

Meet Gunner, the city's K-9 goodwill ambassador

Gunner, the Cannon Beach K-9, made a public appearance Tuesday, June 16, and demonstrated why he is so valuable to local law enforcement. The 2-year-old, 75-pound chocolate Labrador retriever is specially trained to sniff out methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin, and in the future there are plans for him to receive training in search and rescue. With these skills, Gunner could prove an asset to police rescuing lost hikers, children or older adults who go missing.

The police department's K-9 program aims to deter crime, locate lost or injured people, locate and seize illegal narcotics, and perform positive community relations through canine demonstrations, like this one.

A display of Gunner's training came at the Cannon Beach firehouse, as the finale to the Cannon Beach police department event, "Burger With a Cop." Chief Jason Schermerhorn personally manned the grill. Guests then strolled from Cannon Beach Vacation Rentals over to the firehouse, where in the driveway and secluded in a police vehicle, Gunner was being kept quiet, in preparation for the demo.

Chief Schermerhorn introduced Gunner's handler, Officer Josh Gregory, while the dog remained offstage.

Gregory thanked the crowd and those who assisted with training and donations. Considered the Cannon Beach Police Department's "ninth officer," Gunner has been trained to identify and locate methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine. Gregory spoke to the audience very specifically about Gunner's training. "No marijuana," he said. "We saw that coming down the pipeline just as everybody did. We said 'Hey, we don't need to do that.' He'd get retired early."

Gregory said Gunner has what is called a "passive alert."

"Some dogs have an aggressive alert," Gregory said. "They'll go scratch at the odor, and usually the dog's going to pick what he's going to do. Gunner will go up to the odor, he'll source the odor, and you can watch where he'll bracket back

CANNON SHOTS

By
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and forth. He's in odor, then he's out of it. He stiffens up, he takes different breaths, becomes more active, and works toward the source. and then will very excitedly say, 'Look, it's right here, Dad!'

True to form, Gunner's movements traced a path around the firehouse area, sniffing from place to place as he sought out the hidden cache of drugs, planted for the demonstration. As he zeroed in on his find — in less than a minute — Gunner was rewarded with his favorite doggie toy.

He executed this training not once, but twice.

While the toy is satisfying for Gunner, Gregory said it's praise that really motivates his partner. "He wants to know he is accepted by me and he has made me happy; as any dog owner knows, I'll just get down there and love on him, and he's excited about that. That's more his reward than the toy."

Gunner was officially certified through the Pacific Northwest Police Detection Dog Association March 3. Gregory said the association focuses specifically on drug searches, rather than patrolling or tracking.

The learning never stops. Gregory continues to receive advanced training through the Pacific Northwest Police Detection Dog Association. "Maybe I'm having an issue with Gunner," Gregory said. "Maybe he's



R.J. MARX PHOTO

Officer Josh Gregory demonstrates the skills of his K-9 partner Gunner, Tuesday, June 16 at the firehouse.

doing something unusual. I can call somebody on the phone and say, 'Hey this is what my dog's doing? Have you ever faced this situation?' And they'll be right on top of it. Someone's going to have experienced that situation as well, and this is how they fixed it."

Along with drug searches, Gunner will be trained for search and rescue operations. "If there's a missing person, an Alzheimer's patient or an overdue hiker at Ecola, we're going to be a resource to find those people," Gregory said. "That's our future. First we want to get a good year of drug work together, get over some of those bumps, those hiccups that might occur."

Gregory said he anticipates five to seven years with Gunner "before he retires out and gets to be lazy all day."

"I'm proud of this and I hope everyone else is," Gregory said.

'We work as a great team. I know what I'm doing and he knows what he's doing. That is everything we want from our dog. He just makes me look good.'

Officer Josh Gregory

"The interagency development that's going on together all the way to Astoria is huge here. Everyone works so well together, and it's great for the community. We work as a great team. I know what I'm doing and he knows what he's doing. That is everything we want from our dog. He just makes me look good."

The community was urged to keep the program properly funded. Implementing a police canine into the program can cost approximately \$25,000, which covers the cost of the dog, training, veterinary care, food, housing, a police canine kit, handler uniform and patrol car modifications for the canine. All donations are tax deductible and are accepted at the Cannon Beach Police Department and Cannon Beach City Hall. For more information, contact Chief Jason Schermerhorn, Officer Devon Edwards, or Officer Josh Gregory at 503-436-2811.

At the close of the event, Gunner, his work over for the evening, interacted with the public. Everyone wanted to talk to him and pet him. Gunner is turning out not just to be aces at finding drugs, but is also fast becoming one of the city's most inviting goodwill ambassadors.

Uncorked Ramblings STEVEN SINKLER

Crisp whites, rosés and bubbly to enhance the summer

Sunny days and busy streets tell me that summer has arrived in Cannon Beach. This is my favorite time of the year as Maryann and I sit on our deck almost every evening and enjoy fresh fruit and greens from the Farmers Market with something off the grill. And wine of course! As the days get warmer, my wine picks tend to get lighter.

So much is made about pairing the proper wine with your food that we often forget that the wine has to pair with the temperature as well. If it's 90 degrees outside and you're already sweating, a big glass of cabernet sauvignon will only contribute to your discomfort. Instead, a crisp, cool glass of white wine or rosé is refreshing. But, as I write these words, I can almost feel them ricochet off the foreheads of readers who proudly exclaim they only drink red wine.

