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July 2012

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

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What's Inside:

- ND Expressionist Artist Walter Piehl
- ND Roughrider Rodeo June Results
- Camping and Trail Advice from the Pros
- *MN Whips & Wheels* Carriage Festival

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Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training from Start to Finish

Bucking and Bolting on the Trail

Safety on the trail is always our first concern. A horse that bucks, bolts or even rears when out on the trail is unsafe for the rider as well as anyone who is with the rider. This behavior is not acceptable and training is needed, however, it is important to understand why a horse would behave this way. It appears that this happens frequently and there are multiple reasons why horses do this. Let's discuss some of the reasons.

I'd like to start with a story about an incident that happened several years ago. I did a radio interview on The Horse Show with Rick Lamb. He asked me: what is the best way to handle a horse that bolts out on the trail?

A horse will bolt when his emotional level is up because all horses have the flight instinct. Some horses, in general have a higher emotional level. Often we take our horses out on the trail when they are fresh and without any warm up. They are feeling frisky and maybe have not been ridden for a couple of weeks and they are anxious to get out. In this situation, we are setting ourselves up to have big problems. I've been working with horses called "problem horses" for close to 25 years and I would say there are no problem horses, only uneducated horses and owners. I have found that there is an assumption with most horses: we just assume that we can get on them and go out on the trail and they are going to be fine. I have had horses at the barn who are 10 to 15 years old and still emotional basket cases in their own environment and when going out on the trail, they are even worse. When something startles them, they bolt. To me, these are not problem horses but just uneducated horses with riders who also need more education.

Sometimes a horse will react to fear not by bolting, but by bucking. Another reason a horse may buck is that while we are out on the trail, we separate from each other and one rider goes right and the other goes left. The horse may be what we call "buddy sour" and the horse becomes concerned about his buddy leaving. Horses are herd animals and the more that we restrain a horse, the more we increase his emotional level. A horse that is being held back may respond by bucking or even rearing.

Getting back to Rick Lamb's question on what to do when we are out on the trail, I explained that there are certain things we can do on the trail but only if the horse knows the exercise. If the horse does not understand what he is being asked to do, it doesn't make any difference how good the rider is, the horse is not going to cooperate. What I recommend is that the action we may need to take out on the trail must be started at home. In the interview, Rick said, "No, Charles, you don't understand my question. What do we do out on the trail?" I replied that we must start at home. We must educate our horse with certain exercises that

we can use to control the horse's behavior. We must be able to control the hips, the shoulders and most of all, we must have control of the emotions. Exercises that allow us to control the hips, shoulders and feet are described in detail in my book, Building Your Dream Horse. An educated rider is equally important as an educated horse.

I always like to measure the emotions of a horse on a scale of one to ten, one being lethargic and ten being a horse that is out of control. When a horse is a ten, the most we may be able to bring it down to is a five. A horse that is a five or six, we may bring down to a three or four. By sacking out a horse and working with the emotions we can set ourselves up for success. When we have addressed emotional issues at home in a safe environment, when we get out on the trail the horse will not over react and bolt or buck.

How long it takes to work with a horse on these issues depends on the emotional level of the horse. I had a Tennessee Walker at the barn for three months and that horse was an emotional wreck and was very bad about bolting. After three months there was a huge difference in the horse but I really needed another month to make the horse totally sound out on the trail. Generally, when a horse has been in training with me for three or four months, I have established body control, brought the emotional level down and the horse will be essentially sound.

Time is an important aspect. Many of us can accomplish a lot with a horse in a very short time. For example, the colt starting contests where in the space of three to four hours we are able to get on and ride. The fact that we can get on and ride them doesn't mean those horses are really broke or that their emotions are stable. You can't estimate the time it will take you to get the horse to the point where you can go out on the trail and be fairly safe. We all know that horses are dangerous and we need to do our basics at home. Safety is always our first concern. Once we have accomplished the basics at home and we can control the horse's feet, the horse understands the exercise. Then, when we are out on the trail and the horse thinks about bolting, we can control the horse's feet. The horse is going to tell you if he is getting ready to bolt. When you are going down the trail and the horse throws his head up in the air like a giraffe, that action tells you that you need to control the horse's feet and not wait until the horse is trying to run away or buck. I have several DVDs available that speak to the basics that riders and horses need to know to be safe on the trail.

So, for a safe and pleasant ride on the trail, we need to put some training time in with the horse. Sometimes we don't like to spend our time training our horse. When we also complain about not having fun when riding because the horse is trying to bolt or he jigs

all the way home, we find that training time is time well spent. If you wind up having to walk the horse home for the sake of safety, time spent at home training may seem much more pleasant.

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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About the Cover

Walter Piehl's roots run deep into rural ND where home, family, livestock, rodeo, isolation and time led a young man to find a zest for art and teaching.

Developing his passion into a lifelong career, he melds all the elements of his western lifestyle along with historic folklore into the abstract expressionistic pieces he creates.

3 Cowgirls Florida (cover image) was a commissioned work for a Floridian woman and represents her cowgirl daughters. See more of his artwork on pages 10-11.

Piehl received the Bush Foundation's Enduring Vision Award in 2008 for his "continued influence on present and future generation of artists."



Robin Mathison, driving her mini horse Gingers Painted Penny during the Prairie Home Carriage Festival parade in Shakopee, Minn.; more on page 12.

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Editorial Information

The Valley Equestrian, printed monthly, welcomes free-lance articles, cartoons, artwork, poems, photographs, etc. that we might use in the publication. We accept no responsibility for the material while in our hands. Materials will be returned if sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographs or graphics electronically submitted should be in color and must be at least 280 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

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Publisher's Clipboard

Dear Readers,

With the July issue we welcome affiliations with the North Dakota Roughrider Rodeo Association, Horses Helping Humans, and Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation (MHARF). These nonprofit organizations work diligently to fulfill their mission in the equestrian industry. We will support their work by publicizing their activities in print and on our website. Please check them out and participate in their work when possible.

On the Backside

Michael Martinez for CNN reports that Tempting Dash and other horses were used in an alleged money laundering scheme by the Mexican cartel Los Zetas. Leader Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, 38, two of his brothers and one of their wives were named in the federal indictment. Fourteen defendants were charged with conspiracy to use horse breeding and racing to launder drug money of the cartel.

Hopes of a Triple Crown winner were dashed when "I'll Have Another" was scratched from the Belmont Stakes due to a tendon injury. The California colt was sold to Shigeyuki Okada of Big Red Farm on the Island of Hokkaido, Japan, and will stand stud there after owners meet the export requirements, presumably in August.

The Triple Crown will continue to elude us. What will the future of horse racing bring? Bob Ford writes in an article for Philly.com: "At some point, the sport of horse racing has to make a change. Not because

there will never be another Triple Crown winner. Some horse will beat the odds and get it done eventually. But because of all the horses that are sacrificed trying to find that one horse, and all the casual fans who are driven away because the stars of the sport are never more than supernovas that flash quickly and disappear, either into the breeding shed or the track ambulance."

Ford believes the pace to be too great for 3-year-olds and suggests that racing utilize 4-year-olds, space the races out farther than 5 weeks and promote the use of artificial insemination for the young colts. Ford states in his article that the horses used are mere teenagers and they carry thousands of pounds on ballerina legs. He feels that failure of the racing industry to change will see casual viewers of the sport leave the sidelines in favor of a more humane spectator activity.

In the June 20 "Paulick Report," Ray wrote about the "Tree Frog Drug," a dermorphin concoction extracted from tree frogs found in the South American Amazon forests and used by the Matses Indian tribe. The article explains that author and adventurer Peter Gorman learned about the drug during a trip to the Peruvian Amazon in the mid-'80s. The Matses rub the mustard-like substance on a small patch of skin the size of a matchhead. Gorman is quoted about his use of the substance: "My vision, my sense of smell, everything about me felt larger than life, and my body felt immensely strong. During the next few days my feeling of strength didn't diminish: I could go whole days without being hungry or thirsty,

and move through the jungle for hours without tiring. Every sense I possessed was heightened and in tune with the environment, as though the sapo put the rhythm of the jungle into my blood." Paulick states, "For years the Matses tribe had been using sapo from tree frogs to lighten their senses, increase stamina and give them additional strength during long hunting trips."

Industrial labs have found positive results for a synthetic dermorphin in Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico race horses. The drug is apparently easily available over the internet. Last year, the Association of Racing Commissioners International added dermorphin to its list of Class I drugs. The suggested RCI penalty for a first offense is a minimum one-year suspension for the trainer and a \$10,000 fine or 10% of the total purse, whichever is higher, according to Paulick's article, at www.paulickreport.com.

Join us on Facebook for more news and photos during the month, go to our website at: www.theveonline.com for more photos, and see our home-page free scrolling event calendar with hotlinks to your web page. Pick up the August issue to read about the popular Mounted Cowboy Shooting, fall horse camping and destinations, how to run a successful production sale, and much more.

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 Happy Trails,
 Ley Bouchard, Publisher

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Three-story building built to their specs in 1912; A homesteading couple had built a farm and tilled the soil. They would move to the village where there was a pleasant spot And kindly neighbors, so they bought a vacant lot. They would bring along some favorite equipment, of course; They also built a small barn, for a cow and a horse. They'd assign the farming to their son – it was their desire; They'd walked miles behind a plow – it was their turn to retire.

ATTEMPTING TO DOUSE THE BURNING HOUSE

They had chosen warm wood tones for the parlor and the living room, Added a two-sided porch and made a spot for flowers to bloom. Wind was blowing sparks and embers and a plume of smoke While the water hoses were aimed to give the house a soak. Churches Ferry, Leeds and Minnewaukan men were aiding The effort to save the stately house, but hopes were fading. Trucks held limited water, so circumstances were dire. They were about to lose the battle to the raging fire!

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

The volunteer firemen fought the fire and the thick smoke. The blowing wind brought the dense plumes to them and made them choke. The barn was already destroyed, so they were debating: Could they save the huge house, though the fire was not abating? The wind fanned the flames; the blowing embers became hotter! They checked the tank gauges – they were running out of water! Firemen win and lose; this contest would go down to the wire. They aimed the remaining water at sparks and the roof fire.

THE FURNITURE MOVERS SUPERHUMANLY MOVED IT

With a lot of human movement, despite the choking smoke, The furniture was removed by some neighbors and kinfolk, Successfully taking the household goods across the street. It was crucial – urgent! They hurried, due to the intense heat. We credit those brave mortals; it was danger they were braving, To carry furniture and the possessions they were saving. A tribute to fire fighters whose stamina we admire, But that day, they would need extra help to beat the fire!

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"We're out of water!! Any new hot spots we cannot douse. Everyone move back! We are about to lose that big house!" An aged water truck came over the hill. The driver spoke: "I was crop spraying and put the plane down when I saw the smoke. Can you guys use this water?" It was an intervention, Or a guardian favor, that has not escaped our attention! It was determination and perfect timing we admire! They let out a shout and doused the roof, and at last put out the fire.

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Chris Vinson Brings 3S Ranch Techniques to MHARF Trainer's Challenge and 2012 MN EquiFest

Editor's Note: The MN Hooved Animal Rescue Trainer's Challenge being held Aug. 25, 2012, will host many trainer's who have taken rescued horses to retrain for new homes. Chris Vinson, of 3S Ranch, shares information about her and her training style. Read about more trainers and their experiences in the next issue of the VEN, which is a sponsor of this event.

