

Singing Ducks



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY KATHY BENNO

Members of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church were treated to the voices of the University of Oregon's award-winning Chamber Choir, which provided a special performance at the church on May 13.

Marine Board urges boaters to 'Plan, Pay Attention and Share'

SALEM — There are dozens of boat types on the market and so many opportunities to explore Oregon's waterways. Regardless of what's calling you to the water and the type of boat you're in, be sure to plan ahead, pay attention and share the water so everyone can have a fun time.

The Oregon State Marine Board invites boaters to explore the interactive Boating Oregon Map, where you can find a boat ramp near you, plan for a weekend escape to places less-frequented or find a waterway in the center of all the action.

"This season is off to a great start," says Ashley Massey, Public Information Officer for the Marine Board. "Take time to plan ahead. Check the weather forecast, water levels or tides, see if there are any reported obstructions and have the right

gear for the activities you're doing," Massey adds.

Boaters can check the Marine Board's website to find out what equipment is required based on the size of the boat and rules for operation which vary by waterbody.

Massey also emphasizes paying attention to your surroundings, continually scanning port to starboard and keeping a close eye on what's ahead.

"Brush up on the rules-of-the-road, start out slow because of debris in the water from this past winter, and whatever you do — don't text and drive. In 2017, there were 17 collisions from distracted driving.

"Social media, taking pictures and texting can be fun, but the operator needs to maintain focus and awareness to what's going on around them," says Massey, who explains that high water levels in the spring

cover many wing dams (also known as pile dikes) on rivers and bays and are just below the surface.

As a result, boaters need to keep their distance from the shoreline up to several hundred feet out from shore so they don't inadvertently hit one of the piles.

Boaters are encouraged to learn where the wing dams are located based on the waterbody where they're boating from NOAA Charts. The navigation charts can be downloaded for free.

With Oregon's population increasing and many people wanting to boat in their own backyards, think about taking a "dispersion excursion" to lesser-known waterbodies, especially for people new to paddlesports or seeking more solitude. There are 96 waterways where motors are prohibited and 50 designated as electric motor only. Visit the Marine Board's Experience Oregon Boating Handbook for more information about these regulated areas for paddlers and easy accessibility.

The Marine Board also recommends boaters play it safe by:

- Not using marijuana, drugs or alcohol. Instead, take along a variety of non-alcoholic beverages and plenty of water. Impairment can lead to a BUII arrest. Drugs and alcohol impair a boater's judgement and coordination which every boat

operator needs. Swift currents, changing weather and debris require boat operators to be focused and skilled to avoid an accident.

- If you are feeling tired, take a break on land and return to the water when you are re-energized and alert. Wind, glare, dehydration and wave motion contribute to fatigue. Continually monitor the weather because it changes quickly.

- Operators and passengers should wear properly fitting life jackets. Learn more about life jacket types, styles and legal requirements. Anyone rafting on Class III Whitewater Rivers is required to wear a life jacket, and all children 12 and under when a boat is underway. The water temperature for most waterways is below 50 degrees this time of year and wearing a life jacket is the most important piece of equipment for surviving the first few seconds of cold water immersion. What's the downside to wearing one?

- Never boat alone — especially when paddling. Always let others know where you are going and when you'll return. Print out a downloadable float plan to leave with friends and family.

- In Oregon, all boaters must take a boating safety course and carry a boater education card when operating a powerboat greater than 10 horsepower.

For more information, visit www.boatoregon.com.

Pet tips 'n' tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

A Desert Dog's destiny

Brandon's beautiful, 2-year-old dog, Hozho, is a "love child" after a brief encounter between a Blue Heeler and a Navajo coyote. I guess dogs and coyotes are not all-natural enemies; apparently, Hozho's parents had a little Romeo and Juliet in them! She was born in an area where sheep are raised and ranchers have Blue Heelers for herding flocks and protecting them from predators like coyotes.

Adopting Hozho came as a surprise to them both.

"I was not looking for a dog. I had never had one before and I did not choose her," said Brandon. "Her arrival was destiny."

When he was driving a friend home in rural Arizona, the friend pointed and announced, "That's my house. Do you want a dog?"

Apparently, weeks earlier during the night, someone left new puppies on his friend's driveway because of his good and compassionate reputation in their community.

