

Pet Tips 'n' Tales: 'Grace' and Gratitude



By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"

"Animal companionship is a godsend particularly when isolated from our friends and family," admits Sandy. "During the pandemic, my beloved 24-year-old cat passed, then a month later my comic-relief dog followed her over the Rainbow Bridge.

I was heartbroken, lonely and thrust into solitary confinement. I missed sharing my cat-lap and laughing with a couch-dog who bark in my ear protecting us from the mailman! The house was quiet and missed 'heart'."

To keep involved in the world of animals, Sandy began fostering from a pet shelter. She has a health issue so her new hobby

works paw-fectly in case she needs hospitalization. The animal already has a safe place to go.

"Shelters desperately need foster homes for cats/kittens, dogs/puppies, horses and hospice pets, and I needed a furry friend," said Sandy. "I picked up a dog the afternoon that my application was approved. The dog was the first of many short-term guests who all found forever homes! Each one touches my heart, whether they are puppies or adults who needed a short term stay.

One day, I was cruising the internet and found an abused dog in an out-of-state shelter. The poor girl was all bones. It was difficult to tell what color her fur was because there was so little left. Her nails were so long that they had broken her toes. I knew that she was going to be my next foster! But how?"

Sandy said a quick prayer, phoned the shelter and applied to foster the critically ill, 22-pound

underweight, four-year-old, Boxer, hospitalized on fluids and medications. Every day, Sandy checked on her little patient, and a week later, she was on her way to pick up 'her' girl!

"I was afraid to lift her frail body into my vehicle," said Sandy. "She was weak and unable to walk more than a few steps. The little bag of bones arrived with a heavenly host of angels helping her body and brave spirit make it through that first stress-filled week. She was so broken, yet she made progress every day. Her sad eyes spoke to my heart and we became each other's nurse, healer and biggest blessing!"

Sandy named her foster after God's 'Grace' to honor her journey and the dog healed her heart from the loss of her purr-vious pets. At the same time, Grace healed with Sandy's loving care.

"We made many drives back to her shelter for her vet care," said Sandy. "Her fur grew little by lit-



COURTESY PHOTO

Dog-nurse Sandy and her nurse-dog, Grace.

tle and her muscles began holding her up. She is in her forever home becoming my first foster failure upon her adoption. This happy dog loves sharing my home and furniture! She has a sweet spirit and is a gentle girl who takes on the role of assisting 'our' other foster pups heal.

When I sit down on the couch, Grace squeezes in behind me and plops her

head onto my shoulder. Then she rubs her head on my cheek and breathes into my ear. Luckily, she does not bark in my ear when the postal worker arrives like my previous dog. She's a TV love bug who cuddles in my lap. Yes! We rescued each other."

TIPS

Apply at animal shelters to become a short-term,

long-term or emergency foster-fur parent. Most shelters require experience with previous ownership and those willing to give pets love. Shelters often supply food and vet care.

Pandemic pet protection: In case you have a health emergency, include the name of your pets, photos, vet, special needs diet, recipe, where the food is and phone number who will care for them in your absence. Post on your fridge and in your vehicle.

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CITY from A1

revik explained that the city normally sends out notices in November of each year to renew licenses, but the county has not been doing enforcement since 2019.

"We used to get reports from them, but we haven't received anything for [three] years now," she said.

It was not clear if the licensure process would be changing significantly, though.

There will be no cost to the city for the state-run licensure program. The existing local tobacco retail license will be repealed at a future meeting.

In other city council news:

Amendment of Flood Damage Prevention Code

The council voted unanimously for an ordinance amending the city's code regarding flood damage prevention.

The amendment changes the definition of "de minimus development"

and changes construction requirements for electrical, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing, duct systems, and other equipment.

Now, the "de minimus development" definition does not include "paving or hardscaping of flat areas." The change can be important, as paving is considered "development" in floodplains, and all development, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, solid fences or other non-de minimis development, are prohibited in the regulatory floodway.

