

New dispatcher has old ties to Cottage Grove

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cg sentinel.com

Becky Erbes lives in Creswell but Cottage Grove is her home. And now, she's back.

Erbes joins five other new faces at the Cottage Grove Police Department has part of a hiring spring that took place earlier this year.

"We feel fortunate to have hired all of these individuals, who we believe will represent and serve our community in a positive and professional manner," said Cottage Grove Police Chief Scott Shepherd. "We believe all of these new employees will be good for our town and the community."

And while Erbes may be a part of a flood of new hires, she's anything but new to CGPD.

"My dad retired from here about two years ago after 26 years," she said. Ken Erbes was also a dispatcher and his daughter says she remembers nights bringing him dinner at the station.

"He liked the night shift more and so we'd sit with him for a while," she said. "He liked it, I guess because the phones



CAITLYN MAY/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove Police dispatcher Becky Erbes comes from a long line of law enforcement-related careers in her family.

were quiet and fewer people came in."

It's something he passed down to his daughter who says the night shift is also her favorite because, "The phones are quiet and fewer people come in."

Erbes started her career as a dispatcher in Cottage Grove in the '90s alongside Shepherd, who at the time was a street

officer and the now Captain Conrad Gagner who is still with CGPD.

"I worked in records part time and because it was part time, I ended up moving to Springfield PD which is a different beast," she said.

Not long after, Erbes began raising a family and now with her children all in their teens, she's returned to the beginning.

"When I walked in, I was home," she said.

Erbes will attend the state's basic telecommunications and emergency medical dispatch later this month to make her stay in Cottage Grove official. She joins new hire Gabriela Iboa Pierce, who will take Erbes preferred night shift on the dispatch desk.

"She was hired in May of this year," Shepherd said. "She is a recent graduate of the Department of Public Safety and

Standards and Training... and was released from training in September."

The new dispatchers are joined by two new officers; Wendie Jackson and Harry Sullivan. Jackson was previously a dispatcher for the Lane County Sheriff's Department and told the Cottage Grove City Council that she wanted to see what the other side of the job was and so opted to become a reserve officer and was hired full-time on Sept. 10.

According to Shepherd, Jackson has previous ties to CGPD, "In fact," he said, "she was hired to replace Ken Erbes when he retired."

Sullivan tested for the position of police officer in March and was hired in September. "He was inspired to become a police officer by several family members in law enforcement," Shepherd said. "He felt compelled to be a contributor to a safe community and chose our department over the others he was testing with."

Nate Bryce rounds out the latest wave of new hires as a reserve officer after he spent five years with the Eugene Police Department as a patrol officer.

Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"



French doors and Persian cats

Our two Silver Persian cats, Myster E. and Whyspurr, are 16-years-old. You would think by now that the siblings couldn't outsmart each other.

There is a set of windowed French doors leading from the cat room into the main part of our home. The cats' water and food are in there along with their litter box, a tall scratching post to observe birds at the outside feeder and enough cat toys to open a pet store.

For the last year, Whyspurr has been playing a prank on Myster E. and he has yet to catch onto it. When he goes to use the litter box, she paws-ititions herself behind the French doors, crouched down peeking through the glass at him — waiting.

After he uses the kitty washroom, he walks back into the house. Whyspurr, who's waited patiently the entire time, springs out at him. Her action leads them to spin around the house chasing each other like kittens.

Do cats get Alzheimer's? Myster E. is either walking into his sister's trap knowingly to join a game of chase, or he is honestly forgetting to look?

Every day, we stand and watch Myster E. as he jumps out of the litter box. We think: *Today is the day he is going to look for her! Nope!* Then, as he causally strolls back into the house, he is once again not aware of her, and he definitely never thinks to look through the glass panes for his trickster sister.

Meanwhile, she wiggles her furry little rear end in anticipation of her approaching "prey" then jumps out at her brother. Every time, he acts stunned as she rushes him. He jumps in the air, totally surprised, and the chase is on.

One thing is for sure, they still feel young enough to "hunt" and exercise together and we are grateful for every day with our beautiful fur babies ... errr, furry seniors.

We are learning several things by observing cats; every family has a comedian, even if it is the cat. Plus, unlike Myster E., we keep our eyes open for the obvious.



Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe's" senior kittens, Whyspurr and Myster E., still play pranks on each other.

