



COURTESY PHOTO

The Main Street Carousel will temporarily be housed at Brad's Chevrolet until a permanent home can be found.

CAROUSEL from *AI*

headed the repainting of the animals for the carousel and various businesses have donated material.

The group also estimates that it has garnered more than 3,000 hours of volunteer service but notes it could always use more as it heads toward the finish line.

"As we move into the more

business format, we will need additional volunteers for the various segments of the operation of the carousel," Williams wrote, "For example, Albany has 34 volunteers per week to operate their carousel and building operations. Most carousels throughout the west are operated with volunteer help."

The group currently needs someone to donate bookkeeping experience.

"As chairman, I continue to

interview leaders of carousels throughout the west," Williams wrote in an update on the status of the carousel. "They are all experiencing good turnouts and happiness with the community and visitors."

And while Cash's plan was to have the carousel be part of the Main Street landscape, and the project has made progress, it isn't quite there yet.

The current plan for the carousel is to house it at Brad's

Chevrolet under a lease while, according to Williams, the committee establishes the transition and works to secure funds and land for a permanent home for the carousel.

The next step, according to Williams, is reviewing historical photographs to be placed on the rounding boards of the carousel.

For more information or to volunteer for the carousel, visit cgarousel.com.

Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"



Shannon's Shadow

Shanon's black cat, "Shadow," is her mobile park's security guard. He purr-oudly pat-rols it paw-tecting pets and dispatching rats. He is rewarded for his diligence with grooming and kibbles by nearly everyone.

The young feral cat was surviving off the land, so Shanon's mother began feeding him. Then to prevent him from fathering kittens, Shanon had him neutered.

After that things changed.

"He felt we owed him for our transgressions," laughs Shanon. "He took up residence on our deck and when the weather turned cold he invited himself into our home. Our elderly cats, Desi and Lucy, accepted Shadow with no hissing or fighting. We thought fur-sure he was our third inside cat, until the Spring when he slipped outside to resume patrolling, returning to us at night."

Wisely, the cat had used the winter to rebuild his health. But now, there was one major problem. Shadow was a shadow and was constantly catching birds.

"Songbirds have a unique eye anatomy allowing them to see bright colors," said Shanon. "So, I purr-chased an eye catching, break-a-way, anti-birding collar. It's saved many feathery lives and yet it doesn't stop him from catching rodents. www.birds-besafe.com

Cats wearing bells alert coyotes. This fancy-clown collar keeps a cat's whereabouts quiet, while indicating a feline's presence to birds better than sound.

Shadow befriends neighbors with cat doors inviting himself in for a meal, brushing, a visit with their kitty and a sleep-over.

Twice a day, he joins Shanon and her Chihuahua, Ben, for a 4,000 step (16,000 in cat steps) walk. Their buddies Bonnie and her Chorkie, Inka, accompany them.

Shadow's sense of humor has him dash ahead of everyone, hide and then mischievously jump out startling them. He once shockingly dropped out of a tree in front of Shanon like Spider-

SCHOOLS from *AI*

same across South Lane including Al Kennedy High School, the district's alternative high school that has experienced high rates of absenteeism in the past. This year's rate places regular attenders at Kennedy at 44 percent, up 13 percent from last year. Cottage Grove High School's regular attenders rate was 84 percent,

up 10 percent from last year. The state average is 80 percent.

During a previous conversation surrounding the successes at Cottage Grove High School, principal Mike Ingman said the school had strived to improve attendance by increasing opportunity for school spirit, saying kids who wanted to be in school, came to school. Cottage Grove High School has increased the number of clubs it offers and has altered its schedule to allow for

more undisturbed instruction time.

And, it seems to be working. Cottage Grove High School, according to the state report card, shows an increase of 2 percent in on-time graduations, placing the overall rate at 96 percent. The rate is well above the state's rate of 77 percent. The school's on-track to graduate rate (students earning one-quarter of graduation credits as freshman) is also up this year—by 2 percent—to 87 percent, beating out the state average of 85 percent.

Kennedy, which underwent a move in 2017 and received updated classrooms this year, also saw an increase in its on-time graduation rate which sits at 20 percent. That rate is up 3 percent from the previous year. The school's five-year graduation rate is also up, coming in at 51 percent. And while both on-time and the five-year graduation rate fall well below the 77 percent statewide average, students at Kennedy often enroll in the school already behind in their credits. Something Kennedy administration has indicated can explain the jump in rates between on-time and five-year graduates.

The district's elementary schools fell into the state trend of below than average scores. Harrison, Bohemia, Dorena, Latham and Child's way all fell below the state average in math while London managed a score that was either at or above the state level but was not on track for grade level.

English levels also fell below state levels for all South Lane School District school except for Cottage Grove High School which met the state target. London also did not fall below the state average but did not score as on track in English.

South Lane School District has undergone several changes and challenges since 2016 including the undertaking of a \$35 million bond to construct the new Harrison Elementary School, the remodel of the community pool and a new superintendent, Dr. Sullivan, who recently extended his year-long stay to another year.

To view the individual reports cards of each school in the South Lane School District, go to: <https://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx>.



Everyone has a black "Shadow," but Shanon's is an unusual brave-black cat.

man, said Shannon, who explained he'll sprint down the street and through the unsuspecting group. Often, Shadow will dramatically flop in the middle of the road as if he's bored waiting for the slow pokes to cat-ch up. Thankfully the jet-black cat's collar is trimmed with reflective piping, otherwise at night he'd be bowling them over.

Roxy is his current feline girlfriend. He loved her predecessor, Bella. When she passed, her pet parent adopted Roxy so he transferred his purr-tective roll onto the rescued kitten.

"A neighbor was worried when her indoor cat snuck outside because of the coyotes," said Shanon. "She tried to catch her pet, to no avail. Then she saw Shadow walk over to the difficult-to-reach cat. She felt that if Shadow was on the job, her cat would be safe because she knew he had saved a cat from a raccoon. He stayed with her cat all night and in the morning, the escapee marched home for breakfast."

This special cat had a bewildering encounter with a man setting up at the community hall for his mother's funeral. He asked, "Who is the cat with the funny collar?"

Apparently, as he was putting out chairs, he couldn't decide to hold the service inside or outside. The decision was finalized when, "That cat convinced me to have the celebration indoors which made everyone laugh."

"One day, I was riding my bike and asked Shadow if he wanted a ride," said Shanon. "He meowed 'Yes,' so I harnessed him in the basket for safety. He loved the ride as much as my dog, Ben, and Mary Ellen 'Angel Scribe's' cats do in their bike basket.

This special cat is brave and trusting on so many levels. Last spring, "our" community cat had a severely injured paw and was forced to stay inside to heal. The veterinarian remarked, "It is rare, based on his injury, to have a cat be patient with no anesthetic."

"I have learned that not only are people prejudiced against people, they are prejudiced against black cats. More cats are born black than any other color, so it is a problem finding them homes," said Shannon. "They also don't photograph well for shelter websites. The Japanese, Latvian, and Scottish cultures have it right believing that black cats bring a home good luck and love!"

Adopt and enjoy love and luck.

TIP:

Play with your cat for relaxation, laughs and heart bonding.

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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