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Meet the DJ/Program Host
CINDY WEELDREYER

Born and raised in New Orleans, Cindy came to Oregon in 1980 as a college transfer student. She married Cottage Grove native Ralph Weeldreyer in 1982 and has been a proud "Grover" since 1983. Cindy spent 12 years as a Lane County elected official on the Lane Community College Board and the Lane County Board of Commissioners. In 2003, Cindy succeeded Darin Bailey as host of KNND's long-running Sunday morning gospel program. Cindy enjoys a close connection with the local faith community as the host of KNND's Sunday Morning Light Program from 7-10 a.m. and as the editor of the CG Sentinel's monthly Faith Page. She welcomes your Sunday morning phone calls and feedback. Cindy hosts the Thursday Beeper Show from 9-10 a.m., which features educational topics. She also hosts Saturday's Swap-N-Shop Program from 10-11 a.m. Cindy is KNND's Community Calendar Coordinator and editor of the e-publication "Around The Grove." She invites you to send community announcements to her at cindy@knnd.com for listing on KNND's website calendar and inclusion in the on-air announcements read during live programs.

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Pet Tips 'n' Tales
by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Loyal Reader's Loyal Pets

"I've been a loyal Pet Tips 'n' Tales reader for 10 years," said Joy, "and now that I am recovering from surgery there is finally time to tell our tale!

My husband, Dean, and I have three rescue cats. Our eldest, Sam, is a brown and black tabby who turned 17-years old on Halloween. Bitsie is a 12-year-old white and calico cat, and Sunu is a four-year old jet-black kitty."

Many people are unaware that kittens and puppies, like humans, are born toothless. Kittens' 26 baby teeth begin appearing at 2-3 weeks of age. The health of a kitten determines the age that the teeth appear. Kittens lose their baby teeth around age 3-4 months, as their 30 permanent teeth erupt. An adult cat's teeth are fully developed at seven months. This is how a professional can tell the age of a feline.

Being a rescue kitten is definitely not the same as being born at a neighbor's where the mama cat and kittens are well fed and safely snuggled in a closet.

"Sam was cruelly dumped in the country to starve," said Joy. "It almost worked. The tame kitten was sickly, malnourished and still had his baby teeth when miraculously rescued.

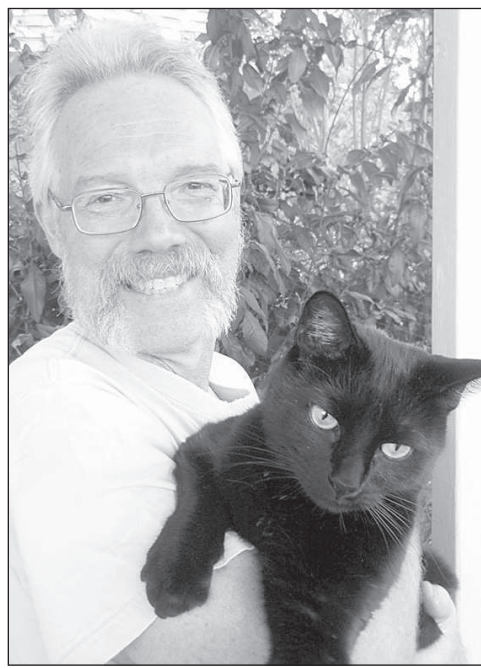
Bitsie was a feral kitten that looked four-weeks old, but our vet said her teeth indicated she was double that age. She was itsie-bitsie, and still is.

She and our Greyhound, Rafi, immediately bonded, making the funniest odd couple with their vast size difference. When Rafi would lay down, Bitsie would march up to him and bump his face with her face until he'd wash her. Only after Rafi had soaked and cleaned the top of her head and her ears was she ready to move on.

Bitsie didn't tolerate Sam, but after Rafi's passing Sam lovingly understood Bitsie's grief and started grooming her. And she let him!

We 'found' Sunu right after our beloved 16-year-old cat, Sparky, and my mother passed. In Avatar (our favorite movie) the word Sunu means 'Joy'. Sunu healed our hearts by bringing laughter and joy back into our lives.

