

September 2014



The

Valley Equestrian Newspaper



A Day of Pure Joy!
Area Five
Special Olympics

Roseland Polo:
A Leisurely Day
in the Sun for
Spectators at King
Family Vineyard!

Addressing Physical
Issues in Animals
from a Non-
Physical Perspective

Johnny
Crawford
Visits Pioneer
Days!



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NORTH DAKOTA

HORSE PARK

Road to the Ultimate X Showdown Trainer's 100-Day Challenge/Barrel Race: September Update

[Editor's Note: "The Valley Equestrian Newspaper" is following the progress of professional barrel racer and trainer Lindsay Jensen, who owns and operates Rush Meadow Farm Performance Horses in Detroit Lakes, Minn., and her off-the-track thoroughbred, Miley, in their progress toward the Ultimate X Showdown. The UXS is produced by Dreaming of Three, www.dreamingofthree.org, and will be held on Sept. 5th at Simmons Equestrian Center in Negley, Ohio. All proceeds go to support off-the-track thoroughbred rescues.]

Valley Equestrian: Lindsay, the Ultimate X Showdown is coming up soon; do you and Miley feel prepared and ready to go?

Jensen: I have yet to finalize the freestyle part, but the barrels are going well. We have all the required moves down; we just have to put in our own twists for the freestyle.

VEN: Last month you said you were working on improving Miley's speed. How is she progressing?

Jensen: She won her second check just recently. She is going faster, but is making a few mistakes while she's learning to go faster; nothing that can't be fixed, just some problems in her turns. She gets going a little fast and over-runs the barrel a little, and can't get her hind end under her fast enough. It's correctable; it just takes practice: Keep working on going faster and getting her used to rating herself down to the barrels. She sees a barrel and really wants to turn it. As a thoroughbred trained for the racetrack, she learned to go fast, now

she just needs to go fast in a different way: fast with control.

I don't over-ride her; I ride her like my other horses. I work on keeping her in tip-top shape and on keeping her mind in place. I don't drill on turning, sometimes we just walk, sometimes we trail ride. I go easy with her.

VEN: How do you feel going in to the competition?

Jensen: I'm feeling really confident about the competition. Things have really come together the past few weeks. Miley's surprised me with her abilities. I have high hopes, definitely.

VEN: Given your experiences and your reserve champion last year at the UXS, would you do it again?

Jensen: Yeah, I would. I've gotten a lot of clients as a result of participating in this competition, which was sort of the idea, to put my resume out there. I've gotten tons of thoroughbreds coming in.

VEN: Will you keep Miley after the UXS or will you sell her?

Jensen: I'll probably keep her for a while and see how she does. Maybe I'll sell her next spring. She's a good horse, she's young (only five), and she's a good all-around horse: she runs barrels, she trail rides, and she's intelligent and calm.

"The Valley Equestrian News" wishes Lindsay and Miley well on their adventure to the Ultimate X Showdown. Watch for the UXS results in the October issue. We will continue to follow Lindsay and Miley on our Face Book page: www.facebook.com/VENews.

A Day of Pure Joy!

Area Five Special Olympics Horse Show at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minn.

By Staci Grattan

July 19, 2014, Spirit Horse Center was the home for the Area Five Special Olympics Horse Show for the third year in a row. Hosted by Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horsemanship, the show encompassed three area teams, 37 brave and hard working riders, 11 incredible horses, and a horde of devoted friends, family and volunteers.

The athletes competed in

Pine Stables on Facebook for more information about their program.

Milaca Community Rockin' Riders, Milaca, Minn. Head of Delegation: Kathy Fitschen. Milaca Community Rockin' Riders is a Special Olympics Team supported by Milaca Community Education and hosted at the Kostanshek Family Farm. Ann Sheehan is the owner of the three program horses who faithfully and gently assist the seven team mem-

Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horsemanship recently celebrated 20 years of service! Mounted Eagles is a PATH International Certified Program with nearly 70 current participants. The Special Olympics Team is sponsored by Spirit Horse Center and Grattan Home Health Care, Inc. Mounted Eagles is a 501c3 non-profit organization largely supported by fundraisers such as their upcoming "Walk and Roll So They Can Ride," September 6th on the Paul Bunyan Trail in Nisswa, Minn., "A Night With The Stars," at Arrowwood Lodge in Baxter, Minn., or "Hoof-in" for Mounted Eagles," a benefit trail ride and campfire September 27 or 28 at Trailing S Farm, west of Pequot Lakes, Minn.

