



PORT LUDLOW VOICE

*Memorial Day Traditions
Read to Rover
Farewell to Folsoms*

Serving the Village of Port Ludlow since 1998 May 2018

Read to Rover

by Barbara Berthiaume, Contributing Writer



Reading with Rover.

Submitted photo

Kids, dogs, and a good book are a great combination according to researchers in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California in Davis. “The dogs, in contrast to a human, don’t judge the individual, aren’t grading the individual, and hopefully that allows the children to build some confidence in their reading skills,” said Martin Smith, a veterinary school science educator and lead researcher on the study. It has been recognized anecdotally that children become better readers when they regularly read aloud to dogs, and many animal organizations and libraries around the country have developed reading programs that pair up kids and dogs. One such program is Reading with Rover, based in Redmond, Washington. Our own local program is READ to ROVER, serving three school districts in western Jefferson County. It is affiliated with a local non-profit organization, the Olympic Mountain Pet Pals, ompetpals.org.

Kim Pratt and Carla Ellis collaborated to start the READ to ROVER program at Chimacum Creek Primary School 10 years ago. There are now 16 volunteers who faithfully bring their dogs each Friday, so first and second graders can read with Rover.

All dogs are evaluated and tested for temperament and disposition by Georgia Towle, owner of the Lucky Dog Training Center. Dogs that pass the evaluation, which is an

extended form of the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen test, are considered therapy dogs. These dogs and their handlers are trained and tested to partner with agencies such as schools. Therapy dogs differ from service dogs, as service dogs have legal rights in public places, and are individually trained to do work, or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

Volunteers don red t-shirts identifying them as part of the READ to ROVER program. Many report that their dogs get really excited; they know they are going to school and be with kids. Students rotate every 15 minutes and have the undivided attention of Rover. Many students develop relationships with dogs and their owners, and volunteers note that they are amazed at the acceleration of reading skills over a year.

Students are trained to interact with the dogs, feed them treats, and learn dog etiquette as well. Costs of the program, including back-supported chairs for volunteers, t-shirts for the kids, and dog treats, are provided by community businesses, local realtors, and the Friends of Chimacum Foundation. If anyone is interested in knowing more about this program, contact Carla Ellis at 360-385-3950, or carla@cs.duke.edu.

Jefferson County Sheriffs Foundation

by Doug Henderson, President

For some time now, various concerns regarding incidents of crime have been discussed in Port Ludlow. These concerns are common in all communities but become extremely frustrating for both citizens and law enforcement due to the seeming lack of communications. The following information is offered to clarify some of the problems and give the citizens of our community, the unincorporated area of Jefferson County, a basic reference source for many of the areas of concern.

Law Enforcement in Jefferson County (unincorporated) is provided by the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office under the elected Sheriff David Stanko. Port Townsend, an incorporated city, has its own Police Department. Traffic Enforcement on state highways is provided by Washington State Patrol.

The Jefferson County Sheriffs Foundation is a not-for-profit Washington State Corporation organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Foundation is not sponsored, affiliated, or controlled by the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office; it is an independent organization created to assist the Sheriff’s Office with costs that are not provided by public funding. The

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