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September 2010

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UDALL, Ks. HORSE SAVES FARM ANIMALS

By Beccy Tanner, The Wichita Eagle - Reprinted with permission

Udall, Kansas — If they gave horses medals of honor, Debbie Yeager is convinced her horse Jazz would wear a big one.

The horse has her owner's gratitude for saving the lives of her other farm animals on a night when a massive thunderstorm and winds roared through.

Debbie Yeager is a practical, no-nonsense woman. She describes her horse in these terms:

"She's a big gal but she's very well put-together. This horse can spin on a dime and give you nine cents change."

And so, on the night of Sept. 15, after feeding her ducks, pigs, goats, cows and horses, Yeager noticed the Kansas sky turning green and the winds picking up. She saw Jazz, the 9-year-old paint mare herding the other farm animals — all species — and moving them into a small pen of her barn. Usually, the animals stay outside because the sounds of pelting rain and wind are so loud on the metal barn. They go to the south side of the barn and turn their backs to the storm and ride it out.

This time, Jazz wouldn't let them.

The horse stood at the gate, ears back, teeth bared, not letting any of the other animals out of the barn.

"I think, 'This storm is coming and the animals will work it out, I got to get back to the house.'"

And that's when, she says, "all hell broke loose."

Baseball-size hail pelted the farm. Trees were doubled over by winds. She could hear shingles tearing loose from the roof of her house, and the chicken house as it crashed down.

The electricity flickered.

Yeager threw the house cats down the basement and followed.

"It's the first time I've been scared in Kansas," the native Texan said. "I made phone calls to my husband telling him to come home. Called my daughter and told her 'I love you.'"

And then, just as suddenly as the storm came up, it was over. Nothing but silence.

In darkness and a flashlight, Yeager ventured to the barn. She feared the worst.

"You see these things on TV, you never think about them happening to you," Yeager said. "I'm just grateful. I thought when I went out to the barn, I'd have to come back to the house and get a gun and put animals down. I saw all the sheet metal and the chicken house ripped and torn upside down."

The barn door had blown away. The high winds had woven hay into a metal fence.

"But in the beams of the flashlight, Yeager could also see Jazz letting the farm animals out of their pen:

The cows.

The horses.

The goats, pigs and ducks were all safe. Is it possible the horse could have saved the animals?

Maybe, say the experts.

"We haven't seen any herding behavior like that," said Mike Quick, curator of mammals at the Sedgwick County Zoo.

"I've never seen horses adopting other animals. Our animals will spend their evenings in pasture but usually horses will stay with other horses and tolerate the other animals."

It is an incredible story with really only one element unbelievable, said Linda Anderson of the Angel Animals Network.

"I can't believe there are no photos and that someone from Kansas is not out in the storm videotaping this," she said, jokingly. Anderson and her husband, Allen,

co-founded the Angel Animals Network in Minneapolis, Minn., and have written numerous articles and books on the miracles of animals. Last year, the Andersons published the book "Horses With a Mission."

"It is an incredible story but we get these types of stories all the time, maybe not with all that drama, but animals have a sixth sense, an intuitiveness that is so far beyond what we humans seem to have," Linda Anderson said.

At least one other animal specialist agrees.

Temple Grandin says she, too, believes it is possible.

A film about Grandin won seven Emmys last month. Grandin, a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and an innovator in the field of animal behavior, says it is possible.

Last week, Grandin said it would be normal animal behavior for the horse to feel protective.

"It happens quite commonly for an animal to protect another animal or person," she said.

Think of the pictures you've seen on the Internet — a tiger mothering piglets, a Labrador retriever mothering calves, she said.

Animals will protect one another, particularly when they sense weather changes, Grandin said.

"I've seen cattle jump fences and gates 12 hours before a big storm hits," Grandin said. "It's the barometric pressure. They sense a bad storm coming."

Grandin said it's possible that Jazz, Yeager's paint mare, may have had previous experiences with



Horse enthusiast and VEN reader, Ken Forseth, grabbed this photo of a chrome sculptured horse at the Cedarhurst Arts Center, in Mt Vernon, Illinois earlier this month.

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bad weather. It's unknown because Yeager has owned Jazz for only four months.

"She may have had a couple of tornadoes in her past," Grandin said. "Horses have super-good sensors at remembering sounds and feelings. They see things in pictures. They are visual thinkers."

For now, Yeager is simply grateful for that big paint horse in her pasture. The horse, she said, is one of the most patient, compassionate creatures she's ever seen.

"She doesn't shy. She doesn't spook," Yeager said. "She's just awesome. She's a big old sweetheart."

Read more: <http://www.kansas.com/2010/09/26/1511516/udall-horse-saved-animals-owner.html#ixzz10tOZKSy0>

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LIVING THE DREAM: Winner's Circle Horse Transport

By LEY BOUCHARD

For Pete Berg, it's a dream come true: driving the beautiful countryside with companions he loves -- horses. "Pete has always had a passion for horses," says Teri Berg, Pete's wife. The Bergs own and operate Winner's Circle Transport based in Grand Forks, No. Dak.

In his youth, he trained horses at Yonkers Raceway in New York. He left the horses behind for college, a career as a weatherman and then to start a family.

"At 50 he gave up his job to follow his dream of working with and owning horses," said his wife and business partner, Teri. The Bergs decided to provide a transportation service with a more personal touch. "We stop every 4-6 hours on long hauls to attend to the horses," Teri said, "this is especially important on hot and humid days. We walk them, give them food, water and make sure they are traveling well. For peace of mind, we provide personal contact between the driver and the owner during the transportation of their horses." They have also installed camera in the trailers so they may observe how the horses travel.

Berg said that in his experience, most horses prefer to step on or off instead of going on a ramp. "I walk them in, they go right into the assigned stall. They

have a safety lead on them so they can eat. I don't believe in hay bags as they get caught in them. I constantly keep their feed replenished. I use the finest shavings on the floor. We are in constant communication with the owners."

"There are a lot of shippers out there,"

Pete says, "some have semis and transport up to 15 horses at a time. We never want to be that big; we are hoping to find our niche in providing personal care. To most horse owners, their horses are one of their children and we want to make sure we care for them in that same manner. That is

why we say we go the distance for your horse and you. We are willing to go anywhere, into Canada as well. Small enough to care, big enough to transport anywhere.

"I get comments from people all the time about how nice my trailer is. 'Oh my God,' people tell Pete regularly, 'they're sticking their heads out of the window.' A lot of people come up to the trailer and pet the horses. The horses get a great trip."

The Bergs have two children; they all love horses, however, one daughter has her father's passion when it comes to horses.

Transportation laws vary by state and Berg knows them. "The DOT (Department of Transportation) says I comply with all the safety laws and I'm in compliance. We have taken interstate trucking courses. We obtain the Coggins certificate and require a health certification of the horses to ensure they are healthy and fit; that way I am looking out for the health and safety of the other horses I carry," says Berg.

Each job is individually quoted based on the length of the haul, the gas, and overnight costs. Terri uses a formula to determine the lowest price available for each job, said Pete. With Winner's Circle Transport their motto says it all: "Small enough to care, big enough to transport anywhere."



Protect your farm family from ATV injuries

By Katherine Waters,
University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. (9/20/2010) — Many Minnesota farmers use all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to check on crops and livestock, inspect and repair irrigation systems and fence lines, supervise field crews, herd livestock, and to move things from here to there and back again.

ATVs are useful on the farm, but a growing number of deaths and injuries resulting from accidents led the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (www.necasag.org) to focus on ATVs for this year's National Farm Safety and Health Week, September 19-25.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPCS) reported that in recent years an estimated 25,500 individuals were treated for ATV-related injuries in hospital emergency rooms. Four out of 10 people

treated in emergency rooms for ATV injuries are under the age of 16. The exact number of injuries is not known because many ATV injuries are treated at home.

The CPSC report also indicated that 6.4 percent of all ATV accidents occurred on the farm. This number is expected to grow as the ATV becomes a more common agricultural machine.

Each year, about 800 deaths are associated with ATV accidents nationwide. In Minnesota, 248 deaths have been reported in the past 26 years, with 19 percent of the deaths reported in the past two years. Clearly, the number of deaths per year associated with ATVs has increased in recent years.

The machines are getting bigger and faster, weighing 600 or more pounds, with speeds exceeding 70 miles per hour. Rollover accidents are the most common. When it comes to ATV use, the following

simple safety measures can mean the difference between life and death:

- * Be aware of your surroundings
- * Wear a helmet
- * Be familiar with the manufacturer's safety precautions
- * Don't allow passengers
- * Take an ATV training course
- * Make sure your ATV is equipped with headlights and tail lamps
- * ATVs are designed for off-highway use
- * Display red, reflective warning devices on the front and rear when operating near public roadways

ATV use in Minnesota is regulated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). For a summary of Minnesota ATV laws, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv/index.html. If you operate an ATV, contact the DNR Information Center at 1-888-646-

6367 to receive a free ATV safety training CD.

For more information on how to protect yourself, your farm family and your farm employees during harvest season, visit the National Agricultural Safety Database website at <http://nasdonline.org/browse/1/topic.html>.

During harvest, we see increased use of farm machinery in the fields and on the roads. Let's pay attention to vehicular safety and make this season a safe one for all.

Katherine Waters is an agricultural health and safety educator and food systems program leader with University of Minnesota Extension. She also serves as a regional advisor to the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, and is a member of the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee.



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About the Cover

Actors, reenactors, musicians, cowboys, cowgirls, cooks, gunslingers, ropers and everything western showed up Sept. 17 - 19 for the 6th Annual Spirit of the West Festival in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Top from left to right: Trick riding team of Paula and Brian Bausch entertained the crowd with horsemanship skills galore. Left: Paula rides, and gallops two horses while standing on their back; right: Brian Bausch swings a wedding band rope trick around his stallion, Rustler.

Bottom left: Gunslinger Garret Popek holds whipcracker Adam Winrich on his shoulders while Adam performs a rope trick and Garret does some gunslinging.

Bottom right: Cowboy Mike, from Naples, Fla., was jumping hoops in his rope to stay warm in the cool fall temps in the Big Sioux Valley during the Saturday performance at Spirit of the West Festival in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Photos by Ley Bouchard



Above: Ron and Connie Jabs of Jordan, Minn. dressed in vintage clothing for the Spirit of the West Festival. More on page 16. Below: Nikki James at the WSCA Championship Show Sept. 25-26 at the Coliseum of the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul. Nikki and her horse took home many high-point awards from the show. More on Page 7.



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Paula and Brian Bausch dance with their horses at Spirit of the West Fest

Editorial Information

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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.

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Notes from the Publisher's Pocket

Most of us like to hear the success stories of rescue horses, especially those tales of thoroughbreds or a high point champion. We don't care to take the conversation to its natural conclusion. Why are there rescue horses, what to do about the over-abundance of horses, and how to resolve the slaughter issue?

Many states have pending plans for feasibility studies or have put forth bills to implement horse slaughter plants.

The fact remains that the USA is a major importer of horsemeat. We ship horses out of the country to be slaughtered -- and not in a manner we consider humane -- then we ship the meat back into the USA after slaughter for use in pet food production and zoos. How hypocritical is that?

There are two very powerfully strong opinions on the subject of horse slaughter. I hope everyone listens with their heart and conscience; if everyone took responsibility for our horses, would there be an issue at all?

Ley Bouchard, Editor/Publisher

TEAM USA WINS GOLD!

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - September 27, 2010 - From the NRHA Reiner - With a combined score of 674.5, USA dominated the team competition and proved that they are what many predicted was a Reining "Dream Team." In this afternoon's session, Florida sealed the Gold Medal podium position for Team USA by riding RC Fancy Step to a 227 - also the highest individual score of the competition. This is the second team Gold Medal for USA (2002).

Gold Medal - Team USA

- * Shawn Florida & RC Fancy Step, owned by Buffalo Ranch
- * Tom McCutcheon & Gunners Special Nite, owned by Sarah Willeman
- * Craig Schmursal & Mister Montana Nic, owned by Ericka Smith
- * Tim McQuay & Hollywoodstinstown, owned by David Silva
- * Chef d'Equipe Jeff Petska

The roar from the crowd still hadn't settled from Florida's run, before Belgium's Bernard Fonck entered the arena on BA Reckless Chick. Fonck held his own by scoring a 223.5 and boosting Team Belgium's overall score to 659 and ultimately the Silver Medal. This is Belgium's first World Equestrian Games medal in Reining.

Silver Medal - Team Belgium

- * Bernard Fonck & BA Reckless Chick, owned by Nietvelt Van Tendeloo
- * Ann Poels Fonck & Whizdom Shines, owned by Heaven Reining Horses
- * Cira Baeck & Peek A Boom, owned by Susy Baeck & Ellen Wintermans
- * Jan Boogaerts & Gumpy Grumpy BB, owned by Susy Baeck
- * Chef d'Equipe Susy Baeck

Team Italy earned it's third consecutive WEG Bronze Medal (2002 & 2006) with a combined score of 655.5. Stefano Massignan contributed the team's top score during Saturday's afternoon session - a 224 aboard Yellow Jersey.

