socialpub_grantspass. We'd love to see some of your favorite hikes, spring activities, or restaurants in Grants Pass and the surrounding area. We absolutely love it when people are generous enough to share positive information. Don't forget to join in on local activities such as the Boatnik Parade and Memorial Day weekend festivities. Boatnik is a very unique event and is supported by a large number of our local businesses, so be sure to check it out! We wish you all a fun and safe month of May!

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Expert Contributors



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



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



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



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.



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



WADE SQUIRES The Venuti Group at Cascade Hasson 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!



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.



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.



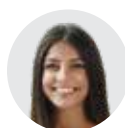
CHRISTINE LOWE Diversity Home Lending
Born and raised in the Southern Oregon area, Christine Lowe absolutely loves enjoying the outdoor beauty we have here. With 25 years in the mortgage industry, ensuring that you make the right choice for you and your family is her goal and she is committed to providing 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.



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.



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9. September 16th
10. September 24th

Other classes will be determined after our awards banquet. The rules and updated forms along with information will be announced on our facebook page.

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Evan and Jess Daggett met and knew each other in high school, but distance often makes the heart grow fonder. What started off as a friendship eventually turned into exploring a relationship during Jess' senior year of high school while Evan was living out of the country in East Africa! He came home in May of 2007, and they were engaged in July and were married and happy together forever on September 27, 2008. They have created a full and beautiful life together, and have welcomed five beautiful children to their family, including Eden (13), Lydia (9), Gideon (7), Mimsy (4), Anna (2), and their sixth child, Baby Ada, was born at the end of March. They've also welcomed and lost three other babies along their journey - Daphne, Hannah, and an early miscarriage - all of whom remain an important part of their family.



Their family is grateful to have been able to buy their first home in Grants Pass in January of 2022, and feels their home is a blessing. Evan was born and raised in Grants Pass, and Jess was born in Texas and moved to Grants Pass with her mom and older brother very early in life. They both graduated from Grants Pass High School (GPHS), and after graduating Evan spent a year at the University of Oregon before heading to East Africa, and then obtained his master's degree in Education from Southern Oregon University (SOU). He is a percussionist and music teacher and after serving as the Percussion Director with the GPHS Marching Band for the last 13 years and teaching elementary music at Parkside, he opened his own business called "The Daggett School of Music" and teaches specialty music classes, private lessons, and general music classes for the community. After high school Jess attended SOU for music also, but ultimately obtained her certification through a midwifery school as a Perinatal Health Educator. She works with families through pregnancy, birth, and postpartum as a Doula, Childbirth Educator and Lactation Counselor where

she supports many community programs for young and growing families in their area. She also has been teaching beginning dance classes at Southern Oregon Dance Center for 12 years and homeschools their children. They feel that being small business owners really plunges them into their community, and they love working with a variety of families as well as supporting and serving various organizations.

When not working, Evan enjoys listening to theological and historical podcasts and loves to consume anything he can to further his knowledge. Jess enjoys writing and hopes to one day write a book. She also loves any kind of crafting. Together, they love anything that involves music, from theatre to concerts to playing together as a family. They also love being outdoors and exploring as much of beautiful Southern Oregon (and beyond!) as they can. They love to explore the many restaurants and activities their town has to offer, especially Vine, which is one of their favorite spots in town because it's a place where they truly feel like family. They also love Climate City, Casa Amiga and visiting Wheelhouse Coffee for a mid-day

boost, or venturing out to Ashland to stroll around downtown and enjoy Smithfields or The Brickroom. The kids have also recently found a new love for Antique perusing and enjoy visiting Elegance on 6th street.

The Daggett family has busy schedules day to day, so when they get time together as a family, they try hard to focus on each other. They like to take walks, go on random adventures outdoors, or snuggle up for a good Bluey marathon. They love the Oregon Coast for family getaways, and Disneyland is one of their favorite special spots when they get the opportunity. They also discovered the Great Wolf Lodge last summer, and their kids absolutely loved it. They love listening to old vinyl records, cooking as a family and enjoy doing MadLibs together. A special tradition they share is on Christmas Eve, they all wear matching Jammies, watch a Christmas movie and sleep in the living room in hopes they will catch Santa Claus.

They speak lovingly about their five children, who are all unique and special. Eden is witty and enthusiastic about

everything she does. Lydia has a knack for learning new skills quickly, is very focused and loves to serve others. Gideon is a kind and "dapper gentleman" who loves baseball, break dancing and making people feel special. Mimsy is their comedian and loves to make people laugh with her quirkiness. And Anna, their youngest, is their spicy one, who is very busy and always into mischief. All the kids spend most of their non-school time dedicated to dance, which they love, along with music and theatre. They are each unique, but all share a strong resilient nature. The family has had their fair share of big shifts over the years and the kids have been absolute troopers through it all, reminding their parents of what is truly important.



