



THE ROGUE VALLEY MESSENGER

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 25 • DECEMBER 17 - JANUARY 6

News

GOLD HILL, AFTER THE RECALL!

Beer

OPPOSITION BREWERY IS
PRETTY FRIENDLY, ACTUALLY

Resolution

LISTEN TO BETTER MUSIC!
CHECK OUT 2015'S BEST



OUR ANNUAL GIVE GUIDE

A LISTING OF LOCAL NONPROFITS . . . AND READERS' CHOICES FOR BEST DO-GOODERS!

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2014

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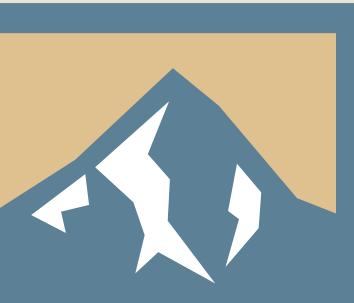
SALES DEADLINE: 5 pm Thurs
EDITORIAL DEADLINE: 5 pm Thurs
CALENDAR DEADLINE: 12 pm Thurs
CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: 4 pm Thurs
Deadlines may shift for special/holiday issues

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ABOUT THE COVER

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FEATURE

We asked. You voted. And now we present the Readers' Choices for Best Regional Nonprofits, and a profile of Joseph Vaile, Executive Director for KS Wild, and this year's Best Executive Director.

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**GIVE GUIDE**

Southern Oregon is home to a wide variety of nonprofits, from roller derby to libraries, organizations that help protect the wild spaces and those who help support homeless men and women. Help support them with a donation.

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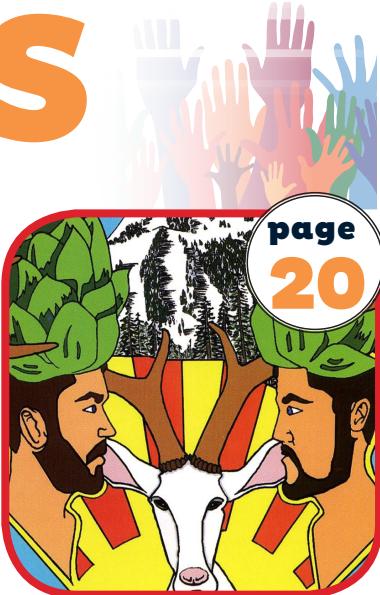
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SOUND

In spite Southern Oregon's musical reputation as a stronghold of old-time and reggae, 2015's best local recordings were a wide selection of pop, rock and experimental styles with nary a banjo or Jah reference between them. Five best local albums of 2015.

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**CULTURE**

Dancing People Company is set to perform its tenth annual and final "Call Back the Sun," but it is hardly a sunset for the company.

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DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

COMMUNITY MEANS CONTRIBUTING



I attended college in a small town in Vermont. It was a tight enough knit community that the cashier at my bank also moonlighted as a waitress, and knew me—and my account—well enough that she once advised me to order a less expensive dinner because she knew I should budget my money.

There was a general store that took a decidedly Hawthornian approach to holding patrons accountable. Instead of scarlet letters, though, they taped bounced checks on the countertop by the cash register. There was a certain public shame to display the persons who had bought groceries or hoagies with a check that their bank account could not cover.

It was small-town accountability—and, unfortunately, that has recently been at the forefront of my mind in terms of running the business of this newspaper.

The Messenger has “survived” for nearly two years. The business model is simple: We provide the paper to the community for free by relying on local businesses purchasing ads. We enjoy profiling community leaders, writing stories about current culture, and reviewing local bands, and we appreciate that we provide an opportunity for local businesses to promote their goods and services in our pages.

We have survived because dozens of wonderful, responsible businesses have been faithful advertisers in our issues. But we also have suffered immensely because some businesses have not paid their bills.

I won’t list all the businesses that have failed or refused to pay their invoices, but it has been enough that I took a loan on my house this year to stop-gap that lost revenue. In particular, Wiley’s World Pasta has been stubborn about paying a \$1000-plus invoice. We have sent repeated invoices and, when we sent someone in person to request that some/all of the bill be paid, we were told we were rude.

I do feel bad singling out this business, but also feel as if the table were turned, and we had eaten a massive meal and ditched without paying, they also would be frustrated and flummoxed. We have been stiffed by a number of businesses in the region who have refused to pay for ads they have run in our paper, or have eluded our attempts to collect bills. So it goes, I suppose.

Fortunately, though, there are dozens of other businesses in the region who have been incredibly loyal and diligent about paying for our services. Quite simply, without the support of this community, we would not be able to continue to operate.

Which brings me to the more important point: This is our second annual Give Guide. Throughout the year, we run free ads as often as possible for local nonprofits which are doing amazing work to build and support the community here. Also this year, we have introduced a new column, our Public Profile, which Q&As with a community leader. In this issue, on Page 8, our writer Zac Morel talks with Pamala Joy, the founder for Food Angels, a unique sort of food bank that provides fruits and vegetables to some of the region’s most needy. We have been pleased with the support we have and can provide local nonprofits and social service agencies—and hope to continue and expand that coverage.

In this Give Guide, we have a list of local nonprofits, all which deserve your support, and we encourage you to find at least one to send a donation to this holiday season. We also hosted our first readers’ survey this year, asking you-all what nonprofits and nonprofit leaders you believe deserve special attention. On Page 9, we list the results from that readers’ survey. We want to continue to be an important and supportive member of this community—and we ask you for suggestions and feedback about how you think we can best do that. A community is only as good as its weakest links—and we hope that in the New Year that we all pledge to be better, more productive members of this unique community.

Happy holidays. Be well, friend. 

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LETTERS



Have something to say?

Send your thoughts and SnapShot submissions to:
editorial@roguevalleymessenger.com.

Letters must be received by noon Friday before next print date for inclusion in the following week's paper. Please limit letters to 250 words. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Speak Up

RE.: HERE WEED GO AGAIN

I don't know that a ban is in order but some regulations. For example, requiring that if you are going to have an indoor grow, or outdoor, that they require a permit, and inspection. That would give a couple of people jobs. With a very hefty fine if caught without a permit. Like 2K or something (depending on size); Incentive to follow the ordinance. And an annual license, that is inspected again annually; not a huge \$\$ but enough to pay inspectors, and put some money into maybe law enforcements or fire funds. Some of these homes are so close together, one goes they all go... Just some thoughts... Could possibly help keep homes safer and raise some money...

- Jeni D Hi

CHRISTMAS JOKE

Q: Why does Santa have three garden plots at the North Pole?
A: That way he can hoe, hoe, hoe!

Q: What did the reindeer say when he saw an elf?
A: Nothing. Ah, reindeer can't talk.

Q: Why did the gingerbread man not want to wear shorts?
A: He thought his legs looked crummy!

WINTER JOKE

Q: Why did the snowman drop his pants?
A: He was waiting for the snow blower!



Happy New Year to you

2016

New Year's Resolution

We want to know what you want to do: Share your most important resolutions, pledges or intentions for 2016—and we will reward the best intents with a gift certificate to a local business such as Uber Herbal or Lotus Hair Body & Soul.

editorial@roguevalleymessenger.com

A VOLUNTEER AT ASHLAND INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL SINCE 2008, PETER LININGTON WON AN HONORABLE MENTION IN THE READERS' CHOICE FOR BEST NONPROFIT VOLUNTEER. FOR ALL OF THE RESULTS, TURN TO PAGE 9.



FILMMAKERS DISCUSS THE ROLE OF SUBJECT IN THEIR FILMS AS PART OF A TALKBACK PANEL AT THE 2014 ASHLAND INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION PANELS SUCH AS THIS ONE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A \$10,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

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NEWS

Stay Golden

After Political Tensions a Year Ago, Gold Hill is Pushing Forward With Public Projects

BY KRISTEN KURTH

A year ago, residents in the small town of Gold Hill tried to recall two-thirds of city council. The political dust-up was the result of a vote by the council to allow a medical marijuana dispensary to open its doors downtown, and simultaneously rolling back a year-long moratorium on medical marijuana businesses. In spite of the pleasant, small-town feel in Gold Hill, apparently seismic political rifts rest underground, as the town has experienced nearly a dozen recall efforts since the 1980s.

Ultimately, in the latest recall effort, council members Margaret Dials, Lorraine Parks, Doug Reischman and Gus Wolf escaped recall with roughly 60 percent of voters supporting them to stay in office—and since last year's recall effort, city politics seem to be back on track as the city council is pushing an impressive number of public projects.

We recently caught up with councilwoman Dials, a person that deeply cares for her community. She is a long time resident and retired school teacher in Gold Hill. She is currently sitting for her second term. For ten years before that, she served on the Planning Commission.

a thousand people has to provide all their city services with a small tax base; the water treatment plant, the sewage treatment plant, City Administration to write grants, keep the streets clean, and make sure that health and safety is good. Kind of boring stuff in a way, but people expect to be able to go out and drive on maintained streets and have proper police protection. In a way, it's more expensive for a small community to keep these things running. What's really hard for us right now is our infrastructure—which is our treatment plants—are due to be renovated or replaced because they only last about thirty years. All small cities are in the same boat. So you've got to come up with funding and deal with agencies and their costs. Rates go up and people don't like it. I totally get it but you have to pay your way.

RVM: In all of this time on the City Council, what is the project you're most proud of?

MD: Developing the Sports Park. I'm on the Community Development and Organization Board also, and they work together. The city owns a big sports park right along the river.



COUNCILWOMAN MARGARET DIALS

have a public bathroom. It's wonderful!

RVM: What is the project that's coming down the pipe that you and the City Council are most excited about?

MD: We have a couple of projects that are park-related. One is the dog park, the Bark Park, which I'm hoping comes together nicely this year, and the other is a little kid's park at our library. There is a park down there right now but it's really old and the play structures are kind of worn out, so we're looking at putting in a small playground. So when kids go down to story time at the library they can go play outside. We thought there should be something downtown. Our downtown is kind of tired right now. It doesn't have as many businesses as it usually does. I'm thinking if more people bring their kids to downtown, it will become more vibrant. The more you use it, the better it gets.

RVM: What is your favorite holiday movie?

MD: I would pick old classic movies. I don't like the newer Christmas movies, they're not as classy. I like White Christmas really well because there's singing and dancing and all kinds of silly stuff, in addition to the Christmas theme and great Santa Suits. And I like It's A Wonderful Life.

RVM: If you could eat only one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

MD: Oh my gosh. I eat absolutely everything.... Maybe oysters. I love oysters. Or maybe fresh crab. I'm originally from San Francisco, so I love sea food. 

"The major problem WE HAVE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IS THAT A LITTLE TOWN OF SLIGHTLY OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE HAS TO PROVIDE ALL THEIR CITY SERVICES WITH A SMALL TAX BASE."

- COUNCILWOMAN MARGARET DIALS

She sat down with RVM for a chat about the joys and pitfalls of keeping a rural community functioning and healthy.

RVM: What first got you in to local politics?

MD: It was from being on the Planning Commission. So much of what happens in a city depends on how you decide what the laws and zoning will be. It's not so much political as it was legal. I liked the clearness of what you need to do. It was all very friendly.

RVM: What are some of the challenges the City Council faces, being a rural community?

MD: The major problem we have in rural communities is that a little town of slightly over

It's beautiful. We have white water events that take place out there and that's where our dog park will be, and we've got tennis courts and all kinds of neat stuff out there. One of my favorite things that I worked on was very unglamorous but really important and that was getting a public bathroom for the park. Everybody needs it. One of the things with a small town is you realize that really basic needs are important and you take them for granted in big cities. Being such a little town, it took us a long time to get a public bathroom. I think I worked for about seven years on grant writing and helping the Community Development Organization coordinate with the city. It was a real group effort and finally we

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NEWS

Public Profile

Pamala Joy, Founder, Food Angels

INTERVIEW BY ZAC MOREL

RVM: What sets Food Angels apart from other food rescue programs?

PJ: What sets it apart from several other programs is that from the beginning I focused on live food. Fruits, vegetables, things that people eat naturally as opposed to cans and boxes. When I started around 1995, the food bank wouldn't take the live food I offered them. [It was] too much trouble and they don't know what to do if it goes bad. So I was finding other places like Uncle Food's diner, the community free meal that would happily take the food they

could process and put it into a meal. And now I have to say, I'm very proud that I think I was at least in part responsible for the food bank now taking lots of live food. We are not a food bank, we are a food rescue and redistribution service. It's completely volunteer. Nobody gets paid, even me. It came to my knowledge that a lot of food was being thrown away from bakeries and stores. I hate waste, so I began collecting it and trying to find out where it should go. Who's hungry, where are the holes?

RVM: What are the main sources for rescued food?

PJ: First of all I want to appreciate that we live in an area where there are abundant wonderful organic farmers. Ten or twelve of those farms have supported Food Angels throughout its history. So in the farmers' market season we get a lot of food from local farmers. Then, Market of Choice is our biggest donor. From them we get produce, bakery stuff, deli and dairy stuff. We also pick up from the produce departments at Shop n' Kart and the Food Coop, and we do pick ups every day.

RVM: Do you get mostly gleaned blemished or otherwise imperfect produce from those sources?

PJ: Not necessarily. Certainly if something has a blemish, but it could be a small blemish. But if a market has, for example, a new shipment of potatoes that come in and they have too many potatoes there, they're going to send the older ones on to me. And you know, nothing looks wrong with them. But certainly, we live in a culture where if someone goes to the store, they don't want to buy something with a blemish. So the stores are in a bind where they can't sell it. I consider it a sadness that we as a culture won't accept something with a bruise.

RVM: How do you take care of all these perishables once they're donated?

PJ: Fast movement. You don't want to leave it sitting around very long! In the winter it's not a problem because it's cold, there's an outdoor fridge. When I started this, I worked in my yard and covered things with a tarp. And eventually I had use of the garage. But in the summer it's hot, so I raised money to build a little shed within the garage. It would be a walk-in fridge if I had twelve thousand dollars, but it's a walk-in cool room with an air conditioner. So that helps keep the food cool in the hot months. We now work much more closely with the food bank and take a lot of food to them because they have two walk-ins, so we can get it out of the heat and into their fridge.

RVM: How much food does Food Angels divert?

PJ: We've been weighing it for a couple years and we have shifted over 250 thousand pounds of food over the last two or three years. So it's a lot. We do this seven days a week. The only day we take off is Christmas because the stores are closed.



PAMALA JOY, FOUNDER, FOOD ANGELS

FEATURE

ANNUAL GIVE GUIDE Messenger Readers' Choices 2015 NONPROFITS

BEST REGIONAL NON PROFIT (tie):

KS Wild
KSKQ Community Radio

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Ashland Independent Film Festival
Maslow Project

BEST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (tie):

Tracy Harding,
Rogue Valley Farm to School
Joseph Vaile,
KS Wild

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Stuart O'Neil,
Rogue Farm Corps
Pam Marsh,
Ashland Emergency Food Bank
Mary Ferrell,
Maslow Project

BEST BOARD MEMBER (tie):

Holly Adams,
KSKQ
Connie Saldana,
KSKQ

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Pat Fahey,
**Josephine County Public
Libraries**
Andras Maros,
Peace Production

BEST STAFF MEMBER

Carson Bench, Program Director,
KSKQ

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Susan Meyerott,
Friends of the Animal Shelter
Sarah Westover,
Rogue Climate

BEST VOLUNTEER

Louise Shawkat,
**Southern Oregon Climate
Action Now**

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Wendy Ulch,
**Special Olympics Oregon-
Jackson County**
Peter Linington,
**Ashland Independent
Film Festival**

Congratulations
Winners!

Readers' Choice: Best Executive Director – Joseph Vaile, KS Wild

For the past three weeks, the *Messenger* has conducted a survey of its readers, asking for opinions about their favorite nonprofits—and about the people who make those organizations work. More than 50 different nonprofits and their representatives were individually nominated—broadly, an indication about how many people and organizations are doing important work in the region.

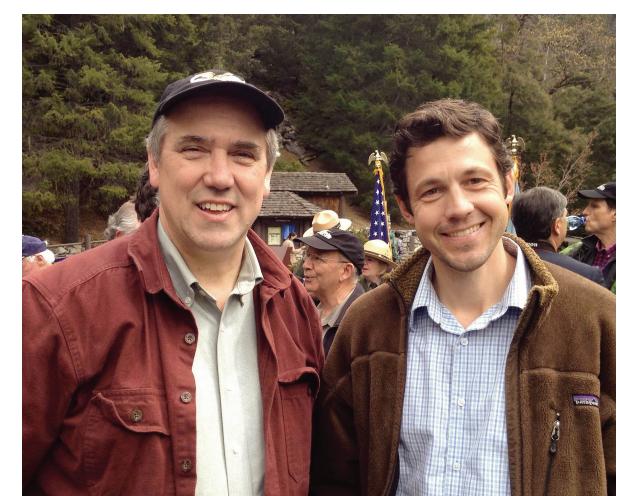
KS Wild tied with KSKQ for the Best Regional Nonprofit, and Joseph Vaile also tied for Best Executive Director. For almost the past two decades, KS Wild has worked to preserve wild spaces in southern Oregon, most recently working with elected officials and a local rancher to expand Oregon Caves National Monument to include the surrounding watershed, effectively growing the protected area from 400 to 4000 acres.

Vaile has worked at KS Wild for the past 16 years—nearly the entire span of the organization's existence—and for nearly the past three years, has served as the organization's Executive Director.

"If I could travel back 16 years ago," he says, "I would remind myself how partnerships are critically important." He goes on, "Of course, it is always easier to do

things alone. It is the most efficient way to operate when you don't have to check in, have debates about strategy, and sit through seemingly endless meetings. However, the most lasting and effective campaigns that I have worked on have involved many groups, tons of meetings, and hundreds of people. It is often messy and unpredictable, and it takes so much time. But, it's often the only way to truly create real and lasting change."

That sense of community, points out Vaile, is also what makes the region so effective in enacting positive social change. "We have a rich tapestry of non-profits, businesses, and community leaders building a new relationship to the natural world and to each other," he points out. "KS Wild works to protect clean water, wildlife and wild areas, but we don't do it alone," Vaile adds. "Local businesses are working to build alternative energy. Farmers are bringing local food and medicine to our tables. Numerous non-profits are working for social justice, feeding people that need a meal, striving to provide better access to health and well-being and creating new education models for our kids."



KS WILD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOSEPH VAILE WITH U.S. SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY AT THE OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION DEDICATION THIS PAST SUMMER.

To learn more about KS Wild, or volunteer, contact Jeanine Moy at Jeanine@KSWild.org.