Bronze Medal - Team Italy

- * Stefano Massignan & Yellow Jersey, owned by Arcese Quarter Horses USA
- * Dario Carmignani & Red Chic Peppy, owned by Maria Bianchi
- * Nicola Brunelli & Spat A Blue, owned by Claudio Risso
- * Marco Ricotta & Smart And Shiney, owned by Lyle Lovett
- * Chef d'Equipe Mario Sbrana

Despite a strong showing from Rudi Kronsteiner, riding Einsteins Revolution to a 221, Team Austria finished in fourth place - only 1.5 points behind Belgium.

Look at pictures from WEG on WEGreining.com.

BENEFITS FOR HORSE INDUSTRY IN SMALL BUSINESS STIMULUS BILL

Benefits for Horse Industry in Small Business Stimulus Bill The American Horse Council reports that President Obama signed the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010 into law on September 27, 2010. The bill is intended to help small businesses and create new jobs. The bill continues the bigger write-off for horses and other property purchased and placed in service by a horse business that were originally included in earlier stimulus bills.

The first incentive allows an owner who purchases a horse or other business property used in a horse business and places it in service in 2010 or 2011 to expense up to \$500,000 of the cost. This so-called "Section 179" expensing allowance applies to horses, farm equipment and most other depreciable property. Once total purchases of horses and other eligible property reach \$2 million, the expense allowance goes down one dollar for each dollar spent over \$2 million. Without the bill the expensing allowance would have been \$250,000 in 2010 and gone down to \$25,000 for later years.

"Let's assume a horse business purchases \$750,000 of depreciable property in 2010, including \$650,000 for horses, and places it all in service. That business can write off \$500,000 on its 2010 tax return and depreciate the balance," explained American Horse Council President Jay Hickey.

This provision will benefit any business involved in the horse industry that purchases and places

depreciable property in service in 2010 or 2011.

The second incentive reinstates the 50% first-year bonus depreciation for horses and most other depreciable property purchased and placed in service during 2010. Bonus depreciation had expired at the end of 2009. This benefit applies to any property that has a depreciable life of 20 years or less. Also, the property must be new, meaning that the original use of the horse or other property must commence with the taxpayer. For a horse to be eligible, it cannot have been used for any purpose before it is purchased.

"The tax benefits in this bill are great for any horse business that has or is planning on making major purchases," said Hickey.

"The expensing and bonus depreciation provisions can be used together in 2010. For example, let's assume an owner pays \$1,000,000 for a colt to be used for racing and \$100,000 for other depreciable property, bringing total purchases to \$1,100,000 in 2010. If the colt had never been raced or used for any other purpose before the purchase and is placed into service, the owner would be able to expense \$500,000, deduct another \$300,000 of bonus depreciation (50% of the \$600,000 remaining balance), and take regular depreciation on the \$300,000 balance."

"We hope the horse industry will take full advantage of these two tax benefits while they last," said Hickey.

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Home on the Range: High Tail Horse Rescue

By Ley Bouchard

Charlotte Tuhy has been an animal rescuer all her life, so opening a horse rescue was the natural evolution of her life's work. Now surrounded by people who love and support her efforts, she is able to continue, in a more formal manner, that work which she is compelled to do.

"I now find myself with a man wholly supportive of me in my efforts and a wonderful group of friends who provide help and encouragement," says Tuhy. "Also, I have a couple of friends that I met endurance racing who are financially backing our non-profit paperwork and set up costs."

So begins High Tail Horse Rescue in rural Hawley, Minn. "We have chosen a gal from Bemidji, Minnesota who has set up several on-profits, including other equine programs. We are just getting started with the paperwork, so I will let you know how hard it is once we have gotten more into it."

I found the person to help a couple months ago and we needed \$2,000 to start the process

but a need to feed the horses took priority."

Now, says Tuhy, "We have to create a mission statement, a board of directors, do some visiting with her about how to run so as to keep entities separate, and she will write the first two grants for us... We also need to develop a policy about placing horses,

Last spring, at a stockyard in the region, her compassion met a mare and foal. The malnourished mare could no longer nurse the young foal by its side. Tuhy purchased the pair for \$10. How are they now? The foal is doing well in a new home, and the mare still resides at the ranch. She is doing very well.

have had horses all my life, and have worked in the animal care field for most of my life."

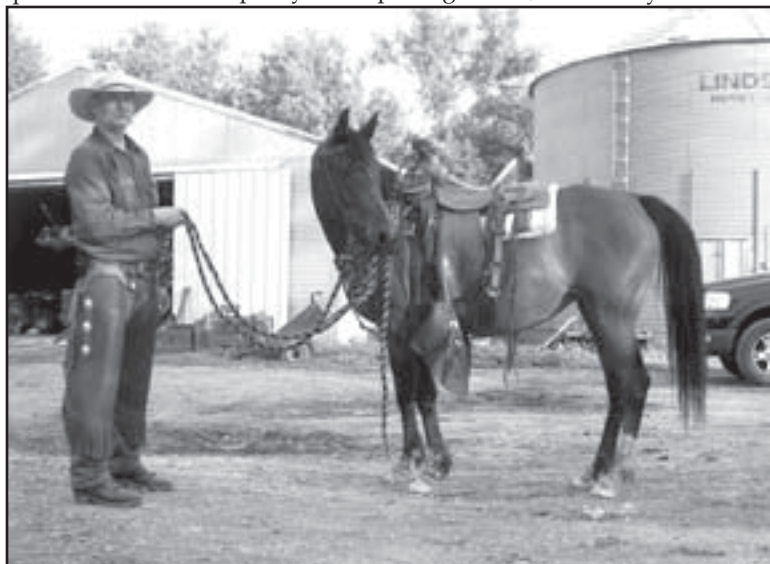
Tuhy started Natural Pet Center in Fargo and also owns and operates Animal Acres Pet Boarding and Grooming Kennel in Fargo.

Thanks to many volunteers, Hail Tail Rescue is running smoothly. "We have at our disposal excellent trainers, animal communicators, veterinary care, a homeopathic and flower

buy most anything, they don't care what, with the exception of small foals. They may offer the foals for giveaway at the sale and take the mother to a feed lot or kill. I'll never forget the auction sale I was at where I found myself sitting next to a kill buyer. He would tell the sale barn employees 'put that one in the pizza pen'. I'm not sure if he was telling me a story or truth, but he said those horses were going to be part of pepperoni! I knew there was a reason I didn't care for that kind of pizza."

Cheyenne is one of those horses destined for the kill market. "One of our up and coming young mares was in a feed lot and she is now making her debut as an endurance horse. Cheyenne was on a limited distance endurance ride with a novice rider on board. Both rider and horse had a terrific time! She's very well broke, forward and likes to move. Right now we are asking what is a fair market value for the horses - even with that we're not breaking even. That might change with the non-profit."

Tuhy's daughter, Jordanne, outbid a kill buyer at a June 2009 auction and bought a double-registered Pintabian gelding, whose name is Cadillac Supreme, for \$200. A good eye runs in the family. He is the VEN featured horse for adoption this month. See side bar article.



"Cowboy Todd" Burley is one of the volunteers at the new High Tail Horse Rescue in Hawley, Minn. With a long work history on ranches in the west, Cowboy Todd trains the rescue horses and helps with the conditioning and preparations for endurance racing.

How to support the horses has become another issue.

"So far, we have been operating out of our own pockets. The money we receive from the sale of horses goes right back into the program," said Tuhy.

I asked if her years of business experience has helped her with this venture.

Tuhy said, "Hmm, if I were business savvy, I would have seen this as a money draining endeavor or a long time ago (chuckle)."

"Ok, I am very good with people, and I am enthusiastic about what I love, and the enthusiasm can be contagious. I can multitask, and past employees have told me that I am a good people manager. I



essence healer, and energetic healers. We have already helped solve many problems for horses and placed them into new homes," said Tuhy.

I asked from where most of their horses come? "People drop them off sometimes. We have also gone to auctions and outbid the kill buyers. I have found them in feed lots and bought them from there as well."

"If you go to a few auctions, you will begin to recognize the faces of the kill buyers. They are the ones buying almost all of the loose horses. They usually know the auctioneers pretty well. They

Come for great food from Olive Garden! Proceeds to benefit Joel Hildebrandt

Joel Hildebrandt had a serious and very scary farming accident August 1st. He was between jobs, and due to start a new job when he decided to help out an equine rescue program by baling hay before his new job started. An accident occurred and he was caught in his round baler up to his chest. A dog heard him screaming, got his owner's attention, 2 neighbors came, then the Hawley, Minn. rescue, and an ambulance. He was airlifted to Fargo for immediate surgery. Fortunately, the staff was able to save his arm. Several days of hospital care, and lots of at-home care and he is recovering. He has not been able to go back to work; Joel did not have any insurance. The medical bills are around \$40,000. and growing.

Hawley Community Center
Saturday, Nov. 20, 5 -8 p.m.
Spaghetti Feed, Raffle and Silent Auction



We are looking for donations of any kind. The Olive Garden has generously donated the spaghetti, sauce and bread sticks, and for that we are very grateful. Thank you in advance!

For donations or more information call:
 Tara Argall 701.238.3265
 Charlotte Tuhy 701.261.8249

Adopt-A-Horse! Cadillac Supreme A double registered Pintabian

Cadillac Supreme is a 9-year-old double registered Pinto and Arabian. He is suitable for light trail riding; he is off at a trot, and will most likely be that way forever, but he still loves to go out for a ride; he has respiratory issues with bad hay and needs someone who will manage that for him. Cadillac Supreme is a little timid at first but very sweet when he trusts; he will spook occasionally but once he figures something out he works through it, if you take time to introduce things to him. He is best with an advanced beginner to intermediate rider. He is available for \$450. (negotiable). Contact Char Tuhy at High Tail Horse Rescue at:



(701)526-3734 & Follow High Tail Horse Rescue on Facebook!

The VEN: Dedicated to finding greener pastures for unwanted horses. Check back each month for a different horse.

WSCA CHAMP SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

Since its inception in 1955, The Western Saddle Clubs Association (WSCA) has supported youth, trail riding and 4-H. With over 230 clubs and more than 12,000 members, affordability and family involvement are main stays of the organization.

In 1959 the Championship Horse Show started with 14 classes on a Sunday afternoon and has

developed into 72 classes in four and a half days; more than 4,000 entrants flooded the Minnesota State Fairgrounds Coliseum Sept. 22 through Sept. 27, 2010.

The WSCA also boasts a scholarship program started in 1977. The organization's board meets monthly in Shakopee, Minn.

For more information go to: www.wsca.org



Emily Rothstein running barrels at the WSCA Champ Show the WSCA Champ Show



Above: Mariah Clarin and Kasondra Scheffler in a rescue race.



Left: Shelby Larkin rounding a barrel.



Right: Bobbi Scheffler on Tequila Rose at the WSCA Champ Show.

TRAIL BLAZER - PART ONE

By Victor Wolf

"Remember, Ginger, stay near the road!" With words like these ringing in her ears Ginger Kathrens began her cinematography career as a writer-editor. The producers who hired her, starting in 1987, were protective of women.

However, Kathrens, talented and dedicated, eventually participated in making wildlife films. Ultimately, her love of nature and wild animals reaped rewards. Kathrens was given the opportunity to film a documentary called "Spirits of the Rain Forest."

Marty Stouffer, television's Wild Kingdom producer and photographer, saw her work and called. He asked, "Will you shoot a 30-minute wild horse documentary? I know you know a lot about horses."

Kathrens said, "I had horses all my life, but I had no idea they did anything interesting. My horses just stood around and grazed all day. It was my love of horses that led me into wildlife film making, but I knew nothing about how they lived in the wild."

She took the assignment and created a shooting script that included a history of the Spanish in the Americas as well as of the Native Americans.