VEN: A little background info about you: where are you from, how long a trainer, etc.

CV: I currently reside in Boyceville, Wisc., a small town outside of Monomonia. I have been training full time for over 15 years. I have ridden all my life and sometimes still can't believe I wasn't killed as a small child. My father was a horse jockey as a sideline, he would buy horses, bring them home for me to test out. He would drive the truck down the road while I rode the horse to see how fast it would go. Luckily those days are long gone and I've since actually learned to ride - not just hang on for dear life! I've taken lessons whenever I can find someone I value to teach me something I am interested in or stuck on. I feel that we should never stop learning and maybe that's part of the reason I love horses so much....they continue to teach us if we just pay attention. We learn about ourselves while we are learning about them!

VEN: What are the basics of 3S; how and why did you develop this methodology?

CV: 3S MIS-SION: To build respect, cooperation, obedience and partnership with owners and their equines using honest communication and insightful techniques to ensure emotionally healthy horses and Safe, Sane & Successful riders. 3S methodology

believes that horses learn in a circular pattern of respect, cooperation, obedience and then partnership. I feel this is crucial to understand and practice because to interact with horses any other way can be dangerous to both horse and handler/rider. When working with horses we must begin with gaining the horses respect. The sheer size and strength of a horse makes it imperative that they respect our space. Once respect is accomplished through ground work as well as under saddle, the team is ready to move to the next phase which is cooperation. This is when I believe a horse can be most dangerous. If you look at the definition of cooperation it is "willingness" as one of the meanings. If a horse is willing one day and not willing the next this is when people can get hurt. Once a horse has practiced lessons/training by a competent person he will get to the place where he is obedient even if he doesn't want to. This is when a horse knows his job and feels compelled to do it by having been taught by repetition and fairness. An obedient horse still has his spirit and his dignity and truly learns to enjoy his work; only after these previous three phases can a horse and human come to true partnership. Partnership with your horse is a journey not a destination! By following the above method I believe there are many more Safe, Sane & Successful horses and riders!

VEN: Tell us about your involvement in MHARF. How did that come about?

CV: My first year at the MHARF trainers challenge was in 2009. I received and trained a palomino mare named Willow on whom I won the trail class at the trainers challenge. Once Drew saw how I started and trained horses I began to do sporadic evaluations on horses for MHARF. I was asked to go to the U of M on one occasion to halter break a young stallion they were not able to handle to vet. I was able to help the colt manage his

emotions enough that he could be haltered and led around and stand quietly to have blood drawn and his health checked. Since then I have worked with Drew and MHARF volunteers to evaluate and train a number of horses. The Lippizaner mare I am currently training for the challenge in August is Seleena a 15-year-old brood mare that had been rescued from the kill pen by a concerned citizen, who then called Drew and asked her to take her and another Lippizaner named Maryea. Seleena was approximately 300 some pounds overweight when she came to 3S-Ranch. She was not able to do much more than walk every day for a couple weeks just to get her strong enough to begin training. Seleena has moved very slowly in her training due to her physical issues, I did not want to pull a tendon or hurt her by working her to hard too quickly. Seleena is currently being ridden about 3 or 4 times a week, she has lost about 200 pounds and is beginning to get a little muscle; her hocks and legs are doing fine and I believe she will continue to train out well. She is being ridden in a dressage method so that she continues to build muscle, self-carriage and confidence. I would enjoy showing her in western dressage if the opportunity arises. I would like Seleena to be a solid trail horse and to be able to handle obstacles and traffic with a calm and quiet attitude.

VEN: How did you get involved with Horses Helping Humans?

CV: I received a phone call from Shannon Bruce asking if I was familiar with their program and would I be interested in performing an obstacle demo as fundraiser for the domestic abuse program. I had never heard of them but was more than happy to help and I had a wonderful time performing for them at the Leatherdale Center at the University of Minnesota at the beginning of June. (See article on page 7.)

I decided to begin the Midwest Equine Agility Association or MEAA. MEAA is all inclusive, it does not discriminate on riding discipline; you can ride English, Western, Australian whatever you like; we even have bareback and inhand divisions. Also, we decided we will become a non-profit and keep our entry fees low so that it wasn't cost prohibitive in these economic hard times.

MEAA is geared to skill levels not age groups. Level one is walk only, this is for any division mounted or inhand. Level two is walk and trot. Level three is walk, trot and canter. Level four is walk, trot, canter and gallop. Level five is bareback and bridleless. We find this is much more effective at keeping people safe and comfortable while learning the ropes.

At EquiFest we are attempting to entertain people as well as host a competition so this venue is ridden only and a minimum of Level four. All other venues have all the levels in them. This will be our 4th year hosting obstacle challenges at the Minnesota EquiFest and if people are interested in competing please go to the EquiFest website or contact me and we'll get you signed up!

I design the courses personally as well as announce during the challenge. I design and host approximately seven challenges a season and usually have two at 3S-Ranch each year. We are always looking for new venues to host events as well as new ideas for obstacles.

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Dr. Getty's May Tip: Selenium Overload --Look at Your Horse's Hooves and Hair! by Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

Selenium – you know your horse needs it, but you may be overdoing it. It's easy to do, with selenium added to just about every commercial feed or supplement. And how much is in the grass or hay that you're feeding? You can't tell by looking at it -- selenium levels have no effect on the appearance, smell, or even the taste of the hay. Selenium content in soils varies according to region, alkalinity, and moisture conditions. In areas of drought, when the roots search deeper into the soil for water, they encounter more selenium. Certain parts of the US and Canada typically have more selenium than others. The illustration* below gives you an idea of the selenium concentration in your area. Be aware, however, that even if your area is considered low or adequate, pockets of high-selenium soils may exist throughout the region.

Problems arise when your forage is already adequate in selenium and you add a commercial feed or supplement that contains additional amounts of this mineral. Therefore, it is always advisable to have your hay and pasture tested. Your local county extension service may offer analysis services, or consider Equi-Analytical Laboratories for assistance.

Too much selenium affects hair and hooves

A consistent daily intake of elevated selenium levels will lead to a chronic condition known as alkali disease. Its signs are hair loss, a short tail or straggly mane. Hooves will also be affected – they become soft, chip easily, and cracks can develop around the coronary band. The reason? A change in keratin's structure. Keratin, the protein found in hair and hoof tissue, relies on sulfur to maintain its integrity. High amounts of selenium can take sulfur's place, leading to tissue breakdown.

Selenium has a very narrow range of safety

Adequate selenium is needed for muscle, respiratory, and thyroid health. Too much, on the other hand, can lead to tissue damage; this can be avoided by maintaining a safe range. I recommend limiting total intake to no more than 0.6 ppm (mg/kg). Add up all the sources of selenium, including what naturally exists in your hay and/or pasture. A level between 1 and 3 mg per day is ideal for an 1100 lb (500 kg) adult horse that is not exercised heavily. Athletes or larger breeds, however, require slightly more -- between 3 and 5 mg. Evaluate selenium when supplementing vitamin E

Vitamin E works with selenium as an "antioxidant team." Selenium is part of the enzyme glutathione peroxidase, protecting the inside of the cell, while vitamin E guards the exterior cell membrane. Together, they neutralize damaging free radicals and therefore improve immune function. Therefore, many vitamin E supplements are packaged with selenium. Look closely at the dosing guidelines. For example, if your supplement offers 500 IU of vitamin E and 1 mg of selenium per ounce, and you want to supplement 2,000 IUs of vitamin E, you will also be feeding 4 mg of selenium! A better approach would be to first evaluate the selenium in your horse's diet, and then decide on supplementation. You may find that all you need is a plain vitamin E

supplement, with no selenium added.

Pay attention to labels and do the calculations

Most supplements or feeds that contain selenium will have its concentration shown on the label, making it easy to make the right choices for your horse. Generally, it will be listed as parts per million (ppm), which is the same as mg per kg (mg/kg) of feed. Here's a simple way to calculate the number of mg of selenium you're feeding:

Example #1: 4 lbs of feed that contains 0.6 ppm (mg/kg) of selenium.
Step 1: Convert 4 lbs to kg by dividing by 2.2: 4/2.2 = 1.82 kg
Step 2: Multiply 0.6 ppm (mg/kg) by kg of feed: 0.6 mg/kg X 1.82 kg = 1.09 mg of selenium

Example #2: 2 ounces of supplement contains 10 ppm (mg/kg) of selenium.
Step 1: Convert ounces to kg by multiplying by .0284: 2 X .0284 = .057 kg
Step 2: Multiply 10 ppm (mg/kg) by kg of supplement: 10 mg/kg X .057 kg = 0.57 mg of selenium

* This map is compiled from several maps of selenium concentration across the U.S. and Canada, including Cornell University, Department of Animal Science; National Surveys and Analysis Projects; and News Media Explorer Dr. Juliet Getty has taught and consulted on equine nutrition for more than 20 years. The Getty Equine Nutrition website (www.GettyEquineNutrition.com) offers a library of helpful articles and previous teleseminars, and a nutrition forum. Subscribe on the website to her free and informative monthly e-newsletter, "Forage for Thought." Dr. Getty's comprehensive nutrition resource, Feed Your Horse Like a Horse, is available for purchase through her website or at Amazon.com. Dr. Getty serves as a distinguished advisor to the Equine Sciences Academy and her articles on equine nutrition are internationally published. She is available for individual consultations. Contact Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com or (740) 663-2333 (Eastern time zone).

Horses Helping Humans offers a leg up for domestic abuse survivors

St. Paul, Minnesota - Donors, friends and supporters gathered Saturday, June 9 at the Leatherdale Equine Center in St. Paul to raise money for Horses Helping Humans, an equine assisted learning (EAL) program offered through Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women. The event included a bareback and bridleless ride by natural horsemanship equestrians Kevin Bolf and Monica Gay (photo attached) as well as an agility course competition put on by the Midwest Equine Agility Association (MEAA).



an agility course that included a teeter totter bridge, swimming pool and leading a horse blindfolded.

The Minnesota Horse Council sponsored the event along with Winnie's Cookies, Blackwater Coffee & Café, The Valley Equestrian Newspaper, Musical duo "Brenton & Missy", and the Midwest Equine Agility Association. Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to end domestic violence and to assist abused women and their children. Horses Helping Humans offers the EAL program free of charge to women referred by domestic abuse organizations, churches and mental health providers. The program is staffed 100% by volunteers and funds raised at this event go to support the EAL program. For donation or program information please go to <http://www.southernvalleyalliance.org/hhh> or email: shannon5bruce@frontiernet.net



Spectators were treated to an extraordinary display of human/horse communication and connection as they watched Bolf and Gay perform some amazing maneuvers on their equine partners including jumping barrels through a carwash and standing on their backs -- all bridleless and bareback. Chris Vinson with MEAA explained and demonstrated

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IMPALED!

By Faye Rudenske

Horses seem to have an insatiable tendency to find "trouble," which may, perhaps, be a result of their infallible curiosity. Whoever said that cats are the most curious animal apparently never met an Arabian horse! And, that curiosity oftentimes manifests itself into various forms of injuries that defy logic.

