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The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Your resource for equestrian news, events and information

January/February 2011



Melby Makes MN Proud!

Inside This Issue:

- Melby Makes Minnesota History at NFR
- Faye Rudsenske Ruminates on Mini Horses
- *War Horse*: A Review
- Does Your Horse Have Abs?

Melby makes history for Minnesota, claims \$17,885 in prize money for 13.83 seconds of work in Las Vegas at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo

Third time is a charm for Barrel Racer, Jane Melby in go-round number three December 5, 2011 Las Vegas, NV.

Jane Melby of Backus, MN won the third go-round of the 2011 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR) on Saturday December 3, 2011. Melby is competing in her first WNFR with her barrel horse RC Black in Black "Beauty." Melby and her horse Beauty turned in a run of 13.83 seconds to claim the coveted third go-round championship buckle and prize money of \$17,885 over the weekend.

Forget four leaf clovers!

Gold Buckles are won by three quick turns in her sport known for the "cloverleaf" pattern. "I'd say qualifying for the NFR was a big honor, but winning the round is just doubling it," exclaimed Melby.

This is the first time in history a Minnesota cowgirl has competed at the WNFR dubbed the Super bowl of Professional Rodeo. Melby enthusiastically said, "It's just an incredible feeling. First out on the ground, end up first. Have to sweat it out for the other 14 to run." Melby in the third go-round on the third of December ended her run in 13.83 seconds. The

number three is certainly her lucky number in Las Vegas.

Arena conditions are extremely important in the sport of barrel racing. The riders at the beginning have the best footing for their horses. Jane took full advantage of running at the top of the ground. The repetition of the horses digging into the dirt can be a disadvantage for riders further down the lineup. Each night the lineup changes for the contestants.

Melby is one of fifteen women from across the United States and Canada competing for the title of World Champion Barrel Racer in the Women's Professional Rodeo Association. The Thomas & Mack arena on the campus of UNLV hosts the 53rd Wrangler National Finals Rodeo through December 10, 2011.

The opening ceremonies each night of the rodeo include a grand entry of all 119 contestants on horseback. Each performance Melby had the honor of carrying in the Minnesota State flag to a crowd of over 17,000 rodeo fans. During her first interview in the WNFR Press Room she reflected on how exciting and emotional it was to carry her state flag.

The total payoff for the 2011



Wrangler NFR is six million dollars. Per go-round, per event pays a total of \$57,692.31 with it broken down by 1st place \$17,884.62, 2nd place \$14,134.62, 3rd place \$10,673.08, 4th place \$7,500, 5th place \$4,615.38 and 6th place \$2,884.62. Seven events make up the nightly rodeo performance. The average pays out

\$173,076.92 per event.

At the conclusion of go-round four on December 4, 2011 Jane Melby had won a total of \$23,942.31 in prize money at the WNFR making her yearend total reach \$87,224.88. She split 4/5 place with Sherry Cervi in go-round number one with a time of 14.08 seconds and a paycheck of \$6,057.69.



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Trailer Training -- Part III

In the last two articles we have talked about preparing your horse for loading into a trailer. Once your horse is solid with the go-forward cue and crossing objects, and he is comfortable near the trailer, he is ready to load.

No matter what type of trailer you have, make sure it looks as open and inviting as possible. Ensure any dividers are out of the way and windows are open, anything to make the trailer appear less confining. Now, as you begin your line work, position yourself so that as you ask your horse to go forward, he will need to go into the trailer to do so. If he only steps toward the trailer, reward him by releasing the pressure. Let him relax a moment and then ask again. Your goal is that he makes baby steps, if needed. Some horses may walk right in but baby steps are fine. One leg up, reward him. One leg up again, reward him again. Maybe the third time or so, ask him to stand there for a couple of seconds before rewarding him. Just keep asking for him to go forward a little more, incrementally. Let him know he is doing well by releasing (letting him back down) when he gives you a little more. If your horse gets antsy, go back to the line work just outside the trailer for a few minutes, and then return to asking him for those few steps into the trailer. If his forward cue has been established and you have released the pressure at the right time to reward him, you should see him progress to both feet in, and then four feet in. Once he is solid with that, you can start to ask him to stand in the trailer for longer periods.

If your horse goes into the trailer and then turns himself around to walk back out, you can now make the next exercise teaching him how to back out of the trailer. We do this the same way as going in. Reward for little steps, releasing the pressure as he makes incremental tries. One thing to keep in mind as you are doing all these steps, is that you are also trying to teach your horse that the trailer is a good place to be. One way to do this is to make sure that in general, the horse gets rewarded for standing quietly in the trailer. Ask the horse to work outside the trailer, and then once he is in the trailer, let him just hang out (once he is okay standing there). Not asking a horse to move is a reward in itself. The horse will come to know that the trailer means he gets to rest.

In terms of teaching a horse to relax while being trailered, it is best to start with quiet, short trips and, whenever possible, on road conditions that are favorable to the horse. So for your first trip you don't want to go up a lot of steep hills, around curves, or do a lot of stopping and starting. Just like teaching them to load, ideally you take the time and incrementally allow them to build their comfort zone of being moved around. And

of course, the type of trailer you have can greatly increase or lessen the horse's anxiety.

You may need to pick up a horse that you have bought or take a horse to a show or a trail ride and the horse just won't load. At that point you may think that you don't have the time to do all the pre-work we have been discussing. There are two things I would say to that position. First, no matter how trailer-broke your horse is, by going through the exercises you are

through all these exercises in more detail. And, even if I only have five or 10 minutes, I still do line work. Cross objects if possible, move the horse closer to the trailer and then have the horse load from the forward cue. There is always time to do it right!

So the method is the same for the "emergency load" versus schooling the horse to trailer well. The only difference is in the application. I just won't take as much time to make sure the horse is truly comfortable at each



helping to guarantee that he never has one of those "bad" days where out of the blue he just won't load. And, without proper training, those days can happen a lot. Second, even for those unexpected situations, these concepts are still effective. This is what I do for that "need to load in five minutes problem horse."

Yes, I can do it in five minutes because I have truly come to understand the nature of the horse and because I have developed the timing and feel that a horse really understands. This is my full-time job, I have learned when to release and when to push to get the best results quick for the times I need a horse to load very fast. But even then, I still go back and take the extra time later to go

stage before moving onto the next but, as I said before, I will go back and do it right once I have the time.

Now to wrap up, let me mention some aggressive behaviors that may be seen in horses learning to load into

a trailer. Rearing, cowkicking, using a shoulder to push into you, striking, bolting and biting are not uncommon. These behaviors need to be corrected within two seconds of occurrence. If you miss that window, don't bother as the horse will not associate the correction with the action. If the behavior is likely to occur, have your dressage whip ready and correct by a single quick strike as follows.

If your horse rears, strike it below the front knee while the leg is still in the air. For a cowkick, strike below the hock. If your horse bolts, stop his feet and bring him back around with quick, decisive action. If the horse strikes at you or bites, also strike it once below the knee. Please note, these are corrections, not punishments. They should never be done in anger and they must be done immediately if the horse is to understand cause and effect. Continue with the correction for each behavior until the horse desists. Continue also to do change of direction line work as needed to allow the horse to use its energy productively and to stay focused.

