

Pet Tips'n' Tales: The light of 'Luna'



By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

'Luna' in Latin means 'moon,' in mythology 'moon goddess,' it is an abbreviation for 'lunatic' and means 'extreme folly.'

All four definitions fit Joy and Dean's crazy-new kitten to a 'T'. In the middle of the night, their little looney zooms around the house then demands they wake up to give her attention.

When you are done with the pandemic and think life is heavy, send prayers to Joy as she heals. Her life has been filled with terrifying moments: COVID, chemo and exhaustion. The kitten's adoption 100 percent infuses Joy with laughter and love.

"Adopting a kitten was easier for me to care for than a dog," said Joy. "Luna has gifted our home with happiness, comfort and companionship. We laugh

at her crazy-wild abandonment and acrobatics. She has not purr-fected her athletic moves. The results are hilarious. She runs and jumps in herself appointed role of 'paw-fessional bug hunter'. She appears to be flying as she leaps after anything with wings or eight legs. Cricket 'snacks' are doomed because their noise reveals their hiding spot. In her relentless search for prey, she's climbed onto our tall bookcases. We have no clue how she got there to leaving paw prints in the dust.

"One morning, I felt something unexpected IN bed. My foot touched something furry. Sometime during the night, Luna had slid under the covers burrowing clear to the bottom of the bed. How she breathes is a mystery.

"On garbage day, we are careful sitting down on the bed because she fearfully hides 'undercover' because of the scary garbage truck. Her other favorite place to sleep is in a furry-donut shaped bed. The bed and the cat are the same color camouflaging her cat-napping location."

Luna is addicted to her

toy with a handle. She leaps up, grabs it, flips in the air, and runs away with her "kill" until its handle gets stuck in the fur-niture. She also loves playing with a wild turkey feather on a string.

If she destroys the feather by teething on it, her parents are not financially devastated as their yard is full of wild turkeys. While teething, she drooled on her parents and when she lost her fangs, she briefly had a double row of teeth like a Halloween cat!

Joy and Dean's country home's neighbors are cougars, coyotes and bears. Oh my! So, they started trimming Luna's paw-nails as a baby because their wild one is an inside only cat. She's now safe -- and so is their fur-niture.

Her feral mother was captured and spayed (Luna's, not Joy's).

The kitten siblings all look different. They obviously had different fathers.

In five years, one unaltered cat's offspring can explode to 11,000. Currently, veterinarians are booking spay and neuter appointments as far out as four months away!

Result?



COURTESY PHOTO

Joy's Luna is the 'light' of her life.

Cats and kittens are flooding shelters as veterinarians are in demand and appointments came to late. It is paramount to neuter and spay, preventing animals from becoming starved, injured, homeless and euthanized when trapped. Luna was one of the lucky ones to find a home.

Thirty years ago, when Joy and Dean moved to their ranch, they had a five-hour drive with their cat Sparky. Their vehicle's door was barely closed when Sparky began me-

owing. He continued his purr-test for the entire trip. He only went silent once the vehicle stopped at their new home.

"Sparky became 'horse,'" explained Joy. "His muffled voice never deterred him; he objected the entire trip. Fortunately, he regained his normal voice three days later. I'm happy we adopted Luna as 'laughter is the cheapest medicine and best healer'. I love looking at the kitten as she curls up sleeping with her peaceful purr-essence like sitting in the light of the

moon."

TIPS

Joy introduces Luna's new toys by sprinkling them with catnip.

There are cougar sightings all over Cottage Grove and lots of missing pets. If your cats go outside they are no longer safe. Time to build a catio. Dogs walking on leashes and in backyards are also vulnerable.

Cougar vocalizations sound like a birds twiling; chirps; a cat with laryngitis; or a dog's squeaky toy. You may be hearing one and not realize that they are in your backyard stalking pets.

Wild cats' vocalization: www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3ktDHQIYmY
Coyote vocalization: www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-NXGllgIj8A

Tell us about your pet. angelscribe@msn.com
Pet Tips and Tales on Facebook. www.facebook.com/Pet-TipsandTales
Adopt Loving Pets www.PetFinder.com
Cottage Grove Cottage Grove Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program: 541-942-3130

Judge rejects Oregon state troopers' COVID vaccine mandate lawsuit

BY JULIA SHUMWAY/OREGON CAPITAL CHRONICLE
OREGONCAPITALCHRONICLE.COM

Oregon state troopers who refuse to get vaccinated for COVID failed in their initial attempt to block an Oct. 18 vaccination deadline after a state judge ruled against them late Thursday.

Nearly three dozen troopers, along with the Oregon Fraternal Order of Police and a union representing Klamath County firefighters, sued Governor Kate Brown over her order that all executive branch employees, health care workers and educators be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18. Thursday's ruling from Jefferson County Circuit

Court senior judge Jack Landau leaves the Oct. 18 deadline in place, though several other lawsuits in other venues over the mandate are still pending.

