

BEYOND THE GROVE

Impactful news from Lane County and surrounding communities

Dreams do come true...for horses and little girls, too

BY LARAE ASH
For the Sentinel

Not far away, there is a magical place, the stuff of dreams, really, for horse-loving little girls (and boys) everywhere — and certainly for the lucky animals that have somehow landed in this pastoral paradise to spend their remaining days in care, comfort and companionship.

My granddaughter, Bella Wilson, is one of those little girls captivated by the gentle giants. Baskets of plastic horses, trailers, fencing and stalls pile up in her closet, and horses gallop across her bedroom walls. One day, she swears, she will have a horse, and we have come to visit this special place as part of her eighth birthday gift.

We are at the Duchess Sanctuary, a 1,120-acre ranch set amid the rolling hills east of Oakland. The non-profit facility is operated by The Fund for Animals in partnership with The Humane Society of the United States. It is one of four such sanctuaries in the country and is home to 198 horses that have been rescued from abuse, exploitation, abandonment and slaughter.

Many of them are refugees from the Premarin industry. At one time, they spent six months a year pregnant and tethered in a stall where their urine was collected to create estrogen replacement therapy drugs for western women in menopause. Others are racehorses that just weren't fast enough, show horses whose owners lost interest, wild mustangs that were headed for the slaughterhouse or those who were simply neglected or



photo by LaRae Ash

Herbie the pony cuddles up to Bella Wilson on her recent visit to The Duchess Sanctuary near Oakland. Herbie not only found refuge, but also a best friend in Nellie, a blind, elderly pony with which he is inseparable.

abandoned.

Today, Director of Operations Jennifer Kunz is taking time from her busy schedule to introduce us to some of her residents. Kunz, too, was once a horse-crazy little girl whose parents thought the infatuation would fade away. It didn't.

She eventually got her own horse — although these days she rarely finds the time to ride — and she has built a life around the animals she loves so deeply. When the Duchess Sanctuary property was purchased six

years ago, Kunz came from Canada with the original herd of 89 rescues to help create the refuge.

As we move about the property, with its pristine barns and stalls, endless fencing, tidy corals and expansive pasture, we learn about some of its residents.

There is the elderly Nellie, blind now, and the boot-wearing Herbie, who arrived with one of the worst cases of splayed hooves that Kunz had ever seen. Today Herbie serves as Nellie's

eyes, and the two are inseparable.

We meet Freckles and Cheyenne, the hot romance on the ranch, and Lucky, a racehorse from Idaho who won 18 races but ended up starving when his luck ran out.

And we learn about the "special needs" ladies — eight old mares requiring medication and "mushy feed" — which live on the flattest field to ease their arthritic bones.

"We're looking after them to the end of their lives, so we want them to be happy and comfortable," says Kuntz, who knows every horse's name and story.

Tomorrow will be a big day, she says. It's vaccination day, and many of the horses that have been corralled for the process watch us warily. A few saunter up to the fence for a nuzzle. After their shots, they'll be released to the open pastures to enjoy all that green grass they've been watching grow through the spring.

"It's pretty funny," Kuntz says. "They run out into the pasture about 20 feet, then just stop to eat that grass."

Hers is a big job, one she does with two staff members and a

Please see **DUCHESS**, Page 12A

BRIEFS FROM BEYOND

Fish Restoration and Enhancement Board to meet in Sutherlin

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fish Restoration and Enhancement Board will meet on Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30 in Sutherlin.

The committee will meet on May 29 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Best Western Plus Hartford Lodge, located at 150 Myrtle Street in Sutherlin to review 19 project proposals. The agenda also includes a district update, various staff updates, review of the new STEP/RE communication plan, and discussions related to ODFW engineering and project management and the role of R&E in implementing the Coastal Multi Species Conservation Plan.

Hat Trick in Drain

The North Douglas Performing Arts proudly presents "Hat Trick" on Friday, May 22 at 7 p.m. Band members are: Dan Fouts, Garry Kendrick and Skip Golden.