Having paving as a "de minimis" development causes confusion as to whether it is exempt in the floodway. Recent guidance has said that paving cannot be considered exempt development in the floodway, hence the need for a code change.

The text amendment also makes a change to a subsection related to the elevation of electrical and mechanical systems.

The subsection will be replaced with language which says that all

equipment must be raised above the base flood elevation as part of development or flood-proofed if possible.

The change will ensure the city is in compliance with the Community Rating System prerequisites that include the elevation of electrical and mechanical systems and the flood-proofing of any systems that cannot be fully elevated.

No comments were made during the public hearing of the ordinance.

Audit Committee

Council voted to approve the appointment of the Jennifer Morrocco to the Audit Committee for a three-year term, to expire July 31, 2024.

Public Comment

Area resident Duane Taddei clarified a previous appeal he had made to the city council in public comment regarding a sidewalk order at Taylor Avenue and implored councilors to revisit the order and overturn it.

Taddei said he was concerned that councilors did not take the opportunity during the previous council session to discuss whether the sidewalk order was the right thing to do. He sympathized with the fear of a homeowner receiving a notice from the city that would put a lien on one's home for not complying with the order.

Taddei pointed to other sidewalks which needed attention as examples of unequal treatment.

"Unless the city is going to go after every property owner ... Don't ask anybody or force anybody to do it," he said. "I'm asking you to treat everybody equally."

Concerns from Council

Councilor Jon Stinnett reported he was pleased with the public turnout at a public input session over the weekend regarding the Master Plan for Cottage Grove and Dorena lakes.

Councilor Mike Fleck said the Community

Sharing Warming Shelter is aiming to be in operation next week and confirmed the site will aim to open at 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

Councilor Ervin said he attended a Taylor Avenue neighborhood meeting regarding the recent sidewalk order on that street.

He said residents did not seem to be asking for the sidewalk order to be withdrawn but were aware the sidewalks needed repair and preferred to use the city's resources to do construction.

"The conclusion from that was that they would get a far better deal having the city do it," he said.

He said miscommunication seemed to be a key issue behind some of the residents' frustrations.

Also, following his attendance at a Lane Economic Committee meeting, Ervin recommended the city look into using Business Oregon as a resource for helping local businesses.

Councilor Chalice Savage praised the Cottage

Grove Chamber of Commerce for the Halloween Hootinanny.

Councilor Kenneth Michael Roberts questioned whether bricks at the old Moose Lodge on Highway 99 had become a nuisance.

"I think of our tourism and people who come in from the south side on 99 and one of the first things they see are those bricks," he said.

Roberts then praised the city for providing a safe space for homeless people in the back of the Community Center.

He also suggested the city may need to revisit the sidewalk order issue.

Councilors Stinnett, Fleck and Ervin all suggested revisiting rules around public comments at city council meetings as a resident who wanted to speak had been turned away during the public comment period due to confusion around the appropriate protocol for sign-up.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

CONTRIBUTED BY LIL THOMPSON
FOR THE SENTINEL

- Lorane Grange Dessert and Bingo is this Friday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. The Blackout jackpot has grown, so maybe there will be a big winner this month. Tell your friends and neighbors and come have a fun evening. Masks required and distancing is easy.
- Stony Point Road project is wonderful. Everyone is thanked for their patience. Please continue to drive slower through this section. While the road is finished, they are still finishing work on guardrails and on the banks.

- Rural Art Center will not hold movie night in November or December due to COVID concerns. They hope to return in January. Everyone looks forward to those delightful evenings.
- Lorane Christian Church will not have their annual Thanksgiving dinner again this year.
- Lorane Grange will also not have their annual Christmas Dinner in December due to COVID concerns.
- Crow Middle School basketball has started. Crow High School basketball practice starts on Nov. 15.

6-day weather forecast

FRIDAY 62° 52° Rain	SATURDAY 64° 50° Cloudy
SUNDAY 64° 49° Cloudy	MONDAY 58° 44° Showers
TUESDAY 48° 37° Showers	WEDNESDAY 48° 36° Partly Cloudy

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