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

For me, with a couple dozen horses, it is imperative that horses are housed with compatible companions in separate paddocks. Early experience indicated that if horses got along well with each other, there were far less accidents and veterinarian bills. Good fences not only make good human neighbors, but are an essential part of the horse keeping equation. Therefore, my fences consisted of strong outer perimeter fences that restricted neighborhood dogs and coyotes while the

dividing fences were heavy duty pipe panels with electric. Round wooden and square posts encased in plastic sleeves provided the structural support. Additionally, the horses were nearly always visible from our residence at all times. Other than minor surface scrapes during horse play, I had managed to avoid major problems for several years, all of which was about to change...

Trouble in Paradise

It was June 20, 2009, a typical bright sunny summer day. A quick errand into town was curtailed within minutes by a phone call—one of the yearlings was injured. When my husband calls the vet, it means BIG trouble. My assistant and I "flew" home and walked into an unbelievable sight. My husband and son had managed to get the colt into a stall. He stood on three legs as blood dripped from a huge wound from underneath his left front leg. A huge hunk of muscle hung down from an opening the size of my fist. A four by six inch piece of skin dangled below it, almost completely severed. The colt was sweating profusely and by all indications was going into shock. The vet had a 45-minute drive. Would she make it in time? As the minutes ticked by, we sponged him off with lukewarm water, massaged his muscles and spoke softly and calmly. Gradually his trembling and the glazed look in his eyes receded and although he couldn't put any weight on his leg, he remained quiet and appeared to stabilize. The blood still dripped constantly, but at least it wasn't streaming.

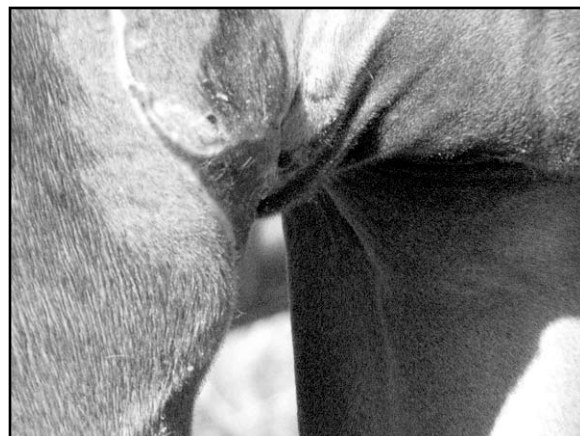
Daunting Task

Although very seasoned and competent, even the vet looked a bit apprehensive at the daunting task that she faced. After her examination, her advice was to transport him to a surgical facility where he could remain confined for at least 30 days to limit his movement. He would, perhaps, also have limited movement due to the vast amount of muscle and surrounding tissue damage which would only intensify with the scar tissue. Recovery was a year in her estimation. She did not think that he would ever be able to be ridden.

Transport was out I told her. He had been loaded in the trailer once, but never hauled. He probably wouldn't be able to withstand the trauma and standing in a trailer for an extended period of time. Euthanasia? She was reluctant. In the end, we opted for the in-field surgery, which was always risky, and, with

its many variables, she wouldn't guarantee the outcome.

With medication, we walked him to our front lawn, and once prone, she went to work. The big flap of skin was excised as lack of blood supply had already shriveled the edges. For close to an hour and a half she meticulously stitched the gaping wound and inserted a drain tube. Even when finished, there was a gaping hole. We went through two IV bags of



Above: Four weeks after the injury, the wound was healing nicely (second set with stitches).

saline solution and intermittent insertions of sedation to keep him horizontal. I noticed a small pocket of air underneath the skin of his neck, and she warned me about crepitus—he could puff up like a balloon if the pleural membrane surrounding the lungs had been punctured and allowed air to seep out between his skin and muscle. Luckily, the small "air pocket" subsided within hours.

Concerned about how he would come out of the anesthesia, we kept him down and calm until he regained his feet in textbook style. With a healthy dose of pain killers, we made our way back to his stall. Antibiotics, Phenylbutazone® (bute), water therapy and a prescription medication



Five weeks after the injury, this photo shows no physical restriction.

Unsolved Mystery

With the colt stabilized and stalled, several of us, including the vet, walked his paddock looking for the culprit. There was no blood or hair anywhere on the ground or fence and, according to the vet, there should have been a copious amount.

The bushes at the end of the paddock did not have any sharp or broken off branches. I, personally, walked the paddock six times. Needless to say, it was frustrating and, to this day, remains a mystery.

New Dilemma

Stall confinement lasted one day. Although his window opened to a paddock with two other horses, he was upset. It was hot and humid. Even the fan couldn't keep him cool. Worried that he would injure himself even more, we constructed a 12 x 12 outdoor pen with pipe fencing right next to other horses. It had a great shade tree as a canopy. It worked. At night he came in next to his buddy and was content.

He also learned what a fly sheet was very quickly, along with a natural fly spray and daily cleansing which wasn't easy for him (or us!). Not only was his wound painful, but it itched and, by Monday, he had completely pulled out the huge section of muscle the vet had stitched. On Tuesday, she spent another hour stitching him again. It was difficult because the stitches wouldn't hold. She did a good job, but he seemed intent upon self-mutilation and within 12 hours the wound was gaping again; there was nothing more to do since the muscle was like hamburger.

Faced with this new dilemma, I consulted another veterinarian. With 40+ years under his belt, he had seen and done just about everything.

"A year recovery with possible restrictive movement," he confirmed. He had treated several such injuries during his career, and they were difficult to heal due to the injury site. He suggested a neck cradle to keep him from self-mutilating, but it seemed a moot point now.

Despite their dire predictions, the colt used his leg fairly well. Thankful for his incredible disposition, he tolerated treatment well. But I couldn't see any improvement—not even a tiny bit. It remained the same raw, red, angry open wound and, in comparison to the photos taken the day of injury, there was no improvement.

I searched the internet in vain for information on this type of injury. I found only one tidbit of information from a study done in the UK which essentially stated it was better to break down the scar tissue by allowing movement. I took it to heart and doubled the size of his outdoor stall.

Then I remembered something else...I owned the Sumerel Therapy System (STS-2).

Let There Be Light!

We were eight days in when I called Dan Sumerel, horse trainer/clinician extraordinaire and the STS-2 manufacturer from the state of Virginia. He had personally used it on thousands of horses, several with the same type of injury. He advised which settings to use and warned that within minutes of use, the wound would begin to drain. He recommended three times a day for 15 minutes each time. For me, with my work schedule, once a day was more feasible.

I immediately started light therapy and within 4-5 minutes the fluids starting draining down his leg.

The colt got one 15-minute light therapy treatment for three consecutive days, along with the water therapy and Miller's Equine Salve & Spray, an organic ointment and spray comprised of the 100 percent pure and natural therapeutic grade essential oils tea tree, eucalyptus peppermint and rosemary in a beeswax base for the ointment and an olive oil carrier for the spray. The ointment was used at night and the spray during the day, which also acted as a fly repellent and kept the injury site free of maggots, a big concern on hot summer days.

The change was remarkable! When the vet re-checked him only six days after our home

Continued on next page

IMPALED!

continued from page 8

remedy was started, she was amazed. His progression lifted the confinement ban, and he was returned to pasture with the other yearlings!

Four weeks from the initial date of injury, the wound was closed in and five weeks out, we did a photo shoot with him. The flap of skin that was excised was completely re-grown, the "hole" was gone and only a minute scar was left. There was no granulated flesh or scar tissue thanks to our treatment. He returned to training in September and physically exhibited absolutely NO restrictions in his movement as evidenced by his unbelievable floating trot and canter! By December 2009 when he was sold, one would have to look closely to even see he had sustained an injury. In fact, his new owner couldn't see the scar, but could feel a slight ridge by running her finger over the site. He remained in training until September 2010 when he was shown in halter and in-hand trail classes, which he won handily. He made the long journey to his new home in Maine without mishap, and when he was three and started under saddle, his new owner says he has the most incredible gaits (and disposition) she has ever seen in her life. This despite the fact the vet thought he would never be a



Five weeks after the injury, this photo shoot shows no physical restriction.

performance horse!

Additionally, on June 7, 2012, his first born son arrived. His journey as a sire and performance horse has just started...

There were several factors that enabled this colt to recover:

- An amenable disposition via his pedigree
- His diet, which included HS-35, a supplement containing 35 vitamins and chelated minerals (www.hs35.net)
- OptiMSM (www.triplefeed.com)
- The amazing STS-2 Light System (www.sumereltraining.com)
- Miller's Equine Salve & Spray (www.equinewoundsalve.com)

With the lack of information available about this type of injury, I hope that by writing about this incident, maybe it will help someone else.



Above: Just prior to leaving for his new home in Maine, this photo shows minimal scarring 14 months after the injury.

Photography by
Faye
Rudenske

The Power of Lights

The STS-2

Although new to many in the United States, light as a healing modality is quite common in Europe and other countries. Its validity has been proven in clinical tests by the government, many universities, the military and NASA! Unfortunately, the use of light therapy has virtually been ignored in the United States.

Light therapy has been known to help enhance local blood circulation, decrease inflammation, fight infection, increase cellular metabolism and energy production as well as relax muscles for effective relief of pain and stiffness.

The particular system used on the horse described in the article above is the STS-2 system, which consists of the Scanner and ETU (Equine Therapy Unit).

The Scanner allows the user to go over the horse's body, externally, and pinpoint physical problems. It "beeps" when it locates a problem and the area is marked for later treatment with the ETU. The Scanner does NOT diagnose problems; it simply locates where problems exist as well as active acupuncture points. The term "prob-

lems" (plural), is used since horses never just have one issue. Scanning the whole horse reveals every problem, which allows for more effective therapy with the ETU.

The ETU involves safe, non-invasive red and infrared pulsed light produced by LED's (light emitting diodes). The ETU powers two Power Lights, each containing 49 LEDs. The Power Lights are completely safe, yet incredibly effective in stimulating the body to recover or repair itself. The light is pulsed at seven frequencies to provide specific responses and does not generate heat.

Not all light therapy units on the market are created equal. The STS-2 is the only company that builds their units with digital frequencies that allow the user to program up to three different frequencies and three different second or minute uses at one time. Secondly, the lights are pulsed at different frequencies, which is extremely important as pulsed lights stimulate the body to repair itself. A less expensive unit may not have pulsed lights that can deliver TOO much light and over stimulate the body.

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Walter Piehl: Sweetheart of ND

By Ley Bouchard

In Norin North Dakota, the name Piehl and rodeo go together like bread and butter, so it is no surprise that Walter Piehl, Jr., would follow the family tradition and place a heavy emphasis on rodeo in his own life, and in his life's passion – his artwork.

Piehl was born in 1942 to Walter, Sr., and Hattie (DeVries) Piehl in Marion, N.D., where his family raised cattle and horses. Like many rural families of the time, there were few amenities. Forget the video games and electronic gizmos our children grow up with; back in the day, there was no electricity, indoor plumbing or running water.

"It was a very easy way to entertain myself," says Piehl of his earliest artwork, "because, till I was in grade school, we did not have electricity on the farm or running water, so my parents bought me a lot of lined, newsprint tablets like we used in school in those days. I remember filling up tablets with cowboys,

Indians, saddles. And also, since World War II was just over, there were a lot of images of WW II and planes."

