



# Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

## Lord and Lancy Nelson

Tracey's ocean loving family has two rescue hunting dogs; Lord Nelson, a German short hair Pointer named after the English naval commander, and Brenna a five-year-old Vizsla and Pointer mix named after a "mermaid" in *The Secret Life Of A Mermaid* movie. Their family also includes two cats, Surfer and Windy.

After the family's previous dog died, Nelson was in as much grief as his human family so Tracey took him to dog foster homes to pick out his new sibling.

"We walked into a room and saw a terrified Brenna hiding behind her foster mother," said Tracey. "She was in a fight or flight mode, growling with her hackles up. Lord Nelson took one look and scented the air revealing that Brenna was female, young, not a leader and scared, so he acted appropriately. He calmly walked over and submissively laid down in front of her."

There was no fight, growl, or chest out like one might expect from an alpha dog. The stately Lord Nelson simply fell at her feet in love. When Nelson lowered his head, she came out from hiding and nuzzled his nose. She sniffed him from stem to stern, while that big ol' oaf just laid there. Once he got up, the two dogs started playing which translates to "affection". He had picked his mate, Lady Brenna Nelson.

Brenna had never been in a car, so on their way home she climbed on top of Nelson and he patiently let her stay there for

the hour drive!

"When Nelson was a year old he treed his first bear and soon after fought off three coyotes that circled us on our walk," explains Tracey. "Now on our daily hikes both dogs have large-noisy "bear bells" dangling from their thick collars alerting wild animals to our presence."



Tracey and her hunting dogs, Lord Nelson and Brenna, use bells to scare bears.

Pointers smell things over a mile range, so the bells work wonders for dogs that go crashing off forest trails after a scent. Tracey can hear their location and because bears aren't adorned with bells, hikers are happy that it's dogs making the noise and not charging bears.

Tracey blows a whistle when it's time for her dogs to return. During winter months their sharp ears hear the whistle over howling wind, rain and rushing water. It is a good idea for hikers to carry whistles in case of emergencies to alert others you

need help and your location.

Tracey's dogs attended a dog obedience and training club and learned about boundaries, tracking and field work, agility, freestyle, scenting, Rally-O, and circus school. Then, she taught them to jump onto logs, benches, and rocks on the command "up" so they can safely "share the trail" with hikers and mountain bikers. The command "up" is also a mental exercise, teaches rules, and affection because the dogs are rewarded with a treat. This trick is how we scored on the wonderful photo above!

But during an agility competition things did not go as well. Hunting dogs do not care about speed because they are all about scent and sight. On command Nelson began running the 12 stations marked with bright-four inch orange cones: up and over the jump, around the poles, up the ramp, down the slide, up the ladder etc. The last station was a big ring with a long sock.

Nelson noticed its orange cone and being a flusher he grabbed the cone, ran through the sock, popped out the other end, and ran to the finish line still holding the bright cone. The audience erupted in hysterics. Nelson did not win because "proudly grabbing the cone" was not part of the competition.

"I still have lots to learn about dogs as trying to meet their needs while having fun," said Tracey. "At the end of the day in our 'den' we two humans, two dogs and two cats contentedly curl up in our king bed under the covers."

### FREE FISHING

It's free to fish, crab or clam in Oregon on Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3.

During these two days, no fishing licenses or tags (including a Combined Angling Tag or Columbia River Basin Endorsement) are required to fish, crab or clam anywhere in Oregon for

both residents and non-residents. Although no licenses or tags are required, all other fishing regulations apply including closures, bag limits and size restrictions.

"Free Fishing Weekends are a great opportunity for friends and families to get out and enjoy a day or two of fishing," said Mike Gauvin, ODFW recreational fisheries manager. "Trout, warmwa-

ter fish, ocean fishing, crabbing and clamming are just some of the great opportunities available."

Oregon State Parks are also free to visit on June 2-3, with day-use parking fees waived both days and free camping on Saturday, June 2 (an \$8 reservation is required to guarantee a camping spot).

ODFW and partners are also

hosting a number of fishing events around the state. Volunteer angler education instructors will be loaning out fishing gear and giving tips on how to catch and clean fish at most events. For more details and contact information for these events, visit <https://myodfw.com/articles/2018-free-fishing-days-and-events>.

### BUDGET

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three or four things and then they open it up for question but here we go page-by-page.' Then it justifies and helps the budget committee and the board realize what's in the document, what's there and what's available. So, that is a district process. That would look different in Creswell or Drain," said Tucker.

Items that were questioned included the reduction of the amount spent on textbooks. Last year the price total was \$125,000, when a new math curriculum was added. This year, it's \$60,000.

"Unfortunately, it becomes about priorities and yes, the textbooks are a priority. But I guess as we have conversations amongst us when we get to that point of saying it's that or a full-calendar, at this point we just have to make these choices," said Tucker.

Some of the highlights of the budget that Tucker pointed out at the start of the meeting include no cut days next year, adjustment in custodians for the new Harrison Elementary School, a medical assistant position for medically fragile students, and the addition of a community classroom at Lincoln Middle School that will include a teacher and an education assistant.

One of the long-term budget items that will also be impacting this budget is the implementation of a new bus fleet by 2025. To ensure that all of the buses in the SLSLD fleet are up to the Department of Environmental Quality emission standards, the district is budgeting for three new buses per year, including in the upcoming year.

While in some states the approval by the budget committee marks the end of the process, here the next step of the process is for the budget to go up for vote at the school board meeting on June 4.

"At the board meeting it will be just the board, there will be an opportunity for public input. If there's no public input the board will have the opportunity to do that and then somebody will make a motion to adopt what the budget committee approved tonight," said Tucker.

While the intricacies of the budget can change from year to year, Tucker began the meeting by reminding those in attendance that 85 percent of the budget goes to paying employees.

"The reality is this is a people business," he said.

### HOUSING

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development manager Faye Stewart told the council.

Affordable housing has been the discussion of several city council meetings as well as the catalyst for Faye and councilor Mike Fleck to begin meeting with contractors and developers to explore the obstacles they face in doing business in Cottage Grove.

In March of this year, local realtors placed rent in Cottage Grove between \$600 for a one-bedroom apartment to \$1,600 for a three-bedroom apartment.

According to Stewart and city planner Amanda Ferguson, the city is currently contracted to update its housing needs analysis, a study that reports on the city's buildable land. Stewart told the council Monday night that one of the recommendations stemming from the document will be to develop a housing strategy implementation plan. "(It) will let us delve into different tools to improve housing in Cottage Grove," Stewart said.

Under the Oregon Department of Land Conservation's program, cities can request assistance with the development of housing needs analyses, code audits, code updates and housing strategy implementation plans, according to Stewart's office.

Projects that receive aid from the program must be completed by June 30 of 2019. The housing needs analysis, currently being compiled by Echo Northwest, is expected to be on the council's agenda this August.

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