OUR ANNUAL GIVE GUIDE

A LISTING OF LOCAL NONPROFITS

ASHLAND INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

ASHLANDFILM.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT: The Ashland Independent Film Festival celebrates the diversity of human experience through the art of independent film. We seek to enrich, educate, and inspire all audiences. The festival provides audiences and filmmakers an opportunity to discuss the many social, political and cultural issues that are explored in independent films.

[i] ashland
independent
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How does \$5 help?: A donation at this level supports our program to provide film tickets to economically challenged patrons.

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What would a \$100 donation do to help?: A key component of the film festival is our ability to bring audiences together with filmmakers to talk about the creative process of making an independent film, and to support independent voices and perspectives. A \$100 donation helps us defray the costs of travel and lodging provided to directors who could not otherwise afford to attend the festival.

CONTACT: PO Box 218, Ashland, OR 97520 • 541-488-3823 • info@ashlandfilm.org

CASA OF JACKSON COUNTY & CASA OF JOSEPHINE COUNTY

JACKSONCOUNTYCASA.ORG
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MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Jackson and Josephine Counties is to provide specially trained community volunteers (CASAs) to advocate for abused and neglected children in the pursuit of safe and permanent homes.

WHAT WILL YOUR DONATIONS DO? The majority of funding to support this mostly volunteer organization comes from individuals, corporations, and foundations. All donations stay local to ensure abused/neglected long term, consistent CASA volunteer to advocate for their permanent placement in a safe and loving home and to make sure their needs are met, their voices are heard, and that they remain safe while in care. No one else fills this role which can be the difference between a good ending and a bad ending for a child in care. Judges, caseworkers, attorneys, foster parents regularly request CASAs for children they are working with, but a shortage of funding prevents us from advocating for every child on our list.

How does \$5 help?: Assists with background check costs for one CASA volunteer who will advocate for 2-3 children on average. CASAs stay on their children's cases on average two years.

Or \$25?: Provides training materials for one CASA volunteer who will advocate for 2-3 children on average. CASAs stay on their children's cases on average two years.

What would a \$100 donation do to help?: Assists to ensure one of the more than 550 children on our waiting list can be assigned a CASA. \$70 a month provides a child with a CASA for a full year (\$840 a year).



children have a court appointed, consistent CASA volunteer to advocate for their permanent placement in a safe and loving home and to make sure their needs are met, their voices are heard, and that they remain safe while in care. No one else fills this role which can be the difference between a good ending and a bad ending for a child in care. Judges, caseworkers, attorneys, foster parents regularly request CASAs for children they are working with, but a shortage of funding prevents us from advocating for every child on our list.

CONTACT: 613 Market St., Medford OR 97504 • 541-734-2272 • casa@jacksoncountycasa.org
304 NW D. St., Grants Pass OR 97526 • 541-474-5437 • sspecht@josephinecountycasa.org

We need many more
CASA volunteers to
help the children on our
waiting list. Children
range in age from birth
to 18 yrs. old. Please
check our website for
more information, or
call, or email.

DOGS FOR THE DEAF, INC.

DOGSFORTHEDEAF.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT: Professionally train dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs we rescue or breed and the people we serve.

WHAT WILL YOUR DONATIONS DO? All donations help provide a hearing dog, program dog or autism dog to someone in need. The total cost of operating Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. comes from contributions from individuals, service clubs, businesses, foundations, memorial fund designations and bequests. NO TAX DOLLARS support Dogs for the Deaf.



**DOGS
for the DEAF inc.**

\$5 - \$50: Helps defray the costs of buying leashes, collars, harnesses, and Assistance Dog Vests, etc. It also helps us in professionally training, providing food and daily care for the dogs and offset the cost of placing the dogs.

\$100: Initial vaccinations

\$200: Rescuing a dog from a shelter

\$500: Evaluation & testing plus spaying/neutering

\$1,000: Initial testing of the dog for alertness & aptitude for training

\$1,500: Taking a dog through the entire quarantine/evaluation period in preparation for training

\$2,000: Follow-up visits of five teams

\$3,000: Costs for placement week, going to client's home with the dog, training the client, and transferring the dog to the client

\$25,000: Total cost of rescuing, training, placing, and follow up support for the life of the dog

CONTACT: 10175 Wheeler Road, Central Point, OR 97502 • 541-826-9220 • info@dogsforthedeaf.org

JOSEPHINE COMMUNITY LIBRARIES, INC

JOSEPHINELIBRARY.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT: In May 2007, the libraries in Josephine County closed due to lack of funding from county government. Concerned citizens joined together and incorporated Josephine Community Libraries, Inc. (JCLI) as a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization. Its mission is to ensure long-term operations of a public library system serving Josephine County, while adhering to its core values of integrity and accountability. Josephine Community Libraries provides services at four branches in Grants Pass, Illinois Valley, Williams, and Wolf Creek.



WHAT WILL YOUR DONATIONS DO? Josephine Community Libraries relies on donations for funding. A host of volunteers work 500 hours a week to support operations. Unlike any other library systems in the country, Josephine Community Libraries does not receive any regular public funding from taxes. Donations will help to provide public library services in Josephine County. Libraries are of incredible importance to a community, especially rural communities, lacking access to computers, and other resources which libraries provide for free. Libraries also provide a safe place for children to learn and grow. More importantly, a library provides an invaluable center of learning and research. Donations are an investment in the whole community.

How does \$5 help?: Can buy a board book for babies and toddlers learning to read and help provide books for toddler story times.

Or \$25?: can buy one or two books. In addition, a donation of \$40 can buy a large-print book for a senior, half of an audio book or book with CD.

What would a \$100 donation do to help?: Can buy two large-print books for a senior, two audio books, and two books with CD to help children and adults with hearing impairments, learning how to read, or working to improve their English.

CONTACT: 541-476-0571 • info@josephinelibrary.org

KLAMATH SISKIYOU WILDLANDS CENTER

KSWILD.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT: The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center is an advocate for the forests, wildlife and waters of the Klamath and Rogue River Basins of southwest Oregon and northwest California.

WHAT WILL YOUR DONATIONS DO? Donations to KS Wild enables our staff of educators, scientists and naturalists to research and advocate for wild rivers and national forests in southern Oregon and northern California.



How does \$5 help?: Allows KS Wild to follow up with the Forest Service about a potential threat to a designated botanical area.

Or \$25?: Would enable KS Wild to host a meeting in the Applegate Valley with residents concerned about forest management proposals and develop community based proposals.

What would a \$100 donation do to help?: We could purchase an increment borer, which allows us to determine the age of trees in forests proposed for thinning.

CONTACT: PO Box 102, Ashland, OR 97520 • 541-488-5789 • jeanine@kswild.org

KSKQ COMMUNITY RADIO

KSKQ.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT: To produce community radio that empowers the residents of the Rogue Valley, builds sustainable and resilient communities through the exchange of ideas, and celebrates cultural diversity."

WHAT WILL YOUR DONATIONS DO? KSKQ is an all volunteer radio station.

Donations to KSKQ pay the basics to keep us on the air, serving the community, providing opportunity for voices that would otherwise not be heard, serving social justice causes and playing the most eclectic collection of music to be heard in this valley.

How does \$5 help?: \$5 pays the power bill for the KSKQ in the morning show two days.

Or \$25?: \$25 Buys a replacement mic cord.

What would a \$100 donation do to help?: \$100 helps us pay our music license fees for a month.



CONTACT: 330 Hersey St. #2, Ashland, Oregon 97520 • 541-482-3999 • info@kskq.org

OPTIONS FOR HOMELESS RESIDENTS OF ASHLAND

HOMELESSOPTIONS.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT: Options for Homeless Residents of Ashland is dedicated to providing homeless and low-income residents of Ashland with opportunities to improve their situations and leave poverty and homelessness behind. OHRA operates the Ashland Community Resource Center (ACRC), which opened in February 2013 with the significant aid of a city grant. Since then ACRC has helped 60 formerly homeless families secure shelter and has assisted 101 families with rental or utility assistance enabling them to stay in their homes. Staffed primarily by volunteers with only two part-time employees, ACRC has provided more than 1,300 people with services, which include showers and laundry in ACRC's shower trailer.



Options for Homeless Residents of Ashland (OHRA)

WHAT WILL YOUR DONATIONS DO? In addition to providing rental assistance, utility assistance, funds for emergency shelter, warm clothes, clothes for job interviews, camping gear and bus passes, donations help fund assistance with job searches, with identity verification (vital in accessing resources such as veterans or social security benefits), as well as outreach and referral to other social services agencies. Staff time to interview those in need is at a premium. ACRC has partnered with more than 50 social service agencies to help those in need get the appropriate aid.

How does \$5 help?: \$5 can pay for gasoline or a bus ticket to get someone in need to a doctor's appointment.

Or \$25?: \$25 will buy a warm pair of boots.

What would a \$100 donation do to help?: With \$100 ACRC can provide a family with one night's emergency shelter in local hotel.

CONTACT: PO Box 1133, Ashland, OR 97520 • 541-631-2235 • info@homelessoptions.org

ROGUE FARM CORPS

ROGUEFARMCORPS.ORG

MISSION STATEMENT: Rogue Farm Corps trains the next generation of farmers and ranchers through hands-on educational programs. We support our local agricultural economy and serve as a model for other communities.



WHAT WILL YOUR DONATIONS DO? Rogue Farm Corps is a leader in sustainable agriculture education and training. Our programs started here in the Rogue Valley and have now expanded to four communities across the state. Together with you support, we will provide the next generation of farmers and ranchers with priceless access to mentors and real-world hands-on training from some of the best farmers in the state! With the average age of farmers now approaching 60, the time is now to support the next generation! Help us help new farmers!

How does \$5 help?: Every dollar counts! Rogue Farm Corps is a very lean organization with little overhead expenses. For every ten people that give \$5, we can provide two hours of one-on-one consulting with a student in our programs!

Or \$25?: Participating students in our entry-level training programs pay a modest tuition to join Rogue Farm Corps. For every ten people that give \$25, we can provide a partial scholarship to a student who has financial barriers to participate in our programs!

What would a \$100 donation do to help?: Students in Rogue Farm Corps programs participate in a series of classes and farm tours in addition to the hands-on training they receive from their mentors. For every three people that give \$100, we can provide expert farmers and agricultural professionals to teach classes and lead tours for our cohort of students.

CONTACT: PO Box 533, Ashland, OR 97520 • 541-951-5105 • stu@roguefarmcorps.org

OUR *Picks*



**medford
ugly.sweater.5K**



wed 16 - fri 25

Festival of Lights

FESTIVAL—Looking up through the swaying trees in the summertime is a treat, but add Christmas lights and decorations to the mix—awesome! The best way to enjoy the lights of the holiday season is through Riverside Park, personally bedazzled by the Redwood Lions for the past twenty years. 6 - 9 pm. Riverside Park, Grants Pass. Donations and non-perishable food accepted.



sat 19

Ashland Festival of Light

FESTIVAL—Sunglasses might be required. Seeing the town lit up with Christmas lights sure does bring the spirit of the season into everyone's eyes with a twinkle. While strolling the streets, enjoy the caroling of the Rogue Valley Harmonizers. Add some hot cocoa, and the scene just might be Christmas card worthy. 11 am - 3 pm. East Main and Lithia Way, Ashland.



sat 19

Christmas Past

EVENT—Let all of the consumerism of modern-day Christmas fade away in the presence of the carolers and Father Christmas of yesteryear. The Historic Schmidt House is open for business with the Living History Players, refreshments and crafts for kids. The Josephine County Historical Society is sure to educate and entertain children of all ages. 1 - 4 pm. Historic Schmidt House, 512 SW 5th Street, Grants Pass. Free.



thurs 31

Noon Year's Eve at Scienceworks

CELEBRATION—Party like it is still 2015! Scienceworks bumps the party up 12 hours, complete with a countdown and balloon drop at noon, and the chance to make party hats and noisemakers. And it wouldn't be a party without dancing and egg drop contests! 10 am - 2 pm. Scienceworks Museum, 1500 E Main Street, Ashland. \$5, member. \$10, non-member. \$30, family.



sat 19 & sun 20

Nutcracker Ballet

BALLET—Two talented ballet companies, a hoard of dancing rats and two wooden nutcrackers. Christmas = complete. 1 and 7 pm, Sat., 1 pm, Sun., Studio Roxander at Crater Performing Arts Center, 655 N 3rd, Central Point. \$10 - \$20. 2 and 7:30 pm, Sat., 2 pm, Sun., Stillpoint Dance Studio at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center, 830 NE 9th, Grants Pass. \$12 - \$20.



mon 21 - thurs 24

Greystone Court Drive Thru

LIGHTS—Electricity meters are smoking with the overload in East Medford, as the residents of Greystone Court plug in countless strings of lights. This will be the 13th year that the community will invite the Valley to drive through their bedazzled neighborhood with the goal of gathering food items and monetary donations to support ACCESS. 5:30 - 9:30 pm. Greystone Court, off of East Phoenix Road, Medford.



sat 26

Jake McCoy and #UP2LATE

MUSIC—Christmas might be over, but the party sure isn't. Smooth Portland rappers Jake McCoy and #UP2LATE bring special guests Skymind, Talen Heater and Tschantre for the ultimate Christmas after-party for all ages. All they need is a beat and a microphone. 5 - 8 pm. Club 66, 1951 Ashland Street, Ashland. Free.



thurs 31

Dirty Dozen Brass Band

MUSIC—New Orleans is a bit far to go for a New Year's party, so the Dirty Dozen Brass Band is bringing New Orleans to the Rogue Valley. Between horn jazz, games and a champagne countdown, this ultimate New Year's celebration will be a dancing extravaganza. 8:30 pm. Ashland Armory, 208 Oak Street, Ashland. \$35, advance. \$40, door.

thurs 31

Star Wars Party

NEW YEARS—With the Star Wars revival in full swing, any excuse to bust out that vintage Darth Vader costume makes this get-together a must-attend. Live music by the Illies, DJ Kenobi, DJ Savage C and For the Wicked give the Cantina band a run for their money. Costume contest? Of course! 9 pm - 1 am. The Haul, 121 SW H Street, Grants Pass.

A PERFECT LOCATION FOR YOUR EVENT.

Space rentals for your class or program -- www.AshlandHaven.net



LIVE MUSIC and Nightlife

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

ASHLAND

DANIELLE KELLY & PAUL TURNIPSEED - Jazz & Pop Standards - Belle Fiore Winery - 5:30 - 7:30 pm - No cover.

JOHN HOLLIS - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

GAYLE WILSON TRIO - FOLK/ROCK/COUNTRY - The Wild Goose - 8 pm - No cover.

DART TOURNAMENT - The Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant - 7:30 pm - \$5.

MARCHFOURTH! & SUGAR BEATS - A sonic explosion delivered by 20 musicians, dancers and artisans - Historic Ashland Armory - 9 pm - \$20 Adv / \$25 Day of Show - 21 and older only.

OBEQUE KARAOKE with Starbuck - Oberon's Tavern - 9 pm - No cover.

JACKSONVILLE

INTUITIVE COMPASS - Original Vaudevillian Folk Music - Bella Union Restaurant and Saloon - 9 pm to midnight.

MEDFORD

DAVID OUELLETTE - Limestone Coffee - 9:30 am - No cover.

DJ JIM 80'S/ALTERNATIVE NIGHT - Howiee's On Front - 9 pm.

OPEN JAM - Rocky Tonk Saloon & Grill - 9:30 pm - No cover.

WILLIAMS

OPEN MIC - Host / Trail Boss: Warren John Wolfe - Cocina 7 - 7 pm - No cover.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

ASHLAND

JEFF KLOETZEL - Belle Fiore Winery - 6 - 8 pm - No cover.

ED DUNSAVAGE - Solo Jazz - The Playwright Public House - 6 - 8 pm - No cover.

JOHN HOLLIS - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

KARAOKE W JOSH - The Wild Goose - 8:30 pm - No cover.

EAGLE POINT

BONFIRE FRIDAYS - Wine, fire, food, and music - Agate Ridge Winery - 5 to 8 pm - No cover.

GRANTS PASS

HOT GOSSIP - Tribute Rock Band - G Street Bar & Grill - 8 pm - No cover.

INTUITIVE COMPASS - The Haul - 9:30 pm to midnight.

MEDFORD

BISHOP MAYFIELD & FRIENDS FUNKTACULAR CHRISTMAS SPECIAL - Featuring Dave Storie, Al Dinardi, John Lingafelter, Denny Carmassi, Gordon Greenley, Gary E. Nelson, David Hubert, and Ms. Kaleigh Ryder - Howiee's On Front - 9 pm - No cover.

COMEDY NIGHT: ROB BRACKENRIDGE / MONICA NEVI - Chadwicks Pub & Sports Bar - 9 pm - \$10.

DJ MUSIC - 4 Daughters Irish Pub - 10 pm - No cover.

TALENT

JIVE COULIS - The Little Brown Jug - 9 pm - No cover.

WILLIAMS

SOLSTICE CELEBRATION WITH INTUITIVE COMPASS - Oshala Farm - 7 pm - Come enjoy warm drinks and a potluck - BYOB and a donation if you can!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

ASHLAND

THE SOUTHERN OREGON REPERTORY SINGERS PRESENT "SING WE MERRILY" - Directed by Dr. Paul French - This concert will feature a chamber orchestra and the North Medford High School Chamber Choir - Performance is at the SOU Music Recital Hall on N Mountain Ave - 7:30 pm.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY BELLY DANCE - Hosted by Darby McCue and Dawn KC - Dancers contact Dawn with music - Jingle all the way to Club 66 - 5 pm.

LADIES NIGHT - Swing Tree Brewery - 5 pm - No cover.

OLD TIME JAM - Oberon's Tavern - 5 pm - No cover.

TIM CHURCH - Standing Stone Brewing Company - 5:30 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.



ROD PETRONE - Guitarist - Belle Fiore Winery - 6 - 8 pm - No cover.

CALL BACK THE SUN - Winter Solstice Dance and Music Celebration - Dancing People's 6-member company is joined by music, aerial and dance guests in this invigorating highlight of the holidays - Followed by music by Eight Dollar Mountain - The Historic Ashland Armory - 7:30 pm - \$15 Adv / \$20 at the door / Kids 12 and younger: \$10 - Tickets at dancingpeople.com or at the Music Coop in Ashland.

GYPSY SOUL - 15th annual Benefit Concert for WinterSpring - Featuring Gypsy Soul's latest CD Release, "true" - Doors open at 7 pm - Concert begins at 7:30 pm - \$22 Adv / \$25 Day of concert - @ Music Coop in Ashland - Rogue Valley Unitarian Fellowship

KARAOKE W MAD MATTY - The Wild Goose - 9 pm - No cover.

GRANTS PASS

ROGUE RAGE DUO - Griess Family Brews - 7 - 10 pm - No cover.

HOT GOSSIP - TRIBUTE ROCK BAND - G Street Bar & Grill - 8 pm - No cover.

