

Human-animal teams offer love, friendly faces

Written by Sarah Jane Kyle

Sep. 12, 2013 |

coloradoan.com

Larimer Animal People Partnership

What: Larimer Animal People Partnership is an umbrella organization for therapy animal teams certified through Pet Partners or TD Inc. The organization visits libraries through the Animal Afternoon Programs, Crossroads Safehouse, Oakbrook II Senior Citizens and Touchstone Health Partners. Many members also volunteer with MCR, Poudre Valley Hospital and elementary schools in our community.**Who to contact:** Amy Fristoe, afristoe@msn.com.**Volunteer prerequisites:** Volunteer teams must be certified as Pet Partners through a Delta evaluation (this would include many types of animals such as cats, rabbits, horses, etc.) or to certify through TD Inc., which certifies therapy dog teams. The teams who have registered through one of these organizations may then join LAPP and volunteer through the program. Some sites have their own prerequisites, which can include drug tests or background checks. Pet Partner teams must get requalified every two years. All animals require a pre-screening by a vet for health purposes.**Volunteer responsibilities:** Vary according to locations.**Typical time commitment per week:** Volunteers set their own schedule. Some teams volunteer once a month and others several times a week.

"It's when (people) make that connection with Rex and he can bring something to them that I love. You're just really moved by whatever interaction just happened." LAAP volunteer Yvonne Hanning on her dog, Rex.

Future Causes

Learn more about how to volunteer with your child in next week's edition of Causes. Have a charity you love working with? Invite Causes reporter Sarah Jane Kyle to tag along for your volunteer opportunities by emailing SarahKyle@coloradoan.com.

It's been a hard month. I've been grieving the loss of one of my best friends who died in a car crash just weeks ago. Coming back to work, coming back to Causes and coming back to real life was very hard.

So when I walked into Council Tree Library on Sunday to meet the animal and human volunteers of Larimer Animal People Partnership, I wasn't sure I was ready to be the chipper Causes reporter. I was empty.

But then a big, goofy golden retriever named Rex came up and leaned against my leg. Just leaned and turned his soft head up in a big doggy smile. For lack of a better word, it was a hug. And suddenly in that moment, I was full.

This kind of interaction is one of LAAP member Yvonne Hanning's favorite parts about volunteering with Rex. Though the team's usual volunteer location is at the libraries to work with

kids, Hanning said she loves seeing the interaction between Rex and the adults who wander in “needing something.”

“It’s good to read with the kids, but random people will come in here and they seem to have a need,” she said. “It’s when they make that connection with Rex, and he can bring something to them that I love. You’re just really moved by whatever interaction just happened.”

LAAP volunteers work in a variety of locations in Northern Colorado, including the libraries, Crossroads Safehouse, Touchstone Health Partners, nursing homes and more.

The animal and human teams, which can include dogs, cats or other animals, undergo extensive training and screenings before serving the public. Volunteer locations are usually driven not by a human’s likes, but by the personality and needs of the animal partner.

“You have to match your animal’s likes to the venue,” Hanning said. “Rex is pretty active. He’s not a couch potato kind of guy, so the libraries are a nice environment for him.”

Amy Fristoe, a longtime volunteer with the organization, has multiple animals who volunteer at a wide array of locations. Two cats work on the weekends. Three dogs, all Labrador retrievers, keep her active during the week.

One of her cats, Homer, made an appearance at Sunday’s library event. Sprawled on his leopard blanket, Homer preened himself and patiently listened to child after child reading book after book.

He even let children take him for a walk around the library in a stroller, recruiting more children to the animal area.

“It helped me (to read to Homer and the dogs),” said Marlo Rulon, 8. “They sat and listened to me. It was fun.”

Sarah Jane Kyle is the Coloradoan reporter covering volunteerism, nonprofits and philanthropy. Follow her on Twitter @sarahjanekyle or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/reportersarahjane.

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Human-animal teams offer love, friendly faces

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Larimer Animal People Partnership team Amy Frisbie and her cat, Homer, listen while Marlo Rulon, 8, reads a book. LAAP human and animal volunteers were at Council Tree Library on Sunday for children to meet and read to therapy animals. / Sarah Jane Kyle/The Coloradoan



Written by
Sarah Jane Kyle

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Larimer Animal People Partnership team Yvonne Hanning and her dog, Rex, a golden retriever, show Katelyn Robinson, 5, a trick. LAAP human and animal volunteers were at Council Tree Library in Fort Collins on Sunday for children to meet and read to therapy animals. / By Sarah Jane Kyle/The Coloradoan

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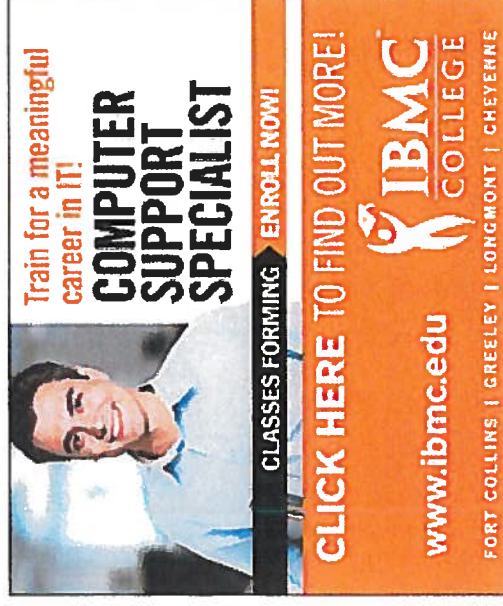
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Colorado State University Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

FORT COLLINS - Colorado State University will commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of on-campus and communitywide events through September and October.

