



It was an absolutely glorious wedding last Saturday. Sun shining at the New Jersey riverside site; Audrey the Afghan bride was stunning in the gown her Mom created; Joseph her Doberman groom so dapper in his tuxedo and tiny, top hat. Their ventriloquist parents voiced each "I do", and

Joseph kissed the bride on cue. The newlyweds are "mutts" about each other.

The betrothed, both certified therapy dogs and titled in many AKC performance events, had met and fell in love during rally class at Clever K9s their school. Audrey, a four-year-old leggy, brindle Afghan Hound belongs to my friend Annette Smith from Toms River. When she surfaced in a Florida shelter as a pup, Annette arranged to bring her to NJ with the help of her sister and breed rescue contacts in Florida. It didn't take long for her breeder to recognize Audrey on social media. She comes from top show lines and was sold as a pet because she was too tall to show. Her owners violated their contract by not contacting the breeder before surrendering her to a shelter. Audrey's breeder is thrilled that her pup wound up in the best of homes, and marvels at Audrey's many accomplishments.

Joseph, a two-year-old Doberman, has a remarkable performance record for such a young dog. He belongs to Lisa Clowes of Forked River, NJ. He excels at dock diving, though Dobies are not known as a water breed. Joseph plays with Audrey and her two rescued Afghan siblings. He thinks he is an Afghan Hound disguised as a Doberman. Yes, Joseph married an older and taller woman. Audrey has six AKC performance titles after her pedigree name but her younger spouse has eight. Both dogs are neutered so their union will remain platonic, yet competitive.

Seemed nothing could top the gala engagement party the canine couple had in July at Silverwoods, an assisted living in Toms River, where both Audrey and Joseph visit as therapy dogs. They had a live band, balloon arch and 50 residents as guests and admirers. But the wedding did eclipse that celebration. No detail was overlooked.

**The Decorating:** Creativity transformed the covered picnic area at Riverfront Park in Pt. Pleasant Boro into a resplendent wedding chapel. The mothers-in-law- Annette and Denise- bought enough white and gold tulle to wrap the pillars of the Parthenon. We set up and bedecked the venue for three hours before 35 guests and well-behaved canine friends began arriving at 12:30.

Two wooden silhouettes- an Afghan in a veil and a Doberman with a bow tie- created by Rick and Duane, the respective fathers-in-law- graced the entrance to the temporary chapel, and anchored the runner to the altar that read: "Of all the Walks we've Taken, this One is our Favorite. September 10, 2022." Plates, napkins, pens and dog biscuits given as favors, all were printed with the newlyweds' names and wedding date. Hors d'oeuvres were served before the nuptials.

**The Wedding Party:** The attendants dressed for the ceremony behind a privacy folding screen. Down the aisle, while rally friend Carol played the wedding march on the organ, Hermie (for Herman Munster) Audrey's goofy, Afghan baby brother entered as best man; then her sister Sarah as Maid of Afghan, dressed in a gold metallic gown; Lyla, Joseph's 13-year-old sister was a show stopper in her flower girl ensemble while AJ, a retired champion Afghan friend wore his ring bearer pillow around his wasp waist. Groom Joseph was escorted by his Mom Lisa. Next



Joseph the Doberman groom with Audrey his Afghan bride.



Lyla, Joseph's 13-year-old sister, as flower girl.



AJ retired champion Afghan as ring bearer.

dinner, but the pushy Afghans circulated around the tables for hand-outs. The couple cut two wedding cakes by proxy- a bone-shaped, peanut butter flavored dog cake baked by Hungry Hounds, and an incredible cannoli-filling people cake.

Annette grabbed the microphone and directed various games for prizes- Pin the Tail on the Afghan, Guess the Number of Milk bones in the Jar, corn hole, a hula hoop version of musical chairs for the dogs and more. Audrey threw her bouquet. Kira an adorable Poodle caught it. She has her heart set on marrying Hermie.

The chapel was set in the middle of this public park so people walking their dogs orbited around the wedding all day. Many were mesmerized by event, and some were invited in for a closer look and food.

**No Honeymoon-**The wedding date was set before Joseph was invited to the regional dock diving championships on Sept. 11th in Connecticut. He was ranked the #3 Dock Diving Doberman in the US so he just had to go. He and his parents needed to leave NJ at 2am to be there in time.

Explain that to Audrey, his new wife. She feels Joseph ditched her at the altar, robbed them of a wedding night- all because he rather have more AKC titles after his name than "Mr. & Mrs." in front of theirs.

the bride Audrey with her Dad Rick would stop on the runner and pose for photos until she joined her husband-to-be. The pup parents wore Mother of the Bride and Father of the Groom "formal" tee shirts.

**The Vows:** The bridal party rested while the canine couple stood before Rev. Ronnie (minister and Rick's brother) as he read poignant, personal vows he wrote for this special occasion which included the Apache wedding blessing: "Now you will feel no

rain, For each of you will be shelter to the other; Now you will feel no cold, For each of you will be warmth to the other; Now there is no more loneliness, For each of you will be companion to the other; Now you are two bodies, But there is one life before you."

