

Monmouth woman inspired to write

Brittney Hall sets out to share the story of her 'wonderdog' with children, parents everywhere

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Brittney Hall never aspired to be a published author.

The Monmouth resident keeps herself busy as an event planner, bookkeeper for Marr Bros., and a mother of two.

But when she and her family bought an English shepherd puppy, Hall thought someone had to tell a story about this breed, unrecognized by the American Kennel Club.

"Being a published author wasn't really my dream," Hall said. "It's not that I wanted to write a book. I'm very business-driven. I thought this dog is so cool. He's the coolest dog. He's hilarious. He should have books about him. He

should have TV shows about him. This is a good story. I would buy this book."

At first, she thought about finding someone else to tell the story.

"I thought I should find a writer who can write it, maybe get a ghost writer," Hall said. "But I thought, I'm a mom. I read children's books all the time, and I know which ones I like to read and which ones I don't."

So she sat down and wrote the story of George, "The Adventures of Guh the Wonderdog," published by Dorrance Publishing Co. Inc.

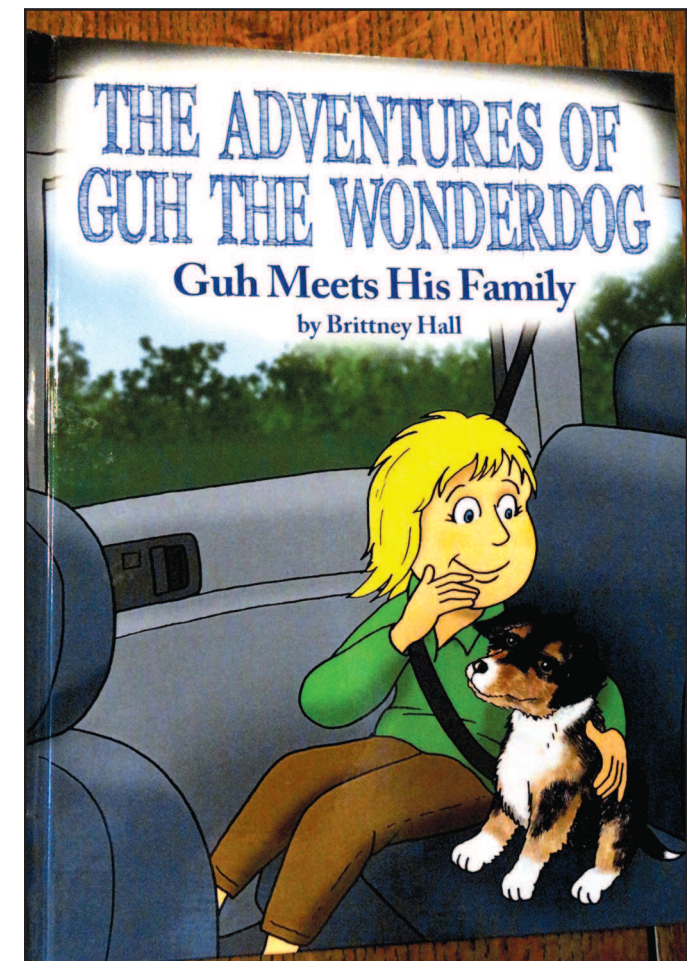
The Halls bought George, affectionately called, "Guh," when Brittney's daughter was just 1.

"It was like having another baby," Hall recalled. "He



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

Brittney Hall takes George, aka Guh, the wonderdog, out for a walk in downtown Monmouth.



was great, but I thought, 'now I have two kids.'"

Guh would wake up early and be ready for his morning nap just as Hall's daughter was ready for breakfast. She found it ironic that her baby finally slept through the night, and the puppy was not letting her get much shuteye.

"He'd be sleeping under the barstools, and I thought, 'You. Dog,'" Hall said. "And that kind of started it. He has this funny personality."

Guh thinks he is part of the family, and insists on sitting on the couch while watching TV, or sleeping on the bed — in spite of his 70-pound size.

"He's just a goofy dog, and he's also a breed that a lot of people don't know about," Hall said. "A lot of people think he's an Aus-

tralian shepherd, but he's an English shepherd."