MEDFORD

COMEDY NIGHT: ROB BRACKENRIDGE / MONICA NEVI - Chadwicks Pub & Sports Bar - 9 pm - \$10.

ROCK MUSIC 7 pm / DJ MUSIC 10 pm - 4 Daughters Irish Pub - No cover.

CLUB MUSIC - The Bohemian Club - 10 pm - No cover.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

APPLEGATE

THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS - "The California Honeydrops don't just play music - they throw parties" - The Applegate Lodge - Doors 8 pm - Show 9 pm - \$15.

ASHLAND

DAVID SCOGGIN - Piano - Belle Fiore Winery - 12 - 2 pm - No cover.

LIVE CELTIC MUSIC SESSION - Music of Ireland, Scotland and Wales - The Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant - 2 pm - No cover.

THE SOUTHERN OREGON REPERTORY SINGERS PRESENT "SING WE MERRILY" - Directed by Dr. Paul French - This concert will feature a chamber orchestra and the North Medford High School Chamber Choir - Performance is at the SOU Music Recital Hall on N Mountain Ave - 3 pm.

JON GALFANO - Guitar - Belle Fiore Winery - 4:30 - 6:30 pm - No cover.

OPEN JAM W JMAC & THE LOVELY STEPHANIE - Swing Tree Brewery - 5 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

PATCHY SANDERS' FAREWELL SHOW - With guests Steep Ravine - Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Church - 5:30 pm Doors - 6 pm Show - By donation.

CALL BACK THE SUN - Winter Solstice Dance and Music Celebration - Dancing People's 6-member company is joined by music, aerial and dance guests in this invigorating highlight of the holidays - Followed by music by LOVEBITE with Jeff Pever - The Historic Ashland Armory - 2 Sunday performances at 2 pm and 7:30 pm - \$15

Adv / \$20 at the door / Kids 12 and younger: \$10 - Tickets at dancingpeople.com or at the Music Coop in Ashland.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - 7:30 pm - No cover.

JIM QUINBY - 6 pm / LITTLE THOM'S OPEN MIC W/ DAVE HAMPTON - 9 pm - The Wild Goose - No cover.

SHAFTY - Portland's tribute to Phish - Milagros Fresh Mexican - 9:30 pm - 21 and older - \$10.

MEDFORD

TOMASEEN FOLEY'S "A CELTIC CHRISTMAS"

- Rekindle the flame in the hearth with stories, dance, music and song from Ireland - The Craterian Theater - Performances at 3 pm and 7:30 pm - General \$29-\$35 / Youth \$20-\$26.

OPEN MIC W/ ROBBIE DACOSTA & DETLEF EISMANN - Jefferson Spirits - 7 pm - No cover.

PHOENIX

BRYNNA DEAN & SKYLAR SQUIGLIO (100 WATT MIND) - Bad Santa Acoustic Afternoon w/ brunch (min \$5 order) - The Phoenix Clubhouse - 12 to 3 pm.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

PAUL SCHMELING TRIO - Martino's Restaurant & Lounge - 7 pm - No cover.

THE SULTANS - Old School Rhythm & Blues - The Wild Goose - 8 pm - No cover.

OPEN MIC - All ages 5 pm - 7:30 pm. Over 21 Open Mic 8:30 pm - 1:30 am - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - No cover.

MEDFORD

GEEKS WHO DRINK PUB TRIVIA - Bricktown Brewing Company - 7 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - 4 Daughters Irish Pub - 7:30 pm - No cover.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

SINGER-SONGWRITER SHOWCASE - Every Tuesday - Brickroom - 7 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Louie's Restaurant & Bar - 7 pm - No cover.

SAGE MEADOWS & HIGH COUNTRY - The Wild Goose - 8 pm - No cover.

FECKIN' TINKERS TUESDAY - Infectious Irish Music - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - 8 pm - No cover.

ROBBIE DACOSTA - Every Tuesday - Granite Taphouse - 8:30 pm.

MEDFORD

LINE DANCE LESSONS - Rocky Tonk Saloon & Grill - 7 pm - No cover.

DOWNTOWN BLUES ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS PARTY - Holiday-themed Blues Night - Howiee's On Front - 6 - 9 pm - Giveaways & 50/50

Raffle drawing - 21 and older - No cover.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

ASHLAND

JEN AMBROSE - Belle Fiore Winery - 5:30 - 7:30 pm - No cover.

SPAGHETTI GAME NIGHT - Enoteca - Free all you can eat pasta with any wine purchase - Stay and play board games - 5 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

CAPTAIN & THE MAESTRO - The Wild Goose - Free pool from 6 to midnight every Wednesday - Music at 8 pm - No cover.

CAVE JUNCTION

OPEN MIC - Wild River Brewing & Pizza Company - 6 pm - No cover.

GRANTS PASS

OPEN JAM NIGHT - Griess Family Brews - 6 pm - No cover.

HONKYTONK WEDNESDAYS - Cedarwood Saloon & Grill - 7 pm - No cover.

JACKSONVILLE

JEFF KLOETZEL - Wine n' Dine - \$12 Dinner - South Stage Cellars - 6 pm - Call by Noon on Wednesdays for reservations 541-899-9120.

MEDFORD

TRIVIA NIGHT - Howiee's On Front - 7 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Portal Brewing Company - 7:30 pm - No cover.

PHOENIX

OPEN MIC WEDNESDAYS - Some instruments available like drums, keyboard, guitar - The Phoenix Clubhouse - 7 pm - No cover.

TALENT

JEFF STANLEY - Paschal Winery - 6 - 8 pm - No cover.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

DART TOURNAMENT - The Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant - 7:30 pm - \$5.

OBEQUE KARAOKE with Starbuck - Oberon's Tavern - 9 pm - No cover.

MEDFORD

DAVID OUELLETTE - Limestone Coffee - 9:30 am - No cover.

OPEN JAM - Rocky Tonk Saloon & Grill - 9:30 pm - No cover.

WILLIAMS

OPEN MIC - Host / Trail Boss: Warren John Wolfe - Cocina 7 - 7 pm - No cover.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

ASHLAND

LADIES NIGHT - Swing Tree Brewery - 5 pm - No cover.

OLD TIME JAM - Oberon's Tavern - 5 pm - No cover.



LIVE MUSIC and Nightlife

CHARLES GUY & LINDA POWERS - Spanish & Flamenco - Belle Fiore Winery - 6 - 8 pm - No cover.

TIM CHURCH - Standing Stone Brewing Company - 5:30 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

OL' MOUNT'N DUE - Smithfields Pub & Pies - 9 pm.

ALICIA VIANI & MARK KARWAN - Folk/Singer-Songwriter from Oh Bruni in Bend - The Playwright Public House - 8:30 pm.

KARAOKE W MAD MATTY - The Wild Goose - 9 pm - No cover.

TWAS THE NIGHT AFTER CHRISTMAS - Deep house & techno love all night - Featuring David Hohme from Brooklyn / G_rad from Ashland - Granite Taphouse - 10 pm - 2 am - 21 and older - \$10 at the door - wear black.

MEDFORD

COMEDY NIGHT: SAM DEMARIS / IRVING LOUIS - Chadwicks Pub & Sports Bar - 9 pm - \$10. ROCK MUSIC 7 pm / DJ MUSIC 10 pm - 4 Daughters Irish Pub - No cover.

CLUB MUSIC - The Bohemian Club - 10 pm - No cover.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

ASHLAND

DAVID SCOGGIN - Piano - Belle Fiore Winery - 12 - 2 pm - No cover.

LIVE CELTIC MUSIC SESSION - Music of Ireland, Scotland and Wales - The Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant - 2 pm - No cover.

ROGUE RAGE DUO - Belle Fiore Winery - 4:30 - 6:30 pm - No cover.

OPUS 3 - Jazz - The Playwright Public House - 5 - 7 pm - No cover.

OPEN JAM W JMAC & THE LOVELY STEPHANIE - Swing Tree Brewery - 5 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - 7:30 pm - No cover.

JIM QUINBY 6 pm / LITTLE THOM'S OPEN MIC W/ DAVE HAMPTON 9 pm - The Wild Goose - No cover.

MEDFORD

OPEN MIC W/ ROBBIE DACOSTA & DETLEF EISMANN - Jefferson Spirits - 7 pm - No cover.

PHOENIX

LIVE MUSIC - Acoustic Afternoons w/ brunch (min \$5 order) - The Phoenix Clubhouse - 12-3 pm.

TALENT

LIVE MUSIC & HAPPY HOUR - Paschal Winery & Vineyard - 4 pm - No cover.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

PAUL SCHMELING TRIO - Martino's Restaurant & Lounge - 7 pm - No cover.

OPEN MIC - (Under 21) Sign up 5 pm / Show 5:30 pm - Open Mic (Over 21) Sign up 8 pm / Show 8:30 pm - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - No cover.

SINGER'S SHOWCASE W/ PEGGY ROSE & GUESTS - The Wild Goose - 7:30 pm - No cover.



CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S ON BOURBON STREET WITH THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND AT THE HISTORIC ASHLAND ARMORY

ROBBIE DACOSTA - Every Tuesday - Granite Taphouse - 8:30 pm.

MEDFORD

GEEKS WHO DRINK PUB TRIVIA - BricktownE Brewing Company - 7 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - 4 Daughters Irish Pub - 7:30 pm - No cover.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

SINGER-SONGWRITER SHOWCASE - Every Tuesday - Brickroom - 7 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Louie's Restaurant & Bar - 7 pm - No cover.

JEF FRETWELL & FRIENDS - The Wild Goose - 8 pm - No cover.

FECKIN' TINKERS TUESDAY - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - 8 pm - No cover.

MEDFORD

LINE DANCE LESSONS - Rocky Tonk Saloon & Grill - 7 pm - No cover.

TALENT

ASHLAND BLUES SOCIETY BLUES JAM - BARRELHOUSE W/ GARY HALLIBURTON & CHARLIE CHASE - 1st, 3rd, & 5th Tuesdays - The Little Brown Jug - 6:30 - 9:30 pm - No cover.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

ASHLAND

SPAGHETTI GAME NIGHT - Enoteca - Free all you can eat pasta with any wine purchase - Stay and play board games - 5 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

DAVID PINSKY & FRIENDS - The Wild Goose - Music at 8 pm - Free pool from 6 to midnight every Wednesday - No cover.

CAVE JUNCTION

OPEN MIC - Wild River Brewing & Pizza Company - 6 pm - No cover.

GRANTS PASS

OPEN JAM NIGHT - Griess Family Brews - 6 pm - No cover.

HONKYTONK WEDNESDAYS - Cedarwood Saloon & Grill - 7 pm - No cover.

MEDFORD

TRIVIA NIGHT - Howiee's On Front - 7 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Portal Brewing Company - 7:30 pm - No cover.

PHOENIX

OPEN MIC WEDNESDAYS - Special comedy edition with your host, Jennifae - Fully backlined - Some instruments available like drums, keyboard, & guitar - The Phoenix Clubhouse - 7 to 10 pm - All Ages - All talent levels are welcome - Free cookies.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

BIL LEONHART AND PRISCILLA QUINBY - Belle Fiore Winery - 6 - 8 pm - No cover.

DART TOURNAMENT - The Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant - 7:30 pm - \$5.

GLOBAL PEACE DANCE - Dances of Universal Peace - Old Headwaters Building at Fourth and C Streets - 7:30 pm - \$10 to \$20 requested at the door - sponsored by Ashland Sufi Heart Circle.

NEW YEAR'S EVE KARAOKE W/ MAD MATTY - The Wild Goose - 8:30 pm - No cover.

THE DANIELLE KELLY SOUL PROJECT - Champagne toasts, fireside seating and drink specials - Brickroom - Music starts at 9 pm - \$10 at the door.

NEW YEAR'S ON BOURBON STREET WITH THE DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND - Ring in the New Year...New Orleans style...with a night of high energy dancing - Cocktails, fun & games, horny jazz, plus a Champagne countdown - Late night Dance Party with DJ Dragonfly - Historic Ashland Armory - Doors 8:30 pm - 21 and older - \$35 Adv / \$40 Day of Show.

OBEOKA KARAOKE with Starbuck - Oberon's Tavern - 9 pm - No cover.

GRANTS PASS

ROGUE NEW YEAR'S MASQUERADE BALL WITH INTUITIVE COMPASS / STRANGELY - Vaudevillian folk, plus contortion, fire and much, much more - Rogue Roasters - Doors at 8 pm - \$4 in masquerade attire - \$7 in street clothes.

NYE PARTY WITH PATRIMONY - The G Street Bar & Grill - \$5 cover - 8 to Midnight!

MEDFORD

DAVID OUELLETTE - Limestone Coffee - 9:30 am - No cover.

OPEN JAM - Rocky Tonk Saloon & Grill - 9:30 pm - No cover.

O'BRIEN

NEW YEAR'S EVE W/ JIVE COULIS - McGrew's Restaurant and Lounge - 9 pm - \$5.

TALENT

THURSDAY BLUES JAM - The Little Brown Jug - 6:30 pm - No cover.

WILLIAMS

OPEN MIC - Host / Trail Boss: Warren John Wolfe - Cocina 7 - 7 pm - No cover.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

KARAOKE W JOSH - The Wild Goose - 8:30 pm - No cover.

MEDFORD

COMEDY NIGHT - Chadwicks Pub & Sports Bar - 9 pm - \$10.

DJ MUSIC - 4 Daughters Irish Pub - 10 pm - No cover.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

ASHLAND

LADIES NIGHT - Swing Tree Brewery - 5 pm - No cover.

OLD TIME JAM - Oberon's Tavern - 5 pm - No cover.

TIM CHURCH - Standing Stone Brewing Company - 5:30 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

KARAOKE W MAD MATTY - The Wild Goose - 9 pm - No cover.

GRANTS PASS

- Griess Family Brews - 6:30 pm - No cover.

- G Street Bar & Grill - 8 pm.

MEDFORD

COMEDY NIGHT - Chadwicks Pub & Sports Bar - 9 pm - \$10.

ROCK MUSIC 7 pm / DJ MUSIC 10 pm - 4 Daughters Irish Pub - No cover.

CLUB MUSIC - The Bohemian Club - 10 pm - No cover.

SELMA

A PEACEFUL REVOLUTION 2016 - Featuring various DJ's, Live Art, Positive Vibes and much, much more - "Our goal for this event is to do our part in helping to promote and spread world peace as we gather as many beautiful individuals together in one place with their smiling faces and dancing feet!"

- Selma Community and Education Center - Music starts at 6 pm - Age 18 and older - This is a public event...the more, the merrier - Minimum \$7 donation at the door.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

ASHLAND

LIVE CELTIC MUSIC SESSION - Music of Ireland, Scotland and Wales - The Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant - 2 pm - No cover.

LIZ JONES & BOB RAWLINGS - Country Duo - Belle Fiore Winery - 4:30 - 6:30 pm - No cover.

ED DUNSAVAGE TRIO - Jazz - The Playwright Public House - 5 - 7 pm - No cover.

OPEN JAM W JMAC & THE LOVELY STEPHANIE - Swing Tree Brewery - 5 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - 7:30 pm - No cover.

JIM QUINBY 6 pm / LITTLE THOM'S OPEN MIC W/ DAVE HAMPTON 9 pm - The Wild Goose - No cover.

MEDFORD

OPEN MIC W/ ROBBIE DACOSTA & DETLEF EISMANN - Jefferson Spirits - 7 pm - No cover.

PHOENIX

LIVE MUSIC - Acoustic Afternoons w/ brunch (min \$5 order) - The Phoenix Clubhouse - 12-3 pm.

TALENT

LIVE MUSIC & HAPPY HOUR - Paschal Winery & Vineyard - 4 pm - No cover.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

PAUL SCHMELING TRIO - Martino's Restaurant & Lounge - 7 pm - No cover.

OPEN MIC - (Under 21) Sign up 5 pm / Show 5:30 pm - Open Mic (Over 21) Sign up 8 pm / Show 8:30 pm - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - No cover.

ROBBIE DACOSTA - Every Tuesday - Granite Taphouse - 8:30 pm.

MEDFORD

GEEKS WHO DRINK PUB TRIVIA - BricktownE Brewing Company - 7 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - 4 Daughters Irish Pub - 7:30 pm - No cover.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

ASHLAND

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

SINGER-SONGWRITER SHOWCASE - Every Tuesday - Brickroom - 7 pm - No cover.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Louie's Restaurant & Bar - 7 pm - No cover.

FECKIN' TINKERS TUESDAY - Oberon's Three Penny Tavern - 8 pm - No cover.

MEDFORD

LINE DANCE LESSONS - Rocky Tonk Saloon & Grill - 7 pm - No cover.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

ASHLAND

SPAGHETTI GAME NIGHT - Enoteca - Free all you can eat pasta with any wine purchase - Stay and play board games - 5 pm - No cover.

KEN HART - Acoustic Guitar - Callahan's Mountain Lodge - 6 pm - No cover.

FREE POOL - The Wild Goose - Free pool from 6 to midnight every Wednesday - No cover.

CAVE JUNCTION

OPEN MIC - Wild River Brewing & Pizza Company - 6 pm - No cover.

GRANTS PASS

EVENTS

Art

BODY PAINTING

Tuesdays, 10 pm. Body Painting by Off The Wall Graffiti. Celebrate art and the expression of the human body at Oberon's Three Penny Tavern, 45 N Main St, Ashland. No cover.

BREAKING PATTERN

The Schneider Museum of Art presents Breaking Pattern, highlighting several generations of artists from coast to coast whose works investigate and advance the discourse around pattern, optical, and perceptual abstract painting. Featuring recent paintings by seven American artists, this exhibition coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Museum of Modern Art's seminal exhibition, The Responsive Eye, curated by William C. Seitz. In the Treehaven Gallery: With You in Constant Conversation, an exhibition featuring two works: Sweet Like Candy to My Soul, by Rossana Martinez, and Zero-Sum, by Matthew Deleget. Guided tours are offered every Tuesday from 12 - 12:30 pm. Please call 541-552-6245 to schedule a special tour for your group. Normal hours: Mon - Sat, 10 am - 4 pm. Schneider Museum of Art at SOU, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland. Free admission.

ELEMENTS OF SOUTHERN OREGON

Through January 5, 2016. View an exhibit of paintings and sketches by Anna Elkins at Pioneer Village, 805 N 5th St, Jacksonville. Free admission.

FAIRY TALE MAKE IT ART MONDAY

Monday, December 28, from Noon to 2 pm. Get into the fairy tale spirit with a variety of fairy tale-themed crafts on Fairy Tale Make It Art Monday. Adults are invited to create fairy tale works of art, which include flower fairies, crowns and fairy wands, fairy tale pillows, and fairy tale magnets. Supplies are provided. Large Meeting Room of the Medford Branch Library, 205 S Central Ave. Free.