Mounted Eagles has seven dedicated, hard working and patient equine partners who assist not only the Special Olympics Team, but also their regular program participants to reach their equine dreams and goals. Mounted Eagles operates year round three days per week at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd.

www.mountedeagles.org

As the facility owner of Spirit Horse Center, I have been the host for many shows, clinics and events in the six years we have been open. The Special Olympics Equestrians and their horse partners have always been the most inspiring to me. The bravery, enthusiasm and delight shown by the participants and the incredible care and patience the horses provide is truly humbling. The partnership and encouragement displayed between fellow athletes and the horses and riders is heart warming.

I was struck by the valor of the participants and the loving assistance from their



Above: Judges and Organizers of Area 5 Special Olympics Horse Show 2014. Above: Staci Grattan, Lynn Fairbanks, Lise Lunde, Leah Walkow (Special Olympics Sports Program Associate Areas 4,5&6) Below: Hanna and Mahler strutting their stuff for the English Equitation Class Far left: Ashley and Parfait exit the arena in joy and confidence upon completion of their halter exhibition



traditional style horse show classes such as halter, trail and Western and English equitation.

The three teams:

Jack Pine Stables, Walker, Minn.

Director Kristine Oppgard: Retired registered nurse with a heart of gold! Jack Pine Stables is a seasonally run PATH International Certified Program. PATH (formerly NARHA) is an acronym for Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. Jack Pine offers weekly sessions May to September to 43 participants who work on horsemanship skills with their eight wonderful program horses. Find Jack

bers to realize their equine goals. The program has a fundraiser in September, "A Special Event" to raise funds for the team.

Mounted Eagles Special Olympics Team, Brainerd, Minn.

Head of Delegation/Organizer/ Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horsemanship ED: Lynn Fairbanks. Head Coach/Mounted Eagles Program Founder/Lead PATH Instructor: Susie Bailiff. Mounted Eagles Special Olympics Team is comprised of seven current and former Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horsemanship participants. The Special Olympics team for Mounted Eagles has been in existence for three years, however

equine partners such as athlete Ashley and Parfait, a program horse from Jack Pine Stables. When it was their turn to present for halter class, Ashley and Parfait came into the arena fondly ushered in by the coaches (who are not allowed to assist once the athlete enters the ring). Ashley was clearly nervous and afraid, asking, "Can you walk with me? I'm so nervous and scared." Parfait slowed her steps and lowered her head as a volunteer judge smiled and stepped up, saying, "Sure we can walk together. You're doing great!" Ashley courageously completed her halter presentation, working hard to follow instructions from the judge. As Parfait and Ashley exited the arena, Ashley's face lit up in a beautiful smile as she said, "We did it!" to her friend Parfait.

Ashley's coach Kris later confided that Ashley's life has not been easy. She is a ward of the state and has no family involvement. As a developmentally-delayed adult living in a group home, this program is an important self-esteem builder and source of joy for Ashley.

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Vol. 8 No. 8
The Valley Equestrian
Newspaper

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The Valley Equestrian News
is published monthly.

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Thank you for advertising with the VEN!

Kiefer Back in Court for Probation Violations

William Kiefer, convicted in the death of more than 100 equines in Morton and Burleigh Counties of North Dakota, appeared in court again August 19 on alleged probation violation charges.

Kiefer was seen and photographed riding a horse on a trail ride in McHenry County (ND) and was found to have a horse and mule in his back yard in Fargo, ND.

Morton County Assistant State's Attorney Gabrielle Goter said, "Kiefer is being revoked for his alleged violations. An amended Petition for Revocation was filed a week after we were in court on the original because Kiefer had on his property a horse and a mule. They had allegedly been at the property for less than a day. Within that week period, he was also allegedly riding on a trail ride in McHenry County, and has subsequently been charged out with Class A Misdemeanor Violation of a Judicial Order in that county. He does not make an appearance there until September 22. All of the alleged violations are taken into consideration by the Judge at the time of the revocation hearing. I will make my recommendation as a result of those violations, and the defense will make theirs. Ultimately, it depends on how serious the violations are and how they are perceived by the judge. The judge can re-sentence Mr. Kiefer as he deems appropriate."

Correction for "Holistic Vets" article in the July 2014 issue:

In recounting the episode of working with my dog Ted's healing process, an inadvertent omission occurred: The holistic vet we were working with prescribed heat-clearing herbs as part of Ted's therapy to clear the damp-heat stagnation from his system. This was a crucial part of his healing: without the heat-clearing herbs, the cold-food diet would not have been nearly as effective. My sincere apologies for this lapse, to my wonderful holistic vet with whom we worked at the time, other holistic vets (especially TCM practitioners), and to you the reader: my intention is to provide as comprehensive information as possible for you to make informed choices about your own animal's health care. Sometimes we know our own stories so well, that some parts inadvertently get omitted.

