### GOATS from page 1A

"Within the herd, I now have six generations," Austen said. "When they run together, they establish this family hierarchy, and everybody kind of learns the Ps and Qs. People think of bucks as more aggressive and such, but really within the herd, they are kept in line by the does."

This year's kids are four months old and weigh 40 pounds. They gain about 10 pounds a month.

"From May to August, the next three months, they'll more than double in size," Austen said. "Right now, they are miniature goats. They have a little more energy and are a little more skittish, but they are fully functioning goats. You'll see them finding their own food and running in their own little groups."

The goats will spend the next months eating. It's one of the things they do best.

"Goats are neat because they eat everything, in a way, but they're also pickier than people think. They're real selective. But given time, they will eat just about everything down to the ground," Austen said.

Unlike grazers like cows or sheep, goats will browse shrubs, bushes and trees.

"Goats are well suited for our region. They like to move from bush to bush, selectively browsing," he said.

In August, the goats will breed and the dams will spend most of the winter



the herd in eating their way through undergrowth. pregnant.

"The life of a female goat the property," is super energy intensive because, for the most part, they're either nursing a baby out two weeks or they're pregnant with a baby. It's kind of half a year spent nursing one baby and the next half is spent being pregnant with the next set," Austen said.

The goats often have twins or triplets, which means that numbers can double relatively quickly.

Austen's goal would be to move the herd throughout it, that she gets six to 12 back to the property yesthe year. Not only will this help provide for the herd's nutritional needs, but it can also benefit people like Goehring and the Swensons.

"I loved the idea of hav-

ing goats on Goehring said.

"They've been so far and it's phenomenal what they've cleared." Austen in-

stalled an elec-

to pen in the goats. They first two weeks.

"Becky says people love

tric fence on the property neighbors standing around the perimeter of the propcleared a quarter acre in the erty at night watching goats munch," Austen said.

The herd was brought



terday for the next round of property clearing.

been a great way to control the nature," Goehring said. "They quickly cleared an old stump and climbed all and hear."

up for the herd after they Peninsula.

"For me, the goats are thing with them." obviously joys and I love them, but they're this integral piece of a larger process that I'm developing towards holistic land management," he said.

Austen owns EverWild LLC, which partly focus-"Utilizing the goats have es on landscape, forest and habitat restoration.

"The background goal has always been land management," he said. "Using over it. It's just fun to see livestock to do ecological restoration and then man-Austen has pasture lined age it. The first five years was really about learning complete work on Dowells the goats and the herd, and now it's time to do some-

> He hopes people consider looking into goats to maintain their land.

> For more information, contact Austen at everwild oregon@gmail.com.





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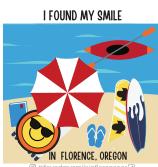
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