



'Nutcracker' coming to Richland/3C



Harvesting in Umpqua Valley/4C

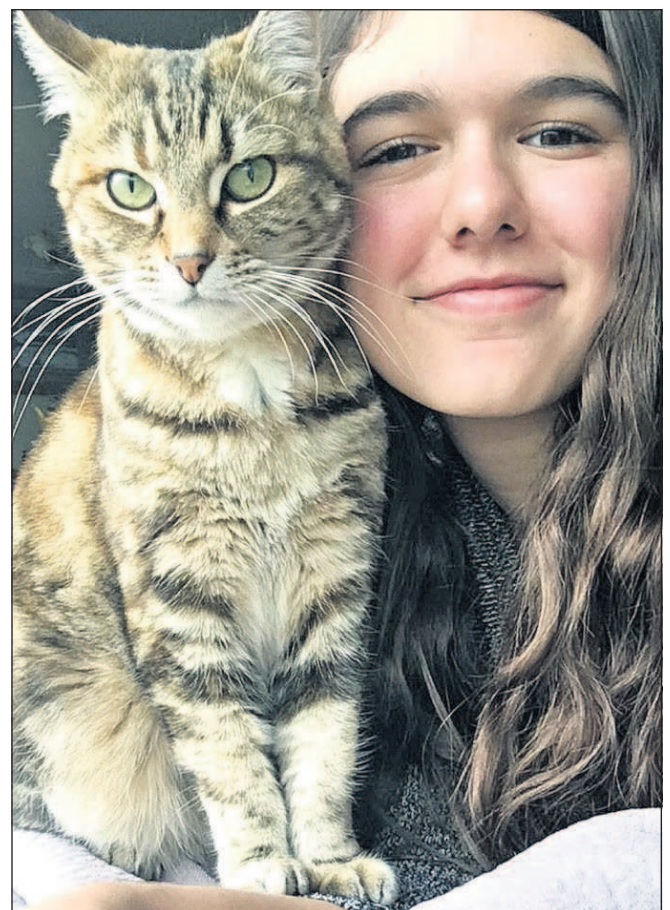


Mushroom hunting in the Northwest/10C



Inky adopted Stan and Marjie Prowant 10 years ago. When the Pendleton couple returned after taking their youngest son to college, the little fur ball was sitting in their back yard and never left. Her favorite pastime is hiding under rugs, plants and the latest edition of the East Oregonian.

Owned by Stan and Marjie Prowant



Iris has much love to give — the fur on her chest even has the shape of a heart. When pulling up in her car, Jacey Wilson of Pendleton said the 8-year-old cat always runs to greet her. In addition, Iris' idea of a purr-fect evening is cuddling and giving kisses. When Wilson is on the phone, her feline friend gets jealous and tries to knock it out of her hand.

Owned by Jacey Wilson

The purr-fect pet

Celebrating our feline friends on National Cat Day

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

I'm not a cat person. It's not that I dislike cats, they don't seem to like me — or my dogs.

Over the years, the company of cats in my home has been sort-lived. I attribute this partly to the fact I'm allergic to them, so they have to live outside.

Shortly after graduating from college, a cat temporarily adopted me. It meowed a lot when I played Bruce Springsteen albums, so I named him Bruce. It seems the cat was inspired by "Born to Run" and ended up disappearing, never to return.

The last feline that hung around our house was shortly after I had a hysterectomy. I experienced an intense desire to "mother" and attempted to adopt a feral cat that had been hanging out. Imagine my excitement when I realized she was pregnant.

I created a little kitty condo out of an old ice chest. I went all out, even purchasing cat dishes instead of merely feeding her out of discarded Cool Whip containers. When she gave birth, I bought fun little toys for the two little kittens.

And what thanks did



Levon is a unique cat — gaze into his eyes. The 10-year-old owned by Ian Shadle and Bonnie Day has heterochromia, which is characterized by two different colored eyes. The condition occurs most frequently in white cats (and cats with some white fur), where the dominant white gene prevents melanin from reaching one eye.