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Echo

THE BASICS

How did Echo get his/her name and does it have any significance?

She was named by her previous owner and we thought it was cute so kept it!

How old is Echo?

3 years old

What type of animal or breed is Echo?

Leopard Gecko

What is Echo's gender?

Female

When and how did you get Echo?

She was gifted to us from my niece

Who are the other family members, including you?

Noah, Kaylene, Elise, Weston, Juliet (Clipp)



FAVORITES

What is Echo's favorite treat?

Mealworms

What is Echo's favorite toy?

She likes her shelters

What is Echo's favorite game?

Just crawling up and down our arms, through our hands, and perching on the shoulder.

What is your favorite thing to do together?

Watch her eat. She eats every 3 days.

Do you go outdoors? If yes, where is your favorite place to go together? Stay inside in winter :) Maybe in the summer we will take her out occasionally. She likes to be warm.

MORE INFO

What's the best thing about Echo?

How pretty she is.

What is the naughtiest thing Echo has ever done?

Run from us!

What is your funniest memory of Echo?

When the power went out just before New Years we were worried about her. We plugged her hot spot into our generator! She survived :)

What is the hardest thing about being a pet owner?

Having to get live food for her. She is pretty low maintenance.



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What is the most rewarding thing about being a pet owner?

Watching the kids enjoy the Echo.

Is there anything else we should know about Echo?

She always eats her shedding skin before we have a chance to see it! We only see little scraps leftover in her house!

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NHCS Warriors Cheer & Dance

by Melissa Strand

Heather Martinez is a past HVHS (Hidden Valley High School) Cheerleader from the 90's, and had been looking for an opportunity to allow her daughter Katelynn to have a cheer and dance experience like she did in school. She recently started a brand-new cheer & dance program for NHCS (New Hope Christian School), which is the ONLY school in Southern Oregon to offer cheer and dance to 1st through 8th grade students. The program is open to include NHCS (New Hope Christian School) students as well as homeschool students. The "NHCS Warriors Cheer & Dance" offers the most inclusive program with cheering, dancing, flags, signs, stunts, tumbling, acrobatics, and school spirit. Participants will be learning team communication, tumbling, cheer, acrobatics, stunting, dance, hip hop, and more in the program. It's important for Heather to offer team bonding experiences and events outside of school, but most importantly, a fun environment for all involved.

It has been a long road for Heather to see her dreams become a reality, and her persistence has paid off. Back in the Fall of 2022, the Grants Pass Youth Cheer (GPYC) started back up after three years of being shut down due to covid, and Heather was given the opportunity to coach her daughter Katelynn's 3rd grade team. The cheer and dance passion reignited within Heather, and she knew she was destined to coach cheer and dance in her future. After GPYC Sideline cheer ended, the first ever in Grants Pass GPYC Competitive Cheer program was created, in which participants were able



to experience attending two separate competitions. After Katelynn had been in both cheer programs, Heather decided she really wanted Katelynn to be a part of her school's athletic department, so she drafted a proposal to make it happen. The school welcomed Heather's proposal with open arms and has even allowed Heather's daughter Katelynn to create approved designs for school swag under her business, Katelynn's Krafts, which is being sold as a year-round fundraiser for the athletic department. NHCS Cheer & Dance just closed registration 02/17/2023 with 56 Warrior Cheerleaders. Cheerleaders will be provided a full uniform, cheer shoes, backpack, practice shirt, 2 bows, headband, pom poms for the \$175 registration fee. Most programs don't offer shoes as part of the registration, however, as these little cheerleaders will be



growing each season, it was felt this was an important feature and would take the stress off the parents and give the team matching shoes.

Participants will practice after school Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 and will be involved in some Saturday activities such as the NHCS Alumni basketball game and Boatnik parade, and will offer a mini cheer camp in May for the tiny future Warriors preschool – 5th Grades. The cheer squad will cheer at pep-assemblies and will be hosting several dances including a Grandparents dance with a 50's theme, a father & daughter dance, families 80's dance and more next year. The team will have Team bonding experiences and events where they will make banners, locker posters, small gift for athletes' birthdays, promote school spirit and train the "Future Warrior Cheerleaders". The teams may compete in 2023/2024, however, the focus is to experience fun events, meet new cheerleaders from other schools and to bond, and if they happen to place in a category that would be a bonus. It's not about winning for the team; it's about having fun and that's the number one goal!

