

Dimensions in Blue to perform Oct. 5

By Stefan Bocchino

377 Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Dimensions in Blue, a jazz ensemble from the United States Air Force Band of the West, will play at the Sue Cleveland High School concert hall in Rio Rancho Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.

The concert is free and open to the public. However tickets are required to guarantee a seat. There is a limit of four tickets per person. Seats not occupied by 6:45 p.m. will be opened to the general public.

Tickets are available at the Kirtland AFB Public Affairs office, the Rio Rancho Observer and two Kirtland Federal Credit Union locations: the West Alameda Branch and the Gibson Branch.

The Dimensions in Blue jazz ensemble gener-

ates a unique excitement through performances of America's only original art form: Jazz.

As one of the Air Force's finest and most versatile big bands, Dimensions in Blue features 18 talented musicians from around the country. The band currently tours over 30,000 miles and entertains over a million people each year.

Over the years, Dimensions in Blue has presented outstanding big band jazz to audiences throughout Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Louisiana.

From working with high schools and colleges to promote music education, to fostering national pride and patriotism through community relations concerts, Dimensions in Blue's commitment to musical excel-



Courtesy photo

Dimensions in Blue will play Oct. 5 in Rio Rancho.

lence reflects the core values of the United States Air Force.

Since its inception, Dimensions in Blue has kept the 1940s Glenn Miller Army Air Corps sound at the center of its musical focus. As Dimensions in Blue's musical heritage and reputation has grown, it has incorporat-

ed a more contemporary sound in order to connect with today's generation while entertaining and inspiring audiences of all ages with some of the biggest names in the jazz world.

Drawing on the heritage of over 70 years of exciting big band jazz music, Dimensions in Blue looks

Tickets are available at the following locations:

Kirtland Federal Credit Union
West Alameda Branch
10200 Corrales Road
Rio Rancho, NM

Kirtland Federal Credit Union
Gibson Branch
6440 Gibson Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM

Rio Rancho Observer
1594 Sara Road
Suite D
Rio Rancho, NM

Kirtland AFB Public Affairs
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE
Kirtland AFB, NM

toward the future to provide audiences with the very best the Air Force has to offer.

Proudly performing in the vintage "Pinks and Greens" as well as the modern "blues" of today's Air Force, Dimensions in Blue will continue to deliver world-class musical entertainment to its audience.

Airman battles PTSD with aid of a service dog

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received approval from his chain of command to bring Dallas to work, becoming possibly the first active-duty Airman with a service dog.

"I got a lot of support all the way from chiefs to colonels, who told me that they knew exactly what I was going through," said Sergeant Jordan.

Taking Dallas to work every day can be very rewarding, because she mitigates the effects of PTSD. She has an area right next to his desk, and to keep him from zoning out, she is trained to tug on his sleeve several times an hour, as well as pace back and forth in order catch his attention.

In the same way that dogs are trained to detect seizures before they occur, "Dallas is being trained to detect if I'm about to have an issue, and if so she'll do something to distract me," said Sgt. Jordan.

Dallas is also trained to literally watch Sergeant Jordan's back. When his back is turned to a door, she is trained to face the door so that if anybody comes in, she'll be able to alert him. Also, if he's in a line, Dallas will position herself behind him in order to give him space and prevent others from getting too close. All of this is done in a non-aggressive

matter. She doesn't bark, bite or threaten people in any way.

Having a dog at work can create challenges because Dallas is on a leash with Sergeant Jordan at all times. If someone in the office needs help lifting or moving something, Jordan will tie Dallas' leash to his belt and help out.

"One of the things about being active-duty is that I can't be treated 'special' and I don't want to be treated 'special,'" said Sergeant Jordan. "I have a dog and she helps me, just like someone with a wheelchair. I don't want anyone

saying that because I have a dog I can't do something. Whatever it is that I have to do, me and Dallas will make it happen."

Other challenges that Sergeant Jordan faces include getting odd stares and sometimes getting stopped by people wanting to know why he has a dog in the building. But these challenges are turned into opportunities to talk about PTSD and organizations like Paws and Stripes, which help veterans assimilate into society.

"The easiest way to explain what I've gone through in the past is, if

you're driving in your car and you have a near-miss accident and you get that feeling that your stomach drops out and you're just sitting there breathing hard for five minutes," said Sergeant Jordan. "I've lived with that for about 80 percent of my day before I met Dallas."

Because of the perceived stigma associated with mental-health disorders, many choose not to

talk about or get help for the issues that they are facing.

"I've suffered a lot of guilt," said Sergeant Jordan. "We are taught as young men to suck it up. Your whole life, someone has told you to stop being scared, don't be a baby. But I'm old enough now to know if you need help, get it. Dallas provides that help. She's got my six every day."

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