



Poetry in Motion

Oregon Poet Laureate Kim Stafford came to London School on Tuesday, April 16. He said he enjoyed seeing all the students' poems. During his visit, Stafford sang, told stories and recited poems. One London first-grader said, "That was so good, I had tears in my eye."

Courtesy Photo



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Murphy's Home!



Cathy and Murphy are happy to be reunited.

"I love my pets to the moon and back," said Cathy. "When my 10-year-old Red Setter, Murphy, went missing, I knew that I would never be a whole person again if I did not find him."

She had followed her dream of moving to Cottage Grove and bought a home next to a great hiking area. Her dogs knew the hiking rule: "Stay within sight!" In years of exploring the logging roads, her dogs knew the area like the back of their paws. But one sunny day, at the end of winter, they were excited to stretch out their muscles on the trails. Almost immediately, the day took a dark turn.

"As we began the hike, all three of my dogs simultaneously jumped down into a steep ravine, ran after something and disappeared. When called, only Molly and Daisy returned. But not Murphy," said Cathy. "It was like he had disappeared into thin air. There was no barking, no noise, just silence. It was alarming."

Cathy phoned her neighbors and said, "Murphy may funnel down the ravine and come out at your ranch." They told Cathy they would keep an eye out for him as their 20-year-old son (who wishes to remain anonymous) began searching. He searched from morning to night, described by his parents as being "on a mission and going to find Murphy if it killed him."

After searching for hours, feelings of dread swirled within Cathy with visions of Murphy frozen in the dropping temperatures, injured and being surrounded by predators. I'm almost 70 years old and I couldn't eat or sleep. I was exhausted from the hiking miles in the forest, in rain.

Cathy reported his disappearance to the police station, KNND radio, vet clinics and the local humane society. In addition, her granddaughter put up flyers around town and Cathy's yoga friends, Judy and Terry, listed Murphy's disappearance on Cottage Grove's "What's Going on in Cottage Grove" Facebook page. Cathy was offering a \$500 reward.

"During the next three days, I could not eat or sleep. On the third day, I asked on Facebook for search party volunteers. Twelve people arrived; some I knew, some were total strangers — and one man came with a scent dog," said Cathy. Just as we were about to set out, my neighbor's son approached saying, 'Are you looking for a dog?' He then led me to Murphy curled up in a car!"

Murphy was exhausted and soaked to the bone, but alive. It was evident that he could not have made it another night.

"I collapsed to the ground crying, thanking and hugging everyone," recalled Cathy. "My neighbor's son kept his word. He found Murphy camouflaged up next to a cedar tree. The dog did not bark because he was nearly frozen. The young man had to carry my 71-pound-dog up a steep ravine where, luckily, he met the man whose car the dog was in. He then put Murphy in my vehicle for the trip to the vet clinic for a check-up and hydration."

Both Murphy and Cathy are recovering. Her dog couldn't walk for a few days but is slowly rebuilding his stamina. He also suffers with reoccurring bad dreams.

Cathy was not expecting this happy ending, so she wanted to say, "Thank you Cottage Grove! I love this town and am so glad we moved here. I am grateful for its awesome people! Thank you to a great community who came together when someone needed help. Your kindness brings tears to my eyes. I will be forever grateful and so will Murphy."

The reward? Her neighbor's brave and determined son refused it, insisting "This is what neighbors do for each other."

TIPS:

Cathy massaged Murphy's leg muscles, hamstrings and stretched his legs to help facilitate his healing.

Adopt Loving Pets www.PetFinder.com

Share your fur-avorite pet memory or adventure at angelscribe@msn.com. Visit Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program.

541-942-2789

LORANE NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON FOR THE SENTINEL

• Grandparents Tea at Applegate Elementary is scheduled for tomorrow, April 25, beginning at 1 p.m. Students have been working very hard on this and it is always an exciting event, especially auctioning the classroom baskets. There will be performances by the entire school. Students have been working with Artist in Residence Linda Burden-Williams.