ROGUE GALLERY & ART CENTER

Until December 19 in the Main Gallery - Passages: Travels & Transformations - 2015 Annual Members' Show. December 4 through January 8, 2016 in the Community Gallery: Mixed Media Paintings by Judith Ghetti Ommen. Through January 2016 in the Berryman Gallery: Living Opp. The Rogue Gallery and Art Center, 40 S Bartlett St, Medford. Hours: Tues-Fri, 10 - 5 pm / Sat 11 - 3 pm.

SMALL TREASURES

Through December 27. Art Presences holiday exhibit showcases small works of fine art created by local artists, priced for gift-giving. It's your opportunity to shop for one-of-a-kind artistic treasures to give the art lovers on your list. Art Presence Art Center, 206 N 5th St, Jacksonville.

Community

CELEBRATE VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Saturdays & Sundays in December, from 11 am to 3 pm. Experience a Victorian Christmas this holiday season at the historic Beekman House in Jacksonville. This 1873 residence, home to Jacksonville's wealthiest pioneer family, is decorated for a 19th Century Christmas celebration, and you're invited! Join us on weekends, where Victorian costumed docents will share the origins of many popular Christmas traditions and observances along with stories. The tours begin approximately every 15 minutes and last about an hour. Tour admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors (65+) and students (6-12). Mrs. Beekman's Christmas Bazaar will take place during the first three weekends in December. You'll find antiques, collectibles, old-fashioned toys, beautiful hand-crafts, and so much more! Bazaar admission is free. Beekman House, 470 E California St, Jacksonville.

LAST MINUTE GIFT SALE

Saturday, December 19, from 9 am to 4 pm. Over 50 vendor booths! Hourly prize drawings! Contact our office for more details at 541-476-3215 or email Fairgrounds@co.josephine.or.us. Josephine County Fairgrounds, 1451 Fairground Rd, Grants Pass.

MEDFORD HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Saturday, December 19, from 11 am to 1 pm. On the third Saturday of every month, Historian Ben Truwe brings Medford's history to life as he conducts a walking tour of downtown Medford. He may speak about the frontier days, when Front Street hosted "... wooden stores and tent saloons and brothels." Or, he might tell you how Colvig, who became famous as Bozo the Clown, "...met a crossing guard (at Front and Main Streets)...who provided the inspiration for Walt Disney's Goofy." Every time you join Ben on his walking tour of Medford, you can be sure you'll learn



SEE MALEFICENT ON DECEMBER 29 AT THE MEDFORD LIBRARY

something new! His tours take a couple of hours, beginning in front of the Southern Oregon Historical Society Research Library, at Sixth and Central Streets in Medford. The tour is FREE. Meet in front of the SOHS Library, 106 N Central Ave, Medford. For reservations, please call Ben at 541-773-8369.

SALMON SPIRAL SOLSTICE

Monday, December 21, from 3 - 4:30 pm. Celebrate the winter solstice by helping to transform the stone salmon spiral at North Mountain Park into in-stream habitat for salmon and other aquatic critters. Please dress appropriately for weather and rock moving.



JOIN TRINITY CHURCH FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER ON DECEMBER 19 AT 5 PM (UGLY SWEATER CONTEST, TOO!)

Gloves will be provided. Pre-registration is not required for this free program. For ages 10 and older. Instructors: Nature Center Staff. North Mountain Park below the Pavilion, 620 N. Mountain Ave. in Ashland.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Got time and energy to help us at Uncle Foods Diner at the Methodist Church in Ashland? We need help on Tuesdays, from 3 - 6:30 pm. We need cooks, servers, and help cleaning up. For more information, contact (info@peacehouse.net).

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 20, from 3 - 6 pm. We're not having our monthly meeting in December, but Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) invites you to join us for our Winter Solstice Celebration. No business - just fun and good company! Please bring a snack to share and your beverage of choice. 870 Cambridge St. in Ashland. If you have questions, or would like to join our campaign, email Alan Journet at alan.journet@gmail.com, or call 541-301-4107.

WOMEN IN BLACK - SILENT VIGILS FOR PEACE

Meet in Grants Pass, Cave Junction, Roseburg, Medford, and Ashland to stand silently for Peace. Contact person Ruth Torre at 541-472-5113, email is rmotorre11@gmail.com. In Ashland, every Friday from 12 - 12:30 pm on the Ashland Plaza, and the first and third Saturdays from 11 - 11:30 am on the Ashland Plaza. In Medford, every Wednesday from 12 - 12:30 pm in Vogel Plaza, corner of Main and Central. In Grants Pass, every first and third Monday from 12 -

12:30 pm next to the Post Office. In Cave Junction, every Monday from 12 - 12:30 pm at the County Building. In Roseburg, every Friday from 12 - 12:30 pm in front of the Fire Station on Garden Valley Blvd.

Film

ASHLAND INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL - PRIDEPRIZE

To celebrate diversity, identity, and discovery through the art of film, the Ashland Independent Film Festival

is offering a \$500 cash prize for an outstanding student-made film that speaks to the LGBTQ+ experience. The PridePrize is a category of the annual LAUNCH student film contest, and is open to student filmmakers in grades 9 through 12 and college undergrads. Students must live in Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, or Klamath county in Oregon; or in Del Norte and Siskiyou counties in California. Films may not exceed five minutes in length. PridePrize films may be about youth or adults and the issues (social, political, contemporary or historical) that affect the lives of individuals, groups, their communities, and our society at large. Rules and entry forms are available at www.AshlandFilm.org. There is no entry fee for qualifying student filmmakers, and everyone who submits a film receives two film tickets to the festival, April 7-11, 2016 in Ashland. The deadline to submit all student LAUNCH films is January 15, 2016.

JUDY GARLAND: AMERICAN LEGEND

Mondays, December 21 & 28, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. View classic films highlighting musical gems from Judy Garland's career on Mondays in December. Dec 21: Meet Me in St. Louis (1944). Dec 28: The Wizard of Oz (1939). Gold Hill Branch Library, 202 Dardanelles St. Free admission.

MALEFICENT

Tuesday, December 29, from Noon - 2 pm. Come join us on Fractured Fairy Tale Film Tuesday to enjoy a different version of the classic fairytale, "Sleeping Beauty." In Maleficent (2014, PG), a vengeful fairy is driven to curse an infant princess, only to discover that the child may be the one person who can restore peace to their troubled land. Large Meeting Room,

Medford Branch Library, 205 S Central Ave. Free admission.

RICKI AND THE FLASH

Wednesday, December 30, from 2 to 3:45 pm. Ricki Rendazzo (Meryl Streep) is a musician who gave up everything for her dream of rock-and-roll stardom. Now, the singer and guitarist must face the music when she returns home to Indiana to reconnect with ex-husband Pete (Kevin Kline), troubled daughter Julie, engaged son Josh, and younger son Adam. Filled with regret, Ricki hopes to find redemption for all of the bad choices she made in the past (2015, rated PG-13). Ashland Branch Library, 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Free admission.

THE APPLE (1980)

Sunday, December 20, 6 pm. The public is cordially invited to The Bad Film Society's especially ridiculous holiday event! The reeking glitterdome of outrageous kitsch, box office bomb The Apple, a 1980 disco/rock opera, set in a futuristic 1994 will be shown. It's a psychedelic religious allegory sci-fi feast for the senses! One reviewer wrote, it's "relentless bad taste is sure to appeal to the same audience that won't even realize they're being slapped in the face." During its Hollywood premiere, audiences threw their free souvenir soundtracks at the screen, causing extensive damage! You are welcome to bring a wrapped gift and/or any bad DVD's, tapes or books you want to give away or the unique and disgusting gift exchange. Members should bring a holiday dish for the potluck dinner starting at 6 pm. A \$4 donation is requested to support The Elks and all the good they do. Ashland Elks Lodge 'Dungeon', Will Dodge Way (the alley between E Main and Lithia Way and 1st/2nd Sts.) Look for the 'Elks Dining' sign.

Food

ACOUSTIC AFTERNOONS

Every Sunday, from 12 - 3 pm. Acoustic Music and Organic Brunch come together to offer you a perfect, relaxing, Sweet Sunday Afternoon! Phoenix Press will be offering table service, with a special weekly brunch menu available. Our menu is always full of local, organic, carefully sourced ingredients and includes coffee from Xase, Good Bean, Noble and Stumptown roasters, teas from Dobra, and handmade smoothies, lemonade and more! The Phoenix Clubhouse, 310 N Main St. Suite H, Phoenix. Min \$5 order.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER - FREE TO ALL!

Friday, December 25, from Noon to 4 pm. You're warmly invited to the 36th Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day at the Historic Ashland Armory. Come and enjoy a free, hearty meal (with ALL of the trimmings). Since 1980, Ashland Christian Fellowship (ACF web.org) has hosted this very special event - by joining with merchants and community volunteers to feed a traditional Christmas dinner to as many as 800 people! For more information, please call the ACF church office (Mon - Thurs mornings before 12 pm), at 541-482-8539, or email MarjiAnderson@hotmail.com. Historic Ashland Armory, 208 Oak St. in Ashland.

GAME NIGHT AND TACOS

Every Monday evening. Tacos, shuffleboard, foosball, darts, and giant Jenga. Swing Tree Brewing Company, 300 E Hersey St. #7, Ashland.

PHOENIX COMMUNITY DINNER

2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month from 5 - 7 pm by Phoenix Community Kitchen. Everyone is welcome, bring your neighbors and friends. First Presbyterian Church, 121 W Second St., Phoenix. For info: 541-535-1119.

POTLUCK LUNCHEON

On the third Tuesday of each month, join LGBT Elders and Allies for a potluck luncheon from 11:30 am - 1 pm. Please bring your ideas for building the LGBT Community and a dish to share. A \$2 donation for drinks is suggested. Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 87 Fourth St, Ashland. Free.

TASTY TUESDAYS

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 4:30 - 5:30 pm. Hosted for children and their parents in a special area which offers families an opportunity to share a family style meal together. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Sponsored by the United Methodist Church and Peace House. Upstairs at the 1st United Methodist Church. Wesley Hall, 175 N Main St., Ashland. Peace House: 541-482-9625. Free.

TRINITY'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Saturday, December 19, 5 pm. Join us for a Christmas Potluck Dinner, Trinity church will provide the turkey

EVENTS

and ham. Bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share. We will have an ugly sweater contest, so wear your best ugly Christmas sweater! Dinner will be at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a Christmas Sing-along and performances by Trinity's Kids. A Christmas backdrop will also be available for family Christmas photos (with or without the ugly sweaters). Trinity Church, 2555 Corey Rd, Central Point.

Kids & Family

COOKIES & COCOA WITH SANTA

Thursday, December 24, from 10 am - Noon. The Rotary Club of Illinois Valley will welcome Santa Claus to Cave Junction! Join the Jolly Old Elf and his Rotarian helpers for cookies and cocoa, where Santa will distribute toys and gifts for the valley's youngsters. Toys were collected and purchased through the generosity of our annual golf tournament participants and sponsors. Thank you! Josephine County Building, 102 S Redwood Hwy, Cave Junction.

FAIRY TALE BALL 2016

Saturday, January 2, from 4 - 6 pm. You're invited to the ball! Come in your finest attire and get ready to dance, sing, play, laugh, create, imagine, and get swept away by the magic of a fantasy ball. This event is open to children, teens, and families of all ages and will feature games, crafts, and snacks with prizes that are fun for all! Proudly sponsored by Friends of the Medford Library, light refreshments provided. Large Meeting Room, Medford Branch Library, 205 S Central Ave. Free.

FREE EXPRESSIONS

Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Your creativity is endless! This fun art class with Jo Ann Manzone has something for everyone. You can play with painting, fabric, jewelry-making, assemblage, and more! Remember to wear your painting clothes. Designed for children and families. Age 6 and younger must have an adult present. Drop in anytime during the session! Includes Materials. Ashland Art Center, 357 E Main St., Ashland. Free!

IMAGINATION YOGA FALL SERIES

Wednesdays from 2:15 to 3 pm for Ages 3-6. Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4 pm for Ages 7-10. Imagination Yoga is a Kids Yoga program designed to inspire children to move through a combination of yoga poses and imaginative stories. For more information and to register for classes please contact Jeannine at jeanninetowle@gmail.com or call Flipside at 541-600-4386. \$45/4 weeks (45 min classes). Classes are at Flipside, 255 Helman St. #5 in Ashland.

KINDERMUSIK FAMILY TIME: BIRTH - 7 YEARS

Tuesdays, year round, 12:30 - 1:15 pm. With older ones ready to show the little ones how it's done and the younger ones eager to learn, Family Time is a multi-layered learning environment that brings the whole family together. Students may enroll at any time. \$45/month, or \$40/month (\$160) if prepaid for 4 months. Includes monthly subscription to online music and resources. Great Northwest Music, 220 SW G St, Grants Pass. www.greatnorthwestmusic.com

MAD HATTER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Thursday, December 31, from 2 - 4 pm. Join the Mad Hatter and friends for an afternoon of crafts, food, and fun at the library! This lively family event will include theme-related crafts, a tea party, a New Year's Eve countdown, and dancing the last of 2015's wiggles away! Ashland Branch Library, 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Free.

MUSIC CIRCLE TIME

Tuesdays, 11 am - Noon. Babies love music...and Ms. Beenie leads this fun and educational group! Call Ms. Beenie to register for you and your baby's music time together at 541-499-7810. Family Massage Education Center, 17 Manzanita St, Ashland.

NYE 2016 AT THE MEDFORD LIBRARY!

Wednesday, December 30, from Noon to 2 pm. Celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another! Take part in fun craft projects, make a fantastic party hat to wear when the clock strikes twelve, play fun and exciting games, and enjoy delicious treats as we get excited for 2016! Children's Department of the Medford Branch Library, 205 S Central Ave. Free admission.

PRESCHOOL PUPPET THEATRE

2nd Friday of each month, from 10:30 - 11:45 am. : Jan 8, Feb 12, March 11, Apr 8, & May 13. Discover what Brenda Bear and friends are up to this winter and spring. A brief lesson will be followed by the puppet show and play time. A snack and related craft/activity will then be available. Enjoy a new show each month with the Nature Center puppeteers. Reservations are guaranteed only until 10:30 am. Please arrive early, as space and parking is limited; no late seating. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times during the program. Please register online at www.ashland/or/us/register or all the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 541-488-6606. Program is intended for children 3-5 years old. Instructor: Anna Edmondson. 620 N Mountain Ave, Ashland. Cost is \$6 per child.

SING-ALONG AFTERNOON

Saturday, January 2, 2016, from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Sing your heart out with Olaf, Anna, and Elsa as we show the sing-along version of a fan favorite, "Frozen." This event is proudly sponsored by Friends of the Medford Library who will provide light refreshments. For more information, please call the Medford Children's Department at 541-774-8678 or visit jcls.org. Join us in the Large Meeting Room of the Medford Branch Library, 205 S Central Ave.

TEEN EVENTS IN THE ASHLAND LIBRARY

Saturday, December 19, from Noon - 3:30 pm: Teen Game Day - Wii, XBox, Magic, board games and food. Monday, December 21, from 2 - 4:30 pm: Teen Movie - Ant Man (2015, PG-13) - Armed with a super-suit with the astonishing ability to shrink in scale but increase in strength, cat burglar Scott Lang must embrace his inner hero and help his mentor, Dr. Hank Pym, plan and pull off a heist that will save the world. December 19 through January 3: Teen Holiday Readathon - Read in the Teen Section for one hour and earn a ticket for a \$30 gift certificate for Barnes & Noble and other prizes (Repeatable). Tuesday, December 29, from 2 - 3 pm - Local Author Talk - Carol Draime (author of The Bridge) will offer tips on organizing one's ideas, drawing on what's familiar, research pertinent topics for a piece of writing, and will also answer questions on writing a young adult novel. Ashland Branch Library, 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Free admission.

TODDLEROBICS: MOVEMENT, MUSIC, & ME!

Every Tuesday, beginning January 5, from 11 - 11:30 am. Come exercise your mind, body, and spirit! Young children live to move, but the weather in Oregon often limits opportunities for outside play and exercise. Children ages 2 and older can exercise both mind and body by participating in a range of simple exercises such as the crab walk, bear crawl, jumping jacks, and many others. Attendees will also participate in music games so children can sing and dance to songs. Central Point Branch Library, 116 S Third St. Free admission.

Meetings

BOOK CHAT

Medford Library Book Chat meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. You're invited to read the following books and join us for lively discussions. December 8: Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee. January 12: Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden. Adams Meeting Room of the Medford Branch Library, 205 S Central Ave. Free.

BRAIN BOOKS

Gather on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 1:30 - 3:30 pm, for Brain Books Discussion Group. December 22: Affluence and Influence: Economic Inequality and Political Power in America by Martin Gilens, 2014. Are American politics influenced by wealth? Really? How do you know? In what ways? Guanajuato Room of the Ashland Branch Library, 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Free.

CHESS CLUB

Grants Pass Chess is an informal group of local chess players and those wanting to learn more about the game. Every level is welcome! Meets every Saturday, from 4 to 7 pm at the new Rogue Roasters, at 6th and K St, Grants Pass. Free.

GREEN DRINKS

Rogue Valley Green Drinks fosters connections and raises awareness toward a more vibrant and sustainable Southern Oregon. Green Drinks is a prime networking arena for those looking for information and connections related to environmental and sustainability issues. A venue for both networking and education, each event features a presentation meant to provide information and time afterwards for further discussion. ASHLAND: Meets every 2nd Monday, at 6 pm. Ashland Food Co-op Community Classroom, 300 N Pioneer St. MEDFORD: Meets every 4th Monday, at 5:30 pm. Locations vary. 541-773-8200.

MAKERS AND HACKERS NIGHT

Do you enjoy DIY projects, tapping into your inner geek, and exercising creativity? Do you like hanging out with other people while figuring out how things work, re-purposing in unexpected ways, and collaborating on challenging problems? If the answer is yes, then come join us on the first Thursday of each month from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Adams Community Meeting Room, Medford Branch Library, 205 S Central Ave. Free admission.

RECORDER GROUP OF TALENT

Tuesdays, from 12 Noon to 1 pm. Come join us! The brand-new, all-ages, all-skills Recorder Group of Talent will be getting together to play music and have fun on Tuesdays. This will be an informal gathering of musicians with varied experience on this deceptively simply woodwind instrument. If you have a recorder please bring it along and join in. If you just want to show up and listen you are also welcome! For more information, please call the Talent Library at 541-535-4163. Talent Branch Library, 101 Home St. Free.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Are you a logophile (a lover of words) who knows that playing that word in Scrabble could score a minimum of 15 points? If you answered "yes," then you



CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR AT THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDFORD LIBRARY, DECEMBER 30 FROM NOON TO 2 PM.