“National Hispanic Heritage Month is a reminder that we need to acknowledge the contributions of Latinos every day, to celebrate the lives and generations before us,” said Guadalupe Salazar, director of El Centro.

All events are free for students, faculty, staff and community members. Many events are geared for families and children as well.

Activities for the celebration include:

September

Vida Sana – Edgar Dominguez
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 11, Student Services Building Room 133
Fort Collins and campus community members are invited to an open presentation and discussion with Vida Sana. Topics include health inequalities, community engagement and desired outcomes.

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Chili Festival and Block Party

Noon-5 p.m. Sept. 14, Museo de las Tres Colonias, 425 10th St. in Fort Collins
The celebration sheds light on the Hispanic culture and celebrations through food, music and contests.

Live in Color: Performance Painting and National Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off

4-7 p.m. Sept. 17, Outside Campus Recreation Center
In collaboration with the 2013 Diversity Symposium, this event kicks off National Hispanic Heritage Month with Armando Silva, a performance painter who will create art in an interactive and energetic manner. Light refreshments will be served.

The Origins of Latin American Music

8:30 p.m. Sept. 19, University Center for the Arts
In this one-hour presentation by Raices Latinas musical director Freddy Saavedra and percussionist Leticia Maldonado, attendees will learn about the influence of African, indigenous and Spanish cultures in what is known today as Latin American music.

Latin American Studies: A Colloquium Featuring CSU Researchers

Noon-1 p.m. Sept. 19 and 26 and Oct. 3 and 10, Morgan Library Event Hall on campus
Colorado State University Libraries offers a brown bag series that will highlight eight scholars on campus who are researching topics in Latina(o)/Latin American studies. Two researchers will be featured at each session. Coffee and tea will be provided. This program is free and open to the public.

Learn Bachata and Merengue

1-4 p.m. Sept. 21, Poudre River Public Library in Old Town Fort Collins
Learn to dance Bachata and Merengue during this free dance lesson with local film director Adam Taub.

ACCIÓN Community Impact Leadership Award

6-7 p.m. Sept. 26, Northside Aztlan Community Center, 112 Willow St. in Fort Collins
ACCIÓN, CSU's Hispanic faculty and staff organization, recognizes local community leaders in Northern Colorado impacting Hispanic communities.

October

Noche Latina

4-6 p.m. Oct. 5, Northside Aztlan Community Center, 112 Willow St. in Fort Collins
Noche Latina is an event focused on the Latina/o culture such as dance, music, food and familia. This year, the event celebrates the elderly by recognizing local seniors who continue to impact the Fort Collins community. This is a potluck.

Soul Sacrifice: A tribute to Santana

2-3 p.m. Oct. 12, Poudre River Public Library in Old Town Fort Collins
The five-member band covers Santana's work and features Latin-infused rock classics.

Jose Cantillo from "The Walking Dead"

7-8:30 p.m. Oct. 28, LSC Theatre

Jose Pablo Cantillo, the American actor who portrays Caesar Martinez in AMC's "The Walking Dead," will talk about his experience as a Latino actor.

Event sponsors include: El Centro, City of Fort Collins Northside Aztlan Community Center, ASAP, Museo de las Tres Colonias, Office of Vice President for Diversity, CSU Parents Fund, ACCIÓN, Poudre River Public Library District, CSU Libraries, LASSO, Front Range Community College, Lory Student Center, Campus Recreation Center and Multicultural Greek Organizations.

For more information and description of each National Hispanic Heritage Month event, call El Centro at (970) 491-5722.

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Fort Collins Reads hosts events

Written by Stacy Nick

Sep. 24, 2013 |

coloradoan.com

Bookworms will find a host of events surrounding this year's Fort Collins Reads book selection.

Fort Collins Reads is a volunteer program that seeks to encourage reading and the discussion it evokes. Each year, the committee selects a book, plans events related to the book and hosts the author's visit to Fort Collins.

This year's book is Erik Larson's "In the Garden of Beasts," which takes place in Germany in 1933 as Adolf Hitler begins his rise to power. Larson's other nonfiction books include "The Devil in the White City," "Thunderstruck" and "Isaac's Storm."

Past Fort Collins Reads authors include: Thrity Umrigar ("The World We Found"); Geraldine Brooks ("March"); Garth Stein ("The Art of Racing in the Rain"); and T.C. Boyle ("Tortilla Curtain").

Fort Collins Reads events

All events are free unless otherwise indicated. Visit www.fortcollinsreads.com for more information.

- A discussion of "In the Garden of Beasts" led by Poudre River Public Library District librarian Sarah Scobey at 7 p.m. Thursday at Old Town Library, 201 Peterson St., Fort Collins.
- A talk by former CIA Agent Francine Mathews about her novel, "Jack 1939," at 7 p.m. Oct. 3 at The Hilton, 425 W. Prospect Road, Fort Collins.
- A panel discussion on 1930s history featuring local historians at 7 p.m. Oct. 15 at Harmony Library, 4616 S. Shields St., Fort Collins.
- A talk by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as portrayed by Richard Marold, at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 at Old Town Library, 201 Peterson St., Fort Collins.
- A concert by the Park Hill Brass, a world-class jazz group, at 7 p.m. Nov. 1 at Harmony Library, 4616 S. Shields St., Fort Collins.
- A reception with Erik Larson from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 2. Tickets are \$50 and on sale at Old Firehouse Books, 232 Walnut St., Fort Collins.
- Erik Larson's talk at 1 p.m. Nov. 3 at The Hilton, 425 W. Prospect Road, Fort Collins. Tickets are \$10 and on sale at any Poudre River Public Library District branch as well as at www.oldfirehousebooks.com.