Owned by Ian Shadle & Bonnie Day

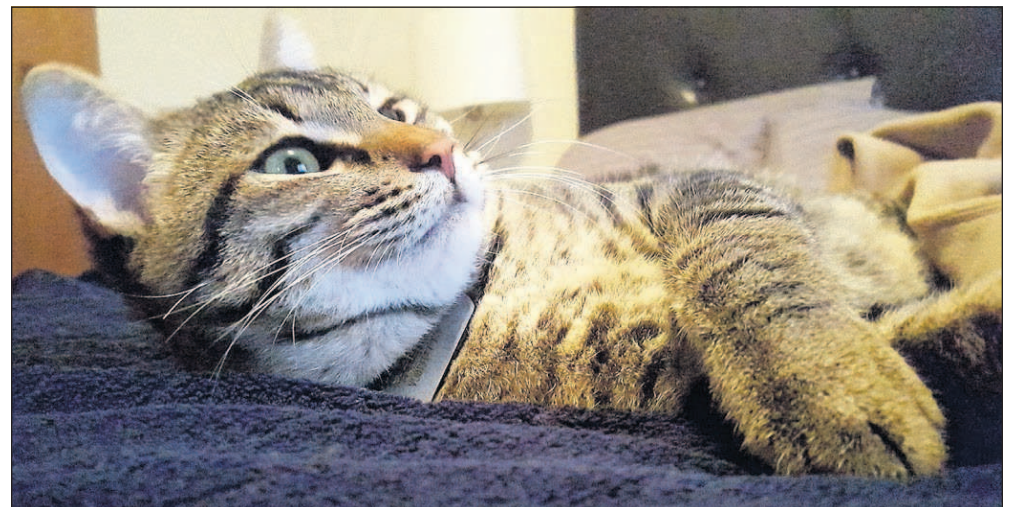
I get for my efforts — as soon as the little ones were ambulatory and somewhat able to fend for themselves, she packed them up and moseyed on down the road.

So, despite my unresolved cat issues, I embarked on a feature for National Cat Day and asked readers to send photos of their feline friends. And they did — lots of them.

U.S. Census figures from July 2014 indicate more Umatilla and Morrow county households own dogs than cats. However, the feline population outnumbers dogs by more than 1,600 — apparently,

cat owners think the more the merrier.

Colleen Paige founded National Cat Day in 2005. According to www.nationalcatday.com, the pet and family lifestyle expert wants the public to recognize the number of cats that need to be rescued



Leo is an 8-month-old male who assists with laundry by laying in the clothes hamper, enjoys watching his domain through the screen door and takes frequent naps. Owners Eric Arechiga and Graciela Ambriz said Leo is great conversationalist, often saying, "Meow, meow, meow, meow."

Owned by Eric Arechiga & Graciela Ambriz

and encourages adoption. In addition, she encourages cat lovers to celebrate their feline friends.

Some purr-fect ways Paige suggests to celebrate National Cat Day are adopting a cat from a local shelter or cat rescue; making a donation of

blankets, food or toys to an animal welfare shelter; or assisting a sick or elderly neighbor by cleaning their litter box.

Other ideas include painting your face like a cat, wearing kitty ears or dressing in cat-themed fashion — it's much safer

than donning a clown costume these days.

National Cat Day invites cat owners to share their cat photos at www.facebook.com/NationalCatDay.

More pretty kitties on Page 2C



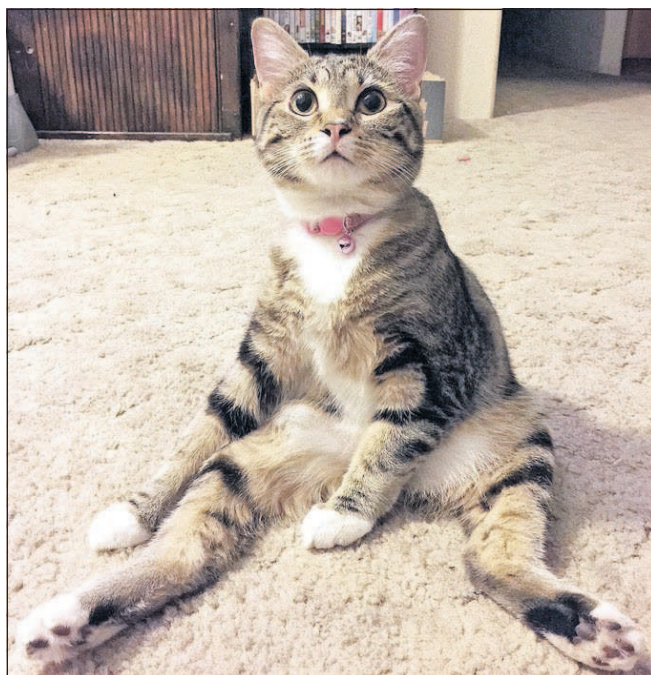
Nuchee likes to hang out in Holdman. Owner Tanner Remillard said the 4-month-old is pretty crazy but a very loving kitten.

