

# Pet Tips'n' Tales: Praying for 'Church'



By Mary Ellen  
"Angel Scribe"

Church, a 10-month-old, bi-color Persian, deserves ap-paws for surviving a horrific accident at eight-weeks of age. The healthy kitten was sleeping when a 160-pound human tripped and landed on the fur baby. "Church was lifeless; only breathing four breaths per minute," described his adopted mother, Heather.

"The breeder immediately placed him in a neonatal incubator. Her quick action helped him survive the first of his nine lives. The previous happy-bouncy kitten's motor skills were left spastic and unregulated. His right side was weak, his adorable furry head tilted to the left, and his right eye had no blink reflex. He was unable to move and was syringe fed. "It was a miracle survival. To everyone's greatest hope and prayers he began eating and drinking on his own. After a month, he could pick up his head. Then he gingerly stepped out of the incubator like he'd spent the last month in it on a drinking binge.

THEN! Unbelievably, the wobbly-tilted headed kitten began chasing and playing with his siblings!" The miracle kitten, named after Stephen King's Pet Cemetery novels' cat, Church, was adopted a month later by Heather. "I'm a natural nurturer," said Heather. "When I was young, my mother said that at a pet-store I'd empathetically want to adopt the fish floating at the top of the tank 'to help' it. Church melted my heart. Adopting him was easy; and like him, I held the same faith that he could improve. Everyone is amazed what this tiny, adorable, determined kitten has heroically accomplished. "My home is carpeted, which helped Church's traction to rebuild his strength," explained Heather. "Slowly but surely, his coordination improved. Today, you'd never know that he was brought back from the brink of death by his sheer willpower to live. Even though his head tilt has disappeared, his right eye still doesn't blink. It takes him longer to figure out how to accomplish things, but he succeeds. He runs, climbs, jumps, and is the ultimate love bug and lap cat. He



COURTESY PHOTO

On a wing, a prayer and self-determination are how Heather's kitten, Church, survived.

will never be totally coordinated; but his confidence, purr-severance, and ability to figure out how to live inspires us all. Paws-ibly because we wish we had his inner determination to achieve so many hard-life goals." Each week, Heather and her kitten drive three hours between their two homes. "Church sleeps comfortably in his carrier because he knows that each trip is an adventure and won't end up at a vet clinic. He also loves riding in his backpack when we hike," said Heather. "He is harness trained and tethered

in the pack. His favorite thing to do leashed is chase bugs and stock birds on our 19 acres. "Every day, his crazy-kitten antics make me laugh. At bedtime, he plops himself across my neck (his favorite spot). Sometimes, in the wee hours of the morning after a midnight house inspection, he returns to the bedroom yowling his arrival. He then flops his furry butt across my face. He also has the loudest purr that makes my heart purr, but he has introduced me to kitty-induced insomnia. Church has made me a life-long member of the

'mutual admiration and affectionate kitten club' whose motto is 'Purr-surviver. This amazing teen-kitty reminds everyone struggling with traumas, depression and issues not to give up and keep moving forward, especially during these trying times.'

**TIPS**  
"Church initially required a modified litter box," said Heather. "I used a box cutter to lower the front of his box an inch from the bottom. He then could get in, out, and lean on the sides preventing falls whilst 'occupied'. His claws help balance him on rugs and assist his climbing. My partner and I also have a dog. We rarely clip Church's claws. We believe kitties should have claw protection in case they have to 'bob' behavior into their doggy sibling."

This bowl feeds a litter of homeless kittens: <https://fb.watch/v/2oqx8pAwS/>  
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## LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

CONTRIBUTED BY LIL THOMPSON  
FOR THE SENTINEL

- Lane County Fair started yesterday and runs through Sunday, July 25. Be sure to check out all the Grange booths in the Wheeler Pavilion. We're all so glad to be back and thank you for coming.
- Last Friday night, Lorane Grange enjoyed a delightful time with their dessert and Bingo. About twenty-seven people attended and had fun, delicious desserts, and laughter. They hope to try again in August.
- The Crow High School class of 1962 will have their class reunion with classes 1961 and 1963 joining them on Wednesday, July 28 at Lorane Grange.

- After much discussion, the Lorane Community Potluck (formerly the Lorane Oldtimers Picnic) will be on Saturday, Aug. 7. Doors open at 10 a.m. for visiting with eating at noon. This is the day before the Lorane Fire Department Ice Cream Social.
- It's back! We all missed this last year. The ever popular Lorane Fire Department Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, August 8 from 1 - 5 p.m. Lots of events, delicious pie and ice cream, rides on fire trucks, and of course visiting. Mark your calendars.
- Lorane Community-Wide Yard/garage Sale is scheduled for Aug. 14. Contact Louise McClure to get your place on the map.

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**Magnolia Gardens hosts dementia support group**  
Magnolia Gardens is hosting a dementia support group for caregivers, spouses and those affected by Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. This group will be meeting in person at the First Presbyterian Church in Cottage Grove every third Thursday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Some of the key benefits of attending a support group include: ongoing education about Alzheimer's and other dementia, learning about communi-

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Cottage Grove **Sentinel**  
Contact: Meg Fringer  
541-942-3325 x1200  
[mfringer@cgsentinel.com](mailto:mfringer@cgsentinel.com)