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

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Southern Oregon Psychological Services

by Alexandra Hruz

Matt Ditty is not one to back down from a challenge. In starting Southern Oregon Psychological Services

LLC, he embarked upon an entrepreneurial journey that, while challenging, provided a bounty of rewards for himself, his clients, and the community.

Matt took great influence for starting his business from his spouse. “During grad school, my wife’s side business started to take off, and I was inspired by her success and with the idea of creating something that I was proud of, could manage, and was flexible enough to accommodate for our busy family,” he explains. But taking this entrepreneurial route wasn’t without its obstacles. He describes that some of his mentors during his doctoral studies cautioned him that starting a practice and becoming self-sufficient as a fresh graduate might be challenging. But Matt wasn’t deterred—he didn’t consider failure to be an option. “In my mind, I couldn’t fail if I listened to their warnings, accounted for potential risks,



and remained flexible and humble enough to apply feedback to learn and get better,” he says. “Making it work was the only option in my mind.” Matt graduated with his doctorate in psychology in 2021, established SORPSYCH, completed his residency, and became licensed in the state of Oregon as a psychologist in February 2023. Since establishing his practice 18 months ago, he’s poured all his energy into developing his business and implementing feedback into the pursuit of making the

practice the best it can be.

At SORPSYCH, Matt offers individualized psychotherapy and psychological services to people with mental health challenges in Southern Oregon. All his services are offered virtually via a secure telehealth platform; the services are tailored to individual client needs and are rooted in evidence-based practice including CBT modalities, neuroscientific literature, and traumatology. He explains that counties in Southern Oregon are designated as low-income and high “Health Professional Shortage Areas,” meaning there is a significant need for not just clinicians, but clinicians who accept OHP and Medicare. As a fifth-generation Oregonian and resident of Grants Pass for nearly 30 years, it’s important to Matt that he help strengthen his community.

Through his work, Matt has formed valuable connections with his clients and is proud of their progress, even though emotional healing is sometimes a slow journey. “I am incredibly proud of my clients for the humility, vulnerability,



honesty, and committed actions they exude/enact; being a witness to and co-journer with their healing brings me great joy and inspires me to be a better human,” he says. He adds that, with the prevalence of mental health challenges, seeing people courageously reach out for help and committing to getting better inspires his work each day.

As he continues growing and improving SORPSYCH, Matt is eager to provide more options for his clients. He’s working on contracting with health insurance carriers in the area (including Medicare and other well-known carriers). Through it all, he’ll keep supporting Southern Oregonians with psychological services in a competent and compassionate manner.



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Caveman Fence

When Caveman Fence was founded by owners Randy Smith and Alan Sippola in 1999, it was only temporary—“Until something better comes along.” After more than 23 years of doing business and serving the people in southern Oregon, Randy and Alan think they can stop looking for anything better.

Alan and Randy explain that when they started Caveman Fence, they wanted to provide people in the southern Oregon area with a fence company option where the property owners and fence/gate/automation installers were intricately entwined and involved with the culmination of the customers’ projects. This goal helped shape the vision that Randy and Alan had for the business, and they decided to dissolve the friendship and go into business together.

Like many small businesses, Randy and Alan started with a humble business



operation and expanded from there. They explain that the team first began working out of Randy’s barn, running the company’s operations from that location until they were able to grow and move. Since their first days in business, Caveman Fence has worked steadily and with dedication, weathering many storms along the way and striving to meet and try to exceed their

customers’ expectations no matter what.

A vital and integral part of Caveman Fence’s business is the team that Alan and Randy have built and the quality of work they produce. The owners explain that they employ anywhere from 15 to 25 people at any given time. Providing jobs for the men and women of southern Oregon is one of the aspects of their business that they enjoy the most. Employees are the backbone of any business, and Caveman Fence’s aim is to end up with the best people possible on their team in order to deliver the best customer service to their clients. “The most satisfying aspect of the position I created here is seeing these people decide to take control of their lives and therefore their futures,” they say. “The caliber of our team is reflected in the feedback we get from our customers.” Honesty and respect toward customers are two of the traits they use to describe how the teams working on their fence crews interact with clients. This dedication to serving their clients in an honest and reliable manner is very crucial for Caveman Fence.

Randy and Alan are both Grants Pass



residents who’ve chosen to raise their families locally and stay connected to the community. Randy and his wife Jill have two grown sons and have two grandsons; Alan and Beth (Caveman Fence’s office manager) have three sons and a daughter and have 14 grandchildren. The business owners are dedicated to their families and hope to pass on their entrepreneurial savvy to the next generations. Alan’s son Jason already has taken on a large part of the daily operations.

