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# The Valley Equestrian

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information. **Newspaper**

November/December 2010

*Happy Holidays!*

*World  
Equestrian  
Games*

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Lexington, Kentucky  
Full Story &  
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*Enjoy these  
great features  
inside...*

- MN EquiFest Photostory
- Part 4 of the Soul Series by Victor Wolf
- A Boy & His Pony by Paul McWhorter

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# The 2010 MN EquiFest - the Fall Festival of Horses Recap

The 4th annual Minnesota EquiFest, the Fall Festival of Horses, is growing to become one of the hottest equestrian events in Minnesota with more presenters, exhibitors, vendors, horses, organizations and sponsors. From regional trainers like Dennis Auslam, Tracy Porter, TJ Clibborn, Mary Ruth Marks and Mari Monda Zducic to national headliners Richard Shrake and Werner Thiedemann, the talent and training available to attendees is unending. All one needs is enough time to get to all the events scheduled. The evening MRA Rodeo is also a big hit with families.

Mary Ruth Marks gave individual driving critiques and tips while audience members observed and asked questions. "You ask, you tell, you make," says Marks adding, "Don't ask your horse to do something if you can't make him do it." "What

you need is to be consistent and fair," she adds.

Richard Shrake spoke about his "Resistance Free" training techniques during several presentations telling the crowd, "When you control the feet, you control the horse."

Werner Thiedeman workshops were held in which people registered and brought their horses for personalized training on lead departures, speed transitions, spins, rollbacks and stops.

Renee Hogendorf demonstrated massage and the use of essential oils on horses. Theresa Burns spoke about the various driving classes she judges and what she looks for scoring a driving team. Karen Lee and a group of riders including Bridget Frickling, Judy Willemssen, Mary Schener, Bridgette Twining, and Lisa Van-

deBerg did a pinwheel as a quadrille while Lee spoke about the fun of riding and performing in a group adding, "Whatever the training level the horse can do it; it's all about having fun."

People were able to sample Dutch oven cooking, see a blacksmith demonstration by Nick Heinen, Betsy Weiland from the University of Minnesota gave a Power-Point presentation about fire prevention, Dr. Kathy Ott provided information about barn disaster planning. Tracy Porter rode her horse Caz while teaching winter training techniques. Mark your

calendars now for the 2011 Minnesota EquiFest to be held in October at the MN State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, Minn.



Top left clockwise: Mari Monda Zducic and Dennis Auslam team up to demonstrate Dressage/Western pleasure in the Cover All Building at the MN EquiFest; Gimmy Pomije gets reining tips from Mary Ruth Marks; Nick Heinen blacksmithing; Tracy Porter cues her horse, Caz, to drop his nose to the ground; Richard Shrake tells Bobbie Scheffler on her white horse, Tequila, and Danielle Fulsaa on her palomino, "Confidence gives your horse trust and the ability to do its best for you." Trainer Shelly Falk rides British Sterling, an 8-year-old Gypsy stallion; Dutch Oven cooks from left: JT Hallson, Telly Jones, Robert Beck and Susan Belland, demonstrated and shared their cooking; TJ Clibborn taking his horse over the moving bridge during the Extreme Challenge at the 2010 MN EquiFest. Photos by Ley Bouchard

Trainer Shelly Falk rides British Sterling, an 8-year-old Gypsy stallion; Dutch Oven cooks from left: JT Hallson, Telly Jones, Robert Beck and Susan Belland, demonstrated and shared their cooking; TJ Clibborn taking his horse over the moving bridge during the Extreme Challenge at the 2010 MN EquiFest. Photos by Ley Bouchard



Trainer Shelly Falk rides British Sterling, an 8-year-old Gypsy stallion; Dutch Oven cooks from left: JT Hallson, Telly Jones, Robert Beck and Susan Belland, demonstrated and shared their cooking; TJ Clibborn taking his horse over the moving bridge during the Extreme Challenge at the 2010 MN EquiFest. Photos by Ley Bouchard

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# HORSES NEED TO LEARN TO BE TIED

## By Phillip Odden

When I first got started with Fjord Horses I was eager to learn as much as I could about horses. Still I am eager to learn as much as I can about horses. One of the more important lessons I have learned is that a horse should learn to be tied. Why? In my world a horse that can tie is much easier to teach to lead for starters. A horse that can tie quietly has learned a measure of patience. When working multiple horses it is nice to be able to tie those that are waiting to be worked. Your veterinarian will appreciate your horse more if it will stand quietly while tied. In an emergency when suddenly you need to attend to something it is important that you can quickly tie your horse and have confidence your horse will not become part of the problem. Think



untie them if they begin to struggle. If you let them loose when they struggle a little they will soon learn that if they struggle you will give in. And they will use that strategy forever with you. If you wait for them to grow older and stronger the struggle can become much more vigorous and difficult but it is possible to teach a horse that is older to tie as well. You may need to use a body tie with a lead that follows through the halter or a neck strap with a short lead that follows through the halter. The neck strap works for horses that become adept at scraping off their halter while tied. If they scrape it off once you can bet they will scrape it off again. And if they scrape it off again you will never be able to tie them and be sure they will stay tied unless you use a safe wide neck strap together with the halter. I use a neck strap that dairymen use to tie their cows for this purpose. My horse mentor said,

"Tie them two feet or twenty miles". Two feet of rope between the halter and the tie is about right in most cases. Just make sure their heads are not tied so high that they are unable to relax. If you tie them too long they will start to eat grass and probably get tangled in the lead rope. That can lead to lots of problems. Learn to tie a bowlen knot or another knot that can easily be untied.

I tie my horses together inside the barn and give them a little grain. In doing this they are very willing to be tied so they get the grain. Since they are tied close to their buddy they tend to be quiet. Later I will tie them further away from their buddy and in the end I tie them out of sight of their buddy. In this way they begin to learn to get along on their own and begin to solve

the problems of being herd bound and barn sour.

The next problem with tying a horse is that it often will begin to paw. You can stand or sit close to them with a buggy whip and tap their feet when they begin to paw. If you do this consistently eventually they will learn not to paw. I am one to hobble them when they paw. In the end I want to be able to bring the horse to a horse show or to the national forest or to my neighbor's place to ride or drive. The people at the horse show your neighbors and the national forest ranger does not want large holes pawed in the ground where your horse has been tied. So it is important that your horse learn to tie quietly without pawing or tearing up the ground.

Ideally the horse should stand perpendicular to the wall and it should respect you when you walk up beside it. That is to say the horse should not move into your space or threaten you with its hind end when you come up beside it. Rather the horse should yield to pressure from both sides to step over when asked as it is tied.

My horses get to live in a pasture with other horses day in and day out. For all that time they are able to do just about anything a horse wants to do. When I bring them in they are on my time and I want them to focus on me and help me accomplish the things I want to do with the horse. Sometimes what I want to accomplish is for them to stand quietly tied until I am ready to work them. Sometimes I just want them to stand quietly tied. That is their job for the few hours they are on my time and it is a good basis for other work we have for our horses.



In the end I expect to have a horse that I can drive to the woods, unhitch, tie and stand there while I saw firewood, load the firewood and then re-hitch and pull the firewood home. I need a horse that I can tie to the trailer when I am at a horse show or off on a trail ride. The ultimate test is to have a horse you can ride several miles into a wilderness area in a foot of snow, tie the horse to a tree and know that it will still be there to take you back to camp when you are finished hunting for the day. Like I say, I like to tie my horses and the practice serves me well.

Phillip Odden lives near Barronett, Wisconsin where he and his wife Else make a living as furniture makers and wood carvers in the Norwegian tradition. They breed, raise, train and compete Norwegian Fjord Horses in Combined Driving Events and Pleasure Driving shows. Their horses are used for light draft work around the farm and as hunting horses. Phil's goal with these articles is to help people enjoy their horses safely and give the horses a chance for a better life with their humans

Read of Odden's WEG experience at: <http://www.nfhr.com/catalog/index.php?weg=1>

## UNWANTED HORSE COALITION'S OPERATION GELDING CLINICS TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE U.S.

WASHINGTON, DC - The Unwanted Horse Coalition's (UHC) Operation Gelding program is off to a successful start. The program, which was launched in August 2010 with the help of seed money from the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation and the UHC, is designed to offer funding assistance to organizations, associations, and events that wish to conduct a public gelding clinic under the name and guidelines of Operation Gelding. An organization that has completed an Operation Gelding clinic will receive funding of \$50 per horse, \$1,000 maximum, to aid in the costs associated with the clinic.

Numerous groups have contacted the UHC with interest in organizing an Operation Gelding clinic. Currently there are 14 Operation Gelding clinics on the schedule to be held across the country before the end of 2010, with locations including Colorado, Ohio, Texas, Georgia, and Kansas. With three Operation Gelding clinics already completed, the UHC and the AAEP have helped aid in the castration of approximately 30 horses.

Alison Lacarrubba, of the University of Missouri Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, organized an Operation Gelding clinic in which the University's veterinary students were able to perform castrations while under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Through the Operation Gelding program, the students were able to castrate 11 horses to help further their education all while assisting horses and horse owners in need.

"The clinic went great! From my perspective, it was a success on all fronts. We castrated 11 horses, the horse owners were happy, and the students were super excited to be able to participate," said Lacarrubba of the



October 2 clinic. On October 4 an Operation Gelding clinic, held by Dr. Mark Korb and the Barnesville Animal Clinic of Barnesville, Georgia, was able to help geld 12 stallions. The clinic was so successful and well received that the organization has expressed interest in conducting another clinic in the spring. "I think we castrated several horses that probably would have never been castrated due to financial reasons," said Korb.

Four Corners Equine Rescue of Aztec, New Mexico, completed a successful Operation Gelding clinic on October 16. Seven horses were castrated with the help of the program.

Dr. Douglas Corey, UHC president, said, "I am excited about the success of the UHC's Operation Gelding program and that it is already so widely accepted and used. The UHC wanted to further its mission of educating the horse industry, and by creating action-oriented programs such as Operation Gelding, we can be more hands on within the community."

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## About the Cover

The World Equestrian Games held Sept. 25 through Oct. 10 in Lexington, Ky was attended by 507,022 people at the Kentucky Horse Park. This was the first time the games were held in the USA. The Valley Equestrian Newspaper attended the games Oct. 8 and observed the driving event. The top photo is of the American team driven by Mike McLennan, 65, of Brenham, Texas driving his Friesian team out of the water obstacle; the bottom photo is the Debbie Laderoute team from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, as she comes out of the water obstacle of the driving event. She is the first Canadian woman to qualify in combined driving with four-in-hand for the World Equestrian Games. Darryl Billing and Eugen Hug round out the team. More photos and story on pages 10 and 11 and more photography on our web site: www.theveonline.com and our Facebook page.

Photographs by Ley Bouchard for the Valley Equestrian Newspaper.

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Left: Terry Dokken from the MN Farriers Association demonstrates his trade at the MN EquiFest at the state fairgrounds in St. Paul; below: Linda Morris makes hats for "Hat Trix," an exhibitor at the 2010 MN EquiFest. Right: Lighted Horse Parade, more photos on page 5.



### Editorial Information

The Valley Equestrian, printed monthly, welcomes free-lance articles, cartoons, artwork, poems, photographs, etc. that we might use in the publication. We accept no responsibility for the material while in our hands. Materials will be returned if sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographs or graphics electronically submitted should be in color and must be at least 170 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

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Errors: The Valley Equestrian newspaper shall be responsible for errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement only to the extent of the space covered by the error.



Above: Tom Turvey demonstrates at the World Equestrian Games (WEG) Oct. 8 in Lexington, KY. Below: A team maneuvers through the water obstacle at the WEG while thousands of people observe.



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## Lighted Horse Parade in Pelican Rapids, Minn. Kicks off the Holiday Season

Editor's Note: "Trail Blazer - Part Two" continues the story of Ginger Kathrens, the founder and executive director of the Cloud Foundation which was published in the September issue of The Valley Equestrian Newspaper.

By Victor Wolf

The grulla and red roan foals awoke to a pleasant day. Breathing the fresh mountain air, they followed their mothers through the early morning routine, but youthful exuberance got the best of them. Soon they were cavorting about, snorting and squealing in playfulness. Raven, the stallion, watching over his family, snorted in return. Meanwhile, men were putting the finishing touches on a corridor they had constructed. It led to a portable corral. Some



Left: Regional drivers turn out to celebrate and kick-off the holiday season at the annual lighted horse parade held at 6:30 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving - Nov. 26 this year, at Pelican Rapids, Minn. The only parade of its kind in the Red River Valley of the North, the event is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Pelican Rapids. The stores in Pelican stay open late, the streets are decorated and lighted, the chamber office serves a beverage and treat, music, and a warm place to come in from the cold. Carolers, the lighting of the Christmas tree and other city sponsored events round out the magical evening.

Photography by Ley Bouchard



distance away, a pilot climbed into his helicopter and readied for takeoff. Soon the mountainside reverberated with the thunder of rotor blades beating against the sweet-smelling mountain air. Like a gigantic, angry hornet, the machine leaped away from the earth. Following the contours of the earth, the helicopter searched for its prey.

Raven, always on guard, sensed the thunder that was like none he had ever heard. And if he were not mistaken, the ground beneath his hooves seemed to tremble. Then the whump-whump-whump of what could only be monster wings assaulted his ears.

He sounded the alarm and began to run. His band wheeled, fixing their gaze on him. Mothers called to their children, and the young horses sprinted to them.

The monster swept closer, driving the horses before it for miles. Panic drenched Raven, filling his mind with fear. Behind him, some horses fell, never to rise again. Terror ripped at the stallion's hooves. But suddenly, before him, a horse appeared, running easily. And Raven began to follow, his family thundering behind him.

