

WOE Heritage Fair, Lumberjack Show opens Aug. 16

On the third weekend of August, a long-held tradition of Cottage Grove will bloom again. From Friday, Aug. 16 through Sunday, Aug. 18, The Western Oregon Exposition (WOE) will ride again. The mission of the fair is "...To be of service to the community [by] carrying on the American tradition of old-fashioned fun, entertainment and education in a safe, family-friendly environment."

Ken Schwieger, WOE President, emphasized that last point of the mission, saying, "We are going to have lots of fun things for kids to do!"

Just a partial listing of the kid-friendly experiences to be had include: Dr. Delusion's Comedy & Magic show, National Guard Climbing Wall, The Grand Prix Pine Car Races (build and race your own), The Swinging Rope Monkey Bridge and Open Mic — and are all free. New this year are the Mega Water Slide and the Zorb Ball Races. These activities require an additional fee, along with the entrance fee (\$3 general and kids age 12 and under are admitted free), Bring a can of food to get \$1 off

admission.

Those activities are just the beginning at the fairgrounds, located just north of Cottage Grove at 2000 N. Douglas St. (next to the CG Speedway). There will be live music on three stages each day of the festival, as well as the Lumberjack Competitive Logging Show; food and craft vendors; exhibits of agricultural harvest; categories of art and handicraft; livestock and scrapbooking; demonstrations of handiwork; antique engines and farm implements; beer and wine garden for the adults; and all through the weekend will be activities focusing on the WOE Royal Court.

This is not a beauty pageant. The Royal Court selects youth who have a record for working to better their community and help develop their public speaking, etiquette skills and to grow their self-confidence.

These young women and men from four age groups are encouraged to continue their academic achievements and community involvement.

Throughout the year, youth selected to the court will serve as ambassadors

of the Western Oregon Exposition.

This down-home family fair and hometown tradition is all about the exhibitors and showcasing all of the talent within the community.

Exhibitor categories include: Textiles, floral and forestry, culinary, food preservation, produce, art, craft and hobby, photography, scrapbooking and livestock.

After judging, ribbons are awarded among six divisions, from pre-school to senior. There are exhibitor forms available online at the WOE website, and entries can be brought in on Wednesday, Aug. 14, from noon to 8 p.m., or Thursday, Aug. 15, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Livestock can only be entered on Thursday, Aug. 15, from noon to 5 p.m. Many local youth participating in 4-H will be showing their project animals. This year, there will be some exciting new things joining the old favorites.

There are still opportunities for vendors to become a part of the fair and there is a need for volunteers.

For more information

on either, contact Skye Hefner at 541-942-6150 or email her at westernoregonexpo@gmail.com.

Cottage Grove, which has a strong agricultural background going back to its founding, has had annual exhibitions of the bounty of the rich Willamette soil since early in the 1900s. The earliest fairs leaned heavily on grains. There was a time when the sweet pea was celebrated community-wide, then poultry.

The exhibits have been held in open air, at City Hall, The Armory, Jefferson School and in vacant buildings. After incorporating in 1952 and changing its name from South Lane Fair to WOE, it found a permanent home on land donated by Stanley Daugherty.

Join generations of Western Oregonians as they celebrate the heritage and talents of this region at the WOE Fair.

To learn more about the variety of activities, visit www.woheritagefair.com or Facebook at WOE Fair and Logging Show.

—Written by Dana Merryday and edited by Skye Hefner



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Rescues = Fun!



Photographing two wild teenage kittens, Marsha and Mellow, is a skill that Vivian is trying to master.

Mine and Vivian's hearts are forever bonded because of cats.

"Seventeen years ago, my sister told me that a shaded-silver kitten named Miss Wings needed a flight to a 'kind and gifted writer, Mary Ellen, in Oregon,'" said Vivian.

Not only did Vivian volunteer to fly Miss Wings from Boston to Eugene, she paid for their flight. When she landed and handed a tiny fluffy Miss Wings into my hands, I fell in love — both with the kitten and Vivian. At the time, I was healing from cancer and the kitten's and Vivian's love were the best medicine ever. A few years later, Vivian adopted a relative of Miss Wings, Brie, to add to her two Himalayan cats.

