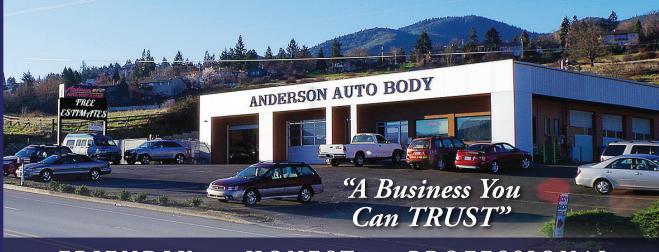
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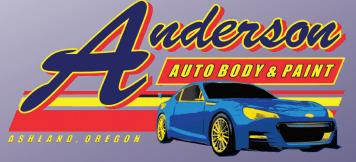
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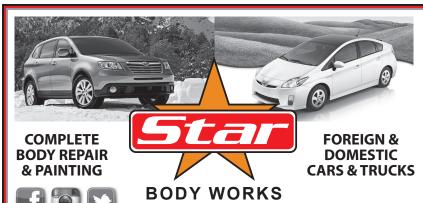
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Funeral Homes What Role do they Play?

Submitted by Rogue Valley Funeral Alternatives

A funeral home and its staff play a critical role in planning and carrying out a meaningful celebration of life. Funeral professionals have the knowledge and experience to help you understand the different burial and cremation options available.

Behind the scenes, the funeral home adds value in numerous ways before and after the service – arranging to bring a loved one into their care, obtaining required legal documents, preparing a loved one for viewing, planning services, arranging for final disposition, providing facilities for visitations and services, as well as discussing death benefits such as social security or Veteran's benefits. The funeral home is trained to assist families cope with death and some even sponsor grief related counseling as part of their service.

Many funeral homes also offer prearrangement options for anyone wanting to make their own arrangements. Counselors are available to meet with you, to answer any questions you may have with appointments available during evening hours as well as during the day.

No one wants to think about their death any sooner than they must, but preplanning is a responsible, caring act that can reduce stress for your grieving loved ones. It's easy to understand how making decisions now about your final arrangements can help assure those left behind that your wishes are being honored.

"I'm glad I prearranged my funeral and cemetery services because after losing my wife a couple of months ago, I don't want my family to have any worries or go through what I had to go through both emotionally and financially."

- Jerome M., 62

So what sets one funeral home apart from another? The service descriptions sound similar; caskets, urns and vaults look similar. Even the funeral facilities can appear similar. But all of these features can be misleading. In fact it can be very difficult for a consumer to see the difference! What makes it all the more confusing is when a low cost service assures you they will give you the same attention as a full-service funeral home. What are you to believe?

Service can only be measured by the quality of the professional staff employed at a funeral home and the number of staff available to assist you and your family in a dignified manner during the funeral process. Quality funeral homes invest in training in every area of the arrangement process and recognize the goal is your ultimate satisfaction.

For more information call 541-770-6505 or visit www.dignitymemorial.com.

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"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."

Mark Twain

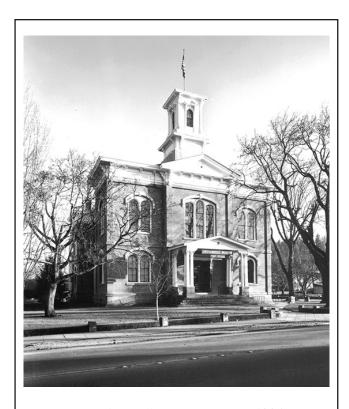
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Jacksonville Museum, circa 1984.

Anti-Aging Benefits of Superficial Peels

By Erin Daniels L.E., Owner/Esthetician, Balanced Skin Care & Beauty

Peels are one of my absolute favorite skin care secrets to share with my clients. They enable you to see and feel an immediate difference in your skin. Superficial peeling brings fresh new skin to the surface for a glowing complexion that has a more even tone and refined texture. Peeling also helps to minimize fine lines, wrinkles and age spots. However many people are still unfamiliar with the various benefits of regular peels. What can peeling do for my skin? How do I choose which one is right for my skin type? Won't my skin be red and peeling for days after? What products do I use after a peel? These are a few of the questions clients generally have.

A superficial enzyme or chemical peel involves the removal of the excess accumulation of dead skins cells and microbial build up from the stratum corneum, the outermost layer of the skin. These lighter types of peels are administered by a licensed esthetician, while deeper peels designed to penetrate the epidermis are usually performed under the direction of a doctor.

