

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pipeline walk

First Presbyterian Church in Cottage Grove announced that it will host a group of walkers protesting the proposed building of an LNG (liquid natural gas) pipeline through southern Oregon on Wednesday, March 23.

Twenty people are reportedly scheduled to spend the week between Palm Sunday and Easter on a "Walk for the Climate." The group is scheduled to walk 235 miles between Medford and the state capitol and will be led by the Rev. Paula Sohl, a United Church of Christ minister from Ashland. They will depart Medford on March 20 and conclude at the Capitol steps on Monday, March 28.

The group is expected to arrive at Cottage Grove Lake by 2 p.m. on March 23, where they will be joined by other participants for a six-mile journey along London Road to the Presbyterian Church at Adams and Third Street. Local residents are invited to join the walkers that afternoon and/or Thursday morning for the walk to Eugene, which begins 10 a.m. Thursday at the Healing Matrix downtown.

Soul Collage

Soul Collage, billed as a "dynamic, intuitive exploration into self-discovery using images and collage," will take place Saturday, March 19 from 1-4 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center. The event aims to allow participants to "deepen your understanding of yourself and your inner wisdom that can guide you on important life decisions." Those seeking more information can contact Bonnie Anderson at 541-672-6333 or revbonnicanderson@gmail.com.

All materials are provided. A \$15-30 sliding scale donation requested.

Bond committee at 912 meeting

Members of the Harrison School Bond Committee will discuss the proposed bond to replace Harrison Elementary School and fund other items at the next meeting of the Cottage Grove 912 Project on Monday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant, 401 E. Main Street. The school bond will be on the ballot in May. This meeting is open to the public.

'Annie Get Your Gun' opens April 8

Cottage Theatre continues its 2016 season in April with a family-friendly musical comedy classic. 'Annie Get Your Gun' features the music and lyrics of Irving Berlin, with original book by Herbert & Dorothy Fields, as revised by Peter Stone. Cottage Theatre's production opens April 8 and runs for four weekends through May 1.

Cottage Theatre's production of "Annie Get Your Gun" is directed and designed by Tony Rust, with music direction by Keri Davis and choreography by Janet Rust. This production features Stephanie Newman in her Cottage Theatre debut as ever-spunky Annie Oakley, and Ward Fairbairn as the charismatic Frank Butler. They are joined on stage by Madison Baker, Sophie Blades, Bradyn Debysingh, Bob Ewing, Kate Fairbairn, Dale Flynn, Bil Morrill, Isaiah Tichenor, and Maia Wilhour in featured roles.

Tickets are available online at www.cottagetheatre.org, by phone at 541-942-8001, or in person at the Cottage Theatre.



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Dogs run in the family

I have two published miracle books: "Expect Miracles" and "A Christmas Filled With Miracles." Every morning, I ask "...to be a vehicle for miracles to happen through me to others". And, I am always surprised when they happen — to me!

My recently deceased cat, Nymbus, loved being half of our teaching team. He swam for Animal Planet's "Must Love Cats" and flew to New York with a great cat-it-tude teaching pet-water safety on Anderson Cooper's show. He displayed chara-cat-eristics on what happens when you dearly love your pet. He enjoyed making seniors at Memory Care smile, and his favorite "sport" was riding in "his" bicycle basket. He took pride in his life mission, bringing joy to others, and apparently he is still my partner, guiding me to pet miracles from the other side.

You can't plan a miracle, but in Vancouver, BC, population 3,000,000, what are the odds of walking right to one?

During my Canadian holiday, I read a newspaper article on Wendy Alexander, and her dog, Chili, who had qualified to represent Canada in the World Agility Championships in Europe - for the third time! Chili must be quite the dog! I kept the article to help with the ardent task of locating them for a future Pet Tips 'n' Tales article.

Five days later, while walking at West Vancouver's "Bark Park", I boldly introduced myself to Anne and asked her "Why?" she had three dogs.

"Dogs keep you young," responded Anne. "My daughter is in Italy with her dog competing, so I am baby sitting her other two dogs."

I gasped! I realized the im-paws-ible odds of stumbling onto Wendy's mother! A miracle? YES!

Here is Anne's story and next week, the Canadian Champion 'Chili in Italy' article.

"Growing up, I had dogs and cats," said Anne. "So, when my four children were little, we had a "family" dog and each child had "their" own cat, who they slept with. Everyone left their windows open at night for the cats to come and go.

One night, my son heard the cats making a racket. Upon investigation, he was startled to see a raccoon and cat "sharing" the kibble. The raccoon came for years; he never harmed a cat and always joined them for dinner. I had to warn my visiting mother not to be alarmed if



Meeting Anne and her dog, Farley, was miraculous, like finding a needle in a haystack!

she woke up with a raccoon in her bedroom!

Our daughter, Wendy, spent most of her playtime on her knees being a dog! She lived and breathed dogs and not much has changed over the last few decades. When Wendy married she had two dogs that became "agility" dogs.

Wendy and her champion dogs have competed extensively in British Columbia and Canadian competitions. Last year they competed on two Canadian teams in Italy and the Netherlands.

This was the third year that Wendy and Chili qualified for the Canadian team. But shortly after, Wendy tore a knee ligament. She was concerned about being able to travel and participate in the intensive competitions. With physical therapy and a metal knee brace, she hopes it is the winning combination to carry her through the riggers of travel and competition.

After the tournament, Wendy flies onto Svent Istvan, Budapest to visit her daughter, Krystin. Krystin is attending the second oldest veterinarian school in the world. Yes, love and devotion to animals is genetic in our family! I imagine that my great-grandchildren won't be playing with dolls and trucks, but instead they will be outside agility training their pups! And - carrying on the family tradition of bringing home strays!

Christmas at my house is quite the "family" reunion with my four children, their spouses, four grandchildren, and nine dogs! The dogs are all big; a Malamute, three Border Collies, an Australian Shepherd, an Aussie-Border Collie cross, a Miniature Pincer, a Dogo Argentino, and a Staffordshire-Boxer cross. I currently have more grand dogs than grandchildren and I don't expect that to change soon - unless a few more dogs show up!

The well-trained canine-cousins are as happy to see each other, and the turkey dinner, as my family."

After dinner, the humans have to maneuver around a furry-agility course of nine turkey fed sleeping dogs!

Tips

"Have you noticed how spooky-smart dogs are?" asked Anne. "Once Farley, my Australian/Border cross, and I were headed out when I remembered it was trash day. I muttered that I had to get the trash. Farley immediately turned from the front door and walked over to the trash.

Farley has a grasp on the English language and understands more than we give pets credit for. Don't worry about the CIA's listening devices, our dogs are tuning into our conversations! I wish I understood dog-bark-talk half as well!

I recently read of a 65-year-old lady, who gave birth to quadruplets! Purrs-onally I would rather have a dog to walk with to keep me healthy, cuddle with, and sleep with all night long!"

Removing pet from FUR-niture and clothes:

- Rub a wet rubber glove over it. The static electricity also helps remove the fur.
- Fold packing tape upside down on your hand to work its magic.

Share your pet holiday stories.
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Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program. (541) 942-2789

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