When Rev. Ronnie said: "You may now kiss, lick, wrestle, chase, tug or just lay around together", Joseph reached over and licked Audrey's pretty, needle nose. The guests teared up and cheered.

**The Reception:** With non-alcohol champagne to comply with park rules, guests raised their glasses while Alberta, Annette's sister from Florida wearing a halo and angel wings, toasted Audrey as her guardian angel. She found and visited her in the Florida shelter; Aunt Margaret toasted Joseph and I gave a quick "Best Show" blessing from Westminster Kennel Club. Meanwhile, the dogs' obedience teacher Jill doubled as wedding photographer.

The newlyweds chose Taylor Dayne's "I'll Always Love You" for their first dance, whereas their pup parents waltzed to Billy Joel's "I Love You Just the Way You Are", the Smiths' wedding song. The Dobermans rested in their soft crates during the catered

## POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by the Suffolk County Police Department's Third Precinct and other police and law enforcement agencies:

### WITNESSES SOUGHT IN DEADLY CAR CRASH

North Bay Shore: Suffolk County Police Major Case Unit detectives are investigating a single-vehicle crash that killed a man in North Bay Shore on Sat., Sept. 3. Police said Bryant Castro was driving a 2018 Cadillac westbound on Delaware Avenue when he lost control of the vehicle and the vehicle struck a fire hydrant and a tree in front of 138 Delaware Ave. at approximately 3:35 p.m. The vehicle then caught fire. Castro, 30, of 232 Newman St., Brentwood, was transported to South Shore University Hospital in Bay Shore where he was pronounced dead. Detectives are asking anyone with information on this crash to call the Major Case Unit at 631-852-6553.

### JUVENILE CHARGED IN SHOOTING

Bay Shore: Suffolk County Police arrested a teenager after he shot and seriously injured a man in Bay Shore on Sat., Sept. 3. Police said Vincent Peredaviz was attending a baby shower at 1651 Pine Acres Blvd. when a fight broke out between two teenage girls on the front lawn. When Peredaviz attempted to break up the fight, a 16-year-old male teenager fired a handgun, striking Peredaviz in the leg. Peredaviz, 41, of Astoria, Queens, was transported to South Shore University Hospital in Bay Shore for treatment of serious injuries.

A 30-year-old man who witnessed the shooting wrestled the 16-year-old to the ground and held him until Third Precinct officers arrived and took him into custody.

The teen was charged with Assault 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree. He was held overnight at the Third Precinct and was arraigned in Youth Part at First District Court in Central Islip.

### PETIT LARCENIES

West Islip: Someone stole cooking oil from behind Besito restaurant at 399 Montauk Highway, Aug. 31.

East Islip: An assortment of health and beauty-care products were shoplifted from Stop & Shop supermarket at 2650 Sunrise Highway, Aug. 27.

Bay Shore: Suffolk County Police arrested two women, charging them with Larceny in connection with an incident at Children's Place in the Bay Shore Mall. Police said Shanelle Hagood, 19, and Anamaria Guzman, 20, both of Center Avenue, Bay Shore, were charged with stealing clothing from the store. The incident occurred Aug. 29 at approximately 1:10 p.m.

### GRAND LARCENY

West Islip: Two fish tanks were stolen from BTJ Jungle on Sunrise Highway, Aug. 30. The value of the items was not listed in the police report.

North Bay Shore: A wallet was stolen from an unlocked vehicle that was parked on Brookdale Avenue Aug. 31.

•A 2006 Honda was stolen from the driveway of a home on Harvest Lane Aug. 30.

•An assortment of credit cards was stolen from a vehicle that was parked on Kildare Place Aug. 31. The report indicated the incident occurred at 1 a.m.

Islip: Cash, totaling \$3,500, was stolen out of an unlocked vehicle that was parked on Harrisburg Street Aug. 31.

### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

Central Islip: The owner of a 2005 Chevrolet, which was parked on McKinney Street Aug. 30, called police to report that someone had broken the vehicle's window.

### ARRESTS

Driving While Intoxicated or Impaired: Melissa Benitez, 21, of Wilson Blvd., Central Islip; Michael Hueter, 52, of Olympia Court, East Northport; Jose Rubio, 59, of Mockingbird Place., Brentwood; Christopher Belle, 45, of West Islip; Antonio Santana, 29, of Lukens Avenue, Brentwood;

Criminal Possession of Narcotics With Intent to Sell: Curry Forbes, 45, of E. Walnut Street, Central Islip;

Petit Larceny: Mark Pastore, 42, of Van Buren Street, West Babylon; Valerie Knight, 43, of North 26th Street, Wyandanch;

Criminal Trespass: Sherri Oblighent of Nortfleet Lane, Coram;

Assault: Michael Bellone, 42, of Brooklyn Boulevard, Bay Shore;

The charges against those listed are allegations and the cases are still pending in the courts. Individuals charged and whose names appear in this column may submit documentation to us at a later date that the charges have been dismissed or that they have been found innocent and we will include that information in this space in a timely manner.