Here are a couple of local wines to get you and your friends happily through summer.

You know I like sparkling wine! What better way to say hello to sunny skies or a beautiful sunset than a crisp, cold glass of bubbly? Oregon wineries are starting to figure out Mother Nature has blessed them with perfect conditions to make sparkling wine. Sokol Blosser Sparkling Evolution is a Wine Shack favorite and a bottle of this should always be in your collection. This wine offers you flavors of apricot, apple and pear. Made from Sokol Blosser White Evolution wine, this sparkle goes nicely with shellfish, a cheese plate, desserts and a sunny beach. Personally, I chill sparkling wine as cold as I can get it. Also, the new thing for sparkling wine is to ditch the tall slender wine flute and instead, enjoy the bubbly in



STEVEN SINKLER

a regular wine glass. Which-ever glass you use, bubbly is always welcome!

I know that pinot gris is a great summer wine, but I'm choosing a pinot blanc instead. J Scott pinot blanc delivers flavors of pineapple and pear, with a crisp minerality that has more structure than its pinot gris relative. Made by Jonathan Oberlander in Eugene, this wine is a favorite of mine and is a perfect seafood/shellfish wine. P.S., J Scott pinot blanc would be a per-

fect match with fish tacos.

My next summer pick is a rosé. This should come as no surprise if you've read this column over the past three years. "Drink Pink" is one of my summer mottos and I really try to live up to this. When it comes to rosé, my pick this summer is Puffin rosé. Yes, I know this is a shameless homer pick, but Puffin Rosé wine has won gold medals at both the Oregon Wine Awards and Savor Northwest Wine Competitions this year. Puffin rosé was named "Best of Class" at Savor Northwest and was just named a "Top Rosé" pick by the Oregon Wine Press. Puffin Rosé delivers delicious strawberry, citrus and rhubarb flavors with a crisp acidity. Rosé is a crowd pleaser and pairs with a wide variety of food, from

salads and tacos to burgers and salmon.

My summer pinot noir pick is White Rose "Black Thorn." White Rose, in the Dundee Hills, has established itself as one of the finest pinot noir producers in the state. Black Thorn, made from estate fruit, is a new release from White Rose. This medium-bodied wine is packed with cherry and black pepper flavors. If you enjoy grilled salmon or grilled pizza, this is a great wine for you.

My last summer wine pick is a red from Pudding River Wine Cellars in Salem. Sean

Driggers is one of my favorite Oregon wine-makers and The Wine Shack carries every wine we can get from Pudding River. If you enjoy a nice grilled

rib eye, then Pudding River malbec is right for you. Released about a month ago, this malbec offers notes of blueberry, plum and pepper, with an earthiness that makes it a great wine for grilled foods, including barbecue. My employee, Lee Roberts, gave me the first review on this wine and told me that we had to put this wine on the shelves. He was right.

So there you go. Your summer wine list is set and all of the bases are covered. You can find all of these wines (and many more) at The Wine Shack. And, while you're at The Shack, don't forget to wander over to our new store, Provisions 124 to pick up a bottle of Joe's Bigfoot Barbecue Sauce. This will spice up your pulled pork or your grilled chicken. If you're really brave, try Joe's Mariberry/Habanero sauce.

Have a great summer and drink responsibly.



Boac's Bird Notes SUSAN BOAC

The sounds of the season: Baby birds are everywhere

Babies, babies, babies! Are you enjoying the baby birds as much as I am this season?

It's not hard to enjoy the sights and sounds of the parenting process. On my deck in the morning, I watch as the sparrows flutter their wings and appear to shake all over as a signal to the parent that they are hungry and ready to eat!

On a sunny Sunday morning, I witnessed a Steller's jay in the backyard tree answer the yearnings of its offspring from the neighbor's tree. Then, in swooped the youngster for a transfer of food. Often the young look larger

than the parent as was the case in this scene.

Everywhere, I also see busy parents collecting food for nestlings and fledglings. The heron rookery across the creek is busy with adults coming and going with food for the fast maturing broods. Neal Maine dropped off some pictures of the nests and one has three babies in it!

We have lots of goslings and ducklings in the creek. We have tree swallows in a birdhouse for the third year straight. Chestnut-backed chickadees have taken up residence in the bluebird house we put up across the creek. And watching the



SUSAN BOAC

red-tail hawks teaching their youngsters how to hunt from the power poles is hours of entertainment as well.

I was walking around the Cannon Beach Lagoon Trail last week and I saw the most adorable fami-



SUSAN BOAC PHOTO

Red-breasted mergansers taking a swim.

ly. These are red-breasted mergansers. I watched as they tootled around the pond. Their polka dots are just so cute! Then the whole family got out of the water and did a little

preening — gotta take care of those feathers!

Reminder: This is the time of year that keeping cats indoors would help the bird population immensely. Fledglings spend

several days on the ground before they fly and therefore make easy marks for our domestic hunters. Please consider this for May through July.

Susan has spent her life enjoying the great outdoors from the lakes and woods of northern Minnesota, Mt. Adams in Washington and now the Oregon beach environs. After spending many pleasurable hours driving her avid birder parents around, she has taken up birding as a passion, to the mixed emotions of her husband Scott. The Boacs reside on the Neawanna Creek in Seaside where their backyard is a birder's paradise.