Whether you have a problem loader, a sometimes won't load, or even a horse that walks right into the trailer, by taking the time to do the exercises with your horse as I have outlined, you are ensuring that your horse will load easily under any circumstances.

Having a horse that will load easily any time you ask opens up a whole world of activities you can do with your horse.

Charles Wilhelm

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About the Cover

The National Finals Rodeo came Dec. 1-10 to the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, NV. Great cover photos include Cody DeMers riding bareback, coming out on the stagecoach is Trevor Brazile, steer wrestler Jason Miller, barrel racer Jill Moody, the trick riding flag carriers are Madison MacDonald and Niki Cammaert during the O Canada celebration and the sponsor's cowgirls line up to show the colors. More photos may be found online at www.theveonline.com and on the Valley Equestrian Newspaper Facebook page.

Photography by Tammy Scheffler

What's in This Issue?

- Melby Makes Minnesota History
- Success with Trailering, Pt. 3, by Charles Wilhelm
- No Plea Deals for Jackson
- ROAW: Training Mickey to Drive, by Polly Thorsness
- Does Your Horse Have Abs? by Darin Peterson



Tanya Tucker performs the National Anthem at the opening of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo Dec. 1, 2011 in Las Vegas, NV.

- Events
- Equestrian Fine Art: Sakakawea's Dream
- & 17 From the Horse Industry's Mouth
- KAM Animal Services Tip of the Month

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Above: Tammy Scheffler, left, photographer for the Valley Equestrian News at the NFR in Las Vegas, NV with Jane Melby, Backus, Minn. barrel racer. See more Jane coverage on page 10.

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Publisher's Clipboard

Happy New Year, dear readers. 2012 - The year of the dragon. An exciting time for us all. Twenty-twelve -- it just has a good ring to it!

We have plans for 2012, the first being a new website where readers may visit for breaking equestrian and industry news through RSS feeds from organizations like the American Horse Council, American Association of Equine Practitioners, the United States Dressage Federation, and other affiliates around the country.

Want to know what's going on next weekend in your area? Come to our web site to use the scrolling event calendar. Maybe

you want to connect with one of our writers or ask them a question? You may link from our home page to their home page, blog, or Facebook page. We also have many and varied opportunities for advertising right on our home page. Visit us soon and often.

Tell us what you want to see on the website, in print, and how we can serve you better through this and our Facebook page.

We start the New Year with coverage of the National Finals Rodeo from Las Vegas, NV. Mother and daughter team, Tammy and Bobbi Scheffler, spent the week covering the NFR for the Valley Equestrian News. This issue is full of

images from the NFR and articles about barrel racer Jane Melby from Backus, Minn. Go online for more images of the rough and tumble rodeo action of this huge event where 119 contestants came from all over the country and Canada to compete.

Thank you for picking up this issue of the VEN. Please pass it to a friend when you are done and patronize the advertisers that brought you this issue.

Stay tuned next month for more exciting news from the team at the Valley Equestrian News.

Happy Trails!
 Ley Bouchard, Publisher

No Plea Deals for Jackson

For anyone following the story of a 15-year-old sorrel gelding called "Credit Card" the details are difficult to accept and harder to understand; why would someone do this? How could a soured romance lead to such cruelty?

The Affidavit for the Warrant of Arrest for Jaci Rae Jackson from the Circuit Court of Columbia County Arkansas provides details of witness accounts for how this 19-year-old allegedly contrived and planned the theft and eventual slaughter of 'Credit Card' and four other competition horses from the Mulerider Stables at Southern Arkansas University.

The affidavit indicates that Jackson had staked out the Mulerider Stables speaking to the witness telling him that the owner of some of the horses "had made her

The affidavit says a confidential informant had called the McCurtain County Sheriff's office Nov. 7, 2011 saying Jackson called asking for help in moving some horses and that "Billy



Shaun Smith, SAU Rodeo Team Member and "Credit Card" (Courtesy: Southern Arkansas University)

screwed it up" adding that the horses were in McCurtain County, OK and had to be moved. During a recorded phone conversation with Jackson, she said to the informant that she wanted Credit Card killed and watched as he was shot in the head and quartered.

The remains of Credit Card, the missing four horses, and horse trailer were later found by law enforcement officers near the home of Jackson's mother, Wendi Cox.

McCurtain County District Attorney Mark Matloff said there will be no deals for Jackson. A preliminary hearing has been set for March 13 to deal with the theft and cruelty charges Jackson faces.

According to KSLA News 12 based in Shreveport, LA, "The case has captured the attention of a large and outraged horse and rodeo community online. The group, which organized through Facebook community pages, has no legal standing on the case. Yet many vowed to travel hundreds of miles to be there, just to demonstrate the rodeo community's interest and determination to see justice."

NFR Champ Lindsay Sears Has Advice for Future Rodeo Hopefuls

Editor's Note: Tammy Scheffler (pictured right on opposite page and Bobbi Scheffler (pictured right, below) covered the National Finals Rodeo held in Las Vegas, NV, Dec. 1-10, 2011 for the Valley Equestrian Newspaper. Below is an interview Bobbi held with Lindsay Sears, the 2011 WPRA World Champion Barrel Racer from Nanton, AB, Canada, who won \$238,864.17 in 2011. The World Champion status is determined by money won at sanctioned WPRA barrel racing events.

BS: How is the ground here today?

LS: The ground has been so much better than in the past. I really can't complain about the ground. You know, it's so much the luck of the draw. When you're on the bottom of the draw, it's basic, it's not as good, you're at the bottom of the draw, you have to fight through the bottom and take advantage when you're on top.

BS: Advice for upcoming barrel racers?

LS: Follow your dreams because you can only go as far as your dreams. Anything and everything you do has to stand for hard work. Those are the two things I'd have to say.

BS: Would you recommend joining high school or college rodeo?

LS: I high school rodeo and college rodeo; I think that's a great thing to do and to receive an education, that's such a great thing to remember because to get an education and have something to fall back on; there are an elite few that

get to have this honor, you know, it is such a vicious sport and you don't know when it's your time and when it's not, so you have to have something to fall back on. High school and college rodeo are a good start.



Lindsay Sears, left, and Bobbi Scheffler, right, pose after the interview at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, NV., where Sears became the World Champion Barrel Racer in 2011.

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A Tongue-in-Cheek Observation of the Miniature Horse

By Faye Rudsenske

Like the Klondike® television ad jingle “What would you do-oo for a Klondike® bar,” I often hear, “What can you do-ooo with a Mini?”

Pooper Scooper Size So what can you do with a Mini? A guy once told me that I only liked Minis because they didn't poop as much! Whaaat? Apparently he never cleaned up after one. On our farm, we prefer poop—the more the merrier because the alternative is not good...all astute horse owners know that. Who judges someone by the size of their pooper scooper anyway?

Attitude Another guy told me I like minis because they were easier to handle. Whaaat? Apparently he never met my Mini stallion, Canterbury Gold Rush. The description on my website says: “If you could bottle ‘attitude,’ you would have Gold Rush, and I'd be a multi-millionaire!” Obviously, I am not [a millionaire], but there are some that could sure use an antidote for “attitude” and most know what I mean. I think Gold Rush's next son will be named Trump!

All kidding aside, Minis are tough and strong. Like their larger counterparts, they can have their “moments,” but, in general, are sweet, loving and kind if handled consistently.

