

# 'The whole thing is a miracle'

Missing dog reunited with homeless owner after eight months

By SUZANNE ROIG  
The Bulletin

BEND — First there were tears of joy, then tears of sadness.

Tammie Broggin's voice shook on Thursday, Feb. 24, as she described her reunion with her 6-year-old dog, Betty Sue, who she thought had died in the Bootleg Fire near Klamath Falls last summer. On Wednesday they spent their first night together in eight months, huddled in a sleeping bag inside a tent in Blythe, California, where Broggin is now living because she's homeless.

Luck, and the help of a few good people in Bend, brought Broggin and Betty Sue together Wednesday afternoon in Blythe, 1,074 miles away from Central Oregon. That's after the dog somehow covered the 137 miles between Klamath Falls and Bend and was picked up by the Humane Society of Central Oregon.

"I'm so floored I got my Betty back," the 59-year-old Broggin told The Bulletin in a phone call. "Betty sure got a lot of attention. She's acting like nothing ever happened since she has been gone."

The journey began back in July, when the Bootleg Fire ripped through the Fremont-Winema National Forest, where Broggin lived with Betty Sue and five other dogs. When the fire got too close, and Broggin was forced to evacuate, she tried to lure Betty into the van that would drive them away. But the dog refused and ran off.

She was afraid to get in the car, Broggin said.



Tammie Broggin/Contributed Photo

Tammie Broggin spends time with her dogs in this undated photo.

In the months that followed, Broggin moved around Oregon and wound up in a small desert town on the border of Arizona and California called Blythe. Betty Sue wound up in Bend. How, is anyone's guess.

"Bend is a long way from where we were," Broggin said. "I can't imagine how she did it."

When Betty Sue arrived at the Humane Society shelter in Bend, she was skittish, said Lynne Ouchida, Humane Society of Central Oregon community outreach manager. The dog had been spotted on Pettigrew Road in Bend by an area resident who contacted Katie Albright, who runs Lost and Found Pets in Bend,

Ouchida said.

With the help of an animal control officer, they captured the dog.

But Betty Sue bit the officer and had to be placed in isolation at the shelter for 10 days for a rabies hold.

At the Humane Society, every time someone tried to get close to Betty Sue, she'd growl, Ouchida said. When they finally did, they learned she was microchipped.

But it was from out of state. And there was no record of a current owner.

A bit of sleuthing led the Humane Society to Broggin and a phone call to Blythe with news that Betty Sue had been found.



Tammie Broggin/Contributed Photo

Betty Sue burying some food in the dirt outside Tammie Broggin's tent in Blythe, California.

"Thank god she was chipped," Broggin said. "This whole thing is a miracle."

But the call brought bad news, too: Broggin needed to retrieve Betty Sue soon.

Broggin had no resources, was on disability and had no car. She was desperate, scrambling to find a ride to Bend. Realizing the situation, Ouchida and others at the Humane Society reached out to volunteers who made the reunion happen.

At first they thought they could put the dog in a kennel and drive her on the 16-plus hour trip to Blythe with a transport company and volunteers. No one thought that was a really good idea, though.

Then Ouchida reached out to the Leading Edge Jet Center in Bend, which located two private pilots headed to California who were willing to fly a little farther and meet Broggin.

Angela Keeling and her husband operate a pet transport nonprofit called Fetch. They've made journeys before, transporting pets from

one place where there were too many pets to another that needed pets to be placed for adoption.

But they were nothing at all like this trip, Keeling said.

During the 2-hour 45-minute flight, Betty Sue appeared despondent, Keeling said. She wasn't misbehaving or growling. She was simply quiet, like a dog that was unhappy.

In Blythe, Betty Sue heard Broggin's voice for the first time in months.

"When we opened the cargo door, she picked up her head and stood up in the crate. She'd hear her mom's voice," Keeling said. "I don't want to sound corny, but we've never seen nothing like this. It was magical. We saw a different dog."

Broggin said that reunion was one for the memory books.

"When I saw her on the tarmac, she got a wiggle going and she thought mom," Broggin said. "She played with the rest of the dogs who were all there to meet her. She totally changed as soon as she saw me. "She's a little clingier now."

## COPS AND COURTS

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

### Grant County Circuit Court

March 3: Fritz Voigt of Prairie City pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of intoxicants (cannabis) in connection with an incident on May 13. He was sentenced to two years of bench probation, 10 days in jail with credit for time served and 120 hours of community service or work crew time. In addition, Voigt was fined \$1,500, directed to complete the Victim Impact Panel program, ordered to install an ignition interlock device in his vehicle, and required to obtain a substance abuse evaluation and complete any recommended treatment.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending March 2:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 9
- Average inmates: 12
- Bookings: 7
- Releases: 10
- Arrests: 4
- Citations: 5
- Fingerprints: 2
- Civil papers: 22
- Warrants processed: 1
- Asst./welfare check: 0
- Search and rescue: 1

### Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following activity for the week ending March 2:

Driver's license suspensions: 6

Persons on probation: 45

Traffic citations filed: 22

Small claims/civil filed: 6

Hearings held: 9

Careless driving resulting in an accident: Haleigh Chanel Crismon, 20, Portland, Dec. 31, fined \$340.

