

North Notes

Spokane-North Rotary Club

November 18, 2024

Calendar:

Nov. 25: Noon luncheon at the Bark. **Speaker:** Rotary District 5080 **Gov. Lorne Westnedge.**

Announcements:

- Club President **Melinda Keberle** is happy that **Laura Zahn** will serve as club president-elect and will participate in Rotary PETs training early next year. Laura also will serve as president-elect in the third quarter next year, Keberle said.
- A subcommittee of the board will continue Nov. 25 via Zoom to discuss topics for a District grant. Topics included ideas for an international and/or a local grant.
- Gift tags for the club's "\$60 for 40" holiday program for needy families at Holmes Elementary School will be available at the Nov. 25 luncheon meeting.
- Scott and Janine McKorkle will host the club holiday party evening Dec. 20. Sign-up sheets are available now.

Happy Bucks:

- **Art Rudd** was \$52 happy for his and Robin's 52nd wedding anniversary, also celebrated with a photo in The Spokesman-Review.
- **Bill Simer** was \$5 happy for his birthday, celebrated in song at this luncheon.
- Noting the full capacity of 25 at the luncheon, **Ron Noble** said he was happy just to find a seat.
- **John Mailliard** was happy that his neighbor and fellow Marine joined the luncheon and that his grandchildren bought Tom Turkey Thanksgiving bags.
- **Jerry Logan** was happy for his last medical procedure.
- **Janine McKorkle** was happy to work at pre-school classes at Roosevelt and Holmes schools.
- **Sheila Fritts** was happy to have her guests visit.
- **Steve Boharski** was happy to mention Bozeman, Mont., connections at the lunch.
- **Laura Zahn** also added her happiness to the list.

Welcome, Paulette

President-elect Melinda Keberle said attorney **Paulette Burgess** has submitted her application for club membership and will be installed in a future meeting.

Part of one prison is a real animal house

For some inmates at the Airway Heights Correction Center there are dog-good ways to pass the time.

The program is SpokAnimal's Pawsitive Dog Training Program.

At the Nov. 18 club luncheon, Dori Peck and Miranda Hudkins of SpokAnimal described the cooperative effort between AHCC and the Diamonds in the Ruff dog training program.

Hudkins said inmates on good behavior work with the dogs for 10 to 12 weeks to train the animals with body language and verbal commands, grooming, feeding, water the dogs, making them ready to adopt for forever pets with new families.



The dogs, typically six months to two years old, often include mixed breeds such as retrievers, Labradors, terriers, and even an occasional Mastiff. She said the dog's temperament is more important than specific breeds, but added that dogs like border collies "who want to work make great pets."

Inmates attend weekly classes on canine care. Handlers, wearing purple "AHCC dog handlers" shirts, work with the inmates and pups, which are weighed and inspected (the dogs, not the inmates).



The dogs are walked on leashes outside for exercise and at night stay in crates in the cells, which are in sight of the prison guards, Hudkins said. Barking may be a problem for adjacent cellmates, she said, adding that while counselors see marked differences in inmates in the program, "some jail staff have more set ways."

She said the training culminates with a graduation for the puppies and inmates "may get a replacement dog after a break."

Dori Peck said SpokAnimal last year had 4,700 animals, including 3,900 cats. She said many apartment owners don't want dogs in their units, so cats have been more common, including 2,000 at the "Kitty Café."

Pet food costs have soared, she said, and SpokAnimal used up 71,000 pounds of pet food last year. Spay and neuter programs reached 6,000 animals last year, Peck added.



Bulletin editors: Chuck Rehberg and Scott McKorkle. Photos by Sandy Fink and Melinda Keberle.