He was a tiny, brave kitten. When Rafi first saw Sunu, the dog laid down, put his big head on the floor and intentionally looked away. Rafi stayed immobile until Sunu mustered enough courage to carefully toddle over and smell the gentle giant. I had



Courtesy Photo

I don't know who it was hardest on, the cats or the humans? Taking this photo started with two cats and two humans before narrowing down to Dean and Sunu. Dean and his wife, Joy, are still laughing at the adventure of trying to capture one good pet photo...every night for a week!

never witnessed a dog submitting to a feline in such a gentle, kind way. He was the best 'family' dog.

Sunu is a 'Daddy's cat'. When he hears Dean's vehicle, he runs to the door to greet him. He also sleeps glued to Dean's side, and Dean won't disturb him. Dean will complain, 'I don't have any room.' I explain, 'He's a cat — move him.' Eventually, I gently slide the cat my way. When Sunu 'asks' to crawl under our covers, he crawls in, turns around, drapes his front legs over my arm and snuggles. He weighs 12 pounds, and it's like adding a heating pad on a cold winter night.

We discovered Sunu's favorite 'toy' by accident. I turned on our small flashlight, and Sunu pounced on the beam. So we bought him a cat laser light toy, and the second he hears it click ON, he runs into the room, intent on hunting and killing the offending moving red dot.

Just like humans, as we age, so do our cats' and dogs' teeth. Sam recently had an abscessed tooth pulled. He spends most of

his time either sitting or sleeping on me. His gentle purr-essence helped me heal after knee replacement and breast cancer surgery. As I type, he is on my lap. We have something in common, as two years ago he survived cancer on his chin.

The veterinarian advised us, 'Take him home. It is too risky at his age to undergo surgery.' We felt we had nothing to lose, so as an experiment, we applied a natural remedy internally and topically, and it worked! We also used Reiki and prayer. Today Sam is doing well!

The other morning, Sunu was meowing and staring at Dean in bed because breakfast had not yet been 'served'. Dean said, 'I am the wrong person to talk to. Go tell your mother.' Well, Sunu turned and stared at me until I climbed out and fed him.

We are grateful for the cats that bless our lives and hope that we have blessed theirs."

TIPS

"We live in the country," adds Joy, "and our cats' favorite toys are the wild turkey's long molted wing feathers to chase and chew.

Cats naturally eat plants, so we research our house plants because many common ones are poisonous to felines. For their health, we have a pot of wheat grass growing for them to feast on.

When our pets are ill, stressed from trips to the veterinarian clinic or loud holiday fireworks, we use Bach Flower's pet 'Rescue Remedy' (non-alcohol).

Our veterinarian recommended cooked salmon for Sam's renal issues. Sam receives 1-2 tablespoons of cooked wild caught salmon a day. Last night, we all benefited and enjoyed salmon for dinner, so Sam can eat leftovers for days!"

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Cottage Grove Ranger Station to host Christmas tree jamboree

Meet Smokey and obtain Christmas tree tag permits at special Saturday event

The Cottage Grove Ranger Station will open its doors to the public on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Smokey Bear's Christmas Tree Jamboree, which is planned as an opportunity for those who would like to get their own Christmas trees from the forest on the Cottage Grove Ranger District.

During the event, Smokey Bear will be greeting visitors from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The festivities at the station will continue with a decorated tree, holiday music and sweet treats.

To cut a Christmas tree from U.S. Forest Service land, visitors must purchase a Christmas tree tag from a designated ranger station. Each tag costs only \$5 and is easy to obtain. The Cottage Grove Ranger Station also issues tree tags and other permits during its regular hours of Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but will be open for this special event to increase access to these services.

In the giving spirit of the season, every fourth grader who brings their free Every Kid in a Park pass or voucher into a ranger station can also receive a free Christmas tree tag. Instructions for obtaining Every Kid in a Park vouchers can be found online at everykidinapark.gov.

The Cottage Grove Ranger Station is located in Cottage Grove at 78405 Cedar Park Road, just off of Row River

Road. For more information, call the station at (541) 767-5000.

Christmas tree tags can also be purchased from local vendors Killion's Market at 33399 Row River Road, Cottage Grove, and Kirk & Family Mercantile 37570 Row River Road, Dorena.

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