

Event to honor first responders, veterans Saturday at State Theatre



Ronnie Casey and Colleen Lewis of PETS invite the community to an event Saturday at the State Theatre recognizing first responders and veterans. (Julie Zeeb — Daily News)

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RED BLUFF — Tehama County will get the chance to honor first responders and veterans, who will be recognized Saturday at a special event hosted by Providing Essentials For Tehama Shelter, or PETS.

The Not Every Hero Wears a Cape event will include a one-time showing of the movie “Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero.” The event starts at 2 p.m. at the State Theatre, 333 Oak St. in Red Bluff.

“We are honoring our veterans, military, police departments and fire departments,” said PETS Vice President Ronnie Casey. “There will be a special presentation to the American Legion recognizing its centennial celebration because Sgt. Stubby is a life-time member of the American Legion.”

The animated movie tells the story of a stray dog who befriended soldiers in 1917 and ended up serving on the battlefield in World War I.

As the unofficial mascot of the 102nd Infantry, Stubby was promoted to the rank of sergeant, becoming the first dog to be promoted in combat, and received a number of medals for his participation in four military offensives and 17 battles in France over an eight month period.

In addition to the American Legion, Sgt. Stubby was made a lifetime member of the Red Cross and the YMCA.

The event will include representatives of Cal Fire, Red Bluff Fire, Red Bluff Police, the California Highway Patrol, Tehama County Sheriff's Department, Tehama County Young Marines, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Tehama County Veterans Collaborative and Explorers.

"We will have representatives from those organizations in the lobby so that people can say thank you and do a meet and greet with Chipper (the CHP mascot) and Sgt. Stubby," Casey said. "It's a family event and we hope children will come meet and see all the wonderful people in the community, both law enforcement and veterans."

Casey is organizing the event along with Colleen Lewis.

The event will be an opportunity to promote two programs at the Tehama County Animal Care Center. The programs are geared toward the groups honored Saturday, including Patriots and Pets for military and Everyone Needs A Hero for police and fire departments, Lewis said.

"The biggest thing is it's our goal for people to meet our heroes and recognize that not every hero wears a cape," Lewis said. "We also wanted to start the year with a positive event to say 'thank you' to those who have served as well as have a fun, family event. That's why we set the ticket prices low to make sure they can afford to come out and enjoy this opportunity."

The Tehama County Young Marines will be presenting colors and winners from a Sgt. Stubby coloring contest will be announced prior to the showing of Sgt. Stubby.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, available at the Tehama Country Visitors Center on Antelope Boulevard, Red Bluff-Tehama County Chamber of Commerce, from any PETS board member or online at www.PetsTehama.org. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 527-8702 or at the door.