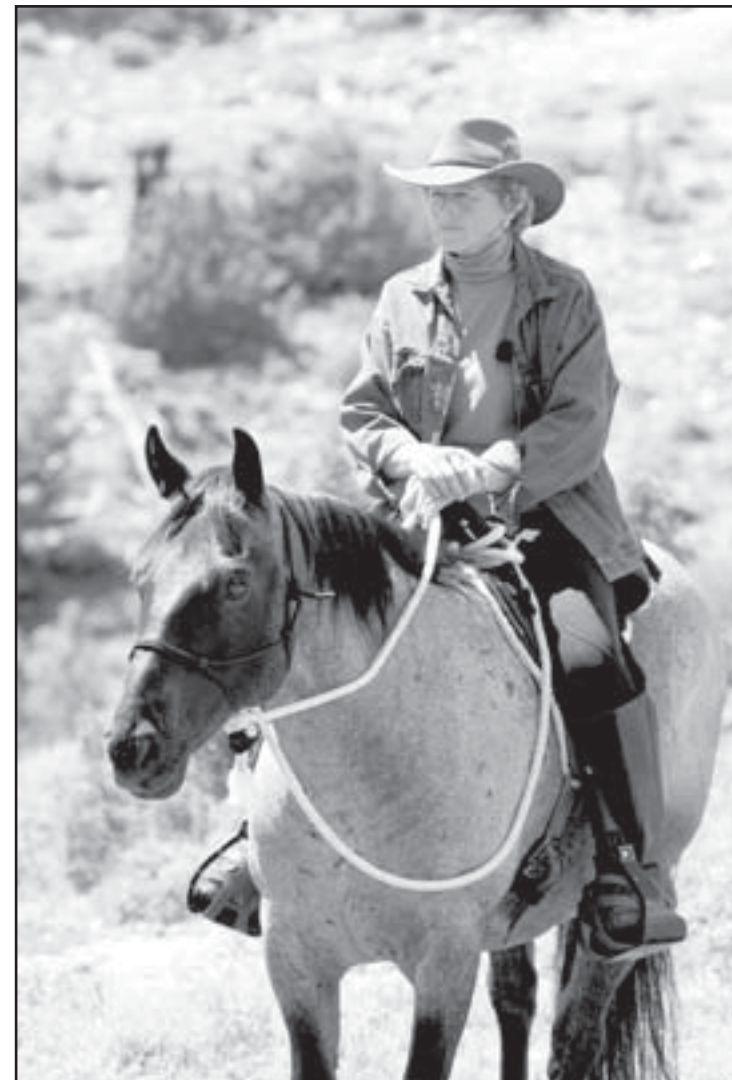
To film it, Kathrens and her sister went on a location scouting trip through parts of Idaho, Oregon and Nevada, before choosing the Wyoming-Montana Pryor Mountains. They arrived in the area in March, 1994.

With the "stay on the road" advisory prowling at the edges of her plans, Kathrens learned of a new foal. The folks at the motel gave the women back country directions to follow, including, "turn right at the old tractor". The two women set out before

dawn, traveling rough roads.

They did make the turn. And they saw a black stallion eating snow at the base of a red butte. The women had found the family of the new-born foal. The sun was just rising over the Big Horn Mountains; and watching qui-

Kathrens said, "I stood up and said, 'That was swell!' I knew my strategy for filming sensitive prey animals would have to change. I decided to sit out in the open in that sub-alpine meadow, careful to maintain my distance from the water hole."



Ginger Kathrens riding Trace, a Pryor Mustang gelding on the Pryor Mountains in Montana.

etly, Kathrens named the horse Raven.

As they observed the horses, Kathrens' sister, who was wearing a white jacket, attracted the stallion's attention. He walked a few steps toward her, shook his head, and snorted explosively. The family became alert, raised their heads, and all galloped away. The band of horses was soon lost in a cloud of dust.

Satisfied with the location, the women made plans to return in June. During the second visit, far off the road, the "be

safe messages" banished from thought, the women traveled along a ridge in a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Kathrens said, "Out of the corner of my eye, I saw horses appear, moving parallel with the car. It was Raven's band."

Kathrens, with her sister's help, looked for a place to conceal her and her photography equipment. She chose a rocky area above a water hole. There, the women built a blind or "hide," such as Kathrens had used to film wildlife in other regions of the world. However, a dun stallion, leading his band to drink, turned toward her, and though she was hidden, the horse looked right at her as the mares drank. He snorted a warning, and the band ran away.

When the horses came near, Kathrens sat still and waved, making herself conspicuous. "My goal," she said, "was to be accepted, not seen as a predator."

"At first, I felt wolf-like, but soon the horses accepted me as a fixture. They all ignored me. The horses seemed to convey, 'She didn't eat Raven, so maybe it's okay'. I became an object, like a rock. With a long lens I was able to document America's last wild horses."

Kathrens said, "Until I began filming, there was nothing about how horses lived in the wild."

Treated by the horses as part of the environment, Kathrens filmed for a year, collecting enough footage to develop two half-hour programs, titled "The Year of the Mustangs." The programs were broadcast as part of Marty Stouffer's "Wild America" series.

"I felt like I had been dropped into horse heaven," Kathrens said, "into the Garden of Eden."

But the brooding, dark clouds of hell drifted toward that Garden from a far horizon.

Horse heaven was soon to feel the effects of a thundering violent storm that would rain terror on the wild horses of the Pryor Mountains and send its searing bolts of lightning to slash at the heart of Ginger Kathrens.

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DO HORSES HAVE SOULS?

Part Three

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

As Hope stood so close to me, head over my right shoulder, my arms around her neck, the world and all concerns for it dropped away. For me, in that place, only one reality remained: two lives had been joined. But even more, I was overcome with the awareness that I had been joined in a union with one life that somehow had connected me with the universality of all of life.

I felt a definite refreshing energy wash over and through me, transforming me from the man I was to the increasingly enlightened man this experience had made of me.

The transformation caused my thoughts to be focused on the immediacy of the experience, and inspiring words flowed within me. The Creator made the covenant with Noah and the animals with him (Genesis 9:1-17). I always understood that Noah was conscious of the covenant, but never before had I given much thought to the animal having any consciousness of that covenant. To have any meaning for the animals, the animals must have had not only an awareness of the Creator, but an understanding of the purpose of the Creator as well.

My search for knowledge continued. As a scientist who had never been trapped in the box, I eagerly sought definitive proof of the significance, quality, and purpose of a companion animal's soul. The scientific method (to test and prove for the same result) is very important to me.

But consciousness for a human is not enough. Humans, so reasoned the inspiration that led me on this most personal journey, are in need of assistance. Something more was required for them if conscious awareness is to be acted upon. In humans, it is called conscience, the repository of all that causes humans to incline toward good.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (the 1951 edition, chosen for its rich details) defines conscience as: "to know, to be aware, sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one's own conduct, intentions or character, together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good."

Conscience is, "hence, a faculty, power, or principle conceived to decide as to the moral quality of one's own thoughts or acts, enjoining (or, commanding) what is good."

Humans, however, have freedom of choice and can ignore the influence of conscience.

The definition brought understanding that this is why companion animals, from elephants to dust mop dogs, do not kill us when our backs are turned, or while we are asleep. This is why animals endure with such great patience and resignation various forms of abuse, mistreatment, and neglect. Companion animals cannot resist being inclined toward good. Unless, of course, the animal has been driven mad and has lost access to its conscience.

Science, generally, cannot attribute conscience in animals without admitting the Creator is Real. This subject is a matter for the metaphysician. Science is trapped in a box of its own making, formed on four sides and the bottom by what can be seen, felt, heard, touched or smelled. The top of the box may appear to be open, allowing seekers unlimited vision; but the box is enclosed by the "clarity" of self-centered thinking that reflects thought back onto itself.

As I held the mare in my arms, 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.



In 2004, Johnny Berguson, founder of the American Horse Institute, lifted me more deeply into the spiritual realm I had been traveling. The impulse to purchase his course was persistent and irresistible.

You have no doubt seen his "Johnny and the Sheik" advertisement in Horse Illustrated magazine. Until 1996, when Shiek passed on, they had been featured many times on television, including The 700 Club and in such magazines as Horse & Rider and Christian Life. Johnny estimated that Shiek performed dozens of tricks in over one thousand personal appearances, the largest about 30,000.

Ordering the course was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Berguson further refined my thinking as I listened to his much valued audio distance learning program, "The World's Most Complete Course in Horse Training."

Berguson explained in great detail how he applied specific biblical principles to his horse training method. He treated his horse the way he himself would want to be treated, approaching his horse as if it had intelligence and feelings. And Berguson discovered that his horse, responding with the intelligence God provided, learned nearly a hundred commands.

Berguson spoke of his compassion and understanding, and how the horse always did his best to please. In short order, man and horse became friends.

Berguson taught that God gave man dominion over the animals, but he applied the principle differently. During a Sunday school class, upon hearing the verse telling parents to train up a child in the way he should go, Berguson realized the verse applied to horses as well.

As I listened to the lessons, I recalled the abused mare I had privately re-named Hope. I came to understand that companion animals have intelligence roughly equivalent to a two-year-old human child. A horse and child are old enough to act independently, but too young to act responsibly. Both are easily frightened. Both must be guided in learning what is required of them in order to become respected participants in the human realm of life and activity.

It was enough that Hope opened the way for me to understand companion animals. From this very private beginning, I have devoted my life to helping horses and their humans overcome problems by teaching them both the uncomplicated truth as I have learned it. 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?

Victor Wolf has been a student of classical metaphysics and the martial arts since high school. In 1974 he began studying T'ai Chi and the energetic healing practices of Chinese medicine to overcome the effects of a serious accident. He completed a four year guided independent study of Earth Science and Journalism at then-William Penn College, Oskaloosa, IA (1994) and a doctorate from the College of Divine Metaphysics, Glendora, CA (1996).

Also in 1996, after demonstrated expertise in applying the healing aspects of Chinese medicine's energetic healing therapies Wolf was certified by Five Rings School of Martial Arts in 1996. He opened a wellness center and soon became a Master Instructor.

In 2003 Wolf was part of a group of some 40 concerned people who wanted to organize an equine rescue in Pueblo County. The attempt failed, but during that time, a divine appointment with a grievously abused 4-year old Arab/QH mare changed the direction of his life. He closed the center.

For two years as he helped horses he also learned how to apply his knowledge of healing to rehabilitating abused horse, completing the American Horse Institute horse training program (2004). Still later, he developed a ten week T'ai Chi program for improving horsemanship. In 2005 he was ordained an evangelist by the Wild West Cowboy Church, Pueblo, Co. He also established the Institute's Equestrian Center in 2005. Wolf travels Colorado's Front Range, providing his services to horses and their people exclusively. Contact by email, amani_farm@yahoo.com or 970.691.3946.

Minnesota EquiFest Features Driving Clinic

The Minnesota EquiFest is bringing Mary Ruth Marks here to Minnesota on October 16th and 17th, 2010 for an educational weekend for the driving community. There will be 20 minute sessions with Mary Ruth called, "Plugging the Holes in Your Training." She will have you drive or long line, whichever you prefer, and will offer suggestions to help further your training. Six lessons each day will be followed by a scurry competition. Afternoon workshops on Rein Handling, Whip Handling and Proper Position in the Carriage will all be hands on sessions.

Lectures on conditioning, proper attire and driving activities that are available to participants will take place in our classroom area. Discussions on Long Lining and Behavior Modification through training and equipment will round out our weekend.

The cost will be \$130.00 for the weekend which includes a stall with bedding, one 20-minute lesson, participation in the workshops and scurry activity.

This should be a great learning weekend to give you ideas to work on with your horse through the winter for next year's driving. There is nothing more pleasurable than a willing and well-mannered horse to have as your companion.

For more information you may contact Grace Ostien, 763-441-3422. Contact Grace for a Horse Stall Contract.



U OF M EXTENSION ANNOUNCES FLOOD WEB, PHONE RESOURCES

ST. PAUL, Minn. (9/24/2010) - University of Minnesota Extension announced today its coordinated system of online and phone answer resources available for those with flood-related questions. Heavy rains on top of saturated soils over the past week have created flooding in several Minnesota communities. Gov. Tim Pawlenty has declared a state of emergency.

Citizens can access the most up-to-date information on flood response, safety and cleanup by visiting Extension's flood and water website, www.extension.umn.edu/Flood, or calling Extension's toll free phone services, the Flood Information Line (1-800-232-9077) and the AnswerLine (1-800-854-1678).

"When extreme weather creates challenging situations, Extension's role is to respond rapidly with the research-based information people need most," said Extension Dean Beverly Durgan. "Our staff across Minnesota work with state and federal partners and their colleagues in

neighboring states to deliver information via community efforts, our website and our phone answer lines."

Extension's online resources include information for families and agricultural producers, for the immediate hazards as well as coping with the long-term aspects of clean-up and family financial recovery.

Extension's Flood Information Line is a resource for questions about water, crops, horticulture and climatology issues. Extension's AnswerLine provides answers to household and family oriented questions, including food safety concerns. Both phone services will refer callers to appropriate state and federal agencies if additional information is needed.

For more information on disaster response resources from University of Minnesota Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/extreme-weather.

For more University of Minnesota Extension news, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news



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**GOLDEN EAGLE EQUESTRIAN
TEAMS OPEN
2010-2011 SEASON**

(Crookston, Minn.)- The University of Minnesota, Crookston Hunt Seat and Western Equestrian teams opened the 2010-2011 season with very successful shows.

The University of Minnesota, Crookston Hunt Seat team started the 2010-2011 season with a successful show at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. In addition to the host Gusties and U of M, Crookston, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, Rochester Community and Technical College and St. Cloud State University participated.

Coach Brooke Leininger felt the show was a huge success. "I was pleased at how well the team came together and pulled through some very tough moments," says Coach Leininger. "I was especially excited to see some of the freshman come out and compete as well as they did for the first time along with the Novice riders that competed over fences for the first time. They rode smart and stayed focused."