Potato Chips A popular saying among Miniature Horse owners is that they are like potato chips—you can't have just one. That's true. I seldom see a one-Mini owner. I say that sneeringly...I went from single digits to double digits in record time despite the fact that breeding is so curtailed at my farm the stud thinks he's been gelded. It's all in his head, of course, but why not let him think it? Presidential candidate Newt Gingrich recently took a “vow” in Iowa, I believe, so why not Gold Rush?

Looking for a Change For those say they'll never own one of the little bug-gers, I say, “give it time.” Sooner or later, as age sets in, those little buggers look more inviting especially if you are afflicted with Equine Maniac Syndrome (EMS). For those medically challenged it's a “blood disease” meaning horses are in your blood with no known cure. The only thing that helps is to own horses even if horse ownership sucks you dry

financially (with the big horses, snicker, snicker), but at least your ailment is under control.

When your joints get stiff, your body aches more and your reflexes aren't what they used to be those little buggers start looking better all the time. Most of us pack on a few extra pounds



It Takes Talent But, other than pasture ornaments or lawn mowers, what can they do?

Well, if you have never been to a Miniature Horse show, GO! Even if you're a dyed-in-the-wool horse rider who turns a disdainful eye towards the show ring, just go.

In addition to halter (stop yawning) and color classes divided by age and height, these pint sized horses are

incredible jumpers if you can keep up with them. Double dare you to try! If you've packed on some pounds, it's a good way to take it off, that is, if you can keep up with them. It takes talent on both ends of the lead, and there are some mighty fine folks that are serious competitors.

There are the harness classes with different divisions ranging from speedy roadster classes to western pleasure and stylish park.

Like dressing up in costumes (whether you admit it or not)? Don't have to wait for Halloween for that one. The shows offer a class for that too.

Enjoy racing? How about some chariot racing? If you have ever had the opportunity to drive a well-trained mini, it is an incredible rush regardless of whether in the show ring or out and about. Drive a single, a pair, a unicorn/tandem hitch, four up or six up. (The Budweiser team of 8-up is certainly impressive, but I think they need to add a hitch of Minis too!) These little stinkers can road trot until the wheels hum. There is nothing quite like it.

Very Small Equine (VSE)

Driving competitions abound for VSE (Very Small Equine) that compete against each other in the obstacle classes. The American Driving Society (ADS) offers combined driving events (CDE),

which include dressage, cross country marathon and cone driving as well as pleasure driving, which also includes obstacles, driving dressage, ride and drive, and a pleasure driving marathon.

These events and classes are a testament to the skill of horse and rider as it tests the fitness, stamina, and obedience of the horses as well as the judgment and capability of the driver.

If you think it's easy—try it—especially the water course or travel around a bunch of cones (at speed) without upsetting the delicate balancing ball on top. It takes precision, balance, obedience and skill. Don't like to show? Try ADS's recreational driving program.

If that's not your style, there are driving clubs throughout the United States that have leisurely monthly carriage rides. Even Long Island New Yorkers get in the action.

Minis come in many different packages—size and color-wise. They can be an overo, tobiano, Appaloosa or solid—palomino, buckskin, cremello, perlino and a “hundred” variations of colors that aren't seen in other breeds or so it seems.

Just because Minis are a size breed doesn't mean there are any less impressive than the big horses. Their pedigrees read like the Who's Who of the best.

Two registries, AMHA and AMHR, are devoted to preserving these little creatures. If your Mini is an R-registered horse (AMHR), then it can be either an A or B size. “A” is 34 inches and under. “B” is over 34 to 38. Go over those sizes, and you're outta luck.

If registered with AMHA and your horse is over 34 inches (measured from the last hairs of the mane), you're outta luck too. They don't have a “B” size.

If you're still on the fence, visit a Miniature Horse farm. Most Miniature Horse owners welcome the opportunity to show off their tiny tots. Just don't call them “ponies” as the proper terminology

Never-Ending List Back to the show ring, there are also in-hand obstacle classes. Designed like the trail classes for big horses, the only difference is that you lead your Mini through the designated obstacles. More and more open shows offer these in-hand trail classes. I have designed many courses, which include

crossing plastic tarps, wooden bridges, cavaletti, small jumps, car washes, side passing, turn on the forehand, turn on the haunches (no touching allowed) and a whole host of other obstacles.

Showing is a GREAT venue for our youth and the Miniature Horse organizations have stepped up to the plate. Likewise, there are no social barriers when it comes to showing Minis just as there are no age or size impediments for people, that is. Miniatures make ideal companions for people and other horses.

They also make wonderful therapeutic horses that visit nursing homes, schools and, in some cases, hospitals. They are even used as “seeing eye” horses.

Different Packages for Different People

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If you're still on the fence, visit a Miniature Horse farm. Most Miniature Horse owners welcome the opportunity to show off their tiny tots. Just don't call them “ponies” as the proper terminology

really is Miniature Horse or Mini. For those that like foals and forget they grow up, these horses retain the “baby” size. Just don't be fooled by their diminutive size. They have all the instincts of the bigger horse; they just come in a smaller package, and they don't recognize the fact that they are small...

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Running Scared Across the Prairie

By Katherine Windfeather-Thompson

Ley Bouchard, Editor of the Valley Equestrian News, and her friend Karen were literally at the end of their ropes. They needed a quick solution to a frustrating problem that had the potential to be fatal. After tracking two geldings over plowed Western Minnesota fields for more than three hours, the two simply could not get them to stop long enough to be caught. One of the geldings was lame, but even that wasn't enough incentive for him to slow down.

Karen owns close to 20 mares, foals and geldings. Some time in the earlier hours of the day, the whole herd had been spooked by a llama, which had broken through fencing between Karen's ranch and a neighbor's. The herd spooked, stampeded through the fence and scattered out into the rural area, which is mostly agricultural. Terrified, they split off into two groups. The larger of the two was rounded up and contained in a pen by neighboring ranchers fairly quickly, but the remaining two geldings continued to flee in the opposite direction.

Realizing that this was getting them nowhere, Ley decided to forgo the risk of ridicule and employ another tactic. She called me in California, and asked if I thought I could do anything to help. I knew I could, and asked her for the two horses' names, which is how I “zero in” on an animal or a person. According to Ley, Pal, the lame one, was a 23-year-old palomino that had

been there, I am sure! They laughed at me when I told them what I'd asked you to do, and they dismissed both of us, saying that Pal and Max had just fired to a point where we could catch them. But I could tell right when you were doing the healing that something was changing in Pal, the leader. His eyes softened, and his body language relaxed. That told the tale. It was immediate! It is no coincidence that just at that moment, literally five minutes after we talked on the phone and you did the healing, he stopped and allowed Karen to walk over to him, put her arms around his neck and halter him.”

You may be one of many scoffing as you read this. Go ahead, I've developed broad shoulders. Karen and Bill laughed at Ley's suggestion and denied that what I had done had any effect. But the truth is, their conclusions come from a simple lack of awareness and education. I'm not the only person able to do this. It is

“Thank you so much for yesterday! Without your help, Kat, we would still

across Europe driving into the winner's circle at some of the world's most prestigious shows. Weber and his team won at CAIO Veces, CAI Altenfelden and CAIO Riesenbeck.