The stranger-horse ran easily into the recently constructed corridor, and Raven and his band followed close behind. The stranger darted aside, and when the band passed beyond the opening, men rushed forward and closed the gate.

The horses plunged ahead and ran headlong into the corral's walls. In the turmoil, horses leaped, struggling to find a way out. If any of the mares heard the distant cries of the grulla and red roan foals, chaos prevented their response.

But someone on horseback did, and he turned his mount and rode off toward the fear-filled cries of the young ones.

On the other side of what Ginger Kathrens had named "Horse Heaven," she loaded the last of her equipment into her vehicle and headed out to keep her appointment with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives.

When she arrived at the meeting place, Kathrens was surprised to see Raven in the corral. The BLM had told her his band would not be rounded up yet; the removal wasn't even to have started. Her eyes darted from horse to horse; she noted the absence of the foals.

"No one would tell me anything, except that they had run away, but I felt compelled to ensure the safety of the little ones," Kathrens said. Later, someone gave her the name of a man, and Kathrens quickly found him. Yes, he knew about the grulla foal. He gave her directions, which led her to the county landfill and the foal's body. He had not run away from his mother; he had been killed by the roundup contractors.

Confronted by the horror and the loss of the peace and tranquility that had once flowed over the mountain, Kathrens felt an urge to run, to abandon her work.

In her grief, she turned to Marty Stouffer, the producer of "Wild America," the man who had given her the opportunity to film wild horses.

"Marty discussed with me the meaning of 'documentary,' and he persuaded me to go back and film the dead horses."

Who can adequately describe the toll

that grief can place on the human heart? Or explain the effect on a person's soul of the loss of a loved one? Perhaps only one who has said goodbye to an animal companion can understand the pain that gripped Kathrens' heart.

Ginger Kathrens felt the loss as an unbearable weight on her spirit, yet she found the strength within herself to lift the weight and carry on.

"I followed Marty's advice and plodded through the sorrow because these were my friends," Kathrens said. "And the experience stirred up in me a desire to save what would become Cloud's herd. I couldn't abandon them. These horses accepted me into their lives."

After filming, Kathrens set out on a search for the red roan foal. A week later, she found the body. It had been shot.

In time the plan was visualized. Kathrens conceived a 501(c)3 corporation, The Cloud Foundation, dedicated to preventing the extinction of Cloud's herd through education, media events, programming and public involvement (www.thecloudfoundation.org).

Kathrens said, "The BLM doesn't like naming animals, and I believe they want Cloud to go away so they can remove his herd and end his story. But there is land enough in the mountains for the horses to live in peace."

The Cloud Foundation has stirred an outcry from people around the world, Kathrens said.

"We've received communications from Europeans wondering why these horses, which have been genetically proven to be descendants of the horses brought here by Spanish explorers, aren't protected as national treasures. We've also received requests for tourist information, which could be a windfall for Billings, Montana's eco-tourist industry."

Even the BLM admits that not everyone is pleased with their horse removal program. According to its website, the government program received 1,069 pages of comments identifying 200 issues and hundreds of suggestions regarding improvement of the BLM strategy. The department conducted public workshops because of high public interest in strategic development. Their goal is to "consider all the comments and develop a draft strategy for future management of America's wild horses and burros."

Meanwhile the BLM has requested a \$12 million increase in their budget, bringing the total to \$75.7 million.

And what can you do to prevent mistreatment and abuse of wild horses? Kathrens said, "Get the facts, then tell somebody what you learned - your mayor or city councilman, for example. They may not be able to do anything, but they may know someone who can."

"Investigate eco-tourism. People are learning to enjoy observing animals in their natural habitat."

"Subscribe to our newsletter. We report on herd dynamics of Cloud and his family, BLM meetings and action alerts. We provide petitions and sample letters for mailing to our elected and appointed officials."

Kathrens said, "Consider joining us. You can support our legal fund to protect Cloud's herd in the wild into the future. A donation to Freedom Fund for Horses will help support Conquistador's band and three other family groups on a ranch outside Billings, Montana. We rescued these horses after the BLM removed entire family bands - even Raven's old mare, 21-year-old Grumpy Grulla."

For more information or to send a tax-deductible donation, contact The Cloud Foundation at 607 S. 7th Street, Colorado Springs, CO, or call 719.633.3842.

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DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN CONFIRMS ATTENDANCE TO SPEAK AT THE UNITED HORSEMEN'S FIRST 'SUMMIT OF THE HORSE'

CHEYENNE, Wyo...Dr. Temple Grandin, one of Time Magazine's 2010 most influential people, recently confirmed to speak amongst other national presenters at the Summit of the Horse event Jan. 3-6, 2011 in Las Vegas at the South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa.

According to Representative Sue Wallis of Wyoming who is the Vice President of United Horsemen, a 501(c)(3) educational and charitable organization that implements humane and realistic solutions to the excess horse problem, Grandin will address the issue of humane handling of horses during the four-day event.

Grandin also recently was the focus of a semi-biographical 2010 HBO film, Temple Grandin, starring Claire Danes that was nominated for 15 Emmy categories and received five awards. Wallis says while Grandin now may be recognized as a world-wide celebrity, she continues to be a representative of all of who have spent their lives in animal agriculture.

"Temple is unequivocally honest and logical in her explanations of the necessity of animal science and livestock production," Wallis says. "Her lack of bias in addressing the issues provides a common-sense understanding for anyone to grasp the positive movement we see

in the future development of the humane handling of horses and other livestock."

Dr. Grandin is a designer of livestock handling facilities and a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. She obtained her B.A. at Franklin Pierce College and her M.S. in Animal Science at Arizona State University and PhD in Animal Science from the University of Illinois.

Today she teaches courses on livestock behavior and facility design at Colorado State University and consults with the livestock industry on facility design, livestock handling and animal welfare.

Dr. Grandin has appeared on 20/20, 48 Hours, CNN Larry King Live, PrimeTime Live, and the Today Show. She has been featured in People Magazine, New York Times, Forbes, U.S. News and World Report, Time Magazine, the New York Times book review, and Discover magazine.

She has written more than 400 articles in both scientific journals and livestock periodicals on animal handling, welfare, and facility design. She is the author of Thinking in Pictures, Livestock Handling and Transport, Genetics and the Behavior of Domestic Animals," and Humane Livestock Handling. Her books Animals in Translation and Animals Make

Us Human made the New York Times best seller list. And Animals Make Us Human made the Canadian best seller list.

Tracee Bentley of the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, and one of the organizers of the event, says the Summit of the Horse event is an effort to gather horse men and women with federal, state, tribal, and private land resource managers, conservationists and ranchers in a forum to address concerns about the sustainability and health of land; horses, both domestic and wild; native wildlife and the horseback culture and economy.

"The Summit comes from the perspective of experienced horse people who have the best interest of the horse at heart and seeks unification of our country's horsemen and horsewomen in promoting horse welfare and the health of the horse industry," says Dave Duquette, President and Founder of United Horsemen. "We're speaking with a unified voice for horses and horse people."

Other confirmed speakers include:

- John Falen - Public Lands Council
- Steve Torbit - National Wildlife Federation
- Larry Johnson - Nevada Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife, and former member of BLM Wild

WHIA NAMES PAT CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

The Women's Horse Industry Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Pat Cleveland as the association's International Director. The WHIA which is less than two years old has nearly 700 members in the U.S., Canada and other countries around the world. The association is a business networking group and includes members from all disciplines and aspects of the equine industry.

Having the courage to believe in herself, prepared Patricia Cleveland for shifts in career goals that provide today's list of accomplishments. She has been a candidate for Miss Canada, a recognized Canadian Fine Artist, film animator, a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Music and has credits in Color psychology. Cleveland is a past member of the CEF (Canadian Equestrian Federation,) AQHA, and Canadian Sport Horse Associations. Contributions as a director for the Peterborough Exhibition, The Canadian - American Saddlebred Association and others; she has held a Stewards card, judges card, is a certified course designer, certification in coaching psychology, Equine Sports Massage and Equine Manipulation Techniques. Cleveland has many certifications from many sources of education, including Carleton University and Cornell Univer-

sity. She has also done extensive independent studies that pioneered frequency based therapies and advanced Bio-mechanics relating to horses. She is a well known expert in understanding bio-electric relations found in the body of the horses and the people who influence them. Her success in producing championship horses and competitive riders lead her to a management position as the Facility Designer and general contractor of a 3 year, multi-million dollar construction project called Warden Ridge Equestrian Center north of Toronto Ontario .

Her quest to overcome the degeneration of the equine athlete gently pulled her away from the public eye. It was a big leap from Peterborough Ontario , leaving behind art awards, a design gallery and an established provincial level coaching /equestrian career, to live with a herd of 9 research horses for over 10 years in Dothan AL USA .

The support of her husband, a horseman himself, allows her to leave their Organic lay-up and rehabilitation site at Red Leaf Farm to support the growth of Women's Horse Industry Association. "This organization has proven to be something very worthwhile for all of the women

Horse & Burro Advisory Committee

- Arlen Washines - Northwest Tribal Horse Coalition
- Tim Amlaw - American Humane
- Glenda Davis - Navajo Nation Veterinary Program
- Frank Bowman - Horsemen's Council of Illinois
- Dennis Foster - Masters of Fox Hounds Assn
- Mindy Patterson - Alliance for Truth, campaign to defeat HSUS Missouri Prop B
- Bill desBarre - Horse Welfare Alliance of Canada
- Jennifer Wood - Humane Handling & Assessment Tool for Canadian Horse Processing
- David Solum - Solum Brothers, breeders, Missouri
- Ted Robinson - Renowned horse trainer
- Ike Sankey - Sankey Pro Rodeo, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Assn stock contractor
- Johnny Zamrzla - California Horse Council
- Bob Loomis - Oklahoma, National Reining Horse Assn breeder and trainer
- Bill & Jann Parker - Billings Livestock Horse Sale
- Patti Colbert - Mustang Heritage Foundation
- Joey Astling - USDA/APHIS Horse Slaughter Transport Program

Rob Leach - Australian horse trainer

A full program will be released as soon as official confirmations are received from Secretary of Interior Salazar's office, and from the BLM Wild Horse and Burro office. Don Glenn, current head of the Wild Horse and Burro Program, has indicated that the agency will be at the event to discuss sustainable and realistic solutions to the problems of wild horse management. In addition, confirmations are also being awaited from leading politicians who have been at the forefront of horse industry issues who are juggling schedules during this transition phase after the elections.

Participants are encouraged to register at www.summitofthehorse.com by Dec. 1 to receive an early rate discount. To arrange booth space and sponsorship opportunities, contact Dave Duquette at (541) 571-7588 and at info@unitedhorsmensfront.org. For more Summit event information, contact Sue Wallis at (307) 680-8515; Tracee Bentley, Colorado Association of Conservation District, (970) 412-3386; or visit the Summit of the Horse website at www.summitofthehorse.com.

Red Steagall, Trent Willmon & Joanna Smith Live in Concert at Copper Spring Ranch to Benefit the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Montana FFA Foundation

Bozeman - The legendary Red Steagall and Nashville recording artists Joanna Smith and Trent Willmon will perform a special concert Friday, Dec. 3, 2010 at the Copper Spring Ranch in Bozeman, Mont. To benefit the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center and the Montana FFA Foundation. Steagall, Smith and Willmon will perform together in an intimate acoustic setting as a celebration of country music and our Western heritage.

"The opportunity to have Joanna, Red and Trent onstage together at the same time is a rare and incredible opportunity," said Aaron Lyles of the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center. "For lovers of country music and those who know and believe in the value of preserving and passing forward our Western way of life, December 3rd will be an evening you will not ever forget."

Red Steagall's many accomplishments include the discovery of country music superstar Reba McEntire, writing over 200 songs, and great success in both the music and television entertainment industries. Whether performing on Hee Haw, serving as television anchor for the National Finals Rodeo or entertaining heads of state, Steagall brings an always humble and unique understanding of the Western way of life.

Nashville recording artist Trent Willmon may best be known for his hit songs "Beer Man," "Dixie Rose Deluxe," and "Home Sweet Holiday Inn," but Trent is also making his name as a respected Nashville songwriter. Having written recent hits for the likes of Brad Paisley, Montgomery Gentry, Eric Church, Little Big Town, Wade Hayes and Steel Magnolia, Willmon has positioned himself

HORSE BREEDING UPDATE

UNWANTED, PART 1 THE EQUINE COMMUNITY STRUGGLES TO DEAL WITH THE GROWING NUMBERS OF NEGLECTED AND ABANDONED HORSES.

Printed with permission FROM THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE JOURNAL

The equine community struggles to deal with the growing numbers of neglected and abandoned horses.

The equine community struggles to deal with the growing numbers of neglected and abandoned horses.

On October 28, 2008, the Sisters Ranger district of the Deschutes National Forest received a troubling phone call.

Hunters reported finding a horse roaming a fairly remote area on Cache Mountain. While it isn't uncommon for escaped livestock to wander onto the national forest, this report was of special concern because the animal was reported as being badly injured, according to Fred Perl, a U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officer.

Fred was immediately dispatched to the area where the horse was last seen. When he found the 6-year-old gelding, the animal's lead was still on. The horse's face was covered with dried blood, and its left leg had a bandaged wound.

Soliciting the help of the local equine community, Fred arranged to have the gelding led three miles through the forest, loaded into a trailer and taken to the Bend Equine Medical Center, where he was treated for his injuries. The injured horse, nicknamed "Trooper" by rescuers, had been wandering in the forest for a couple of weeks with two gunshot wounds to its head and a badly infected leg injury.

