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August/September 2011

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.

Big Sky Unbridled



See What's Inside

- Meet Cavalia's Fairland Ferguson
- Harvest Celebrations with Horses!
- The Little Blind Mare

Photos by Laurie Errington
SCOOTEMNSHOOTEM PHOTOGRAPHY

Local Where Distributed - Let Us Know What's Going On In Your Valley!

Meet the Clinicians of the Minnesota EquiFest

Chris Vinson is a level one judge and regional representative for the Extreme Cowboy Association for the north central region including the states of Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin, an organization started by Craig Cameron. According to the web site, "An Extreme Cowboy event challenges both horse and rider to maneuver through a series of obstacles demonstrating both horsemanship and speed." Western style clothing and tack are required; there is no age limit for the horses; the obstacle course varies at each event and includes a possible 100 obstacles to overcome in the fastest time. The Extreme Cowboy Challenge is a race and you do not need to be a member to complete for the jackpot but those who are members earn EXCA points.



Tracy Porter winning the Extreme Cowby Challenge at the 2009 MN EquiFest

Vinson started with the EXCA in Feb. 2009. "My business partner, Ellen, and I brought the sport to our region because I

really believe in it; it's not just about herkin' and jerkin' it's about horsemanship and partnership with your horse," Vinson says. "It is one person at a time that goes out and competes against the clock. You have to be able to have

horse.

"We put them in places they would never naturally go on their own. It is amazing what some of these horses will do for their owners. In their head they are probably thinking, 'Ok, if you say so,'" said Vinson. "I have had a really good time with it. I don't get to compete very much because I run so many of them. There is no rule that says you cannot run on a course you design, but ethically, I don't think it's right." Courses need to be approved by the judges. "It is the physical act; it is what you can and cannot do. You can sort cattle, you can shoot, there are criteria you can do or not do and if you want to do something else you have to go to the national. There are over 100 approved obstacles you can select," Vinson said.

Vinson will be holding clinics teaching participants how to master obstacles and gain confidence at the Minnesota EquiFest October 15-16 at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, Minn.

quite a relationship with your horse. To be able to do the obstacles you have to be a team and be able to communicate with your

Dressage to Be Represented at Minnesota EquiFest October 15-16 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds

The Minnesota EquiFest has a great line up of clinicians for their October 15-16 event held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. A broad range of activities covering nearly any type of horse experience will be available. The Extreme Cowboy Horsemanship Challenge is back by popular demand. Werner Thiedemann is returning offering four different topic Horsemanship Workshops. Dan Grunewald will be presenting a number of clinics which will include horse and rider. Marc Johnson, MA, has dedicated his time to training driving animals and drivers, organizing competition, course designing and being an ADS Technical Delegate.

Dressage will be represented by two excellent clinicians, Karen Lee and Suzette Sontag and by Midwest Western Dressage.

Karen Lee will present Musical Dressage. Lee is a United State Dressage Federation Bronze and Silver Medalist. She has been involved with horse training for over 30 years. She is an L Judge with distinction with the USDF. For the demo Lee and several other riders will

demonstrate musical rides and how to develop them.

Suzette Sontag, Smart Start Stable, Somerset, Wisc., helps people understand dressage. At their stable, Sontag and her team apply basic exercise to the different movements required for whatever discipline, bringing together all the pieces in the combination needed to show and win. Smart Start has competed successfully nationally in the Arab Sport World, winning 3 National Championships, 2 Reserve National Championships and many, many top tens on several different horses.


Midwest Western Dressage is leading the movement in the Midwest and developing a team of trainers from near and far. Their presenters at the EquiFest will demonstrate how Western dressage can be used to develop confidence and control while explaining the aids and cues in a way that demystifies even the most complex ideas and concepts. Midwest Western Dressage's presentation at the EquiFest will include a musical freestyle performance and demonstration by members of MWWD.

Horse owners are encouraged to bring their own horse and regis-

ter for horse and rider classes with trainers, Dan Grunewald, Werner Thiedemann, Chris Vinson and Marc Johnson. Jill Houck, Houck Horse Company, well known barrel racer, will give a presentation on Barrel Racing. There will be many other clinics and demonstrations presented throughout the weekend.

A Saturday evening event will include equestrian drills teams, carriage driving, Roy Rogers 100th Birthday tribute and more. A Parade of Breeds will be held each day at noon in Warner Coliseum.

The EquiFest website, www.MinnesotaEquiFest.com, is updated regularly with information about speakers and scheduled activities. Please go to it for information regarding booths, stallion row, breed demonstration horses, volunteering and sponsorships. Join us on Facebook (Minnesota EquiFest) and invite your friends to join or sign up for our newsletter. For program advertising information contact Linda Dahl, Dahl Graphics and Printing, 651-353-8188. For more information regarding the Minnesota EquiFest call 763-421-5750.



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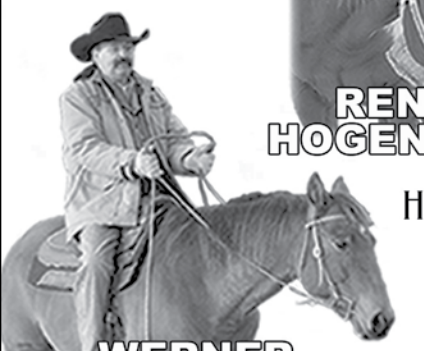
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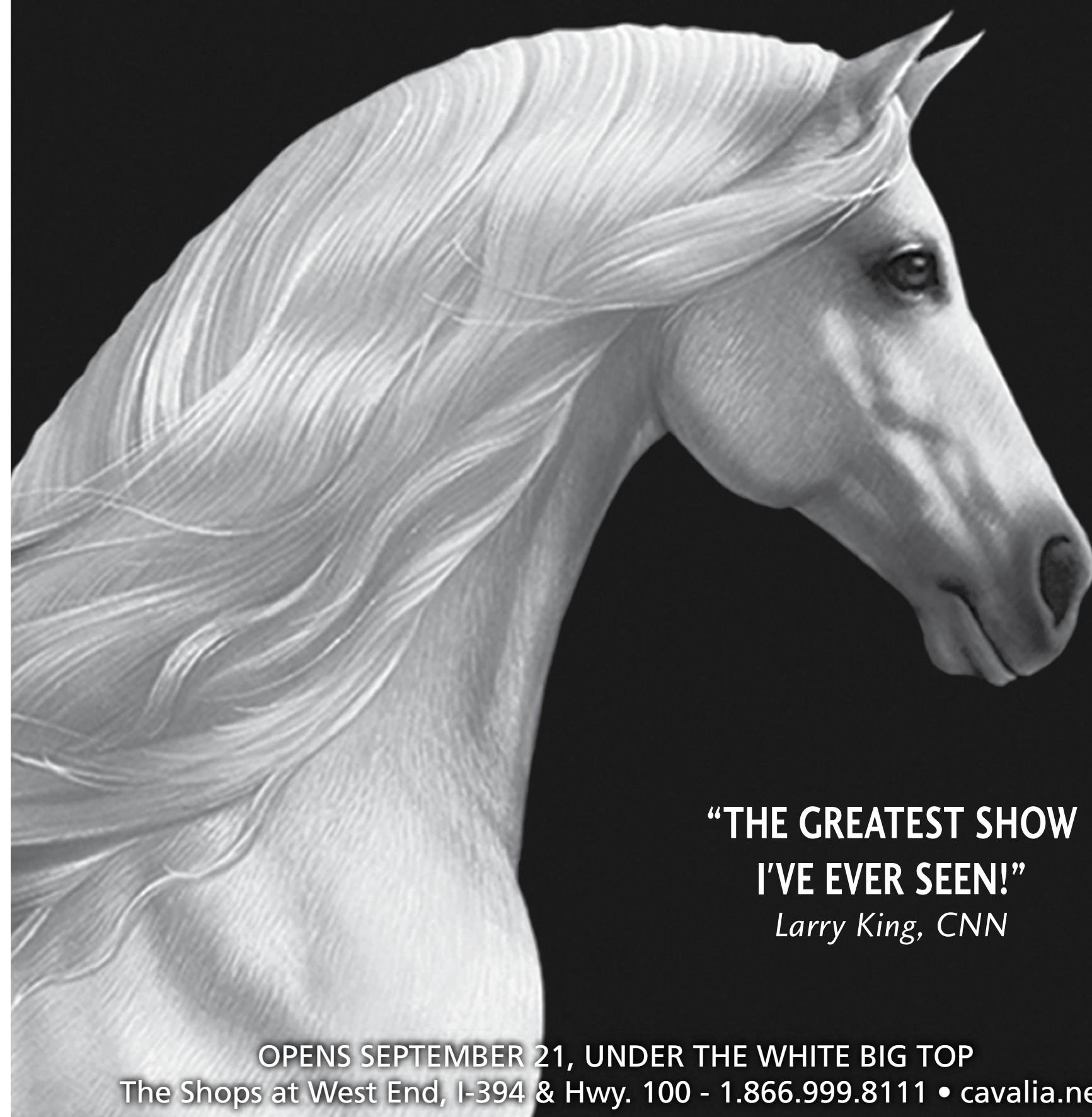
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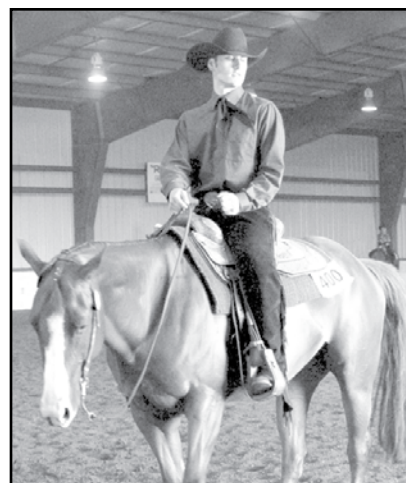
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14 ND Appaloosa Open Show

About the Cover

Laura Errington of Scootemnshootem Photography captured Kenny Pugh Jr. and his wife Kay Lynn Pugh from Walla Walla, Wash., at the Big Sky Aged Event in Kalispell, Mont., August 6-13. Lynn Pugh (center right) did very well in the Bridleless Cutting class.

For more photos of this event go to <http://www.scootemnshootem.com/>.

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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.

Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training from Start to Finish The Need for Chiropractic and Dental Care

I have had a lot of horses come into the barn and have received many telephone calls related to horses that buck. There are many reasons that a horse will buck. It may not be a broke horse, or the freshness may not have been taken off of it before it was ridden. There may also be medical or saddle issues. Medical and saddle issues can be one and the same.

For a long time I was training horses and looking for reasons for bucking and trying to find solutions. Sometimes, what I thought was a training issue turned out to be a medical issue and the horse was in pain. Some horses, just like people, can handle pain and their threshold of pain is much higher than other horses. Through continuing to seek answers, I started utilizing chiropractic care for horses. But honestly, it didn't come about until I started having chiropractic treatments myself. It is interesting how we find things in one part of our lives that can translate into other parts of our lives. My back had been bothering me for a long time but I grew up in the old school that you tough it out. Once I started going to a chiropractor and started

to get relief for my own back problem, I started looking at the horses in a different light. Sometimes we look at horses as being different from us because they are animals, and in many ways they are different. But, if you think about it, they are flesh and blood, they do have a mechanical structure. Their bones can be out of alignment and that can cause discomfort.

When a horse comes into training now, we evaluate all possible health issues. I have a chiropractor that comes in once a month and we check out the alignment of any new horse or horse that is having issues. I have had horses here at the ranch that had difficulty picking up a lead because of bones being out of alignment and causing discomfort. I have found that chiropractic care is very necessary. This is probably true more so of horses that are stalled or kept in a small paddock where they can cast themselves and get hung up on the sides. Horses in pasture can have chiropractic problems but they are less likely to need adjustment. Usually horses can adjust themselves if they are in pasture. They can roll completely over, going back and forth, and a lot of times they adjust

themselves. I have had horses come in that were out of alignment, especially in the axis area (the top of the poll) and through adjustment, they were freed up and then able to relax and move properly. Chiropractic issues can cause discomfort and if you are having issues with your horse you may want to have a chiropractor check him out. When people come to me that is usually the first option I suggest.