EVENTS

should join in a casual game (or two) of Scrabble on Saturdays from 12 Noon - 4 pm at the Talent Branch Library, 101 Home St. Free admission. A Scrabble group also meets in Grants Pass every Wednesday at 1 pm at Home Sweet Home, 1038 6th Street. Free.

TRANSPARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Second Tuesday of each month, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm in Ashland. We are parents, family members and allies of gender creative youth. TransParent Support Group offers a safe and positive place to talk, share, discover, learn and support each other. If you are a supportive ally of a child or youth who doesn't fit into current gender binary norms, come and exchange wisdom and experiences. You are not alone. There is a wealth of support, information and safety for your amazing child! Contact Emily Waymire at (Info@ MovementsOfTheSoul.org). You will receive a short email with some questions to ensure that this is a good fit for your needs.

TRANS TALK

Mondays at the QRC. For more information, please contact qrc@sou.edu. Stevenson Union, Southern Oregon University, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland.

VETERANS FOR PEACE

First Wednesdays, 6:30 pm. The Rogue Valley Veterans for Peace Chapter 156 meets on the first Wednesday of each month at a rotating location. For further information or to arrange transportation to the meeting, call Jim Woods in Grants Pass at 541-956-5287, or Ivend Holen in Medford at 541-779-5392.

VIDEO GAMERS COALITION

Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 5 pm to 9 pm. Got game(s)? Calling all consoles! Don't forget the 'trollers. What's that about video gaming increasing one's hand-eye coordination? In any case, come join us in Diversions, located in the basement of the Stevenson Union at SOU, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland.

Presentations

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE OREGON TRAIL

Wednesday, December 30, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. John Jackson of Bugs-R-Us covers the basics of the Applegate and Oregon Trails combined with the animals, plants, and geology that the settlers encountered. Discuss the game animals...bison, elk, deer, quail... as well as the predators...wolves and coyotes. The best part of the PETTING...hides and horns from ALL of the mammals and birds discussed. Play the Oregon Trail Food Supply Game to see what you think would be the animals with the biggest benefits. This free program includes information about the landmark rocks and rivers, as well as the importance of the bison to the Native Americans and pioneers. Each participant receives a detailed Oregon Trail historical map and a coloring page. Gold Hill Branch Library, 202 Dardanelles St. Free.

ON THIN ICING - A BAKESHOP MYSTERY

Monday, January 4, 7 pm. Ellie Alexander, popular author of the mysteries set in Ashland, 'Meet Your Baker,' and 'A Batter of Life of Death,' has come out with her third one: On Thin Icing. Welcome to Torte - a small-town family bake shop where the treats are killer good. It's the dead of winter in the sleepy town of Ashland, which means no tourists - and fewer customers - for Jules Capshaw and her bakery. But when she's asked to cater an off-season retreat for the directors of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, business starts heating up...until Jules finds a dead body in the freezer. Bloomsbury Books, 290 E Main St, Ashland. Free.

TED TALKS - PRIVACY

Tuesday, December 22, from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. The TED Talks theme for December asks the question, "Privacy: Does it Still Exist and Does it Matter?" Join the lively discussion during this session, postponed from October. Enjoy video lectures by Alessandro Acquisti: What Will a Future without Secrets Look Like? Glenn Greenwald: Why Privacy Matters; and Lorrie Faith Cranor: What's Wrong with Your Pa\$\$wOrD? TED (an acronym for Technology, Entertainment, Design) is a nonprofit organization whose slogan is "Ideas Worth Spreading." Adams Room, Medford Branch Library, 205 S Central Ave. Free admission.

Sports & Outdoor

COASTAL FARM & RANCH CHALLENGE OF CHAMPIONS TOUR

FINALE

Saturday, January 2, 7 pm. Don't miss the Wolf Performance Challenge of Champions Tour Finale. Several Professional Bull riders meet up to compete on the Top of some of best bulls on Tour. These guys have went hard all year to qualify for the finale. Come see the excitement unfold! More info at www.cctbullriding.com. The Jackson County Expo, 1 Peninger Rd, Central Point.

GROUP MOUNTAIN BIKING

Cycle Analysis hosts a two hour Mountain Bike ride on the Britt Trails in Jacksonville or John's Peak, which has 200 miles of trail. Come enjoy good food, friends, and a great ride. Everyone is welcome. Helmets mandatory at all times, lights in the winter.

some form on Santa, Mrs. Claus or Elf costume. The price is \$20.

UGLY SWEATER 5K

Saturday, December 19, 9 am race time. Join us for Southern Oregon's most exciting fun run of the year and one of the largest in our region. We encourage every participant to raid closets and thrift shops throughout the year for the ugliest sweaters on the market. We proud to offer a run that allows participants to strut their threads while burning some holiday calories! This event welcomes every age of ugly sweater enthusiasts. Pick up your packets on Friday, December 18 at Sports Authority in the RV Mall, from 11 am to 6 pm. Race Day packet pick-up at 8 am. \$15-\$25. Get more info at www.medforduglysweater5k.com. See you in Downtown Medford as we carry out the 3rd annual Medford Ugly Sweater 5K tradition! 101 S Bartlett, Medford.

background against which Curly, a handsome cowboy, and Laurey, a winsome farm girl, play out their love story. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday in December at 8 pm. Sunday matinees are at 2 pm. Christmas Eve matinee at 2 pm. In January, performances are Thur-Sun. \$29 Adults / \$27 Students & Seniors (except matinees). Camelot Theatre, 101 Talent Ave, Talent.

SCROOGE - THE MUSICAL

December 17-19, 23 & 26 at 7 pm, and Dec 20, 24 & 27 at 1pm. Come join Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and the rest of Dickens' well known characters for a night of musical fun for the entire family! Hardened by bitterness and loss, Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his business partner, Jacob Marley, who offers him one final chance to turn his life around and make things right with those around him. His guides on this journey are the kindly Ghost of Christmas Past, the ever-jovial Ghost of Christmas Present, and the sinister Ghost of Christmas Yet-To-Come. Along the way, Scrooge begins to realize where his life went wrong and what it has cost him. Only then can he begin to turn away from his miserly ways to become a better man. Reserved seating \$18. 'Pay What You Want' at the door for available seats 30 minutes before curtain. Randall Theatre Company, 10 3rd St, Medford.

SUITS AND HOLIDAY SKIRTS CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

Thanks For The Memories will present its final show of the 2015 season "Suits and Holiday Skirts - It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas Variety Show" at D&S Harley Davidson in Medford on Dec 18 & 19 at 8 pm and Dec 20 at 2 pm, and at the Ashland Springs Hotel in Ashland on Dec 21 at 8 pm. The weather outside is getting frightful, but the fire is so delightful in this hour and a half 1940's radio style - skit driven - Christmas variety show. Reminiscent of holiday specials such as Carol Burnett, Ed Sullivan, Red Skelton and Abbott and Costello - featuring music in the style of Bing Crosby, Judy Garland, Nat King Cole and The Carpenters - this show is sure to wrap you in memories from a Christmas of old. Show is appropriate for all ages. D&S Harley Davidson, 3846 S Pacific Hwy, Medford, and Ashland Spring Hotel, 212 E Main St. in Ashland. Tickets: \$25 - \$40, tftmtheatre.com or Paddington Station in Ashland.

THE NUTCRACKER BALLET

December 19 & 20 at 1 pm, and December 19 at 7 pm. Magical dolls, flurries of snowflakes, and visions of sugarplums will soon grace the stage at Crater Performing Arts Center as Studio Roxander presents its 5th annual production of "The Nutcracker" with music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreography by David and Elyse Roxander. Tickets are \$10-\$20. Crater Performing Arts Center, 655 N 3rd St, Central Point.

TORAH OF BROADWAY

Saturday, December 19 at 8 pm, and Sunday, December 20 at 3 pm. Benefit for Havurah Shir Hadash. Written and Directed by Paula Flowers. Torah means "teaching of light." Come revel in the universal magic on the bright lights of Broadway's best show tunes. \$20 Advance tickets, available at the Music Coop in Ashland, or online at brownpapertickets.com. \$25 at the door. Havurah Shir Hadash, 185 N Mountain Ave, Ashland.

Stage

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Through December 31, all evening shows are at 8 pm. Sat & Sun matinees at 1 pm. Enjoy dinner and a show at the Cabaret - or just the show. See the Cabaret's spectacular version of Charles Dickens' holiday classic from your own table in our elegant theater. From the gourmet meals prepared by our master chef to our robust list of fine wines and beers, the Cabaret means one stop for food and a show. No performance on Dec 25. No performances on Mondays, or Tuesdays, Dec 8 & 15. Preview \$21, Standard Show \$35 (performance price only, food and beverages not included). Oregon Cabaret Theatre, 241 Hargadine St, Ashland.

OKLAHOMA!

December 4 - January 10, 2016. Rodgers and Hammerstein's first collaboration remains, in many ways, their most innovative, having set the standards and established the rules of musical theatre still being followed today. This Tony Winner is set in a Western Indian territory just after the turn of the century. The high-spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the colorful

Wellness

ACRO YOGA

Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9 pm. Acro Yoga, with Jamie Cooper and Jacob Wood, is a form of partner work that combines yoga and acrobatics. In each class you will learn the foundational work and basic poses for a fun and safe experience. No previous acro experience is required. Come alone or bring a friend, and be ready to have fun and challenge yourself. Rasa provides thick gymnastic mats for safety. Drop-in price: \$12. Rasa Yoga, 217 4th St, Ashland.

CELEBRATION FOR THE MOTHER OF MIRACLES

Sunday, December 20, from 2 - 5 pm. Join us for an afternoon of opening to the Beauty Way with Our Lady Guadalupe via song, story, movement and guided meditation. We'll open to receiving her blessings of grace and miracle in our lives, working as she does in a tangible way, day by day. We'll hold space for her Divine Feminine gift of bringing solace to places of distress on Earth. Tea will be included. Bring simple treats if so inspired. Co-led by Talia Rose and



COME TO THE MAD HATTER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT THE ASHLAND LIBRARY ON DECEMBER 31, FROM 2 - 4 PM

Wednesday nights at 6 pm. Cycle Analysis, 535 N Fifth St, Jacksonville. Free.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH

On select Saturdays, help count birds that visit the feeders at North Mountain Park while learning to identify species with expert guidance. This is a great opportunity for all-level birders to get acquainted with local birds and mingle with other birders under a covered pavilion. The information collected will be submitted to Cornell University's FeederWatch project, a nation-wide bird-monitoring effort. Pre-registration is not required for this free program. For ages 10 and older. Join us on Saturdays, Dec 26, Jan 9 & 23, Feb 6 & 20, and March 5 & 19. North Mountain Park Pavilion, 620 N Mountain Ave. in Ashland. Free.

SANTA DASH 5K RUN/WALK

Saturday, December 19, 8 am. Join us for the first annual Santa Dash held in Ashland, Oregon as a fundraiser for Southern Oregon High School Drama and Conservatory Programs. The event will be held in Lithia Park in downtown Ashland, starting at the Bandshell and proceeding down Winburn to Granite, then looping around on Glenview near Ashland Loop Road. Participants are strongly encouraged to dress in

EVENTS

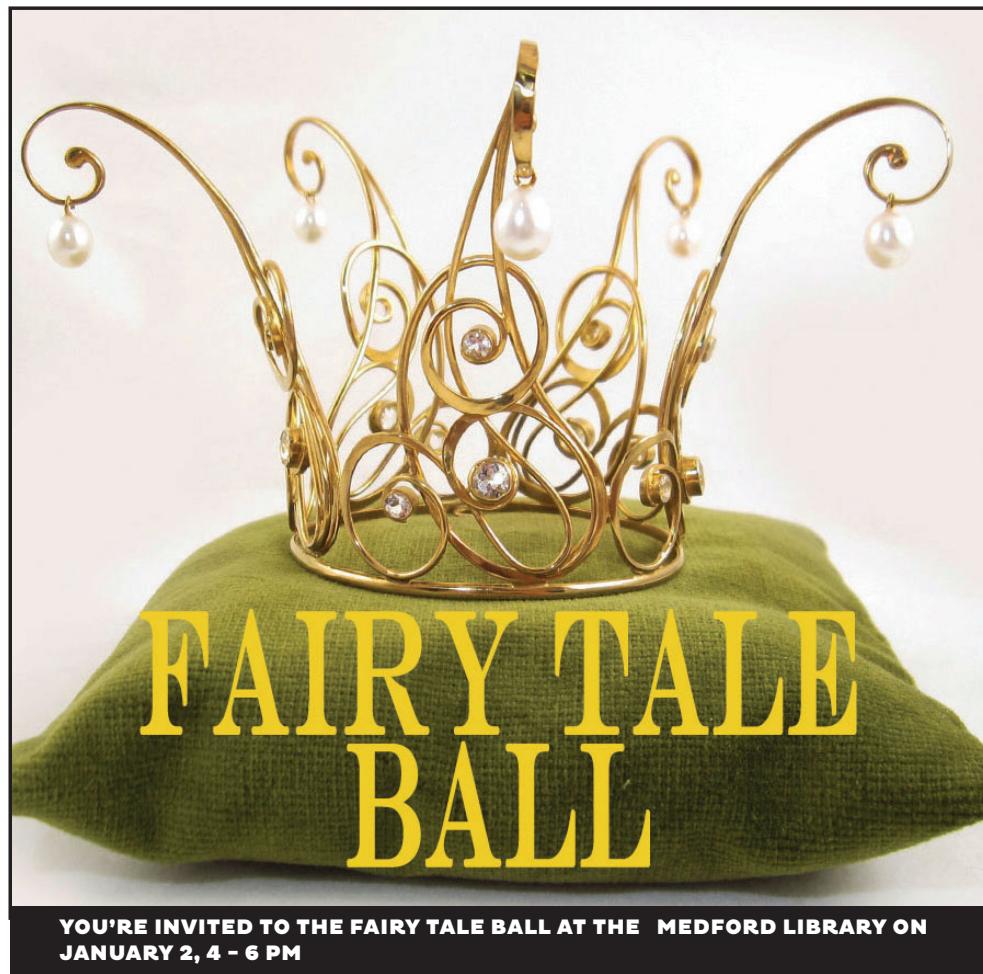
Michelle Keip. All women welcome age 15 and older. Suggested donation \$25 to \$35. RSVP Michelle at 707-508-5052 or email Talia at emeraldfireproductions@yahoo.com.

FAMILY MASSAGE EDUCATION CENTER

77 Manzanita St., Ashland. Call 541-482-3567 to register.
Mondays: Singles Massage Classes (couples welcome)
Mondays: 9:30 - 10:30 am: T'ai-Chi for Daily Life with Gene Burnett, drop-ins welcome.
Tuesdays: Parent-Baby Massage Class Series
Wednesdays: Pregnant Partners Massage Classes
Wednesdays: 9:15 - 10:30 am: Human Yoga with Willow Humphrey, drop-ins welcome.
Thursdays: Couples/Pairs Massage Classes
Fridays: Beginner's Overview Massage Class (a one-time class, but you may retake it).
Sat/Sun Weekend Afternoons: Couples/Pairs Massage Class.
3rd Sunday of each month: Reflexology "Happy Hands & Feet"

GUIDED MEDITATION FOR BEGINNERS

1st Sunday of every month. Sessions led by Lama Chonam & Sangye Khandro. The monthly guided meditations involve instruction on the nine-round breathing purification, how to sit in the correct posture, and how to meditate. An outline explaining the nine stages of Shamatha meditation, Vipassana techniques, and resting in the mind's nature (rigpa) will be provided. There will also be time for questions and answers. This event is free of charge. Donations to the center or teachers are always welcome. Tashi Choling Center for Buddhist Studies, 2001 Coletin Rd, Ashland.



HEART NECTAR HEALING CIRCLE

Every Third Tuesday of the month from 5 to 7 pm, with Teja Shankara, CHT (Certified Hypnotherapist). Heart Nectar Healing Circles include sacred mantra chanting, chakra blessing, activation and energizing,

silent meditation, connecting with our deepest selves, deepening together with group hypnosis for healing and inner peace, sweetening the heart nectar, and sending healing energies out where ever they are needed for healing and for peace. The Haven, 1970 Ashland St, Ashland. \$5-15 sliding scale.

HEART OF COURAGE, CENTERING PRACTICES FOR WOMEN

This is an ongoing class, offered every Tuesday from 6 - 7 pm with Michelle Keip. Heart of Courage cultivates alternative responses to stress that help calm the body, open the heart and refresh the mind with new possibilities. With hara, heart and head in alignment, we gently unwind the grip of survival reactivity and cultivate confidence in the resourcefulness of our wholeness. Michelle Keip holds a 3rd degree Black Belt in Aikido and is a Public Health Nurse. Contact Michelle at 541-244-1885. \$5-20 suggested donation. Meditation Cottage, Center for Spiritual Living, 466 SW "I" St, Grants Pass.

KUNDALINI YOGA AND MEDITATION

Mondays, 5 - 6:30 pm. Join Lindsey Roby for a unique, stress-relieving experience. For everyone. All levels welcome. The Haven, 1970 Ashland St, Ashland. \$10.

OUTDOOR MOVEMENT CLASS

Thursdays, 9 am - With Alissa Rae Hill, rain or shine. Awareness meets movement. Find your balance between relaxation and stress. Small group. Deep journey. Real practice. Heart conditioning, functional anatomy, whole body dynamic strengthening and stretching, beautiful fresh air and scenery! Space is limited, registration strongly suggested. Location may change weekly. Please visit www.alissarae.com or call 541-292-4998 for location.

RADHAKRISHNA HOLISTIC YOGA

Ashland Karate Academy, 644 Tolman Creek Rd, Ashland 920-286-2759 (limited class sizes). Saturdays & Sundays at Noon (Gentle), 1:30 pm (Intermediate), & 3 pm (for Yoga teachers). Classical Raja Yoga from Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Ashrams International, now in Ashland. OM Shanti!

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Advanced Asana & Pranayama 3:00 - 4:30: If you have some teaching experience, have attended a YTC, or commit to a strong personal practice then this is the class for you.

