

Tunes: Three bands put on one big show at Hurricane Alley to benefit local animal groups

By Daniella Wiedel/For Pulse Las Cruces Sun-News

Posted:

lcsun-news.com

Supporting others in the community — furry or otherwise — is a value of many musical talents in the area. Most don't hesitate for an opportunity to make music for a cause, and tomorrow night will be no exception at Hurricane Alley. There will be three musical sets, all to benefit ACTion Programs for Animals and Doña Ana Pets Alive.

Director of APA Michel Meunier said the idea to host a benefit concert came from their own volunteers and foster dog owners Kelley and Scott Guthrie. All proceeds will go directly to animal rescue work and veterinary costs.

APA runs a campaign called Doña Ana Pets Alive!, a no-kill campaign which pulls at-risk animals from the municipal shelter into foster homes and, eventually, permanent homes. Funds will also go toward Second Chance Dogs, a place that houses former abuse-case dogs so they don't go to the municipal shelter, Meunier said. Since May 2012, APA has rescued more than 240 shelter animals and 13 Second Chance dogs.

"We are grateful for Scott's band and the others for donating their talents to help raise funds for our rescue animals' needs," Meunier said. Guthrie is in a band called Captain Jookie! that will perform tomorrow night.

The bands set to perform are Captain Jookie!, CS Truckin' and singer/songwriter Matt Morgan.

Donations will be accepted at this event, online at actionprogramsforanimals.org or by mail to APA, P.O. Box 125, Las Cruces, N.M. 88004. Pet food donations and supplies are accepted year-round. Low-cost vaccination clinics and re-homing support for alternatives to shelter surrender are also offered, Meunier said.

CAPTAIN JOOKIE!

The band Captain Jookie! might not be one that you've heard of, but it's likely you probably have seen at least one member of the band playing in a different band around town. Many of the musicians comprising this band are in other local bands, too.

Since 2000, Captain Jookie! has had all original members: Oliver Charity (vocals), Dave Wheeler (drums), Will Sadler (bass) and Scott Guthrie (guitar). While they don't play as often as when they first got the band together, they are thrilled to add this concert to their schedule.

Charity and Guthrie both play in The Liars and Bofus. Wheeler runs Studio 603. Sadler is a sound engineer.

"Our music is made up of mostly cover songs that we put our own spin on, from jazz to pop to rock to rap - nothing is off limits," Guthrie said.

All members of the band own animals rescued from the shelter.

"One trip to the shelter makes you realize the amount of animals that need help and the importance of the spay/neuter program that groups like APA promote," Guthrie said.

As for the meaning of "jookie," that remains a mystery. When asked, Guthrie said it means "nothing, yet everything" at the same time.

CS TRUCKIN'

At about this time last year, CS Truckin' played a reunion show at the Rio Grande Theatre when they got the band back together after 35 years. They are a three-piece power trio — or a rock band, in the simplest sense — influenced greatly by 1970s and 1980s music and many of the bands they've opened for, such as Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow (Deep Purple), Quicksilver Messenger Service, Brian Auger and The Buddy Miles Band, to name a few.

Ty Loyd (guitar and vocals), Rob Allen (drummer and vocals) and Leslie Skaggs (bass) were childhood friends and formed their band in sixth grade at Central Elementary in the early 1970s.

Skaggs describes the band's sound is something akin to The Eagles, Tom Petty or even The Beatles. Upon listening to their CD, you might also be reminded of the Gin Blossoms, Rush, Triumph or Grand Funk Railroad.

MATT MORGAN

After returning from a recent trip to Austin during SXSW, Matthew Morgan feels his passion for music pairs nicely with his love for animals and support groups like APA.

"It's cool for me to be offered a chance to play a show like this. I can give back to the community by getting to support organizations like this one through my music," the local guitarist said.

Inspired by artists like John Mayer, Howie Day or The Lumineers, he strives to pattern his own music after theirs with an acoustic base and lyrics that have meaning about something in his life.

He plans to play all original music and potentially even a tribute song to the shelter animals at this performance. He and his roommate own two dogs — Spartacus and Samson.

"One is a pitbull and the other is a Chihuahua, and they are inseparable. Together, they just work," he said. "This is a good opportunity for me to be able to give back. Watching people enjoy their time and making it special for them is important to me. I just want to do the best I can to support the organization through my music."

Morgan is in the process of negotiating a recording studio space in El Paso and will launch a Kickstarter campaign to launch his first album in the next few months.

Daniella Wiedel is a freelance writer and may be reached at daniella.wiedel@gmail.com.

If you go

What: Music Jam for Animals Benefit Concert

When: 9 p.m., Friday

Where: Hurricane Alley, 1490 Missouri Ave.

How much: \$5 and donations

Info: hurricanealleylc.com, actionprogramforanimals.org