

Pet Tips 'n' Tales: A "Precious" Miracle



By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

When Heather's marriage ended, she declared to God, "Phooey! I am done with men! Send me a dog!"

Shortly after, at a Christmas gathering, she met an Australian Shepherd and fell in love with the breed. She put a photo of herself with the Aussie on her car's sun visor and asked in prayer for one.

She volunteered at the SPCA and saw hundreds of dogs. Inexplicably, she never saw one with a pinch of Aussie in it. She also scanned newspaper ads and the Internet for "Her dog". She wondered, "What is up?!" Because she never saw "her" Aussie rescue.

After two years, she looked at the faded photo on her visor, removed it and angrily tore it up. As she tossed the remains into the air, she looked

heavenward and declared, "Phooey on you, too! Two years I've been waiting! Praying! And nothing!" For the first time in her life, she began doubting her faith.

A few days later while on the phone with her friend, Heather told Kim about the faded photo incident. Kim declared, "We've been looking for a home for an Aussie, Precious, for months now! She's been breaking into our yard! My husband was incensed at watching our vicious neighbor beating Precious; so one day, he marched over to the abuser and demanded, 'I am sick of you beating your dog in front of us. Give it to me now.' The abuser threw the dog and her leash at him."

Heather hung up and drove to Kim's home for "her" dog.

A few months later, Heather's new cleaning lady, June, asked, "Where did you get that dog? She sure looks like the dog I rescued in Tampa before we moved here to Key West."

The next week, June arrived with Heather's dog's baby photos! How was this possible? June had moved

from 450 miles away! Explain that! Im-paws-ible! No one can! What miracle led June to walk into the very home, in a city of 27,000 people and she was the one who had also rescued the puppy!

"I was driving in Tampa and saw a nasty bugger, in a pickup truck, toss a puppy out onto the six-lane freeway," said June. "I slammed on my breaks, ran over, and rescued the animal."

June named the injured baby, Precious. After a hurricane forced her family to move, her new landlord would not let them keep the dog. Sadly, unknowingly, in her innocence she gave the young dog to the abuser.

What is lacking in someone's mind and heart to beat and terrorize sweet innocence? The puppy, now grown, still cowers when she rides in Heather's pickup truck but not in her car.

Heather eventually moved to Canada and Precious, who was born on the east coast, did what most people never do. She had lived in two countries and swam in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.



COURTESY PHOTO

It is a miracle to be rescued once, but Heather's dog, Precious, was rescued three times.

Precious trained and became an amazing therapy dog. She uplifted children at elementary schools while they read and offered compassion and comfort to seniors in care homes. She loved people and they loved her. She earned medals for her hours of volunteering dedication and received a letter of acknowledgment

from Queen Elizabeth in gratitude for her services.

"Precious taught many of us about love, patience, faith, trust, friendship, faith in a higher Power and in life's amazing coincidences," said Heather.

Who was luckier for finding each other? Heather or Precious? Paws-ibly Heather, because after she divorced a "dog" and

found her true love!

TIPS

Animals are not dumb. Treat their spirits, hearts and bodies with respect. They have feelings and feel physical pain just like us.

Never underestimate a dog's intelligence or depth of their heart and understanding of humans.

Precious knew commands in English, German, French and Italian. Even though she held memories of her early abuse, her forgiveness and love for others left over 1,000 people mourning her upon her passing. Very few humans leave a legacy like Precious a three-time rescued dog! In her honor, consider having your pet become a service animal.

Tell us your fun/amazing/crazing pet tips and tales.

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Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance

Program 541-942-2789

Wastewise Holidays: Make Memories Not Waste

CONTRIBUTED BY WASTEWISE LANE COUNTY

According to the Center for Biological Diversity, the United States creates 5.8 million more tons of waste in December than in any other month of the year. That's equivalent to 28,713 Boeing 747 airplanes.

Spend more time with loved ones this holiday season by getting crafty and using recyclable materials to create festive holiday decorations and giftwrap can help reduce the environmental impact of your holiday while creating fun new memories.

"One of the most effective ways to reduce the carbon footprint of your holiday – aside from reducing food waste – is to focus on reusing materials you already have on hand to create decorations and gifts," said Lane County Master Recycler Program Coordinator Kelly Bell. "Do-it-yourself ideas are easy to find on websites like Pinterest or SimplifyTheHolidays.org."

Give DIY a try:

- Use old greeting cards or used wrapping paper to make wreaths, tree ornaments, gift tags, snowflakes, garlands, bunting or other cheerful holiday decorations.
- Have a gift-making get together and create soup mixes, hot chocolate kits, bath products, or other crafts to give as gifts during the holiday season. Many ingredients can be purchased in bulk, which saves on cost and single-use packaging.
- Decorate cereal or shoe boxes to use as gift boxes, and

use comics, maps, calendars or fabric in place of wrapping paper.

A 2019 poll from the Center for a New American Dream found that three out of four Americans wish that holidays were less materialistic. Creating DIY decorations and gifts is one way to prioritize making lasting holiday memories with children and loved ones that enrich the holiday experience, save money and reduce waste.

WasteWise Lane County offers education, tools and resources that residents, schools, and businesses can use to reduce waste, conserve resources and live more sustainably. Visit www.LaneCountyOR.gov/wastewise to learn more.

Samaritan's Purse seeks church aid for Afghans

Tens of thousands of Afghans who supported and saved the lives of American troops are now in holding camps at U.S. military bases. They need places to live and help plugging into local communities.

Samaritan's Purse, a program of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, seeks churches willing to care for these families who

fled from terror under the Taliban regime and left everything behind.

This would be a significant commitment, and Samaritan's Purse is committed to working alongside churches who answer this call.

Additional information on how a church can support a family transitioning into American life is at www.samaritanpurse.org

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

CONTRIBUTED BY LIL THOMPSON FOR THE SENTINEL

• Crow Middle/High School Food Drive has arrived. They're collecting only non-perishables, non-expired foods. The food drive ends on Dec. 13. Let's support our community.

• On a similar note, there are two drive-by food donation days to help those less fortunate have a great Christmas. The first to help those in Lorane on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in front of the Lorane Deli. The second will help those in Crow on Sunday, Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Crow Grange parking lot. Santa will be present again this year at both sites. Donations are also accepted. Contact John Long at 785-806-5262 for more information.

• There are boxes to accept food non-perishables at the Lorane Family Store and the Lorane Post Office.

• The Angel Tree is up in the Lorane Family Store

and Crow High School Gym. Pick an Angel ornament, purchase a gift, and return unopened to the tree. If you are unable to make it to the tree, call Marissa 541-517-6608 or Paula May 541-729-3999. Monetary donations will also be accepted if you are unable to shop.

• Class of 2022 Fundraiser is Candy Cane Sleighs. You may purchase them from Dec. 6 – Dec. 16 for only \$5 loaded with one Kit Kat candy cane and 10 variety pack of mini-Hershey bars. Contact the Crow M/H office to order for a senior.

• Come on down to the Grower's Market in front of the Lorane Deli. You will find beautiful Noble Fir green swags ready for you to pick up. Your donations for them will go towards the Christmas Food Baskets and Angel Tree Program.

• Lorane Fire Department and the Fire Board will enjoy their Christmas gathering on Monday, Dec. 13 at Lorane Grange.

6-day weather forecast

FRIDAY 46° 39° AM Showers	SATURDAY 46° 38° Rain
SUNDAY 43° 37° Light Rain	MONDAY 43° 34° Rain
TUESDAY 43° 34° Rain/Snow Showers	WEDNESDAY 44° 36° Showers

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