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SOUND

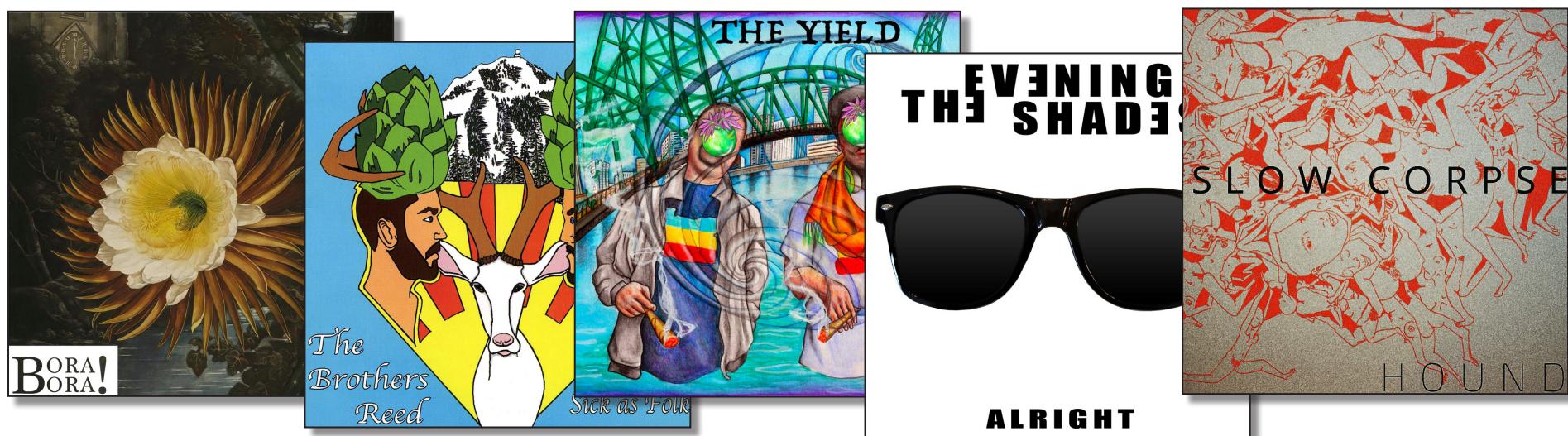
Rogue Sounds

The Best Local Albums of 2015

BY JOSH GROSS

The past year was a bittersweet one for local music. We said goodbye to Ashland venue, The Lounge South, as well as Musichead in Medford, but saw others like The Haul in Grants Pass and The Phoenix Clubhouse bring the thunder. We saw music licensing agencies try to shake down local venues for royalty fees, while more touring bands than ever started to get hip to the region. And in perhaps the most interesting development, despite southern Oregon's musical reputation as a stronghold of old-time and reggae, 2015's best local recordings were a wide selection of pop, rock and experimental styles with nary a banjo or Jah reference between them.

Here (in alphabetical order) are *The Messenger's* favorite local recordings of 2015. All are available for download.



Bora Bora

Bora Bora EP

Part indie-rock/electronic hybrid, part world music, part avante garde sonic experimentation; the four songs on Seaons side-project Bora Bora were some of the most audacious recorded in southern Oregon, showcasing national-level work, both compositionally and production-wise. The EP is like *Graceland*-era Paul Simon remixed as an Imagine Dragons or AWOLNATION song. There are loads of strange noises and constantly shifting song structures that can't easily be pinned down into simple verse/chorus structures. Chunks are danceable, others aren't even close. And it's thrilling from start to finish.

The Brothers Reed

Sick as Folk

Though brothers Aaron and Phil Reed were initially just looking to augment their income with some smaller gigs when they put aside the turbo-charged bluster of their cowpunk band, Bucklerash, to form an acoustic project on the side, they found a whole new approach to music, one that brought their smooth harmonies of their lover's laments and old west folktales front and center. The 12-track alt-folk collection is catchy without being annoying, smooth without being corny, and undeniably folk without feeling dated.

The Dream State

The Yield

The 17-song collaboration between Ashland-based emcee Hi-Pressure Sodium and Portlander Christobal Fumeo eschewed the minimalist east coast and hardcore hip hop style for beats equal parts peppy R&B, and EDM-dub hybrids, with wide-ranging lyrics about everything from Fannie Mae to dropping acid with Charles Dickens. Considering just how easy computers have made it to record and release really terrible hip hop, The Yield was a breath of fresh—if weed-laced—air: a local hip hop album totally worth your time and money.

Slow Corpse

Hound EP

Part of what made *Hound EP* stand out as one of the best local releases of the year is that Slow Corpse's sound is a breath of fresh air from the grass-hyphenate saturated local sound, with a style somewhere between '80s post-punk and chillwave, blending downtempo beats beneath reverb-drenched guitar lines and minimalist keyboard melodies. But obvious care also went into the production of the dreamy five-song collection. Every guitar shimmers, every vocal line intrigues, every drum beat soothes rather than shocks. The EP just plain sounds good, and with songs somewhere between the shoegazier elements of Smashing Pumpkins and late-era Modest Mouse, it's a compelling collection from bow to stern.

Honorable mentions go out to *Bottomless Blue* from Black Bear's Fire, *Experiment Station* from Of Addicts and Dramatics and the vinyl re-issue of Scott Garriot's 2014 album, *Primordial Slack-Jaw Android*. 

Readers can sound off on their 2015 faves during voting for Best of the Rogue, which will happen in spring.

SOUND

NOLA for NYE

Dirty Dozen Brass Band to Funk Up Armory for New Year's

BY JOSH GROSS



BRASS OUT WITH YOUR CLASS OUT.

New Year's Eve is rarely short on parties. But the biggest, brassiest one happening to close out 2015 in Southern Oregon, is going down at The Historic Ashland Armory, with New Orleans icons The Dirty Dozen Brass Band making it clear which old friend ought not be forgot: those that know how to dance the night away.

And by now, the Dirty Dozen Brass Band has got the New Year's Eve routine down. After all, the band has been at it since 1977.

"I don't know where the time went," trumpet player Gregory Davis said in the band's bio. "I guess it's just the music, man, you don't be thinking about all that."

Davis credits the group's longevity to its chemistry. But chemistry only keeps a band working on the inside. It's gotta bring something special to the listeners as well in order to last that long. What Dirty Dozen Brass Band brought to the table was a broader take on what the brass band could be.

"We started out as a traditional New Orleans brass band," says Davis. "In the beginning we weren't getting work of any kind, so we thought it was okay to explore other music. That allowed us as individuals to bring ourselves into the rehearsals and that's where we started to experiment."

Davis, then a student at Loyola University, brought influences from modern jazz and funk play-

ers, but imbued their arrangements with a New Orleans spin.

"It's impossible to think that you can be exposed to the harmonies that Duke Ellington was making, the rhythms coming from Dizzy Gillespie or the funk being done by James Brown, and then ignore it when you're playing New Orleans music," he says. "New Orleans music is all of that. If we had chosen to just put in the music presented to us then as traditional, it would have stunted our growth. Being more than what we heard is what the band was about."

Expect Dirty Dozen's New Year's party to be packed with boisterous arrangements of NOLA staples like "When the Saints Go Marching In," as well as jazz and funk originals and brassed-up covers of pop hits like Rihanna's "Don't Stop the Music."

"As we continue to do live shows, the challenge is still going to be, how am I going to entertain these people that are in front of me tonight?" Davis says. "You have to make that happen at the moment, and that's what we do best." 

Dirty Dozen Brass Band, with DJ Dragonfly

8:30 pm, Thurs. December 31
Historic Ashland Armory,
208 Oak St., Ashland
\$35-\$40

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Please bring water, a snack, and comfortable, stretchy clothing: shirts long enough to cover the lower back, with sleeves that come well past the arm pits, and tight fitting pants that come below the knees.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 18

INTUITIVE COMPASS original Vaudevillian folk from Southern Oregon.....9pm

December 19

SAM DENSMORE alt / folk / acoustic / rock from Portland, Oregon.....9pm

January 2

TOM BENNET authentic folk blues music from Utah.....9pm

FEATURED EVENT

December 31

The Haul's Star Wars New Years Eve Party.....9pm-1am

Droids allowed, this night only.

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FOOD & Drink

Your Local, Organic Christmas Ham (or Pork Loin)

Live the New American Dream With Little Sprouts Farm

BY SARA JANE WILTERMOOD

A good job. 2.5 kids. A house with a view. Retire at 65. The American dream—so five minutes ago.

Today, an organic, self-sustaining farm with as many kids as you want is the new American dream, according to Dave Salch of Little Sprouts Farm.

Little Sprouts produces turkey, chicken, lamb and pork on their farm, adhering to the most humane and organic practices, which includes using the whole animal.

"We used to do a lot of hams [for Christmas], but we've gotten away from that," says Salch. "Our pork is mostly a year-round thing now, though we plan to have a special on pork loins this year."

This special is because that is what Little Sprouts happens to have on hand right now, which isn't what the average American is used to.

"It is interesting because when you talk about particular cuts, looking at the bigger picture, people are used to going out and buying as much of a particular cut that they want," he says. "The problem is that is not what nature provides."

After taking out the two hams in a pig, "the question is then, 'what do you do with the rest of the animal?'" adds Salch.

He says that they will probably have an "alternative Christmas meal" themselves, based on what they have available.

"Little Sprouts Farm is primarily our answer to the lack of the modern food system," says Salch. "The best way to heal health issues is with good food. Good, organic vegetables are easy to find, but good, organic meat isn't easy to find. Our

focus is producing traditional foods in a traditional way for people who want to heal through the food that they eat. The 'good' meat that you find in the store is only slightly better than the 'bad' meat, as far as the practices used to raise it."

About three years ago, the Salch family (Dave, his wife Brenda, and now six children, ranging from 9 months to 13 years) started home deliveries of their farm goods, which was dependent on their "best eggs in the world" from their heritage breed chickens.

"Everyone has a quota of eggs," says Salch. "People signed up for our subscriptions, and we offered other products."

Which was the perfect business model for the first two years, but then tragedy struck. Little Sprouts' chicken shelter and coop, which housed their own breed of custom, heritage cluckers, caught fire and wiped out over 300 chickens, which basically ended their egg business overnight. 

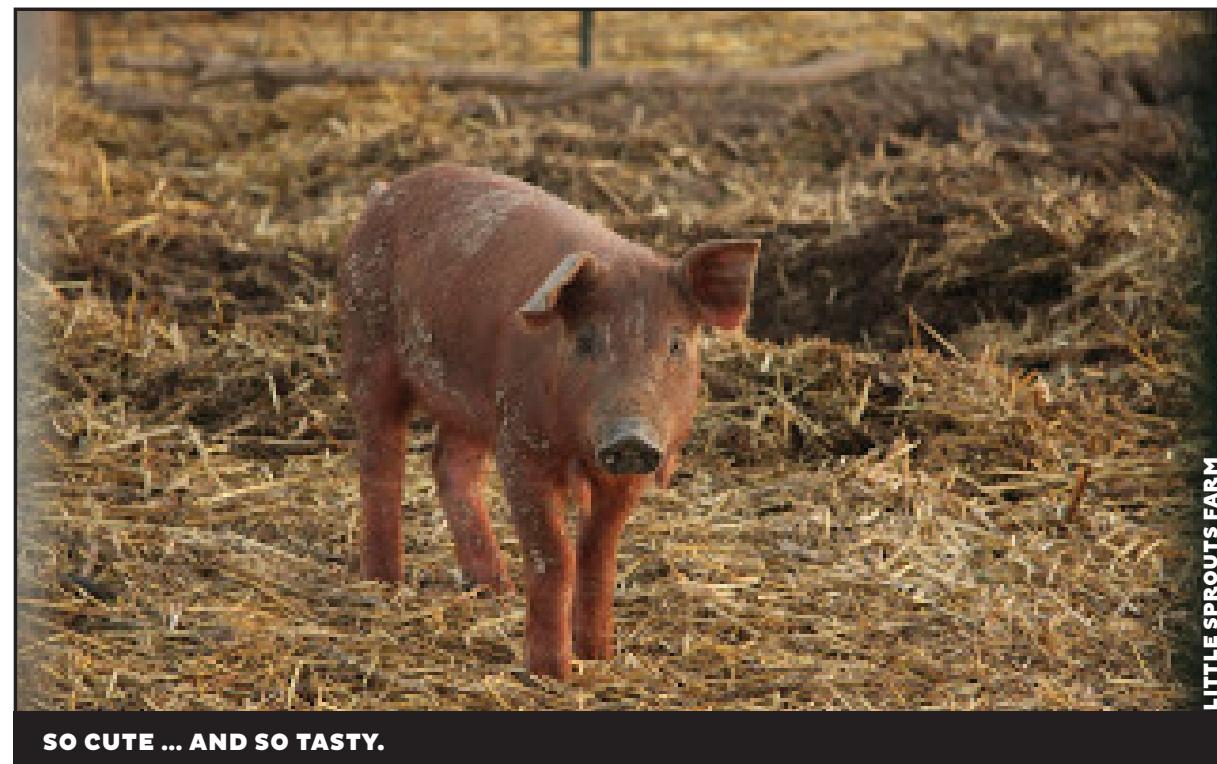
"And if people are ordering eggs, they are more likely to add a bar of soap to their order, but they wouldn't just order a bar of soap," Salch says.

Now, they are working on building their chicken herd back up to snuff, but in the meantime, they were able to focus on their meat production. Their meat is now available at the Medford Food Coop, Whistling Duck Farmstand and Easy Valley Farm in Rogue River. They are also testing shipping their product out of the Rogue Valley this month.

"In the process, it has forced us to rethink what works and what doesn't," says

Salch. "Our long-term goal is to streamline the process so that other families can reproduce this model. Young couples come by all the time, asking how they can do what we do. It isn't competition, there could be thousands of people like us in the Valley and still have people to feed. It is one step beyond doing seminars. Like an apprenticeship, but they are in control of their own space. That is the ultimate goal of what this is all about." 

Little Sprouts Farm
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www.littlesproutsfarm.blogspot.com



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Drink Local

Opposition Is Welcoming

Small, But Expanding, Medford's Up and Comer

BY PHIL BUSSE

Opposition Brewery is not easy to find, pushed inconspicuously in an office park in Medford. But inside, the space is welcoming and the three patrons there immediately beamed when I entered. We had chosen Opposition Brewing for the *Messenger's* holiday party, partly because we did not know much about them, and partially because they were so receptive to the idea when I called on the phone.

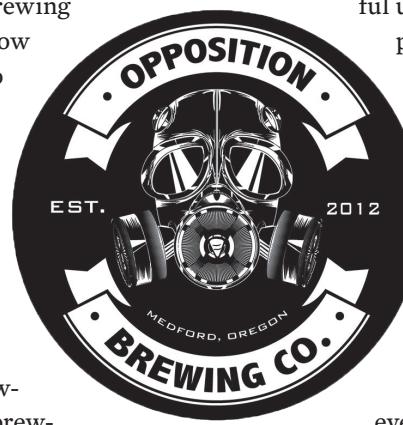
Three years old, Opposition is still a small batch operation run by two couples, but they are looking to change that. Currently, it is a 1.5 barrel system, which sits out exposed in King Kong-size beer cans. Above the barrels, three flags hang from the ceiling, including a familiar yellow flag with a snake coiled on it, and the words, "Don't Tread on Me." There is a tinge of irony, as Opposition is so named because when they first rolled out three years ago as Apocalypse Brewing, the macro-micro-brewery shot off a warning that their name infringed on that brewery's popular IPA.

From the modest 1.5 barrel system, though, Opposition produces an impressively wide range of flavors. Tunguska Event (referring to a meteoroid that hit in 1908 in

Russia) is a surprising name given that their "common ale" is creamy and smooth, and nothing like the shattering impact of an asteroid. Regardless, a delightful unique and approachable beer. Blast Radius is a pleasing oatmeal pale; Fallow Fields their American Brown Ale; and River Runs Red, a hearty red. Long Black Train has a lingering sweetness that offsets bitterness from a 70 IBUs, and a strong structure from the oatmeal.

Like their production, distribution is currently limited (largely to the tap room itself and Joe's Bar & Grill and Smithfields in Ashland). But Opposition is changing that—and how they are doing so is telling. To expand, they are truly relying on "community," with a current push to expand to a 7 barrel system by creating membership opportunities (\$50/first year, which gets \$1 discounts on pints and invites to special events, like a highly recommended upcoming December 19 members-only party).

In spite of their name, Opposition Brewery is the opposite: Welcoming, warm and wonderful. 



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CULTURE

Last Call

Dancing People Company to Perform Final "Call Back the Sun"

BY J.J. ROWAN

When Robin Stiehm, the founder of Dancing People Company, says that this will be the last year of "Call Back the Sun," there is no sadness in her voice. There's no need: the company's annual Solstice-celebrating event on December 19 and 20 will be entering its tenth and final year on a high note.

An eclectic team of community collaborators will join Dancing People's six-member company as they perform in the round at the Historic Ashland Armory, transforming the usual stage-audience gap and aiming "to feel like there is witnessing, like the audience encloses us," explains Stiehm.

Each performance concludes by gracefully dissolving into a dance for performers and audience members alike. Though the accompanying post-show music has, in previous years, been pre-recorded, this year's audience will be treated to live music from Eight Dollar Mountain and Lovebite following Saturday and Sunday's performances, respectively.

Stiehm describes the work Dancing People does as something that "looks like contact improvisation but it's not actually improvised," with a foundation in "momentum-based partnering." What does this mean? Audiences will be treated to a carefully crafted presentation of modern dance that encompasses the freedom of natural human expression.

Not only does DPC's approach accommodate a variety of partnering opportunities within the company, it opens up possibilities for performances such as "Call Back the Sun," which collaborates with community members and can involve those with little to no dance experience. Though DPC pride themselves on their craft, they also value the incorporation of natural movement into what they do. "An un-

trained body is beautiful in its own right," adds Stiehm.

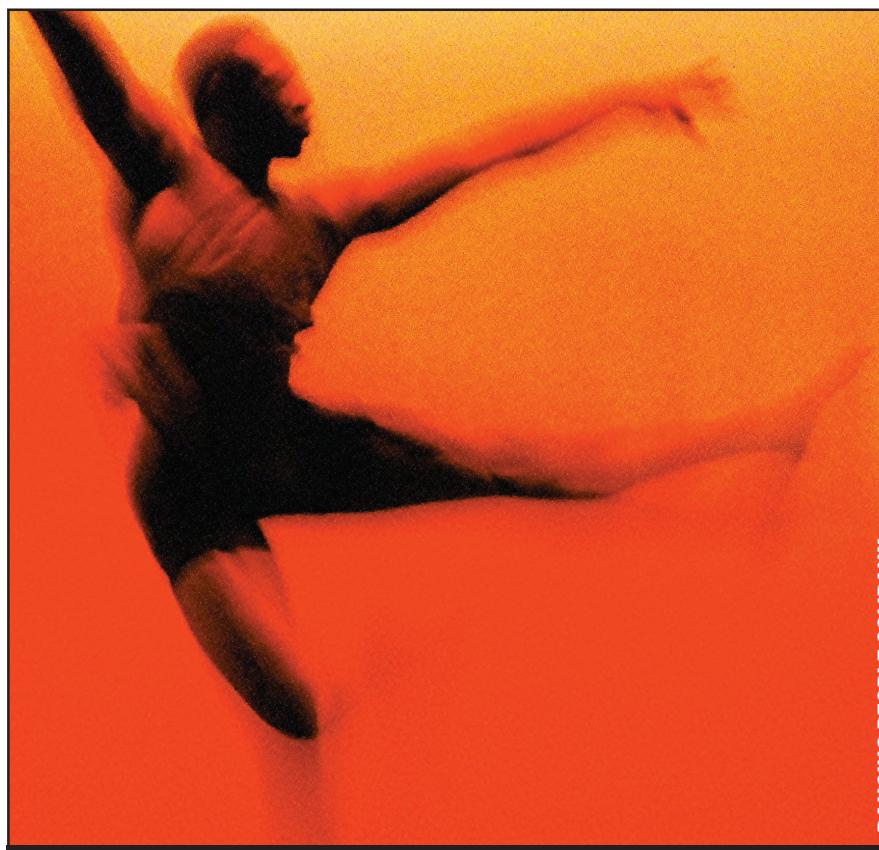
"Call Back the Sun" is Dancing People's seasonal ritual, something found in the practice and performance of dance in many ways. "Often times the word 'ritual'

on stage in front of people and move your body. But it's also powerful."