Peels have been used since ancient times to smooth and rejuvenate the skin. Lactic acid from milk and other fruit acids have been used throughout history for their excellent exfoliating properties. Today we have many different degrees and types of peels. The most commonly used are Enzyme, Glycolic, Lactic and Salicylic acid peels.

Enzyme peels are the mildest of the peels. Natural enzymes and antioxidants are used to gently remove cellular and microbial debris from the surface and normalize skin function. Enzyme peels are beneficial for sensitive, mature, acneic and normal skin types. Generally there is no redness with this type of peel. Just fresh, glowing and deeply cleaned skin.

Glycolic acid, derived from cane sugar, is the strongest of the alpha hydroxyl acids. It has the smallest molecular size of all the AHAs, which allows more effective penetration of the stratum corneum. The bonds between cells are loosened, allowing them to slough off. This process works to stimulate collagen and the growth of new skin cells. Glycolic acid also helps reduce surface oils, which lead to blackheads and other impurities. This type of peel is used for mature, aging, and hyper-pigmented skin. Also very beneficial for large pores and acne. Some mild redness may occur, but usually subsides by the end of the treatment or later the same day.

Lactic acid, another AHA, is derived from sour milk. It works in much the same way as Glycolic acid but is milder on the skin. This makes it a great choice for those with sensitive or dry skin and conditions such as rosacea. Lactic acid smoothes the complexion, reduces fine lines and lifts pigmentation while eliminating toxins and build up.

Salicylic acid is a beta hydroxyl acid derived from willow bark, sweet birch and wintergreen. This peel is highly effective at deeply cleansing pores, while also lessening the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Salicylic acid has an anti inflammatory benefit as well as helping to balance oil production in the skin. Most often used for acne, sun damage, blackheads, large pores and age spots. Salicylic acid can cause some mild peeling of the skin up to 3 days after treatment.

Peels are best done in a series of 3-6 treatments, about every or every other week. After care is extremely important when it comes to peels. Sunscreen is an absolute must! It is imperative to protect your skin after receiving a peel, you've just stripped your outer layer of protection. Avoiding SPF will only cause further damage to the skin. I also recommend clients use an organic moisturizer or serum with anti inflammatory ingredients to speed healing.

If you have questions or would like to know more about how peels can improve your skin, please call 541-821-2802 for a skin care consultation or visit www.balancedskinbeauty.com.

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Submitted by Ashland At Home, serving Ashland and Talent

What do you need help with?

Staying in our homes can be a challenge as we age or when we experience a temporary illness or injury. We may need help with . . .

- · light housekeeping
- someone to walk the dog
- transportation to medical and other appointments & shopping
- paying bills or organizing papers
- daily check-in calls
- occasional caregiver respite
- assistance with electronic devices or software programs

Ashland At Home offers these services to our members, based on a national model known as the "Village Movement." (vtvnetwork.org)

Members needing more extensive services are referred to providers known for good service at reasonable rates.

Be part of a community

A village implies connection to others like us. *Ashland At Home's* members and volunteers build relationships: taking someone to the store is not only about going to the store. A sense of community and trust emerges from neighbors helping neighbors.

Ashland At Home also offers programs such as social gatherings, birding trips, game times at our office and more. We seek community engagement, independence, and support as we grow older – the very qualities provided by Ashland At Home.

Ashland At Home is a nonprofit, membership organization serving members since July 2012. There are more than 200 Villages serving their members.

For more information call 541-613-6985 or visit www.ashlandathome.org

Auto Body 101

Submitted by Melissa Shreeve, Star Body Works, Business Development Manager

According to the State of Oregon, you have the right to select the motor vehicle repair shop of your choice. Not all body shops are the same. While there are many shops that provide excellent service and quality repairs, there are important aspects to consider when choosing a repair center:

- Training Certified training is crucial to ensure proper repairs. As vehicles advance with technology, it is imperative that technicians stay current with the changes. I-CAR training is a designation to look for along with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) certifications. I-CAR is conducted by a certified trainer and the requirements include documented hours plus testing on specific topics and annual continued education is necessary to stay current. OEM certification is where a collision repair has completed recommended collision industry training and/or has exhibited excellence in the collision repair process and procedures through verification of a particular manufacturer. For instance, if you own a Honda, look for a shop that is Honda ProFirst certified. Just a note, not all manufacturers have certifications.
- Customer Service Everybody wants to be treated with respect and feel important. From the manner that the phone is answered to the delivery process, this dictates the level of customer service. How friendly and helpful is the staff? Does the body shop give updates on the repair process? Is there a survey to complete to give feedback with your experience? If you pose a question, do they answer it to the best of their ability? Are the employees competent? Do you feel like you are able to express concerns? Are your needs being heard? These are important questions that can create a pleasurable experience with an unleasurable circumstance.