Growing up North Dakotan is an important part of Piehl's heritage and one of which he is proud. His father was inducted into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame on June 22.

"He would consider that the greatest honor of his life," says Piehl. "He got his start as a horse buyer when farming with horses was changing to machinery. He bought for the slaughter market. So we always had a lot of horses around the place until they were sold to the slaughter plant in Jamestown. That's how he really got started buying and selling horses. Then we started going to Miles City for rodeo and saddle prospects. Olaf Berg of Kathryn, N.D., was also a horse buyer, and they partnered when they went into the rodeo business. Dad bought out the Utke bulls and produced rodeos as far as Wheaton, N.D.; the eastern half of North Dakota; South Dakota,

near Sisseton; Wahpeton, N.D.; and produced one in St. Cloud, Minn. He supplied stock to others. He did that for close to 30 years. Even into his 90s before he passed away, he had the last of his horses on speculation, which he sold at Williston, N.D., at the bucking horse sale. He continued to buy until the end. He sold his bull string in the '80s to the Figure Four Rodeo Company out of Berthold, N.D. In 2006, he died. Mom died in 2007. They both would have seen [the induction into the Hall of Fame as the greatest honor they could have been involved in]," Piehl reiterated.

Piehl, Jr., tried his hand briefly at riding bucking horses and even got on a few bulls, but "it did not take me long to figure out I was not rough stock material," he says. One day, when the announcer just didn't show up, his father told him, "You have to announce today because you've been to college." After that, he was tapped as the announcer for the North Star Stampede in Effe, as well as one in

Canada. "I ended up announcing eight years in the North Dakota Rough Rider Rodeo, but 15 years ago was the last I announced."

Piehl met his wife Becky in kindergarten. They started dating in high school and married after he graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. Not satisfied that he knew enough about art, he continued his education at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

Becky and Walter have four children: Shadd, who lives in Bismarck, N.D.; Levi, in Anchorage, Alaska; Crystal, in Minot, N.D.; and Dahcota, in Tucson, Ariz.. Becky and Crystal have a framing, art and jewelry shop in Minot called the Art Main.

Piehl is on the faculty of Minot State University, where he has taught since 1970.

Piehl's artwork is part of the permanent collection of the North Dakota Museum of Art, where they recognize him "as one of North Dakota's senior painters and as the artist who



Rooted in Rodeo & Art

singularly pioneered the contemporary cowboy art movement."

The Plains Art Museum in Fargo, N.D., has Piehl's work on permanent display and describes his artistry in the following words on their web site (<http://plainsart.org/collections/walter-piehl-jr/>):

"Piehl's work has been highly respected within the esoteric genres of Western art, but is little known outside this genre. Piehl is a vibrant, creative artist, who has explored a variety of media and subjects. His work is often misunderstood or, worse, misinterpreted because of the subjects he portrays: rodeos, cowboys, cowgirls, horses and its defining ephemera. Piehl's creativity transcends his subject. He expresses his subjects in a manner and style that is indicative of their active nature, but he never descends into the cliché or retrograde. Piehl himself has been critical of an art market that merely seeks to replicate Remingtons and Russells. Piehl demands more of his artistic expression. Curator Gordon McConnell has written that Piehl uses color and brushwork 'in the spirit of the 1940s Abstract Expressionists [such as Jackson Pollock or Willem deKooning], to convey the dynamics of rodeo action.' Piehl's most recent work is on exhibit at the Hotel Donaldson, downtown Fargo, N.D. This series, called Cowboy Stuff, is of boots and saddles and still life paintings. Piehl says, 'One of the things that is quite different is that I am painting them over old school maps.

... we don't give the cowgirl credit to the American West, so when I paint someone standing on a horse now, it is to pay tribute to cowgirls.

Walter Piehl

I've always loved maps – they are wonderful artworks, interesting to look at. I like to recycle them into the artwork. Mostly, these maps are collages that I paint over with the still life material. I use primer, soak the map in water and, while wet, put it on a canvas that has been prepared with primer that is still wet, as it makes a good adhesive.

"There is a relationship: Lewis and Clark and some U.S. maps are directly related to the subject, the maps of North Dakota, but for the most part, the maps are such an interesting visual element. There really is not, a lot of times, a symbolic relationship between the map and the subject matter, and sometimes it is only known to me. Sometimes it is only interesting decorative ground on which to paint. But it is not documented. I could talk about an individual piece on a map from China and Mongolia because that is where stirrups are invented. Maps of Africa might be used because that's the shape of the saddle," explains Piehl.

For his Cowgirl Suite 3, Piehl relates, "Old photos are an inspiration. The old Wild West shows with girls standing on horses and family photos of girls standing on a horse to show off how gentle the horse is – cowboys do it also but too often we don't give the cowgirl credit to the American West, so when I paint someone standing on a horse now, it is to pay tribute to cowgirls. The Cowgirls Florida piece

was a commission work for a woman in Florida who has daughters that rode and were horse-women."

"I paint on stretched canvas. I like the idea of some of the paintings on gallery mount; it stretches around the sides and is stapled on the back and I like the idea that the paint wraps around and continues on the back. I only frame the work on paper." Piehl explains his American Minotaur series: "In the Mediterranean history there were minotaurs. In college humanities classes, you would be exposed to the minotaur; it had the head of a bull and body of a man, and it, just as a mythical creature, seemed to be a perfect parallel, a symbol of cowboy bull riders today. To be a cowboy, you have to become part of the bull. The American Minotaur is the American version of the Minotaur. I did artwork that had other symbolic versions of the centaurs with women, even though they did not exist in mythology. I created artwork that tried to draw parallels to the American rodeo."

Not only is Piehl's style unique, but so are the titles he gives his pieces and series. Much like discovering a different aspect of a work each new time you view it – another spark of electricity, action or emotion not apparent before – a fresh, thought-provoking glimpse of Piehl's work is also offered through its carefully chosen title.

Piehl shares, "One of the things I enjoyed when Dad was in the rodeo business is, we would get new bulls and if they bucked, we would keep them in the string. I was the one that named them. Names can be very inventive and full of character. Sometimes I will look at a drawing and name it during it or after. I have a notebook full of potential names that come into my head."

In a documentary made for PBS, Piehl talked about the naming of his artwork and the notebook he keeps with potential names. For more information about Piehl and his artistic style, see the YouTube video of that PBS special: "Walter Piehl: Sweetheart of the Rodeo" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1PUW7gcNeY>).



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Minnesota Whips and Wheels 4th Annual Prairie Home Carriage Festival

By Heidi Block

This year with the wet spring we had we were all beginning to wonder if Mother Nature was going to dry us out enough to be able to hold the 4th Annual Prairie Home Carriage Festival. As it turned out the weather did cooperate.

The town depicts the 1890's and has 12 individual homes, a Depot, a Blacksmith, a Warehouse, a bank, lumber yard, general store, town hall, church, gazebo, a picnic pavilion, and an overlook area to view the breathtaking Minnesota River Valley. On certain days The Landing has their authentically furnished buildings open and staffed with costumed people who recreate what life was like back

town, around the grounds, up and down the main road, past the 1845 fur post, the 1857 farm, the red barn, the 1889 farm, pasture, and the town. We had people come and join us from as far away as Northern Minnesota, Western Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. There were many different breeds of animals: Belgians, Percherons, single and team light horses, ponies, and donkeys. If they wanted, the participants could go through the judging for the parade while they were in their antique vehicles and period costumes.

During the parade there was also a poker run up and down the main road. After everyone was done driving around with their horses

and vehicles, a meal was provided for participants and volunteers. Following the meal was an awards presentation where ribbons were handed out to happy participants. It turned out to be a wonderful day with everyone having a great time. Even the weather waited until everyone was loaded and was on their way home before it started to rain. We had another successful event and we appreciate the help from all of our volunteers and sponsors.

Photography by Bob Matthews



Bonnie Pilgram driving her POA mini cross Hogan across the Scurry finish line.

Photography by Bob Matthews.



Above: Clark Anderson driving his horse Beauty during the parade through the 1890's town. Below: Mary Block driving her team of mini donkeys Tucker and Pepito during the parade with the vehicle display in the background.

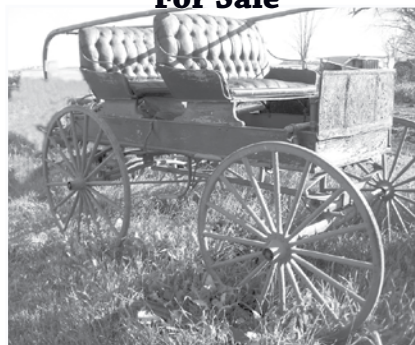
We were all excited to be at our new location this year, The Landing, located in Shakopee, Minnesota. The Landing has a rich history and was established in 1969. It was formerly known as the Historic Murphy's Landing, and is now the Minnesota River Heritage Park. The Landing is an 88-acre living history museum that depicts life from the 1840s to 1890s in the Lower Minnesota River Valley. They have authentic buildings, a scenic river trail, and an overlook that has a spectacular view of the Minnesota River. They have Major Murphy's Inn and ferry crossing, the Pond Grist Mill, and the river overlook wall, which was constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It is interesting to note that there is a progression of time from 1845 to the 1890's as you venture from east to west on the main road. The first place you see is the Granary, which is closely followed by the vast meadow. You then come across the 1845 Fur Post, the 1857 Farm, the Red Barn, the 1889 Farm with a split rail fenced in pasture, a school house located across the street from the pasture, Murphy's Inn Ruins, and then the town.

during those days.

As our day began we started with the Scurry and Trace. The Scurry consisted of a cones course set up in the pasture area, which has an interwoven three rail fence around it and is next to the 1889 farm. The Trace was a timed event with three hazards in the meadow area located between the 1845 fur post and the granary. There was also one hazard on the west side of the pasture area. For the duration of the event, we had a display, which included a single seat cutter, a French style cutter, a Russian cariole, carts, a miniature circus wagon, a traditional top buggy, a mini covered wagon, an imported Swedish buggy, a spring wagon, a surrey, paretons, and a pony Victoria. The display was located in a beautiful spot, as it overlooked the Minnesota River Valley in the background.

There was a detailed talk given on each of the vehicles in the display. After the Scurry and Trace it was time for people to hitch up their non-competition buggies and carts and parade through

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From a Different Perspective

By Katherine Windfeather-Thompson

The bitter battle between those in favor of re-establishing horse slaughter facilities for practical reasons and those passionately against it rages on. I have already commented on this subject several times, and I tire of the battle. However, I am compelled to add further thoughts, having made more recent observations regarding this heated issue. In truth, there is no wrong or right to either position. There are only differing levels of awareness and choices, and awareness is what I wish to address.

Anna Sewell published the book *Black Beauty* in 1878, and was ahead of her time in stating that she wanted to raise awareness of the suffering imposed on horses. At that time, animal welfare was not the issue it has become today, but we still – as a nation, and as humans charged with the stewardship of the creatures we share this planet with – have a long way to go in convincing the world's collective consciousness to embrace what I believe is the truth.

