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# 4-H Santa Paws & Claws 5k Fun Run/Walk

BY SHANNA ABATTI | Special to this Newspaper

Imperial County All-Star Keeley Poloni, Holtville 4-H, and community members across the county will be "Running for the Paws" on Saturday. Santa Paws & Claws 5k is an Imperial County 4-H Youth Development fun run being held in downtown Imperial.

The start and finish line will be at the corner of Sixth Street and Imperial Avenue. Runners and walkers will come together in their best Christmas-themed garb, along with their four-legged friends, to raise funds to benefit the Humane Society of Imperial County.

Not a runner? Not a problem.

This is a run, not a race. Some runners may be watching their times and trying to beat their personal bests, but many, maybe even most runners, are just there to have a good time.

Some people will walk the entire distance and some will only run when they feel like it. Don't let your fitness level keep you from joining the fun.

The race is untimed and has no winners; it's all done in the spirit of fun. Runners and walkers of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate with or with-

out their pets.

4-H empowers youths to reach their full potential by working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

As a program of the University of California, 4-H prepares young people to make a positive impact in their communities and their world while advancing the field of youth development.

Poloni, 4-H All-Star, along with Holtville 4-H Club, are hosting this community wide event in which 100 percent of the proceeds will go to purchasing supplies for the benefit of the Humane Society of Imperial County, whose mission is to care for the lost, homeless and abused animals of Imperial County, place them in forever homes and work to inspire kinder and more humane communities.

The 4-H 5k event is designed to encourage youths and community members to increase



their physical activity and give back to their community while also having fun! The race registration will begin at 7 a.m. with the walk/run starting at 8 a.m.

To participate just in the 5k the contribution is \$10. To run and receive

a shirt is \$25, and if you can't make the race but still want to contribute to this youth led event you can purchase a T-shirt for \$20. Registration is still open and I encourage each of you to sign up at <http://ucanr.edu/santapaws5k>

This will be a great opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate healthy living and being physically active while helping to benefit the Humane Society of Imperial County.

We will also be at Christmas in a Small

Town all day as a drop off spot for your Humane Society Donations: Pet Food, Cleaning Supplies, Bleach, Etc.

To learn more about the programs UCCE-Imperial County 4-H offers or to volunteer please call 760-352-9474.