One of the other things we do here at the barn is have the dentist look at the horses. There are a lot of trainers even today who do not use or believe in the dental care of horses. Generally, horses out in the wild in the right setting can maintain their teeth. For horses cared for humans and kept in pens, stalls and pastures, eating soft foods and grains, it is very important that their teeth be maintained. Dental care is part of the integrity of care. This is especially true for horses under age three and I recommend seeing the dentist every six months because their teeth are changing so much. For others, I suggest they be seen at least once a year. You usually do not have to pay an outrageous

amount. There are people who do specialize in horse dentistry. When a new horse comes into the barn that has had his teeth checked by a veterinarian, I have the dentist evaluate the horse. This is not because I think the vet did a poor job, but I need to know for myself that the horse doesn't have problems.

When the horse dentist comes out, there is always a vet on hand to administer the shots and put a spectrum in the mouth and check to see that the horse is closing and chewing properly. A horse chews from side to side and it is important to know that they are not locking up or that there are no other dental problems causing discomfort. In training horses I have found that dental problems can be a huge factor. Dental problems affect behaviors such as throwing the head, not yielding properly, problems with lateral and vertical flexion and not being able to come through. Every time a new horse comes in, young or old, we always have the dentist look at the horse and make sure it is fine. Over 90 percent of the time something needs to be done to the teeth. As general maintenance for your horse, it is always

good to have dental work done once a year and a chiropractor come out and look at your horse from time to time.

Internationally known and respected horse trainer Charles Wilhelm is the creator of Ultimate Foundation Training which combines the best of traditional, classical and natural horsemanship. This method is applicable to every riding discipline. Charles is one of the few clinicians who is known for his superb skills in communicating with and motivating people as well as horses. His training methods reflect his motto, "It's Never, Ever the Horse's Fault".

Charles' warm and relaxed demeanor has made him a favorite at regional and national clinics and demonstrations. His training center in Castro Valley, California is among the top equine educational facilities in Northern California. Charles offers extensive hands-on learning programs for every level of horsemanship.

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and join our Facebook page for news during the month!

The Mutt & the Mustang: The True Tale of a Dog-Riding Horse

The Mutt & the Mustang, the newly released story about a dog who rides a horse every day is Estes Park, Colorado author Judy Archibald's first children's picture book.

Determined to provide Raven with a comfortable retirement home, Judy bought him and his buddy from the stable and moved them to three acres of

The 26-year old black mustang quickly bonded with her 10-pound mutt Kody who one day jumped on Raven's back while he was lying down then started

make a delightful children's story.

So Judy, who spent twenty-five years as a feature writer for national magazines wrote the story about a mutt who is sad because he fails at tasks his big dog buddy can do but after making friends with a rescued mustang who lets him ride every day discovers by being himself he is special.

To keep control of the book's illustrations, Judy started Pet Pals Publishing and found the perfect illustrator in Patricia H. Greenberg who captured each animal's personality in classic colored pencil drawings. There is also a page of photographs featuring the real Kody riding "his" horse.

"Animal lovers of all ages seem to love it," said Judy. "At a recent book signing a senior gentleman bought a copy for himself and had me sign it to his rescued dog Walter."

The Mutt & the Mustang, which is selling extremely well in book stores, western-themed shops and mustang rescues throughout the west is also available on Amazon on line and Judy's website www.petpalspublishing.com where a video of Kody riding Raven can also be viewed.



A true story, the book is based on the friendship between Judy's poodle mix Kody and an old mustang she rescued from a rental stable where for fifteen years he had worked twelve hour days carrying tourists up rocky mountain trails.

"Because he never did have a saddle that fit him right, Raven's back is injured," said Judy. "I've seen him buck so hard that a wrangler flew off his back like a rocket. He even bucks magpies off."

horse heaven where they were both officially retired.

pawing the horse's neck and chewing thistles out of his mane. Since Raven didn't mind, the next day Judy plopped the dog on the mustang's back and led him around the pasture.

That was four years ago. Ever since, Kody gets a daily ride on "his" horse. "Raven is the dog's horse because nobody else can ride him," said Judy. "Whether Kody rides standing up or resting his front legs on Raven with his butt in the air like a jockey he is having so much fun it looks like the little dog is laughing."

Last fall while leading the pair around the arena, a bell went off in Judy's head that her dog riding horse would

Horse sense is a thing a horse has that keeps it from betting on people.

W.C. Fields

Mule Minute

By: Polly Thorsness
Half Ass Hideaway, Barnesville, MN

Mules are sometimes given a reputation such as "stubborn" or "mean". Actually, mules are much more intelligent than horses, because they get many of the donkey qualities. Examples illustrating the intelligence of mules are:

- A mule will not let itself be worked to death. A mule will stop and take a break. This might be misinterpreted as being stubborn.
- A mule will not allow the rider or driver to take it through a place where it might get hurt. This self-preservation might make the owner think he is stubborn.

- A mule will wait to be rescued instead of fighting to its death, if it becomes tangled or in a situation it knows it can't win. For example, a friend of mine had a horse foal catch its halter on a hydrant, and it pulled until it basically hung itself and

died. A mule wouldn't do that. One of my new mule foals is learning to be tied; he reared up and when he came down, he somehow got his head under the horse trailer we were working near. He lay there until I came and moved him so he could get up. He didn't once lift his head and bump it on the trailer. That's smart!

- A mule will quit eating when it is full. Generally, a mule will not overeat until it is sick like a horse will. I have seen a foundered mule; however, it is very rare.

The next time you see a mule and "stubborn" comes to mind, take some time to watch that mule for a while or visit with the owner, and you will learn about that mule's intelligence through his actions and responses to his owner and environment.



Polly Thorsness and Chester

Cloud Foundation Says Wyoming Grazing Association Threatens American Mustangs

Powerful livestock grazing association lawsuit against WY wild horses spurs controversy

Cheyenne, Wyo. (August 6, 2011) - The Cloud Foundation is alerting the American public to the fact that the largest public lands grazing association in the nation, the Rock Springs Grazing Association, has brought suit against the Department of Interior (DOI) seeking to remove wild horses living on a mixture of privately and publicly owned land along the old Union Pacific railroad route across southern Wyoming. This area is known as "checkerboard" lands—square mile sections of private land which abut square mile sections of publicly owned land, a vast swath that is twenty miles wide on each side of what is now I-80. For centuries native wild horses have roamed freely on this

stretch of land. The roughly 2 million-acre corridor is home to the majority of the remaining wild mustang herds in Wyoming—a state that entices tourists with the promise of seeing wild horses. The lands in question contains the White Mountain, Little Colorado, Adobe Town, Salt Wells and Great Divide Basin herds, as well as many other wild horse herd areas. "It is an outrage that the largest 'welfare ranching' organization in the nation threatens the future of thousands of federally protected mustangs in southern Wyoming," states Ginger Kathrens, Executive Director of the Cloud Foundation. "We trust that the attorneys representing the Bureau of Land Management, an agency

within the DOI, will fight just as hard to protect the wild horses as they have fought challenges by wild horse advocates seeking their protection." Are we witnessing a conflict of interest for the DOI? The BLM is engaged in a lawsuit against a coalition of wild horse advocates seeking to protect the same Wyoming herds that the Grazing Association wants to remove and eradicate forever. "It's time wild horses are protected against big government subsidized businesses," adds Kathrens. "The mustangs are a returned native species and icons of the West. They deserve to live free in peace with their families."

7th ANNUAL COWBOY UP RIDE AGAINST CANCER A HUGE SUCCESS!

By Ley Bouchard

Riders showed up in droves for the 7th annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer Aug. 20 in McLeod, N.D.

This rain or shine event was greeted by sunshine in an area that has received more grey skies than not this summer. Even the weather cooperated for the week-end long schedule of events that kept campers entertained and yet planning the next Cowboy Up.

Preliminary numbers indicate 380 riders came out for the trail ride with \$51,500 raised to benefit

the Roger Maris Cancer Center.

Karen Haugen, one of the organizers for the event, said the group served 650 for supper. They had received 322 donated items for the Silent Auction. Haugen said, "A huge thank you to everyone that came out and spent the weekend with us raising money for Roger Maris Cancer Center. As we work to close out this year, we are ready to accept the pre-registrations for next year!"

Next year's Cowboy Up will be held August 18 and will include events through-

out the weekend.

The Cowboy Up ride began at 10 a.m. on the day of the ride with opening ceremonies, including the color guard, the singing of the national anthem by Levi and Simon Sveum, a tribute to the riderless horse, and a poetry reading by Mike Ray.

Riders, some of whom camp on the site for the weekend, take off on the trail ride into the sand hills surrounding the small town of McLeod.

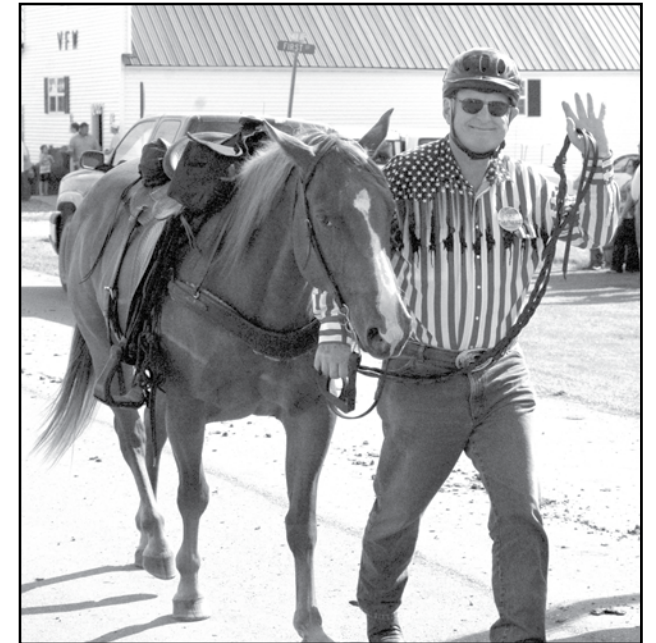
Organizers serve grilled burgers throughout the day and an evening beef dinner helps bring in more funds

for the cause.

The Cowboy Up committee works all year creating fundraising opportunities for this important cause. Some of those events include dinners, dances, "Cruising for a Cure" motorcycle run, an Extreme Race, 4-wheeler events and more.

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper is proud to sponsor this event.

Learn more information about the Cowboy Up ride and other events sponsored by this ambitious committee at: <http://cowboyupride.com>.



Photography by Ley Bouchard

The Valley Equestrian News apologizes for not being able to identify all the riders pictured in this layout. If you are a rider, or know a rider, please let us know and we will provide proper identification in the next issue of the VEN. Right: Jess, in back on the white horse, Roy Martinson, middle, and Phyllis Glass on the right. Lower center: Roger and Sue Lee; Bottom: Lori and Nikki Zabel. See more photographs of the riders on the Valley Equestrian Newspaper Facebook page and web site at www.theveonline.com and go to Photo Gallery.



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The Mutt & the Mustang
Based on a true story

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The Little Blind Mare

By Fran Lynghaug

When the mother of a young girl bought her daughter a three year old Arab mare as her first horse, it probably wasn't the best choice. Her daughter, Malinda Zeilke, was only twelve at the time and was a beginner rider. Also the horse was untrained and had a six month old filly at her side. But she was inexpensive, so Malinda's mother bought her.

with her legs, asking her to walk just like she always did when someone started leading her, but Gazy stood perfectly still. Malinda nudged a little harder, then kicked and jabbed her as hard as a twelve year old girl wearing snow pants and slightly-too-big winter boots could kick and jab. Still nothing from Gazy, other than a grunt as Malinda's heels hit her ribs.

So Malinda took out her secret weapon: two riding crops. She nudged Gazy with her legs again and clucked to her. When

every day. They started trotting and a few weeks later started cantering. Gazy went anywhere Malinda asked her to go.