My dear friend Victor Wolf, who has written for the Valley Equestrian News, submitted an eloquent article last year about the connection between Anna Sewell and the present-time issues concerning the plight of unwanted horses. He made note of the fact that the issue, on both sides, always seems to come down to one of money – on one hand, the lack of it to save horses, and on the other, the need to make it by creating jobs and a market for horse meat. Oh, and lest we forget, there are political agendas involved, especially this year.

I'd like to quote Victor here, because humor might ease the tension somewhat surrounding this subject: "One aspect of the controversy... is the political correctness of words. Can horses really be 'harvested' as if they were an edible crop, such as corn or pumpkins?" Indeed. Demand for horse meat for human consumption has become an issue of intense focus, whereas before the shut-down of slaughter facilities in the United States, nobody wanted to talk about it very much. Carcasses were shipped to "foreigners"; out of sight, out of mind and, yes, out of conscience. Now the market is no longer foreign; horse meat is being served on U.S. tables, and the subject is a whole new can of worms, so to speak. Don't bother pardoning me for using that expression; it's a messy subject, no matter what side of the fence you stand on.

If you want to reread Victor's excellent article, it's worth going back to the March 2011 issue of the VEN (www.theveonline.com/pdf/archive/). For now, I would just like to share my own observations on how we fare today in implementing a raised awareness to make a positive change in how we deal with this issue that is yet to be resolved.

A few weeks ago I participated in the 14th annual Western States Horse Expo in Sacramento, California, as an author, animal communicator and healer. It was no surprise to me that many people who came to talk to me consistently possessed an elevated consciousness and openness that was encouraging. Horse enthusiasts' perspectives have shifted a great deal since I started speaking at these venues 15 years ago; several at this show were appalled at the attitude of one of the presenting clinicians, who was quoted as saying that horses do not have the capacity to love, nor show affection. Feeling very strongly that this was a Neanderthal-like misconception on the

clinician's part, some listeners walked out on the presentation, no longer interested in what he had to say. I had no trouble relating to how they felt about such ignorance, but I also have to own that I was once that unaware myself. The fact of the matter is that animals, particularly horses, do not process emotion the same way humans do, but that does not mean they do not possess the capacity to feel emotion. Loving, well-meaning people tend to anthropomorphize their relationships with horses, but they are different animals altogether, just as they should be. What started a huge shift in my own consciousness exactly 17 years ago was the experience of sharing the intense emotional pain of a horse that had been taken away from me – something I won't go into detail about here, but trust me, it was life-altering, and things have not been the same for me since. For that very reason, I have committed the remainder of this physical lifetime to educating people about this, and helping them resolve the physical and emotional problems they and their horses share.

As Victor stated, "Anna Sewell, in her words, would have stirred people to 'manifest sympathy, kindness and understanding treatment of horses,' for she saw them not as livestock, nor a food crop. Sewell saw them as our companions and our partners." I say "ditto" to that, my friend!

Having been raised in a cattle-ranching family, I found it mind-boggling to fully realize that companion animals such as dogs and horses have soul agreements with us, and their "soul intention" is to experience what unconditional love is, regardless of our awareness or our lack of it. It was a staggering revelation to realize that they do so before they "evolve" to take on human form because to take on human form is to come into this realm with a bag over your head, completely blind to what unconditional love actually is!

The simple truth is, you cannot know what love is unless you have experienced what it is not. And what it is not is what is being done to horses in so-called humane slaughter plants. Victor believed that in the original language of the Bible, the term "living soul" applied to animals as well as people. Let me quote another phrase from the Bible that I believe applies to this practice that is being re-established: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." And may I close this article by saying how much I miss both Victor and Anna Sewell. For there are days when I feel like those of us at this level of awareness on this earth plane, and most surely the horses headed for slaughter, are running out of time and losing this game. What will it take to make the shift to a kinder, gentler world in time? For time, too, is speeding up to the end of its purpose.

Editor's Note: The staff of the Valley Equestrian News has lost contact with Victor Wolf, also known as Victor Abdul Nur, due to illness or possibly death. Anyone reading this article who might know of Victor's condition or whereabouts, or have any suggestions as to how we may find out what has happened to him, is asked to please contact Ley Bouchard of the Valley Equestrian News.

Wild Horse Groups File Preemptive Motion for Stay to Stop Possible "Back-Door" BLM Roundup

Washington D.C., (WHFF) – On June 22nd, 2012 Wild Horse Advocacy groups filed an "Emergency Motion for Stay of Threatened Emergency Gather" against Director of the Department of the Interior (Dol) Ken Salazar and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an attempt to "head off" what is believed to be an artificial emergency generated by the BLM in an effort to eradicate Colorado's West Douglas Wild Horse Herd and by-pass on-going litigation to prevent the agency from doing same.

Plaintiffs Colorado Wild Horse & Burro Coalition, Front Range Equine Rescue, Habitat for Horses, Cloud Foundation, Don and Toni Moore, supported by Wild Horse Freedom Federation, have spent years locked in a legal battle to prevent the BLM from furthering their long standing goal of removing the entire North West Colorado wild horse herd from their native public land. The organizations collectively allege that they have credible evidence to dispute the BLM's assertion that a drought emergency exists in the area and the horses must be removed for their own safety.

Last week the BLM issued two separate warnings to the court that the horses were in distress but the Wild Horse advocacy groups deny these claims after an intensive on-site investigation and survey of the area in question.

In his declaration to the court, local resident and plaintiff Dr. Don Moore states, "...in areas where the horses are found there is plenty of fresh water flowing. Some of it flows underground but comes up aboveground in "seeps," which are areas where water bubbles up from freshwater springs beneath the ground and which wild horses regularly find, access, and drink from. We saw many seeps in the past week with a length and a depth sufficient to support the horses. There is, based on my knowledge and experience of this area and these horses, ample fresh water even though an untrained eye might not appreciate the available water in the area.

He further states: "I observed fresh feces from the wild horses and determined that the

horses were not dehydrated, based on the size and consistency of the samples observed. Visually the horses exhibited no signs of dehydration, which could include thin body condition or emaciation."

Lauryn Wachs, of the Cloud Foundation, also traveled to the area where the BLM claims there is no water for the horses and said,

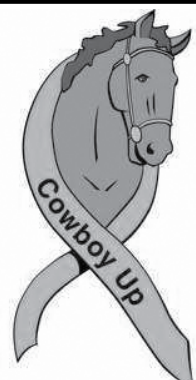
"In the past week in the West Douglas Herd Area I observed horses accessing natural water from "seeps" where fresh water was flowing. It was also clear there was ample water for the horses as I observed four horses who were wet, obviously from rolling in mud, a sure sign of available water."

R.T. Fitch, volunteer president of WHFF one of the funding organizations added,

"This is an old Mustang trick used by the BLM to circumvent the courts and accomplish what they have always wanted to do, wipe out this entire herd." Fitch continued, "Once again it appears that the BLM is using backroom tactics in an effort to serve their special cattle grazing interests who have joined them in this fight. Private cattle stay, public wild horses go; it's nothing short of insanity."

The battle over the West Douglas herd is nearly two decades old, and only through the efforts of concerned citizens and organizations have the horses been saved from the BLM's desire to remove them all from their homelands. In 2009, concerned citizens and organizations won the first case in the United States against BLM's practices of eliminating wild horse herds when Judge Collyer set aside BLM's 2008 roundup plans. In 2010 advocates again sued the BLM and the BLM withdrew its plans to decimate the herd. Likewise, in 2011 the BLM was held at bay by the advocacy groups.

Wild Horse Freedom Federation (WHFF) is a registered Texas non-profit corporation with 501(c)3 status. WHFF puts people through America's wild equids and extinction through targeted litigation against governmental agencies whose documented agendas include the eradication of wild horses and burros from public, federal and state lands. WHFF is funded exclusively through the generosity of the American public.



Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer

Upcoming Events

August 4: Dudley's Rev Up For Cowboy Up 4 Wheeler Run, McLeod, ND
 August 17: Extreme Race, McLeod, ND
 August 18: 8th Annual Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer, McLeod, ND

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Events for July and Beyond

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

June 30-July 1: Minn. North Star Paint Horse Club at Cannon Falls with the MPHHA.

July 14-15: Barrel Racing at the Minn. Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. www.minnesotaequestrian.com

MN; more information at www.wildricepeacemakers.com.

July 4: Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer 4th of July celebration in McLeod, ND; http://www.gventertainment.org/cowboyup/

July 14: MN Paint Horse Assoc. Horse Show at 8 a.m. at Simons Arena in Cannon Falls, Minn. http://www.simonhorsecompany.com/

July 31-Aug. 4: Canadian National Appaloosa Show in Brandon MB www.appaloosa.ca

July 5-8: Minn. Quarter Horse Assoc. Show at the Minn. Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. www.minnesotaequestrian.com

July 15: FM Mounted Posse show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D., http://www.fmmountedposse.com

Aug. 4-5: Montana State Fair Appaloosa Show in Great Falls, MT

July 7: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

July 15-21: National High School Rodeo Finals at the Sweetwater Events Complex in Rock Spring, Wyo. http://www.sweetwaterevents.com

Aug. 4&5: FM Mounted Posse show at 9 a.m. at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D., www.fmmountedposse.com

July 7-8: Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse event at 8 a.m. at the Windom, Minn. Arena, http://www.windom-mn.com

July 20-22: Minn. Miniature Horse Assoc. Show at the Minn. Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. www.minnesotaequestrian.com

Aug. 4: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

July 7: Bits and Spurs O-Mok-See Show at 9 a.m. at the Bit & Spurs Arena in Delano, Minn.

July 21: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

Aug. 10-12: MPTHA 3-day show at the Minn. Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. http://www.minnesotapinto.com/shows.htm

July 9-21: National Appaloosa Show in Tulsa, OK www.appaloosa.com

July 26-Aug. 5: Wyoming's Big Show with a rodeo, carnival rides, concerts and livestock exhibits at the Sweetwater County Fair in Rock Springs, Wyo. http://www.sweetwaterevents.com/WyoBigShow.aspx

Aug. 11-12: MN North Star Paint Horse Club Color Classic Show at 8 a.m. at R&J Arena in Verndale, Minn. See www.mnsphc.com

July 12: AMHR Sanctioned Miniature Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Schollander Pavilion of the RRV Fairgrounds in West Fargo, N.D. Contact chaun@redrivervalleyfair.com

July 27-29: Minn. Paint Horse Show at the Minn. Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn. www.minnesotaequestrian.com

Aug. 18: Cowboy Way Church Horse Haven Arena Barrels and Poles Finals at Hartford, SD; www.sdhorsefair.com

July 13-15: 3-Day Minn. Pinto Horse Assoc. show at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, MN; http://www.minnesotapinto.com/shows.htm

July 28 & 29 - Lynn Hanson Memorial Shoot, Marshall County Fairgrounds Arena, Warren,


Aug. 18-19: AEER Hunter/Jumper and English/Western Dressage show, at the North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, ND www.aeerfargo.org

Aug. 19: Minn. North Star Paint Horse Club Show at St. Croix Falls with Wisconsin

Aug. 26: Minn. North Star Paint Horse Club Show at 8 a.m. at Northwest Arena in North Branch, MN; www.mnsphc.com

Sept. 7-9: MPTHA September Celebration at Red Horse Ranch Arena in Fergus Falls, Minn. http://www.minnesotapinto.com/shows.htm

September 22 & 23 - Northern Prairie Shootout, Twin Valley Riders Club Arena, Twin Valley, MN; more info at www.wildricepeacemakers.com.