All concerts are held at the Drain Civic Center, 205 West A Street in Drain. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person.

Cowboy Cadillac

Saginaw Vineyard will present the country and classic rock stylings of Cowboy Cadillac on Friday, May 22 from 6-9 p.m. There is no cover charge, and the event is for those age 21 and over.

Raptor Center Family Nature Discovery Day

Cascades Raptor Center invites families to take part in its first Family Nature Discovery Day of 2015 on Sunday, May 31 between noon and 4 p.m. Guests can learn about birds in springtime — where birds nest, who builds nests and who doesn't. Kids and their families can build their own bird nest and decorate eggs to place in the nest. Participants will learn that it is not as easy as it looks to build a nest! They will also learn that many birds don't build nests at all. While visiting the Raptor Center, families can view over 50 permanent resident birds.

Activities are recommended for children between the ages of 4-11, and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cottage Grove Sentinel
Our Community Newspaper
—since 1889—

COTTAGE GROVE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND-UP

Some everyday items when disposed of improperly harm the quality of drinking water and cause other environmental damage. Keep your water supply safe and healthful—take a moment to gather your household hazardous waste and put it in its place.



**SATURDAY
MAY 30 • 8-2**

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BRING:

- Paint
 - Household cleaners
 - Lawn and garden chemicals,
 - Car care products
 - Arts and crafts products
 - Other household hazardous waste
- Limit is 35 gallons of waste in total from each household. Check labels for words like flammable, corrosive, poison, caution, and danger. For your safety it is always best to carry these items in a separate compartment (like the trunk of your car) with secured lids to eliminate spills in transport.

DON'T BRING:

- Empty containers
- Drums
- Radioactive waste
- Asbestos
- Explosives or electronics

For information about disposal of radioactive waste, asbestos and explosives, call Lane County Waste Management Division at 541-682-3828. Up to seven (7) Covered Electronic Devices (CEDs) can be recycled for free at any one time at these 6 Lane County Transfer Stations; Glenwood, Cottage Grove, Florence, Oakridge, Veneta, and Vida during normal operating hours. Also, Lane County accepts sharps, oil, antifreeze and batteries of all types year-round at all refuse disposal sites.

Year Round Collection Sites—Paint, Electronics, and Fluorescent Lamps
Paint, Electronics, and Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (and tubes up to 4 feet) are accepted year-round at various locations in Lane County through on-going collection programs. Check out the websites below to find a location near you, or call 541-682-4120 for more information.

PaintCare www.paintcare.org
Oregon E-Cycles www.deq.state.or.us/legcycle • 1-888-5-ECYCLE (532-9253)
CFL Collection Sites—List of Participating Lighting and Hardware Stores
www.lanecounty.org/lamps

NOTE: residential waste only—no commercial waste will be accepted.

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OPEN SAT. 2-4 P.M. 1170 Lord Ave: Immaculate 3 bdrm, 1 bath home on huge .24 acre lot. Great fenced back yard with large patio, shop and tool shed. Hardwood floors in bedrooms, laminate in dining room, indoor utility room and cute open kitchen. \$158,900



OPEN SAT. 11-1 P.M. 880 Kristen Way: Beautiful hilltop 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 2053 SqFt home built in 2006! Elegant 2 story entry, open kitchen/dining/family room, gas fireplace, and upstairs laundry. Low maintenance yard. Just reduced to \$229,900

WANTED.... Property that will finance VA Loan manufactured or stick built home. They love Row River area, and don't care how far out. They don't want to be too close to neighbors. Price needs to be under \$190,000

WANTED.... Farm property good soils prefer creek. Home needs to be financeable, 2- 40 acres. Under \$300,000

WANTED.... Large country home . Needs to be able to finance. Up to \$230,000

Have a happy and safe Memorial Weekend, and thank you to those who have served our country!

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