



Betty Kaiser

Betty Kaiser's Chatter Box: Bye-bye bats — For now!

He didn't hear any scurrying noises but he put out extra mouse traps. We found lots of droppings but caught no mice.

I think a little background is in order.

We are used to dealing with unwanted critters. We bought our house in 1989 and there were mice in the walls. One morning early on I found a bat in the shower! Periodically our dogs would spy a bat flying around the house at night. We would capture it with a butterfly net and take it outside to fly away. A new roof solved the problem. The original cedar shake roof was their home. The day the old roof was removed, hundreds of bats were awakened and darkened the sky overhead.

Bye-bye bats? Nope.

Fast forward to summer 2018. The bats were still living outside. We thought all was well. Our son John and grandson Josh were visiting

and we were going to Bohemia Park for the Eugene Symphony. Josh and I went upstairs and brought down four folding chairs.

Mine were strangely dirty. They each had one large,

black blob in the middle of the chair. A closer exam revealed two sleeping bats!

You would think that I would get hysterical but I found them kind of fascinating. I took the chairs to some nearby trees, moved the bats and we went to the park.

End of story? Not by a long shot.

The so-called mice noises got so loud in the shop ceiling that Chuck could hear them. An exterminator came who was "pretty sure" that the droppings were from mice. He put down some new-fangled traps scented with pheromones and we caught... wait for it: nine (9) bats! *This* time I got pretty close to hysterical; we were bat killers!

I spent that evening

Googling everything I could about bats. Did you know that next to rodents, bats are the second most common land mammals? They are an invaluable insect predator, sometimes eating half their body weight in mosquitos.

"They eat insects that could damage crops and can live to be 20 years old. They have a bad rap about rabies.

And finally, they are feeling a housing crunch because their favorite hollow trees, old barns and houses are disappearing.

Thus, we ended up with not one but *two* colonies of bats in our warm, sheltered shop. They found an entry and exit area where birds had picked holes in the walls. Then I learned that once they nest in your home they will come back to the same place year after year.

So, I went looking for a professional who could evict the bats humanely.

Here's a quick overview of how to evict bats:

1. Find all outside entrances
2. Install one-way bat check valves that allow bats to leave but not return.
3. Leave in place 5-7 days
4. Check to make sure all bats are gone.
5. Remove the check valves and seal the entrances. Sounds easy, right? Wrong!

Fish and Game regulations apply to Oregon bats. The company that we chose came out in mid-August and explained that our bats would soon be migrating to Mexico. They could not be evicted until after the first of September. Their babies had to be strong enough to fly with them to hibernate over the winter. Then, they will return next spring to their favorite new home at Cottage Grove Lake.

This was getting so complicated that it made my head spin. What to do? Well, one evening around the first of the month, Chuck was out

potting the dogs.

Suddenly, he looked up and saw hundreds of bats circling and taking flight. The next day, the bats were gone out of the shop. We had dodged one bullet. Then came the cleanup. If I had more room, I would tell you the process in detail.

Suffice it to say that it involved men wearing masks, removing ceiling panels, vacuuming guano, sweeping, sealing holes and quarantining the area.

Because the bats will return next year, we're going with a plan to put up bat houses and attract them with some of their saved guano.

I'll let you know how that works out. Hasta la vista murciélagos!

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

Huddle Automotive announces new custom exhaust fabrication services

Locally owned Huddle Automotive in Cottage Grove specializes in maintaining and extending the life of the autos it services. Shop owners Gary and Lisa Huddle have announced

that their shop is now providing custom fabrication of exhaust pipes and tail pipes for virtually any vehicle on the road.

With the addition of a new digital pipe-bending

machine and the accessibility to major brand manufacturers, Huddle Automotive can handle just about any job with access to name brands such as Magnaflow, Flow Master, Cherry bomb,

Superchips, Bully Dog Systems and more.

Not only can customers receive custom work and name-brand parts, but factory-direct parts are considerably less expensive — benefits that get passed on to customers in the form of lower prices and less time

traveling out of town for similar services.

The Huddles and their staff have been serving the Cottage Grove community for more than a decade, priding themselves on providing a high level of customer satisfaction.

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to schedule an appointment and ask how a custom exhaust system can increase your engine's performance and fuel economy.

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LORANE NEWS

• This is homecoming week at Crow middle and high schools. Students have been dressing up since Monday.

Today was Fake Injury Day, Thursday is Salad Dressing Day and Friday is always Spirit Day.

This Friday night, Sept. 28, the float parade takes place at halftime during the football game. Floats will be judged at 8 p.m. The dance for the high school begins after the game and runs un-

til 11 p.m.

• Our high school band is getting excited about its upcoming trip to Washington DC. Band members are still fundraising for things like extra charges for their instruments.

Come out Friday for a garage sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the CHS band room. If you have anything for the sale, contact Pat Dixon by emailing pdixon@cal.cal.k2.or.us or call 541-744-9376 to coordinate drop off.

The donated guitar for raffle will be on display.

• Going hunting this weekend or staying home? Come enjoy a delicious Hunter's Breakfast at the Rebekah Lodge this Saturday, Sept. 29, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

• RAC Lorane Movie Nights at Lorane Grange resume on Saturday, Oct. 13, with delicious soups and pies. See "Bend It Like Beckham."

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