

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE

Humane Society in the holiday spirit with area events

By Frank Bryce

Special to the Sun-News

The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico was host last Sunday to an afternoon performance of the play "A Tuna Christmas" at the Black Box Theatre. Hosting a play at the Black Box has become an annual fund-raising event for HSSNM. Having no idea what the play was about and learning there were only two actors performing all the characters in the play, my lack of exposure to the arts made me wary.

However, with an essentially sold-out audience and few empty seats due to some no-shows, was I ever surprised when the No Strings Theatre Company presented an entertaining and engaging comedy by Jaston Williams, Ed Howard and Joe Sears, and directed by NSTC Artistic Director Ceil Herman. The cast members are Algernon D'Amassa — who's performed at the Black Box Theatre in "Crime and Punishment," "The 39 Steps" and "Private Fears in Public Places," and recently directed NSTC's production of "Terra Nova" — and David Reyes, who has been seen at the Black Box Theatre in "The 39 Steps," "The Sisters Rosensweig," "Terra Nova" and "Into The Woods." Their versatile performances were absolutely captivating with what I would call rural Texas humor of life, politics, relationships and even humane society perceptions. This presentation was a real joy and you should not miss it!

Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 14.

There's also a 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 4 performance. Tickets are \$12 regular admission, \$10 students and seniors over 65, and all seats on Thursday are \$8. For reservations, call 575-523-1223.

Another event by HSSNM will be pet microchipping from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 6 at Horse N Hound Feed N Supply, 991 Amador Ave., in Las Cruces. The microchips will be available for \$6.35 for each dog or cat. The chips are now mandatory for county and city pets and HSSNM has helped other organizations acquire the universal microchip scanners so access to these scanners is more available. A large turnout can be expected so you should be prepared for a reasonable wait. Microchipping has proven to be a very successful way to ensure your stray companions come home safe.

On Dec. 13, also at Horse N Hound Feed N Supply from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., HSSNM will conduct an event for pet photos with Santa Claus for \$5 in conjunction with a blood drive. The photos will be emailed to the participants and are free to those pet owners who donate blood for the event. At both events, free socializing pet toys will be available while they last. These gifts are provided to encourage play and attention to pets by their family members.

On Dec. 15, the Coalition for Pets and People will conduct a dogs-only spay and neuter event for residents of Mesilla, Mesquite, La Mesa, Berino, Chamberino, San Miguel, Santo Thomas, Vado and El Quito (ZIP codes 88005, 88021, 88027, 88044, 88048 and 88072). The cost for the event will be \$7 per dog. This project is funded by the PetSmart Charities through the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico. Dogs must be at least 3 months old and in good health. HSSNM is donating additional funds to cover incidental costs of this particular event including county license, rabies vaccination and microchip for dogs. The event will be at the Mesilla Fire Station.

For reservations or information, call 575-386-9212.

Frank Bryce is president of HSSNM. Interested guest authors can call HSSNM at 575-523-8020.