When found, Trooper was thirsty and hungry and approximately 150 pounds underweight. A bullet fragment had shattered Trooper's lower jaw, making it painfully difficult for the animal to eat. What amazed rescuers about the gelding was his gentle disposition. Despite the pain and suffering he experienced, Trooper remained calm as volunteers led him out of the forest and while veterinarians tended to his wounds.

UNWANTED, PART 1

THE EQUINE COMMUNITY STRUGGLES TO DEAL WITH THE GROWING NUMBERS OF NEGLECTED AND ABANDONED HORSES.

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"Oftentimes, the media can be a great help with solving crimes," Fred says. "We took Trooper's story to the media, and the exposure generated lots of tips. A farrier recognized Trooper as a trail and lesson horse from nearby Camp Tamarack."

According to a press release from the Deschutes County Sheriff's Department, a 27-year old wrangler from the youth camp in Sisters, Oregon, was arrested later that month and charged with crimes surrounding the shooting and abandonment of the gelding. Police think the wrangler made an independent and unauthorized decision to shoot the horse, so the camp wasn't charged.

While officials expected to see an increase of abandoned horses in Oregon, they didn't anticipate the number of horses being dumped, says Gary McFadden, wild horse specialist with the Bureau of Land Management in Burns, Oregon.

"I think the problem in Oregon is bigger than the 'dumps' we currently know about," Gary says. "It's probably much bigger than that. We recently found 10 (horses) released in a wild horse herd management area; six head abandoned on a nearby parcel of state land; and seven head released in a BLM area that had no water."

Typically, released geldings stay together and remain close to the road, and so are easily found and reported. However, mares are often taken up by wild stallions and disappear within the herd. According to Gary, those horses aren't discovered until the agency gathers wild animals for holding and finds the domestics in the herd.

There are many reasons National Forest and BLM lands are targeted by owners abandon-

ing animals. First, the remoteness of these areas allows them to commit the crime without being seen. Second, many of the owners release horses in these areas thinking they're making a compassionate move, allowing their horses to run free with the wild herds.

"Wild horses have bred to survive in rugged areas. Conversely, domestic horses are bred for speed, looks and ride, and so don't have the genetics required to survive in these rugged areas," Gary says.

Domestic horses illegally released on federal lands consume forage set aside for wild animals and cattle.

Currently, the BLM is operating about 5,700 animals over the appropriate management level for agency-managed lands.

Normally, the BLM would gather excess animals and move them to holding facilities where they are fed and cared for, while awaiting sale or adoption. Unfortunately, those holding facilities are at or near capacity with approximately 30,000 wild horses and burros.

The cost to feed and care for animals in holding facilities is about three-fourths, or \$27 million, of the BLM's wild horse and burro program budget. The BLM doesn't have the money to gather and move many more animals off the range and into holding facilities.

"If we don't gather, our ranges are in danger of being decimated. Our horse herds increase by 20 to 25 percent each year," Gary says.

Despite our advice and warnings, wild-horse advocates successfully lobbied to have the rendering and kill plants closed," Gary says. "The removal of the humane slaughter option has greatly increased the number of unwanted horses. That, in turn, has decimated our market, just as it has the domestic horse market. Basically, they have cut their own throats."

Basically, they have cut their own throats."

UNWANTED HORSE COALITION MEDIA ROUNDUP CONTINUES TO EDUCATE

Washington, DC - November 12, 2010. The Unwanted Horse Coalition's (UHC) Media Roundup reached its 14th installment and the one year anniversary of its inception. The news summary, the first of its kind issued by the UHC, has been educating its readers through articles and events relating to unwanted horses.

The UHC Media Roundup was initiated by the Coalition to highlight the problem of unwanted horses and what the horse community is doing to deal with it. It focuses on news, articles and events pertaining to unwanted horses, owning responsibly, and solving the issue of overbreeding and unwanted horses. "As the mission of the UHC is to reduce the number of unwanted horses through education, we at the

UHC felt it important to create such a news summary to collect and distribute pertinent information regarding unwanted horses to as many people as possible to help achieve this objective, "said Ericka Caslin, director of the UHC.

The UHC Media Roundup welcomes its readers to submit pictures, stories, articles and events to be included in future installments.

If you would like to join the mailing list of the UHC Media Roundup please contact Ericka Caslin, director of the Unwanted Horse Coalition at [ecaslin@horsecouncil.org](mailto:ecaslin@horsecouncil.org). Please include your name and use "Add to Media Roundup" in the subject line.

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### Let the VE spread the word about YOU!

New Equestrian Television Network Launching March 2011

Houston, TX - Boot Media LLC today announced that plans have been finalized for the roll-out of its new horse-focused and country lifestyle television network, and had chosen Houston, Texas as the first local television market for its flagship channel. With more than 5.9 million residents in its seven-county metropolitan area, Houston is the country's 10th largest television market, and contains one of the most diverse and concentrated populations of horses and horse people in the nation.

Bypassing costly national satellite distribution, which still reaches only a minority of general households in the United States, the company is syndicating the new 24/7 equestrian and country lifestyle network with rifle-shot accuracy into clearly identified high "household" television markets. The network defines household markets as those having high ratios of horses to people within a 100 mile radius of city center. Households encompass

urban, suburban and rural areas. In Texas and California alone, the number of homes in just 10 top household cities exceeds the total homes subscribing to the leading satellite provider.

By creating local affiliated channels in each city it serves, the network will build close relationships with its audience, advertisers, and members of the local horse communities. A key component of the network's commitment to each market is the allocation of four to six hours of free weekend airtime to clubs and organizations in the local horse community. The time can be used at their discretion for show and event broadcasts, meetings or other equestrian activities. Sponsorships of local events will also be part of the ongoing commitment in each market.

Following Houston, the network will continue its roll-out to cities already identified throughout Texas and California, as well

as to other household television markets from coast-to-coast. It will be available to any station or cable system in the United States. For those with no local television access, it will also be accessible on the Internet.

The new digital channels, which are received via OTA (over-the-air) at no cost, can be easily accessed with small antennas available at familiar consumer outlets such as Best Buy and Radio Shack. Many of the televisions manufactured in the last couple of years now have built in components which eliminate the need for an antenna or converter.

Working closely with the network, company licensees in each television market having extensive knowledge of the local equestrian communities will be responsible for promotion and marketing.

On the advertising front, the new horse and country lifestyle network will provide lucra-

tive opportunities for national ad campaigns targeting household markets, especially when regional or local outlets are concerned. Yet, primarily it will be advertisers in the local horse community who stand to benefit most from the very low-cost, rifle-shot medium now available to them. The opportunity for direct-to-consumer home shopping by local retailers will also provide a potent new marketing resource for the sale of products and services.

For content providers, there are no buy-in cost requirements. Advertising time within each program is reserved for their own use. The network can represent content providers as a broker in generating their ad sales if desired. Each program receives five different time slots throughout the week; product sales are allowed within the context of each program. Content from around the world is also being licensed by the network. Since many of the horse programs seen

on television via satellite in recent years have not been viewed by the vast majority of their potential viewers, the network provides another distribution tier for such content.

Specific station and launch date information for the network's Houston's debut and nationwide roll-out will be announced soon. It's anticipated that the launch will coincide with the beginning of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in March, 2011. Not only is this three week event the world's largest rodeo, but it also hosts an important series of horse shows and a significant vendor exhibit for the 1,000,000 annual attendees.

For general inquiries or for more information regarding Advertising, Programming or Investor Relations, please email [info@bootmediallc.com](mailto:info@bootmediallc.com).

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# DO HORSES HAVE SOULS? Part Four

By VICTOR WOLF

"It is a fundamental truth...medicine and spirituality are inseparable. Choose your medicine wisely. This is a matter of who you believe and who you trust as the basic authority in your life. The Creator gave life to man and placed him in a garden - and gave food for nourishment, for medicine, for maintaining health." Sandy Bradley, VMD

I remember exactly when I first began to question the common opinions and attitudes about animals. I was not yet in school but old enough to play in the front yard of our rural home without constant supervision. My companions were the two black wolf-hybrids that my father preferred to dogs.

Many times I had been told not to leave the yard, but one day I decided I would do so. Many times I had walked in the wooded acres across the narrow road with my father, and never before saw any cause to fear.

I opened the gate, but before I could pass beyond it, one of my four-legged companions moved behind me. He gently gathered the waist of my pants in his teeth and tugged me farther into the yard. The other animal settled himself at the gate's opening, blocking my passage.

After my companion released me, I turned and scolded him as I would fuss with any playmate. He accepted my complaint with interested eyes and a characteristic lop-sided wolf grin.

Even at that age, I knew the incident was beyond the ordinary.

This recollection flooded my mind as my experience with the rescued mare, Hope, opened the way for me to understand the nature of companion animals. But there was something more to learn: what about the other animals - the lions, tigers and wolves, and their prey? What did the Creator leave to them in His covenant with Noah and the animals with him?

As I previously related, the simplicity of the divine purpose was clearly revealed to me. The soul (defined as "individual life manifested in thinking, willing, and knowing") is common to mankind and companion animals, and is the repository for conscience, their common bond with the Creator, the Over-Soul. And the desire to do "good" to humans and please them is strong in companion animals by purposeful intelligent design. For this reason, the Creator commanded by inference in the Judaic law that humans not eat them. Taken all together and relying on

Divine inspiration for guidance through a forest of acquired knowledge, I ultimately came to a reasonable yet personal understanding that animals, particularly companion animals, do indeed have souls. However, that realization led me to three new questions and further prayerful study: What are the significance, quality and purpose of an animal's soul? What is the relationship between the soul of an animal and the soul of a human? And what is the significance of the covenant between the Creator and the animals?

To answer these questions, I returned to the beginning of things, careful to maintain the established sequence of events, consciously avoiding the human tendency to interpret them to suit any personal and private purposes.

The sacred legends of ancient peoples provide references to certain occurrences that are so similar the stories cannot be casually set aside. Thousands of years before the Hebrews formed themselves into a People of one belief our ancient ancestors, from Egypt to the Americas, preserved legends quite similar to those collected in the first eleven chapters of Genesis.



to be. Failure to cooperate with the divine intent brought about the flood that is universally reported in legends collected from around the world.

And when the waters receded, the Creator offered another opportunity for life, with a few notable differences from the first one. There was no garden. All was destroyed by the waters.

At that time the Creator gave "every alive thing to be food" for humans, but fear and terror of humans was placed on every other form of life. Restrictions on all living creatures required every one of them to avoid shedding human blood, and every human to avoid shedding the blood of fellow humans. Any would be held accountable for doing so. And the Creator made a covenant (the rules by which living things gain their spiritual heritage), promising never again to destroy life with a flood.

As I reasoned my way through this legendary explanation, I again realized that all animals must have a conscience, because it is conscience which gives a living thing its awareness of conduct, its intentions of character, and its obligation to do what is good. Thus, a lion, a great ape, a skunk, a snake, will give warnings before as a last resort attacking. For such animals as these, "good" means, simply, do not harm or kill humans. A companion animal will suffer injustices because "good" for them means pleasing humans. They cannot choose otherwise.

A legend from elsewhere added more gold to the storehouse of my understanding.

Barry Holstun Lopez, in his book, "Of Wolves and Men" relates a story of a time when the people had only berries and roots to eat. A shaman volunteered to search for food, but he found none. However, when all seemed lost, he met the Owner of the Animals. After the shaman passed a test that proved his sincerity, the Animal Master made a covenant to release animals to be hunted, but placed conditions on the agreement. The animals must be respected, their flesh not wasted, their spirits not insulted by arrogant acts or ridiculed.

The hunter was charged with performing a ceremony to preserve his memory of the covenant. Should this be done, the animals' spirits would return to the Animal Master. He would give new bodies to these spirits and send them back over and over again.

However, if the terms of the covenant were not honored, the spirits of the animals would remain with the Animal Master.

"Hunting," reports Lopez, "is holy," by no means an activity like picking berries. "Game animals are holy. And the life of a hunting people is regarded as a sacred way of living because it grows out of this powerful, fundamental covenant. The killing of animals, then, entails tremendous spiritual responsibility. ... Hunting tribes call meat 'medicine'" (pages 90-93).

I devoted much time to prayerfully meditating on my acquired knowledge. Finally, I could take for my own the words of renowned agricultural scientist Doctor George W. Carver:

God revealed to me wonderful things about horses after I put my hands in His. The method for working with a horse is revealed to me the moment I am inspired to begin the work. But without God to open the door to understanding that horse's need, I would be helpless.

The first stage of my personal journey into the world of horses was completed. The science, metaphysics, legends, facts and principles of the reality of life had combined to yield the guiding philosophy that serves me so well. I share only an overview here.

I treat horses as if they are as intelligent as a two-year-old-child, and treating them so, horses respond to me with the intelligence God gave them. My talk around



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horses is calm, my voice never used for discipline but only for praise. My words are chosen to convey instructions. My hand gestures at first support the words, eventually replacing them.

I maintain the attitude that horses can learn, and I hold to the belief that their learning is possible. Thus, I treat horses the same way I want to be treated. In so doing, horses and I cooperate in forming a trusting, bonded covenant partnership, as our Creator intended.

*Victor Wolf has been a student of classical metaphysics and the martial arts since high school. He is a master instructor of Tai Chi and Chinese medicine's acupressure and energetic healing therapies, and equine aromatherapy. He holds a doctorate in Divine Metaphysics and is an ordained Cowboy Church evangelist. In 2005 Wolf closed his successful 10-year-old wellness practice and incorporated the Covenant Institute and its Equestrian Center. He travels Colorado's Front Range teaching horses and their people how to solve problems. Contact by email, anani\_farm@yahoo.com or 970.691.3946.*

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# AHC Comments on America's Great Outdoors Initiative

On April 16, 2010, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO). A central part of the initiative was an effort to collect the view points of Americans. In September, the American Horse Council submitted comments to the Administration concerning the equestrian community's connection to America's private and public land.