Weber, who is well known for supporting the field of combined driving, also served as the chef d'equipe for the 2011 FEI World Pony Team Championships and the FEI World Pair Championships. “I was thrilled and very honored to win the Becky Grand Hart Trophy,” Weber said. “I was equally pleased that our horses took home the Horse of the Year titles. Everyone associated with Team Weber worked hard throughout the year and it was great to be rewarded

for our effort.” Weber added that 2011 was enhanced by the addition of Clark's horses to his team. “We competed Splash and Uniek throughout the year and it was great to see Splash end up on top, taking home the Championship in the Horse of the Year for Four-In-Hand horses.”

Weber, who was part of the winning Silver Medal 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Combined Driving team, was also named a USEF Equestrian of Honor in 2008 and won the Becky Grand Hart Trophy that year. Weber's star horse, Jamaica, was also in the spotlight in 2008 when he won the USEF Farnam/Platform Horse of the Year title. “I love the sport of Combined Driving, it truly is my passion, and it is always a great joy for me to be honored by the USEF. Part of my passion for Combined Driving includes promoting the sport and I am pleased to be involved in the USEF and the USET. I was named to the USET Foundation Board of Trustees early this year and that was certainly another fantastic moment in my career,” Weber said.



USEF President David O'Connor (left) and Chester Weber, the eight-time USEF National Four-In-Hand Combined Driving Champion, was named a 2011 USEF Equestrian of Honor and took home the Becky Grand Hart Trophy at the USEF's recent Pegasus Awards banquet. Weber's team of horses was also honored, sweeping the Four-In-Hand category in the race for Horse of the Year. Photo courtesy of Geoff Oliver Bugbee/USEF)

not only quite possible, but a scientifically documented fact, that such things happen with regularity. Volumes have been written on the subject, too numerous to list in this article. The simple truth is this: Many people have been scientifically proven to have so-called miraculous healing abilities after experiencing an NDE (Near Death Experience). I am only one of a great many who have had an NDE, and after that experience, my life took an abrupt turn in a completely new direction. I have healing abilities, they have become an innate part of me and I have been applying them for well over 15 years. But that is only part of the equation. Most people, particularly those in the “horse business,” still believe, in spite of the evidence, that it's a bunch of malarkey. What a ridiculous idea, right?

Well, this was not, from my perspective, a miraculous event, so I make no such claim, nor expect anyone else to on my behalf. It was simply a matter of bringing back into balance

emotions that had become unbalanced. And it can be done in people as well as animals. There are humans also who are, figuratively speaking, “running scared across the prairie” throughout their lives, and have no idea why, or how to change what they feel. Help is there for the asking, for many who need this kind of realignment. It's all in a day's work for me.

Katherine Windfeather-Thompson is a professional horsewoman with over 25 years experience as a trainer, animal intuitive and certified clairvoyant healer. She has been a presenter at many of the major horse expos, is the author of one book, and is writing another. See her website at www.katherinewindfeather-thompson.com, email her at returnofthedove@gmail.com or call 916-770-9376.



International will for the first time include a Grand Prix jumping division.

To learn more about Weber and his combined driving team, visit their website at www.chesterweber.com.

Combined Driver Chester Weber Drives Away With Becky Grand Hart Trophy, Equestrian of Honor and USEF Four-In-Hand Horse of the Year

Ocala, FL (January 23, 2012) — Chester Weber, the eight-time USEF National Four-In-Hand Combined Driving Champion, had a stellar 2011 on both the national and international field, ending the year with the highlight of being named a 2011 USEF Equestrian of Honor. As America's most decorated combined driver, Weber also won the Becky Grand Hart Trophy, an awarded presented to international-level non-Olympic athletes.

Weber was presented the Becky Grand Hart Trophy during the United States Equestrian Federation's Annual Pegasus Awards ceremony. The prior evening, Weber's team of horses made a clean sweep of the National Combined Driving Four-In-Hand Horse of the Year category. Splash, owned by Jane Forbes Clark, took home the Championship with Weber's horse Reno W earning the Reserve Championship. Uniek, also owned by Clark, along with Weber's horses Rolex W, Para and Boy W rounded out the Four in Hand Horse of the Year honors.

The Becky Grand Hart Trophy also was awarded to Weber thanks to a banner year with his team, which included winning four CDEs in the United States and sweeping

the U.S. in three World Equestrian Games. Weber is a prime mover in the organization of three combined driving events, including the top rated CAI-B Live Oak International. Taking place on his own Live Oak Stud, 2012 CAI-B Live Oak

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Melby wins \$59,712 at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo; first time three gold buckles come back to Backus, Minnesota

December 10, 2011 Las Vegas, NV. - Jane Melby of Backus, MN won the final go-round of the 2011 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo (WNFR) tonight in front of 17,720 fans at the Thomas & Mack Arena on the campus of UNLV. She ran 13.71 seconds to claim the performance win on her horse RC Black in Black "Beauty." Her WNFR earnings totaled \$59,712.

Melby exclaimed, "That's a blessing itself to win that kind of money. Where else could you go to run for it, not only win it." Melby came into the WNFR with \$63,283 and nearly doubled her year-end earnings this week.

On Saturday December 3, 2011 Melby turned in a run of 13.83 seconds to claim the coveted third go-round championship buckle and prize money. In the middle of the finals during half-time she switched horses giving Beauty a break and rest. She rode

her daughter's colt in his debut at the WNFR during the fifth and sixth performances. A veteran barrel racer for years Melby showed courage riding a colt in the electric atmosphere of the WNFR. "That was his sixth rodeo," she mentioned after her barrel racing run.

While fellow Minnesotans were building snowmen, Melby was making her own in Round 8. She came back and won her second go-round on Beauty. Making the night memorable was having her brothers Todd and Troy in attendance. Melby stated, "This is the first time my brother Todd has seen

me compete." In a partnership sport between rider and

honor, but winning the (first) round is just doubling it," exclaimed Melby.

The tenth go-round buckle is the most precious considering it is the round that makes champions.

This is the first time in history a Minnesota cowgirl has competed at the WNFR dubbed the Super bowl of Professional Rodeo.

Melby was one of fifteen women from across the United States and Canada competing for the title of World Champion Barrel Racer in the Women's

Professional Rodeo Association. The Thomas & Mack Arena on the campus of UNLV hosted the 53rd Wrangler National Finals Rodeo December 1-10, 2011.

The total payoff for the 2011 Wrangler NFR is six million dollars. Per go-round, per event pays a total of \$57,692.31 with it broken down by 1st place \$17,884.62, 2nd place \$14,134.62, 3rd place \$10,673.08, 4th place \$7,500, 5th place \$4,615.38 and 6th place \$2,884.62. Seven events make up the nightly rodeo performance. The average pays out 173,076.92 per event.

Lindsay Sears of Nanton, Alberta won the 2011 WPRA concluding at the NFR.



equine athlete, Melby credits her horse Beauty. "She's been outstanding, I did the right thing by giving her those two nights off in round 5 and 6, and she came back strong. When you've got that much money on the line, you hate to run the second-string horse, but you also have to do what's best for everybody involved."