### Dispatch

Grant County dispatch worked 139 calls during the week ending March 4, including:

- Oregon State Police
  - March 4
    - 4 p.m.: Advised of a driving complaint on Highway 26 east of Prairie City.
- Grant County Sheriff's Office
  - Feb. 25
    - 4:51 p.m.: Traffic stop, Highway 26 in Mt. Vernon. Stacey Lee Durych, 54, of Mt. Vernon was cited for speeding.
  - Feb. 26
    - 1:37 a.m.: Responded to Park Avenue, Seneca, for an animal complaint. Lonnie Ashley, 54, of Seneca was cited for allowing a dog to be a public nuisance.
    - 8:15 a.m.: Responded to Cottonwood Street, Mt. Vernon, for a civil issue.
    - 10:52 a.m.: Responded to North Mountain Boulevard, Mt. Vernon, for a civil issue.

11:05 a.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a civil issue.

1:09 p.m.: Responded to Blue Mountain Hospital, John Day, for a civil issue.

1:29 p.m.: Responded to Wall Creek airstrip, Monument, for a small plane crash. One of the aircraft's occupants was injured and was transported to Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day. Grant County Search and Rescue, U.S. Forest Service law enforcement, Oregon State Police, Monument Fire, Monument Ambulance and John Day Ambulance also responded.

2:18 p.m.: Responded to East Main Street, John Day, for an injured animal.

2:51 p.m.: Responded to Bare Bones Bar, John Day, for warrant service. Elmer Ray Ahrendsen, 48, of John Day was arrested on a warrant from Grant County Parole and Probation.

5:11 p.m.: Responded to East Main Street, John Day, for a driving complaint.

8:02 p.m.: Traffic stop, South Canyon Boulevard, John Day. Aaron Christopher Chapel, 18, of La Pine was cited for failure to carry proof of insurance.

### Feb. 27

7:01 a.m.: Responded to Southwest Brent Street, John Day, for a driving complaint. A 16-year-old Seneca girl was cited for careless driving and failure to perform the duties of a driver in an accident.

8:30 a.m.: Responded to Southeast Gunther Street, John Day, for a civil issue.

### Feb. 28

11:06 a.m.: Responded to Malheur Lumber, John Day, for a hit-and-run.

5:24 p.m.: Advised of a cow in the road on Southwest Fourth Avenue, John Day.

### March 1

6:47 a.m.: Responded to Council Drive, Mt. Vernon, for warrant service. Spencer Leifheit, 45, of Mt. Vernon was arrested on a Grant County warrant.

8 p.m.: Responded to Airport Road, John Day, for a livestock complaint.

### March 2

9:58 a.m.: Responded to East Main Street, John Day, for a suspicious vehicle.

10:51 a.m.: Responded to Southwest Brent Drive, John Day, for a suspicious person.

11:03 a.m.: Responded to Southwest Brent Drive, John Day, for a suspicious person.

12:20 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 at Carpenter Pond Road for a rock in the roadway.

1:30 p.m.: Responded to West Main Street and Canton Street, John Day, for a walking domestic dispute. Spencer Leifheit, 45, of Mt. Vernon was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, strangulation and harassment.

### March 3

8:26 a.m.: Responded to the Grant County Industrial Park, John Day, for a suspicious person.

9:12 p.m.: Responded to Dog Patch Lane east of John Day for a civil problem.

### March 4

2:36 a.m.: Responded to North Humbolt Street, Canyon City, for a noise complaint.

10:33 a.m.: Responded to West Main Street, John Day, for a juvenile attempting to flag down traffic or hitchhike.

12:11 p.m.: Responded to Highway 26 near Mt. Vernon for an animal complaint.

### • John Day Ambulance Feb. 25

6:24 p.m.: Dispatched to Riverside Mobile Home Park for an 83-year-old woman with a back injury.

Feb. 26  
1:58 p.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

### March 1

7:19 a.m.: Dispatched to Highway 26 near milepost 166 for a single-vehicle crash.

### March 2

11:35 a.m.: Dispatched to Cottonwood Street, Mt. Vernon, for a possible overdose.

9:30 p.m.: Dispatched to Highway 26 west of John Day for a female who passed out.

### March 3

9:26 a.m.: Dispatched to Valley View Assisted Living for a 74-year-old male with shortness of breath.

2:39 p.m.: Patient transfer at the airport.

### • Prairie City Ambulance Feb. 27

7:39 a.m.: Dispatched to South Main Street for an 88-year-old male with diabetic issues.

### • John Day Fire March 1

1:56 a.m.: Dispatched to Riverside Mobile Home Park, John Day, for a fire burning in the bed of a pickup truck.



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