Kari Hagstrom, author, and the VEN staff

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- Oct. 31 Futurity Show (2 year olds).....12 p.m.
- Mane Event Social.....7 p.m.
- Doublewood Inn, Fargo (3333 13th Ave. S.)
- Nov 1 Futurity Show.....8 a.m.
- Sale.....one hour after show

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Dreamcatcher



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For more info please contact the

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PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398

(763) 856-3119 or info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

Sonny

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training last year and would be good for an advanced rider. For more info and for adoption guidelines visit www.mnhooved-animalrescue.org or email us at



info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org.

Attend the MHARF Trainer's Challenge Sept. 20, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the Leatherdale Equine Center on the University of Minnesota Campus. Watch top trainers, bid on silent auction items, and support the work of the MN Hooved Animal Rescue. go to: www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

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Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

Working With a Pushy Horse

Have you ever tried to lead a horse that was constantly pushing into you? Did you try to correct it with a dressage stick but it kept coming and finally you just moved away? This situation actually happens a lot and there are a number of components in this situation that need to be discussed. A lot of people don't like to talk about controlling a pushy horse. There are corrections that have to be made but there is a difference between making a correction and giving a beating. In the situation above, you tried to correct the horse, put pressure on it by blocking the horse from coming toward you but the horse kept coming and you finally moved away. Now, in horse world, a horse learns by pressure and release so the moment you moved out of the way, you released the pressure and taught the horse to do it again. I will guarantee that this will happen again if the horse is not properly corrected.

Correction is nothing more than follow through. Everyone understands the roll of pressure and release in herd dynamics. Intellectually we understand that it means the least amount of pressure but as much as needed. If you look at any herd, pasture or big corral, when a new horse joins that environment, you can see the dynamics at work. Sometimes the lead horse will turn around and look at the new horse with snake eyes and that is the least amount of pressure. If the new horse does not respond to that or he challenges, the lead horse may swing his hind quarters around toward the new horse adding pressure. If that doesn't work, it is amazing how fast a horse can back up and kick at the same time. When a horse kicks, it does not care if it is the rib cage, hind quarters or leg and this can cause severe injury.

That is why it is important to observe for a time when a new horse is turned in with an established group. Some people pull the shoes first to mitigate any injury. A lead horse might also whirl around and lunge at a new horse with bared teeth, even making contact. The point is, a lead horse will follow through until the new horse moves off. This pattern may be repeated several times before the new horse gets the message. When we work with a horse, we want to have a great relationship with the horse. That means you have to be the leader. Even a small horse can weigh 800 or 900 pounds and it will hurt you if it bites, kicks or steps on you. A horse has to know that you are the boss.

There is a difference between a correction and beating. A correction is when you take an action at the time of the event. You only have a couple of seconds to make a correction. If you don't have time to get it done or put yourself in a position to make the correction, then don't do anything. If your horse steps on you, and you take the time to go to the barn for a crop and start wailing on it, that is a beating because the horse has already gone on to something else. Horses learn at the time of the event so they can associate. If you are in a position and make the correction but you do it out of anger, you will likely take too strong an action and that is also a beating. A handler may beat a horse out of frustration because he or she doesn't know what to do or doesn't have the necessary skills to get the horse to do what is being asked. We need to make sure our emotions don't come into play when we are mak-

ing a correction. Horses learn through correction just like our kids. We set the standard, which is what we do with our horse as well, and we follow through to make sure the standards are met. We follow through by correcting the behavior. Some parents correct their children by sending them to their rooms, others may have a "time out" spot, but that is the follow through, the correction; and is it essential. The same is true with a horse.

Referring back to the original scenario, there was an attempt to change the behavior but there was no follow through. Use of the dressage stick was correct but there was no additional action, maybe due to lack of knowledge on how to control the horse to get the shoulder to move away, or maybe an inability to apply enough pressure to follow through and get the job done. Some people don't feel good about escalating the pressure. It may not be in your make up to be comfortable increasing the pressure, but if you are going to be in the horse world--in other words, using their language--you need to be able to change enough to take control. If you do that, you will have a great relationship with your horse and the horse will respect you and look to you for guidance. See my "Ground Manners and Leading" DVD for additional and more specific information.


The other thing we need to do is be consistent. Because we correct the behavior once doesn't mean the behavior will be changed forever. If the horse is

chronically pushing on you, it may take the horse a couple of weeks or longer before the light bulb goes off and horse gets it. Also, in a stressful situation the horse may revert.