- Loaner Cars Often times when a collision repair is needed, customers do not have other transportation. Some body shops provide FREE loaner cars for the customer. A loaner car is an option when rental reimbursement is not on the insurance policy or if the customer is paying out-of-pocket. There are usually general guidelines to using a loaner car: The customer must be over 18 years of age; they must have full-coverage insurance; a \$50 hold on a major debit or credit card, refundable as long as there is no damage upon the return; the customer agrees to stay within a 50 mile radius each day of the store and no smoking/pets. A rental agreement is signed and the customer accepts responsibility. Over a period of time, this can save the customer hundreds of dollars.
- **Equipment** State-of-the-art equipment is important when repairing highly advanced vehicles of today. This includes the measurement and frame straightening of the unibody, to the welding and replacement of body panels, to the refinishing. Does the shop have the ability to measure and straighten your vehicle to bring it back to original manufacturer specifications? Does the shop have resistant spot welders, silicone bronze or aluminum welders? The shop ability should have the to use environmentally friendly waterborne paint and be able to "bake" the clear coat. Nowadays, all of this is absolutely necessary.

The key to a successful repair is being educated and empowered. Choosing the right body shop is as challenging as finding the right doctor, dentist or lawyer.

For more information call 541-779-5621 or email melissa@starbodyworks.com,

Specialized Residential Care for Hospice Patients in Southern Oregon

By Susan Hearn, Executive Director for Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice

We agree with Dr. John Prescott, chief academic officer at the Association of American Medical Colleges, who says "Healing is an art, medicine is a profession, health care is a business." Hospice care may be one of the rare times when all three align.

Hospice is an art, sensitively responding to patient cues for comfort and healing. Healing happens and bonds are strengthened when opportunities for forgiveness, closeness and dignity is encouraged. Healing for patients and loved ones happens as positive memories are created in a beautiful setting with comforting aesthetics with sensory experiences from pleasant sights, smells, sounds, taste and touch.

Hospice requires professional medical expertise balancing pain and symptom management with desired lucidity for important last days. Professional palliative and hospice care doctors and nurses help find the balance while the body is shutting down. Professional social workers and chaplains help with emotional and spiritual pain while facilitating the best quality of life possible.

Hospice is good business too, while providing what 80% of what Americans say they want--to die at home surrounded by loved ones—and avoiding the astronomical expenses of intensive care units, hospitalization and other institutional care.

When Staying at Home on Hospice is Not Possible

The Problem

The problem is providing care for a loved one dying at home can be scary, difficult, and exhausting. Many don't realize the Medicare covered hospice nurse, social worker and chaplain visit a few times a week and delegate the majority of the caregiving to the spouse, child, parent or paid caregiver, often at great expense. Further, for dying people without able-bodied, willing and

capable family or friends to provide end-of-life support, dying at home on hospice care is not an option.

A Residential Care Facility Specializing in Hospice

A dedicated hospice RCF provides patients and families with a peaceful home-like environment while providing physical and emotional care by compassionate and knowledgeable hospice-trained providers. Certified nurse assistants, hospice trained volunteers and a registered nurse, administrator, volunteer and activities director provide the care.

Benefits of Residential Care for Hospice:

Patient Benefits

Patients will be safe, comfortable and cared for so their last weeks or days are peaceful and dignified. The hospice RCF focuses on the quality of the end-of-life experience, recognizing the individual's need for comfort, human touch, freedom from pain and fear, allowing for quality time for sharing stories with loved ones. This setting and care will strive to enable patients to pass with dignity and respect while respecting individuality and traditions.

Family Benefits

Loved ones benefit from a hospice RCF, as well. A hospice-supported passing provides lasting benefits for the patients' loved ones by allowing them to spend precious time together to deal with unfinished business, reflect, meet their own needs, and perhaps reconnect with the patients or others close to the patient. While our staff provides physical care, following the plan of care managed by the visiting Medicare hospice providers, loved ones are free to focus on what's most important.

For more information call 541-488-7805 or visit www.sofriendsofhospice.org.