The stated goals of the Presidents initiative are: (1) Reconnect Americans with the outdoors by promoting community based recreation and conservation, advance job and volunteer opportunities related to conservation and recreation, as well as educate individuals in American's history, culture, and natural beauty; (2) Build upon State, local, private and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic and cultural resources; (3) Use Science-based management practices to restore and protect America's lands and waters.

The American Horse Council participated in the initial event for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative held at the U.S. Department of the Interior on April 16. "We were happy to be invited to the conference," said Ben Pendergrass, AHC Legislative Director. "It was an excellent opportunity to remind the Administration and other attendees of the equestrian community's unique connection with the land."

Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality were directed to lead the initiative.

As part of the initiative the Administration and federal agencies involved held listening sessions around the county and solicited comments from tribal leaders, farmers, ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, business people, educators, State and local governments and recreational and conservation groups. The information collected at these sessions and submitted comments will be used to complete a report due in November.

"We worked to get the word out to equestrians about the listening sessions," said AHC President Jay Hickey. "I think it paid off. We heard good feedback from equestrians who were able to attend some of the sessions and agency staff who were involved."

In September, following up its participation in the listening sessions the AHC submitted formal comments concerning the AGO initiative. The complete comments can be found here or by visiting the Recreation Page under "Issues" on the AHC website.

In its comments the AHC pointed out that the conservation, management, and use of America's public and private lands are critical to the equestrian community.

The AHC also noted that the equestrian community and horse industry is extremely diverse. It is comprised of many different pursuits, segments, and participants, exists in every region of the country and involves individuals with many different backgrounds and incomes.

The AHC reminded the Administration of the equestrian communities' dependence on America's farmland to feed, raise, breed, and board its horses and the need to protect such land. The AHC specifically requested that the Administration recognize the contribution horse farms

and facilities make to preserving open green space, stream buffers, wild life habitat, forests, and pasture. It also asked that horse farms be considered working lands that need to be protected from urban development.

The AHC also commented on the importance of America's public lands to hundreds of thousands of Americans of all ages who use horses and pack stock to enjoy America's great outdoors each year. The AHC made clear that the equestrian community believes that recreation is a fundamental and legitimate use of our country's public lands and that it is committed to preserving those lands.

"Thousands of equestrians are involved in volunteer projects each year building and maintaining trails for all users of public lands," said Pendergrass. "We hope the Administration will recognize the volunteer contributions equestrians make and their firm commitment to protecting our public lands."

In its comments the AHC pointed out that recreational riders need well maintained trails, trail heads for horses, access routes, picnic, and camping facilities, restrooms, and stables to make use of our nation's public lands. It also noted that access has become an increasingly serious issue for equestrians which also must be addressed. The AHC requested that the Administration explore policies that will ensure land managers accommodate all recreational users where appropriate and educate federal land managers on equestrian issues and encourage state and local governments to do so as well.

"If the goal of the President's initiative is to connect more Americans with the outdoors, making sure equestrians continue to have access to public lands should be part of any future policy connected with the AGO," said Pendergrass.

The AHC also stated its belief that equestrian activities can play an important role in reconnecting our young people with the outdoors. It asked the Administration to make equestrian activities an integral part of any effort to reconnect our nation's youth with the outdoors.

Additionally, the AHC asked the Administration to consider the role horses, mules, and burros can play in allowing access to the outdoors for physically-challenged Americans in any discussion of America's outdoors.

"We hope as the Administration and Congress determines future policy the contribution America's millions of equestrians make to support and conserve America's outdoors and the role equestrian activities can play in connecting Americans of all ages with the outdoors will be considered," said Hickey. "The entire equestrian community is dependent on America's public and private lands and we are committed to working with President Obama, Congress, the federal land management agencies and all stakeholders to preserve our great outdoors and ensure their enjoyment and use by future generations of Americans."



# Leading Edge: Progressive approaches to horses and riding

What kind of a "partner" is your horse?

"Partner." The word evokes different mental images for each of us based on our life's experiences. The dictionary talks about partners in terms of dance, business, tennis and marriage or close relationships. The specifics of a partnership can vary tremendously depending on the needs of the partnership as well as the roles of the partners. For example, one partner in the law firm may do marriage and family practice, and one may to personal injury. One partner in the marriage may do all of the cooking and one do all of the mowing. Division of labor is common in partnerships.

In dance, one person leads and the other follows. This is the type of partnership most like that between rider and horse; one leads and the other follows. This is the division of labor that has to exist in order for success to ensue.

Many riders think of partnership as equal voice/opinion of horse and rider. Whoa! No way! The rider has to clearly be in charge and leading, or the team will fail. Compare to a boxer and a trainer. That's a partnership similar to a horse and rider in that one person (the trainer) knows what's best for the other (boxer) and pushes the boxer out of his comfort zone to work hard toward success. Now, the main difference between this partnership and the rider and horse partnership is that the boxer is motivated. The horse is not.

No matter how many people make statements about their horse such as, "He knows it's a big show and does his

best," I am a firm believer that horses (for the most part - there may be exceptions I haven't met yet!) are not intrinsically motivated to round up, extend, collect, do tempi changes and in general, work. So, if they aren't motivated, how do we get them to do what we want? And, if they don't want to do it, what then?

First, motivation: develop your skills so you can communicate clearly, and then convince your horse to do what you ask, the first time you ask. Much easier said than done, but that's the journey.

Second: Make sure your horse is his best through massage, chiropractic, joint injections, or whatever you need/want to do. A hurting horse is a lousy dance partner.



Third: Get in shape. Do your part to make it easier for your horse to work with you.

Fourth: Be clear, insistent and consistent. If you say it must be this way, that's the way it must be. Rules are not negotiated in this partnership, or you won't succeed in developing your horse to his fullest potential.

Fifth: Take all the time you need, but no more than necessary. After all, your horse and you only have a limited amount of

training time on this earth, so get busy and have fun!

*Julie Peshorn owns Sunborn Stables in Chisago City, Minn. She especially enjoys working with instructors to help them become more effective riders and teachers of dressage and jumping. For more information and to read her blog, visit www.sunbornstables.com.*

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**HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US AT THE VALLEY EQUESTRIAN NEWSPAPER**

**PHOTOS OF THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN LEXINGTON, KY**

The World Equestrian Games held Sept. 24 through Oct. 10 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky attracted more than half a million spectators where they could watch some of the competitions for a \$45. grounds pass or

get the stadium view for anywhere from \$45 (driving event) to \$130 for the jumping event.

The Valley Equestrian News attended the games Oct. 8 and observed the driving event in which the Neth-

erlands, driven by Ysbrand Chardon, took the gold and the USA team led by Chester Weber won silver.

More of the results and photos of the winners on Page 11.



Above: The Netherlands team maneuvering through Spook Hollows' tight turns.



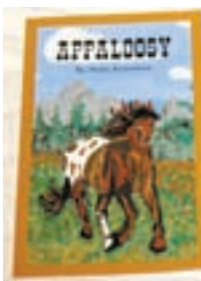
Left: USA team driven by Josh Rector in the Spook Hollow obstacle.

Photos by Ley Bouchard for the Valley Equestrian Newspaper. More photos online: www.theonline.com or at our Facebook page.

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Below: The California Cowgirls Drill Team perform Oct. 8 in the Demonstration Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kent. Photos by Ley Bouchard for the VEN.



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**EIGHT MEDALS FOR THE USA! U.S. EQUESTRIAN ATHLETES EARN GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE DURING THE 2010 ALLTECH FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES**

BY ERICA LARSON

Lexington, KY - After years of preparation, what began as a dream finally turned into reality. The 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games took place here in Lexington, KY - the first time they had

American team also took home the team Gold medal in Vaulting. The team, made up of Devon Maitozo, Blake Dahlgren, Mary Garrett, Emily Hogye, Mari Inouye, Rosalind Ross,

share this with my team. These girls and Blake and Caroline worked so, so hard and they've really earned this for themselves." The other Gold medal earned by the American team came from

Four Winds Farm) in both the Grand Prix Special and the Grand Prix Freestyle. Peters was carrying the weight of a nation on his shoulders as he rode against the best in the world to show that the United States is once again a force to be reckoned with in the sport of dressage. "I have to say there was just as much pressure on Ravel and me for the Individual medal in the Grand Prix Special," Peters said after his Freestyle. "Let's face it. We didn't have a medal in the United States for over 70 years. That was absolutely amazing. That was icing on the cake. Tonight, we sprinkled a little bit more medals on the top of that icing, and I think that's a pretty good looking cake!" The other came on the final day of competition in the final event to be completed. American driver Tucker Johnson, in his final competition after driving competitively for 25 years, and his lovely team of Warmbloods took home the individual Bronze medal. "It felt good," he said after his drive. "Not everyone gets the opportunity to end something they've been doing for a long time on a high feeling and sense of pride. This was just a good culmination of a lot of experiences." The United States brought home a total of eight medals throughout the span of the competition. As fate would have it, several teams and individuals from the United States just narrowly missed out on medals, finishing in fourth place. Both the U.S. Dressage Team and the Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team finished the team competitions in fourth place. Although they have no medals to show for their efforts, both teams are now qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. "It's been really exciting and I'm absolutely thrilled," U.S. Dressage Team Chef d'Equipe Eva Salomon said, "I think they've done so well and I'm really happy with it. Our goal was to qualify for the Olympics, and we did that." Individually, Tim McQuay and Hollywood-Stinseltown finished fourth individually in the reining competition, and Mary McCormick finished fourth in the vaulting competi-



Adequan U.S. Reining Team Wins Gold. Photo by Shannon Brinkman for USEF.

ever been held outside of Europe. But now, what was a reality has turned into a memory as the Games concluded today as the final medals were presented.

The U.S. Team started on a high note, taking home the first Team Gold medal of the competition in reining. Scoring 15 points higher than their nearest competitors, the home team - made up of Tim McQuay and Hollywood-Stinseltown (six-year-old Quarter Horse stallion owned by David and Bonnie Silva), Craig Schmersal and Mister Montana Nic (12-year-old Quarter Horse stallion owned by Ericka Smith and the Mister Montana Nic Syndicate), Tom McCutcheon and Gunners Special Nite, (six-year-old Quarter Horse stallion owned by Turnabout Ranch) and Shawn Florida and RC Fancy Step (six-year-old Quarter Horse stallion owned by Buffalo Ranch) - combined their scores for a massive total of 674.5. "I don't know that we'll ever get the opportunity to put together a team like this again," McCutcheon said. "In 20 or 30 years, I'll look back and say that I remember that team. I think truly it'll be a hard team to ever get by."

At the opposite end of the competition, the

team came from McCutcheon as he won World Reining Championships aboard Gunners Special Nite.

One of the U.S.A.'s two Silver medals came from that same competition and was awarded to Schmersal and Mister Montana Nic. The other Silver medal was presented to the United States driving team, who finished just behind the Netherlands and just ahead of Germany to finish with a score of 300.92. The very experienced team was made up of Chester Weber, Tucker Johnson, James Fairclough, and of course their teams of horses. "We had a great team effort from USEF and our Chef d'Equipe," said Fairclough. "Our program with our training really complimented everything well. It all came together for here."

Two of the Bronze medals earned by Team USA came from dressage rider Steffen Peters and the wonderful Ravel (12-year-old KWPN gelding owned by Akiko Yamazaki and



U.S. Vaulting Team Wins Gold. Photo by Shannon Brinkman for USEF.



Steffen Peters Wins Bronze. Photo by Shannon Brinkman for USEF.

tion with Sir Anthony Van Dyck, who was lunged by Caroline Bland. Great Britain dominated the medal count throughout the Games, reaching a final tally of 19 medals on the last day of the competition. The British contingency won team Golds in Eventing and Para-Equestrian Dressage, and brought home individual Golds in both Para-Equestrian Dressage and Vaulting. The team was awarded team Silver medals in Dressage and individual Silver medals in Eventing and Dressage. Finally, the team took home Bronze medals in Para-Equestrian Dressage. Finishing second in the medal count is Germany with a total of 13 medals (5 Gold, 5 Silver, and 3 Bronze). The focus now turns to the 2014 World Equestrian Games taking place in Normandy, France four years from now. The first World Equestrian Games held outside of Europe has been

an overwhelming success with organizers, competitors, and spectators alike. One thing is certainly true: many people will be anxiously waiting for the Games to return to this side of the pond. Follow more than 65 hours of free, live coverage from the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games at USEFNetwork.com, along with video-on-demand, competition highlights, photos, blogs, the latest news and updates.



U.S. Driving Team Wins Silver. Photo by Shannon Brinkman for USEF.

U.S. Vaulting Team Wins Gold. Photo by Shannon Brinkman for USEF.

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Golden Eagle Western Equestrian Team Moves into First Place in Region with Solid Show at SDSU

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Western Equestrian team moved into first place in the region recently with a solid show at South Dakota State University (SDSU). The Golden Eagles had trailed North Dakota State University by four points but are now ahead by 22 points after an impressive showing.

"The classes at SDSU were large," says Golden Eagle Western Coach Nicky Overgaard. "Each class had between ten and 14 riders making ribbons hard to come by."

Karen Carpendo (So, Bessemer, Mich.) and Lisa Schabo (So, Appleton, Wis.) each took first place in the Intermediate Division while Sabra Amundson (Fr, Colton, S.D.) captured a blue ribbon in the Beginner Horsemanship Class. Mitzi Marlin (Fr, Nowthen, Minn.) had a great ride to a second place finish with Melissa Freitag (Fr, Wolverton, Minn.), Kayla Klein (Sr, Hazen, N.D.), Kayla Krueger (So, Walker, Minn.) and Amanda Flint (So, Aberdeen, S.D.) riding to third place finishes in large, difficult

classes. U of M, Crookston finished the day with 23 points and a Reserve High Point team finish behind SDSU.