How does a highly collaborative and celebratory ritual event like this come together? "This is a benevolent dictatorship," Stiehm is fond of saying to her company. Though she is responsible for the cohesive whole, Stiehm relies on her dancers and community collaborators to bring their creativity to the floor, too. Incorporating artists from disciplines beyond modern dance enriches the creation of each performance: sometimes this means revisiting successful partnerships, sometimes bringing in new blood. Either way, that Dancing People remains open to possibility and creation within their own framework means a final product that is truly an honor to witness.

Stiehm is grateful for her rich collaborative history: "I've been really fortunate in my career that things appear when I need them."

So as ten years of ritual come to a close, ten years of welcoming back the sun in the deep center of winter, ten years of movement and sound in joyful collaboration, the future holds only possibility. "Who knows what will happen next year" offers Stiehm with a calm openness in her voice, ready for whatever yet-unformed masterpiece lies ahead. 



CELEBRATE WINTER SOLSTICE WITH THE DANCING PEOPLE COMPANY

DANCING PEOPLE COMPANY

can be limited to a spiritual thing, but there is tons of ritual in dance," says Stiehm. From warm-up and rehearsal, to pre-performance customs, to the final work of dance before an audience, dance is both created and performed as a ritualistic process and surely has the power of ritual at the heart of it: "it's strange; you get

Call Back the Sun, Winter Solstice Celebration

Dancing People Company

7:30 pm, Sat., Dec. 19

2 and 7:30 pm, Sun., Dec. 20

Ashland Armory, 208 Oak Street, Ashland
\$15, advance. \$20, door. \$10, kids 12 and under.

Art Watch

Rolling with the Punches: The Art of Miles Frode

BY AUBRY HOLLINGSHEAD

Miles Frode's painting style is often reminiscent of 20th century cubists and futurists--with a dynamism invoking Duchamp's "Nude Descending a Staircase" in some pieces, and the perceptual play of Picasso's cubist portraiture in others, mixed with a healthy dose of abstract expressionism.

Described by Frode as "Feelism," his style is born of an improvisational energy that allows the subject or idea of a piece to emerge organically through a process that embraces spontaneity and feeds upon mistakes.

"The way I do things kind of speaks to keeping an open mind," says Frode. "I've been doing that style for almost 20 years. I realized that the topics and ideas and characters that come out when I do that, when I just trust-fall it, they're actually the ideas and topics that I strive to fight for and with."

Most interesting about Frode's recent work is that many

pieces are done either ambidextrously or entirely with his non-dominant hand.

"I've been dealing with a progressive injury," says Frode. "My right arm is messed up and my left arm, when I use that, it gets messed up, so I've just been kind of rolling with the punches, painting with both hands, and then in the last three years when it gets really bad and I can't paint with my left, I've been actually painting with my feet."

Frode's work can be seen all over of late; the third-generation artist was recently featured in Vogue Patterns for a collaboration with his mother, Diane Ericsson, wherein he painted his designs on fabric which she then crafted into clothing. He also currently has exhibits hung at PUSH Art Gallery, Ruby's Neighborhood Restaurant, Liquid Assets and Talent Health Club. 



SPORTS & *Outdoor*

Dashing Through the Snow

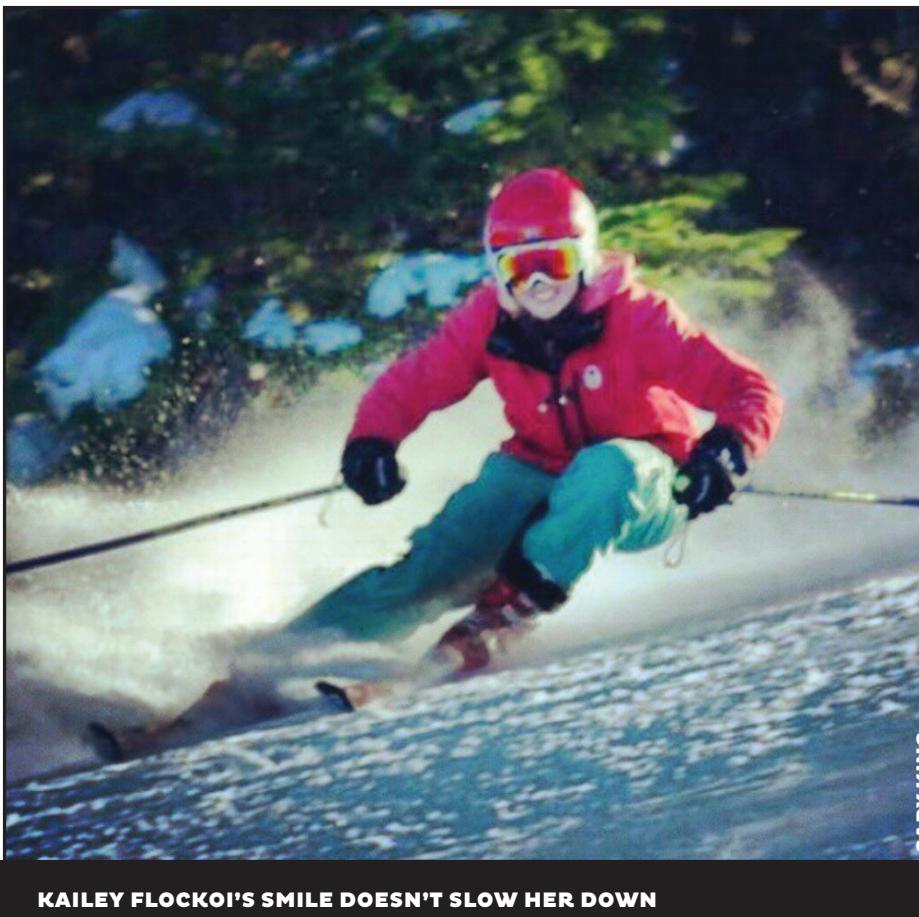
An Interview with a Local Ski Racer

BY KRISTEN KURTH

With snow gracing the mountain tops around southern Oregon, skiers and snowboarders are chomping at the bit to dust off their gear and hit the slopes. There's a lot more to playing in the snow on Mt. Ashland than just riding the lifts or grabbing a beer in the lodge. The Rogue Valley Messenger had a chat with the dynamically talented Kailey (pronounced Kiley) Flockoi about the racing scene in Ashland's powdery gem.

RVM: At 19 years old, you're already quite an accomplished downhill racer. In 2013, when you were only a Junior in High school, you won the State Championship in Women's Slalom. When did you start racing?

KF: I love extreme sports; when I'm not skiing, I love to race dirt bikes. I have the need for speed and have a competitive attitude. I have an amazing family. I've been on skis since I was five years old and racing since I was nine years old. My Dad introduced me to the beautiful sport and taught me how to cherish it. It has always been a



KAILEY FLOCKOI'S SMILE DOESN'T SLOW HER DOWN

MARA and now I'm coaching the nine year olds and I love it! It's really neat to watch the circle go round and continue.

RVM: After two years of rough or unridable conditions, you all must be so excited for this year's season to get started up. How did MARA deal with the past couple of seasons? Where and how did you train?

KF: We are so very excited for this season. It looks like it is going to be a good one! The last few years were hard but made a great excuse to travel and go experience other mountains. Last year we made due with what we had and ended up training kids around the dirt patches! They all had great attitudes.

RVM: How does one get involved or support MARA?

KF: You can get involved in MARA by going to MtAshlandRacing.com, and sign up. There is a lot of information on that site and it is also linked on Mt. Ashland web page as well. Many people help by donating or just spreading the word and getting more kids in the program. 

family sport to us. My parents and both of my siblings are amazing skiers- especially my brother Ean.

RVM: What exactly is MARA?

KF: MARA stands for Mt. Ashland Racing Association. It's a club

to better the racing abilities in skiers. As a coach our goal is to teach technique to make the best ski racer, and to better the student as a person. I am currently a coach for MARA and I was last year as well; I remember when I was 9 and in

Go Here

Last Minute Shopping

BY MIKE DICKENSON

Believe it or not, there was once a time when people went to actual stores for their Christmas shopping. It was a time when Amazon was just a twinkle in the internet's eye. Fortunately, we can follow in the footsteps of our elders who are still seen frequenting holiday bazaars. If you've been putting off your holiday shopping and want to support local programs that support local people, there's still time!

LAST MINUTE GIFT SALE

LAST MINUTE GIFT SALE:

With over 50 vendor booths, the Last Minute Gift Sale at the Josephine County Fairgrounds is the perfect place to find a gift for your loved ones. This holiday bazaar takes place Saturday Dec. 19, am - 4pm. Free admission. 541-476-3215

THE VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Christmas time in Jacksonville is kind of a big deal. After the tree lighting ceremony in late November, the celebration continues weekends through December 20th. Local shops are ripe with holiday cheer and the scent of apple cider and pine fill the air. In fact, there is so much going on that you might want to spend the extra \$1 for a seat on the Holly Jolly Trolley. Whether you've found your gifts or not, do yourself a favor and check out this pleasant hamlet during the holiday season. Contact info: chamber@jacksonvilleoregon.org



THE HOLIDAY MARKET AT THE BRISCOE ARTWING:

35 local artists and creatives come together during the holiday season in Ashland each weekend until Christmas. Every weekend features different artisans, so visit often! The market includes raffles, live music, drinks, and snacks. The event is free as well as a fundraiser for the Ashland School District. Saturdays 10 am - 6 pm, Sundays 11 am - 5 pm 

SCREEN

Splish, Splash, Boom A River Between Us Makes Waves of Change

BY SARA JANE WILTERMOOD

Breathtaking views of nature, relaxing music and excellent cinematography—now, that's when film becomes art. Former Oregon State Senator Jason A. Atkinson and documentary filmmaker J. Martin teamed up to create a film that doesn't just take the viewer down the Klamath River; you are immersed in its life.

So much controversy has surrounded the Klamath River Basin—16,000 square miles enveloping one of the longest rivers in the United States—basically boiling down to the question, “Who gets the water?” There are many who need it, but there is only so much.

“Water is the oil of our times,” Atkinson said in a press release. “A limited, precious natural resource. Sadly, the era of water wars has just begun, particularly in the west.”

The majority of the controversy

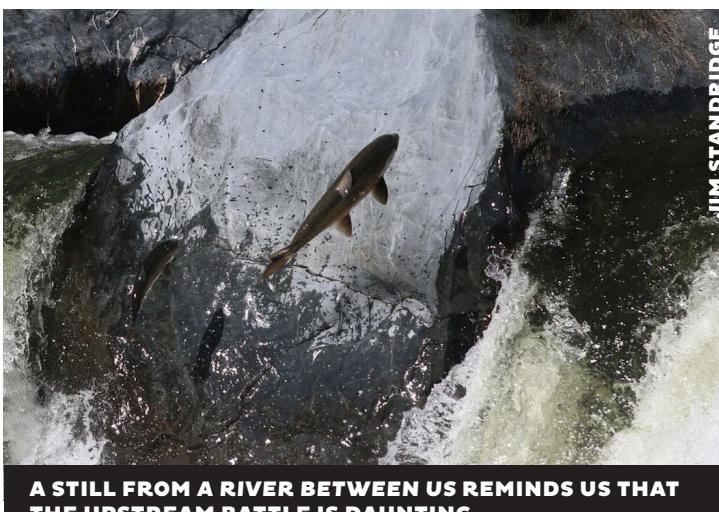
centers around four dams that have been installed along the river, and the effect they have had not only on the environment, but also on local human beings. A thoughtful warning to care for and cherish the great Klamath River in light of the abuses humans have put on it comes from

local Native Americans, fishermen. They warn, but they also speak with great hope that all different types of people can agree to take care of this national treasure.

Two years of filming and 70 interviews has surely paid off in a comprehensive look at the Klamath

River Basin situation. One can walk away from this film basking in the beauty of nature, pondering newfound knowledge and a clear personal way to address it. The goal in making *A River Between Us* is to restore the area and protect it at the federal level, and it seems that the cause is well on its way with 42 different organizations and people from all walks of life teaming together to save this epic river.

A River Between Us was released on Amazon and iTunes in October, and it will hit Netflix by the end of the year. 



A STILL FROM A RIVER BETWEEN US REMINDS US THAT THE UPSTREAM BATTLE IS DAUNTING.

numerous sources: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, conservationists, Oregon governors, residents,

iTunes in October, and it will hit Netflix by the end of the year. 

Great Prizes AND Fame?

Students: Get Filming for the AIFF LAUNCH and PrideFlick Film Contests

BY SARA JANE WILTERMOOD

What better way to make Christmas break fly by than charging up your smartphone, getting your posse together and making a movie? The Ashland Independent Film Festival is accepting films for their LAUNCH and PrideFlick film contests through January 15.

As long as the criteria is met, a \$500 cash prize and inclusion in the 2016 Ashland Independent Film Festival await. The LAUNCH student film contest is open to youth in kindergarten through undergraduate college in Southern Oregon and



Northern California. Films must be shorter than five minutes and can be about any topic, filmed in any style.

Or for a more specific challenge, the PridePrize category of LAUNCH is open to students in ninth grade through undergraduate college for films addressing the LGBTQ+ experience.

Entry is free and all entrants receive a pair of passes to AIFF on April 7-11, 2016. Sounds like a win-win. Check out the full listing of rules and submission guidelines at ashlandfilm.org. 



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 20TH

shafty
Portland's Phish Tribute

JANUARY 14TH

TUBALUBA
Jambalaya Brass Rock

JANUARY 23RD

YAK ATTACK
Organic Livetronica

JANUARY 27TH

SCOTT PEMBERTON

Portland "Timber Rock"

MILAGRO'S AFTER HOURS
1465 Siskiyou Boulevard
Ashland, Oregon 97520
(541) 708-0190

WELLNESS

Sneezing on a Plane

Health Tips for Foreign Travel During the Holidays

DR. DANIEL SMITH



DR. DANIEL SMITH

Journeying in another country is an experience that can be exhilarating, enlightening, wonderful, overwhelming, frustrating and disheartening all at the same time. One of the aspects of foreign travel that can be most challenging is remaining healthy. Montezuma's revenge, parasites, rashes, mosquito borne illnesses

and cholera are but a few of the common conditions that can make a traveler's life wretched. However, mainstream medicine, alternative medicine and of course common sense offer insights that will help keep you healthy and hardy. Before you leave, think about the basics. Are you going to be in an urban or remote area? What kinds of things are you going to be doing there? Are you going to be eating in hotels or native food? Traveling with children? Are you a risk taker when you travel? These answers will give you an indication of what your exposure levels might be. The Center for Disease Control is an excellent (albeit, in my view, conservative) resource for health information regarding most countries. Vaccinations, use of anti-malarial medications, and necessity of antibiotics should all be responsibly considered.

Herbs and supplements are also invaluable when traveling abroad. My recommendations are at a minimum three bottles: one digestive aid, a second supplement to kill pathogens and a third to replenish beneficial bacteria. The most prudent digestive aid is hydrochloric acid, or HCl, which is produced by parietal cells in our stomach and helps us to both digest our food and to kill pathogens that are swallowed with our food and water. During times of stress (e.g. a long flight to another country or perturbances of sleep patterns), parietal cell often reduce production of HCl, making us more

susceptible to infections. Taking 200-300 mg of HCl every time you eat will dramatically reduce your risk of illness. Antimicrobial herbs might include berberis and cinnamon, both of which have the additional benefit of controlling blood sugar. Black walnut and wormwood are potent anti-helminthics (they dispel worms) and garlic will kill just about everything. There are a number of products that contain all of these herbs (such as Paraguard by Integrative Therapeutics); one to six capsules/d should suffice depending on your risk profile. The third product I recommend is Sacharomyces boulardii. S. boulardii is a probiotic that does not need to be refrigerated. It is excellent for acute diarrhea, outcompetes bacteria and yeast for living space and is capable of degrading toxins produced by pathogens, especially those associated with cholera. If you choose to take more than these three bottles, charcoal is good to have on hand for its ability to bind toxins associated with acute gastrointestinal illness, grapefruit seed extract is a potent antimicrobial and antifungal and both Vitamin A and D are both exemplary for their immune stimulating capacity.

I recommend washing hands frequently, washing fruits and vegetables, and initially only consuming fruits that can be peeled. Eat at places busy with many local people. If you plan on being in rural areas, it is worth investing in some form of water treatment. Iodine and chlorine

are potent foul-tasting oxidants that effectively kill microbes but also create a whirlwind of free radicals for our bodies to handle. Water filters trap organisms 0.5 microns and larger (amebas, protozoa, bacteria and cysts) but they do not catch viruses. Steripens will zap the DNA of all microbes, rendering them unable to cause disease; they are easy to use but require batteries and don't work well in water with high sediment. It is important to have an idea of how to replenish electrolytes in case of fever and Montezuma's revenge. Here is a formula that you can put in a small sandwich baggie prior to your departure: sea salt 1/2 tsp., Morton's salt substitute (KCl) 1/2 tsp., baking soda 1/2 tsp., sugar 2 tablespoons, Water 1 Liter. If needed, start with 1 tsp every 5-10 minutes, increase as tolerated to 2-3 Tbs every 5-10 min.

Do not let the tribulations of travel prevent you from exploring! As Ray Bradbury wrote: "Stuff your eyes with wonder, live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds. See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories."

Dr. Daniel Smith practices at Bear Creek Naturopathic Clinic. His new office is on 2612 Barnett Ave. He specializes in naturopathic oncology, but still maintains a strong family practice, treating all manner of conditions. He can be reached at 541-770-5563 or at drdanielnd@gmail.com.

