

Harrison hosts Hawaiian performance

The gymnasium at Harrison Elementary School rocked and swayed with the sweet sounds of Hawaii Thursday afternoon.

Last year, Eugene-based organization Mele Ohana, which works to perpetuate Hawaiian culture through its songs, dances and gatherings, donated about a dozen ukuleles to the Owl's Nest at Harrison, a special classroom for students with a range of developmental disabilities. Last week, Mele Ohana's Iron Mango Orchestra, an ensemble some dozen musicians strong, came to the school to perform with Owl's Nest students on their own ukuleles.

"It feels very much like coming full circle," said Owl's Nest teacher Carolyn Jenkins, who explained that the classroom worked with Mele Ohana's Ed Barnett to practice Hawaiian songs and learn chords on their ukes. On Thursday, the students and their mentors played to an enthusiastic audience at Harrison.



Carolyn Jenkins plays along with her students and the Iron Mango Orchestra. photo by Jon Stinnett

JOBS

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Job Connections opened its new site in the Cottage Grove Goodwill store last July; it had previously been located in a Main Street storefront. It aims to provide "the opportunity for individualized job placement assistance, resume and interview skills coaching and referrals to local employers based on employment goals, experience and skills," according to executive assistant Libby Steffen-Schafermeyer. Job Connections also serves as a site for employers to post open positions and obtain assistance with locating candidates with skills to match employer job openings.

Smythe said Job Connections helps get employees job-ready as opposed to "handing them jobs," and she said work is available provided one is willing and able to travel.

Cottage Grove's Job Connections site is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and can be reached by phone at 541-942-9057.

DUCHESS

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cadre of volunteers, and it is obviously a labor of love.

When asked how people can help, she says they "can always use horse things - hay, buckets, feed, alfalfa, fence toppers, carrots, apples... And there is always a need for volunteers."

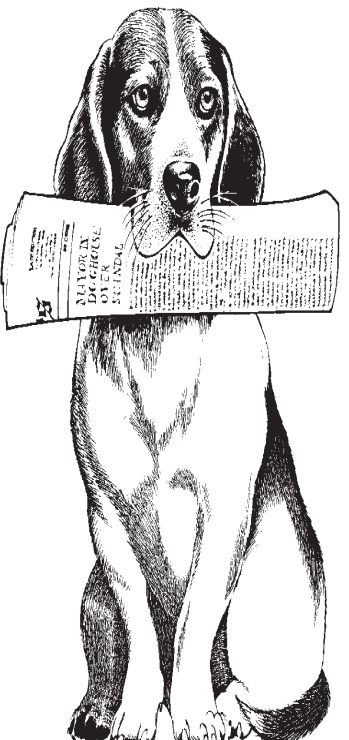
As we drove back to Cottage Grove, Bella thought about the horses she had met and why she loves them so much.

"They're gentle animals," she said. "And usually not mean to people. I love riding and feeding them. They have such soft lips."

She expects that, one day, when she can drive, she will be a volunteer. Like Kunz and countless other little girls who fall asleep dreaming of gentle creatures with big dark eyes, it is a world that calls.

The Duchess Sanctuary is located at 1515 Shady Oaks Lane and is open by appointment only. Director Jennifer Kunz may be contacted by calling 541-459-9914, by emailing jkunz@fundforanimals.org or at fundforanimals.org/duchess-sanctuary

For those who would like to learn more about the Duchess Sanctuary, an open house will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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