• Come to a "meet and greet" with Crystal Nevins who is running for a school board position. She will be at Lorane Grange this Friday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided. Meet Nevins and get to know who she is and what her goals are as a school board candidate. The Grange is opening this for

the community to be fair to all.

• Lorane Grange meets next on Thursday, May 2. Ladies, the men are serving in honor of Mother's Day in May.

• The Grange is still collecting new socks and T-shirts for our veterans. Contact any Lorane granger or stop by on meeting night.

• CAL School Board meeting is this Thursday, April 25, at Applegate Elementary, beginning at 6 p.m., with budget meeting first in Applegate Elementary. • Kindergarten Roundup is May 7, at 3:15 p.m. Come see the classroom and meet the teacher. For more information, call 641-935-2100.

• Applegate Booster Club is sponsoring a dinner and bingo on May 10, beginning with dinner at 5 p.m. followed by bingo at 6 p.m.

Bikes to Blooms wildflower event to blossom in May

The event will be held at Bake Stewart Park, Row River Rd., in Dorena

Discover spring wildflowers in bloom at Bikes to Blooms on Saturday, May 11, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bake Stewart Park. With a local expert as a guide, participants will explore a rare, remnant prairie and oak habitat along Dorena Lake. Bikes to Blooms is a free, educational event featuring activities for families and nature enthusiasts, including a morning bird walk, stewardship opportunities, educational booths hosted by local organizations and guided wildflower walks. Travel southeast of Cottage Grove and experience this ecologically valuable and scenic landscape and to see the southern Willamette Valley in bloom.

Booths will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with naturalists available to lead additional walks. All activities are accessible by car and carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited. Participants should bring a picnic lunch, water,

weather-appropriate clothing and weed-free shoes. If cycling, wear a helmet and be cautious of variable trail conditions. Please leave dogs at home.

Bikes to Blooms is hosted in partnership with the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service Cottage Grove Ranger District, Native Plant Society of Oregon, Walama Restoration Project, Kennedy High School and Cottage Grove Historical Society.

For more information, visit www.coastfork.org or call the CFWWC office at 541-767-9717.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

- 8 a.m. Bird Walk
- 10:30 a.m. Wildflower Walk
- 1 p.m. Pollinator Walk.

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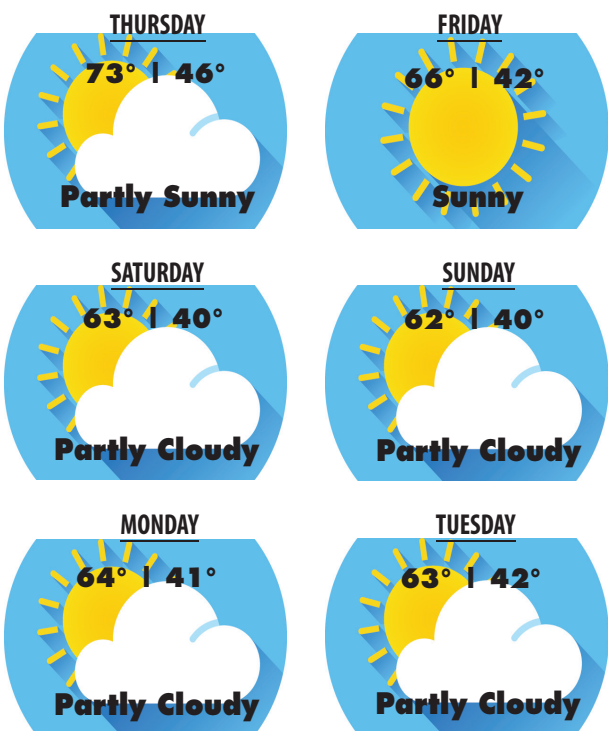
Beth Pool, Master Gardener
Sharing Expert Advice
Learn what plants and trees grow and thrive best in Cottage Grove

FREE Lemonade and Cookies

Join us for a Magnolia tree planting
Friday, April 26 • 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

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6-day weather forecast



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