Gold Buckles are won by three quick turns in her sport known for the "cloverleaf" pattern. "I'd say qualifying for the NFR was a big



NFR
Photos by
Tammy
Scheffler

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Prayers are an integral part of any sports competition, but none are more rife with danger than professional rodeo and other equestrian sports. Below, Bobby Welsh takes a moment of silence. Opposite page, counter-clockwise from top: Jane Melby makes a winning lap, Melby signs autographs, saddle bronc rider Seth Brockman, check out that mane on Angie Burton's mount, bareback rider Will Lowe. More photos from the National Finals Rodeo may be found throughout this issue of the VEN, online and at our web site: www.theveonline.com

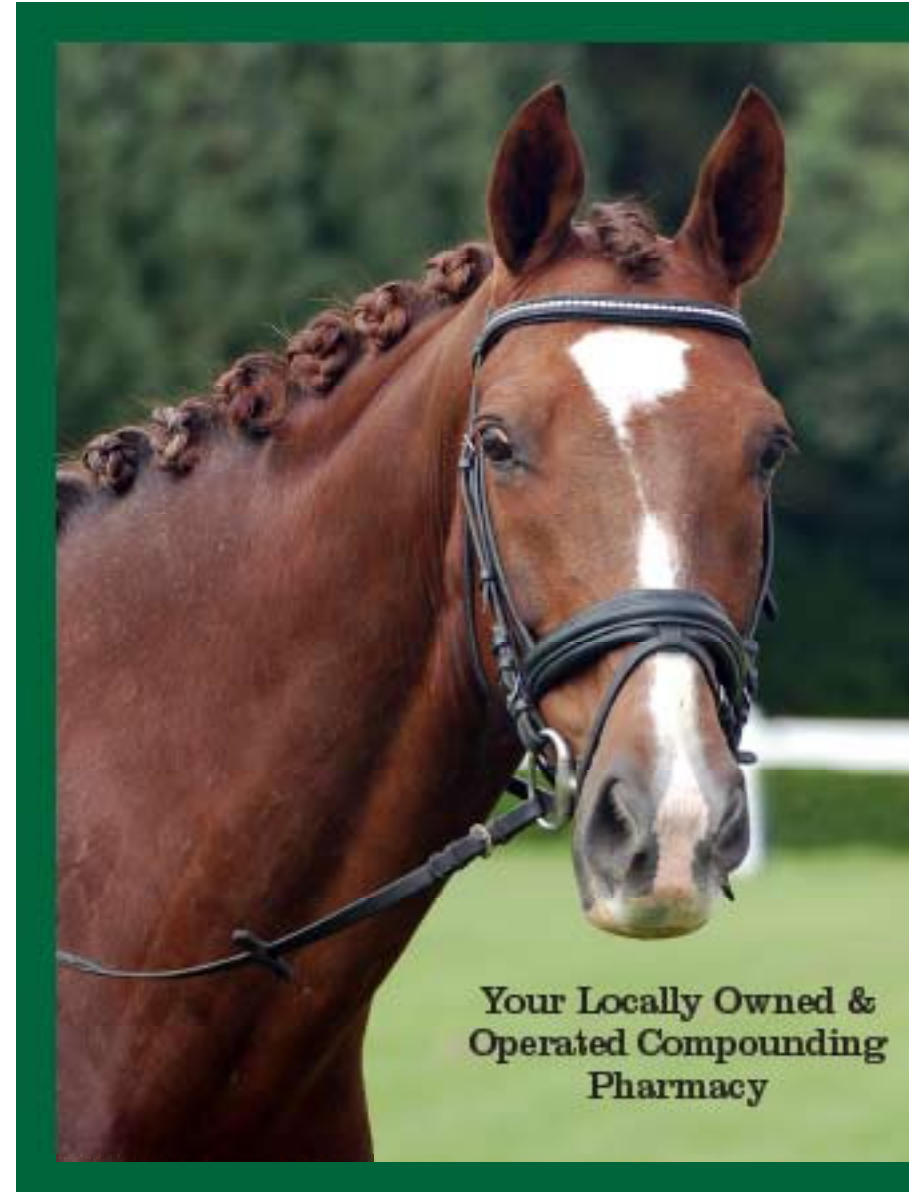


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Tax Case Holds In Favor of Virginia Couple

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

Otis and Alma Jordan of Amissville, Virginia persuaded the Tax Court that their horse racing and breeding activity was engaged in for profit. The couple lived on a 20-acre farm on which they constructed a new barn and made other significant improvements. They owned several thoroughbred race horses, and acquired their first race horse in 1986. They also owned six broodmares which they kept on the farm.

One of their race horses earned modest purses totaling about \$6,000. They were planning on mating their broodmares with stallions owned by others, and wanted to produce foals that, after appropriate training, would develop into successful race horses. They expected that their main revenue would come from purses.

The Jordans bred one of their mares to a stallion that was the grandson of a Kentucky Derby winner, whose other offspring earned over \$1 million in purses. A casualty occurred, however, when the foal ran into a fence and injured its leg.

The petitioners did not maintain formal books of account for their horse racing activity. They paid expenses out of their personal joint checking account or by cash. Cash expenditures were sometimes noted on scraps of paper. They kept receipts of supplies such as hay and feed bought from vendors. The race tracks provided them with a summary of their earnings and expenses

incurred on a horse-by-horse basis.

The facts of the case



were fairly weak, but the taxpayers won anyway. Were they lucky or was the judge unusually sympathetic? It's hard to tell. The Court said that the test of whether a taxpayer is engaged in a horse activity for profit is whether he or she entered into, or continued, the activity with the actual or honest objective of making a

profit. "The taxpayer's profit objective must be bona fide, taking into account all of the facts and circumstances."

The court noted that the IRS had a strong argument against the taxpayers because they had a consistent pattern of losses, which usually suggests the lack of a profit motive. On the other hand, given the nature of the activity involved, the court said that it was possible that their losses could be recouped if they had just one successful foal. Many of the foals sired by the stallion to which they had bred ended up competing well as thoroughbreds. The judge noted that horse racing is a highly speculative venture but that "An opportunity to earn a substantial ultimate profit in a highly speculative venture is ordinarily sufficient to

indicate that the activity is engaged in for profit even though losses or only occasional small profits are actually generated."

The court noted that the petitioners had very little affectionate attachment to any of their horses, and they did not use their horses or farm for recreational purposes. The court concluded that it "simply can see no other reason why petitioners would have engaged in the activity and incurred the resulting expenses unless for profit."

I think the petitioners were very fortunate to have a sympathetic judge, for not all Tax Court judges are quite this charitable with facts along the lines of this case.

The lessons from this case are: (1) Even if you have poor business

records or commingle funds, you can win if you have a strong breeding program with carefully selected mating decisions. (2) If you have a history of losses it is important to show that this activity has little or no recreational elements. (3) It is important to make improvements on the farm property consistent with sound practices of animal husbandry. If you are audited by the IRS you have many rights and should consult an expert to discuss strategy.

[John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has worked in the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He serves clients in all 50 states, and can be reached by telephone at (310) 278-0203 or via e-mail at johnalancohan@aol.com, or visit his web site at www.JohnAlanCohan.com.]



Elizabeth Busch Burke: 1935-2011

From the USEF Communications Department

Lexington, KY - Elizabeth Busch Burke, one of the country's most celebrated equestrian supporters and granddaughter of August A. Busch, Sr., co-founder of Anheuser-Busch, passed away on December 20, 2011, surrounded by her family and friends. Burke was 76.