If you can't be forceful enough to get the horse's attention, you need to find someone who will take the proper action, and that means someone who will correct the behavior with follow through and then leave the horse alone. For example, I had a stallion come to the ranch and it took me a half hour just to get into the stall to put a halter on it so that I could load it. I had to teach the horse to back away from the stall door, to turn and face me and stay there until I approached it. It took a half hour before I felt it was safe enough to go into the stall to put the halter on. When I got the horse home to the ranch, it took me 45 days to get to the point I was comfortable leading that horse around the ranch in a regular halter. The horse had been out of control for a long time, actually since it was a colt. The owners turned the stallion out by opening the stall door and running it down the barn aisle to a corral. When it was time to come in, they reversed the procedure because they could not handle the horse. Once I showed them how to maintain the control needed they were able to go to stallion showcases and stallion parades and show off the horse.

Consistency and follow through are very important. If you have a horse

that has been rude or out of control for a long time, the behavior is not going to change overnight. Any type of training takes time, patience, consistency and follow through. Every time we ride our horse it is a training opportunity, we make a correction and then leave the horse alone—pressure/release. Correction can be pressure with an inside or outside leg and once we get the desired response, we leave the horse alone, we don't keep nagging. I get horses in for training because the rider has been picking at them either with a leg or a stick and the horse gets dull and no longer goes forward. When you follow through and apply more pressure at the point you don't get the response you are asking for, and then you do get the proper response, release the pressure, then you will have a nice responsive horse. So keep this in mind when working with your horse. It doesn't matter what breed or what

discipline, a horse is a horse and there has to be leadership and follow through. 

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."

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Chief Reason: A Horse to Remember

By Janice M. Ladendorf

One of my best horses came to me from Montana. For the first four years of his life, he ran free on the range. Then he was caught, gelded, broken by a cowboy, and shipped to a deal in Minnesota. This is where we found each other. He was

he moped and lost weight until I moved him to a new boarding stable. When he had fought the current herd leader and won, he became a happy horse again. Whenever I brought him in from the pasture, the other horses always moved out

of our way. One day when he was angry with me, I turned him out and he deliberately bit eight horses, one right after another. Then he had a long drink

of water, a roll, and strolled off to graze.

by a thoroughbred stallion, who gave him size and jumping ability, and out of a range mare. She gave him a constitution of iron, as well as exceptionally sound legs and feet. He was not a pretty or fast horse, but he could go for hours without getting tired. I suspect that his constitution, endurance, and temperament came from his dam, who may have had a lot of mustang in her bloodlines.

He never forgot his first experiences with humans. To the end of his days, he never trusted a man. He was especially wary of tall, blond men. His ears had been twisted when he was broken to ride and he never wanted them touched. After much patient persuasion, he allowed me to handle them, but no else was allowed to get near them. We had a

special relationship because when he decided to trust me, he would do anything for me. Once when the pasture

gate was moved, most of the horses only shied away from it, but the stable had to call me. They could neither catch my horse nor get him through the gate. Naturally he came to me right away and allowed me to escort him through the new opening.

When I knew him well enough, I decided to name him Chief Reason. He never reacted well to force, but would respond to persuasion and he soon taught me how to reason with him. He was also an alpha horse, who had to be chief of his herd. Once when he lost his position to a new horse,

Fortunately, he was easy to load and good about allowing the blacksmith to handle his feet, but medical care was a different story. Giving him a shot was never easy and the safest way to do it was to first put him into a trailer.

In his day, the paste wormers we have today had not yet been developed. Tube worming

him was always a battle and dangerous for the men who had to force him to submit to that procedure.

Living with him often re-

quired compromises. At one boarding stable, his special friends and two playmates were two ponies. The stable had one paddock and a large pasture. If both ponies were turned out in the pasture, they escaped. If both ponies were in the paddock, Chief would smash the boards with one of his front feet so his buddies could join him. If one pony was in the paddock and one in the pasture, then all three of them settled for that compromise.

Chief loved to go on cross country rides. One of our favorite games was to explore new territory and to find our way back home without back-tracking. Even if I got confused, he always knew

where to find home. He was an exceptionally bold horse, who was afraid of very little. The first time he encountered a gaggle of geese, he was startled, but that was one of the very few times he spooked with me. He was

a safe horse to ride because he felt taking care of his rider was his responsibility. One of my instructors had been a cavalry officer.