At Saturday's competition, Angela Peterson (So, Detroit Lakes, Minn.) finished second in Novice Equitation Over Fences and second in Novice Equitation on the Flat. Jessica Charles (So, Belgrade Lakes, Maine) won in her Novice Equitation Over Fences class and took second in her Novice Equitation on the Flat section, making her the Reserve High Point Rider. Tiffany Rask-Holloman (So, Minneapolis, Minn.) and Rebecca Wittrock (Fr, Forest Lake, Minn.) both won their Walk-Trot-Canter classes, and Annalee Sundin (Fr, Deer River, Minn.) took second in Walk Trot. The team finished second overall as Reserve High Point Team behind the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

Sunday's competition started off with a win from Angela Peterson in Novice Equitation Over Fences and a second in Novice Equitation on the Flat which gave her the Reserve High Point Rider title. Jessica Charles was second in Novice Equitation Over Fences. Laura Critchett (Sr, Shoreview, Minn.) finished second in Open Equitation on the Flat and Sara Wells (Sr, Calgary, Alb.) finished first in Intermediate Equitation on the Flat. Katelyn Mueller (Jr, Belle Plaine, Minn.) pointed out of Walk Trot Canter which qualified her for the Regional Championships in March. Rebecca Wittrock once again won her Walk-Trot-Canter class and Annalee Sundin won the Walk Trot Class. The team finished the day as High Point Team.

The Golden Eagle Western team also had a very successful weekend in River Falls, Wis. at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. On Saturday, the team was extremely consistent and won many blue ribbons. Class winners included: Kaitlyn Tollefsrud (Jr, Hawley, Minn.), Amanda Flint (So, Aberdeen, S.D.), Karen Carpenedo (So, Bessemer, Mich.), Anna Steen (Jr, Hanover, Minn.), Sabra Amundson (Fr, Colton, S.D.) and Amy Van Treeck (So, Sheboygan Falls, Wis.). Following with several second place finishes were Megan Kramer (Jr, Owatonna, Minn.) and Lisa Schabo (So, Appleton, Wis.). Kayla Klein (Sr, Hazen, N.D.) grabbed a third place in her Open Horsemanship division. U of M, Crookston ended the day one point out of the High Point team and took Reserve High Point Team for the day. It was a strong start at one of the toughest horse shows they will attend this year.

On Sunday, Klein started out with a first place finish in the open again. Kayla Krueger (So, Walker, Minn.) rode extremely well to a second place ribbon along with Steen. Carpenedo and Amundson again had solid rides to first place. Melissa Freitag (Fr, Wolverton, Minn.) and Shabo each took third. The team finished up one point out of reserve and ended up third overall for points at the end of the day. "I was very excited to see the team perform so well at the first show of the season," says Golden Eagle Western Coach Nicky Overgaard. "They all rode so well and those riders that struggled the first day

Leading Edge: Progressive approaches to horses and riding

WHAT IS STRAIGHTNESS AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

BY JULIE PENSCHORN

Why is straightness important? Simply put, if a horse is not straight, he or she can't perform at her best. Without straightness, horses aren't able to push themselves forward in an even, symmetrical way, and hence don't run as fast, turn as efficiently, or collect as well.

Horses go crooked for three main reasons: 1) to alleviate discomfort/pain/lameness 2) because they've never been taught to go straight, 3) because the rider is crooked.

The definition we'll use for straightness that comes from dressage is: "parallelism to required line of travel (e.g. haunches neither left nor right of centerline or circle line), or to line of reference (e.g. in leg yielding - haunches neither leading nor trailing)." * This simply means that no matter what pattern you are riding, the horse moves as if his body was assembled of train cars, (instead of vertebra) and none of the cars has jumped the track! His rear end follows his front unwaveringly.

This can be hard to determine on a circle or even on a straight line. When you're riding you can't see whether or not his hind feet step in or over the print of the front feet, and not to the inside or the outside of the circle line. It's very important to have a teacher or a friend watch you as you ride on a circle or directly at them. They should tell you of any deviation from straight that the horse makes, for example, "Her rear end is over to the right."

If you study straightness, sooner or later you are likely to find YOU have physical challenges that make your horse crooked. Often a chiropractor or especially a very deep tissue massage therapist or Rolfer can help you become a better, straighter rider. Otherwise you'll have to constantly adjust your position so you can be as straight as possible. Without constant feedback from a discerning teacher, you or the horse can't possibly be straight.

Undoubtedly you've seen or ridden horses that twist their necks so their head doesn't stay perpendicular to the ground when you bend them. Instead, one ear is lower than the other and the nose tilts away from the low ear. This horse is not straight, and even if his hind legs are somehow following the front ones, he doesn't get to be considered straight until all head tilting is gone.

In my experience, most horses do carry their rear end to the right of center. Along with this often goes a shoulder that falls



Photo above: Kelly and Reina quite straight. - In this picture the rider has gotten the horse quite straight. She's used her reins a bit too wide. Using the reins in this way can help a rider straighten her horse, however, because when the reins are a bit wide they make a better "funnel" to "pour" your horse into! Often a low, wide hand can help with both roundness and straightness issues, which are intimately connected. As the horse and rider improve their skills, the seat and legs take over more and more of the straightening responsibilities and then, of course, many compensating hand adjustments are not necessary. There are two ways in which we like to make a straight line from elbow to bit. In this picture the rider has a pretty good line if you look from the side. In other words, for the position of the horse's head, her hands are about the correct height. But from the front, you can see the width of her hands causes a definite break in the line from elbow to bit -- the right arm more than the left. Though you can see a tiny bit of the left hind, which might indicate crookedness, I think this mare is essentially straight because she moves with her front legs a bit closer together than her hinds. The horse is beginning to go down toward a stretching walk, thus the deep frame.

to the left. Many believe this inclination is related to the way horses lay when in the womb. Some think it's because the horse is weaker or lamer in the right hind and avoiding carrying it up and under his body. Others will blame rider crookedness. If we are right-handed we tend to pull on the right rein more.

If you really want to improve your horse and your riding, follow the word of the masters: "Make your horse forward and ride him straight."**

See the "Glossary of Judging Terms," found in the back of the USDF Directory which every member of USDF receives in the mail. These terms are also on the USDF.org website.

**Gustav Steinbrecht

Julie Penschorn 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.

MONTANA HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Wolf Point - The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center (MCHF&WHC) is seeking nominations for the 2011 Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame induction round. This will mark the first year the MCHF&WHC will induct living historical figures that made an impact on Montana's Western Heritage before 1960. The MCHF&WHC will also continue with its "Legacy Inductions" for the fourth year, honoring those historical figures that have had an impact on Montana's Western heritage in the years 1860 to 1960. Anyone with an interest in Montana's history and Western heritage is invited to submit a nomination.

Nominees can be men, women, ranches, stage coach lines, animals, hotels, etc., - in other words, anything or anyone who made their mark in the state of Montana before 1960, no matter the year of death or closure. Past inductees have included Sitting Bull, Evelyn Cameron, the N Bar N Ranch, Charles M. Russell, Plenty Coups, Granville Stuart, Nelson Story, the Grant-Kohrs Ranch, Alice Greenough, the Montana Stockgrowers Association, Fannie Sperry Steele, Frank Bird Linderman and the Vigilantes of Montana. Full biographies of all inductees from 2008-2010 are available online at <http://www.montanacowboyleft.com>.

If you are interested in making a nomination please contact Christy Stensland at the MCHF&WHC Tack Room office at (406) 653-3800 and request a nomination submission packet. All nomination documents must be postmarked by December 15, 2010 to be included in this year's slate of nominations.

The 2011 Class of Inductees will be determined by a vote of the Trustees from each of the twelve Districts that represent the entire state of Montana. The Trustees

representing their respective Districts will vote on those nominations brought forward from their District. The Trustees will choose one "Legacy Inductee" and one inductee that is still living. (Go to the MCHF&WHC website for a list of the Trustees and a map of the twelve Districts of the MCHF&WHC.) The 2011 Class of the MCHF&WHC will be announced by press release in June of 2011. Next of kin or an establishment representing the award recipient will receive a MCHF&WHC certificate and will be invited to be recognized at the next Annual "Circle the Wagons" Gathering.

The Valley Equestrian: Local Wherever Distributed!



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had better rides the second day. The improvement is very important for us."

The Hunt Seat team returns to action on October 9-10 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The Western team will host a home show at the University Teaching and Outreach Center (UTOOC) on October 23-24.

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

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Samantha Tamke, 14, of Northwood, ND with Danna's Cheer for Little Bucks Girl. BG won the AMHR Under Mare Jr Championship and the Grand Championship at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot, ND on July 29, 2010. BG is a double registered yearling filly.

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~Ralph Waldo Emerson

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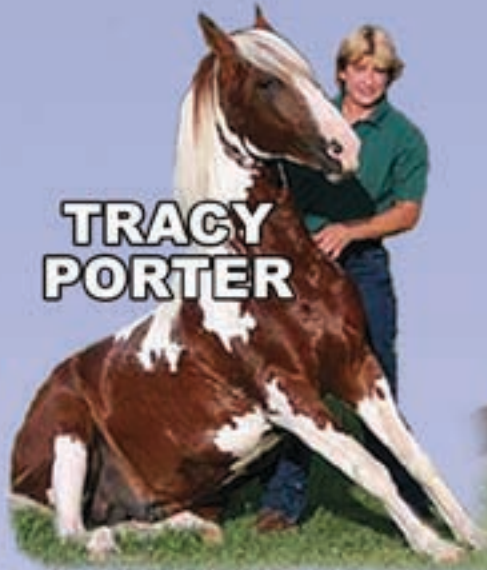
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PLANS ARE PROGRESSING FOR A STATE-OF-THE-ART PROCESSING PLANT DESIGNED TO HUMANELY SLAUGHTER HORSES IN WYOMING

The Unified Equine LLC plant is only one component of a holistic system designed to provide a solution to the problem of excess domestic horses in the United States. All horses entering the holistic Unified Equine System will be first evaluated by veterinarians. If they are in poor condition they will be sent to the Rejuvenation Program for extra feed, care, and supplementation to put them quickly back to good health. If they are in decent condition and have any prospect for use they will be sent to the Rescue Program which is a collaborative effort with college and university equine training programs and private horse trainers to train, re-train and market horses. If they are inappropriate for either slaughter or other aspects of the system such as pregnant mares, colts, yearlings, and weanlings they will be put on pasture until ready for re-evaluation and placement. Finally, those horses that are past their useful life, unsound and unable to recover, or dangerous and untrainable will be humanely processed.

All facilities for the handling of horses, and systems and procedures for the humane killing of horses will be designed by world

renowned animal scientist Dr. Temple Grandin and her team at Grandin Livestock Systems. The rest of the facility is being designed by Randy King of King Construction and Wayne Schmeckle of Schmeckle Brothers who are respected contractors in the meat processing industry. Once constructed the facility will be under constant third-party video monitoring to ensure humane handling and food safety. All products will be produced under American Meat Institute regulations and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture - Meat Inspection which meets or exceeds USDA requirements for food safety, and all products will be certified as being humanely processed.

Three legal entities will manage and operate the entire system. The United Horsemen's Front, an existing 501c3 nonprofit has shortened its name to United Horsemen, moved registration from Oregon to Wyoming, and will oversee the Rejuvenation, Rescue, and Pasture portions of the Unified Equine System. A new legal entity, Unified Equine LLC has been set up to operate the meat processing and associated enterprises. The United

Organizations of the Horse, a mutual benefit nonprofit formed for political action will continue, but will not be the main focus of any part of the system.

Once complete the processing facility will be capable of humanely processing 200 horses per day for meat and byproducts. Initial product will be primarily marketed as zoo diet and pet food. This new facility is planned to be sited on property near Guernsey, Wyoming.

Unified Equine LLC is finalizing cost estimates and beginning the process of acquiring the necessary financing and permitting that will be required, a process anticipated to take at least six months. Once construction begins the plant should be operational within six months.

At full capacity the facility will create approximately 100 good paying jobs with competitive benefits in a rural area that is economically depressed. Hiring preferences for construction and operating positions will be given to local workers. A comprehensive training and safety program will be implemented, and all permanent employees will be stock-owning partners in the enterprise.



CHOOSE YOUR FALL TILLAGE METHODS BASED ON SOIL CONDITIONS

By Jodi DeJong-Hughes, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. (9/27/2010) — Fall tillage decisions became a lot more complicated because of the heavy rains in September. Flooding and the prospects for another wet harvest season will make effectively using tillage to manage residues more difficult. University of Minnesota Extension research can provide some guidance.

In a dry fall, there are more options for residue management, and deeper tillage will have less negative effect on the soil. Even so, different implements have differing effects on soil structure and residue incorporation. Chisel plows have more of a lifting effect on the soil and the soil tends to fracture along natural plains. Extension research shows that chisel plows can incorporate about 50 to 70 percent of the residue.

A disk has more down pressure. The smearing and shearing effect breaks apart more soil structure than chisels. However, disks are very effective at

cutting and sizing residue for decomposition, making planting easier in the spring. Depending on the shape and size of the disk, 40 to 80 percent of the residue is incorporated.

If your fields are wet during harvest and ruts are created, the first instinct is to aggressively fill them in. To protect the existing soil structure, just fill in the ruts with light tillage by running equipment at an angle. You may need two or three passes to accomplish this. These areas will not yield as well as the non-rutted area, but there is not much you can do to change this.