Over her lifetime, Burke's passion for equestrian sport and her involvement in the hunter/jumper discipline were legendary. As one of the heirs to the Budweiser Empire, her commitment to financially supporting a long list of events and championships was a great benefit to the sport. A short list of her philanthropic support of such events includes the Budweiser American Invitational, the Budweiser AGA Championship, the Budweiser

Grand Prix of the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, the Budweiser Grand Prix of the Devon Horse Show, and the Budweiser World Cup Qualifier at the Syracuse Invitational.

She also worked on the administrative side of the sport as a member of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame Board of Directors, and she was an inductee into the Show Hunter Hall of Fame.

Her involvement extended as owner of some of the sports' top horses, as well. Burke was the proud owner of Olympic Games mount Authentic, ridden by Beezie Madden. She also owned many champion show hunters.

Funeral arrangements were held December 28 at Trinity Church in Upperville, VA. A reception followed in Cox Hall.

Dr. Getty's Tip: Glucosamine and the Insulin-Resistant Horse

Glucosamine is often the go-to supplement to ease the discomfort of osteoarthritis, but is it safe for the insulin-resistant horse? A look at how glucosamine works may help you decide.

Glucosamine is a sugar (glucose) bound to an amino acid (building block of protein). It reduces inflammation and is a precursor to building blocks found in cartilage. Cartilage cells are able to produce glucosamine from glucose, but supplementation is often preferable if your horse is experiencing osteoarthritis. It can be supplemented orally or via injection.

Many horse owners are reluctant to give glucosamine to their insulin resistant horse that has joint pain. This is a valid concern. Insulin resistant people have experienced adverse

effects when given high dosages of glucosamine (though the research results are mixed). But since glucosamine is not digested down to glucose, it should not cause a rise in insulin. So what causes the glucose and hence, insulin to rise? Evidently, glucosamine confuses the cells into thinking that they have enough glucose. So, glucose from other sources cannot enter the cells. The result can be increased blood glucose, not from glucosamine, but from the diet in general, leading to elevated insulin.

That's what happens in people; we really do not know if the same thing happens in horses. So, use your judgment. If

your insulin resistant horse has been taking glucosamine without any problem, continue using it. But if your horse is battling laminitis or equine Cushing's disease, consider getting a joint supplement that does not contain glucosamine. You can safely use ingredients such as MSM, chondroitin, hyaluronic acid, cetyl myristoleate, n-acetyl-l-carnitine,

and orthosilicic acid. Or start with two basic ingredients - vitamin C and omega 3 fatty acids -- especially in the older horse (who no longer produces the same level of vitamin C as when younger). Vitamin C is used for collagen production (which covers and cushions the surfaces of opposing

bones) and omega 3s are potent anti-inflammatory agents.

Dr. Juliet Getty has taught and consulted on equine nutrition for more than 20 years. Her website offers helpful articles, a nutrition forum and a calendar of her events, including upcoming and past teleseminars to purchase and download. Her comprehensive reference book, Feed Your Horse Like A Horse, is available in hardcover and CD-ROM (pdf file) through her website or at Amazon.com. Sign up for her useful free monthly e-newsletter "Forage for Thought" through the website. Dr. Getty serves as a distinguished advisor to the Equine Sciences Academy, and she is also available for individual consultations. For permission to reprint this article in whole or in part, please contact Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com or (970) 884-7187



COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

A MODEL "A" ON A SLEIGH

A FARMYARD AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING FEAT
Uncle Ollie rose early in the day;
As a youth, he fed livestock oats and hay,
Milked the cows and separated the cream.
More than a half-century ago, his dream
Was to have warm trips to the country school.
Anyone passing did a double-take.

HE PUT THE HORSE BEFORE THE CART!
He turned his wrench so many times that week,
Bolting that car body down so unique.
A Ford body with windows, doors and top,
Quiet ... barely able to hear the clip-clop
Of the horses hitched out front who disliked
Being followed by the car that hitch-hiked.
Was this a sight to see for goodness sake?
The country students did a double-take.

TWO HORSEPOWER/MR. FORD, WHAT HAS HE DONE?
The horses easily pulled the bob sleigh.
They stayed in the country school barn all day.
Uncle Ollie drove his sisters to school,
That must have been the world's first carpool.
Rode to the one-room school on a hay bale seat.
Driving with an open windshield through snowflakes
And all the neighborhood did double-takes.

OLLIE'S CAR WAS LIKE A TROLLEY CAR
So he goes tooling down the township road
With some noisy grade school kids for a load.
Not worried about a tire going flat,
(No wheels) but riders got the welcome mat.
For his immigrant Dad and Granddad had
Worked as blacksmiths, and made runners iron-clad.
Ollie's 'trolley' slid smartly through snowflakes
Pulled by two 'oat-breathes' while folds did double-takes.

UNPRECEDENTED/ONE OF A KIND CURIOSITY
So when Ollie's team trotted down the road
The neighbors hurried down and hitched a ride
Just to find out if it was warm inside.
They said he would be a blacksmith some day
Using the proof of the Model "A" sleigh.
He made this 'rig' after a few mistakes
That caused a record number of double-takes.

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War Horse: A Review

By Dawn Bolstad

Director Steven Spielberg's *War Horse* follows Joey, a handsome colt with expectations of a luxurious life. In spite of or because of his good looks and spirited personality, Joey first finds himself in the farming fields of rural Britain. There he meets Albert (Jeremy Irvine), a young boy, compelled to bring his alcoholic father's impossible promises into possibility. Unfortunately, loving admiration between the two does not keep the greedy landlord from the door. As a result, Joey is drafted into service with the English army. Joey's new owner promises to return the horse to Albert if Joey survives the war. All too quickly, Joey becomes entrenched within the daily rigors and horrors of battle while suffering at the whims of uncaring officers from both sides. Thus begins a horse's and boy's tale of survival, and their quest to find each other once again.

This children's novel by Michael Morpurgo was adapted for the theater by Nick Stafford. Following *War Horse's* five 2011 Tony Awards including Best Play, the film's expectations were high.

In this regard, Spielberg delivers. The director captures each character, both equine and human, through a close, perspective that tells more than words. We see the fear of a war fought face to face through mud and muck, mustard gas and barbed wire. We see the casual regard for casualties. We see that war is not about men and horses, but, in the end it is about finding common ground -- an easier accomplishment



for those who fight in wars than those who declare them.

At the top of the movie's highlights are the amazing characterizations of the lead horses. Key to the feat is the use of 14 horses to play Joey, and four to play Tophorn. Joey's mate in the trenches. A keen trainer's eye chose each actor/horse for specific qualities and abilities. Through Spielberg, Joey and Tophorn emerge as single-minded characters of depth and dignity. The rest of the cast is likewise well-chosen. Most are veterans that are recognizable more

for their talent than their faces. Add beautiful pastoral views of England and France contrast to the extreme with the wretched broken land of war. All in all it is a captivating, moving film.

But before you go, there are a few things you should know. The conflict scenes are emotionally intense to watch, especially for horse lovers. (It was rated PG-13 for this reason.) However, it helps to know that mechanical animals and plastic barbed wire insured safety for all actors. With kids, a discussion about the weapons of war will help explain the plot so that gas masks are not perceived as aliens by younger viewers. In one scene, Albert's buddy is told to shoot on sight all those who retreat. A little forewarning might help, but this is a war story after all.