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For more event information check out the VEN web site FREE scrolling event calendar with hotlinks to your web site!

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USRider encourages use of pre-trip checklist

LEXINGTON, Ky. - After several years of analyzing accidents involving horse trailers, USRider - national provider of roadside emergency assistance for horse owners - has developed a checklist to help equestrians avoid accidents on the road.

"We believe you can never over-prepare for a trailering trip with your horse," said Bill Riss, General Manager for USRider. "Even if you are only going to travel a short distance to a local event, an accident - or some other emergency - could occur, leaving you stuck on the highway unexpectedly for an extended period."

Working with Dr. Tomas Gimenez, retired professor of animal and veterinary sciences at Clemson University, and Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, an animal physiologist and primary instructor in technical large-animal emergency rescue, USRider has been gathering and analyzing data about horse trailer accidents for the last eight years. From this data, Drs. Gimenez and USRider have gleaned some pertinent recommendations for preventing accidents and enhancing the safety of horses while traveling. This information has been compiled in a handy Pre-Trip Checklist for Horse Trailers. The checklist is conveniently available to smartphone users on USRider's mobile website. Simply access www.usrider.org from any smartphone and the list is handily at your fingertips to check prior to each trip.

Items to check before starting a trip:

- Wheel bearings - Have bearings serviced annually, or 12,000 miles, regardless of mileage due to possible moisture buildup. Carry a spare wheel bearing set in case of premature failure.
- Tires - Look for dry rot, uneven tire wear, overall tire wear and damage. Be sure to replace tires every 3-5 years regardless of mileage.
- Tire pressure - Don't forget to check spares and inside tire on dual wheels as well.
- Hitch - Ensure that it is locked on the ball and that correct size ball is being used.
- Safety cables/chains - Check to see that these are securely connected.
- Electrical connection - Make sure it's plugged in and secured.
- Breakaway system - Ensure that this is connected and secured as well.
- Emergency battery - Check to see that it's charged.
- Trailer lighting - Check lights for the brakes and turn signals, as well as running and perimeter lights.
- Brake controller - Test to ensure that it's working properly.
- Carry a completed In Case of Emergency (ICE) form - This form can be downloaded at www.usrider.org.
- Trailer - Before loading horses, check the trailer for any hazards.
- Horses - Don't forget to put shipping boots and head bumpers on horses.
- Doors - Secure and latch all trailer doors. Place a snap hook or carabiner

to prevent accidental opening.

- Headlights - For greater safety, drive with headlights on.
- Drive safely - Allow greater braking distance and travel at generally slower speeds.
- First aid kits - Be sure to check the contents of equine and human first aid kits. Any depleted and out-of-date items should be replaced. A list of recommended items for first aid kits is posted on www.usrider.org. Be sure NEVER to depend on others to hitch your trailer. "The driver is ultimately responsible. Even if someone else actually does the hitching, the driver should always go behind them to double-check that the trailer is properly hitched," said Riss. "Trailers that are properly hitched do not come unhitched. Trailer accidents where the trailer comes loose from the trailer have a high incidence of human and equine fatalities. Worst of all, these kinds of incidents are highly avoidable," he added.

To gather additional accident information, USRider is continuing the trailer accident study. All horse owners, trainers, emergency responders, veterinarians and others who have somehow been involved in horse trailer incidents are urged to participate in the survey. Visit www.usrider.org to download the survey form. The information being collected includes type of transport, type of towing vehicle, number and type of horses in transport, cause of accident, results of accident, extent of human and equine injuries, and type of personnel involved in rescue.

USRider provides roadside assistance and towing services along with other travel-related benefits to its Members through the Equestrian Motor Plan. With an annual fee comparable to that of other roadside assistance programs, the Equestrian Motor Plan includes standard features such as flat-tire repair, battery assistance and lockout services, towing up to 100 miles plus roadside repairs for tow vehicles and trailers with horses, emergency stabling, veterinary referrals and more. For more information about the USRider Equestrian Motor Plan, visit http://www.usrider.org online or call (800) 844-1409.

For additional trailer safety information, visit http://www.usrider.org/safety.html, and go to the Equine Travel Safety Area. The Equine Network provides, creates, and distributes relevant content and services to passionate horse enthusiasts while connecting them to each other and the marketplace. The Equine Network is the publisher of award-winning magazines: Horse & Rider, EQUUS, Dressage Today, The Trail Rider, Spin to Win Rodeo, American Cowboy, Practical Horseman, and Horse Journal.

Families Learn Cooking Skills at SD Outdoor Expo

By Cassandra Swanson

HURON, SD - Saturday, June 9th at the one of a kind South Dakota Outdoor Expo - the place to be to learn about and actually try your hand at outdoor activities - 14 Dutch Oven Teams from across the state of South Dakota and from as far away

to be culinary delights and our judges struggled to choose winners amongst the amazing entries.

Cabela's of Mitchell sponsored prizes in each category, and GSI and Lodge donated door prizes for the contestants. Rick's Salt of Moberidge provided each team and judge with a thank you gift sampler of salt.

The winners were:

MAIN COURSE:
1st) Mexican Lasagne, Ken Maron, Black Hills, SD
2nd) Turkey Stew with Biscuits, Elaine & Kent Bales, Huron, SD
3rd) Crab Stuffed Chicken, Luinea & Regina Caldwell, Brandon, SD

DESSERT:
1st) OMG Blueberry Pudding, Luinea & Regina Caldwell, Brandon, SD
2nd) Apple Dump cake, Charlie Franz, Black Hills, SD
3rd) Earthquake Cake, Tim Nold & Jerry Hanks, Piedmont, SD

BREAD:
1ST) Whole Wheat Raisin, Jim & Jill Johnson, Wessington, SD



as lola, Wisconsin came to show off their outdoor cooking skills.

Creating a meal in a dutch oven over coals is a challenge in itself, but add 90* temps and 30-40mph wind gusts, and you have an ADVENTURE in COOKING! Yet, the dishes proved



2nd) Monkey Caramel Bread, Elaine & Kent Bales, Huron, SD
3rd) Blueberry Bread, Tim Nold & Jerry Hanks, Piedmont, SD
On Sunday, members of the Dutch Oven clubs hosted a Dutch Oven Gathering serving up breakfast dishes and more to the public. Many folks were introduced to the art of Dutch Oven cooking at this fun show. Dutch oven cooks also enjoyed the opportunity to visit and take in the outdoor EXPO while in town including amazing archery exhibitions, kayaking, fast draw shooting, and vendors of unique and new outdoor products. For more information on Dutch oven cooking, check out idos.com for a club near you. In South Dakota, a Dutch oven contest and gathering will be held at Big Sioux Rec Area in Brandon on July 14 and in the Cabela's of Mitchell parking lot August 18. Hope to see you there!

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

If so, we'd love to hear from you! Send your old photo (with caption) or news story to us and share it with readers nationwide! If you wish to have your photo returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.



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www.theveonline.com

From the Horse's Mouth: Industry News

UPDATE: COLORADO EQUINE HERPES VIRUS QUARANTINE RELEASED

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – The Colorado Department of Agriculture has released the quarantine placed on a Douglas County premises after a case of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) was confirmed at the location.

"We are pleased with the release of the quarantine; the Department responded quickly to control this disease. The fact that there was only one confirmed case shows that the cooperative efforts of the premises and Colorado's vigilant horse owners are a vital part of disease mitigation," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr.

The affected horse was imported by a private owner from Iowa, through a transport company and was euthanized after showing severe neurological signs associated with the disease. Three facilities received horses from the same transport vehicle. Horses at those facilities remain free of clinical signs of EHV-1.

"While there was limited spread of this disease, it could have been much worse. We encourage horse owners and event managers to always observe basic biosecurity practices such as limiting horse-to-horse contact, separating feeding, watering and tack supplies, and eliminating shared water sources at events to minimize transmission of all infectious diseases," continued Roehr.

EHV-1 is not transmissible to people; it can be a serious disease of horses that can cause respiratory, neurologic disease and death. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. The virus can also spread through the air, contaminated tack and equipment, clothing and hands.

The common vaccines available for EHV-1 immunization do not protect against the neurological form of EHV-1 disease which is commonly called equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM). These immunizations do protect against the respiratory and abortion forms of the disease. The vaccines are thought to reduce the shedding of the virus and may decrease the amount of circulating virus in the system of infected horses; therefore, vaccinations prior to exposure may help reduce the severity of infection. Horse owners should consult with a veterinarian to determine the best vaccination and treatment strategy for their horses.

Additional Resources:

- A Guide To Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV Infection
- USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Resources
- American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners Fact Sheet



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SEMINAR TO HELP COLORADO COMPANIES DEVELOP EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – Funding to support developing exports of Colorado agricultural products is available for 2013. A seminar on August 15 will give insights and information on how funds can help Colorado companies develop export opportunities and how to apply for these funds.

In the past three years, Colorado companies have received 44 grants for more than \$1.15 million to support marketing efforts to develop or expand exports from Colorado through the US Department of Agriculture Market Access Program (MAP). These funds have been used for trade shows, both in the United States and internationally, as well as travel expenses to attend international trade shows. Other companies have used funds for complying with labeling requirements for international markets, advertising, and a wide range of promotional expenses.

"I hope more Colorado companies will participate in this program," says Colorado Department of Agriculture Commissioner John Salazar. "Developing exports is critical to our state's economy, and these funds can help companies develop or expand export markets."

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is hosting a seminar in Lakewood from 10am until 1pm on August 15, with speakers from the Western US Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA), to discuss how available funds can assist exporting efforts. The "Support for Exporting Seminar" will focus on a wide range of products including foodservice products, ingredients, natural/health, nursery, nutraceutical, organic, pet food and products, produce, and retail products. The seminar will cover topics including understanding if your product is ready for export, identifying funding available for international marketing activities and promotions, and how funds help in exhibiting at international and domestic trade shows.

Food and agricultural companies currently exporting or interested in developing international markets are invited to attend. Pre-registration is required and the fee is \$25 per person, which includes lunch. For more information or to register, visit www.wusata.org/BrandedSeminarCO. Visit the Services section to learn about program basics and how to qualify. International marketing specialists are available at the Colorado Department of Agriculture to assist in beginning and expanding Colorado's export markets. Assistance includes training for export operations, assessment of market options, international finance and accessing USDA funding support for exporters. For more information, visit www.coloradoagriculture.com/exporter, call (303) 239-4118 or e-mail Tim.Larsen@ag.state.co.us.

USA EQUESTRIAN TRUST AWARDS NEARLY \$240,000 IN FIRST ROUND OF 2012 GRANTS

Lexington, KY — In its largest round of grant funding to date, USA Equestrian Trust has awarded nearly \$240,000 to 11 equine non-profits that applied by the first of the foundation's two 2012 application deadlines. The \$239,780 in grants is an increase of 21 percent compared to 2011. That mirrored the continued dramatic jump in interest in the Trust's grants program, which saw applications rise 38 percent.

The Trust's leadership approved an expansion of the program earlier this year, offering a second grant application period for the first time in the foundation's history. Equine non-profits have until October 8 to submit applications for consideration using the Trust's easy online application form available at www.trusthorses.org.