When the soils are wet and residue management is the main issue, a light tillage pass with a vertical-till implement is useful for sizing and incorporating some residue and introducing air to the soil. Vertical tillage runs 1 to 3 inches deep and uses straight or wavy coulters, a harrow, with rolling baskets being optional. Vertical tillage fluffs-up the remaining

residue with shallow penetration and minimal soil movement.

Lifting wet soils can create clods. If using a chisel plow or disk ripper, shallow up the shanks, and use narrow points. The wings have a higher potential for smearing the soil. Clods in themselves are not bad going into winter; they will leave more surface area for water infiltration. However, a field with clods is more difficult to break apart and may need multiple tillage passes in the spring to get ready for planting.

Keep your options open as things can change quickly. Visit the tillage page on the University of Minnesota Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/tillage for more information.

Jodi DeJong-Hughes is a crops educator with University of Minnesota Extension.

NURTURING OUR MOST IMPORTANT CROP THROUGH 4-H

By Bev Durgan, Dean, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. (9/27/2010) - The most important crop that we raise in Minnesota is our young people. The future of our state depends on the skills and abilities of the next generation.

The challenge of preparing tomorrow's leaders is one reason I believe so strongly in youth organizations like 4-H, where young people take the lead in addressing today's challenges. Each year, more than 113,000 kids throughout Minnesota participate in 4-H and learn skills that they will use throughout their lives: exploring, learning, gaining confidence and giving back to their communities.

As we celebrate National 4-H Week Oct. 3-9, 2010, I encourage you to take a look at your local 4-H and recognize the young people stepping up and taking responsibility for their future and ours. This is also a good time to say thank you to the 13,000 Minnesota adults who make a difference by volunteering their time to help 4-H participants each year. 4-H is Minnesota's largest youth serving program, providing young people with opportunities to learn and grow in all 87 counties.

I am a former 4-H'er who has benefited from the way 4-H builds leadership ability, confidence and decision-making skills. What 4-H'ers "learn by doing" makes a difference not only in their lives, but

in the lives of everyone around them. Minnesota 4-H'ers learn to work hard and set goals in projects ranging from exhibiting livestock to photography to rocketry. Today, there are many ways to get involved in 4-H, including traditional clubs, after-school programs and outreach and community service projects.

A 2009 report on positive youth development from Tufts University confirmed the positive impact that 4-H has on young people. According to the study, young people who take part in 4-H:

- * have better grades and are more emotionally engaged with school
- * score higher in their ability to make friends and work well with others
- * are more than twice as likely to contribute to their communities
- * are less likely to experience depression and 47 percent less likely to have risky or problem behaviors

Minnesota is fortunate to have dedicated professionals

and volunteers who invest time in programs that provide opportunities and guidance to our youth. At University of Minnesota Extension, we are proud to provide opportunities for 4-H participants to develop their "head, heart, hands and health" for the benefit of their families, their clubs, their communities, their country and their world.

To learn more about Minnesota 4-H, visit www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H.

To watch a short video of Minnesota 4-H in action, visit www.extension.umn.edu/source.

Bev Durgan is dean of University of Minnesota Extension and director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.



Paul Zarzyski, internationally acclaimed "cowboy poet" and annual headliner at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada will be performing at the Minot State

University Aleshire Theatre in conjunction with the Notstock Festival on Thursday, October 7th at 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

WYOMING AGRABILITY PROJECT HIRES A PROJECT COORDINATOR

Kelley Dees started in August, said Randy Weigel, AgrAbility project director.

Dees is in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming and is part of the UW Cooperative Extension Service (UW CES), said Weigel, a professor and the extension human development specialist in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the college.

Wyoming AgrAbility (www.uwyo.edu/agrability/) provides education to service providers and producers, information and networking with providers and directs assistance to ranchers and farmers whose families are affected by a disability, said Dees.

Wyoming AgrAbility is part of a national program focused on promoting independence in ranchers, farmers, farm workers and their families who have injuries or limitations leading to disability. Wyoming AgrAbility focuses on helping the more than 6,000 Wyoming ranch and farm members who may have a

disability.

Partnering agencies include the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) in the UW College of Health Sciences, Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation (WILR) in Casper and Wyoming Services for Independent



Living (WSIL) in Lander.

WIND, through its WIND Assistive Technology Resources (WATR), provides leadership for disability and assistive technology (AT). Mary Fick Monteith, AT specialist for WATR and AgrAbility, said AT device loans, demonstrations, recycling, information and referral and trainings are available from

WATR.

Independent living specialists from WILR and WSIL are available to go to a ranch or farm to assess and suggest modifications in equipment, facilities or workload.

Dees grew up on a small farm in rural Alabama. Having participated in 4-H for many years, she has a strong understanding of agriculture, said Weigel. Her college education also provided training in assistive technology, Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines and other areas related to disability.

Wyoming AgrAbility can assist those engaged in agriculture who have an injury or disability ranging from arthritis, hearing impairment, spinal cord injury, amputation anything that affects them not being able to utilize the ranch or farm to its full potential," Dees said.

The confidential program services are offered at no cost.

Dees can be contacted toll-free at (866) 395-4986 or at agrability@uwyo.edu for referrals or more information.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN INDIAN HORSE?

An introduction to the Indian Horse and its Registry

The American Indian Horse has a long and colorful history which has often been plagued with hardship. The horse of Native America has survived against all odds and thrives in today's world, a true testimony to the hardiness of the breed.

The American Indian Horse is uniquely American. It is descended from the Iberian horses brought to the New World by the Spanish Conquistadors and colonists in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was developed by the native American people who saw the potential in this 'God Dog' and was instrumental in the history of the Mexican Vaquero and American Cowboy, along with the Pony Express. When the U.S. government subdued the native people, they tried to eliminate two things - the buffalo and the native horses. Fortunately for those of us today, they failed in both attempts.

The American Indian horse had profound impact on the founding of all true American breeds. In recognition of these contributions the AIHR has five classifications of registration. Not only are the Original Indian Horses (often double registered with the Spanish Mustang Registry, the Southwest Spanish Mustang Association, the Horse of the Americas and other 'Mustang' organizations) eligible for registration with AIHR, but their hybrids and modern day descendants as well. Registration classification is based on pedigree information (if known), inspection by photograph and evaluation of each horse.

All of the colors known to the horse world occur in this breed, from solid to roans to appaloosas or paints and any combination - on one color or pattern is discriminated against. AIHR follows the old truism - "A good horse can't be a bad color."

Indian Horses are normally a smaller, more compact animal of under 15 hands. Narrow but deep chest is often displayed and desired. Large expressive eyes shine with intelligence. They often have a lot of mane and tail. Hooves are hard and prepared by Mother Nature to survive hot summers in arid deserts, frigid winters and slopping conditions in between on less feed than other breeds. They can be ridden long distances with fewer injuries, perform heavy ranch

COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV ALVESHIERE LOOKING A 'GIFTED' HORSE IN THE MOUTH

A 'STABLE' HORSE GOES TO COUNTRY SCHOOL
Sometimes the best life's lessons could be learned from others.
Sometimes young boys would imitate their older brothers.
Sometimes tiny country schools are held in rude disdain.
We strongly disagree and we will try to explain.
Would the outside, unknowing world falsely presume
That we'd learn less in a country school with only one room?
There was a countrified dependability course
And the TEACHER was, surprise, a 16 year old horse!

EVERYONE 'KNOWS' THAT HORSE'S NOSE
At the school house door, arriving at 3:30 each day
Stood a tired old workhorse who could have JUST SAID "NEIGH."
The first thing young students saw when opening the door
Was that horse's long familiar nose, they'd seen before.
That plow horse had an unexpected schedule to maintain.
She wasn't sent to the school to stimulate her brain.
As regular as sunrise, from all students reports,
Was that one-speed, perhaps slow, two-directional horse.

TRADITIONAL PLOWHORSE/A SCHOOLED BELLE
Her human burden in years gone by were two young boys;
Graduated and grown, but their equine pride and joy
Was now ridden by their 3rd grade baby brother.
At age 9, he's still considered the baby, to Mother.
She'd packed a lunch in a syrup pail and sent him to school,
Riding on old 'Belle' we report ... she was nobody's fool!
Belle only walked, but the smiling young rider she transports
Straight to the country school. She was a well-broken horse.

TWO SCHOOL BELLS/SPECIAL DELIVERY/UPHILL BOTH WAYS
Like his 2 older brothers, riding through the fruited plain.....*
Through summer fallow and fields of amber waving grain.
The lad turned Belle loose to send her home, and on her way.
The school barn had a haymow, noticeably without hay;
So there was no valid reason for her to remain
That's inside information that we need to explain.
Walking home for hay, she never changed or altered her course.
A decade older than rider, Belle was a steady horse.

OLD-SCHOOL HORSE/JOGGING DOWN MEMORY LANE
His Father sent Belle back to school on a return trip,
An example of true and pioneer horsemanship.
Dependable and mostly on time, she arrived on cue.
The young students watched for school day's end and for her too.
She was not educated, although she went to school.
She slept on straw in a barn and ate oats and hay for fuel.
A well-trained Nag who did obey both English and Norse
In his youth he rode to school, on a BI-LINGUAL HORSE!

Previously he rode double in grades 1 & 2, behind his brother.

and range work with more power than horses much larger than they.

You may have an American Indian horse in your barn or pasture. For more information on the American Indian Horse and its registry: AIHR, 9028 State Park Road, Lockhart, TX

78644, 512-398-6642; www.indianhorse.com or email: aihrnanci@gmail.com
The American Indian Horse -- An Original



WESTERN LEGEND ALICE TUBBS aka POKER ALICE

"At my age I suppose I should be knitting. But I would rather play poker with five or six 'experts' than eat."

Alice Ivers Tubbs; aka: Poker Alice (1851-1930) - Perhaps the best known female poker player in the Old West, Alice Ivers actually hailed from England. Born on February 17, 1851 in Devonshire, she was the daughter of a conservative schoolmaster who moved the family to the United States when she was still a small girl. First settling in Virginia, Alice attended an elite boarding school for young women until the family moved again in her teenage years, to the silver rush in Leadville, Colorado.

While there, Alice met a mining engineer by the name of Frank Duffield and the two married when she was twenty. Gambling was a way of life in the many mining camps of the Old West and when Frank, an enthusiastic player, visited the many gambling halls in Leadville, young Alice went along with him rather than stay home alone. At first, the pretty young girl stood quietly behind her husband, simply watching the play. However, a quick study, it wasn't long before she was sitting in on the games, quickly demonstrating proficiency for poker and faro.

A few years after their marriage, Alice's husband, who worked as a mining engineer, was killed in an explosion and she was left alone with no means of support. The few remaining jobs available to women in a mining camp did not appeal to Alice and she soon decided to try to make a living with her gambling skills. At this time, Alice was a petite 5'4" beauty, with blue eyes and lush brown hair. A "lady" in a gambling hall that wasn't of the "soiled dove" variety was a rare in the Old West, and bedecked in the latest fashions, she was a sight for the sore eyes of many a miner.

Traveling from one mining camp to another, the talented young beauty soon acquired the nickname "Poker Alice." In addition to playing the game, she often worked as a dealer, in cities all over Colorado including Alamosa, Central City, Georgetown and Trinidad. As time went on, Alice began to puff on large black cigars, while still in her fashionable frilly dresses; however, she never gambled on Sundays because of her religious beliefs. She also carried a .38 revolver

and wasn't afraid to use it.

Alice eventually made her way to Deadwood, South Dakota around 1890. While there, she met a man named Warren G. Tubbs, who worked as a housepainter in Sturgis, but sidelined as a dealer and gambler. Though she routinely beat Tubbs at the gaming tables, he was taken with her and the two began to see each other outside of the gambling halls. On one occasion when a drunken miner threatened Tubbs with a knife, Alice pulled out her .38 and put a bullet into the miner's arm. Tubbs and Alice eventually married and the couple would have seven children. A painter by trade, Tubbs, along with Alice's gambling profits, supported the family. The couple eventually moved out of Deadwood, where they homesteaded a ranch near Sturgis on the Moreau River.

Now, in her 70s and with her beauty and fashionable gowns long gone, Alice struggled in her last years, continuing to gamble, but now dressing in men's clothing.

She continued to run a "house" of ill-repute in Sturgis during her later years and was often arrested for drunkenness and keeping a disorderly house. Though she paid her fines, she continued to operate the business until she was finally arrested for repeated

convictions of running a brothel and sentenced to prison. However, Alice, who 75 years old at the time, was pardoned by the governor.

At the age of 79 she underwent a gall bladder operation in Rapid City, but died of complications on February 27, 1930. She was buried at St. Aloysius Cemetery in Sturgis, South Dakota.

In her later years, Alice claimed to have won more than \$250,000 at the gaming tables and never once cheated. In fact, one of her favorite sayings was: "Praise the Lord and place your bets. I'll take your money with no regrets."