This movie is worth your time as long as you keep a couple of things in mind. Sometimes the best stories are the ones that are difficult to watch. Good does triumph over evil. Best friends can come from anywhere at anytime. And love -- well, it can get all of us through what we need to do. Here's a little hint, though. Don't bother with a few Kleenex; bring the whole box.

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Events for February and Beyond

Call before you haul -- contact information is included in each event listed.

Jan. 26- Feb 4: Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center and James Kjerstad Event Center in Rapid City, S.D.

Feb. 3-4: Bulls and Barrels at the CEntrao MN R&J Arena and Event Center in Verndale, Minn. with dancing to Diamond Back at 7 p.m. Friday and October Road at 7 p.m. Saturday

Feb. 4-5: Top Guns Team Roping at 8 a.m. the East Pavilion of the Cam-Plex in Gillette, Wyo; contact Larry at 307-290-0743

Feb. 10-11: CAM-PLEX Winter Western Town and Country Trade show at the Central Pavilion in Gillette, Wyo; call 307-682-0552 for details.

Feb. 11: All breed horse and tack sale at 10 a.m. for tack and 2 p.m. for horses at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn. (507) 263-4200

Feb. 17-19: Catalog Horse Sale at R&J Horse Sales in Verndale, Minn.

Feb. 18: Tack Sale at noon at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo, Minn. Contact 651-214-3403

Feb. 18: RCM Barrel Race starting at 10 a.m. in the East Pavilion of the CAM-Plex in Gillette, Wyo.; call Carey at 307-680-5105

Feb. 19: WRCHA Club Clinic at 9 a.m. at Barn 3 of the CAM-Plex in Gillette, Wyo. Contact Kathleen at 307-682-2646

Feb. 24-25: Women's Horse Industry Network Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. Contact whinboss@yahoo.com or see <http://www.womenshorseindustry.com/2012westernmeeting.html> for more information.

Feb. 25: Tack Sale at 10 a.m. at by the Willow River Riders Saddle Club at the Roberts Elementary School in Roberts, Wis. Call 715-549-5416

Feb. 25: RCM Barrel Race at 10 a.m. at the East Pavilion of the CAM-Plex in Gillette, Wyo, contact 307-680-4105

March 2-4: Illinois Horse Fair in Springfield, IL. More information at <http://www.horsemenscouncil.org/HorseFair>

March 3: Orchard Rangers Saddle Club Tack Swap at the Robert Boeckman Middle School in Farmington, Minn. Call 507-789-6676

Mar. 4: WRCHA Club Clinic at 9 a.m. at Barn 3 of the CAM-Plex in Gillette, Wyo. Contact Kathleen at 307-682-2646

Mar. 9-11: Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver, CO. see www.coloradohorsecouncil.com/rmhe/ for more information

March 10: Game Show at 10 a.m. at the Hi Circle Vee Ranch in Isanti, Minn. Call Kari at 612-803-5950

Mar. 10: RCM Barrel Race starting at 10 a.m. in the East Pavilion of the CAM-Plex in Gillette, Wyo.; call Carey at 307-680-5105

Mar. 11: 4-H Beginners Horse Progress Show at noon at Barn 3 of the CAM-Plex in Gillette, WYO, contact Jessica at 307-682-7281

March 13: All breed horse and tack sale at 10 a.m. for tack and 2 p.m. for horses at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn. (507) 263-4200

Mar. 16-18: Gillette College Rodeo at the East Pavilion of the CAM-Plex in Gillette, Wyo., contact Will at 307-686-0254

March. 16-18: South Dakota Horse Fair at the W. . Lyon

Fairgrounds Expo Building in Sioux Falls, SD. See <http://www.sdhorsefair.com/> for more information

Mar. 16-18: Midwest Fjord horse Club winter meeting at the Leatherdale Center at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

March 23-25: MAHA Spring Fling at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. Contact 507-452-5600

March 24: Twin Cities Quarter Horse Sale at 10 a.m. at Simon Horse Company in Cannon Falls, Minn. (507) 263-4200

Mar. 25-27: MN Arabian Horse Association at the MN Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. Contact 507-452-5600

March 26-29, 2012: 2nd International Summit of the Horse at the American Royal Livestock Facility in Kansas City, MO.

Mar. 30-April 1: Iowa Horse Fair at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, Iowa. See <http://www.iowa-horsecouncil.org/default.htm> for more information.

Mar. 31: RCM Barrel Race starting at 10 a.m. in the East Pavilion of the CAM-Plex in Gillette, Wyo.; call Carey at 307-680-5105

March 31: Cowboy/Cowgirl Gathering at the Hnckley, MN. contact randyisham@yahoo.com

April 10: All breed horse and tack sale at 10 a.m. for tack and 2 p.m. for horses at Simon Horse Company in Cannon

Falls, Minn. (507) 263-4200

April 12-15: Equine Affaire at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus Ohio. See <http://www.equineaffaire.com/ohio/> for more information.

April 20-22: Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, WI. See <http://midwesthorsefair.com/> for more information.

April 21: Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Deadbroke Arena in Hugo, Minn. Call Kari at 651-982-8495

April 21: Cowboy Up Cancer Dance at the American Legion in Harwood, N.D. Contact: karen@gomoorhead.com

April 27-29: MN Horse Expo, MN State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN. See <http://www.mnhorseexpo.org/> for more information.

May 5: Cowboy Up Kickoff Pulled Pork Feed, Silent Auction, Dance at the Dilworth, MN VFW; contact karen@gomoorhead.com

May 6: St. Croix Riders Fuzzy Wuzzy Fun Show at 8 a.m. at the St. Croix Riders Arena in Baldwin, WI with a non-WS-CA judge; call 715-781-1110 for more information.

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Filling the rural Minnesota leadership gap

By Mike Liepold, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. (1/23/2012) —How many people does it take to run your small town? How many people are available to fill that need?

Starting with these simple questions, University of Minnesota Extension conducted a study in 2010 that revealed two significant trends in rural Minnesota leadership: 1.) The number of community organizations, and thus the number of leadership positions, is increasing, and 2.) The number of people who are able and prepared to serve as leaders is declining.

According to study author Ben Winchester, Extension research fellow, organizations in the most rural counties require an average of one in 34 residents to serve in leadership positions, compared with one leader required for every 143 residents of major metropolitan areas. So, the demand for leadership is up to five times more in rural counties than in urban areas, while the supply of leaders is diminishing.

Clearly, there's a leadership gap in rural Minnesota — a gap made more problematic because the issues facing Minnesota's rural communities are more complex than ever. We have many people in rural areas who are capable of becoming effective leaders. But it won't happen overnight.

As an Extension educator and program leader for the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership (MARL) Program, I have taught leadership for more than a decade. I think we need two key things to close the leadership gap:

New skills for current leaders. Successful leaders in rural Minnesota must think about the problems they face in new ways. Today, leaders need additional skills and new problem-solving frameworks in areas such as dealing with complex problems without easy answers, facilitating group decision making, and engaging citizens in issues that affect them. They also need to know more about themselves, such as their preferred leadership style and how they deal with conflict.

A more welcoming approach among current leaders to new community members. In another study, Winchester documents the in-migration of new, well-educated, 30-to-49-year-olds to rural Minnesota communities. These newcomers are often well-positioned to assume leadership roles in small towns, but rural communities must take steps to engage them.