After the loss of her Himalayans, Vivian's friend told her she was fostering, "Two sweet, white, five-week-old kittens." Vivian, who wanted to rescue cats, asked her friend to bring them over for a "test drive."

"At first, the kittens were so little that their tails were only two inches long," recalled Vivian. "Their big sister, Brie, is now 15 years old and enjoys watching the tiny entertaining kittens like live TV, but she refuses to babysit them and I refused to give them back."

The twins were named after their soft, fluffy, marshmallow-like white coats; Marsha and Mellow.

Mellow now weighs 15 pounds and Marsha is 13 pounds. They stretch out to three feet long and they're only nine months old. When Mellow sits on a coffee table, Vivian has to push the kitty condo up to make him fit. These gigantic olive-green-eyed felines appear to be Russian Whites: a mix of white Siberian and Russian Blue parents. The breed needs to be kept stimulated because of their intelligence.

Luckily, Mellow plays by himself chasing a ping-pong ball in the tub. He's so rambunctious that the balls constantly fly out. When he was smaller, he would run up an unsuspecting Vivian's leg, give her a love nip on her bottom, and then run off when she yelped. Purr-omptly at 5:30 a.m., these wild furries run up and down the hallways for two hours. Then they zonk out like under heavy anesthetic.

"Everything is a toy to them," said Vivian. "That includes baseboards, diving under blankets and into the laundry basket. They love playing chase while jumping on everything that they are not allowed to — but they do it anyway. My two rescues are silly, bring joy and have me laughing all day."

Mellow loves spying on his family in the bathroom. When the toilet is flushed, he rushes over and puts his long paws up onto the seat, then bends his head down into the toilet. When he reaches in to explore the swirling water, Vivian pulls him away.

On one side of her white couch (bought to camouflage three white cats' fur) is a living tropical plant and on the other side is a fake tree. Mellow sees this as a challenge, often catapulting from one tree, across the couch, and into the second tree. Brie pays attention and follows suit.

Talk about teaching an old cat new tricks! The mischievous twins will walk up, then step off their six-foot-tall cat post onto the ledge above the sliding door where they balance like mountain goats defying all odds of falling.

The second that Vivian sits or lays down, all three white cats cover her.

"My white furniture is great, but the navy couch is a white cat hair nightmare," laughs Vivian. "So, it is a good thing that they lay on me most of the time. I could not love these little mongrels any more. They nestled in and rescued my heart. Every day, I say, 'Thank you' that they came into my life. I spoil all my cats and my friends are constantly telling me, 'Your cats have won the kitty lottery' or 'I want to be reincarnated and come back as one of your pampered pets!'"

TIPS:

- Adopt a rescue here: www.PetFinder.com
- Contact your humane shelter and become involved in their fostering program.

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

CONTRIBUTED BY LIL THOMPSON FOR THE SENTINEL

• Sunday, Aug. 11, come enjoy the annual Lorane Community Potluck at the Lorane Grange. Doors will open at 10 a.m., so those going to church may drop off their dish. Many people come around 11

a.m. to visit, with lunch starting promptly at noon. Please remember to mark your dishes in case you forget them. After eating, wander down to the Fire Hall for the annual Volunteer Fire Department Ice Cream Social from 1 to 5 p.m. Come enjoy delicious pies and ice cream while enjoying music by

Kyle and Jim. Take a fire engine ride or enjoy any of the various activities taking place on the church lawn across the street.

• Just a reminder that there is a Red Flag warning in our area. It is hot, dry and windy, so please be careful. Be aware of times when you cannot run any combustion-driven

equipment. This includes lawnmowers, weed-eaters and power saws. If you're not sure, check with the fire department or read the signs. Things are very dry and we do not need more wildfires.

• Remember: Lists for school supplies are now available in area stores.

Come Join Us at the W.O.E. Fair August 16th-18th

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6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY 79° 55° Partly Cloudy	FRIDAY 82° 55° Partly Cloudy
SATURDAY 74° 53° Rain	SUNDAY 83° 55° Sunny
MONDAY 87° 56° Sunny	TUESDAY 87° 56° Sunny

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