

Anna from A1

time between when Asleson could drive down from Washington and drive the streets, putting up fliers on nearly every business in town.

"The reason they have their dog back? Because Anna's mom and dad are a force of nature," Spevak said.

Joe Reeves, however, was not a member of the Bring Anna Home page so when he saw what he thought was a white goat in the tangle of blackberry bushes behind Chevron as he worked the station, he didn't make the connection. It wasn't until he walked back inside, passed the missing poster taped to the sliding doors that he realized.

"I was sitting at home in my robe talking with people about what to do next and this message comes up," Asleson said. "It was like, 'I think they found Anna.' I got the text at 3:14 (p.m.) and I didn't want to send people out again. I felt like I was starting to become a nuisance to the community and we had, had so many other sightings that turned out not to be her."

It was Donna Stearns, who had messaged Asleson just minutes before who didn't take no for an answer.

"We were having a conversation on messenger and she got this message," Stearns said. "She told me the location and I said, 'I'm 15 minutes away, I'll go there right now!'"

By the time Stearns arrived, there was a cluster of men in the parking lot and, in the far corner of the blackberry bushes, a white dog.

"It's so noisy back there with the semi-trucks idling and the noise from the freeway, I was afraid we would spook her and she'd run up the embankment to the highway and we'd lose her," Stearns said. "But then Cassie put the call out on Facebook and people started showing up."

The message, posted at 3:41 p.m. read, "NEED EVERYONE'S HELP THAT'S ABLE. PLEASE GO TO THE CHEVRON ON GATEWAY BY MCDONALD'S. We have 99% sure spotting but she is terrified and we need bodies to help make sure she doesn't get on the highway! Please help! DO NOT SPOOK HER. FIND DONNA. WORK TOGETHER." Within minutes, eight cars of volunteers pulled into the gas station.

First, there was a group of young girls who spread out to make sure Anna didn't run into the parking lot. Then, Greg Howe came and rallied people to the top of the embankment so she couldn't dart onto the high way.

"I was just in the car knowing it was going to take me hours to get there because



PHOTO C/O CASSIE ASLESON

The Aslesons, pictured above, were reunited with their dog, Anna, who escaped in Cottage Grove in late Nov. To celebrate, they took family holiday photos.

at this point it's 4 p.m. and it's Portland rush hour and I just kept messaging saying 'Work together, don't spook her,'" Asleson said. "But it's like torrential rain and I'm driving five miles per hour just praying it's her."

No one remembers who spotted the markings on Anna's ears first. She was hard to see through the jungle of blackberries—vanishing and reappearing as a white dash every few minutes. But once they were sure it was her, people started wading into the bushes.

"Joe had given her his peanut butter and jelly sandwich and she took it so we knew she was hungry," Stearns said. "So I left to go get a cheeseburger to lure her out."

Duane Taddei had seen the call on Facebook and appeared with clippers to help cut the bushes down. Greg Howe, armed with just a jacket and no

gloves, dove into and managed to grab onto Anna.

"He ended up getting bit because she was so scared but once he had her, you can see in the photo, she's not struggling to get down," Stearns said.

"I can never thank this town enough. There were people there just bleeding from the thorns on the bushes and had stayed with her. One girl, who went with her to the vet, she stayed with her for hours until I got there," Asleson said.

And while Anna is safely at home, her journey isn't over. She has a broken pelvis, fractures in her legs and may be facing amputation. But her injuries only add to the speculation of her disappearance. For Asleson, she's sure someone had been keeping Anna.

"I know because I have them on voice recording saying the family that had her was going to keep her and my vet said she

was kept.

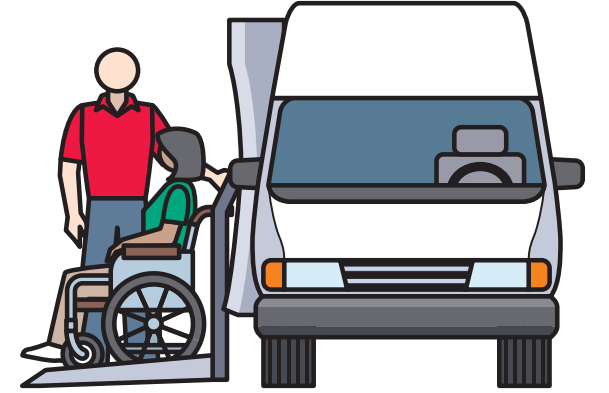
She had been outside for 18 days in the rain but she wasn't dirty. She's a white dog. Her paw pads were fine too," she said.

Other theories include a run in with a car and local law enforcement say the dog may have just been too skittish to approach people until that last day at Chevron when Anna saw

light. I mean the magic is so incredible. Roxann helped me find her and my dog's name was Roxy and Greg Howe showed up with his wife whose name is Anna. What if I hadn't been messaging with Donna specifically who just happened to be in Cottage Grove 15 minutes away? What if Joe hadn't been looking in that direction or if Anna wasn't in a clear patch of the bushes for him to see her? This town never stopped. I can never thank them enough to have my Anna back."

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Worship Directory

- DRAIN:**
HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm
- COTTAGE GROVE:**
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
10:00am
Christian Education:
Pre-K through 5th
www.6thandgibbs.com
- Calvary Baptist Church**
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm
- Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove**
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun:
9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgcalvary.org
- Church of Christ**
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am
- Cottage Grove Bible Church**
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org
- Cottage Grove Faith Center**
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett
www.cg4.tv
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- Delight Valley**
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium
- First Baptist Church**
301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242
Interim Pastor: Reed Webster
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 11:00am
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
cgfirstbaptist.com
- First Presbyterian Church**
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Rev.: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
fpcgrove.com
- Hope Fellowship**
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupc.com
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541-942-8928
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Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
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Holy Mass:
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Sun: 10:30am
Confession: After daily mass,
Sat. 4-5pm or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrock Lane
541-895-8686, Sunday: 8:30am
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church**
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
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- Seventh-day Adventist Church**
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00
- Trinity Lutheran Church**
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education
9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com
- United Methodist Church**
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
umcgrove.org
- "VICTORY" Country Church**
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: "WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES"
- CRESWELL:**
Creswell Presbyterian Church
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419
Rev. Seth Wheeler
Adult Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
website www.creswellpres.org

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