Information sources: © Kathy Weiser/Legends of America, January, 2009 and <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-pokeralice.html>

Column written by Terri Engle, Institute of Range and American Mustang, Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary



ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HORSE EVENTS

Call before you haul -- The Valley Equestrian is not responsible for changes to scheduled events

Oct. 1: Barrel Futurity, 4D, Barrel Race and 3D Pole Bending at the R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. call (218) 445-5849

Oct. 2-3: AEER Dressage Hunter/Jumper Show at 10 a.m. at the Shelley Johnson Arena

Oct. 2: Silver Buckle Saddle Club horse show at 8:30 a.m. at the Silver Buckle Arena in Plymouth, Minn. Call Roy Johnson at (763) 557-2920

Oct. 2: Silver Bullet Saddle Club game show at 9 a.m. at the Silver Bullet Arena in Clearwater, Minn. Call (320) 557-0783

Oct. 2: Upper Midwest Buckskin Horse Assoc. horse show at 8:30 p.m. at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Black River, Wisc. Call (608) 343-5690

Oct. 2: MN Circuit Riders SC fun show at the LeSueur Saddle Club Arena in LeSueur, Minn. Call (612) 623-3382

Oct. 2: Fall Regional Horse Owner Programs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in St. Paul, Minn. Call (612) 625-6776 for registration information.

Oct. 5-10: The 2010 Minnesota Harvest Horse Show at the State Fair Coliseum of the St. Paul, Minn. Fairgrounds; go to www.wecanride.org for more information

Oct. 8-10: MCHA Fall Festival of Cuttings at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Show Secretary Dava Scribner at (612) 845-1270

October 9 & 10: Great Midwest Horse Show; Contact: Jean Fredrich, 701-725-4420

Oct. 9: JJ Arena Saddle Club Fun Show at 11 a.m. at Balsam Lake, Wis. Contact (715) 857-5505

Oct. 9: Northwest Wisc. Equine Club game show 7 miles south on Hwy 63 in Hayward, Wisc. Contact John at (715) 635-3095

Oct. 9: Let 'em Buck Saddle Club horse show at 10 a.m. at the Flat Hills Arena in Ortonville, Minn. Contact Tim Crowley at (320) 273-2183

Oct. 9: Rocking D Acres horse show at 9 a.m. in Clarissa, Minn. Contact Denise at (218) 756-2576

Oct. 9: 4H Horse Bowl and Hippology at 9 a.m. at the Anoka County Fairgrounds in Anoka, Minn. Contact (763) 463-9525

Oct. 9-10: Lloyd Anderson Clinic at 9 a.m. at the EZ 2 Spot Arena in Cannon Falls, Minn. Contact (651) 592-9242

Oct. 10: Houck Horse Company fun show at 11 a.m. at North Branch, Minn. Contact (651) 277-1095

Oct. 10: Red River Valley Saddle Club horse show at 11 a.m. at the Ada Fairgrounds arena on Hwy. 200 in Ada, Minn. contact leeshorses@rrv.net

Oct. 15-17: Minnesota Lakes Barrel Race at the Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn.

Oct. 16: Kimball Saddle Club game show at 9 a.m. at the Willow Creek Arena in Kimball, Minn. Contact Malina at (320) 398-2655

Oct. 16-17: Shadow Creek Renegades game show at 8 a.m. at Woodville, Wis. Contact John at (715) 698-3803

Oct. 16-17: WSCA Futurity at 9 a.m. at the

R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. Contact (763) 972-6544

Oct. 22-24: North Central Reined Cow Horse Assoc. Show at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn. Call (218) 736-3000

Oct. 23-24: WIHA State Youth Show in Jefferson County, Wisc. Contact (262) 593-8014

Oct. 29-31: Central MN AQHA Team Penning and Sort at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn. Call (218) 736-3000

Oct. 30-31: MN POA Club horse show at 7:30 p.m. at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn.



Oct. 30: Hi Circle Vee Ranch game show at 10 a.m. at Isanti, Minn. Contact Kari at (612) 803-5950

Oct. 30: R&J Fall Game Series at 10 a.m. at R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. Contact (218) 445-5849

Oct. 30: Houck Horse eCompany Fun show at 10:30 a.m. at North Branch, Minn. Contact (651) 277-1095

Oct. 31: JJ Arena Saddle Club fun show at 10 a.m. at Balsam Lake, Wisc. Contact (715) 857-5505

Nov. 3: Sand Creek Riders Saddle Club at 10 a.m. at the Shakopee VFW. Contact (952) 758-3970

Nov. 6: Fall Regional Horse Owner Programs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in St. Paul, Minn. Call (612) 625-6776 for registration information.

Nov. 6-7: MCHA Cutting event at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. Show Secretary Dava Scribner at (612) 845-1270

Nov. 7: 4th Annual Equine Voices Wine and Dine Gala at 4:30 at the Historic Arizona Inn in Tucson, AZ with Cowboy Bob, a silent auction, three-course dinner, music with Becky Reyes; call (520) 398-9312 for reservations

Nov. 20: JJ Arena Saddle Club fun show at 11 a.m. at the arena in Balsam Lake, Wisc. Contact (715) 857-5505

Nov. 20: Hi Circle Vee Ranch game show at 10 a.m. at Isanti, Minn. Contact Kari at (612) 803-5950

Nov. 26-28: Central MN AQHA Team Penning and Sort at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn. Call (218) 736-3000

Nov. 27-28: R&J Fall Game series at 10 a.m. at the arena in Verndale, Minn. Contact (218) 445-5849

December 2-5: North Star Classic, Largest cattle show in ND, with sales/shows/entertainment; Contact: NDWS @ 800-437-0218, 845-1401 or www.northdakotawintershow.com

Dec. 17-19: Central MN AQHA Team Penning and Sort at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn. Call (218) 736-3000

Jan. 27-30, 2011: Carriage Association of America 2011 Winter Conference and 125th Anniversary of the St. Paul Winter Carnival, Sleigh and Cutter Festival Dance Jan. 28. It is a 19th Century dance party with members of the of the Living History Society of Minnesota and the North Star Chapter of the Victorian Society of America to help with the dance moves. For more information contact: carriage-news@frontier.com

Feb. 11-13: Central MN AQHA Team Penning and Sort at Red Horse Ranch in Fergus Falls, Minn. Call (218) 736-3000

March 1-6, 2011: North Dakota Winter Show, 74th Annual North Dakota Winter Show; Contact: NDWS @ 800-437-0218, 845-1401 or www.northdakotawintershow.com

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Computer and phone required.

Contact: Ley Bouchard, Publisher
The Valley Equestrian
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Sometimes You Can Go Back . . .

You Just Have to Take a Different Road to Get There

By Katherine Thompson

Some years back, I woke up one morning feeling the pull of the spirit of another horse.

Initially, I couldn't say what was drawing me, but there was such a strong push to just go with it that, late morning, I drove out to where I was being guided.

The owners of the ranch were absent, which, in a way, was a relief because I would have been hard-pressed to explain why I was even there. But, as I drove into the driveway, my attention was drawn toward intense agitation and very real pain I was sensing. That right there was enough to tell me there was purpose here.

The mare was in a field off by herself, clearly, silently pleading for help. She was obviously in the heavy throes of colic, and from the looks of things, it had been for quite a while. She lay on battered ground, dirt plastered all over her sweaty body as she did an agonized horizontal dance in the dust. Time was spare between the present and a future about to be cut short.

I called the owner on her cell phone and told her to call her vet and meet me at the ranch ASAP, explaining why, without explaining how I happened to be there. She was a personal friend who was open to what I was about, so I asked for permission to do a healing in the interim. As she had already experienced results from previous interventions, she didn't hesitate to give her consent.

I sat down and centered my consciousness, drawing the healing energy to and through me, and sent it in the mare's direction, using the visualization technique I've used hundreds of times in the years since. Then I stood and walked under the shade of a big tree to get a better view of what would happen from a short distance away.

The old mare staggered weakly to her feet like some oversized newborn foal and looked straight at me through the heat waves of mid-day. She shook the dust from her big frame and began to lick and chew, yawning intermittently, and then looking back at me before repeating the process several times. It was like watching someone trying to wake themselves up after napping too long.

Then, she finally stopped yawning and looked at me, and I could almost hear her say, "OK, that's better! So what took you so long?"

A few moments later, the owner arrived, and as we walked to the barn to get a halter, she said, "Don't tell the vet what you just did."

I don't think it really ever occurred to her what she'd just said to me, and by now, I should have been used to it. But it made me angry as I perceived the comment to be one of invalidation. That ego part of me took it personally.

The veterinarian arrived, confirmed my assessment of the situation, treated her accordingly, even though the mare appeared to now be fine, and left with the usual "Well, call me later and let me know how she's doing." He gave the owner a bill, got paid for his part in it, and no one gave any further thought of my part in it - nor spoke of it, either.

How time has changed things, including my attitude. Many of you reading this may not know that before my awareness began to expand and I developed my psychic abilities and healing skills, I was a licensed racehorse trainer for 25 years. Recently, after a 15-year hiatus from the racetrack, I resumed my former profession. It took me over a year to make that decision, and it was not an easy one. I will be starting horses at Golden Gate Fields in Northern California this fall as a trainer once again.

Do I share or discuss stories such as the one I just related to you on a daily basis? No, certainly not. Unless I'm specifically asked a question about the "other" work I do, which happens rarely, I'm very careful

not to talk about anything of that nature in "mixed company." Not all human awareness is shifting at the same rate. And for some horsemen, it never will. It's different if I'm speaking publicly or doing a presentation at a horse expo or other event. People choose to come watch or listen to me in that venue because I'm listed in the program. But in the daily workplace, over the years, I've learned some hard lessons surrounding that issue, and I simply don't bring it up.

I go about my work in the barn just as before, much the same as all the other horsemen, tacking and tracking horses, entering them in races, etc. And just as before when I did all that stuff, horses will run for me that aren't necessarily expected to. Why? Gee, I don't know why; maybe because they're happy and they want to! But I can't help but wonder if, having an understanding of how energy works, and how powerful it can be when it's used to heal, in alignment with traditional veterinary medicine, it might give me just a bit of an edge. Ya think?

The truth is, all good trainers know that these wonderful beings are more than just flesh- and-blood machines designed to make us money. They have souls just as we do; the only difference between us is that they are on a different path of experiential growth as spiritual beings. I don't tell the jockey that's what I believe, as I'm legging her up on a horse in the saddling paddock. The very thought makes me laugh. Nor do I stroll down the shed row telling my gallop boy that horses are mirrors that teach us about ourselves and help us heal wounds most of us don't even know we have. Or that I think their spirits are bigger than the imagination it takes to believe any of these things. I don't talk about that stuff around the barn or the racing entry office. I just do my job.

Perhaps someday there will be those who want to know more and will ask. And if not, that's OK too. You see, what I've learned is, it's not about what you do on a physical level. Nor is it about what you say to convince or teach someone a different way of looking at things. It's really just about being who you know you are, and respecting who the horses really are. It's about teaching by setting an example, walking the path that you know the Creator has asked you to walk, with humility and trust. It's as simple as that.

Heck, maybe I should be the first woman to win the Kentucky Derby! Funny thought, huh? Hysterical! What an imagination I have!

INTRODUCING LINDA NATIONS

By Victor Wolf

PUEBLO, Co - Pueblo Light Connection was established in July, 2005, founder Linda Weiner said, to offer the Southern Colorado metaphysical and holistic community a way to stay connected, sharing information on holistic healing, spiritual, and metaphysical topics.

The organization meets the second Sunday of every month in the downstairs main meeting room at Rawlings Public Library, 100 Abriendo Avenue, in Pueblo.

In September, a chiropractor discussed alternative health care, accessing pain management, illness, and trauma.

On October 10, 2010, anyone with love and compassion for animals will have the opportunity to learn what love and compassion for animals can really mean.

From 2 to 4:30 p.m. on that day, Linda Nations, founder of Animal Works Connection, will present a free workshop, with time for networking, on both near and distant animal communications.

Nations, is a psychotherapist, and graduated with a Master's degree in counseling from the prestigious Fielding Institute. In Pueblo, she conducts a private practice as a therapist and life coach and she is a Reiki practitioner.

During the free presentation Nations will describe the basic skills that afford closer association with pets and will explain what the animals can teach us. She will also discuss Bach flower remedies.

Nations said, "My experience began in Arkansas as I was recovering from a serious accident. I began having animal encounters. In the beginning I volunteered my help, but word-of-mouth brought more people. A few misunderstood, but many willingly paid for my services."

As her reputation grew, Nations scheduled 8-hour workshops, with potlucks,

that were sponsored by local churches and animal rescue organizations. She said, "If a full day can't be arranged, I will teach two 4-hour sessions on separate days."

Limited to 8-12 people who pay \$75.00 each for the session, Nations said, "I contribute 65 percent of session's proceeds to the sponsoring rescues. "My business grew out of this activity. In 1992, a Little Rock, AR, television reporter interviewed me for a 10 p.m. news segment. It was an accurate report that was followed by a newspaper article. The exposure made it easier for me to conduct workshops."