The breed is of a collie lineage, Hall said, and is a herding dog.

"They were bred to protect the flock," she said. "They're excellent family dogs. They have energy if you let them go use it, but in the house, they don't go crazy. They'll just hang out with the family."

Though Guh is not pleased when everyone is scattered around the house, Hall said.

"He does not like the chaos," she said. "He gets really mad at us if we're playing and being rambunctious. He says, 'Everybody stop what you're doing.'"

Hall's daughter — and now son, too — are Guh's favorite buddies.

"In the book, it talks about the mom being not so sure about this dog, but this little girl adores him, and they're playmates, and he always wants to be with the family," Hall said.

She wrote the book with bedtime in mind.

"You have to appeal to the child, but who's going to buy the book," Hall said. "It's the parents. So it has to be something that's not super lengthy, because at bedtime you want to get through the book and get to bed."

Hall wrote two books, starting with a more current version of Guh, but realized that she needed to write an introduction to the characters first.

"Nobody's going to know why his name is 'Guh,'" Hall said. "His name is George,

but they're not going to know how the heck he got that name."

The second installment of the adventures of Guh will be published later. For now, Hall is focused on the success of the first.

She said she has learned a lot getting a book published.

"I thought, 'what's the worst thing that could happen? They could tell me no,'" Hall said. "But if you don't try, you won't know. Maybe you'll make a million dollars, or maybe not. But at least you did it. I think it's good to accomplish stuff."

The book is available on Amazon in hardcover and electronically.

Also, Hall will participate in storytime at Independence Public Library at 10:30 a.m. on April 5.



Mid-Valley Christian Academy

would like to invite you to attend its

Annual Spring Open House

Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 pm

and

Visitation Day

(Where the parents and children visit classrooms)

Wednesday, March 8

8:15 am - 3:15 pm

1483 16th Street N., Monmouth, OR

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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Polk County
Itemizer-Observer

March 2017

Monmouth Area Community Events Calendar

Mar 3 No School Grades K-12, Central School District.

Mar. 5 Polk Flea Market 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Polk County's oldest and largest market with 183 tables selling antiques, collectibles, tools, etc. 520 S Pacific Hwy W. Rickreall

Mar 11 & 12 Spring Rickreall Gun Show. Cost \$6 Admission for Adults, Free for Kids 12 and Under. ♦ Buy ♦ Sell ♦ Trade ♦ Guns ♦ Knives ♦ Ammunition Saturday, March 11th 9am - 5pm. Sunday, March 12th 9am - 3pm. Free Parking. Food Available on site. Polk County Fairgrounds and Event Center 520 S Pacific Hwy W. Rickreall

Mar 18 Craft Supply Store. The Friends of the Monmouth Senior Center are hosting a Craft Supply Sale at the Monmouth Senior/Community Center. It is located at 180 Warren St. S. It will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is a "clean out your stash sale". Great selection and great prices!! 9 am - 3 pm. 180 Warren St. S. Monmouth

Mar 27 - 31 Spring Break! Have a great mini vacation!



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March Forum:

Wednesday, March 8. 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Western Oregon University (Actual meeting place TBD) Tour of Western Oregon University Lunch will be available for purchase in the Werner University Center at the conclusion of the tour.

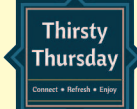
52nd Annual Community Awards Banquet

The Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center presents the 52nd Annual Community Awards Banquet. Join us as we celebrate businesses, organizations, and individuals for their contributions and support of our community!

Date: **Friday, March 10**

Location: **Eola Hills Wine Cellars** (501 S Hwy 99W, Rickreall)
Time: Social hour begins at 5:30 PM; Program begins at 6:30 PM

Tickets & Registration: \$40 per person (includes dinner and one drink ticket); register and pay online at micc.org



Thirsty Thursday

Thirsty Thursdays are held the **third Thursday of each month** from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at member locations. Registration is requested to help the host site properly prepare. Attendees are encouraged to bring a small giveaway (less than \$10) to promote your business or organization. This month - **March 16** at **Redgate Vineyard** 8175 Buena Vista Road, Independence.



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