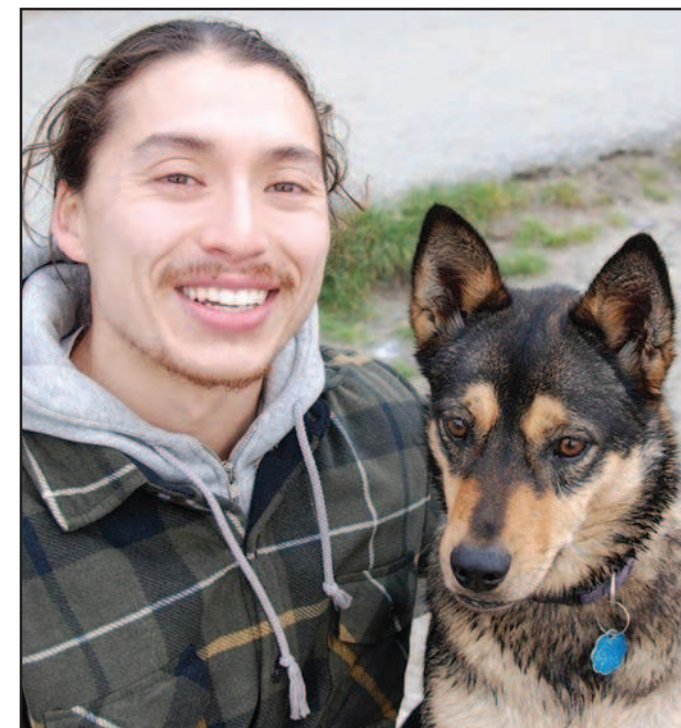
Brandon, as a new dog daddy, instinctively did the right thing and gave his dog an honorable name.

"Hozho's name is an adjective derived from a Navajo Dine Bizaad prayer that describes reality itself, encompassing beauty, balance and harmony," said Brandon. "I heard the prayer just before meeting Hozho and it was a way to bring Arizona memories home with us."

Little Hozho was unbelievably desert-dirty. "When she was patted, dust billowed off her for 20 seconds," said Brandon.

The new family spent 30 hours bonding on the drive from Albuquerque, N.M., to their home.

"Never having had a dog before, and Hozho never having



The arrival of Brandon's dusty-desert dog, Hozho, was destiny.

a home before had us making up our lives together along the way," said Brandon. "As a youngster, she had some scary looking hooked-canine teeth, perfect for tearing flesh, so I did my best encouraging her to be gentle."

As it turns out, Brandon's gentle nature rubbed off on Hozho and he had nothing to be worried about. While out walking, meeting strangers, children and pet columnists, the dog's happy-grinning face welcomes everyone to approach her and her dog daddy.

"As a matter of fact, her friendliness makes others happy, even people who don't like dogs," proudly states Brandon. "She's gentle-hearted and fascinated by anything smaller than herself (puppies, babies, birds, chipmunks and squirrels). Hozho verbalizes in unique whines, grunts and sighs. I've never heard another dog duplicate her sounds and assume it is from her coyote heritage.

"Also, we are so close, we communicate without words," Brandon continued. "Instead of telling her to sit, I snap my fingers. Instead of yelling at her to come, I make a smooching sound and wave for her when she turns towards me."

Hozho must also have a hidden Husky DNA, the "I-want-to-run-run-run" gene, because her favorite sport is running for hours along hiking trails. Then visualize this! When she runs through tall grass and weeds, she looks like a dolphin hopping across waves.

Best of all, her other happy time is being curled up on the couch snuggled up to Brandon.

Tips:

Tips 'n' Tales reader Suzka, in Portland, Ore., suggests: "When you brush your pets, toss their fur outside near a tree or a bird feeder. Birds collect and use the fur for their nests. They pack it around their eggs, insulating them, keeping them warm.

"I once observed two house sparrows as they delighted in finding fur and each frantically grabbed a mouthful. However, in their excitement, one over-filled its beak with too much fur and as it tried taking flight, it would flutter an inch off the ground and fall back to earth. The mate, seeing the predicament, went over to the 'bearded mouthful' and plucked some fur from its beak! Once the load was made 'just right,' they flew off to decorate their home together. It was heartwarming witnessing the mate come to the rescue. Their actions of using the discarded fur is the ultimate in repurr-posing!"

Share your fun, amazing or crazing pet tips and tales at angelscribe@msn.com or Follow Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales. Adopt loving pets online at www.PetFinder.com. For spay or neutering, call the Humane Society at 541-942-2789.



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6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY

78° | 48°



Mostly Sunny

FRIDAY

76° | 47°



Mostly Sunny

SATURDAY

67° | 41°



Partly Cloudy

SUNDAY

80° | 44°



Mostly Sunny

MONDAY

74° | 43°



Mostly Sunny

TUESDAY

76° | 42°



Mostly sunny

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