But why offer a free workshop? Can anyone become a communicator?

Nations explained, "Some adults come into it through memories, or discover the method by meeting an experienced communicator. All children are telepathic with animals. They are able to remain in the present moment where the encounter happens. You can't think about the grocery list while working with a horse, for example. It is not about power; it's all about cooperation."

To deliver her message, Nations considers travel from Pueblo to Colorado Springs local. But she will go farther to hold an 8-hour workshop with compensation for travel expenses.

As for other training, Nations said, "Life experience is at the heart of my profession, although I maintain regular personal study of natural remedies and spiritual subjects."

For more information about Pueblo Light Connection, look for its newsletter on Facebook.

For more information about Linda Nations, visit: www.animalambassador.net. Or send questions to her at: animalambassador1@yahoo.com.



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SPRIT OF THE WEST FESTIVAL ROCKS THE VALLEY WITH LOTS OF COWBOY COOKING, GUNSLINGING, ROPING AND RIDING ACTION

Sioux Falls, SD - The 9th Annual Spirit of the West Festival came to a close on a beautiful but cool fall evening Sept. 19 as the cowboys and cowgirls, re-enactors and performers, movie stars and chuck wagons loaded up to roll home...the day is tinged with sadness as the town that sprung up on the Banks of the Big Sioux just days before again is dismantled to wait for next

in Eastern South Dakota at the Festival; Pam and Sherwin Linton, The Cote's, Greg Hagar, Lonesome Ron, Amanda Swenson, Donnie Miller, Randy Burkhardt, Can Can girls and the Dover Brothers kept various stages hopping and the crowds toe tapping throughout the weekend.

The Arena was racing with cowboy mounted shooting, Wild West Shows and Grand Entry perfor-



Brian Bausch shows a young man how to jump to the wedding band rope trick at the SOWF Sept. 18 in Sioux Falls, S.D. Below: Reenactors perform during the Wild West Show. Middle: Cowboy Mike performs a wedding ring rope trick around youngsters from the audience.

Photo by Ley Bouchard

year. If the weather kept you from venturing out to the Festival, here is what you missed: Legendary B-Cowboy Movie Actors who had plenty of time for visiting with their fans; Artisans and Vendors with one of a kind artwork and products to bring a little cowboy spirit to your home year around; World Renowned and World Champion Performances by Whip Cracker Adam Winrich, Gun Spinner Garret Popek, Rope Spinner Mike Wooldridge and Trick Riders Brian and Paula Bausch...in the Midwest, these shows are available only at the Spirit of the West Festival.

The Trial of Jack McCall by the Gentlemen of Old Deadwood was re-enacted for only the second time

mances. Young and old watched skills of days gone by demonstrated each day, and could take part in gold panning, water pumping, cowboy fast draw, roping, horse drawn wagon rides, train rides, pony rides & painting, and more.

And the food...just like at the fair, corndogs and fried treats, monkey balls and more tempted the taste buds along with the chuck wagon and Dutch oven sampling - nobody went home hungry!

Of course, the biggest seller of the weekend was the coffee, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, gloves, coats and blankets! But cowboys don't complain, and a good time was had by all that attended.

Keep track of Spirit happenings on the website www.spiritofthewestfestival.com and on facebook...

Chuck Wagon Cookoff

From across the Midwest, eleven authentic chuck wagons rolled into the Spirit of the West Festival Saturday, September 18. The rolling vestiges of American history came complete with a 'cowboy cooking team' and all the gear and set up to create some amazing cowboy chow.

The wagons competed for \$3,000 in cash based on the condition of their wagons and just how good their food was.

Our team of experienced food personalities and Minerva, LLC Chefs were challenged as they enjoyed the variety of cowboy chow prepared by the wagon cooks.

The South Dakota Pork Council, a long term show sponsor, provided the 'other white meat' for our wagons to prepare tender, juicy loins and our wonderful Sunshine Grocery Stores from Canton, Brandon, Tea, Lennox and Sioux Falls rounded off the meal with the ingredients to prepare Biscuits, Dessert, Beans and Potatoes.

And a meal would not be complete without a hot cup of coffee cooked over an open campfire.

The Spirit of the West Festival was honored beyond words to have the American Chuck Wagon Association itself attend the Festival and judge our Midwest Wagons. None of these events would be possible without our wonderful sponsors: Hansen Wheel and Wagon of Letcher, SD; The SD Pork Council, Rick's Salt, Sunshine Grocers, Dollar Loan Center, Walmart, Swanson Law, Steever House of Lennox, Coca Cola, Tebbens Campers, Plums Cooking, Helen Bausch Quilts, Commissioner Johnson, Nybergs ACE, and more.

This was our 6th year of chuck wagon events, and it was a bonus to have a 'new set of eyes' come see just what we have going on up here. If you missed it this year, join us September 16-18th, 2011 and keep up on Spirit of the West news at www.spiritofthewestfestival.com.



Wagon Judges were: Bob Sparks and Bill Thompson of Texas; Bob, along with his wife Nancy (the Executive Secretary of the American Chuck Wagon Association) assisted Bill Thompson on Friday host a

"Chuck Wagon Clinic" reviewing what is necessary to have to compete in a chuck wagon competition. This Clinic was attended by folks from Washington, Oregon, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. And the winners were:

MEAT:
1st - Patrick's "DT" from Watertown, SD

2nd - Heavirland's "Flying Star" from North Branch, MN

3rd - Johnsen's "C BAR J" from Wessington, SD

BEANS :
1st - Bender's "Broken Box" from Humphrey, NE

2nd - Nielsen's "Heart D" from Hyattville, WY

3rd - Sigmon's "Prairie Mill" from Auburn, IA

BREAD:
1st - Johnsen's "C BAR J" from Wessington, SD

2nd - Bragg-Meyer Crew's "Secret Pass" from Madison, MN & Huron, SD

3rd - Patrick's "DT" from Watertown, SD

POTATO:
1st - Bragg-Meyer Crew's "Secret Pass" from Madison, MN & Huron, SD

2nd - Nielsen's "Heart D"



from Hyattville, WY

3rd - Aspeslet's "Lazy A" from Stoddard, WI

DESSERT:

1st - Bragg-Meyer Crew's "Secret Pass" from Madison, MN & Huron, SD

2nd - Patrick's "DT" from Watertown, SD

3rd - Hallson's "Lost Creek" from Long Lake, MN

BEST FOOD:

Bragg-Meyer Crew's "Secret Pass" from Madison, MN & Huron, SD

BEST WAGON CAMP:

1st - Patrick's "DT" from Watertown, SD

2nd - Hallson's "Lost Creek" from Long Lake, MN

3rd - Bragg-Meyer Crew's

"Secret Pass" from Madison, MN & Huron, SD

OVERALL:
1st - Patrick's "DT" from Watertown, SD

The final day of the SOWF concluded as the day dawned cloudy and cool and the Dutch oven enthusiasts rolled into the Spirit of the West Festival along the Banks of the Big Sioux



River just north of Sioux Falls, SD. Setting up their camps amongst a dozen authentic chuck wagons from across the Midwest, these 'black - pot' slingers prepared themselves to compete for thousands of dollars of cash and prizes. Our prizes this year were sponsored by Cabela's; Rick's Salt; Lazy RR'se

Article by Cassandra Swanson
Chuck wagon photo by Cassandra Swanson

DESSERT:
1ST - Blueberry/Blackberry Rhubarb Pie with Cookies & Cream Ice Cream by the Sages of Yankton, SD

2nd - Black Forrest Cake by Adam Johnsen of Sioux Falls, SD

3rd - Apple Pie by the Griffins of Dell Rapids, SD

4th - Summer Blue Rhu-

barb Pie by the Cauldwells of Brandon, SD

CHILI/SOUP:
1st - Tomato Dill Soup by the Cauldwells of Brandon, SD

2nd - Chicken Fajita Corn Chowder by the Griffins of Dell Rapids, SD

WILD GAME:
1st - Marinated Venison Loin by Dallas Dohlman of Magnolia, MN

APPETIZERS:
1st - Party Cheese Bread by the Cauldwells of Brandon, SD

2nd- Zucchini Fritters by the Johnsens of Wessington, SD

MAIN COURSES:
1st - Cherry Glazed Cornish Hen by the Sages of Yankton, SD

BREAD:
1st - Dill Scones with Cheddar Bread by Josh Bragg of Madison, MN

2nd - Sundried Tomato Cheese Biscuit by the Cauldwells of Brandon, SD

BUFFALO ROAST: The Buffalo Roast Contest is sponsored by Lazy RR's Buffalo of Sioux Falls, SD and the Canton Sunshine Grocery Store. Each contestant is given a buffalo roast along with carrots, potatoes and an onion, and they make any dish they wish to bring to the judges using all of the ingredients.

1st - Pulled BarBQ Buffalo with sides by the Patrick's of Watertown, SD

2nd - Buffalo Roast by the Dohlman's of Magnolia, MN

Buffalo; Nyberg's ACE; Lodge Cookware; Camp Chef; Colleen Sloans Log Cabin Grub; GSI Outdoors; Plums's cooking, and more. Eight categories allowed each to prepare their favorites dishes, and competition, as usual, was fierce. Our Judges were sponsored by Minvera's, LLC and experienced food personalities and were the most experienced team of judges we have had. The winners were:

VEGETABLE/SIDE DISH:

1st - Cabbage and Corn by the Griffins of Dell Rapids,SD

2nd - Sweet Potato Casserole by Jake Warner of Dell Rapids, SD

3rd - Dutch Oven Potatoes by the Cauldwells of Brandon, SD

4th - Sweet Potatoes with Carrots by Suzanne Paige of Sioux Falls, SD



The Outhouse: Life on the Farm With Emily

Move Over, Makeover

We've had many visitors to the farm throughout the years, some leaving with smiles and others running down the road to catch a cab in the middle of the night. But one guest sticks out in my mind as the perfect "rural renovation."

George belonged to my side of the family (third or fourth cousin on Mom's side) and grew up in the area. Ann belonged to George. While they were in town for a weekend conference, it was George's idea for his wife to spend some time on a "real farm" as the couple had spent their entire adult lives in upstate New York working with the "high society" folks in the fabric trade.

Pulling up in a rented Hummer, George had already taken Ann on the tour of his parents' farmstead and old stomping grounds. I guess Ann wasn't too impressed with what was left of the old barn, or with the hole in the ground where the house once stood.

Ann had apparently sipped a little too much first-class tea on the plane. I told George it was probably a good thing she had to use a bathroom as his bride likely wouldn't have been too impressed with his tour of the old railroad depot by the river where he, Mom and the rest of the cousins used to party and cook up their catfish.

Carrying in the suitcases, George made one last trip to the Hummer for an animal carrier. Under-

standing that the upstate custom of the Who's Who was to adorn themselves with small furry animals, I couldn't wait to see what came out of the pint-size box. George kind of rolled his eyes a little as Ann reached in and pulled out a dog the size of an Oscar Mayer wiener. Ann was in the middle of a "cutessie, wootsie" spiel while cuddling, pampering and smooching "Thor," as she called the wannabe dog, when Ed walked in to greet our guests. I gave him the "eye" thing, and he understood not to sic the house cat on the hot dog with legs. But he did end up swallowing half his snoose when Ann pulled out a genuine diamond collar for the pooch.

We live on a farm, and there are flies. George should have mentioned this to Ann before they boarded the plane so they maybe could have taken "Wonder Dog" to a petting zoo or something as both were in shell shock when a harmless little house fly started buzzing around the kitchen.

I could tell George was a little embarrassed when the fly had Thor cornered by the pantry. Ann was so worked up over the "dog killer," she couldn't move but kept her poise and posture up during the whole ordeal. Ed took the high road, moseying over with a "ker-plink," ending Thor's torture with one little swat. Wow, it was going to be a long, long weekend.

Thor was left in his kennel the next day so the house cat wouldn't gobble him up for a snack, and Ann came down the front steps wearing a white-laced veil over her face. I think she thought it would protect her from the flies, but she would be hurting plenty if a bee got up in there.

Taking the farm tour, Ed got a big charge out of Ann's "tracks," whispering to me that they looked more like deer prints than a human's. I guess five-inch spikes would do that. I couldn't wait until we hit some mud.

Ann wouldn't go into the hog barn, so I brought out a freshly weaned piglet for her to hold. Big mistake - she was on her cell phone with the airlines in two seconds, ordering a seat next to Thor to take the little bugger home with her. I've always wondered how the two pets got along after her cute little pig grew into a 500-pound sow.

I saw Ann's mind working overtime when she spotted the newborn calf, but he was safe and secure after her spikes hit his mama's poop pile. Ed swallowed some more snoose over that one.

Taking the back path to the garden, I knew there was a chance of running into a small snake, so Ed was sent ahead to fend off any Ann-exterminating varmints. Wouldn't you know it, a one-in-a-million chance, here comes a little half-grown snake wriggling out from under a shrub, right next to Ann. To this day it comes up in conversation about how fast she scaled the tree; most line and utility workers would have been put to shame!