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Find Your Next Date at a City Council Meeting

Local Activism for Marijuana Politics Heats up

BY OLIVIA DOTY

As local governments scramble to adopt new measures and regulations to determine how marijuana growing and retailing will look in each city and county, citizens are rushing to participate. Recent city and county hearings seem to be the social highlight of the week these days. So many people are showing up that second hearings are being scheduled and extra rooms made available. Many attendees are growers, or involved with the cannabis industry in one way or another; many who previously have not felt comfortable standing up and identifying themselves in order to lobby for their cause. But now that legalization gives them the opportunity, they are working to protect their rights to farm. In fact, there are some of the same faces showing up to these meetings that fought so hard to ban GMO crops in Jackson and Josephine counties.

In addition to maintaining their right to farm, many are showing up to protect their rights to their medicine. Proposals, such as Jackson County's to require 250-foot setbacks from property lines on land zoned rural residential for medical marijuana gardens, and outright banning of recreational growing on these properties has resident growers in a panic. One of these patients is Sandy Diesel, who moved to Oregon so she could have safe access to cannabis in order to provide an alternative to the 70 pills a day—56 of them being opiates—that she had been prescribed after being permanently disabled by a car accident. The county's proposed setbacks would directly impact her ability to have access to her life saving medicine.

"I go to these meetings not only to stay informed, but to educate these government officials. I believe it is their due diligence to make educated and informed decision. They cannot do that without people like us showing up and telling our stories," says Diesel.

Here are some upcoming events, with opportunities to have your voice heard:

Jackson County Board of Commissioners

January 6, 10 S Oakdale, Medford

On December 14 the Planning Commission made their recommendation that Jackson County ban licensed recreational growing on properties zoned rural residential, and that a 250-foot setback be adhered to for medical marijuana gardens on rural residential properties.

Medford City Council

December 17, noon,

411 West 8th St, Medford

Two ordinances are before the city council to 1) put a three percent tax on the sale of medical marijuana 2) ban all recreational marijuana retailers. This will be a public hearing.

Ashland City Council

January 6, 7 pm,

1175 East Main St, Ashland

The council will present the results, worded for emergency adoption, of an ordinance that would limit four plants on residential properties, whether medical or recreational. Additionally, the city wants to require a 200-foot buffer between wholesale facilities and residential zones, and a 1000-foot separation between production and wholesale facilities.

Grants Pass

Voters will have an opportunity to uphold or appeal a ban on all medical and recreational marijuana growing and business during the November 2016 election. 



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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Happiness sneaks through a door you didn't know that you left open," said actor John Barrymore. I hope you've left open a lot of those doors, Aries. The more there are, the happier you will be. This is the week of all weeks when joy, pleasure, and even zany bliss are likely to find their ways into your life from unexpected sources and unanticipated directions. If you're lucky, you also have a few forgotten cracks and neglected gaps where fierce delights and crisp wonders can come wandering in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): What state of mind do you desire the most? What is the quality of being that you aspire to inhabit more and more as you grow older? Maybe it's the feeling of being deeply appreciated, or the ability to see things as they really are, or an intuitive wisdom about how to cultivate vibrant relationships. I invite you to set an intention to cultivate this singular experience with all your passion and ingenuity. The time is right. Make a pact with yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Like Metallica jamming with Nicki Minaj and Death Cab for Cutie on a passage from Mozart's opera The Magic Flute, you are redefining the meanings of the words "hybrid," "amalgam," and "hodgepodge." You're mixing metaphors with panache. You're building bridges with cheeky verve. Some of your blends are messy mishmashes, but more often they are synergistic successes. With the power granted to me by the gods of mixing and matching, I hereby authorize you to keep splurging on the urge to merge. This is your special time to experiment with the magic of combining things that have rarely or never been combined.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I hope you can figure out the difference between the fake cure and the real cure. And once you know which is which, I hope you will do the right thing rather than the sentimental thing. For best results, keep these considerations in mind: The fake cure may taste sweeter than the real one. It may also be better packaged and more alluringly promoted. In fact, the only advantage the real cure may have over the fake one is that it will actually work to heal you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There's a sinuous, serpentine quality about you these days. It's as if you are the elegant and crafty hero of an epic myth set in the ancient future. You are sweeter and saucier than usual, edgier and more extravagantly emotive. You are somehow both a repository of tantalizing secrets and a fount of arousing revelations. As I meditate on the magic you embody, I am reminded of a passage from Laini Taylor's fantasy novel Daughter of Smoke & Bone: "She tastes like nectar and salt. Nectar and salt and apples. Pollen and stars and hinges. She tastes like fairy tales. Swan maiden at midnight. Cream on the tip of a fox's tongue. She tastes like hope."

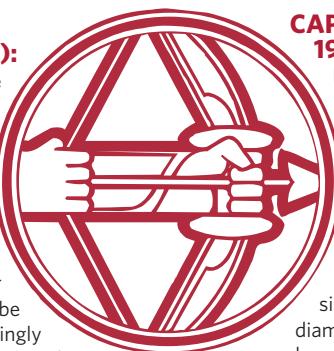
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I bought an old horoscope book at a garage sale for 25 cents. The cover was missing and some pages were water-damaged, so parts of it were hard to decipher. But the following passage jumped out at me: "In romantic matters, Virgos initially tend to be cool, even standoffish. Their perfectionism may interfere with their ability to follow through on promising beginnings. But if they ever allow themselves to relax and go further, they will eventually ignite. And then, watch out! Their passion will generate intense heat and light." I suspect that this description may apply to you in the coming weeks. Let's hope you will trust your intuition about which possibilities warrant your caution and which deserve your opening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "The secret of being a bore is to tell everything," said French writer Voltaire. I agree, and add these thoughts: To tell everything also tempts you to wrongly imagine that you have everything completely figured out. Furthermore, it may compromise your leverage in dicey situations where other people are using information as a weapon. So the moral of the current story is this: Don't tell everything! I realize this could be hard, since you are a good talker these

days; your ability to express yourself is at a peak. So what should you do? Whenever you speak, aim for quality over quantity. And always weave in a bit of mystery.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ducks are the most unflappable creatures I know. Cats are often regarded as the top practitioners of the "I don't give a f---" attitude, but I think ducks outshine them. When domestic felines exhibit their classic aloofness, there's sometimes a subtext of annoyance or contempt. But ducks are consistently as imperturbable as Zen masters. Right now, as I gaze out my office window, I'm watching five of them swim calmly, with easygoing nonchalance, against the swift current of the creek in the torrential rain. I invite you to be like ducks in the coming days. Now is an excellent time to practice the high art of truly not giving a f---.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): My old friend Jeff started working at a gambling casino in Atlantic City. "You've gone over to the dark side!" I kidded. He acknowledged that 90 percent of the casino's visitors lose money gambling. On the bright side, he said, 95 percent of them leave happy. I don't encourage you to do this kind of gambling in the near future, Sagittarius. It's true that you will be riding a lucky streak. But smarter, surer risks will be a better way to channel your good fortune. So here's the bottom line: In whatever way you choose to bet or speculate, don't let your lively spirits trick you into relying on pure impulsiveness. Do the research. Perform your due diligence. It's not enough just to be entertained. The goal is to both have fun and be successful.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Ancient Greek philosopher Epicurus was a pioneer thinker whose ideas helped pave the way for the development of science. Believe nothing, he taught, unless you can evaluate it through your personal observation and logical analysis. Using this admirable approach, he determined that the size of our sun is about two feet in diameter. I'm guessing that you have made comparable misestimations about at least two facts of life, Capricorn. They seem quite reasonable but are very wrong. The good news is that you will soon be relieved of those mistakes. After some initial disruption, you will feel liberated.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian inventor Thomas Edison owned 1,093 patents. Nicknamed "The Wizard of Menlo Park," he devised the first practical electrical light bulb, the movie camera, the alkaline storage battery, and many more useful things. The creation he loved best was the phonograph. It was the first machine in history that could record and reproduce sound. Edison bragged that no one else had ever made such a wonderful instrument. It was "absolutely original." I bring this to your attention, Aquarius, because I think you're due for an outbreak of absolute originality. What are the most unique gifts you have to offer? In addition to those you already know about, new ones may be ready to emerge.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): AHere's an experiment that makes good astrological sense for you to try in the coming weeks. Whenever you feel a tinge of frustration, immediately say, "I am an irrepressible source of power and freedom and love." Anytime you notice a trace of inadequacy rising up in you, or a touch of blame, or a taste of anger, declare, "I am an irresistible magnet for power and freedom and love." If you're bothered by a mistake you made, or a flash of ignorance expressed by another person, or a maddening glitch in the flow of the life force, stop what you're doing, interrupt the irritation, and proclaim, "I am awash in power and freedom and love." 

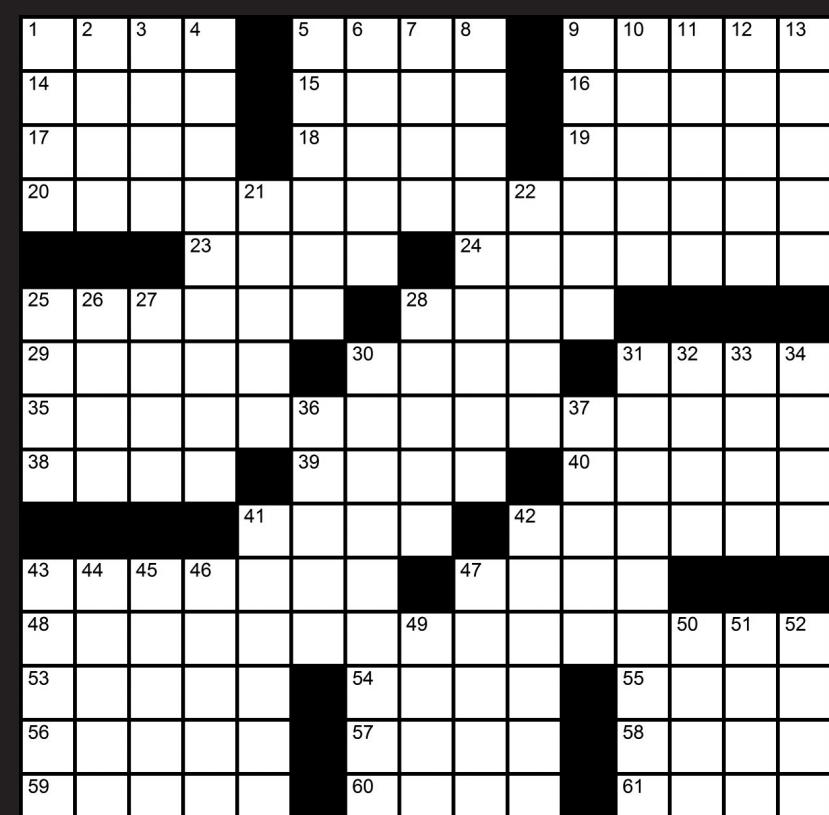
Homework:

Review in loving detail the history of your life. Remember how and why you came to be where you are now. Testify at FreeWillAstrology.com.

Rob Brezsny - Free Will Astrology
freewillastrology@freewillastrology.com

LETTER CHOP

"TWO-WAY STREETS"--HEY, LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
- MATT JONES



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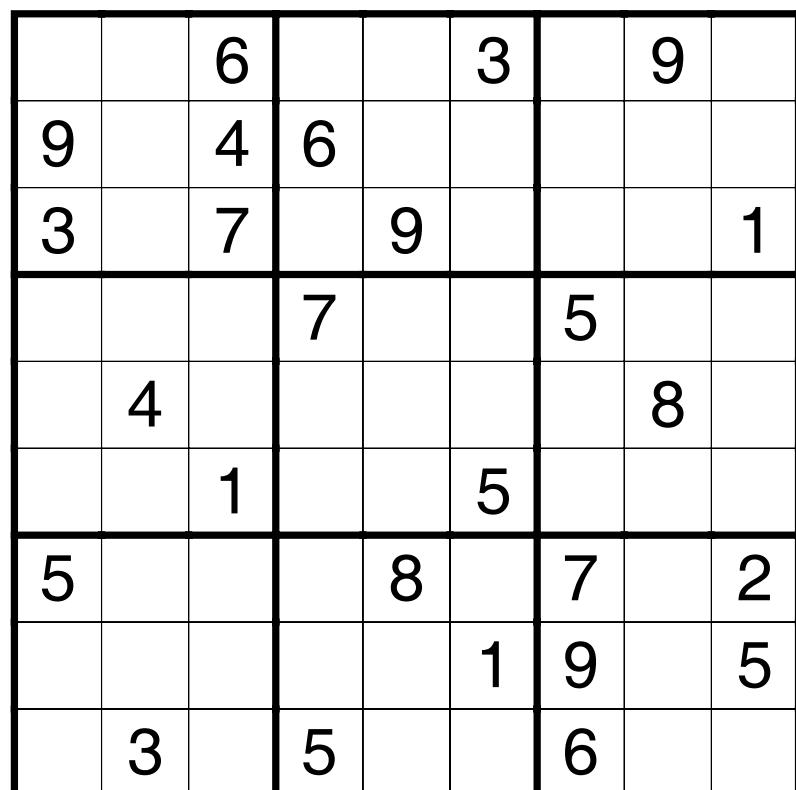
- 14 Blarney Stone land
- 15 Like much family history
- 16 Spanish citrus fruit
- 17 "Author unknown" byline
- 18 City south of Tel Aviv
- 19 Adult insect stage
- 20 Tribal carving depicting the audience for a kids' show street?
- 23 Part of TMZ
- 24 More than just clean
- 25 Storm warnings
- 28 Macy Gray hit from the album "On How Life Is"
- 29 "Cold Mountain" star Zellweger
- 30 Amos with the album "Little Earthquakes"
- 31 Beach bucket
- 35 "Look out, bad generic street, my show's on the air!"
- 38 Lindsay Lohan's mom
- 39 Hose problem
- 40 Chair designer Charles
- 41 Incandescent light bulb depiction (because I have yet to see a CFL bulb depict one)
- 42 Philadelphia hockey team
- 43 Follow-up to "That guy's escaping!"
- 47 "Buena Vista Social Club" setting
- 48 Financial street represents a smell-related statute?
- 53 Came to a close
- 54 Nick Foles's NFL team
- 55 "Hawaii Five-O" setting
- 56 Bothered constantly
- 57 Bendable joint
- 58 "JAG" spinoff with Mark Harmon
- 59 Mozart's "___ Alla Turca"

60 Lawn sign

61 Acquires

Down

- 1 ___ index
- 2 "The Flintstones" pet
- 3 Harness race pace
- 4 Home to the world's tallest waterfall
- 5 Hulk and family
- 6 Take out
- 7 Completely destroy
- 8 School excursion with a bus ride, perhaps
- 9 Oscar the Grouch's worm friend
- 10 Kitchen noisemaker
- 11 Big name in violins
- 12 "Diary of a Madman" writer Nikolai
- 13 \$1,000 bill, slangily
- 21 Device needed for Wi-Fi
- 22 Heart chambers
- 25 Street ___
- 26 Jeans manufacturer Strauss
- 27 "Come ___!"
- 28 Ancient Greek region
- 30 Signs of a quick peel-out
- 31 Just go with it
- 32 "Paris, Je T'___" (2006 film)
- 33 "Skinny Love" band Bon ___
- 34 Word in an express checkout lane which annoys grammarians
- 36 ___ Ababa, Ethiopia
- 37 Nellie of toast fame
- 41 "There was no choice"
- 42 Sweated the details
- 43 Go blue
- 44 "So much," on a musical score
- 45 "Here we are as in ___ days ..."
- 46 Respond to a charge
- 47 Caravan member
- 49 It means "one-billionth"
- 50 Lingerie trim
- 51 Take ___ (lose money)
- 52 Chicken

SUDOKU NO. 136 - MEDIUM

Previous solution - Easy

4	1	2	3	6	7	5	9	8
9	7	3	1	5	8	4	2	6
8	6	5	2	4	9	1	7	3
6	8	7	9	3	4	2	5	1
3	4	9	5	1	2	8	6	7
5	2	1	8	7	6	9	3	4
2	3	6	4	8	5	7	1	9
1	9	4	7	2	3	6	8	5
7	5	8	6	9	1	3	4	2

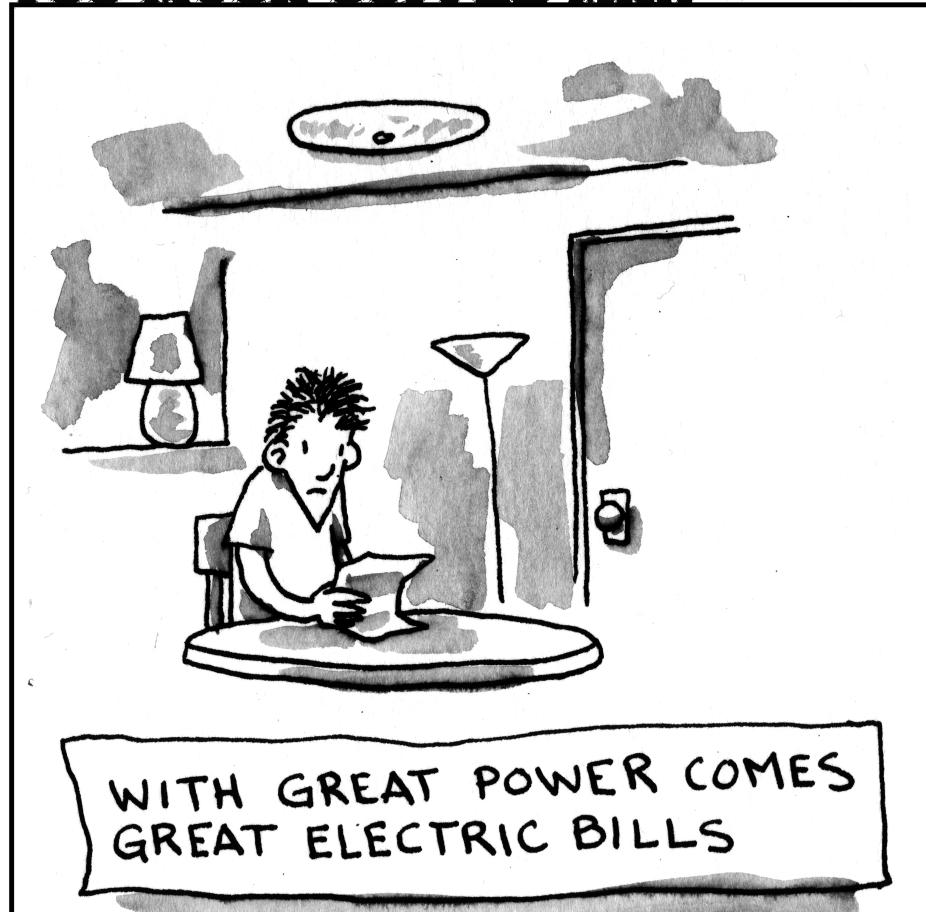
To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org

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**TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN**

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