Owned by Tanner Remillard



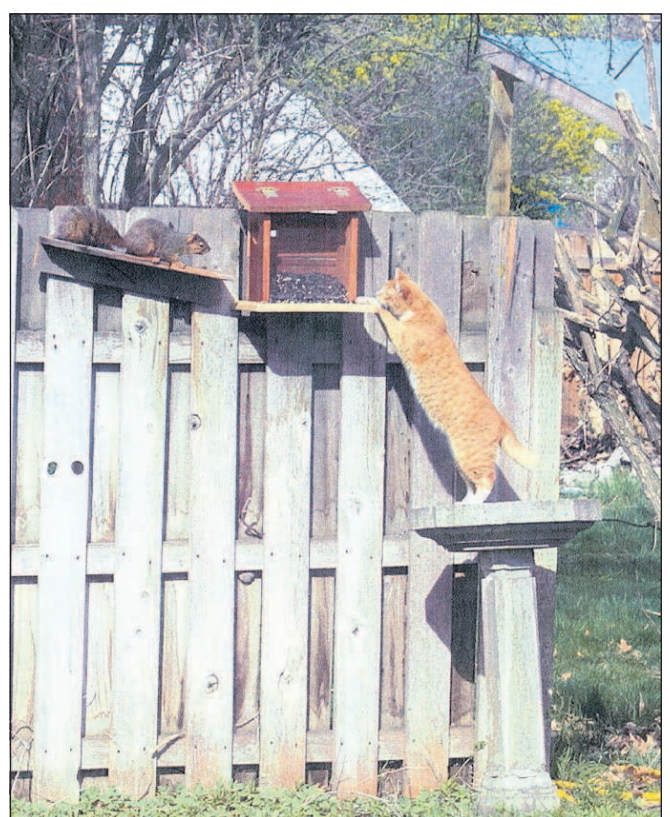
Feline sisters Cali and Lindsay Lohan are four years old. Karen Eddy of Umatilla said the calico is super sweet and mellow, while the tabby is just as wild as her namesake.

Owned by Karen Eddy



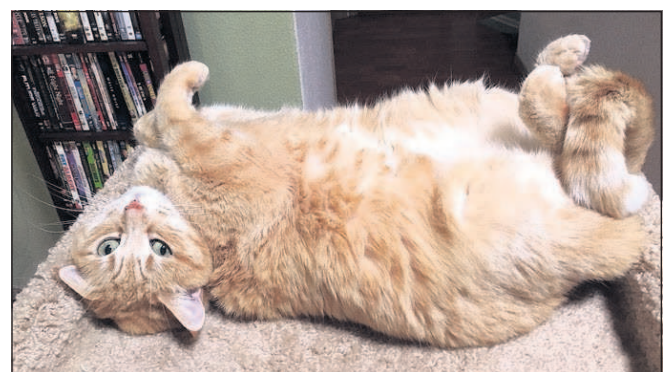
Thumper, a Manx cat, hops like a bunny. Living in Hermiston, the 2-year-old already has Michelle Gering wrapped around her paw. Eating yogurt is a covert operation because Thumper tries to eat out of Gering's dish. However, mama always saves the last bite for her feline friend. Thumper is definitely sitting pretty.

Owned by Michelle Gering



George Oblisk captured this photo of his neighbor's cat, Saffron. Although the Athena man didn't know the squirrel's name, he is calling him Rocky, as the duo appear to be prepared to duke it out for the seeds in the birdhouse.

Owned by Carrie Bremer



A 10-year-old orange tabby is appropriately named Pumpkin. Michelle Stanley of Pendleton says he looks sweet and innocent, but he's still quite frisky for his age. Pumpkin loves his family, chillin' on his cat stand and catnip, which could explain his friskiness.

Owned by Michelle Stanley