She did everything with Gazy. She showed her at the local country fair, went on trail rides, went to the Black Hills of South Dakota for a two week riding vacation, trained her to drive, and even rode her five miles into town to visit her best friend a few times. She then bred Gazy and got a filly and the theory that she wouldn't make a good broodmare proved to be false.

a colt. A few years later, Malinda bred her to an Oldenburg and the result was another filly. With other horses to ride, Malinda rarely rode Gazy, but the few times she did, it was like she had been ridden the day before. She was always good and Malinda usually used her when taking out young or green horses because Gazy was her "old reliable."

When a friend suggested that she try a Novice endurance ride, she thought of riding Gazy's Trakehner son, but he was fairly green at the time. She thought about it over the winter, and one day just before New Year's, it hit her - why couldn't Gazy do a Novice ride? Though she had ridden Gazy only rarely in the past twelve years, she wanted to give it a try.

December 31st of 2010 was an unusually warm winter day, so she decided to ride Gazy bareback with just a halter on the road for a fun ride. She only rode for about a mile, but it brought back memories. Gazy wasn't as well trained as her son, but she was still a blast to ride.

Malinda started conditioning her slowly. Though Gazy was now 22, she had always been sound. By mid-April, 2011, they were ready for their first Novice ride, but it was canceled, so they de

Novice ride, but it was canceled, so they de

Though she had a great relationship with Gazy, Malinda always wanted to learn how to jump and knew that was one thing Gazy couldn't do. When Malinda was in her late teens, she was introduced to dressage and began taking lesson on Gazy's daughter. Through the years, she learned more about dressage, improved her riding with lessons, and even did eventing on other horses.

When Gazy was about 15, Malinda had her inspected and she was approved for breeding by both the American Trakehner Association and the International Sporthorse Registry/Oldenburg Registry North America. She bred her to a Trakehner with the hopes of a good dressage and eventing horse. Gazy produced

That was the turning point in their riding. After that Malinda could ride Gazy anywhere in the pasture at a walk, and then she started riding her down the road. The weather was getting warmer so Malinda rode Gazy almost

The mare was named RR Ghazrael and Malinda called her Gazy. In a matter of a few weeks, Malinda's mother noticed that Gazy had watery eyes, so she talked to a vet and he suggested a certain spray to use in her eyes. However, they got progressively worse, though the vet kept telling them to continue with the spray. Three weeks later, Gazy was completely blind. Malinda had only owned Gazy for about three months when she went blind. Other horse owners and friends said she should either put Gazy down or ship her to slaughter. They tried to convince her that Gazy would never be safe to ride and would be useless as a broodmare. But she was Malinda's first horse - the horse she had been begging for her whole life. It was a tough decision for a twelve year old girl to make. Countless people tried to convince her that Gazy was worthless and probably dangerous.

Malinda had been handling Gazy every day and never felt that she was dangerous, but was actually quite calm about most everything. So over the fall and into the winter, she worked at getting her used to a saddle and bridle and eventually climbed on her back. Malinda's mother would lead her around and Gazy was perfectly fine with someone on her back. When Malinda's friends came over, they would groom Gazy, tack her up, and take turns leading each other around. Gazy acted as broke as any horse, except she absolutely wouldn't walk out on her own.

One sunny winter day, Malinda decided to show Gazy that she could walk without anyone leading her. She tacked her up and led her out to the middle of her two acre pasture, pointed her toward the barn and climbed on. She nudged her



Stevens, McCormick and Woodside Vaulters Emerge Victorious at USEF/AVA National Vaulting Championships

Denver, CO - More than 300 top equestrian vaulters in the United States came together this weekend at the National Western Complex in Denver, CO for the USEF/AVA National Championships - and they did not disappoint.

The Woodside Vaulters of Woodside, CA, gained the top spot on the podium in the Team Championships. The A team consists of Katharine Wick, Gabe Aniello, Allysa Bonora, Tessa Divita, Kathryn Jagers, Siddhartha Kreaden, Katherine Salisbury. The team vaulted on Stanford, lunged by Julie Divita.

"Our team competition was especially good this year, at all levels, from the lowest levels to the highest level," said Linda Bibbler, Vice President of Competitions for the American Vaulting Association (AVA). "I was happy to see such strong representation from all parts of the country. All together the quality of the individual vaulters, pas de deux, and teams was very high."

The Woodside Vaulters continued to dominate with Patrick Stevens, the Men's Individual National Champion, on Agado lunged by Julie Divita, and Giovanni lunged by Krista Mack. In 2007, Stevens was the USEF/AVA National Vaulting Champion in the Silver Men's division, and in 2009 he was second. In 2010, Stevens finished sixth at the USEF/AVA National Vaulting Championships.

For the second year in a row, the Women's Individual National Champion was Mary McCormick,



Fran Lynghaug is an experienced horse breeder and trainer. Her first horse was a wild Pinto that was given to her; she trained him for show and riding in parades and a year later she became Miss Minnesota Pinto Horse Queen. She showed in western classes as well as English and also competed in games and an occasional endurance ride. She has owned a number of different kinds horses ranging from minies all the way up to drafts. The first book she authored was "Horses of Distinction, Stars of the Pleasure Breeds". Her next book, "The Official Horse Breeds Standards Guide: The Complete Guide to the Standards of All North American Equine Breed Associations," was one of three finalists in the Animals division of the 2010 Ben Franklin Awards, regarded as one of the highest national honors in publishing. Fran was the editor of "Your Horse: The Illustrated Handbook to Owning and Caring for Your Horse." She has also authored a book with television's PBS personality Dennis Brouse, called "Dennis Brouse on Horse Training: Bonding with Your Horse Through Gentle Leadership" which will be published in November 2011 by Voyageur Press. Fran lives on a hobby farm in Downing, Wisconsin. Her website is www.equestrian-horses.com.



Even Fat Horses Need Their Teeth Floated

By Darin Peterson, Casselton Veterinary Service, Inc.

Routine, preventative dental care is essential to your horse's health. When we say horses die from old age, it's not likely due to kidney or liver disease, cancer or heart failure. Lack of adequate tooth length, leading to failure of ingestion of appropriate nutrients, results in emaciation and is the number one killer of older horses. Horses teeth continuously erupt (born with pre-determined tooth length that move into contact with opposing upper/lower tooth over life time.) If your horse has a malocclusion, it can cause excessive wear to certain teeth, resulting in an expedited rate of periodontal disease and tooth loss. Unfortunately, at this time equine dentures are not an option. If we wait until the horse is in its 20's and showing severe clinical signs it is often too late. We can take off the sharp, painful points on the teeth, but we can't reverse the excessive uneven wear.

The normal horse by age 5 will have shed 24 baby teeth and have 36-40 permanent teeth. There are 6 upper and 6 lower incisors, which are used to tear off forage. Their length can affect how much chewing contact the upper and lower premolars and molars have. Canine teeth are fighting teeth and typically only erupt in males. They sit just behind the corner incisors and are often confused with wolf teeth. They usually erupt at around 4.5 years. Wolf teeth are typically located just in front of the first upper cheek tooth. They are difficult to visualize without sedation and a light source. Wolf teeth usually erupt at 6-9 months of age and are normally found only on the uppers. Lower wolf teeth do occasionally occur, especially

in standardbreds, mules, and donkeys. Wolf teeth are commonly removed at the same time of castration, or before going into training, to prevent probable painful irritation due to contact with the bit. They are easy to remove in the young horse, and if behavioral problems arise one does not have to wonder if the wolf teeth are the cause. Cheek teeth consist of three premolars and three molars to each side, top and bottom. The molars do not have deciduous (baby) teeth. The deciduous premolars or caps are typically shed at 2 years 8 months, 2 years 10 months, and 3 years 8 months.



It is common to see eruption bumps on the lower mandible during this time which are usually self-limiting. If they seem to be excessive, a veterinarian may need to manually remove a retained cap. Ideally your horse should have a thorough oral exam with sedation, mouth speculum, and a bright light, once per year starting at least by two years of age. The equine dental world has long been over looked. We are learning at a rapid pace with the technological advancements of better sedation, power equipment, and education. I'm not saying you need power equipment to do a good float, but it sure makes it a lot easier. In veterinary school, I was required to learn the trade of the hand floats before we could use the power equipment, but I wouldn't be telling anyone their horse needs

their teeth floated if I didn't have the luxury of the power equipment and advanced training. The horse's upper maxilla is anatomically wider than the lower mandible, so as a horse chews side to side over 12-24 months they are going to redevelop severe sharp points that result in painful cheek and tongue ulcerations. Even fat horses need their teeth floated! It is amazing how their behavior and demeanor can improve by removing the painful stimuli, as well as lengthen their lifespan. It is easier to neglect teeth over hooves as they are out of sight, out of mind! But consider them equal when we say "no foot, no horse" also say "no teeth, no horse." If you have multiple horses, and dentals are a financial burden it is better to split up the herd and have them done every couple of years, than not at all. You can't expect all veterinarians to want to work on your horse's teeth, but hopefully they can refer you to someone who does. As veterinarians we have to be an advocate for the animals we work on, so it is up to us to fully examine the entire animal and educate you as owners on what we can do to give them a longer, happier, healthier life.

Dr. Darin Peterson was born and raised on a horse and cattle ranch in Rosholt, SD and received his B.S. in Animal Science from SDSU. Dr. Peterson worked for Fort Dodge Animal Health for one year following graduation and then went to Veterinary School at Ross University. He completed his final clinical year at Texas A&M in 2005 and came directly to us at Casselton Veterinary Service.

Dr. Peterson enjoys seeing all species, but concentrates most of his time with large animals. Dr. Peterson has completed Options for Animals, Animal Chiropractic Course and is certified through the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association. He joins Dr. Bartholomay as the only two certified animal chiropractors in the state.

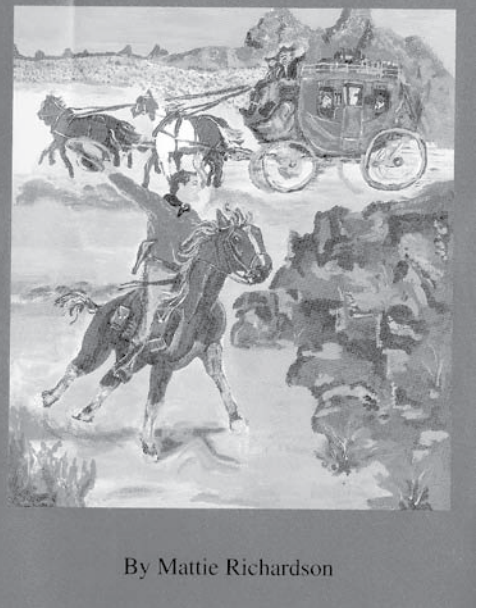
Dr. Peterson and his wife Andrea became proud parents to their daughter Quinn in 2010. In his free time, he enjoys trail riding with his family, training horses, team-roping, and hunting. Dr. Peterson also enjoys spending time with his two dogs; Kenzie and Skeeter, six horses, and the miniature donkey.

Dusty's Trail

A story about the Pony Express from the horse's perspective by

Mattie Richardson
author of 'Appaloosy'

DUSTY'S TRAIL



By Mattie Richardson

Contact Mattie at:

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http://appaloosybook.blogspot.com/

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13 WILD HORSES, 1 BURRO FIND GOOD HOMES DURING WESTERN STATES WILD HORSE AND BURRO EXPO

INMATE COMPETITION DRAWS LARGE CROWD TO ADOPTION

Reno, Nev.—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Nevada Department of Corrections successfully adopted nine saddle-trained wild horses and one burro during the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo on Saturday, August 20 at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center. Additionally, four weanling wild horses found homes.

Inmates from the Northern Nevada Correctional Center's Saddle Horse Training Program showcased their training efforts during a competition that spanned Friday evening and Saturday morning, concluding with an awards ceremony and the adoption of the animals. It was a duel of the paint horses: the top-dollar horse, War Paint, was adopted for \$2,600 and took second place in the competition, while Frito Bandito was adopted for the second-highest amount at \$2,100, but took first place in the competition.

The next saddle-trained horse adoption will take place in Carson City on Saturday, October 8 at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center off Snyder Avenue on the south side of Carson City. The beginning bid on all horses is \$150.