Over the last 23 years, Caveman Fence has helped countless people create the outdoor spaces they dreamed of by listening to the needs, wants, and expectations of their customers. Moving forward, Randy, Alan, and their employees aim to continue with this tradition, providing unmatched customer service and high-quality fencing solutions for the people in the southern Oregon community.



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It's Cool!

Kool Kid
Payton Fontes

 by Kathy Ford

Payton Fontes is the coolest 15-year-old in Grants Pass. This 10th grader at Hidden Valley High School, whose favorite subject is History, also has a really kool family. In addition to her parents, she has a kool little brother, Deagan, who is 12 years old, and several pets, two dogs and three cats, Daisy Mae (8), Cooper (5), Nella (13), Twitch (2), and Bullseye (5).

Some of the really kool things about Payton are that she bowls and practices archery. While archery is challenging to prevent getting hurt and “being able to shoot at 15,” Payton appreciates the focus required to be successful in archery. Bowling is enjoyable because she plays as part of a team with friends. While bowling is a lot of fun, she acknowledges that the biggest challenge is the competition in the sport.

This kool kid is amazing. She is a fantastic student who has received straight A's throughout high school. She is a very active young lady as she is the vice president



of the Sparrow Club, a Future Farmers of America member, and she was on the Homecoming court during her freshman and sophomore years.

Payton has a lot on her plate. In addition to school, sports, and extracurricular activities, she also was a volunteer intern at Wildlife Safari for two summers. This spring, this young lady will volunteer at Wildlife images.

Other kool things about Payton are that she enjoys reading, knitting, crocheting, and roller skating. This kool kid's favorite color is grey, and her favorite animal is the wolf. When she's not busy with school,

extra-curricular activities, hobbies, or sports, you may find her enjoying a meal at her favorite restaurant, Red Robin, or her favorite food, chicken nuggets. Or she may be hanging out enjoying her favorite TV show, “Criminal Minds,” or her favorite movie, “It.” On the other hand, you may find her curled up with a good book. Whenever she gets a chance, she goes to the river, her favorite place to spend time.

While she loves vacationing with her family, her happiest memory is when she went to the coast with her friends one weekend for her friend's birthday. She also enjoys spending time with her really kool

family when they go on vacation, especially to her favorite vacation spot, Mexico. Another kool thing she loves to do with her family is going to the mountains to hunt or go shooting.


This young lady has big plans for the future. Her plans include graduating high school, attending college, becoming a veterinarian, and traveling. While she will surely travel the world, she would pick Iceland if she had to pick any one place in the world to visit.

Payton is a bright young lady with a bright future ahead of her. She already has several outstanding accomplishments, including straight A's in high school, volunteer internships, extra-curricular activities, and sports. She will have a very successful future as a veterinarian and traveling around the world.




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Recipe

Mexican Street Corn (Elote)

Mexican street corn (also known as elote) is a delicious corn on the cob loaded with a cheesy sauce that's elevated with cilantro and lime. It's creamy, cheesy, spicy, and flavorful. You can typically find this popular side dish at a Mexican street corn vendor, but it tastes just as good when you make it at home. Plus, it's easy to make on the grill, in the oven, or on the stovetop. Either way, once you try it, you will know why it's so popular!

Ingredients and Substitutions

To make delicious grilled Mexican street corn, you need the following ingredients (full quantities in recipe card below): sweet corn on the cob, sour cream, mayonnaise, seasoning - garlic powder and paprika. Add in a little chili powder for some extra spice, if desired. You can also substitute the seasonings with with use chipotle powder. Cilantro, lime juice + zest, salt and pepper, cotija cheese - If you don't have cotija cheese, feel free to substitute with feta cheese or Parmesan.



How to Make the Best Mexican Street Corn (Elote)

Make the sauce. In a medium mixing bowl, combine sour cream, mayonnaise, garlic powder, cilantro, lime juice, lime zest, paprika, salt, and pepper. Stir well until smooth and evenly mixed. Set aside for 10 minutes, allowing the flavors to infuse into each other.

Grill the corn. Place the corn on a preheated grill at 400 F and grill for 6-8 minutes, turning occasionally until nicely charred and cooked through. Set aside on a plate. You can also roast the corn in the oven at 400 F for 25 minutes or cook in boiling water for 10-15 minutes. However, grilling yields a sweeter and creamier taste.

Assemble and serve. Spread and brush the sauce evenly over the corn and top with Parmesan. Drizzle with extra lime juice if desired.





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