The Saturday horse show saw some great rides with captain Kayla Klein taking second place in

Amanda Flint each won blue ribbons in their classes with Amy Van Treeck (So, Sheboygan Falls, Wis.) picking up third place. Mitzi Marlin rode really well to win her Intermediate Class with Lisa Schabo also took third place. To finish the day, Sabra



Reining and Open Horsemanship to tie for Reserve High Point Rider of the day. Kaitlyn Tollefsrud (Jr, Hawley, Minn.), finished third in the Reining on a nice ride. In the Novice Division, Megan Kramer (Jr, Owatonna, Minn.) and

Amundson's third place ribbon gave her enough points to qualify for the Regional Horse Show. At the end of the day, the Golden Eagles were the High Point Team for the show ahead of SDSU.

"This show was really tough with all of the large classes," says Coach Overgaard. "However, this show is where the team really pulled together to help each other out. It was great to see everyone working so well together. Before the show, we talked a great deal about having a positive attitude and filling our heads with positive comments. It paid off."

Total team points for the year's top 5 teams so far are: University of Minnesota, Crookston - 150, North Dakota State University - 128, Rochester Community and Technical College - 122, University of Wisconsin-River Falls - 105, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities - 84.

For more information, visit the Golden Eagle Athletics Web site at www.goldeneaglesports.com.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is an NCAA Division II Institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

2011 Women You Should Know in the Horse Industry Directory Announced

The Women's Horse Industry Association has announced that the 2011 Women You Should Know In The Horse Industry is in production. The directory which lists hundreds of women who work in the horse industry was produced for the first time last year. The response from advertisers and people wanting to be a part of it was exceptional.

"This is a great source-book for anyone looking for anything in the horse industry. It's a 3 ring binder that you can put in your truck, in your office or take on the road. It makes it easier to find what you need. The listings cover just about every product or service you can imagine. We tell everyone if you can't find it in this book, it probably doesn't exist," states Catherine Masters, Executive Director of the WHIA.

"This year in addition to listing everyone by category and state, the directory will include 'Spotlights', giving more details and the product or individual. 'This is a great inexpensive way to promote your horse

industry business and have your advertising out to people for an entire year," adds Debby Lening, VP of the association.

The association is now reserving ad space. If you would like to be included in this book, please visit our website WOMEN'S HORSE INDUSTRY and click on the link to the information about this great book. Advertising is open to members and non members. Discounted rates apply until December 1st

For additional information, please call 615.730.7833. Nearly 700 members and still growing!

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Old horse image compliments of Google and www.myspace.com.

Equine Care Facilities: Helping Our Nation's Unwanted Horses

WASHINGTON, DC - November 2, 2010 - A good deal of research has been done in the past few years about the importance of equine care facilities within the equine industry. With the number of unwanted horses currently estimated at 100,000 per year, increasing the ability of current facilities to care for horses and starting additional facilities will help to alleviate the burden.

The Unwanted Horse Coalition's 2009 Unwanted Horses Survey, with 2,245 participants representing equine care facilities out of a total of more than 27,000 respondents, found that many of our nation's rescues are at or near capacity and must turn many horses away. The survey found that 39% of facilities have reached their maximum capacity, 30% are at 75% - 99% capacity, and 26% are at 50% - 74% capacity. Rescue/adoption/rehabilitation facilities reported turning away 38% of the horses that are brought to them. One of the most appealing solutions cited by the 27,000 respondents is to increase the ability of private care facilities to care for unwanted horses.

A recent survey conducted by experts at the University of California, Davis, estimated that there are 326 registered non-profit equine rescue facilities in the U.S. The maximum capacity of these rescues is approximately 13,400, well below the estimation of 100,000 unwanted horses

in the U.S. every year.

Because of the number of unwanted horses and the limited capacity of our nation's current equine care facilities, it is extremely important to increase the ability of our current facilities to gain more funding, adopt out more horses, and care for additional horses. Creating new rescue/adoption/rehabilitation facilities to help take in more unwanted horses will also help alleviate the issue of unwanted horses the equine industry is facing. Whether it be a currently operating facility or an up and coming new facility, it is vital that these facilities have the tools and the means to run a well-established, long-term business. The more our equine care facilities are informed about issues such as volunteer management, fundraising mechanisms, database management, and non-profit status the more horses will be given a second chance at a new career.

Many facilities and individuals have noted the importance of starting new facilities to care for unwanted horses. Days End Farm Horse Rescue, located in Lisbon, Maryland, has created a manual that will help guide those who wish to start their own equine care facility. Guidelines for Establishing a Non-Profit Horse Rescue Facility was created to inform individuals interested in starting a horse rescue about the expense and the time involved in

such an endeavor, and to provide additional useful information collected over the years by an established rescue facility. Kathy Howe, president of Days End Farm Horse Rescue, said, "A horse rescue facility is foremost a business and needs to be run like a business. The horses' lives are in your hands. Love the horses with your heart but protect the horses with your mind!"



Jennifer Williams of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society also published a book about the proper way to start and run a horse rescue facility. Williams stated, "The number of rescues in the country increases almost daily yet many people who decide to run a rescue organization have never been involved with non-profits. Although they have the heart to dedicate to the cause, they often do not know how to put together a rescue or how to run the organization once it is set up. Because of this, many rescuers get over-

whelmed and close their doors. This book is designed to help assist those who are trying to start a rescue and to provide advice for the long-term management of their organization." The book, How to Start and Run a Rescue, gives an insight into how established rescue organizations operate, and also how one can get involved in volunteering or assisting rescues.

Although the equine care facilities take on much of the brunt and the burden of the nation's unwanted horse population, all equine organizations must be involved at some level to help solve the problem. The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) published a handbook entitled Best Practices: How Your Organization Can Help Unwanted Horses, which details the efforts, initiatives and activities organizations can undertake to help reduce the number of unwanted horses. It is important that breed organizations assess the number of unwanted horses produced within their breed and, in turn, implement programs that will help give horses a chance at adoption and/or rehabilitation.

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association has created a 'Safety and Integrity Alliance, which has a large focus on after-care for retired racehorses. Because of this program, many racetracks around the country are developing

on-track adoption programs to assist racehorses in finding new homes and second careers. The Jockey Club created the Retirement Checkoff Program, which enables owners to make donations at the time of registration that benefit the Thoroughbred Charities of America and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. The Jockey Club also provides tattoo research free of charge through its Tattoo Identification Services. With tattoo information, more Thoroughbreds can be identified, which helps in the planning for the horses' welfare.

The American Quarter Horse Association has developed a program entitled Full Circle Program. This program enables Quarter Horse owners and breeders to enroll their horses at no cost to ensure that these horses, even if sold, will never become unwanted. The United States Trotting Association has also implemented a program to help assist their Standardbred horses in need. The Support Our Standardbreds program is designed to provide financial aid for the care of abused or neglected Standardbred horses.

For more information on how your organization can get involved in the effort to help unwanted horses, please contact UHC Director Ericka Caslin at ecaslin@horsecouncil.org or 202-296-4031.

COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV ALVESHHERE

HORSEPOWER TO TRACTOR HORSEPOWER

FOUR HORSES OR A FARMALL A? The young lad recalls his first tractor-driving-day, As an 8-year-old boy, he pulled a load of hay. It was Grandpa's FARMALL. It purred like a kitten. Mitch was impressed and immediately smitten! He did say, "I must have one of my own someday." He found a faded one and parted with his pay. That day, questioning his motive, as she said it: He firmly responded, "Mother, give me some credit!"

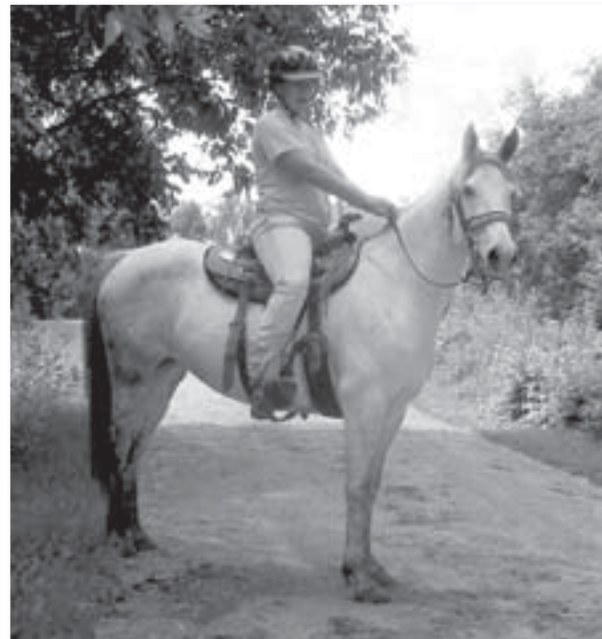
DISASSEMBLY 101 He took apart that faded '40's FARMALL "A." His Mom watched that farmyard mess for many a day. Many metal pieces and tires lay all around. That tractor lay for months stripped and strewn on the ground. "Can you put each tractor piece back in perfect place?" His concerned Mother questioned with a puzzled face? He said an off-hand "UFF-DA," that we must edit, but softly did say, "Mother, give me some credit!"

ASSEMBLY 1 0 1 The diverse pieces went back together with ease. Then he spray painted it into a MASTERPIECE! They towed it very, very slowly into town. He'd planned for competition at the State Fair Ground. While there he was awarded the State Fair's Grand Prize! Making him the envy of those F F A guys! Mom asked if the tractor would start? She'd regret it. Upset once more, he said, "Mom, give me some credit!"

AN FFA PROJECT WORTH SHOWING That rebuilt antique FARMALL looked as good as new! Two lads, Dad and Mitch started pushing it, On cue out the showroom door. Outside, they poured in some gas. He cranked it ... just turned it once, and as smooth as glass; It purred and purred. He had smiled at his Mother's glance. Moments before, she'd skeptically asked perchance ... What she'd really asked, "Would it start?" Now she'd dread it. His sincere answer was, "Mom, give me some credit!"

Orv Alveshere, Fargo, N.D. © Copyright 1995, All rights reserved

THE VEN ADOPT-A-HORSE! OF THE MONTH



Liberty, aka Libby is a 6 yr old quarter horse arabian cross. She has been started under saddle, and has had a few rides down the road this summer. She needs an experienced rider, and someone willing to make a commitment to spend time with her often or she loses ground with her training. She is a bit spooky, and has been mistreated, so will need a gentle hand. She does pretty good once a relationship is established.

If you can provide the home Libby needs, please call Char Tuhy at High Tail Rescue in Hawley Minn. at (701) 526-3734

Mike Major Wins Project Cowboy

This Fowler, Colorado, rancher receives a standing ovation in addition to \$10,000.

After three days of tough competition involving unbelievable obstacles, screen tests, riding unfamiliar horses and working with yearling American Quarter Horses, the dust settled and three incredible horse-men remained.

Dressed as Frank Sinatra and riding his American Quarter Horse Black Hope Stik without a bridle doing cow work, flying lead changes and sliding stops, AQHA Professional Horseman Mike Major of Fowler, Colorado, wowed the crowd and the judges and won the inaugural Project Cowboy.

"My mind is still trying to grasp it all," says Major. "It was an overwhelming experience. I am so happy to have this opportunity, and I still haven't grasped it all." Ben Baldus of Electra, Texas, finished second, and Mozaun McKibben of Whitesboro, Texas, was third.

Fort Worth, Texas, was rocking October 8-10, as more than 165 contestants competed for the Project Cowboy title and a \$10,000 paycheck. Major emerged as the star after enduring three days of grueling competition that tested horse-

manship ability, readiness to be in front of a camera, general horse knowledge while under fire and livestock handling skills. Major received \$10,000 cash, a Martin trophy saddle and a Gist trophy buckle. He also received an invitation to appear at the 2011 Road To The Horse Legends World Championship and a 2011 Extreme Mustang Makeover event, as well as other major equine events and expos as a clinician. Your EquiMedic horse and rider first-aid kit will be your best insurance against ever having to use it! Own security and peace of mind: Invest in the safety of you and your horse this year. Jointly produced by Tootie Bland Productions, creator of the popular Road to the Horse competitions, and Patti Colbert Enterprises, producer of the Extreme Mustang Makeover events, Project Cowboy was filmed as a reality TV pilot and included many twists and turns.

"We are honored to have so many great horsemen and so many amazing horses competing in Project Cowboy and give notice to the industry that it's time for equine competitions to step into the 21st century while also remembering the cow-

boy code of the past," says co-producer Patti Colbert. "I think we have started a movement by combining so many elements from the equine world including a clinic atmosphere while testing show arena skills and on-camera appeal without forgetting our audience. We are very encouraged about the future of the horse industry after seeing so many talented people compete in Project Cowboy and the number of fans that came out to support this inaugural event."

Project Cowboy is the most unique equine-related talent search to ever be held. Never before have horsemen and women from different riding disciplines been able to showcase their talents in this way and display their training ability with their own horse and with unknown horses while competing for more than \$10,000 in cash and prizes. Project Cowboy is sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association, Western Horseman magazine, Gist Silversmiths and Martin Saddlery. Visit www.projectcowboy.net for more information.

Major and Black Hope Stik also won the ranch remuda contest at Battle in the Saddle in Oklahoma City on July 10.

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### UPCOMING HORSE EVENTS

Call before you haul -- The Valley Equestrian is not responsible for listing changes. Call 320-209-8325 if you want your event listed.

Nov. 26-28: Central MN AQHA Team Penning and Sort at the Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn.

Nov. 28: Feedlot sorting jackpot at noon at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Call 612-803-5950 for more information.

