



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Mayhem's Miracle

Several years ago, the animal shelter asked for people to foster kittens. "That sounds like fun!" thought Sharlene.

Now, that would be dangerous if I had read it! For many of us, cats are like jelly beans! They come in multiple colors and, of course, you can't have just one!

But Sharlene jumped right in and finding it rewarding raising and then sending little felines on to their FUR-ever homes. She admitted that, "It was also challenging because you get attached to the fur babies." Then reality set in, she, apparently, loves jelly beans, too! Oh! Oh!

"Our feline family grew," admitted Sharlene, "I thought the weak ones could not live without me, but it was the other way around. I would have been heartbroken to let them go. That's how we ended up with Mayhem!"

Mayhem was found abandoned in a field with her litter mates. "She was tiny and sickly," said Sharlene, "and almost died. We kept her because she has chronic respiratory issues and runny eyes."

Mayhem has a sweet purrsonality and she loves everyone! She is exceptionally patient with children and she lives for

attention.

Several years later, in April of 2014, Mayhem mysteriously disappeared. You might say, 'total mayhem' ensued as Sharlene's family searched the neighborhood.

"Our son, Cameron, owns KNND radio station," she said, "so he continually asked people to look out for her. We ran newspaper ads, checked Craigslist and ... nothing. We were very, very sad.

Then in August 2015, I was out walking when my cell phone rang. The nice 'voice' on the phone asked me if we '...had a cat named Mayhem?' I said, 'Yes, but she has been missing for quite sometime.'

The kind 'voice' said she was calling from Pet Finder and that Mayhem had been found and was at Eugene's Greenhill Humane Society. I could barely believe my ears! Yes, we have all our cats microchipped and that little-itzy-bitty microchip was the reason for the happy phone call!

Mayhem had somehow traveled 12 miles from home and was spotted starving and fed by a kind woman at the upper end of Cottage Grove Lake.

It obviously had been a long hard 16-months, and poor Mayhem was in bad shape. She was extremely thin, her eyes were a goopy mess, she was skittish,



Photo by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Cameron, Sharlene and Joel with their sleepy miracle kitty, Mayhem.

hissy and growly. Not at all like before her disappearance. Either she was delirious from dehydration, from the hot summer, or she was still terrorized from 'trying' to exist on her own. And obviously not doing a very good job at it.

As I now look down at her, resting on my lap, I think, 'she is our miracle cat!' She is chubby and healthy! It took her a few months to return to the cat we knew. At first she covered behind my computer, in only five inches of space. She made it her safe-warm nest as she healed physically and mentally.

She 'hid' there until meal times, then she would 'wolf' down her food in SECONDS! It took a month before she realized that she was going to be fed, on a regular basis, before she ate normally. Starving is a terrible memory. We are grateful for the microchip technology that brought her back into our lives. Guaranteed she is, too!"

On another rescue note:

Norine volunteered to watch her nephew's new dog, Hudson, while its family vacationed in Hawaii for 10 days. The nephew lived a two-hour drive away, so after she picked up the dog, as she was unloading groceries into her home, she tied Hudson to the front steps hand rail. She came back, minutes later, to an empty harness! Hudson had wriggled free and took off to parts unknown!

The search was on. She posted LOST DOG notices. Several sightings were reported, but to no avail. Norine lost weight worrying and walking, searching for Hudson! She was in a terrible state wondering what to tell his family. But! The day before they flew home, who walks up her driveway, but their lost dog! How had Hudson found the house he had only been to for mere minutes? It was as though he knew that vacation time was over and he'd better get back to Norine's so he could go home to his family. It was miracle!

TIPS

A microchip, the size of a grain of rice, is what reunited Mayhem with her family. Humane societies and vet clinics provide the service of inserting them.

"Microchipping only works if you register the chip," advises Janetta Overholser, president of The Humane Society of Cottage Grove. "If you move, immediately call and update your pet's information. We have one sweet cat here that has a chip and it is heart breaking because his chip is not registered. He won't have a happy ending like Mayhem unless we find him a great family. He needs them."

Cat lost for seven years - found!
<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/offbeat/after-seven-years-cat-comes-home-for-christmas/ar-BBnXffC?li=AAggFp5>

Share your pet tips and tales. angelscribe@msn.com

Free community Thanksgiving meals

Thanksgiving Meal

First Baptist Church, located at 301 S. 6th St. in Cottage Grove, will be hosting the annual free community Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A full meal will be served, and all are welcome to attend.

Thanksgiving Breakfast

There will be a free Thanksgiving Breakfast on Thanksgiving day at the 6th & Gibbs Church of Christ, 522 Whiteaker Ave., from 7 to 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Holiday Memorial Service

Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel knows that the holiday season can be a very difficult time for many people. Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one have the extra burden of grief. In an effort to lighten this burden, Smith-Lund-Mills extends an invitation to the community for its 29th Holiday Memorial Service, a special program is designed to give comfort and strength during the holiday season.

Everyone is welcome to this community-wide gathering: The program includes live music, readings, a memorial slideshow presentation and a candle lighting ceremony.

There will be a hosted reception with holiday treats and refreshments following the service.

The first Holiday Memorial service was held in Cottage Grove in 1987. Doug Lund, former owner of Smith-Lund-Mills, had observed that the holiday season could be a challenging time for the members of our community who had experienced a loss in their lives. Since then, the Holiday Memorial Service has become an annual tradition at Smith-Lund-Mills in Cottage Grove.

Thanksgiving Listen

The Great Thanksgiving Listen is a national project that empowers high school students to create an oral history of the United States by recording an interview with an elder over Thanksgiving weekend using the StoryCorps App (available for Android and Apple smart phones).

The StoryCorps app can walk participants through the recording process and provide questions to choose from: <https://storycorps.me/>.

Giving Tuesday

At the Nov. 14 meeting of the Cottage Grove City Council, Mayor Tom Munroe read a proclamation dedicating the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29, as "Giving Tuesday."

Now a national event that encourages giving to charities and efforts of one's choice following Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday offers a chance for participants to volunteer at their favorite charity, donate to an organization or help one's neighbors. In Cottage Grove, the Family Relief Nursery is also organizing a Superhero Coat and Book Drive at its location at 720 N. 14th Street from 1-6 p.m. Online donations made to the Nursery at familyreliefnursery.org of up to \$1000 will also be matched that day.

Thankful for blood donors

Lane Blood Center will be in Cottage Grove Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, from 1-5 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Community Center. To schedule giving blood, call Lane Blood Center at 541-484-9111.

'A Christmas Story' opens Dec. 2

Cottage Theatre concludes its 2016 season with 'A Christmas Story,' written by Philip Grecian and based upon the 1983 movie of the same name. The play will run for three weekends at Cottage Theatre from Dec. 2-18.

Cottage Theatre's production of 'A Christmas Story' is directed by Eliza Roaring Springs, with costume design by Melissa Cooper, lighting design by Ward Fairbairn, and set design by Tony Rust. The cast features K.D. Carver as young Ralphie Parker and Brian Bull as adult Ralph Parker, who serves as narrator to the story.

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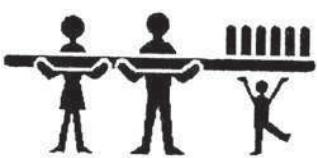
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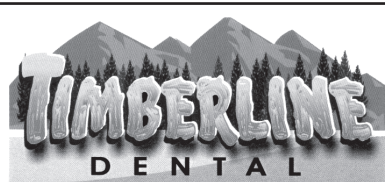
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