

Holiday Classic takes center stage



PHOTOS COURTESY EMILY BLY

From left: Oliver (Audriahna Jones – on table), Artful Dodger (Matthew Michaels – rear with top hat) and Fagin's boys (Zoe Goings, Quinn Branstetter, Jayshing Goolsby, Elizabeth Blakely, Jayling Goolsby, Mariah Bailey); bottom: Bet (Ashlee Winkler) and Fagin (Tony Rust)

'Oliver' opens tomorrow at Cottage Theatre

The Cottage Theatre's production of the holiday classic "Oliver" opens tomorrow, Dec. 6, and continues through Dec. 22. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are available online at www.cottagetheatre.org, by phone at 541-942-8001 or in person at the Cottage Theatre

Box Office, 700 Village Drive, Cottage Grove.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth (age 18 and under). Box office hours are Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and one hour before performances.

All seating is reserved, so advance purchase is recommended.



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Heavenly Heart gifts and giggle



Sonja's dog, Ben, likes to play possum

Here are three interesting pet stories: "As the veterinarian released our dog, Sophie, into Heaven, I held her and whispered, 'Please send me signs from Heaven that you are still with me,'" said Suzka. "A few weeks later, while clearing up after dinner, my husband and I were sharing the joy and love that Sophie gave us. He said, 'You were a good mom to her and she loved you.' Just then, I accidentally spilled leftover red sauce. My being upset instantly turned into tears of happiness!"

Sophie's favorite food had spilled into a perfectly shaped red heart, confirming her husband's words.

"Never doubt that our pets are truly forever," said Suzka. "They send us signs to calm our hearts and let us know they will always be with us."

Now, Sonja has two stories to share:

"On my 15th birthday, which is also Christmas, my father and uncle caught a two-year-old mustang, we named 'Stormy,' near Death Valley," said Sonja. "They chose the horse because of the white heart on his forehead. I love horses. So, when I went out to the corral and saw him, I was thrilled. I named him Stormy because he was caught during a rare desert snowfall. That horse was the best birthday/Christmas present I ever had."

"He was the go-to ride for my mother when she and my father went into the back-country hunting for venison. Stormy could pack out a deer with no trouble and was willing to do whatever was asked of him. His only drawback, as far as my dad was concerned, was that he never let men ride him, tossing any guy right off! A discerning horse."

Another one of Sonja's pet stories is about her dog Ben who spotted a young opossum making its way towards the fence line bordering a stream.

"This was odd behavior for a opossum," said Sonja. "What was it doing out in broad daylight? Upon seeing Ben, naturally the opossum fainted dead away. Ben sniffed it and looked at me with a puzzled expression. Of course, Ben knows how to play dead so maybe he would make the connection?"

As the opossum stayed still and Ben sniffed it, Sonja went to the carport and grabbed a clean heavy rag and hurried back.

"The opossum was no fool, it was still 'dead,'" said Sonja. "I covered it, carried it and then, as far as I could reach, gently placed it through the fence and covered it with the rag. Ben did not want to leave the opossum but, being a good boy, he came. Once home, I gave him his favorite treat of chicken for not hurting the little critter. I like opossums. They are related to the koala and kangaroo and are useful to have around. These furry marsupials are not dangerous to humans and are nature's sanitation engineers keeping the environment clean by eating roaches, rats, snails, mice, small rats, moles and dead animals."

"Opossums must be nature's most dedicated optimists! After all, they are betting their lives that whatever scared them into a catatonic state will not hurt them as they lay there vulnerable and helpless. Apparently, an opossum cannot move once it's fainted, even if it wanted to. Hormones flood their mind keeping them motionless. I wonder if I could do that if a grizzly bear walked up and sniffed me? Food for thought — no pun intended!"

"A little while later, Ben and I walked back to see if Miss Opossum was still there, but she had recovered and waddled away. I hope she sticks around to help in my garden this spring!"

TIPS:

"When you find a fainted or fatally injured female opossum, check the pouch for babies. They can be raised by hand with advice from an experienced rehabber. They are adorable and will ride on your shoulder and chirp like baby birds when hungry," suggests Sonja.

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

• Tonight, Dec. 5, Lorane Grange meets at 7 p.m. After the meeting, member will plan preparations for their Christmas Dinner and Open House on Sunday, Dec. 8.

• Come out on Sunday and enjoy the Christmas Dinner and Open House beginning at 1 p.m. The Grange will be open from 9:30 a.m. and on, so people can drop off dishes before church. Grangers provide the turkey, dressing, gravy, ham and potatoes. Everyone should bring a side dish and/or dessert. The community is invited to enjoy this wonderful tradition. Also, bring a white elephant gift for the ever-popular exchange. This is a delightful event for all

to enjoy.

• Christmas boxes are up in the Grange and other organizations to accept non-perishables and canned goods for those less fortunate in our community. Marissa has put up Angel Trees in the Lorne Family Store and Crow High School gym. Find an angel on the tree for a boy or girl and their need. Let's all help families and children have a Merry Christmas. If you know of a child let Marissa know or of a family in Lorane, call Jim Bailor, Asst. Fire Chief for Lorane.

• School is back in full swing. Be sure to listen to the news for any inclement weather.

• Many events are coming up to celebrate during the holidays. Please be safe and allow plenty of time for driving.

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6-day weather forecast

FRIDAY 51° 45° Rain	SATURDAY 51° 43° Rain
SUNDAY 51° 36° Rain	MONDAY 52° 34° Sunny
TUESDAY 50° 49° Cloudy	WEDNESDAY 49° 39° Rain

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