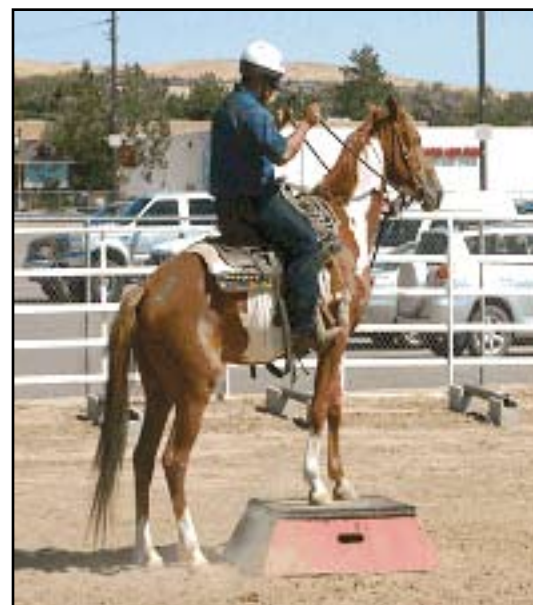
Information on the October adoption and a catalog of available horses for adoption will be available soon on the BLM's Carson City website at: www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.

Left: Frito Bandito and his trainer show off during the inmate competition.



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Left: War Paint brought top dollar at the adoption.



Sabin, Minn., Celebrates Harvest Days

The hometown of the Valley Equestrian News celebrated Harvest Days August 20 with a parade, church dinners, inflatable games, flag raising at the fire hall, tailgating on Main Street, the street dance with the music of 24 Seven, hammerschleglen, a Lego contest, corn-eating contest, carriage rides, face-painting, street fair, water

fight, classic car show and more.

Pictured top: Polly Thorsness driving Jane and Kate; bottom left: Omar Anderson driving his team with Judy Everett riding shotgun; bottom left: outrider Mark Radke on Bear.

Photos by Ley Bouchard



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SD State Shoot Show

By Cassandra Swanson

Cowboy mounted shooters from South Dakota and Nebraska had a bit of a 'border war' at the South Dakota State Cowboy Mounted Shoot (CMSA) August 6-7 in Lennox, SD hosted by the Dakota Territory Mounted Shooters (DTMS). Due to conflicting events, the shoot was moved to August so attendance was down. But, a great time was had by all, and it was the shooting, not the weather, that was HOT this year!



Cowboy mounted shooting is basically 'barrel racing' on steroids, with cowboys and cowgirls, often dressed in historical 1890's apparel, racing through a pole and barrel course shooting ten balloons along the way with their single action .45 handguns or rifle. And, yes, after the first five shots, they must holster gun number one, and take out gun number two or their rifle. There are penalties for broken patterns, missed balloons and even dropped guns if not holstered properly. Only certified blanks are used at these events, and all guns are loaded and unloaded by a certified armor specialist for safety.

The South Dakota ladies cleaned house



this year, with Kelli Shryock of Wessington Springs, SD taking home the Ladies Express Buckle. Stacey Brower of Hartford won the Ladies Limited Buckle. Stacey also captured the Rifle round, adding a second buckle to her collection.

The Nebraska men rallied and the Men's Express Buckle was taken home by Butch Stackpole of Omaha and the Men's limited was won by Jerry Salestrom of Tekamah, Nebraska.

For the first time in the club's shoot history, the Ladies outnumbered the men! Eleven women ran the course, to the men's nine. Nebraskans outnumbered the South Dakota home team by four. The fellowship was great and friendships were forged in this one of a kind family horse event. Watch the CMSA website under South Dakota for future events.

If you are interested in the local club, please feel free to contact any of the Dakota Territory Mounted Shooters: President: Mardy Gulbrandson 605-647-2830; Vice President: Lori Dump 605-582-6178; Secretary: Judy Nelson 605-610-6896; Treasurer: Stacey Brower 605-528-2800. The Club recently hosted an Exhibition Shoot at the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls, SD to a sold out crowd. They are looking forward to more events in 2012.

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USDA Proposes Animal Disease Traceability Rule

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed its Animal Disease Traceability rule. USDA states the period for public comment closes on November 9, 2011.

The announcement has been anticipated by animal livestock groups across the country after USDA replaced the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) with the Animal Disease Traceability Program (ADTP) in early 2010. The former NAIS program was not fully embraced by the livestock community and generated numerous concerns surrounding confidentiality, liability, cost, and privacy. Rather than attempting to identify every animal, every premise and every animal movement to achieve traceback within 48 hours of a disease outbreak, the proposed ADTP rule is aimed at designing a simplified program to achieve basic traceability with simplified identification means, including branding, to respond to a disease outbreak.

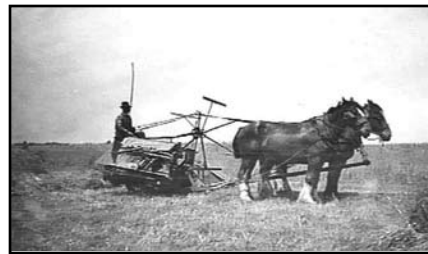
The purpose of the proposed rule is to improve the ability to trace livestock, including horses, in the event of a disease outbreak. The proposed rule establishes minimum national identification requirements to trace livestock

that move interstate. Under the proposed rule, livestock that are moved interstate would have to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation. Under the proposed rule, horses would have to be identified by one of the following methods:

- A description of the individual horse, such as: name, age, breed, color, gender, distinctive markings, and unique and permanent forms of identification when present (e.g., brands, tattoos, scars, cowlicks, or blemishes); or
- Electronic identification, such as certain microchips; or
- Digital photographs that identify the individual horse; or
- A USDA backtag for horses being commercially transported for slaughter. The ADTP will be administered by the states with federal support and will only

apply to animals, including horses, moving interstate. The new program will encourage the use of lower-cost technology and ensure the traceability data is owned and maintained by the states and tribal nations. USDA indicated it will share the costs of the new program with the states.

The American Horse Council keeps its members up to date with electronic AHC Washington Updates that report on Congressional actions and other important federal issues affecting the horse industry. Anyone interested in more information on federal legislation and regulatory issues affecting equine health, taxes, animal welfare, racing, recreation, and showing can visit the AHC website at www.horsecouncil.org



COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

OPERATING A HARVEST GRAIN BINDER

WAITING FOR GRAIN TO RIPEN/A REEL MACHINE

Each year they celebrated the ripening grain, Acres of amber waves across the fruited plain. When hard, red wheat 'heads out' and shimmers in the sun Then each green head turns visibly gold, one by one. Soon, anxious farmers on foot would criss-cross each field, Estimating the harvest date and the yield. Thankful this season's warmer, wetter and kinder And that this grain field is ready for the binder.

BLACKSMITH DUTIES GETTING READY FOR THE HARVEST

There's the sound of grinding and the ring of the sledge; Hammering rivets and making a sharp sickle edge, Taking off the chains, dipping and letting them soak In oil, while they're fixing anything else that's broke. In the canister, two twine bales to interlock, A leader threaded to tie up the loose grain stalk. Hoping a harvest without breakdowns will be kinder, That's why they're oiling the moving parts of the binder.

STRETCHING CANVAS AND STRETCHING ONES LUCK

Three canvases need to be riveted and reslatted; Any rips, or tears, need to be sewed and tatted; Then they are stretched over rollers made of wood; Then loop the buckles and tighten as best they could. Stretching with use, they'll need to tighten ev'ry fourth round, Or sooner if they detected a slipping sound. Packing spare sickles and other reminders Of things that could go wrong with those aging binders.

CUTTING STANDING GRAIN AND TYING INTO BUNDLES

At least four horses were hitched to this binder rig; It was advantageous if they were trained and big They were hitched by eveners to the carrier wheel; (distributing the load) And they had bridle blinders so as to conceal That clattering, noisy monster so close behind. The two matched teams of horses pulled with muscles combined. (This is for the pioneers and as a reminder; And for the youth, that have never seen a binder.)

TO FEED ... OR NOT TO FEED (THE MOSQUITOS)

Some fly nets were draped across the horse's backs; Some were strings, others canvas, looking like gunny sacks, And nose baskets over the horse's heads were tied For extra protection that they did provide. The driver would bring a water jug and straw hat And tie a hanky to deter flies or a gnat. Nothing in this whole world could have been unkindler Than swatting mosquitoes while riding the binder!

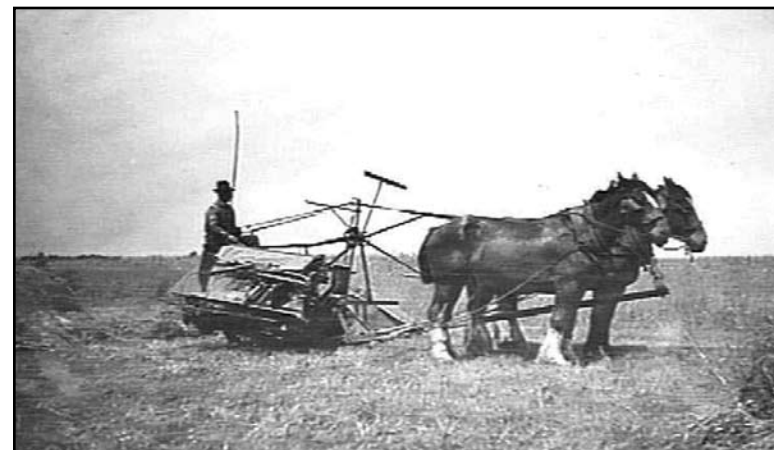
THERE'S NO BULL ABOUT THE BULL WHEEL

On a binder everything's run by the 'bull' wheel: The sickle, canvass rollers, twine-tyer and reel. The reel slats rotate to bring the standing grain back, The sickle slices the stems clickity-clack. The stalks are dropped and moved on the inside track Between two canvases it's rolled up to be bound Where steel fingers tie them with a fast clicking sound. When the big wheel skids, the driver is the finder. Alone he must fix what's gone wrong with the binder.

THE FIRST ROUND IS A BACKSWATH

On the appointed day, they make their first round; The bundle carrier deposits in groups on the ground. It's tripped by driver's foot and spaced to save some steps And each falling bundle the carrier intercepts. But, every one must be moved for the backswath round Which, is in reverse direction, but inward bound. For experienced harvesters a reminder Others can imagine a week on the binder.

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Tax Issue of Appreciation in Value of Farm Property

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

Under the IRS hobby loss rule if you have losses in connection with any farming activity, horses, livestock or crops, the IRS may suspect that the activity is engaged in as a hobby rather than a business, particularly if there is a history of losses.

One of the elements in the IRS hobby loss rule is called "Expectation That Assets Will Appreciate in Value." The leading case on this point is *Engdahl v. IRS*. The taxpayer's horse farm appreciated from \$83,146 to \$225,000 over a several-year period. The Tax Court held that this in itself was indicative of a profit motive. There are many similar rulings in Tax Court cases.

One important Tax Court case observed: "If losses, or even repeated losses, were the only criterion by which farming is to be judged a business, then a large proportion of the farms of the country would be outside the

pale. It is the expectation of gain, and not gain itself which is one of the factors which enter into the determination of the question."

The appreciation in value of farm property takes on importance particularly in situations where the taxpayer has been unable to show any profit years. Appreciation in value of your farm or ranch property can help prove that you have an honest expectation of making a profit despite a string of losses. The fact that a portion of your farm is used for a residence or other purposes does not preclude the IRS from considering overall appreciation in value.

According to tax regulations, the appreciation in the value of the land used in the activity helps to explain a taxpayer's willingness to continue the venture despite operating losses sustained during a number of years. It is strong evidence that the taxpayer conducted the activity with an honest and actual objective of making a profit.

Coupled with appreciation in value is the question of whether you have implemented improvements that enhance your property as a working farm. Pastures, fencing, barns, arenas, storage facilities,



irrigation, ponds, lighting, and landscaping all fall within the type of improvements likely to fall into this category.

Sometimes the IRS will argue that the farm property is not economically tied up with the land, so that any appreciation in value is largely irrelevant. This position of the IRS, if and when taken, is contrary to many Tax Court cases on the subject.