Nov. 28: CEC Colt Starting at 10 a.m. at Lone Rock Ranch in Rosemount, Minn. Contact (612) 414-7597

Dec. 3&10: Team Penning practice at 7 p.m. at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Call (612) 803-5950

Dec. 4: Dreamin' of Summer Barrel Series at Bowman, N.D. Series awards Buckles, Bronc Halters & more! Call Barb Williams 307-290-0430

Dec. 5: Boomgarden Barrel Races at 7NArena in Springfield, SD; call (605) 214-1055 for more info

Dec. 5: LD Ranch Arena Open Barrel Race NBHA at Sebeka, Minn. Call Betsy/Lon Kuschel 701-425-9533 or betsykuschel@hotmail.com

Dec. 12: Boomgarden Barrel Races at Lazy 53 Arena. Ex. 2:00, 2 runs to follow. Blazin Barrels/UBRA/SDBRA. (605) 214-1055

Dec. 17-19: Central MN AQHA Team Penning and Sort at the Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn.

Dec. 18: Game show at 10 a.m. at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Call (612) 803-5950

Dec. 19: Boomgarden Barrel Races at 7NArena. Ay Springfield, S.D. Call UBRA/SDBRA (605) 214-1055

Jan. 8: MN Isanti Hi Circle Vee Arena Winter Jackpots; call (612) 810-4010 specks95@hotmail.com

Jan. 8: Dreamin' of Summer Barrel Series at Bowman, N.D.: Series awards Buckles, Bronc Halters & more! Call Barb Williams 307-290-0430

Jan. 27-30: 2011 Carriage Association of American Conference at the St. Paul Winter Carnival; see web site for more info: www.stcroixhorseandcarriagesociety.org

Jan. 30: Sleigh and Cutter Festival of the St. Croix Horse and Carriage Society at noon at Phalen Park in St. Paul, Minn.

Feb. 4: R&J Bulls and Barrels at 5 p.m. at the R&J Arena in Verdale, Minn. Contact (218) 445-5849

Feb. 5: Carver County 4-H Tack Swap at 10 a.m. at the Extension office in Cologne, Minn. Call (952) 466-9811

Feb. 5: Sherburne County 4-H Surefooted Riders team sorting at 10:30 a.m. at the Salida Event Center in Big Lake, Minn. Call (612) 741-9026

Feb. 12: Dreamin' of Summer Barrel Series at Bowman, N.D. Series awards Buckles, Bronc Halters & more! Call Barb Williams (307) 290-0430

Feb. 12: Dreamin' of Summer Barrel Series at Balsum Lake, Minn. Series awards Buckles, Bronc Halters & more! Call Barb Williams (307) 290-0430

March 20: AQHA Show, Valley City ND Leo Foure, Edina MN judging; see: http://sheyennevalleyteampenning.org

April 10: AQHA Show, West Fargo ND Leo Foure, Edina MN judging; see http://sheyennevalleyteampenning.org



### Golden Eagle Western Equestrian Team Drops Points to NDSU But Maintains Region Lead

Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Western Equestrian team dropped points to North Dakota State University (NDSU) at the NDSU show in Fargo, N.D. on Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15. The Golden Eagles still hold a lead of seven points in the region.

Saturday saw several good rides with Kaitlyn Tollefsrud (Jr, Hawley, Minn.) winning her Reining Class. Kayla Krueger (So, Walker, Minn.) came out for a flawless ride to win her Advanced Horsemanship Class. Melissa Freitag (Fr, Wolverton, Minn.) and Karen Carpenedo (So, Bessemer, Mich.) each took home a blue ribbon in their Intermediate Divisions. Carpenedo's win gave her enough points to qualify for the regional competition. Megan Kramer (Jr, Owatonna, Minn.) had a nice ride taking home a second place ribbon in the Novice Class.

On Sunday, Captain Kayla Klein (Sr, Hazen, N.D.) won her Reining Class and took third in the Rail Class giving her a Reserve High Point Rider title for the day. Amy VanT-

reck (So, Sheboygan Falls, Wis.) and Sabra Amundson (Fr, Colton, S.D.) rode very well and each secured a win in their classes.

"We did not end the semester as well as we had hoped but really learned some good lessons along the way," says Golden Eagle Western Coach Nicky Overgaard. "We found out that small mistakes cost us big time in the points column. Now we are going to have a break until we start the spring season with our next show at home on Friday, March 5th. Thankfully, we still have the lead in the Region but not at a comfortable margin at this point in time."

Point standings at the end of this show are:

University of Minnesota, Crookston - 185

North Dakota State University - 178

Rochester Community and Technical College - 166

University of Wisconsin-River Falls - 138

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities - 129

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is an NCAA Division II institution and a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC). The Golden Eagle Equestrian team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA).

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#### TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR VALLEY!

### New Equestrian Television Network Releases Channel Information for Houston:Also Announces Next Affiliate Channel in California

The second local affiliate channel will be located in Fresno, in the heart of California's central valley, the hub of the state's agricultural industry. Following the Fresno launch, the debut of channels in other targeted cities will take place throughout Texas, California, Ohio and Florida. In the Houston and Fresno markets alone, PegasusTV will provide immediate network access to more than six million people.

One of the signature components in every market served by the new local PegasusTV channels is a commitment to allocate up to six hours of broadcast time at no cost each weekend for the exclusive use of local equestrian clubs and organizations, local colleges and universities with horse-oriented educational programs. This access also will be extended to similar organizations and educational institutions focused on farm animal care, maintenance and education.

While Pegasus Television Network has already targeted more than 25 high "horsehold" television markets for the inaugural roll-out of its affiliate channels, the network is readily available to any area in the country and welcomes contact from parties interested in establishing affiliate relationships. Independent cable systems in small rural communities are also included in the network's affiliate marketing plan. Potential national

and local advertisers are encouraged to contact Boot Media LLC for complete information on many cost-effective advertising options. For example, Houston's channel will offer rates as low as \$10 for a :30 second television spot, with a minimum package buy of just \$50.00, one of the lowest advertising rates to be found anywhere in the equestrian industry, in any medium.

Currently, the Pegasus Television Network is actively seeking and licensing programming content both domestically and internationally representing a wide variety of equestrian, farm and ranch animal and rural lifestyle programs. Pegasus-TV will also be available on the Internet for those without local television access. Equifava, Inc. continues to provide

Cowboy Leather advertisement featuring a cowboy silhouette and text: 'COWBOY LEATHER', 'We Carry a Complete Line of CODY LEATHER Products! Wholesale and Retail Prices', 'Call Shari Today 218.385.3835'

### A BOY AND HIS PONY BY PAUL McWHORTER

It is about time I came clean with all my faithful readers. When I was a kid, I had a pony (pictured above). We were not rich or anything like that, but we lived on a ranch, and one day my Uncle showed up pulling a stock trailer. I ran out to greet him, but instead of receiving the normal greeting from him, he just smiled, walked around and opened the door on the stock trailer. There inside was the most beautiful pony you ever saw. He gave it to my brother and me. Now I don't want to make to big of a deal about it, but I must say that as a kid, having a pony is just about as good as it gets. The horse was a Shetland pony, and was about the size of a big dog. We named her Wendy. She was such a nice little horse, and a very sociable creature. We did not have a saddle, but we did have a bridle and a small horse blanket, so we would ride her bareback, Indian style. She loved to be rode, and I can remember trotting around the yard on her back. Every day she would come to our yard and make little horse noises, wanting us to come out and play with her. She loved sugar cubes and carrots. We would always bring her a treat, and then she would rub her head on us. She loved to be combed, and loved to take us for a ride.



Paul McWhorter (on the Shetland) and his brother Dan standing by.

Now I remember one day our parents went to town and left my brother and I at home. I was about 7 years old and he was about 11. Back then, you did not bother with baby sitters, you just assumed that the kids would just take care of themselves. Well, my brother and I were sitting on the front porch, and up comes Wendy. She walked right up on the front porch, and gave us a little nudge, like she always did. We petted her a while, and then we noticed that she kept looking in the front window into the house. My brother and I started talking about it, and we decided that she wanted to go into the house. Well, you don't do something like let a horse in the house without giving it some serious thought.

We talked about it a while, and we came to the conclusion that neither of us had ever been told not to let the horse in the house. She was a pet, and the dog was allowed in the house, so it must be OK to let the horse in the house. So after some more discussion, we decided we would let her in the house, but only if she really wanted to go in. My brother walked over to the front door and opened it. Sure enough she walked

right in. I will never forget the look on her face as she went into the house. It was a look of wonder and amazement. She had never seen anything like it before. She walked around the living room, being so careful not to bump or disturb anything. It is not every day that a horse gets to go into the house. She appeared to fully grasp the magnitude of the honor. She walked around and looked at every piece of furniture. My brother and I were feeling pretty good ... we had done a really

good thing, giving her a tour of the house. Well, she pretty much looked at everything in the living room, and things had gone so well, we decided to take her into the kitchen. Now being 7 and 11 years old, my brother and I did not have a good grasp of things like the coefficient of static friction, and traction control and all of that, so we had no way of anticipating what would happen next. As Wendy stepped into the kitchen, her hooves had no traction on the freshly waxed linoleum floor. As she stepped into the kitchen, she lost all traction, and her four legs went out in four different directions, and she landed on her belly. This was something like she had never had happen before, and well, she panicked. She tried to get up, but lost her footing again, worse than the first time. At this point she went totally wild. She just started kicking and flailing around the kitchen. Well, as much as I respect the designers at Frigidaire, GE, and all the furniture companies, apparently in designing their products, they did not consider the possibility of a horse going crazy in the kitchen, and did not design their products to withstand the stresses introduced by such an event. I mean the horse was kicking, bucking, jumping, falling, and in the process totally wrecking the kitchen. The furniture was destroyed, the major appliances were damaged, and I won't even talk about the smaller appliances. Now I am going to have to apologize for telling the next part of the

story. I am not trying to be vulgar or anything, but I just have to tell it to you like it happened. I guess the trauma of the situation caused some type of intestinal distress for the poor horse, and she started pooping and peeing. Now I am not talking about the normal thing you would expect of a horse taking care of a little business. I am talking about full scale projectile pooping. I mean she was firing poop across the kitchen like something I had never seen before. Also, the pee made the floor even slicker, and she lost any small amount of traction she might have had as she tried desperately to regain her footing. My brother and I just stood there pretty much in shock, as the horse destroyed the kitchen. Anything she did not wreck, she pooped on. Some items were both wrecked and pooped on. While we considered ourselves pretty

proficient horse people, we had never been trained on how to deal with a horse gone crazy in the kitchen. Well, she finally was able to flail her way over to the more firm footing of the living room. My brother and I both panicked, as we could see she was still in a state of high anxiety and we imagined the same thing happening to the living room that had just happened to the kitchen. Now my brother was thinking pretty good, so he ran to the front door, and held it wide open. Wendy saw the sky and ran for it, and ran straight through the living room and out the front door, doing relatively little damage on her way through. The living room came out relatively unscathed, compared to the kitchen.

My brother and I then just sort of stood there and stared at the kitchen. We then both began to get a sinking feeling as we heard my parent's little green Volkswagen driving up. We had no time to even attempt to improve the disaster area formerly known as our kitchen. We had no time to even prepare an adequate defense, or seek professional council. My Dad walked in and said, "What happened Here?!" I don't know if he was asking because he really did not know what had happened, or if he was asking more of a rhetorical question. Given the amount of horse poop on the walls, and the hoof prints on the refrigerator, I think he probably knew what had happened, and it was in fact a rhetorical question. ... but I digress. Anyway,

I tried to go into damage control mode and describe it as benignly as possible. "Wendy slipped and fell in the kitchen, and then got scared." My dad preferred to focus on the aspect of the situation that we had let a horse in the house. Try as I might, I could not get him to consider the broader complexity and subtleties of the situation. To him, it was simply a matter that we had let a horse in the house and the horse had destroyed the kitchen. I should say at this point that my parents were not well versed in some of the more modern theories of rearing children. Things like the importance of taking opportunities like this to try and build up your children's self esteem, or the fragile nature of a child's self image, or the importance of never raising your voice at a child ... none of these things were understood by my parents, or at least, they did not appear to be manifesting themselves in this particular circumstance. No, it was pretty clear how they would handle the situation, we were going to get a whipping. Not what you might call a spanking today, like a little swat on the bottom or anything like that. No, we got a good old-fashioned, whipping with a belt. Now, as an adult, I really can not say that the whipping damaged my self esteem, or led me to be a criminal, or that I am harboring any deep seated problems because of that day. I can say one thing for sure though: from that day forward I never brought a horse, or for that matter any other farm animal, into the house. I should also say that I remember that evening my dad made us popcorn in what was left of the kitchen, we sat in his lap and he read a book to us. He never brought up the subject again. We were punished, the issue was put behind us, and we moved on as a happy family, and the horse stayed outside.

http://old-photos.blogspot.com/2008/02/boy-and-his-pony.html

Yearsling, foals, and mares! Palomino fillies: striking colors! Poco Bueno, King, Three Bars, full quarter horses, not registered, \$500, Contact: Karen (218) 494-8660

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Yearsling, foals, and mares! Palomino fillies: striking colors! Poco Bueno, King, Three Bars, full quarter horses, not registered, \$500, Contact: Karen (218) 494-8660

### KEEPING THE HORSES FED

By Victor Wolf

PUEBLO COUNTY, Co. Clay Austin was one of the two best people to answer the question from which the title of this article came, even though he doesn't own livestock. Austin is an overcomer. So is Joanne Silchia, owner of L&J Donkey Brays Ranch.

Austin is pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Vineland, Colorado, and also the Chaplain of Steel City Thunder Motor Cycle Club. He has great compassion for his fellow man. He is also the owner of Copy(s) in a Flash, 414 N. Santa Fe Avenue, Pueblo, Co., a business that was developed in 1991 to meet an economic need similar to that which so many face today.