If you live in a small town, you can help close the leadership gap by recruiting new leaders, rather than going back to the same leaders time and again. You also can help by supporting leadership training opportunities.

In addition to MARL, which is offered by Extension in partnership with Southwest Minnesota State University, Extension offers a variety of leadership education opportunities, often in partnership with other groups and organizations.

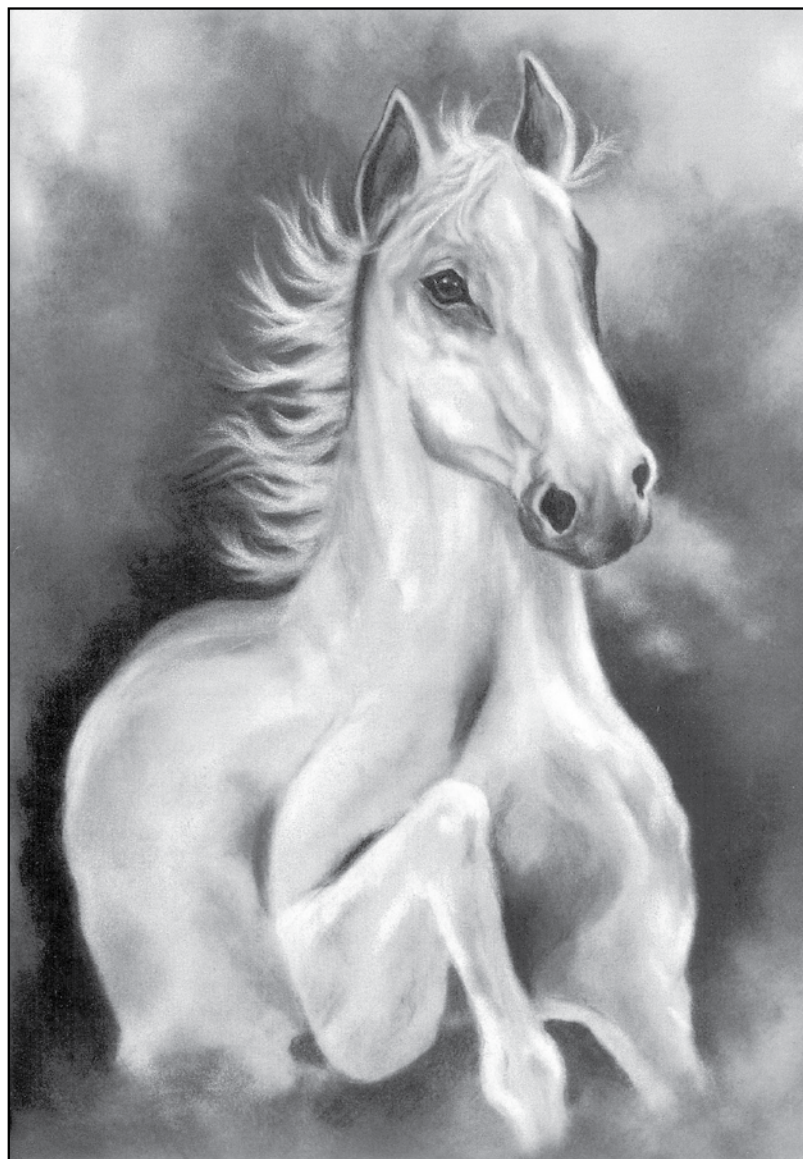
MARL is currently taking applications for its two-year training experience. The program includes nine seminars across the state and in Washington, D.C., as well as an international study tour. For more information and an application, visit www.marlprogram.org.

To learn more about Extension leadership training in general, including standard and customized offerings, visit www.extension.umn.edu/U-Lead.

Mike Liepold is a leadership and civic engagement educator with University of Minnesota Extension.

Equestrian Fine Art: Sakakawea's Dream

By Cathy Koenig



Editor's Note: We love to feature equestrian art in the Valley Equestrian Newspaper. With each piece displayed, we will also print the artist's statement. Readers may submit their work for consideration following the editorial guidelines provided on page 4.

The name of this piece is Sakakawea's Dream. This piece was contributed by Cathy Koenig of the Red River Valley near Moorhead, Minn. Cathy is one of a group of artist's that meet regularly to ply their skills and learn from each other. The following is what the artist says about her work and this piece.

"I have always loved drawing horses, only now I do it a little better than I did way back then. I am captivated by their beauty and motion, which harmonizes like a symphony. (In fact, I often listen to music when I am being an artist.) Who could not be mesmerized by their great power and speed. I usually use soft pastels, which are chalk type sticks, but very vibrant. They are more of a drawing than a painting tool and very easy to use. When I am drawing horses, and trying to capture their spirit, I find myself in another world, and almost feel like I am among them.

There seems to be a deep connection between horses and humans. Sometimes horses are easier to love. I was fortunate enough to share my life with a horse named Tiny for a summer long ago. And when I think of him, I think of the wind.

Cathy Koenig

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A story about the Pony Express from the horse's perspective by
Mattie Richardson
author of *Appaloosy*

Contact Mattie at:
redheadkid7@msn.com

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Mattie Richardson, North Dakota Teen
Author, Appaloosy Books

DUSTY'S TRAIL

By Mattie Richardson

The Oldest Horse

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper loves older horses! Tell us about yours!

Send a photo and description (short or long) of your old horse (age 25 or 30+) for publication in an upcoming issue of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper.

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Do you have an old photo or a story to share?

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KAM Animal Services Tip of the Month



"What's he have that I don't?"

Without the immune system we die! However it causes a lot of health problems when it is not working properly.

The immune system's job is to protect us from and eliminate external pathogens (bacteria, viruses, yeast, parasites, and allergens) and internal pathogens (cancer cells, toxins, metabolic waste, and damaged cells/tissues).

Approximately 70% of the immune system is surrounding the GI tract, leaving very little to protect the skin, respiratory tract, and all other tissues. An unhealthy GI tract leads to an overloaded stressed immune system that can lose its ability to respond properly when challenged.

When it over responds, we see allergies (hives, heaves-COPD), autoimmune diseases, and/or inflamed tissues (laminitis, sore muscles & joints). When the immune system is fatigued and can't respond, the

horse is more prone to all types of infections.

Products that stimulate the immune system are not always beneficial and may be more harmful in some cases. Decreasing immune system stress by healing the GI tract while supporting the immune system and balancing its response is always good. Vaccinating horses with immune problems and over vaccinating can lead to more problems, so be careful and be aware.

"Let food be your medicine and medicine be your food." Hippocrates, 400 B.C.

This tip was brought to you by KAM Animal Services, home of KAM's "Equine Learning Circle" FREE webinars. These webinars are an expansion of KAM's weekly tips. Go to www.kamanimalservices.com to sign up for the next webinar. Feel free to email gabrielesutton@aol.com with your nutrition questions.



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The National Finals Rodeo brought 119 contestants from all over the USA and Canada along with 17,700 spectators to the Las Vegas, NV location. The seven events included were tie-down roping, team roping, saddle bronc, bareback, barrel racing, bull riding and steer wrestling. More photos and related content may be found on other pages of this issue of the VEN and online at: www.theveonline.com.

Photos by Tammy Scheffler

Exciting News from the Valley Equestrian Newspaper!

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