Betty Keiser

oday I bring you greetings from Pat Deter, a former Cottage Grove resi-dent, who is now living in Pahoa, Hawaii. I'll let that sink in for a moment.

Yes, she is now living in the small town on the big island next to the exploding Kilauea volcano. It began erupting in early May, destroying every-thing in its path including Pat's new home and all her belongings. It shows no signs of stopping.

Pat and her husband Ralph were my CG neighbors but they raised their family in Whittier, Calif. Ralph was a lithographer and after serving in the Navy, he bought a print shop. Pat worked

Betty Keiser's Chatter Box: Paradise erupts!

the Red Cross.

In 1994, the couple removed to CG Lake. It wasn't long before their little red car was zooming up and down the hill to volunteer tasks in town. They were members of Prospectors and Golddig-gers who are known for raising money for non-profit organizations.

Eastern Star. He was a driver for So. Lane Wheels; she a member of the Episcopal airplane in March with her church. They were also excellent neighbors.

Ralph died suddenly in 2014. Pat continued to live moved to Hawaii and suggested that she do the same.

alongside him until she went It was tempting. Last year, at to come every hour. Pat lived The last shipment of boxes is razor sharp. to work as a bookkeeper for 88 years old, she made the in Leilani Estates, one mile from Oregon was unpacked decision to move and put her from the downhill lava flow. She says that they brain house on the market. It sold A voluntary evacuation was lost everything. All import- a great attitude. How does washed her to become a vol- and she began preparations announced. Her daughter ant papers, birth certificates, she stay calm? Here's what to move to paradise.

tired, sold their business and Hawaii is complicated if clothes, robe, nightgown and computer were all gone. vou have animals. There are medicine. many hoops to jump through prove that your pets are rabies free. Fortunately, Pat has the patience of a saint (and some good friends). She also had the foresight to buy a fully furnished house sight un-Masonic Lodge and Pat, the sale of a lifetime and packing bed.

Finally, she breathed a was a hospital volunteer and sigh of relief and boarded an cats and dog for a new life of leisure on the big island.

Or so she thought.

Hundreds of earthquakes in their house in the woods woke up Pahoa in early May. with her cats and a new Pat said the 6.9 quake really dog. During this time, her shook everyone up. Then the daughters Debbie and Vickie volcano blew up and massive for each other. lava flows began.

Vickie called her to pack an banking information, phone she said when I asked. Moving to rabies-free over-night bag — a change of numbers (no cell phone),

They were headed for and it takes lots of dollars to her Vickie's house on higher ground. Pat said it was like a war zone and they decided to leave the cats and pick them up the next day. Before they left there was a mandatory evacuation so the cats had to Ralph belonged to the local seen. Then there was a garage be pulled out from under the lava are everywhere. Hous-

> They packed it all up including a large television and put her pets in to live with her those in Pahoa. for her return. A local Eastgenerous contribution to buy ing for housing.

The earthquakes continue and destroyed her house. looks like black popcorn and

prior to the lava flow. She

Most precious were her pictures of Ralph. Her grand- do about it. There's no end daughter in Calif. put out a plea on Facebook for anyone when it will stop. I'm grateful who knew her grandparents that I have my animals and a and had photos of them to contact her.

New cracks bubbling with expenses. ing is scarce. In some places, whole new wardrobe." Later, a couple drove by three families are crowded it in stor-age at their house for as long as needed. Her daughters and husbands are ern Star group gave her a under evacuation and look-

Pat has not gone back to email Everyone was looking out her former home site but she com has been told that there is a Suddenly, the lava came lava wall eight feet high, that

No house.

Through it all, she has had

Notice her sense of hu-

"There's nothing I can in sight. They can't pre-dict place to stay where I'm welcome as long as needed. My She's had a good response. insurance is providing liv-ing

"I'm okay. And I have a

The real meaning of Aloher house and noticed the together under one roof. ha in Hawaiian is that of patio furniture on the lanai. Amazingly, a lady Pat didn't Love, Peace, and Com-pasknow offered to take her and sion. "Aloha" to Pat and all

> Contact Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox at 942-1317 or bchatty@bettykaiser.

Want to share your viewpoint? Write a Letter to the Editor:

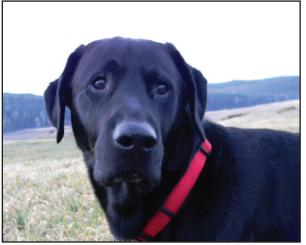
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Tucker's Cupboard working to provide outreach for canines' comfort

Tucker's Cupboard, a new nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding needy canines in the Cottage Grove area, is having a launch party. Sunday, June 24, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Brew Station., 106 S Sixth St., in Cottage Grove.

Door prizes, music, and a raffle for a kayak full of surprises. Well-behaved canines are wel-

The goal of the newly established Tucker's Cupboard is to



homes where their humans may struggle financially to provide adequate

Examples of aid include matching funds up to a set amount for medical procedures, medications or dietary needs.

Tucker's Cupboard also helps assist in obtaining items such as ramps, or-

aid canines who reside in thopedic mattresses and lifting harnesses or other quality of life items on an as needed basis.

"Our aid is currently local to or some additional com- those residents of the South Lane School District and we are a 100 percent volunteer organization," said Lynn Boe of Tucker's Cupboard. "All support directly aids the animals."

For more info contact Tucker's Cupboard at tuckerscupboard@ exede.net.



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