It is recommended that taxpayers get a formal appraisal of their property every couple of years, in addition to complying with businesslike methods of operation, to help show that the value of the land has increased so that if the farm were sold, there would be a significant recoupment of past losses. In a formal appraisal, the appraiser should be able to say that the land is used exclusively for the venture, and that the highest and best usage of the land is that of a farm, whether it is a horse farm, cattle ranch, or agricultural activity.

You should also be able to prove that the land was purchased, maintained and improved with the expectation that it would ap-

preciate in value, and that this increase would enhance the overall profitability of your venture.

In addition, appreciation in value of assets used in the activity takes into account the appreciation in value of the animals owned by the taxpayer and utilized in the venture. The fact that certain animals have increased in value because of the efforts of the taxpayer tie into this factor even though the assets were not sold. The actual or potential increase in value should be documented by an auction agent or qualified bloodstock appraiser.

John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He serves clients in all 50 states, and can be reached at: (310) 278-0203 or via email at johnalancohan@aol.com. His website is www.JohnAlanCohan.com.

GOOD WORKS HONOREE KEVIN NELSON SERVES THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER WITH 'HEART OF GOLD'

The American Association of Equine Practitioners commends Dr. Kevin Nelson, the June honoree of the Good Works for Horses Campaign, for showing extraordinary kindness through his service to Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program. The AAEP's Good Works for Horses Campaign honors AAEP-member practitioners who perform volunteer service to benefit horses and the equine community. Horse owners and veterinary professionals are encouraged to nominate veterinarians for this monthly recognition.

Dr. Nelson, the co-owner of Bristol Veterinary Service in Union Grove, Wis., provides low-cost veterinary care for eleven therapeutic riding horses at Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program. He's also a reliable and compassionate friend to the center's staff and the children that participate in the program. Dr. Nelson assists the center in acquiring suitable horses for the program, educates staff and volunteers about equine health care topics, and supports program through fundraisers. Dr. Nelson is also involved with the local 4-H Program.

Staff members and riders at Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program praise Dr. Nelson for his remarkable dedication to people and horses. During his visits, he patiently answers questions from special needs children, who have come to know him as "Dr. Kevin." According to program director Stephanie Kubarth, Dr. Nelson makes his involvement with the center personal as well as professional.

When a young boy who participated in the program was hospitalized for 13 months for cancer treatment, Dr. Nelson was a

frequent visitor at the hospital. Dr. Nelson also gave a permanent home to Goodie, a favorite horse in the program and NARHA horse of the year, when she was too sick to stay at the center. "Parades" of children from the program stopped by Dr. Nelson's house to visit the treasured Appaloosa. After her death, Dr. Nelson built a gravesite under a line of apple trees on his property. He marked the grave with a bronze plaque and fence post.

Throughout 2011, the AAEP's Good Works for Horses Campaign will spotlight AAEP-member practitioners whose volunteer efforts are improving the health and welfare of horses. Monthly honorees will be considered for the 2011 Good Works Award, to be presented during the 57th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Nomination forms are currently available at www.aaep.org/goodworks.htm.

The Good Works Campaign is sponsored in part by AAEP Educational Partner, Pfizer Animal Health. Pfizer Animal Health strives to improve horse health by helping to build strong relationships between veterinarians and horse owners and providing a range of products backed by the highest standards of scientific research.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its over 10,000 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

2011 Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team Short List for the Pan-American Games

By USEF Communications Department

Lexington, KY - August 16 2011 - The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) announces the 2011 Land Rover U.S. Eventing Team Short List for the Pan American Games. Sharon White withdrew Rafferty's Rules on August 16, and the first substitute, Kevin Keane on Fernhill Flutter, have been moved up onto the Short List.

The complete Short List as of August 16:

Emily Beshear/34/Somerset, VA/Here's to You/11/Thoroughbred/G/ Deep Purple Eventing

Hannah Sue Burnett/25/Ocala, FL/Harbour Pilot/8/Irish Sport Horse/G/ Jacqueline Mars

Anna Collier/35/Vancouver, WA/Upper Crust D/10/KWPN/G/ Anna Collier

Bruce Davidson Jr./35/Ocala, FL/Absolute Liberty/8/Thoroughbred/M/Sharon Will

Jonathan Holling/34/Ocala, FL/ Down-town Harrison/7/Trakehner-Thoroughbred Cross/G/ Constance Holling

Kevin Keane/56/Kennett Square, PA/Fernhill Flutter/9/Irish Sport Horse/G/ Kevin Keane

Shannon Lilley/32/Gilroy, CA/Ballingowan Pizzaz/9/Irish Sport Horse/G/ The Lilley Group

Boyd Martin/32/Cochranville, PA/Cold Harbor/11/Canadian Sport Horse/G/ Dana Diemer

Maxance McManamy/19/Templeton, CA/ Project Runway/7/Trakehner/G/ Maxance McManamy

Michael Pollard/30/Dalton, GA/Schoens-green Hanni/8/German Sport Horse/M/ Natalie Pollard

Kristin Schmolze/28/Califon, NJ/Ballylaffin Bracken/11/Irish Sport Horse/G/ Kristin, Janet, and William Schmolze

Alexandra Slusher/24/Auburn, CA/ Pierre/10/Hanoverian/G/ Sandy Campbell Tamra Smith/36/Murietta, CA/Mar de Amor/11/Selle Francais/G/ Leigh Meshner

Lynn Symansky/28/Middleburg, VA/ Donner/8/Thoroughbred/G/Lynn Symansky

Jolie Wentworth/30/Martinez, CA, /Good Knight/9/Canadian Sport Horse/ Tracy Bowman

Ranked Substitutes as of Aug. 16:

1. Jennifer Taxay Kelly/47/Agua Dulce, CA/Taboo/7/Thoroughbred/M/ Jennifer Taxay Kelly

2. Matt Flynn/27/Potomac, MD/ Breakthrough/7/Irish Sport Horse/G/ Dr. and Mrs. A Patrick Flynn

More information about the 2011 Pan American Games is available at: http://www.guadalajara2011.org.mx/ENG/01_ini_cio/

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Events for September and Beyond

August 25: Standardbred Horse Sale at Simon Arena, Cannon Falls, MN. Call 507-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com for more information

August 26-28: Lincoln, NE: Bold Heart Futurity, Lancaster Events Center, www.BoldHeartInc.net, 605-270-3043, samjmartinez@hotmail.com

August 26-28 Waterloo, IA: Big J Barrel Futurity & Derby, National Cattle Congress Grounds, Contact Lynde Johnson 515-571-4281, bigjbarreblast@gmail.com, www.bigjbarreblast.com

August 27 - 28: NSCHA Ranch Sorting at the Simon Arena, Cannon Falls, MN. Call 507-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com for more information

Aug. 27-28: MN Get-Together Shoot of the Wild Rice Peacemakers Cowboy Mounted Shooting in Twin Valley, Minn.

August 27 Spearfish, SD: Myers Performance Horse Prospect Sale, Bill & Debbie Myers, 605-642-9789, www.frenchmansguy.com

August 28 Spearfish, SD: Ranchers Quarter Horse Breeder's Association Sale, Seven Down Arena, Chad Hubert 605-985-5426 or Shirley Wetz 605-347-8120, www.RQHBA.com

August 30: Granville, ND: McHenry County Saddle Club Series, Contact Karen Kramer, 701-509-3948

September 2-4: Belle Fourche, SD Get The Green 4D Slot Race, Contact Lorita Crofford 606-6457592 crofford1@hotmail.com

September 3 & 10: Grand Forks, ND: 3rd Annual Grand Forks Fair Board Summer UBRA Series, Contact Pam Marback pmarback@yahoo.com

September 3-4: Torrington, WY: Labor Day Blast

September 3 Rapid City, SD: Central SD Ranchers and Breeders Quarter Horse Sale, Central States Fairgrounds, Denny & Doris Lauing, 605-962-6344, www.lauingmillironranch.com or Jerry Simon & Lynda Neumiller 605-280-0356

September 4 Newell, SD: Spur Creek Horse Sale and Ranch Rodeo at Spur Creek Saloon, Contact Dale Simanton, 605-892-

5133, horsecreekbts@hotmail.com, www.spurcreekhorsesale.com

September 6: Whitney, NE: NHBA Barrel Race, Johnson Arena

September 10-11: National Versatility Ranch Horse Assoc. Clinic at the Simon Arena, Cannon Falls, MN. Call 507-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com

Contact Victoria Blatchford, 605-639-4699, ivblatch@itctel.com

September 10 Gettysburg, SD: Raymond Sutton Ranch 60th Annual Production Sale at the ranch, 605-264-5452, www.raymond-sutton.net

September 11 Valentine, NE: Weber & Company Performance Horse Sale,

Horses at 6 p.m. at Simon Arena, Cannon Falls, MN. Call 507-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com for more information.

September 16 - 18: Minnesota Quarter Horse Futurity Show at the Simon Arena, Cannon Falls, MN. Call 507-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com for more information

September 18: Team Roping Jackpot Series at the Simon Arena, Cannon Falls, MN. Call 507-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com for more information

September 18 Sheridan, WY: Sugar Bars Legacy Sale, 1 pm, LeRoy Wetz 605-347-8120 or Art McDonald 406-477-6441 Sept. 24-25: Northern Prairie Shoot in Twin Valley, Minn.

September 22-23 Belle Fourche, SD: 4th Annual Roper Rally Barrel Futurity, Goliher Indoor Arena, Contact Zeann Goliher 605-641-2926, zgoliher@hotmail.com, www.FlyingZ.net

September 24 - 25: Twin Cities Quarter Horse Sale and Twin Cities Appaloosa Horse Sale at the Simon Arena, Cannon Falls, MN. Call including Select Ranch Horses & Weanlings, Western Trade Show, Cherry County Fairgrounds, Contact Rick Weber 402-3899-1406, or Missy Weber 402-376-5356

September 15-18 Gillette, WY: Fizz Bomb Futurity, Cam-Plex, Contact Scott & Carey Mackey, 307-680-4105 or 307-680-4106, www.fizzbombfuturity.com

September 13: All Breed Horse & Tack Sale with Tack at 3p.m. and

507-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com for more information

September 30 - October 2: Minnesota Quarter Horse District 4 Show at the Simon Arena, Cannon Falls, MN. Call 507-263-4200 or visit www.simonhorsecompany.com for more information

September 30 - October 1 Huron, SD: Grid Iron Open 2D Barrel Futurity with Breeders Incentive, Beef Complex, SD State Fairgrounds, FMI Bobbi

Jo Williams, 605-685-8768 or www.gridironproductions.com

November 19-20 Gillette, WY: 4th Annual Roper Apparel & Footwear Barrel Futurity & Barrel Racing Report Open 4D, Cam-Plex Arena, www.kohrquarterhorses.com

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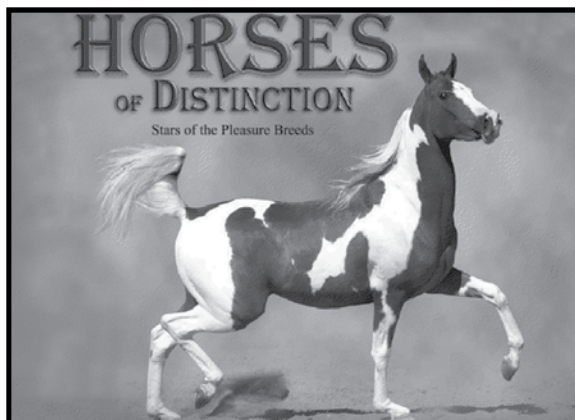
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Living the Dream: Cavalia's Roman Rider Shares Her Life

By Ley Bouchard

Touted to be fearless, Fairland Ferguson, Cavalia's Roman rider, stands proudly, courageously and trustingly atop her gelding Quarter horse Amaretto and Circillo (named for his breed). She nearly flies across the arena on her horse's backs as more horses come along until she is driving four and then six horses while still atop her trusted mates.

"They are so different. Amaretto is hyper and high strung and takes a lot of my attention. Criollo is subdued, just does his job, and is calm. The way they steer and move is really different; they work really well as a team."

She talks of the geldings as though they were her children. "I really had to work to gain his trust and he demands that you take the time with him. With Amaretto it took a long time to earn his trust. The people that care for him - it's funny to see the lack of trust he has for them. We have spent so much time together it has really paid off."