TIPS:

"Many senior pet owners do not realize that pets like humans lose their eyesight with age," said Janetta Overholser, president of the Humane Society of Cottage Grove. "Even though I know this, last August I saw one of my elderly outside cats staggering. I went to her and discovered that cataracts had grown over both eyes. Apparently, she could no longer find any of the bowls of water I leave out for the animals. She was hot and dehydrated, so there was an immediate trip to the vet clinic."

Please do not dump young, elderly or any animals. The results are pain, suffering and heartbreak because the pet's starvation is a slow, cruel death. Please bring your unwanted pets to a shelter so they can be rehomed.

Tricks to keep alert blind pets to where they are in your home/yard through touch, smell and sound.

- Place a doggie gate in the hallway to paw-vent blind animals from wandering outside.
- Different thicknesses of throw rugs.
- Table top water fountains.
- Textured flooring, tiles, indoor carpeting, rubber mats.
- Solar/wind chimes.
- Different scented candle/herb sachets in each room.
- Don't move fur-niture or leave objects on the floor.

EVENT:

KNND and the Humane Society of Cottage Grove's fund raiser will be Saturday, Oct. 20, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, 216 S. Third St. Entertainers are David "Elvis" Lomond, Cowboy Cadillac, Dallas McCord, Cameron Reiten, and Julie Nedele.

"People in the United States spend millions of dollars on Halloween costumes for their pets each year. I wonder how many fewer animals would be euthanized if that money were in-stead donated to animal shelters," Mark Cuppola.

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.

Cottage Grove Garden Club to host Gardening Forum Nov. 6

Many people have questions about gardening, whether they are new to gardening or have been gardening for decades.

At the aem time, gardeners have answers and experiences to share.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, the Cottage Grove Garden Club will be hosting a Gardening Forum. The Garden Club encourages anyone with questions to attend.

This will be a round-table discussion where attendees will be answering eachother's gardening questions.

This gardening forum is perfect for people new to

gardening or new to the Cottage Grove area. It is also perfect for seasoned gardeners who have more specific questions.

The Cottage Grove Garden Club's informal business meeting begins at 6 p.m. and the gardening forum runs from 7 to 8 p.m.

All guests and visitors welcome, light refreshments provided.

The forum will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 216 South Third St. (at the corner of Third and Adams streets).

Enter off the garden on Adams Street.

Comprehensive family, medical eyecare and optical services

CLEARVISION
COTTAGE GROVE EYE CLINIC
CHAPMAN OPTICAL
257 N. 8th St.

Cataract exams • Glaucoma exams • Lasik exams • Diabetic exams
Serving Cottage Grove Community since 2006

Welcome new patients
Office hours:
Monday thru Thursday 9-5, Friday 9-4
257 N. 8th St. • 541-942-5000
www.PCVI.com

Transmissions Plus &
AUTOMOTIVE SPECIALTIES

PRACTICING THE ART OF TRANSMISSION REPAIR SERVICE SINCE 1991

- ✓ Manual & Automatic Transmission Repair
- ✓ Tune ups
- ✓ 30-60-90K Services
- ✓ Brakes, belts, hoses and cooling system services
- ✓ Mufflers & Custom Exhaust
- ✓ All makes and models.

MAINTAINING YOUR VEHICLE AFFORDABLY

WE LIVE IN THE SAME TOWN WE WORK IN "WE MAKE SHIFT HAPPEN!"

www.automotivespecialties.biz

DUSTIN TULLAR & RUSS OWENS
541-942-8022 • COTTAGE GROVE

MICHELE MONROE, LCSW
Counseling Services
541-255-8822
1450 Birch Ave
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

- Individual and Family Counseling
- Insurance and Sliding Scale
- Accepting New Clients
- Weekend and Weekday Appointments Available

FOUR-COURSE SAVINGS OCTOBER

GET UP TO **\$1600**

by mail when you purchase select KitchenAid brand appliances

up to **30% OFF APPLIANCES**
Plus extra **5% OFF** All Appliances with your SEARS Card

up to 20% OFF Power Lawn & Garden

sears HOMETOWN STORE
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-6:00pm | Sat 9am-6pm | Sun 11am-4pm
118 Gateway Blvd., Cottage Grove (Next to Bi-Mart) • 541-942-7377

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY 76° 44° Sunny	FRIDAY 77° 44° Sunny
SATURDAY 79° 46° Sunny	SUNDAY 76° 45° Sunny
MONDAY 70° 49° Showers	TUESDAY 66° 49° Showers

60% of smalled businesses close their doors within 6 months following a cyber-attack.

Call today (541) 942-0555.
PayneWest.com/Cottage-Grove

PayneWest INSURANCE