Landau wrote that the troopers and others didn't demonstrate that their legal arguments contesting the mandate would likely win in future proceedings.

"The governor and the state of Oregon have an unquestioned interest in protecting the health and wellbeing of the state's employees," he wrote. "Likewise, they have an undeniable interest in protecting the public from the dangers posed by the COVID-19 virus."

The officers' attorney,

Portland-based Daniel Thenell, is also representing a coalition of health care workers and a group of firefighters in two additional lawsuits against Brown and the Oregon Health Authority over vaccine mandates.

Neither case has yet received a hearing, but Thenell's arguments in each suit are nearly identical. He argued that only the Legislature, not Brown, can pass vaccine mandates. Landau determined that Brown's orders during a state of emergency do have the force of law, because the Legislature expanded the governor's power during a declared emergency.

The officers and Thenell's other plaintiffs also argue that a vaccine mandate violates their rights to free expression and free practice of religion. Brown's orders allow for exemptions if employees refuse to get vaccinated because of their religious beliefs.

However, Landau ruled that refusing a vaccine is

not protected speech in and of itself. Instead, he wrote, refusing to comply with the vaccine mandate as a form of expression is like trespassing as a form of protest: however pure the motives, it's still against the law.

"Standing in the middle of a street obstructing traffic or illegally parking a car are not immunized merely because they are intended as expressions of opinion," he wrote.

The deadline for workers affected by their mandate to receive their final dose of a COVID vaccine in order to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18 already passed, but the Oregon Health Authority this week advised employers to avoid firing unvaccinated employees.

Where possible, they should allow workers to work remotely, take vacation or go on unpaid leave, but they cannot continue working with the public after Oct. 18 if they're not vaccinated, the agency's director said.

Free rides offered between Eugene and Roseburg

Umpqua Public Transportation District (UPTD) has started a new bus route called the Lane-Douglas Connector (LDC).

This new service offers safe, reliable, accessible transportation to veterans and the general public in rural communities for better access to healthcare services and shopping opportunities.

Lane-Douglas Connector operates from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays with scheduled stops at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Roseburg, Ray's Food in Drain, Walmart and PeaceHealth Medical Center in Cottage Grove, and the Veterans Affairs Clinic in Eugene (LTD bus stop nearby).

The stop in Drain serves as a connection point for passengers of the North Douglas Betterment shuttle.

The route is operated by South Lane Wheels as a pilot project funded by the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation grant.

For service information and timetable go to: www.southlanetransit.com, or to schedule a ride, call UPTD dispatch toll-free at 888-232-8121.

Community Sharing Warming Shelter prepares for winter service

Community Sharing Warming Shelter is gearing up for its second season of service.

The warming shelter was established in January this year to make use of pallet shelters, portable units owned by Lane County, when nights dip to 29 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

The collaborative program replaced Cottage Grove's previous sheltering service, Beds for Freezing Nights, which said it will not be in operation this season.

Community Sharing Warming Shelter has a stated seasonal opening period from Nov. 1 to March 31.

Nonprofit Community Sharing and City of Cottage Grove staff are partnering to prepare the warming shelter facility for this winter's opening.

In order to open, volunteers are needed to assist with the operation of the warming shelters. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Community Sharing at 541-942-2176 or the Community Center at 541-942-1185.

6-day weather forecast

FRIDAY 67° 43° Partly Cloudy	SATURDAY 69° 46° Partly Cloudy
SUNDAY 57° 39° AM Showers	MONDAY 64° 42° Partly Cloudy
TUESDAY 68° 44° Partly Cloudy	WEDNESDAY 65° 46° Partly Cloudy

Voted Best Senior Living Community in South Lane County!

Our caring staff and management team are exceptional! They've worked hard to make our memory care extraordinary and to ensure that our residents get the best in care.

Here's just a few things that make us the best:

- Latest technology specifically designed to serve memory care residents
- 3 delicious meals & snacks, served daily
- Secure outdoor garden & relaxation area
- Life Enrichment Programs
- Sensory gardens & quiet common areas
- Large private rooms & bathrooms
- Lots of windows for natural light
- Medication management
- Personal furnishings and personal details
- Weekly housekeeping/linen service
- Home-like environment with safety features
- Music therapy
- 24-hour on-site care staff
- Wi-Fi and utilities
- Laundry

Full-service Memory Care with 24/7 immediate placement for urgent admissions.

MAGNOLIA GARDENS MEMORY CARE

Call 541-942-0054 for more information or to schedule a tour!

1425 Daugherty Ave., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 • MagnoliaGardensSL.com

The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique

"A Flower Shop and so much more"

- Floral Arrangements
- Boutique Clothing
- Accessories
- Jewelry
- Balloons
- Home Décor
- Fine Gifts

Deliveries Locally and Worldwide

Locally owned and operated since 1984

Quality and Satisfaction Guaranteed

119 South 6th Street • 541-942-0505

www.cottagegroveflowerbasket.com

Save your money by bundling home & auto.

(541) 942-0555