Ferguson has been involved in their training since she joined the show in the fall of 2009. "With all

of the horses, if you work with the horse, that horse is your responsibility. You work it and train it."

It sounds like an exciting life, working and traveling with a show like Cavalia. "I work every day usually 1-2 p.m. I exercise the horses daily for 45 minutes to stimulate their brain and get their cardio going. In every city there is a place on the grounds to turn the horses out so they get their exercise. Then we exercise also to keep in shape. Then I bring them in and they get ready for the show."

"Two hours prior to each show we have a meeting; we discuss any problems of previous day, so the communication is open. It's a 10-hour day, not every day. I'm at work but it's not a non-stop 10 hours grueling day. I absolutely love what I do."

On days off Ferguson enjoys sleeping in. "I always go and look at the cities wherever we are. The opportunity to travel is really great. I love going to a new city, looking up the tour guides, checking everything out. I go to church online because my church at home has a web site." Cavalia typically takes a couple weeks off between

gigs where the horses are allowed to be horses and the artists can go home or stay. "In between the cities we have the option to stay and work with the horses or we can go home. The horses are on vacation so we pretty much put them in nice green pastures, and we do trail rides, or light riding at different farms. They find farms that are big enough and have enough room- it has to be large enough. Our staff stays with the horses all the time; that includes the grooms, stable hands, and vet techs."

It's not a gypsy caravan in which they live. "Our living quarters are apartments in each city, fully furnished, and if you don't like it you get a new one in two weeks. All the furnishings travel, it's a different apartment, but weirdly the same stuff. The apartments always reflect the city somewhat. It's always close to the city downtown near the show. We stay in nicer places." Ferguson keeps a car on tour and drives

from place to place or sometimes has her car transported by truck. The trailering of the horses is subcontracted except when they go long distances, the horses are flown. "They never take any risks with the horses, it shows in every aspect of their care,



which I think is as it should be. A lot of time people are hesitant about a show that has traveling horses. With Cavalia, people can visit the horses back stage." I asked how Ferguson came by her unique name: "My parents used to raise and show labs and had one named, This Fair Land, who was stolen from them during a show. They thought I was going to be

a boy, they had my name picked, John Grey, and then they remembered their favorite dog and decided to name me after her."

Ferguson said traveling with Cavalia is like being part of a big family. "It's a big family. I'm in the artistic department and work with the acrobats and artists; I'm dealing with the horses. The office staff plans the housing transportation, the kitchen staff prepares the food. We eat together, we hang out together, it's like a large traveling family. There are disagreements, of course. I tend to get along with everybody and am easy going. We have our acts and our horses and there isn't much crossing over. With

anything, as long as you communicate you can get through it. We have so many cultures. Many times the cultural differences are a blessing and an obstacle. Something you might say in English comes across different in another culture - it is a great learning experience."

When the horses are injured or become too old to work they are retired to their home in Sutton, Canada,

or the riders are given an opportunity to buy them. The same occurs with the mustang colts that start the show, they are either sent to the farm or someone purchases them. After all, it would be fun to say you had a Cavalia horse. "The ones we had before these, the vet tech bought them. Sometimes, they go to the farm in Sutton, Canada. If someone is really interested and they go to that person - it's what's best for the horses."

I asked Ferguson what her future plans were: "As long as I'm healthy and happy I don't see me leaving the show. I always wanted to be a whale trainer in Sea World so that would be the only thing that might pull me away. I am super happy doing what I am doing." Ferguson has a biology degree. She is 28 years old. "I think I have at least 5 years left in me."

She happily admits to living a single life. "I haven't had a boyfriend for a long time. Single and not looking. I have the real men in my life with my horses; I always know where they are, they are the safe ones, and they don't talk back. I guess if I get a boyfriend his name has to end in o." Check out Ferguson on her Facebook page.

NDAPHC Hosts Appaloosa Show

The ND Appaloosa Horse Club hosted a WSCA Open and Appaloosa Show Aug. 21 and 22 at the Red River Fairgrounds Arena in West Fargo, N.D. Lisa Feldner organizer of the event said the club was very pleased with the turn out. There were over

100 classes available to riders. Lita Hottel, Rochester, judged the two-day event.

Pictured below is Mary Salata who placed first in non-pro reining; riders on deck are pictured in the shadows.



KAM Animal Services

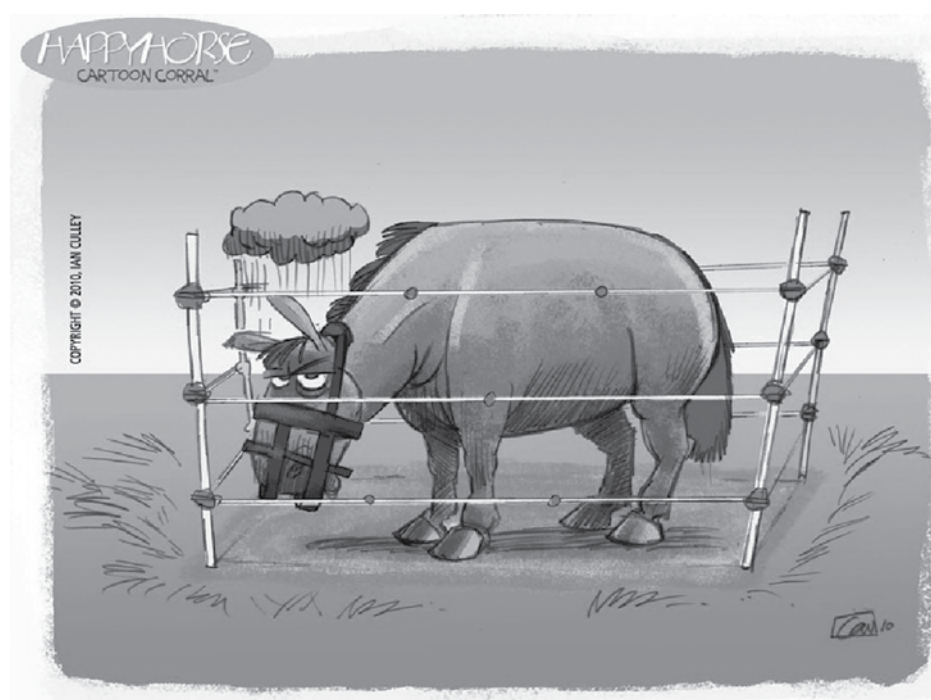
Many horses have problems in the way they metabolize carbohydrates and sugars. When these horses exhibit clinical signs, they may be diagnosed as Insulin Resistant (IR) or having Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS). It is important to know that the various sources of energy from feeds are digested and metabolized differently. The three main sources of energy for horses are carbohydrates (starch), fats, and proteins. There are many commercially prepared high fat, low starch diets now available for these horses.

Managing pasture turn out and grazing is also of vital importance. Grazing muzzles can save these horses lives!

A way to identify horses with possible metabolic problems is to evaluate their overall appearance. Most of them will have abnormal fatty deposits along their neck (cresty) and at the base of the tail. Many geldings will also have

scesses and laminitis are other good indicators of metabolic disorders. Blood tests are indicated to determine which disorder(s) is present. Research indicates that an overweight horse is more likely to become

ate nutritional supplements may be all that is necessary to get insulin/glucose levels under control. Horses suffering from Insulin Resistance or Equine Metabolic Syndrome can greatly benefit from a nutrient specific



"If I was a Clydesdale you wouldn't say I was fat!"

increased fat deposits around their sheath.

A long hair coat, low energy levels, recurring muscle, tendon, and/or ligament injuries, ab-

insulin resistant. Implementing a weight loss program through calorie and carbohydrate restriction, controlled exercise, and appropri-

next webinar. The FREE webinars will conclude with a question and answer session, so be ready with your nutrition questions.

Minnesota Horse Council Offers Scholarships, Grants, Funding & Awards

The Minnesota Horse Council announces several funding programs available this year. These are made possible by the success of the Minnesota Horse Expo. Scholarships: the twenty-fifth annual MHC/ Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarships are offered for both high school seniors & undergrads, and for grad students (considered separately), to be used toward education that would further the applicant's career in and contributions to the horse industry in Minnesota. Applications are due by November 1st. At least ten \$2000 scholarships will be presented at the MHC annual meeting next January. For more info, contact Trina Joyce at 612-729-7798 or TrinaJoyce@earthlink.net for questions. Grants: of a maximum of \$7,000 are given to Minnesota charitable/non-profit equine-related organizations as 'seed money' to inspire new projects or capital improvements, or for expansions of existing projects or services. Applications are due by October 1st. Grants are presented at the MHC annual meeting next January. Funds will be paid out as your project progresses. Contact Tim Bonham at 612-721-1007 or T-Bonham@scc.net for info.

Direct Funding: The Minnesota Horse Council offers direct funding assistance (up to \$500) to any non-profit horse related organization that develops or organizes any public clinic, program activity, or publication that advances the goals of the Minnesota Horse Council.

A HEALTHIER HORSE FEED

What do you do for a young horse with chronic diarrhea that just won't go away - a young horse with a future. After spending thousands of dollars and going to numerous vets for months on end, Cindy Besser, founder and owner of Roasted to Perfection Horse Feed of Sauk Rapids, MN, wondered if she would ever be able to ride her young colt.

After months of searching for alternatives, Besser hit on the idea of feeding roasted grain. Roasting controls mold and mildew growth on the grain. High moisture and high humidity can promote mold and mildew growth on grain prior to being harvested, as well as when the grain is in storage in a grain bin or in a feed bag on the shelf. Mold and mildew in the feed can make horses sick, and is not always detectable. Mycotoxin is a highly toxic by-product of mold growth in feed and on raw grain. Mycotoxins are generated from the secondary metabolic processes which occur naturally in a variety of molds. Prolonged cloudy, humid weather encourages the production of the fusarium-based toxins. High roasting temperatures kill mold and mildew spores.

Besser fed her colt roasted grains, mixed with vitamins and minerals. She saw the colt come back to a healthy condition. The diarrhea stopped. The colt improved dramatically. After seeing the benefits of feeding a roasted feed, Besser did her research, worked with an equine nutritionist, and developed Roasted to Perfection Horse Feed.

Roasted to Perfection contains roasted milo, heavy, roasted, crimped oats, roasted soybeans, flax seed, and pelleted vitamins and minerals. Roasted milo is an incredibly efficient source of energy for horses. Heavy, roasted, crimped oats provide optimal digestion

Applications accepted at any time during the year, responses generally within 30 days. Contact: Mark Ward, MarkWard@indyridgeanch.com, 651-436-6557. Other Awards Available (different time schedules):

HorsePerson Award: Each year, MHC honors someone as the "Minnesota Horse Person of the Year", and places his or her photo in the Horseman's Hall of Fame at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. The Council is seeking nominations of people for this award. This person should be an outstanding person in the horse industry -- someone who stands above the rest for long-term contributions to many areas of equine activity. Nominations are accepted all year, but must be received by November 1st to be considered this year. The person selected will be announced at the MHC annual meeting next January. Contact: Dawn Moore, dmoore834@comcast.net, 952-949-6659 with any questions.

Pioneer Award: This award is given to a deceased person who was a Minnesota horse pioneer -- someone who led others to horses. Nominations are due by March 1st each year. Contact: Dawn Moore, dmoore834@comcast.net, 952-949-6659. The Minnesota Horse Council web page at www.MnHorseCouncil.org/ or contact the Mn Horse Council, P.O. Box 223, Plato, MN 55370-0223.

and absorption of nutrients. Horses seem to love the scent and taste of roasted soybeans; it is a superb energy source and encourages finicky horses to eat. Flax is one of the richest sources of Omega-3 of any plant. Omega-3 fatty acids can enhance the overall health of a horse. Mixing whole flax seeds with vitamins and minerals produces a small, extremely palatable pellet.