"I knew I would have to develop a means for making greater income," he said, "and another job wasn't the answer, so I started with what I knew, and looked at my strengths and weaknesses including what I didn't like, such as plumbing and mechanics."

"I had been printing the newsletter for the Christian Military on an 8-year-old copier and I realized I liked desktop publishing. I talked it over with my wife and the business was established. My first business plan told the whole story: Open the door and sell copies. I negotiated rent on an empty building, distributed an advertising flyer and prayed - a lot."

"I arranged with my boss to work evenings. My wife worked until the business closed. Six months later it was earning enough that I could quit my job."

Austin said he avoided taking an entrepreneur course at the local community college. "I was afraid they would reject my business plan. But I did prepare a

15-20 page plan a when my business was a year old. I included an analysis of the competition. But there were no chain print shops when I started."

Silchia, a single parent, agreed that a self evaluation is a good idea, but the answer came to her more easily. Silchia said, "Women seem to have better opportunities. When I needed to assure I could buy feed, the Avon business opportunity was right there. I've been affiliated with it for 18 years and the income has brought many bales of hay during those years. What I like about Avon is that the company provides education and support to help people develop an entrepreneurial mind set."

"Based on my experience I (719.948.0003) would recommend this business opportunity to any one in need of extra income."

Focus on the Family (Colorado Springs 80995) tends to agree that a business offers a good chance of earning extra income. The organization has been offering a pamphlet written by Marketer Jay Conrad Levinson based on his book "555 Ways to Earn Money." The pamphlet entitled "Working at Home: Ways to Supplement Family Income," describes 25 different enterprises that can be started from home.

If you're faced with the challenge of feeding the horses, you should put into practice rules number 7 and 6 from the 10 steps to success: Try to find someone who has done it, and ask for their advice or guidance.

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## Tucker Robinson and Stylish Little Oak Win 2010 NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Open Championship

When the curtain closed on the 2010 National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity on October 3, a new face was in the Championship photo - but the name at the top of the leader board was familiar.

Tucker Robinson skillfully piloted Stylish Little Oak, owned by San Juan Ranch, through a picturesque fence work, marking a 224, to win the Open title of the Snaffle Bit Futurity. In doing so, Robinson not only won the \$100,000 first-place check, he and his father, NRCHA Hall of Famer Ted Robinson became only the second father-son team to both be Snaffle Bit Futurity Champions.

"It means so much. I had seen my dad, Jon Roeser, Bob Avila, Greg Ward and John Ward all win it when I was a little kid - and now my name is going on that list with them," he said. "It is really, really special to me."

Robinson has ridden Stylish Little Oak, by Playin Stylish out of Shiners Little Oak, since she was a 2-year-old. "John and Brenda Stephenson send my dad and me a handful of 2-year-olds every year, and she and I just fit each other. I really appreciate them giving me the opportunity to ride such great horses," the 32-year-old noted.

Within a short amount of time, Robinson knew the mare was special, and that belief in the mare never wavered. "I figured she had a shot. I knew she was talented and steady through all the events, and that, if luck went my way, we might have a shot."

Going into the cow work, Robinson was only a scant half-point behind the leaders. But the highest-scoring cow work of the evening secured the title. "It could have gone any way - there were a lot of people right there together going into the fence work," he said. "It's awesome. I don't know what to say. I'm still in shock and I'm hoping it might sink in tomorrow. It means so much because you work your butt off for two years and for it to work out is unreal."

Along with the Championship check, Robinson received the C.R. Morrison NRCHA Cow Horse Bronze sponsored by the South Point Hotel and Casino; a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Lyle Lovett; a Bob's Custom Saddle sponsored by Jeffrey Mathews and One Time Pepto; a Gist Silversmiths buckle sponsored by Hooker Creek Ranch; a Gist Silversmiths buckle sponsored by Lone Oak Veteri-



nary Clinic; a custom handmade hat from Shorty's Hattery; an ESP pad from Classic Equine; custom designed boots from Rios of Mercedes; Platinum Performance; two monogrammed Cinch vests from Bob's Custom Saddles; and a C.R. Morrison commemorative medallion.

Robinson thanked his father, Ted; his mother Georgia; his sister Casey; his herd help - Jon Roeser, John Ward, and Jake Gorrell; his girlfriend Tina Fry; John and Brenda Stephenson; and everyone else who helped him.

Brenda Stephenson, who bred and raised Stylish Little Oak, noted "The only thing I can say is that we are very excited. Ted actually won money on not only this mare's mother, but also her grandmother.

It's been a long process to get her here - we were happy to get here. We know how hard it is to make the finals so we are thrilled."

The busiest rider of the day was easily Jake Telford, who took four of his five Snaffle Bit Futurity entries back to the finals, and finished Reserve on One Time Rey Jay, owned by Aspen Meadows Ranch.

"When the preliminaries were over I thought I could handle the four horses, but when I woke up this morning I knew there was no way," he said. "I realized how grateful I was to be in the finals, and it was all about family and friends for me. I couldn't have done it without all of them. I had people helping me with my horses who never have before. Morgan Cromer came up from California to help me with the herd work, Todd Bergen was warming up my horses for the rein work, my in-laws were watching the girls and my mom was brushing and cleaning stalls and feeding, while my wife kept me on schedule. It was a team effort."

For the Reserve Championship on One Time Rey Jay, by One Time Pepto out of Hickorys Red Rey, Telford received a check for \$80,000; a Bob's Custom Saddle and a Gist Silversmiths buckle sponsored by Heart River Ranch; a Gist Silversmiths buckle sponsored by Garth and Amanda Gardiner; two monogrammed Cinch vests sponsored by Bob's Custom Saddles; Platinum Performance; and a C.R. Morrison commemorative medallion.

Telford also won fifth on Hes Shinettes CD (CD Olena x Sheza Shinette), owned by Holy Cow Performance Horses; twelfth on Sheza Dancingdiamond (Diamond J Star x Sheza Shinette), also owned by Holy Cow Performance Horses; and nineteenth on Abbey Roan (One Time Pepto x Stylin Jewel), owned by Newt White. All total, Telford won \$146,000 in the Open Finals competition alone, bringing his lifetime earnings within \$60,000 of the \$1 million mark!

"This is by far the biggest win I've ever had," he said in the press conference following the awards ceremony. "I'm just blessed to have a great group of owners and a great group of horses."

NRCHA Corporate Partner Wide World of Horses was in Reno to cover the Snaffle Bit Futurity. Commentators Robert Chown and Lee Schneider will give the expert play-by-play details of the Futurity in two broadcasts during the weeks of November 29 and December 13. Each weekly program is run three times - every Monday at 12:30 p.m. EST and 10:30 p.m. EST and on the following Sunday at 7:30 a.m. EST.

The National Reined Cow Horse Association, now in its 61st year, is the governing body of cow horse competition, is responsible for promoting the sport, insuring high standards of

competition and educating members and the public about the history and tradition of the cow horse. Through the support of a Corporate Partner family that includes Adequan, Bob's Custom Saddles, Cinch, Classic Equine, Gist Silversmiths, John Deere, Markel Insurance, MD Barns, Meri-al products ULCERGARD and EQUIOXX, Nutrena, Pfizer Animal Health, Platinum Performance, Quarter Horse News, Rios of Mercedes, Running W Designs, the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino, and Wide World of Horses, the Association works to keep the vaquero tradition alive in today's equine industry.

For information on the National Reined Cow Horse Association, call 580-759-4949 or visit the NRCHA Official Web Site at www.nrcha.com.

## Show Off! How to showcase your favorite equestrian photos for perfect gifts!

### Compliments of Family Features

The kids' summer horse show winning photos ...family times horse camping ...at the beach ... the grandkids at Christmas ... the sunset shots of your last vacation ... you've got plenty of great photos that you'd love to share. Why not show them off in some creative displays that you made yourself?

Crafters are always coming up with unique and beautiful ways to showcase family photos. These two crafts use an unexpected, but very handy, tool - a laminator.

Laminators, available in stores such as Costco and Hobby Lobby, are no longer relegated to schools and offices. More compact models, such as those offered by Purple Cows, are small enough to use at home, yet versatile enough to be used in a variety of projects. Not only can the Purple Cows Hot & Cold Laminator be used to protect documents, photos, artwork, notes and more, it can also be a wonderful creative tool in projects like these unique photo books.

To get more fun and creative project ideas and how-tos, as well as videos and tutorials, visit www.purplecows.net.

- Clearly Unique Travel Album**  
A Purple Cows Designer Project by Robin Gibson  
Tools:  
Purple Cows Hot and Cold Laminator #3025  
Purple Cows Freestyle Mouse Kit #6045  
Hole punch  
Supplies:  
Purple Cows Hot Pockets 5 x 7 #4021  
Vellum quotes  
1/2 inch double-sided tape  
Small beads, such as Beader's Paradise Emerald Mix & Topaz Luster Mix  
Wide brown ribbon  
2 book rings
1. Place 2 photos back-to-back (this will make 1 page). Choose a vellum quote and trim it using your favorite decorative-edged click blade with the Freestyle Mouse Kit.
  2. Place the quote directly onto your photo in a place where it can be clearly seen. Run the hot pocket through the laminator. Instantly you have a photo page.
  3. On the surface of your photo page, place a strip of double-sided tape along each edge of your now-sealed photo. Repeat this step on the backside of the photo page as well, before you embellish.
  4. Now you are ready to place the beads around the photo edge. Do this step inside a shoe-box lid, for easy catching and clean up of the loose beads. Pour the beads over the photo and press them into the tape. Shake off loose beads, and save for another page.
  5. Repeat step 4 on the backside of the page, so both pictures now have beaded frames. Repeat steps 1 to 5 for each page in your book.
  6. Line up your pages and punch holes in the left-hand side, using a crop-a-dile or other type of hole punch tool. Make ring covers by folding a wide piece of brown (scrap) ribbon in half, and sewing a seam down the edge. Run the rings through until you have enough "scrunch" to your liking. Cut the ribbon end and secure the rings through the pages of your book.

- Laminator Tips**  
- Figure out what kinds of projects you want to work on before buying a laminator. If you plan to protect heat-sensitive paper printed with ink or photos that may not stand up to heat, a cold laminator will work best. It uses an adhesive activated by pressure instead of heat. A hot laminator melts an adhesive, which can be either a plastic sheet or a laminator pouch, depending on the type of laminator.  
- When laminating items that do not fill the pocket, especially the leading edge, place the pocket on top of a plain sheet of paper or lightweight cardstock (the same size or larger than the pocket) when you send it through the laminator. This will act as a carrier sheet and keep the hot pocket from curling or getting caught in the unit.

Mini Brag Book  
A Purple Cows Designer Project by Robin Gibson  
Tools:  
Purple Cows Hot Laminator #3020

- Purple Cows #1040 2-in-1 Combo Trimmer  
Short Wave Designer Click Blade #2803  
Hole punch  
Rub-on applicator tool  
Corner rounder  
Supplies:  
Rub-ons  
Patterned paper  
Letter stickers  
Cardstock  
Fluid chalk ink, various colors  
Glue Glider Pro - Permatac Cartridge  
Black journaling pen
1. Print or crop your photos to 2 x 3-inch size. If desired, round photo corners using the corner rounder.
  2. Select your background papers / card-stock and, using your combo trimmer, cut a background for each photo. Vary your cut edges by using the guillotine blade for a straight cut, or the rotary cutter and your Short Wave Designer Blade for a decorative edge cut.
  3. Decide if your photos will be centered or off-set, and adhere to the background papers using your Glue Glider Pro. For applying larger rub-on letters alongside the photo, you may need the photo off-center, as desired.
  4. Apply rub-on letters to the top or along the side of each photo/background as desired, using the rub-on applicator

5. Write any journaling in the "banner" area of appropriate rub-on, and apply to the bottom of the desired photograph.
6. For your front page, choose a blank journal block and trim around the edges with scissors. Ink with chalk ink.
7. Adhere to one of your pre-cut background papers, as desired.
8. Apply your brag book title to the journal block, using rub-ons.
9. Turn on laminator, so it can be warming up while you ink the edges of your mini-pages using the chalk inks as desired.
10. Adhere 2 mini-pages back to back, so when laminated, they will be one page of your brag book.
11. Set your now-completed mini-pages into the 2 x 3 Hot Pockets, and run them through your laminator so they are permanently sealed.
12. To hang your Mini Brag Book on a lanyard, line up pages and use a hole punch to make holes where it will attach to the lanyard.

tool.  
5. Write any journaling in the "banner" area of appropriate rub-on, and apply to the bottom of the desired photograph.

5. Write any journaling in the "banner" area of appropriate rub-on, and apply to the bottom of the desired photograph.

## Merry Christmas To You!



So, I get a request to speak to a class of high school seniors on the basics of farm life, as a few of them had expressed interest in the agriculture field when they moved on to higher education. When I questioned the teacher, "Wouldn't it be better if Ed had a little chat with them?" the of' teach relayed that three-fourths of the class were gals and he thought I could give a better lowdown of farm life from a female's perspective. Not having a clue what I would contribute to the students, I jotted a few notes down and then crumpled up the piece of paper and tossed it in the back seat with a huge sigh. I could "tell" the kids about life on the farm and how things were run, but until they experienced it firsthand and learned from their own trials and errors, it would be impossible to "teach" them anything.