Those projects awarded grants were as follows:

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EQUINE PRACTITIONERS FOUNDATION, INC. (\$10,000) was awarded funding for its Laminitis Research Project that unites veterinarians and horse owners in a collaborative effort to uncover new information about causes, prevention and treatment of the crippling disease.

AMERICAN DRIVING SOCIETY, INC. (\$45,000) was awarded funding to assist in an effort to upgrade an equine facility in Illinois that has been donated to a local governmental body. The goal is to restore and preserve the more than 600 acres and allow it to again play host to events including local, national and international eventing, dressage and combined driving.

AMERICAN MORGAN HORSE ASSOCIATION (\$27,235) was awarded funding for its youth equitation medal classes and "Youth of the Year" programs.

AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE ASSOCIATION (\$27,000) was awarded funding to help redesign its database of registered Saddlebreds, members, competitions and show results, as well as upgrade its website.

CANTER OF PENNSYLVANIA (\$1,500) was awarded funding to offer three \$500 educational scholarships for United States Pony Club riders who are residents of Pennsylvania and compete with retired Thoroughbreds. The organization's goal is to further develop the skills of riders and their off-track Thoroughbreds through the assistance of professional trainers and other educational opportunities.

CONSERVATION TRUST FOR FLORIDA, INC. (\$8,000) applied for funding to host a one-day workshop for attorneys, appraisers and accountants on land conservation options and conservation easements. The organization's goal is protecting horse farms and the horse farm lifestyle for future generations by educating landowners about conservation methods and by assisting them in protecting their land.

MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION (\$10,000) was awarded funding for research into equine herpesvirus, a devastating disease that can cause abortions and severe neurological diseases.

WOMEN'S HORSE INDUSTRY NETWORK TO CELEBRATE 3RD ANNIVERSARY

The Women's Horse Industry Network will be celebrating its 3rd year anniversary this month and organizers could not be happier with the progress of the group. As a business network, WHIN works hard to help its members connect with each other for more business and it has been working exceptionally well.

"Our members love to do business with one another and we hear stories every day about how well the group works for them. We can also tell by the high number of membership renewals. We have developed some really cost effective and sometimes free marketing vehicles for our network and they seem to also be helping out members do more business. To us, that's the name of the game," states WHIN's President, Catherine Masters.

This year WHIN has hosted several events including the first ever WHINNY awards which were a huge hit. The group has also published two business directories and a mobile app called Horse2Go which is available for both android and apple products.

For additional information on the Women's Horse Industry Network, please visit our website or call (615) 730-7833.



NEW YORK HORSE PARK, INC. (\$50,000) sought funds to develop a master plan to build the expansive New York Horse Park in Saratoga Springs.

SACRAMENTO HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION (\$5,000) was awarded funding to offer a free training clinic to its members, who are entry-level exhibitors and low-budget owners.

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION'S EQUINE HEALTH RESEARCH FUND (\$46,190) was awarded funding for research into orthopedic diseases and recurrent airway obstruction.

UNITED STATES PONY CLUB, INC. (\$9,855) has proposed creating a traveling display that will serve as an interactive, educational experience for children. The goal is to generate interest in horses and ponies and to drive more visitors to the Kentucky Horse Park and its Kids Barn.

To find out more about USA Equestrian Trust and its programs, or to apply for the next round of grants, visit the Trust's website at www.trusthorses.org. About USA Equestrian Trust USA Equestrian Trust is a New York Not-for-Profit Corporation whose mission is to assist in preserving and/or enhancing the quality of equestrian sport in the United States of America. Its objects and purposes are exclusively charitable, educational, and dedicated to the fostering of equestrian sports. The Trust is a private foundation pursuant to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and a Sustaining Affiliate of United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), the National Governing Body for equestrian sport in the United States.

From the Horse's Mouth: Industry News

Full Metal Jousting™ Armored All-Star Challenge to come to Taking the Reins

Madison, WI, June 20, 2012 – Taking the Reins presented by the Midwest Horse Fair® announces the addition of a jousting challenge to the summer event's line up. The intense competition, Full Metal Jousting™ Armored All-Star Challenge, will be held on August 17 & 18 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI. Widely acclaimed joust, coach and trainer, Shane Adams, host of the Full Metal Jousting™ series on HISTORY®, will spearhead the tournament.

The 8-man challenge will be scored on a point system, which will determine the winner of the challenge. \$20,000 in prizes will be awarded. Each round will consist of two dueling jousters taking a maximum of 8 passes along the 6 ft. high list. Points will be determined based on strikes with a maximum of 10 points per pass. In addition points will be earned in a separate round of a timed Gauntlet Race. The total score will be based on the number of points earned minus any deductions.

Many of the contenders will be making their first competitive appearance since the filming of the television series. Confirmed jousters include: Josh Avery, Mike Edward, James Fairclough, Matt Hiltman, Nathan Klasen, Joe McKinley and Rope Myers.

The first round of the competition will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday, August 17 in the Veterans Memorial Coliseum. A general admission Taking the Reins event ticket is required to view the preliminary round.

The rivalry will continue on Saturday, August 18 at 7:00 pm during the not-to-be-missed championship round. Prizes and guest appearances will add to Saturday evening's extreme performance. A separate ticket is required for Full Metal Jousting™ Armored All-Star Challenge on Saturday, August 18. Reserved-seat tickets will be for sale for \$10.00 and \$15.00 beginning Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 10:00 am through Ticketmaster (www.ticketmaster.com). The Coliseum will be cleared before the competition and spectators must have a ticket to re-enter.

Throughout the weekend, attendees will have the opportunity to meet with the competitors and host, Shane Adams, to learn more about this up and coming extreme sport.

The Equine Network Joins Unwanted Horse Coalition

Washington, DC – June 18, 2012. The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) welcomes The Equine Network as a new member. The company supports the UHC and its recent hands-on efforts to help rescues and unwanted horses.

"The Equine Network is proud to be a member of the Unwanted Horse Coalition, an organization that is doing a great job in tackling one of the most challenging issues in our industry," said Dave Andrick, group publisher of Active Interest Media.

The Equine Network provides, creates, and distributes relevant content and services to passionate horse enthusiasts while connecting them to each other and the marketplace. The Equine Network is the publisher of the award-winning magazines Horse&Rider, EQUUS, Dressage Today, The Trail Rider, Spin to Win Rodeo, American Cowboy, Practical Horseman and Horse Journal. The Equine Network also publishes a proprietary line of books and DVDs for sale through its store, HorseBooksEtc.com. The Equine Network provides trailer insurance services through its recent acquisition of USRider, and is home to several websites, including EquiSearch.com, Equine.com, MyHorseDaily.com, DiscoverHorses.com, AmericanCowboy.com and Horse-Journal.com. For more information, visit www.aimmedia.com/en.html.

"The UHC is proud to have The Equine Network on board. With the help of their fantastic team, website, and marketing initiatives, we have joined forces to create A Home for Every Horse, a universal site where rescues can list their horses available for adoption," said Ericka Caslin, director of the Unwanted Horse Coalition. "We look forward to expanding the program along with The Equine Network, and helping more rescues and horses in need." For information about joining A Home for Every Horse, please visit www.ahomeforeveryhorse.com.

The Unwanted Horse Coalition is a broad alliance of equine organizations that have joined together under the umbrella of the American Horse Council. The Coalition's mission is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety, and responsible care and disposition of these horses.

Pony Club Alumni in the Spotlight

(Lexington, KY) – The United States Pony Clubs teaches horsemanship, riding skills and most importantly, helps create successful adults. Recently, Pony Club alumni have been making news.

Michael Matz, a B alumni of Berks Pony Club, and trainer of 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro, won the Belmont Stakes on June 9th, with his charge Union Rags. Suzanne Stettinius, a C Pony Club alumni of Green Spring Hounds Pony Club, was named to the 2012 Modern Pentathlon USA Olympic team. According to William Stettinius, Suzanne's father, she got to this level because of Pony Club and Tetrathlon. She went to her first USPC National Championships in Tetrathlon as a 10 year old, ultimately competing in 6 Tetrathlon National Championships as a Novice Junior and Senior before trying Pentathlon. USPC is the only organized youth feeder network for the sport of Modern Pentathlon.

Rosie Napravnik became the first woman jockey to win the Kentucky Oaks at Churchill Downs when she steered Believe You Can to victory in the 138th running of the three-year-old fillies' classic in May. Rosie is a D alumni of Hunterdon Hills Pony Club.

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) just named horse and rider combinations to the Short List for the 2012 Olympic Games Eventing team. It is no surprise that many riders listed have Pony Club backgrounds. Eight of the 11 riders named to the short list belonged to a Pony Club.

Tiana Coudray on Ringwood Magister – A, Santa Rosa Valley
 Buck Davidson on BallyNoe Castle RM – UR, Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds
 Phillip Dutton on Fernhill Eagle – A, Nyngan, New South Wales
 Phillip Dutton on Mighty Nice
 Phillip Dutton on Mystery Whisper
 Sinead Halpin on Manoir de Carneville – C, Palmetto

Boyd Martin on Neville Bardos – A, Forest Hill, Australia
 Boyd Martin on Otis Barbotiere Boyd Martin on Remington XXV
 Clark Montgomery Loughan Glen – UR, Brazos Valley
 Karen O'Connor on Mr. Medcott- A, Groton
 Allison Springer on Arthur – A, Fox River Valley
 "The Pony Club alumni we list here are by no way the only former Pony Club members who go on to successful careers with horses," stated Kevin Price, CEO of the United States Pony Club. Congratulations to all of our alumni who continue representing Pony Club both inside and outside the equine community.

About Pony Club - The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (Pony Club) was founded in 1954 as a nonprofit national youth organization to teach riding and horsemanship through a formal educational program. Many of the nation's top equestrians, including many of our Olympic team members and many business professionals, government leaders and career military officers, have roots in Pony Club. Youth members range in age from as young as 4 through age 25, and include adult members of the Horsemasters Program. There are approximately 10,000 members in 600 clubs and riding centers in 43 regions throughout the country. Visit the website for more information.

Moran Amendment Will Not Stand. Horse Industry Will Continue to Build a Better Future for Horse and Horse People

The International Equine Business Association

The amendment accepted by the House Appropriations Committee isn't much of a surprise, it's just a bump in the road to reestablishing humane, government-regulated equine processing in the United States. The Senate has wisely refused to include such language in its Ag spending bill, or the Farm Bill, so we'll do what we did a year ago: remove the short-sighted language in conference committee should it come to that. Bottom Line - We are confident wiser heads will ultimately prevail.

The Moran amendment does NOT deal with the real issues of starving horses, or the demise of the horse as a valued domestic animal as indicated by the more than 70% drop in numbers of horses available for pleasure, sport, and work, nor does it deal with all of the problems that have happened to the horse world as a direct result of HSUS action since 2007.

The Moran amendment would, in fact, increase and exacerbate these problems by rendering literally worthless hundreds of thousands of valuable horses as completely unmarketable...undoubtedly increasing the burden on local agencies and taxpayers to deal with them...a loss and a cost, including thousands of equine jobs, that would far exceed the potential revenue to every level of government generated by normal commerce and a free market.