Roasting grain increases digestibility. By roasting, the hard outer shell of the grain is removed, which allows for easier and more efficient digestion. Without a hard outer shell, it is easy for any horse to chew and digest. It decreases the amount of gastric acid needed to break down food in the stomach, and less gastric acid means the occurrence of stomach ulcers and body soreness can be greatly reduced. By ensuring digestion in the stomach, rather than in the intestines and cecum, the horse can more easily process and utilize the grain, vitamins and minerals, thereby producing a more balanced energy level for the horse. With the hard outer shell removed, ensuring optimal digestion in the stomach and increased absorption of nutrients, the volume of grain being fed can be reduced. Feeding a lesser volume of grain that is more easily digested and absorbed decreases the chance of grain-overload founder, and less undigested feed passes through the horse into the manure.

With an increased shelf-life due to moisture levels at 10 percent or less, Roasted to Perfection is a nutritionally balanced, fixed ration, the same formula, the same ingredients, batch after batch. It is an excellent source of energy, palatable, digestible, and safer for your horse. Look for the plain brown bag with the hot pink label, or go to www.RoastedtoPerfection.com for more information.

From Our Readers: An 'Oldest Horse' Story MISS BLACK

By Anita Dobmeier

The horses name is Miss Black and she is 34 years old. The picture that you see is from the Stearns County (MN) Fair 2011 where Miss Black and my daughter, Gracie, performed in all of the games and the Pleasure events along with Trail and fun games.

Miss Black has been to fair with my son for 3 years and this is the first year Gracie has brought her. My son moved onto another horse and I thought that Miss Black was going to get to retire, but Gracie's horse got hurt and so Miss Black had to step back up to the plate and give it her all for Gracie.

During the summer months Miss Black taught Gracie how to sit better while doing games and gave her more confidence to ask for more speed. She also goes in all the parades with Gracie and carries the flag and helps represent her being the Little Miss of the Rocky Riders Saddle Club.

Miss Black is a horse that is one of a kind. She has taken care of both of my children and helped them gain confidence and learn how to be a better rider. Last fall she also did some Team Sorting at the Swingin S in Belgrade and helped my son take 2nd place on his team. She is a horse that is always ready to go once the halter is put on, never bucks, squawks or asks why - just does her job willingly and gives it her all every time. She does need that treat afterwards - one of her downfalls.



This horse has more than words can say...from almost being sent off to the kill pen, the good lord saw

a way to bring her into our lives, get her back into shape and become one of the family members that she is today. We are thankful for what she has taught all of us and I hope that my daughter will let her retire soon so she can just graze the pastures.

BLM Director Bob Abbey Announces Selection of Joan Guilfoyle to Lead Agency's Wild Horse and Burro Program

Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey announced the selection of Joan Guilfoyle to be the new chief of the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Division. Guilfoyle, who is currently Service First National Coordinator for the BLM and three other Federal agencies, succeeds Don Glenn, who retired in December 2010. Guilfoyle reported to her new position on August 15.

Abbey said Guilfoyle "brings a diverse set of skills, experience, and expertise that will enable her to meet the formidable challenges facing the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. Joan has demonstrated a commitment to accountability, transparency, and partnering with stakeholders in her work, and she will advance our agency's effort to create what I have called a 'new normal' for doing business in wild horse and burro management."

Guilfoyle said, "I am pleased to have been selected for this critical BLM position in a program that is under the bright light of public scrutiny. I will implement the ongoing reforms of the Wild Horse and Burro Program in the most effective manner possible so that we can put this program on a sustainable track."

In her current position in Washington, D.C., as Service First National Coordinator for the BLM, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Guilfoyle has provided leadership on streamlining and integrating agency processes to improve customer

service, enhance natural and cultural resource management, and increase efficiency within and between agencies. Guilfoyle previously served in several key Federal positions, including Supervisory National Park Service Ranger for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota; Acting Executive Director of the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership, Service First offices in Las Vegas and Boulder City, Nevada; Information and Education Specialist/Outreach Coordinator and Deputy Assistant Regional Director for Public Affairs for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Twin Cities, Minnesota; and Deputy District Public Affairs Officer and Supervisory Park Ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Paul, Minnesota, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Guilfoyle earned her Bachelor's degree in Zoology/Ecology from Southern Illinois University in 1979 and her Master's degree in Environmental Learning and Leadership from the University of Minnesota in 2002. An avid outdoorswoman, Guilfoyle enjoys hiking, kayaking, and horseback riding, among other activities. Guilfoyle volunteers with horse care and exercise duties at the National Park Service's mounted park police program based in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C., and is involved in a wounded warrior program known as "Ride Well," which offers equestrian-based rehabilitative services for returning servicemen and women through area veterans' hospitals.

From the Horse Industry's Mouth

The True Unintended Consequences of Horse Slaughter

By John Holland and Vicki Tobin

Over the years, we've written about the nonsensical arguments used by those in support of horse slaughter. We've scratched our heads and wondered why seemingly intelligent people would use the most illogical, ill conceived arguments and ridiculous euphemisms like "horse harvesting" to try to sway public opinion to embrace horse slaughter.

Time after time horse advocates have exposed the horrendous cruelty involved in the industry in ways that were completely indisputable. Yet, slaughter proponents steadfastly insist on calling the process "euthanasia" which of course means "good death", the very polar opposite of what the gruesome evidence shows.

Animal Agriculture organizations, from turkey growers to pork producers, have always been tacitly opposed to banning horse slaughter on the flimsy supposition that it would lead down a slippery slope toward the banning of all meat production. Unlike slaughter supporters who throw out unsubstantiated statistics and comments, we are always under a microscope. We must have our facts, figures and sources straight before going to press. We have consistently had enough research and data to resink the Titanic but more often than not, we have been unable to break the stronghold on the press by our opponents.

That is until the drug issue came to light. We had warned of drug residues in US horses for years, but eventually food safety regulators in European Union (EU) came to realize that there was a huge hole in their system, and that thousands of contaminated horses were slipping into the EU. It took human food safety to finally provide an irrefutable reason why the slaughter of U.S. horses should be banned immediately.

Initially, all the propaganda and disinformation was about the innocuous preservation of horse slaughter for the large quantity breeders. The big support came from the American Quarter Horse Association, the largest breed registry with over 125,000 foals registered every year. The major driver of excess horses, or as our opponents have renamed them, "unwanted" horses, are the large breeders that produce hundreds of horses, sell a small portion and then cull the excess to slaughter. It is a never ending cycle that had to be protected and is a practice that is never addressed by slaughter proponents. Then when the US horse slaughter plants were closed down the horse slaughter battle began to shift from a conflict within the horse community to a full-fledged proxy war with animal agriculture.

The first clue that slaughter supporters were switching strategies was the new argument that opponents of horse slaughter really wanted to bring down animal agriculture. Now, equine advocates were labeled PETA, and animal rights extremists, with some going as far as to call us "animal terrorists". No doubt, this was to garner support from food producers and ranchers to support a foreign meat business that had nothing to do with the horse industry.

Next, was the emergence of Humane-Watch, an organization frequently quoted by slaughter supporters, that is run by Rick Berman, dubbed Dr. Evil by 60 Minutes. Berman is a lobbyist and shill for corporations that oppose any type of animal welfare. Their sole purpose is to bash the Humane Society of the United States because of their successes in animal welfare for farm animals.

Finally, there was the "Summit of the Horse" meeting in Las Vegas earlier this year that featured a keynote speaker from

the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. The animal agriculture supporters of horse slaughter had been forced to come to the aid of their flailing allies on the horse slaughter front.

In a feckless attempt to throw up a smoke screen on the issue, the outspoken slaughter spokesperson, Sue Wallis, resorted to inventing her drug regulations and facts out of thin air. She declared phenylbutazone (bute) is safe in food animals after 30 days, ignoring that the FDA and European Union have banned bute in all food animals.

In the heat of the blog wars that followed, some ranchers attempted to bolster the Wallis argument by stating they often gave bute to their cattle! Their reasoning, to whatever degree reasoning might have existed, appeared to be that if food safety regulations are being flaunted by cattlemen, then these drug residues must be okay in horses.

Once the drug issues came to light, an unintended consequence emerged. Americans are becoming increasingly interested and suspicious about how their own meat is being produced. Some are asking why the EU bans our beef that is raised using growth enhancing steroids and/or antibiotics.

Perhaps this is the true "slippery slope" that the animal agriculture proponents were concerned about. Those who know how outrageously this safety issue has been covered up are now asking what might really be going on "behind the curtain" of our meat production.

Our issue has always been and remains solely horse slaughter but our opponents, in attempting to dismiss the drug issues in horses, now have taken this beyond horse owners. If the meat industry supporters of horse slaughter had any regard for food safety, why would they support the slaughter of an animal that is not raised or regulated in the U.S. as a food animal?

Slaughter proponents have not only backed themselves into a corner but have now painted themselves into that corner. They are stuck and the desperation is becoming quite humorous because it is they that brought food production into the mix. The disinformation in their slaughter handbooks has no answers on how to twist and spin food safety laws or explain why food producers support horse slaughter.

In light of all the push back from the European Union on U.S. horses, increased FDA authority and increased awareness on food safety, there should be no debate on whether or not horse slaughter should be banned.

A member of Equine Welfare Alliance and the food production industry, Diana Bodensteiner, stated it best, "Slaughter is food production. It is a serious, tightly regulated business. It is not the place we send unwanted cows, swine, sheep, and horses."

Today our horses are being slaughtered in Canada and Mexico, but there are plans in both countries to appease the EU by requiring horses to be electronically tracked from birth if they are to be slaughtered for human consumption. That will most probably be how American horses finally become protected against slaughter.

We now know the true unintended consequences of horse slaughter.

Equine Welfare Alliance is an umbrella organization representing 176 organizations and hundreds of individuals across the United States and 14 countries worldwide. The organization focuses its efforts on the welfare of all equines and the preservation of wild equids. www.equinewelfarealliance.org

Mustangs: Myth & Manipulation in the American West

By Linda Bunch & Becky Lisle

Since its passage in 1971, the Wild Horse & Burro Act and the animals it protects have become a powder-keg in the West, generating a great deal of passion from various sides of what has become a volatile and highly polarized issue.

Unfortunately, but probably not surprising, misrepresentations and distortions of truth have become standard throughout the entire debacle because of mustang advocacy groups' perception and very vocal, well-orchestrated, and well-financed campaign to the effect that great cruelties and injustices are suffered by the mustangs at the hands of the BLM and public land users. As area rancher and neighbor of the Mustang Monument, Hank Vogler was heard to quip when quoting Wyatt Earp: "If the truth gets in the way of legend, print the legend!"

Some of the misinformation, circulated widely and without discretion as truth, is so outlandish that long-time wild horse advocate and activist Willis Lamm was compelled to write an article with the intention of distinguishing true advocates from fringe groups. He noted that the wild horse advocacy movement has lost much credibility in recent years because of what he referred to as the Hysteria Corps, laptop experts, and self promoters.

Of the Hysteria Corps, Lamm stated: (they) "are addicted to sensationalism. They are invested in bizarre, fantastic stories such as truckloads of horses disappearing in the night, BLM running horses off cliffs and a host of other ludicrous concoctions." Lamm explained about the laptop experts that "anyone with basic internet savvy can start a web page or a blog and portray himself or herself as a journalist and/or expert in any subject," and of the self-promoters, "there are a few individuals who see the cause as a means to increase their own esteem, to sell something and/or to collect money. Oftentimes the self promoters will present themselves as experts, in some instances offering credentials that they don't actually have."

The ever-present theme is that greed of the natural resource industry is the underlying reason for mustang removal, and the rallying cry of mustang advocacy groups is "let them run free." Some groups go as far as to suggest that all captive mustangs be returned to the range, regardless of the ecological disaster it would create. In Australia, pressure from activist groups and the resulting "let them run free" policy has resulted in a monumental crisis with both feral horses and feral camels. The Australian feral horse population is estimated to be as many as 400,000, and the feral camel population is well over 1,000,000. Both species are classified as pests in Australia because of not only their devastating environmental impact, but also the destruction to private property and safety risks they pose to people. Thousands of feral horses and camels must be regularly, systematically gunned down by shooters hired by the Australian government.

Like Don Quixote fighting windmills, the misdirected efforts of the Hysteria Corps undermine what real progress could be made in viable, holistic solutions that include mustangs as part of the rangeland ecosystem. The radical mustang advocacy camp's most common general fallacies are listed below, followed by rebuttals.

