

Community Ash Wednesday service tonight at Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Cottage Grove, the First Methodist Church of Cottage Grove and St. Andrews Episcopal Church will be conducting an Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 216 south Third St. in Cottage

Grove.

A soup/salad buffet dinner will be served at 5:30 pm.

This will be the fourth year the three churches have joined together to hold services on one of the most important days of the Christian calendar.

Everyone is invited and all are welcome.

Lane County launches snow storm resource webpage

Lane County Emergency Management developed a Snow Storm Community Resources Webpage to provide Lane County residents with snow storm-related updates and quick access to a variety of community resources at www.lanecounty.org/news/whats-new/snowstorm community resources.

The webpage can also be accessed directly from www.lanecounty.gov.

The website supplements the non-emergency call center Lane County opened earlier

last week to help answer residents' needs while alleviating the large volume of calls coming into local dispatch centers.

The site includes weather and power updates; road closure information including access routes and detours; and information on shelters and warming centers.

Additional resources are also available on the site to help Lane County residents with specific concerns such as welfare checks, animal resources, and health and medical resources.

LORANE NEWS

As of this writing, just about everyone in Lorane has power back. A huge thank you to Tillamook PUD and Forest Grove PUD for helping EPUD get our power back on. Lane Electric worked hard also for those on their lines. While there are trees down, sheds, barns and parts of out buildings, to my knowledge everyone is safe.

Lorane Grange meets this Thursday, March 7, at its regular time of 7 p.m. Its next spaghetti dinner and bingo is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, with dinner at 5:30 p.m. No one was able to win the progressive blackout amount in February, so it grew a little

more.

Rural Art movie night is this Saturday, March 9, at the Lorane Grange, starting at 6 p.m. Their delicious homemade soups will be available. This is the last movie for the season and will start at 7:30 p.m. after antics and prizes. Movie nights will resume in October for six months. After all the snow, it's a great night out without going too far!

Spring Break for schools is set for March 25 through 29, so mark your calendars.

A special "Thank You" to all who helped their neighbors during our snow — and there were many!



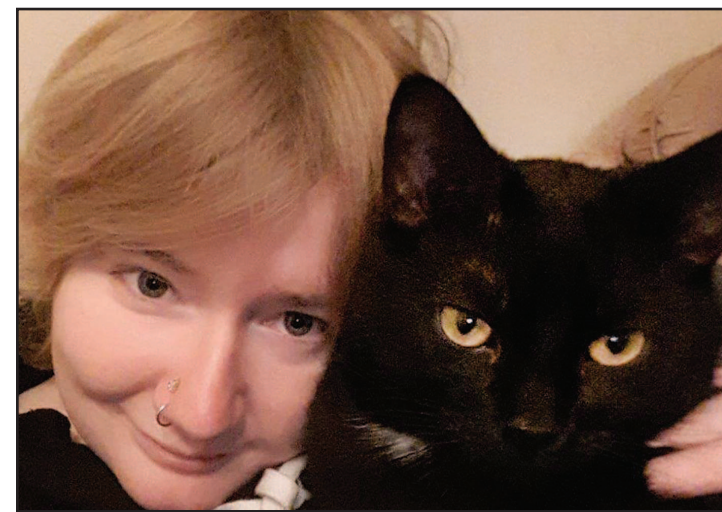
Pet Tips 'n' Tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Cats' Life Lessons

Emily and her partner, Michael, live on a low income. He uses a wheelchair and they live in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the country — which is also one of the coldest. Some may call it "a hard life" but Emily and Michael consider themselves two of the luckiest people who describe their lives as "great." They accomplish this by helping others and with the love of their feline family.

"We love our three cats Benji, Yukie and Henry," said Emily. "They always come first and if we have to go without in order to provide for them, then we are happy to do so. When the weather is minus 40 degrees outside, our home feels cozy because of our wonderful cats. We both have experienced anxiety and depression and our cats' purring and wild-antic therapy helps us cope."



Emily's cat, Benji, has taught her how to live life to its fullest.

Their cats are outgoing-cuddly Benji, a 1-year-old short-black furred fearless feline whose never met a cat he didn't like; Henry is a grumpy five-year-old, long-haired tuxedo who maintains an aloofness wrapped in a loveable purr-sonality; and sweet four-month-old white-furred Yuki is named for the Japanese word "snow."

"Being the only female, she is also the loudest and most vocal of the three always having to have an opinion on everything!" laughed Emily.

Life is never dull with cats. Often, all three cats take off and gallop around their home, "like horses chasing each other," said Emily. One day as she was unpacking groceries and a feather-wand cat toy, Benji ran over, grabbed the toy and ran off with it before she could get it out of the packaging.

No one can out-think like a cat, and the couple is trying to figure out why — with five cat-climbing trees, three cat beds and an extra bed in the guest room — why Benji purrs sleeping on their damp bathroom mat? Then on the other hand, she will find one, two or three cats asleep in the laundry fresh out of the dryer before she has a chance to put it away.

As for Benji ... well, no one can predict his next move; like the time he was asleep on the bed, rolled over on his back and purr-omply fell off. He is a character who, when displeased, makes groaning noises like a human.

Yuki loves her big brother, Benji, and copies his every action — even to sleeping on the damp bath mat.

Emily is a strong proponent for neutering and spaying. She volunteers for an organization that helps people in her town have their cat fixed if they can't afford it.

"We go as a team since we live in the inner city. I load and unload the cats for the drive. After the cat is 'fixed' at the Humane Shelter, it is then returned to its owner because most of our cat's parents don't have a car," said Emily, who has always been an avid cat lover who enjoys the lessons cats teach. "Cats spontaneously enjoy life and being present in moment. Not to mention, that they take more naps! Their example, lessons, love and antics help lift our depression and anxiety making our lives richer and humorous."

Emily said she often prefers their company to that of people. "A cat never says anything to hurt your feelings or engages in upsetting political debates," she said. "Cats enjoy life as it comes. They teach us that it is okay sometimes to be non-productive. To just exist; to just be. In this fast-paced, materialistic world, the lesson to just be is both indispensable and life affirming."

"Be in the moment. Be a cat."

TIPS:

- Cats love homemade toys; empty toilet paper rolls, boxes, twine with a straw at both ends to prevent ingesting it. Tie 1/3 of a straw length onto each end of the twine with large knots and drag on the floor. Cats love the mouse like action and noise.

- Unbelievable! Pentobarbital found in pet food. There are dozens of pet food recalls! Is your pet ill? Double check the FDA's webpage (www.FDA.gov) for information.

Share your fun, amazing or crazy 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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