After introductions, I thought a question-and-answer approach would be best, as my future ag replacements seemed more interested in filing their nails and texting on cell phones than learning the ins and outs of farm life. After a brief and silent stand-off of no questions, I asked desk four what her thoughts were about how to make the agriculture world a "better place." Her answer about blew me away as she had plans to invent a new crop that would be resistant to disease and harvest a bountiful crop year after year without the use of machinery to "dirty the air." She looked at me kind of strange when I asked if she knew how to drive a horse, as her "invention" was about 200 years in the past. Desk two piped up that her plans were to raise chickens and share with all her neighbors, eliminating the need to shop in the grocery poultry aisle. Ohhh, too

## The Outhouse: Life on the Farm With Emily The Three R's

good to pass up, I asked two if she had ever butchered a chicken. The blank stare was worth every blasted feather I had ever plucked as she was enlightened of the "ins and outs" of that particular branch of farm life. First, you will need a very large container of boiling water and an extremely sharp ax. Two students fainted, and I continued on to see if I could lose a couple more "future farmers." Make sure all grandmothers and small children are at least 100 yards from the chicken before it's beheaded as they tend to run



faster without a head than with one. Desk eight sported one of the few guys in the class, and I swear, his mouth was open far enough to toss a football into. Final instructions were to dip the chicken in the boiling water for instant feather removal and then hang it on a nearby clothesline to pluck the remainders. The 911 call from desk five's cell phone caused a short commotion in the class, but teach had them settled down in no time. I had most of the students' wide-eyed attention by then, and desk 13 relayed she would like to raise cattle. Ahh, excellent choice! I rattled off the different breeds

and asked if she would be grazing her herd or feeding dry lot. Another answer to add a few grey hairs to my head: She would raise the kind that sported nice big juicy chops. Desk 15 chimed in with some intelligence: She would like to work in the export field and eventually trade oil for farm machinery, creating many jobs for the unemployed to build tractors. A good thought, 15; you should gear your higher education to first learn all parts of a tractor so you know the value versus oil. This time I about fainted as she answered point blank, "Wouldn't that be listed on eBay?" Taking another approach I thought the kids would understand, I started with dirt. When it rains, you will need rubber boots. When the pigs get out, you will need to know more than basic algebra to figure out which way they're headed and how their minds work. Pay attention in English class and then think totally opposite when you are instructed to pull a stuck pickup out of the field. Use your college fitness center as much as possible to get strong and fast to outrun both a bumblebee and a mad bull. Fancy penmanship will get you tossed out of a grain elevator faster than you got in; learn to read and write chicken scratch on a feed bag. Stock up on duct tape and baling twine; it will save your rump in most any situation. There, munchkins, you are all now ready to be farmers...

*Tammy Finney writes about her experiences on the farm in her new book, "Emily's Outhouse Book," 71 short stories from her collection of work available at all Fleet Farm Stores. She may be contacted at: Emily@southouse@aol.com or see the web site: www.emilysouthousebook.com*

## Labor Department Makes New Work Rules for Non-American Workers

WASHINGTON, (AHC) - The Department of Labor (DOL) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning the H-2B program.

The H-2B program is used by members of the horse industry, principally horse trainers and owners who cannot find American workers to fill semi-skilled jobs at racetracks, horse shows, fairs and in similar non-agricultural activities. Proposed Rule

The proposed rule would change the way wage rates are calculated for H-2B workers. While new rules governing the H-2B program went into effect January 18, 2009 no changes were made at that time to the manner in which the wage rate was calculated for H-2B workers.

The DOL has stated this proposed rule is in response to the August 30th ruling of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania that the current regulations governing the H-2B prevailing wage rate violate the Administrative Procedure Act.

Currently, employers are required to pay H-2B and American workers recruited in connection with an H-2B job application either the prevailing wage, the federal minimum wage, the state minimum wage or the local minimum wage whichever is highest. The proposed rule would make changes to the manner in which the prevailing wage is determined.

The proposed rule would base the prevailing wage on the highest of the following: Wages established under an agreed-upon collective bargaining agreement. A wage rate established under the Davis-Bacon Act or the Service Contract Act for that occupation in the area of intended employment.

The arithmetic mean wage rate established by the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) wage survey for that occupation in the area of intended employment.

The proposed rule removes use of a four-tier wage structure tied to skill levels that is currently an option for calculating the prevailing wage. It also eliminates use of employer provided wage surveys. Comments on the proposed rule are due on November 4th. The complete proposed rule can be found by visiting this link.

The American Horse Council is currently reviewing and determining the impact the proposed rule will have on the horse industry and will submit comments to the DOL.

If you have any questions please contact the AHC.

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UNDERSTANDING - FORGIVENESS  
COMPASSION - FELLOWSHIP  
HEALING - HOPE

December 23rd - Depart the Birch Coulee Battle Site

December 24th - Depart Fort Ridgley to Courtland, Mn.

December 25th - Depart Courtland to Land of Memories Park in, Mankato.

December 26th - Depart Land of Memories Park to the hanging site downtown, Mankato (final ceremony)

**Donations payable to: Dakota Wichohan (memorial horse ride), P.O. Box 2, Morton, MN 56270**

**Hay, grain, alfalfa, and horse supplies needed, too.**



## Rate My Horse PRO Website Launches New Voice for Horse Industry

Virginia Beach, Virginia (November 20, 2010) – Rate My Horse PRO (www.ratemyhorsepro.com) launches a new all discipline online resource and decision tool that allows users to anonymously add, rate, and review professionals (PROs) in the horse industry. This industry first will allow members to rate horse trainers, boarding stables, farriers, horse shows, and more across North America.

Laura Hense's show horse was taken by her horse trainer and sold through an out of state horse dealer without her knowledge. "I had been riding with him for quite some time and I thought I could trust him." What she didn't know is the trainer had a reputation, and a list of defrauded victims. Hense became another one of his victims when she never saw her horse again.

The number of horse professionals that intentionally prey on consumers is unknown since there are no such statistics in the horse industry. These recent 2010 news headlines are only a few of many that focused on horse industry professionals in trouble with the law.

- Texas Horse Seller must pay \$65,000 in Restitution to Customers
- Warrant: Convicted Horse Trainer Attends Same Horse Show as Victim
- Horse Owners disputing who owns Racehorse, Neon Light; FBI Looking into Sale
- Woman in Horse Neglect Case is Charleston Horse Trainer
- Virginia Large Animal Veterinarian Charged for Neglecting Horses
- Sex Charges Filed in Case against Ontario Boarding Facility Co-Owner
- Florida Horse Trainer tells Owner Horse Dies; then Sells it
- Former Equestrian Trainer gets 22.5 years for Exploitation, Child Porn
- Florida Riding Instructor Sentenced for molesting 5-yr-old Female Student

**REWARD, No questions asked.**  
For information leading to return of saddles stolen from Caldwell County TX in June 2010  
- Six antique western saddles and one antique side saddle.  
Contact: Nanci Falley, aihrnanci@gmail.com or 512-398-6642.

Rate My Horse PRO is educating consumers, while facilitating the promotion of horse professionals who conduct business with integrity. Professionals are able to complete a detailed business profile for free. The site also features a proprietary preference tool to match consumers with professionals; this tool and the site's ratings will go live soon at the Rate My Horse PRO Grand Launch. "This is an exciting time

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for the horse industry," says Rate My Horse PRO spokesperson Debbie Hanson. "Consumers and horse professionals can get involved by contributing information and ratings today. As horse owners, we've all hired exceptional horse professionals and maybe the one that wasn't so great. Now, everyone can let their voice be heard to promote those who do business with integrity and help to protect others from those with questionable business ethics."

Those professionals who operate at a higher standard will grow their business with Rate My Horse PRO. The site will also give today's professionals insight into their customers' satisfaction levels like never before, so they can continuously improve, strengthening their business.

Rate My Horse PRO also offers several unique features new to the online ratings world including identity verification. Every user pays a \$5 fee for the third-party service to insure each rating is unique, and to protect the validity of the ratings process.

Hense says, "I began riding to enjoy horses; it should not be stressful and cause grief, like it did in my situation. I hope Rate My Horse PRO makes the horse industry more honest and will empower consumers."

The Rate My Horse PRO Grand Launch date will be announced soon. Rate My Horse PRO is an industry advocacy platform built upon a rating system which equally engages horse consumers and professionals in improving industry standards. Rate My Horse PRO is a privately held company. For more information, visit www.ratemyhorsepro.com.

Frequently Asked Questions about Rate My Horse PRO: <http://www.ratemyhorsepro.com/learn-more/faq.aspx>  
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## MINNESOTA FARRIERS ASSOCIATION TIP - OF - THE - MONTH

### Clips

Clips are used to take the strain off the horseshoe nails. They also can prevent or lessen the chance of the shoe slipping on the hoof, causing the nails to loosen prematurely. Toe clips are generally seen on the front shoes, but will also be seen occasionally on the hind shoes. Toe clips are used to prevent the shoe from slipping backwards on the hoof. Side/quarter clips are seen on both front and hind shoes; they are used to help prevent side to side slippage of the shoe on the hoof.

### Rocker toe

In this modification, the ground surface of the toe is bent upwards from the inside web of the shoe. This modification can help give the hoof an easy way to come up off the ground (breakover). Rocker toes could be beneficial to horses that tend to stumble or drag their toes due to lameness or laziness. Rocker toed shoes relieve the stress of breaking over at the toe.

### Rolled toe

This modification is a very mild form of the rocker toed shoe, and can be used for the same. This shoe is modified by placing a rolled area on the ground surface of the shoe, at the toe. It is generally forged into the shoe by your farrier, but a grinder will work very well, too. A rolled toed shoe can enhance animation on show horses.

### Square toe

A square toed shoe is generally used on the hind to help a horse with different gait faults like forging, interfering, stumbling due to lameness or laziness. This shoe is also used to help a horse break over in the middle of his hoof. Most commonly used on cow-hocked or base narrow conformation.

This monthly series is brought to you courtesy of:  
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Left: Bobbi Kleffman driving Amadeus, her 22-year-old Arabian, while Mary Ruth Marks offers advice, "What you need to be is consistent and fair."  
Photo by Ley Bouchard

Horses  
Ponies  
Miniatures

## Rainbow's End

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## More Than 30 Entries Received for the NRHA World Championship Shootout

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – More than 30 entries have been received for the inaugural \$100,000 added National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) World Championship Shootout. The Shootout is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 2 at the NRHA Futurity & Adequan® North American Affiliate Championships Show. It is this year's largest added money NRHA-approved class in the world.

The \$100,000 added Shootout, sponsored by Equine Sports Medicine and Kyle Tack, is an "Open-to-the-World" class where the top Open reining horses on the planet may compete in a dramatic showdown for the winner's estimated purse of \$30,000. Entries can still be submitted with the appropriate late fee.

In addition, the 2010 NRHA Open World Champion will be recognized and honored at the show – even though the World Champion and the Shootout winner may not be the same. To be named the 2010 NRHA Open World Champion, the horse must have earned money in seven or more NRHA Category 1 Open classes. Below is a list of NRHA Open World Championship contenders that have earned money at 6 or more NRHA Category 1 Open classes. These horses are scheduled to compete on December 2.

Horse / Rider / Owner  
West Coast Wrangler / Ryan Potucek / Ryan Potucek  
Friday Night Shiner / Dean Brown / Robert Santagata  
Boon N Crockett / Shane Allen Brown / Jan & Carl Cover

Lucky Star Gun / Dany Tremblay / Claude Barre  
Big Papi / Brent Naylor / Big Papi Syndicate

Other Shootout entries of note with \$100,000+ NRHA Horse LTE include: Custom Harley / Jordan Larson, Hollywoodstinsellown / Marco Ricotta, Wimpys Little Buddy / Martin Muehlstaetter, Wimpys Little Chic / Shawn Florida, Smart Spook / Rudi Kronsteiner and Smarty Starlight / Jared Leclair. For more information on the NRHA Open World Championship Shootout, e-mail Melanie Rinehart at [mrinehart@nrha.com](mailto:mrinehart@nrha.com) or call (405) 946-7400. Rules regarding NRHA Year-End Awards can be found on page 70 of the 2010 NRHA Handbook. Equine Sports Medicine is a proud sponsor of the \$100,000 added World Championship Shootout. To learn more about their veterinarians, show schedule and technology, visit [www.equine-sports-medicine.com](http://www.equine-sports-medicine.com). Also sponsoring the event is Kyle Tack of Whitesboro, Texas. Kyle Tack provides quality tack options for the professional horseman online and at the country's largest performance horse shows.

NRHA would like to thank the following corporate partners for their support: Adequan®; Arenus, Bob's Custom Saddles, Cimarron Trailers; Cinder Lakes Ranch and Reproduction Center; Classic Equine; Horse&Rider; John Deere; Kiser Arena Specialists; Markel Insurance Company; MD Barns; Montana Silversmiths; Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau; Pard's Western Shop; Platinum Performance; Purina Mills; Quarter Horse News; Rios of Mercedes / Anderson Bean Boot Company; Rocky Mountain Clothing Company; SmartPak and Wimpys Little Step. For more information on NRHA, visit [nrha.com](http://nrha.com).



### FROM OUR EMAIL INBOX



If you see a funny photo, send it to The Valley Equestrian Newspaper for possible publication in an upcoming issue. Photos need to be 300 DPI or a minimum 4 inches. If you have a quip to add, let us know. We will give you credit and send you a few copies of the publication in which your contribution was published

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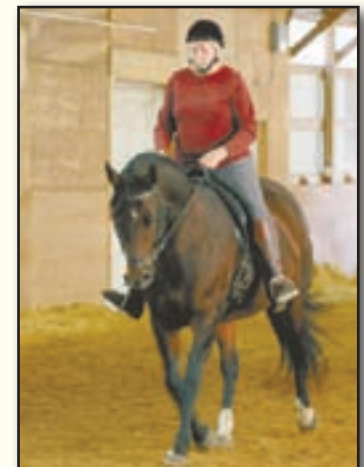


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