Some people are just a mystery, and Ann has always been my biggest. A couple weeks after she and George left, we received a basket of New York's finest chocolates. Tucked in the package was a thank-you note from George, along with photos of the couple on a safari. Shaking my head and looking again, I saw that Ann was sporting a gun, kneeling beside an ant hill and wearing knee-high laced up boots. I had to get the magnifying glass out to see that it was a can of snoose that was sticking out of her front pocket...

By Victor Wolf

He had returned to the city to visit a 39-year-old married father of four children ranging in age from 11 to 21. We were introduced by a mutual acquaintance who knew I was searching for personal opinions of the current economy and he was in possession of a unique view.

I was motivated in my research by the growing number of people who are surrendering their horses because they simply cannot afford to feed and care for them in these troubled times.

Due to a few of the sensitive subjects discussed he asked not to be identified. I respect his request, because as you will read, the information he shares is far more valuable than knowing from whom it comes.

"I attended college for one semester in 1992. For personal reasons I returned to work, but in 2004, during the Bush years and a stable economy, I decided to earn a degree and make a better future than my job ever promised."

Greatly influenced by a satisfied relative, he also decided to major in sociology with emphasis on criminology. "My goal was to be a corrections officer. I thought it offered an opportunity for a secure future. Just as I finished my third year of study I realized that a degree was no longer necessary for the career. It helps with promotions, but it's a level playing field at the beginning."

"But there was more on my mind. I had taken out nearly \$50,000 in student loans on my way to graduating. Paying them back would cost at least \$500 a month. A master's degree in business (MBA) seemed to promise a brighter future."

"My bachelor's degree qualified me to be a probation officer, to start my own anger management business, or to contract out to monitor people wearing ankle bracelets. I also had to face the fact that the prison system is not rehabilitating prisoners. I re-examined my goals and desires. The MBA seemed to offer a better outlook."

He graduated in 2008. "Sometimes I feel the future is dark, but I know God has a plan for my life. There is always a way, and I knew I had to find a way

out of taking on more college debts.

"My wife and I talked it over, and I made the decision to pay for a couple of classes a semester myself. The undergrad class, Finance 330, taught me how to manage my money, understand investing and compound interest, and I put that knowledge to work. In fact, the instructor said that proper investing can mean there is no reason not to retire at 60 and have \$100,000 a year to spend and live into your 80's or 90s.

"Looking back at that class, I believe it should be mandatory in high school. And at the master's level, Finance 530 is so intense I know students who struggled to pass the course. There is so much information about money management..

"But advantages at the career entry level are not the goal of the MBA degree. The good jobs advertised on monster.com always ask for the master's degree plus many years of experience, some 10 years and up."

I asked if he had any advice to share with people who are having a hard time making ends meet. With only a moment of thought, he said, "Trust God. Maintain a good outlook. Invest ten or \$20. here and there. Beware of predatory lenders. Become acquainted with your banker."

"This economy is hard for small business. Every-

thing is a risk. It is realistic to consider making an extra \$100 or \$200 dollars a month rather than to look for pie in the sky. You don't need it all; you just need to be happy. Whether you have five dollars or a million, it won't matter.

"Looking back I thank

God I did go to school, but I'm embarrassed to admit that it's my fault I took on so much debt. I believed the financial aid people without thinking. In 2004 the message at the college orientation was, "Borrow everything you can! You'll get a good job after graduating and you'll pay it all back."

"When I entered the master's program in 2009, the orientation message had changed. It became, "Try not to borrow any money. Study hard, get straight A's, apply for scholarships."

"A professor of one of my computer courses, who is about 65 years old, encouraged us to understand that society is different now. Everything is in a state of change. He is on his sixth career, and he invests in his health and fitness to get the best out of life.

"I'm following my own advice. I work from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. I attend college three evenings a week, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. But if I weren't in school, for extra cash I would get a trailer for hauling garden tools and mow lawns. Or, I would deliver the daily newspaper."

"Beyond these I would look carefully at my community. I would ask people what services best would serve their needs. I'd get the feedback, make a plan and act on it."

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Ayla Spry riding Jemfire September 12 receiving her championship garland in the Mounted Native Costume Class at the MHAHA Arabian Open Show Championship at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo, Minn.



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NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Finalists Named

The results are in and the 2010 National Reined Cow Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity Open finalists have been decided. Those lucky enough to earn a ticket to the big dance will compete on Sunday, October 3, in a clean-slate competition for the Open Championship and a piece of the \$648,000 Open finals payout. The Snaffle Bit Futurity, held annually at the Reno Livestock Events Center in Reno, Nevada, began the preliminary competition on September 20.

Leading the field of 25 Open Finalists are Phillip Ralls and Jake Gorrell, who have scores of 652.5. Ralls followed that with a 218 in the rein work, and finished with a 214.5 down the fence. Dom Dualuse, upon whom he had the high Open preliminary herd work score with a 220. Ralls followed that with a 218 in the rein work, and brought the crowd to its feet with a

Gorrell, riding Playing Ace High for Mike and Linda Silveira, began with a 212.5 in the herd work, followed that with a 218 in the rein work, and brought the crowd to its feet with a

222 in the fence work. Playing Ace High is by Playin Stylish out of Gold Cloud Miss.

Darren Miller and his horse, Lil Remedy Pep, marked the high score of the Open and Cinch Intermediate Open Futurity preliminary cow work, a 223, and won \$2,500 in go-round money. Combined with his herd and rein work score, Miller, of Watkins, Colorado, made it back to both the Open and Cinch Intermediate Open finals with a 647.5. Lil Remedy Pep is by Very Smart Remedy and out of Kaimana Wana Wiggle.

Another big winner from the Open division was Lyn Anderson and Tuckers Smart Cat, owned by David Archer, who made the Open finals with a 644 composite. Along with making the Open finals, Anderson and Tuckers Smart Cat won the Ladies division, worth \$1,485, and the Fairlea Ranch Silver Gun Yearling Sale Incentive, which garnered an additional \$14,500! The Fairlea Ranch-Silver Gun Yearling Sale Incentive began in 2007. Only NRCHA Stakes eligible yearlings that actually sell

in the Classic Yearling and Broodmare Sale or the Select Yearling and Broodmare Sale are eligible to make a payment of \$250 which pays them into the NRCHA Yearling Sale Purse. Those funds, plus the additional money sponsored by Fairlea Ranch-Silver Gun, are combined and paid to the highest advancing 3-year-old when that set of yearlings shows in the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity.

Justin Wright and No Chic Flicks, owned by Ronnie and Karin Richards, topped the Cinch Intermediate Open preliminary composite with a 651. That score not only earned a position in both the Open and Cinch Intermediate Open finals, it also captured the NRCHA Select 2-Year-Old Sale Incentive check for \$21,000! No Chic Flicks also won the NRCHA Non Pro Select 2-Year-Old Sale Incentive, worth \$9,000, with the Richards' daughter Laurie Ward.

Any horse that sells in the NRCHA Select 2-Year-Old Sale is eligible to win the Select 2-Year-Old Sale Incentive money, which is paid to the highest advancing horse competing in the

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next year's Futurity. Money is paid to the highest advancing Open and highest advancing Non Pro.

Les Oswald and Dulces Little Light not only had the high Limited Open

composite score, they also had the high preliminary cow work score for the division with a 216.5. The high cow

score came with a check for \$1,000. Dulces Little Light, by Dulces Smart Lena and out of Light The Stars, is owned by Richard and Rena Whyler.

The cut-off score to earn an Open Final's berth was a 644; in the Intermediate Open, a 636 was needed; and a 621 got a rider into the Limited Open.

Along with the draw, there will be a special presentation to the Open finalist owners. For the second year in a row, Quarter Horse News will be presenting Gist commemorative lapel pins to all the owners of Open finalist horses.

See more photos and content on the VE Facebook page:
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper and online at: www.theVEonline.com

WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN LEXINGTON, KY FIRST TIME IN USA

The 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, taking place Sept. 25 through Oct. 10 in Lexington, Kent. represents the first time the games have been held on American soil.

The games consist of seven disciplines: dressage, eventing, driving, jumping, vaulting, reining, endurance, and para-

dressage. NBC-TV is providing several hours of live coverage.

Videos may be found online at: <http://www.equestrian-life.com/videos/weg/> Live coverage of some of the events may be found online at: <http://www.usefnetwork.com/WEG2010/>

A few of the WEG

participants include: Tim McQuay, Tom McCutcheon on the reining team from Texas; Ellen Rapp: endurance, from Iowa; Mike McLennan, driving, from Texas; Kristian Roberts, Mary McCormick, Katherine Wick, Kenny Geisler, Megan Benjamin, Patrick Stevensvaulting, all vaulters from Calif.; Becky Holder feventing, from Minn.; See below

BECKY HOLDER OF MINN. EVENTING AT WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES

Rebecca Holder (born April 24, 1969) is a female equestrian who qualified for the Eventing competition of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing from Mendota Heights, Minnesota, com-

peting for the United States for her first ever time. She has been riding the 12-year-old, Courageous Comet, a gray off-the-track thorough-

bred gelding, since 2002. Recent successes include the pair finishing second at the 2008 Rolex Kentucky CCI**** in April, 2008. They were in the lead heading

into the show jumping but had two rails and fell behind Phillip Dutton and the stunning Connaught. Stadium seems to be the pairs weak point.

At The Rolex Kentucky

13th place. At the Olympics, she placed fifth in the Individual Eventing Dressage competition with a score of 35.8 penalty points. Sadly, she had two mistakes in

her cross-country run, dropping her out of the running for a medal. Becky was the alternate member on the U.S. Eventing squad in the 2000 Sydney Olympics on Highland Hogan, but she did not get to compete.

Holder used to run a part-time

Three Day Event in 2006, Becky also went into show jumping in the lead but had 4 rails down and several time faults, dropping them into a disappointing

teaching business out of Carriage House Farm in Hugo, Minnesota. From November to May, she trains her upper level horses in North Carolina.



Sir William (right facing left) and Sir Oren (left) participate in the War Horse Joust at the 2010 Minnesota Renaissance Festival in Shakopee, Minn.

Photo by Jesse Trelstad



Lois Handel driving her team of half-sisters (Left: Naboo Moon, an 8-year-old Quarab mare; right: Statusfaction, her 6-year-old Arabian mare) near Braham, Minn. with 7 other units from the North Country Carriage Club (www.nccarriageclub.com) on one of their monthly drives.



Katie Russel and AJ Sultan Sunrise, one of a set of surrogate twins located at AJ Pintabians, Karlstad, Minn.

DRESSAGE COMMITTEE PUTS FORWARD PROPOSED CHANGES FOR JUDGING SYSTEM

GENEVA, (FEI) - Following the FEI Dressage Committee meeting in Mannheim (GER) on 27 and 28 August, the Committee has put forward proposed changes for the judging system to be presented at the upcoming FEI General Assembly in Taipei (1-6 November).

The proposals are based on several pilot studies that took place during the 2010 season and feedback from within the sport. They are the result of detailed analysis of the fitness for purpose of current judging methods in Dressage with the aim of achieving maximum transparency and fairness and, as a consequence, trust in the sport.

The proposed changes are as follows:

Seven judges (instead of five) for defined events such as Olympic Games, FEI World Equestrian Games, FEI Continental Championships on Grand Prix level as well as FEI World Cup™ Finals.

Half marks for all FEI Dressage competitions in order to give the judges the opportunity to refine their

The JSP is allowed to correct the judges' marks for factual errors, such as definite technical mistakes. One of the benefits of the JSP is to provide a "back-up" for the judges in order to protect both judges and athletes by preventing unfair marks. Clear guidelines have been prepared stipulating how the JSP should interact with the judging process. The ideal composition of a JSP group (three members per show) would be two judges and one trainer or rider.

Apart from supervising at events, the JSP should evaluate the quality of judges in general, make a

Trond Asmyr commented on the proposals: "There is no doubt that the education of the judges and their continuous assessment according to fixed standards is an ongoing process that helps to ensure the highest level of fairness and correctness in the sport. It is vital for the future of the sport that the judging is seen to be fair and transparent."

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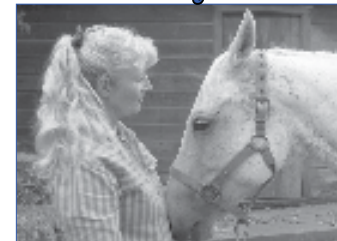
judging and make it more precise. Half marks can be given in their full range from 0.5 up to 9.5 and for all scores (marks for movements, collective marks, technical element in the Freestyle both per movement and as final mark for that movement). Half marks already exist for the artistic element in the Freestyle.

Judges Supervisory Panel (JSP) for defined events such as Olympic Games, FEI World Equestrian Games, FEI Continental Championships at Grand Prix level as well as FEI World Cup™ Finals.

proposal for assessment of judges and their status (promotion), provide a "long list" proposal of judges (for the Olympic Games, WEG, Continental Championships on Grand Prix level, World Cup Finals) and a general overview of the "judges' world" to the FEI Dressage Committee and FEI Headquarters, as described in the Dressage Task Force Report.

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