• Mustangs are native to North America: Ted Williams of Audubon Magazine wrote: "The argument that equids are 'native' to this continent because their progenitors were present during the Pleistocene - a mantra from the wild-horse lobby-makes as much sense as claiming that elephants

are native because woolly mammoths were here during the same period. Roughly 10,000 years after the extinction of North American horses, Spanish explorers introduced a larger domesticated species. But the continent's plant communities, having coevolved with ungulates that had cloven hooves and lacked upper teeth, were ill-equipped to handle solid hooves and meshing incisors. Result: ecological havoc. Another mantra from the wild-horse lobby is that the "mustangs" extant in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming are closely related to animals unleashed by the conquistadores. They are not; they are mongrels-a genetic morass of breeds issuing mostly from recently escaped or discarded livestock."

• Mustangs were once prolific in the American West: Another myth perpetuated by wild horse advocates is that wild horses dominated the landscape of the inland West much like the buffalo herds of the Great Plains. In Peter Skene Ogden's Snake Country Journals which are a daily diary of his explorations of the northern Great Basin from 1827-1829, no mention is made of herds of wild horses although he frequently refers to the lack of game and the necessity to kill their own horses and mules for food. The theft of their horses by the Indians was a constant problem and the source of most of the trapper-Native American hostility. Logic dictates that if the indigenous inhabitants of the area had access to beautiful, shiny wild and free mustangs, they wouldn't brave the powder and ball of the fur trappers in order to acquire one of their weakened, grass-deprived mounts which in Ogden's words were "of questionable quality".

• Mustangs are going extinct: The BLM states: "the current on-the-range population of wild horses and burros (approximately 38,500) is greater than the number found roaming in (the year the Wild Horse & Burro Act was enacted) 1971 (about 25,300). The BLM is seeking to achieve the appropriate management level of 26,600 wild horses and burros on Western public rangelands, or nearly 12,000 fewer than the current West-wide population."

• Mustangs are being removed from the range to make room for cattle: The BLM states: The removal of wild horses and burros from public rangelands is carried out to ensure rangeland health, in accordance with land-use plans that are developed in an open, public process. These land-use plans are the means by which the BLM carries out its core mission, which is to manage the land for multiple uses while protecting the land's resources. Authorized livestock grazing on BLM-managed land has declined by nearly 50 percent since the 1940s; actual (as distinguished from authorized) livestock grazing on public rangelands has declined by 30 percent since 1971.

• The BLM utilizes cruel gathering and handling practices: The BLM states: Two reports issued in the fall of 2010 - one by four independent, credentialed equine professionals and one by the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General - found, without any ideological or political bias, that the BLM's gathers of wild horses are conducted in a humane manner. The Inspector General determined that the BLM's gathers are "justified" and reported that the agency "is doing its best to perform a very difficult job." Member of the Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Committee, Dr. Boyd Sprattling, stated that the mortality rate directly from gathering and transport is 1%. Despite such data and the expert

"Show me your horse and I will tell you who you are." -Old English saying

Mustangs: Myth & Manipulation in the American West - continued from page 17

opinions solicited in the effort to ensure unbiased, objective results, the Hysteria Corps has accused the BLM of an elaborate "whitewash" scheme.

• Mustangs are sent to slaughter: While the Wild Horse & Burro Act states: "The Secretary shall cause additional excess wild free-roaming horses and burros for which an adoption demand by qualified individuals does not exist to be destroyed in the most humane and cost efficient manner possible," it has become the policy of the BLM to simply ignore this, and instead house mustangs for decades at taxpayer expense. Bob Abbey was quoted as saying that the options of slaughter or even euthanasia of excess mustangs are "off the table." Thus, the BLM has actually been found by the Government Accountability Office to be in "non-compliance" with law.

Enter Madeleine Pickens, whose highly-publicized eco-sanctuary in Elko County, NV, is touted by Pickens herself as being a "forever home" for mustangs, and also able to save the taxpayer money. In early June 2011, Pickens turned out 500 horses on her property and stated on her website, "Yesterday, we were blessed with the arrival of the first truckload of the Paiute mares and foals. These are the lucky mustangs that were rescued days from slaughter last December."

According to a representative of the sale yard where the horses were purchased, the horses actually came from multiple private (read: not BLM) sellers over a period of time. The horses were taken to a feedlot as the herd was gradually accumulated from September to December 2010.

It needs to be strongly emphasized that the wild Paiute horses that she acquired are not "mustangs," as they were not owned by the BLM, and thus, by the American taxpayer. Pickens' acquisition of these horses is not saving the taxpayers a dime—the horses were privately owned by the Paiute tribe and were being disposed of in a manner entirely consistent with sound management practices of private property. She, or rather her "agents", simply placed the highest bids.

If Pickens wants to run a rescue for privately owned horses on her private property, which is totally within her rights, her ranch should be promoted as such. Calling wild Paiute horses "mustangs" is intentionally misleading, but is par for the course considering the liberties Pickens has taken with her Native American persona. The National Tribal Horse Coalition actually publicly protested Pickens' use of the Native American image and cultural heritage, specifically for her 2011 Rose Bowl Parade appearance.

Their statement reads as follows: "The NTHC is opposed to animal rights groups like the Madeleine Pickens Wild Mustang Foundation who have freely used the symbolism of the North American Indians and horses to promote agendas in direct opposition to the tribes' position, this float is a perfect example of the romanticism affiliated with the North American Indians and their horses, therefore, the NTHC calls on the leadership of the Rose Bowl Parade and any and all other decision makers to prevent this float from being in the parade as it is an abuse of the reputation of the North American Indian."

Pickens does intend to acquire actual mustangs and return them to nature, and while this fans the flames of romanticism, the truth is that forcing horses to revert to foraging after having been hand-fed in captivity for years does not do the horses any favors—especially when differences in climate are taken into consideration. The often harsh winter conditions of Pickens' property are a stark contrast to the mild winters of the BLM holding facility in Palomino Valley north of Reno.

Pickens of course plans to supplement with hay when necessary but still claims

to be able to somehow save the taxpayer money. However, a BLM statement says: "The Foundation has indicated that it will be prepared to provide holding services on land in Nevada by next fall and that it would result in a "significant cost savings." Without a written, detailed proposal, the BLM cannot determine whether this is true. However, Mrs. Pickens in her prospectus has suggested a stipend of \$500 (adjusted to inflation) per horse, per year, for the life of each animal. This would exceed the BLM's existing cost per animal in long-term holding of \$475 per year. Her prospectus, as presented, does not demonstrate an obvious cost savings to the American taxpayer."

When she claims to be able to save the taxpayer money, Pickens often refers to the annual cost of horses in short-term holding facilities, which is significantly higher than the cost of long-term holding. Plainly, this is like comparing apples and oranges, since her "forever home" for the horses would fall into the category of long-term holding. Her website states: "The Foundation provides the government with: (1) abundant long term capacity for horses at about the same cost, \$500 per year per horse, as its current long term holding facilities, (2) significant savings considering the cost of short-term holding is about \$2000 per year per horse, (3) an alternative to attempting to locate more long term holding capacity on private lands through standard contracting procedures and (4) reduced shipping cost of relocating horses from western states to central states."

Pickens works hard to remain in a gray area with plans for her ranch. She was quoted as saying in recent presentations that "it's too expensive" to adopt horses, and apparently, that's where she draws the line where her own expenditures are concerned, even though the out-right purchase of horses from a sale yard is acceptable. It would seem that her reasoning is that if she does not assume actual ownership of any BLM horses, she will not have to follow the rules that other BLM permit holders do regarding grazing seasons and removal of stock during certain parts of the year. If the BLM still owns the horses, (and let's not forget, paying Pickens to run them on BLM ground) they would not fall into the category of privately owned livestock, and therefore not be subject to the same regulations.

A BLM statement also says: "Mrs. Pickens' plan proposes to take the animals from private pastures and facilities and instead graze them on private and public lands on a large ranch in Nevada. However, current Federal law prohibits the BLM from using allotments associated with that ranch for grazing wild horses. The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act restricts animals to the areas where they were found roaming when the Act was passed in 1971. Unfortunately, none of the BLM grazing allotments that Mrs. Pickens proposes for her sanctuary were areas where wild horses roamed in 1971."

It's reasonably certain that these points are not being included in Pickens' recent presentations to various community groups and elementary school children. Hers is a tactic very successfully utilized by another mustang advocate forty years ago—Velma B. Johnston, aka "Wildhorse Annie", who also targeted school children in an emotion-laced campaign with the help of Weekly Reader magazine—a publication for elementary school children—which extolled its readers to write to Congress. The result was a barrage of tear-stained letters being delivered to the offices of Congressional delegations. Their pleas to "save the horses" and "don't let horses become extinct" did not fall of deaf ears—the result was the passage of the Wild Free-roaming Horse and Burro Act in 1971.

Mrs. Pickens' plan, while grandiose and surrounded by much fanfare, still has a long way to go before reaching the point of being remotely feasible, which is per-

haps why she felt compelled to purchase horses that are not mustangs, lest she appear to be losing ground.

The BLM states the following in regards to Pickens' intentions:

- To implement the Foundation's concept as presented, under existing law and regulations, the BLM would be required to transfer title of wild horses through sale or adoption to Mrs. Pickens and change the class of livestock authorized on several Nevada allotments from cattle to horses. This would require a land-use plan amendment and additional site-specific environmental analysis (under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA). All such environmental documents require a period for public review and comment before being finalized.
- Existing law would need to be changed. The BLM does not have the legal authority to reimburse a private party for grazing titled horses (i.e., formerly government-owned horses now privately held) on either public or deeded land; reimburse a private party to graze untitled (that is, still government-owned) wild horses on public lands; or manage wild horses on public lands outside Herd Areas that were legislatively created in 1971.
- To ensure the American taxpayer receives fair value, the Saving America's Mustangs Foundation would need to submit a formal proposal in response to a BLM solicitation that would be open to the public for private-partner preserves. The BLM is developing such a solicitation.
- The BLM is concerned that in some of the areas proposed for the Nevada sanctuary, forage and water exist to support a maximum of 970 wild horses, far below the 10,000 the Foundation has indicated it would like to support.

In spite of such information, her website states: "The stocking level of horses will be phased in over time, starting with about 10,000 animals and increasing about 4,000 animals per year until the appropriate stocking rate is reached. This phase-in of stocking is necessary for additional forage production projects to come on line. The maximum number of horses the ranch can support is near 30,000."

Rumor has it that in addition to the 500 mares and foals "rescued" thus far, Pickens has also purchased or adopted a number of stallions. Pickens' website states that "From 2001 to 2008, the BLM removed more than 79,000 wild horses and burros from their rangelands while placing only 47,000 into private care through adoption." When the very essence of her eco-sanctuary plan is to help manage the excess mustangs, why, then, would Pickens be purchasing breeding stock to produce still more unadoptable animals?

One of the pressing questions regarding the Pickens property and intentions for it is: "how will she keep 'her' horses

(mustangs and otherwise) separate from mustangs already present in the area?" Her website states: "The Ranch boundary is securely fenced. Fenced railroad & highway right-of-ways are major portions of the boundary. The fenced boundary in the high country would not be pressured by large numbers of horses. The high country boundary fences may be damaged as a result of winter snow and ice, but would be inspected and repaired prior to the horses returning to the high country each season. Agreements would be honored to ensure a good neighbor policy. Cattleguards would be installed on all roads that access through the ranch boundary."

All of this sounds well and good, unless you happen to be familiar with fences and the challenges of keeping mile after mile maintained enough to keep livestock contained, especially in a scenario like that of Pickens' property and the surrounding area. There are already mustangs all around Pickens' property, including stallions that will be directly across the fence from Pickens' Paiute mares. Not much can stand in the way of the call of nature, not even a barbed wire fence. Then there is the issue of gates which are frequently left open intentionally or "accidentally" by other users of the public lands. But perhaps keeping her horses contained isn't really Pickens' intention at all, and her ranch is just the gateway to the Hysteria Corps dream come true: letting the mustangs run free.

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