It is sad that opponents of equine processing contend it's okay to euthanize an unwanted horse, but it's not okay to use exactly the same methods to do so under a USDA-regulated, modern and humane system that allows the horse to provide economic value to the farmer/owner and high grade protein to the ultimate purchaser of horse meat, whether here or abroad.

Jim Moran of Virginia is an "inside the beltway congressman" doing the bidding of the largest, most aggressive political animal rights organization-yet another Washington D.C. special interest group raising money by vilifying the hard-working, honest, taxpaying agricultural people of America. While it is clear that Jim Moran, HSUS, and a few urban members do not understand the welfare of horses or the economics of rural America, we are confident that the Senate will stand firm for horse owners.

Already there are plans in 18 states and 12 tribal nations to build modern processing plants; USDA has already received applications for slaughter certification and more are in the pipeline.

What You Can Do... Continue to contact your Senators and U.S. Representatives. Attend their campaign events and town hall meetings. Meet with them in person whenever you can. Call their offices and talk to their Agricultural staffers. Be polite. Be concise. Tell them your story, and why this is so important to protect the overall welfare of horses, and to ensure the sustainability of our horseback culture. Talk about the loss of private property rights, jobs and livelihoods lost, and the sad and totally unnecessary and wasteful loss of valuable animals. Talk about your hope for a better future and what real compassion means.

Here is a link to contact information for every member of Congress - <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>

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.

Email: thevenews@gmail.com or mail a photo (with stamped returned envelope) to: The VEN, PO Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580

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Siouxland Youth Shooting Club in Need of Shotguns

The Siouxland Youth Shooting Organization, an associate of 4H Shooting Sports are short shotguns! Particularly, they are short on "short" shotguns. Over a dozen new members have joined the club this year, and many of these youngsters need smaller youth guns. SYSO has been training South Dakota youth in gun safety and sportsmanship for years, and practices at the Sioux Falls Izaacs Walton League Thursday evenings from 6:30pm-8pm.

The SYSO is certain there are folks out there with youth guns sitting unused in their cabinets, so we are currently seeking some loaner youth guns or donations of shotguns. If you have a shotgun that might work for the club, please call Lou at 605.332.7378 or Andy at cell 351-7405. Donations are tax deductible, and loaner guns will be properly cared for, cleaned, and kept in the club's gun safe during the season and returned on request. Both 12's and 20's can be used.

If your youngsters are interested in participating, come to the Sioux Falls Izaac Walton League Thursday evenings, or call the above phone numbers.

Colorado State Fair is Ready to Help Victims of the Waldo Canyon Fire

PUEBLO, Colo.- The Colorado State Fair is prepared to house people, livestock, and pets that have been displaced by the Waldo Canyon Fire.

"We communicated with the Red Cross on Tuesday about this devastating fire and how the Colorado State Fair could help; we have offered our 4H and FFA dormitories for those who have been evacuated and our fairgrounds to house pets and livestock," said General Manager, Chris Wiseman. "This fire will have far-reaching and long-lasting effects; it is important for Coloradans to come together and work through this as a unified community and the Colorado State Fair is committed to doing our part."

We ask that residents work through the coordinated efforts of the Red Cross instead of contacting the Fair directly:

Red Cross
719-632-3563
www.redcross.org

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All Hat And No Horse

By Charles Schaal

Growing up in South Texas there was a term for a fella who was "all hat and no horse," a cowboy "wannabe." He was a "Drugstore Cowboy." The countryside was crawling with pickup trucks sporting loaded gun racks, cafés with full hat hooks and veterinarians who considered a cat a waste of time. You saw lots of guys with boots, jeans, and western belts. Their shirts had snaps and there was a circle worn in a hip pocket of their jeans.

The old hands had several ways of tagging a guy as "all hat and no horse." One was checking their boots. There were two ways of doing it. Since it was too inconvenient to hoist a leg up to check whether the shank was pegged or glued, the best test boiled down to one observation. When you looked at the boot, if the cow manure wasn't on the outside, it most assuredly filled the inside.

I never will forget a Sunday morning when I was visiting my wife's home church. A local who left for the big city years before showed up for services. The first reaction I had when I saw him was that Charlie Daniels had come to town.

He had a new pair of Levis, a white Western shirt, a pair of acceptable black boots, a more than ample girth with a full face of chin whiskers. He topped the whole western look with a hat carrying a brim that would make the front porch on an antebellum home proud.

Standing next to a local rancher, I remember watching as the young man got out of his car and began to walk across the parking lot to the front door of the church. The old cowboy standing next to me began to laugh. He slid down the wall 'till his bottom was on the floor. That was about the clearest picture I ever got of what "real hands" thought about a drug-store cowboy. He saw through the regalia and pegged the young man as wishing he was living home on the family place instead of in the city.

Through the years I've learned a more reliable test to identify a cowboy. I learned being a real cowboy has nothing to do with what you ride, what you wear or what you chew. Being a cowboy has to do with who you are. Can you be trusted in a scrape? Are you going to be there when the "thick gits thin?" Can someone look you in the eye and see you looking back? When Paul wrote to the Philippians while he was locked up, the only reality he cared about was whether those reading his letters were prepared to face the world with their eyes fixed on the cross. Paul understood that nothing kept a person grounded like knowing the sacrifice was worth the price. He said even the guards knew his imprisonment was for the benefit of the Father.

It's clear from his writings Paul never had to measure the genuineness of a believer by the condition of his sandals. If they willingly paid the price of discipleship, Paul knew this was no "Sunday go to meetin'" Christian. Paul watched lives lived out just like those old Texas Cowboys witnessed time and again. They knew if you want to measure a Texas cowboy, show up at coffee and check the boots. Had he just left the stock pens or the haberdashery?

Charles Schaal is the founder of Minnesota Cowboy Ministries. This organization is based out of southeast Minnesota in Kasson, MN. Charles is committed to partnering with the western and equine community of Minnesota by providing wide variety of chaplaincy services to individuals and groups as requested. Since the beginning of 2012, Charles has served as chaplain for bull-rides, PRCA rodeos, open horse shows, horsemanship clinics, "Cowboy Church" as well as one-on-one and family ministry sessions. He can be reached at chas@mnccowboyminstries.org.



ND Roughrider Assoc. June Results

The ND Rough Rider Association competed June 12, 2012 at White Earth. (# of youth) participated in this monthly rodeo event. For more information visit our web site at: <http://www.roughriderrodeo.com>

Bareback:			
1 Jordan Pelton	Halliday	75	400 pts. \$292.80
2 Tate Schwagler	Mandan	68	350 pts. \$219.60
3 Blake Smith	Zap	67	300 pts. \$146.40
Jr. Bareback: No entries			
Calf Roping:			
1 Jamie Guttormson	Velva	10.7	400 pts. \$336.80
2 Kelly Eggl	Minot	11.8	350 pts. \$252.60
3 Preston Billadeau	Parshall	12.2	300 pts. \$168.40
Jr. Calf Roping:			
1 Garrett Dockter	Denhoff	12.3	400 pts. \$225.00
Breakaway:			
1 Jordyn Schaefer	DesLacs	4.2	400 pts. \$444.80
2 Laura Weishoff	Ray	4.8	350 pts. \$333.60
3 Lynn Schaper	Halliday	4.9	300 pts. \$222.40
Jr. Breakaway:			
1 Calby Hanson	Jamestown	3.7	400 pts. \$222.00
2 Laine Hanson	Jamestown	4.1	350 pts. \$166.50
3 Cole Peterson	DesLacs	6.4	300 pts. \$111.00
Saddle Bronc:			
1 Brent Vigen	Adams	73	400 pts. \$543.60
2 Devin Burghart	Mandan	69	350 pts. \$362.40
Jr. Saddle Bronc:			
1 Taylor Buchholz	Ft. Ransom	64	400 pts. \$246.00
Barrel Race:			
1 Jori Gjermundson	Marshall	15.234	400 pts. \$443.70
2 Candace Schenk	Joliet, MT	15.815	Permit \$367.20
3 Stacy Cahoon	Stanton	15.891	300 pts. \$290.70
Jr. Barrel Race:			
1 Vanessa Volk	Linton	16.742	400 pts. \$144.00
2 Cydney Peterson	Minot	16.817	350 pts. \$108.00
3 Lakyn Bruhn	Berthold	17.126	300 pts. \$72.00
Novice Barrel Race:			
1 Madison Smith	Epping	16.633	400 pts. \$108.00
2 Kennedi Fladeland	Stanley	17.258	350 pts. \$81.00
3 Tess Mortenson	Souris	17.922	300 pts. \$54.00

Steer Wrestling:			
1 Ron Schenk	Joliet, MT	6.3	Permit \$274.40
2 Kris Mortenson	Souris	6.6	350 pts. \$205.80
3 Austin Maier	Elgin	6.7	300 pts. \$137.20
Jr. Steer Wrestling:			
1 Lane Dahl	Sawyer	8.2	400 pts. \$165.00
Jr. Bull Riding:			
1 Dylan Stewart	Rolla	70	400 pts. \$131.00
2 Nick Andres	Medina	66	350 pts. \$78.60
3 Devin Boltz	Belfield	63	300 pts. \$52.40
Goat Tying:			
1 Hope Peterson	Velva	11.0	400 pts. \$216.00
2 Whitney Eckroth	Flasher	11.2	350 pts. \$162.00
3 Sarah Guenzler	McClusky	11.8	300 pts. \$108.00
Jr. Goat Tying:			
1 Calby Hanson	Jamestown	11.4	400 pts. \$174.00
2 Jordyn Schaefer	DesLacs	11.9	350 pts. \$130.50
3/4 Savana Meyer	Stanley	12.2	275 pts. \$65.25
3/4 Cydney Peterson	Minot	12.2	275 pts. \$65.25
Team Roping:			
1 Dale Hall	New Town	7.0	400 pts. \$466.03
1 Tiny Bradford	White Hall, MT	7.0	400 pts. \$466.03
2 Wyatt Eckroth	Flasher	8.0	350 pts. \$385.68
2 Josh Hodge	Makoti	8.0	Permit \$385.68
3/4 Brandon Knudsen	Marion	8.5	275 pts. \$265.16
3/4 Mitch Smith	Valley City	8.5	275 pts. \$265.16
3/4 A.J. Ziemann	Shenneyne	8.5	275 pts. \$265.16
3/4 Luke Morast	Halliday	8.5	275 pts. \$265.16
Bull Riding:			
1 Cody Breuer	Mandan	79	400 pts. \$630.60
2 Jake Tescher	Medora	66	350 pts. \$420.40
Mixed Team Roping:			
1 Dylan Hennessy	DesLacs	9.1	400 pts. \$178.00
1 Ethan Hennessy	DesLacs	9.1	400 pts. \$178.00
2 Courtney Roshau	Dickinson	10.6	350 pts. \$133.50
2 Patrick Monson	Medora	10.6	350 pts. \$133.50
3 Hughie Ulberg	Berthold	13.3	300 pts. \$89.00
3 Jed Brown	Blaisdell	13.3	300 pts. \$89.00
Senior Breakaway:			
1 Terry Brandt,	McLaughlin, SD	3.6	400 pts. \$205.00
2 Don Ell	Williston	4.8	350 pts. \$123.00
3 Todd Brown	Blaisdell	7.3	300 pts. \$82.00

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