He commented that he had never seen a horse take care of a rider like Chief took care of me. He could handle any type of weather or footing. He loved to plunge

through snow drifts and mud never slowed him down, but he always moved carefully on ice. In one year, we probably covered

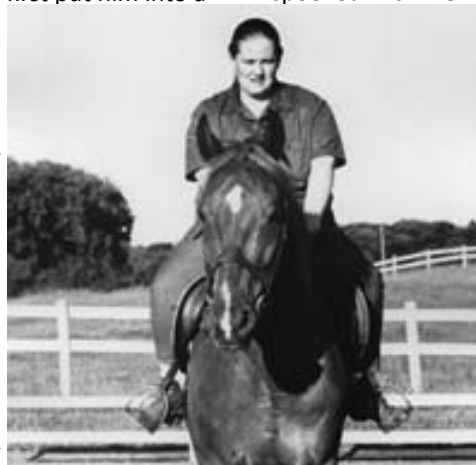
more ground than most horses do in a lifetime.

He was so intelligent and willing that we were able to do more than one sport together. We competed in hunter shows, then eventing, and finally dressage up to fourth level. What he enjoyed the most was fox hunting. He thought any type of ring work was boring. If he felt he wasn't getting enough time on the trail, he soon showed that he would be unwilling to work well for me in the ring.

The first time he showed me how he felt, he jumped over anything that could possibly hurt him, and ran right through anything he could knock down.

graphs in two of my books. The photos were taken for my first book, "Practical Dressage for Amateur Trainers," and used in my latest book, "Human Views and Equine Behavior." When

he was no longer sound enough to ride and in constant pain, I had him humanely destroyed. He was a horse to remember. ♡



He was a born hunter. He could follow the hounds over miles of country without any guidance from his rider. He always knew when they were on a false scent. When he was in a hurry, he could change directions in mid-air over a fence. He figured that if he was facing the right direction when he landed, he wouldn't have to waste time turning around. The first time he was hauled to a hunt, he was cross and sulky. He thought he was at a horse show and he hated shows. When he heard the hounds, he leaped with joy, three feet right up into the air. Then, he began fidgeting, eagerly waiting for the hunt to start. He could never stand still before a hunt and always had a wonderful time.

For over fifty years, Janice Ladendorf has been studying horsemanship and training her own horses. She is the author of four books, *Human Views and Equine Behavior*, *A Marvelous Mustang*, *Heart of a Falcon*, and *Practical Dressage for Amateur Trainers*, as well as many articles about using humane training methods to build a partnership with your horse. She has a B.A. in History and a M.A. in library science. In her advanced studies, she has focused on inter and intra species communication. She has been a librarian, an inventory analyst, and an accountant. She is currently retired and lives in St. Paul, MN.

There were times when he could have been sold for a good price, but I always refused to part with him. Riding him gave me more pleasure than anything that could be bought with mere money. We had ten wonderful years together. I have shared what I learned with him and his photo-



Addressing Physical Issues in Animals from a Non-Physical Perspective

By Katherine Windfeather-Thompson

A few years ago I had a video produced for me that was intended to explain how the healing and readings I do work. I wanted to show the different ways both can be of benefit for people who are seeking more information about alternative methods of treatment for their horses or other animals. However, it is a little hard to actually explain the "how" part of this, so I will attempt to do that in this article. The video was really only successful in showing the results!

There are actually many different methods of therapeutic treatment that can be beneficial, when combined with traditional veterinary applications. And some are more well-known or popular than others, such as acupressure, acupuncture, massage therapy, Rolfing®, etc. These methods have gained far more recognition and validation than they received 20 or 30 years ago, when innovative practitioners began "coming out of the closet" and started applying them.

But in this case, it's a little more challenging to explain the method that I

was trained in, as it never actually takes place on a physical level, although it most certainly has a physical effect. I will try to explain that part of the process further.

Off and on I've been participating at horse expos and horse shows for many years, as an author and a practitioner, and now and again as a speaker. I've found that you can't explain my method with signage, or other marketing ploys, nor explain why it works; at least not in two seconds, which is why I prefer to discuss it at length when I have the opportunity.

So I'd been thinking about using a video to use as a tool to educate people about how vibrational medicine works. That is the term used to most effectively describe this method. I wanted this to be more about the effective results people and their animals have had during the many years I have been doing this consulting and healing work.

With that in mind, I had an old and very dear client fly in from a different state to do one of the interviews for this video, and that turned out to be pretty neat, because, as he was talking about

his first experience of a healing I did on one of his mares some years ago, tears were clearly evident. He became so emotional recalling what happened that he could hardly speak during his conversation with the interviewer about his experience. That lent authenticity and validation to what he was sharing; it's not something that anybody could have faked for a bogus testimonial.

His mare had an eminently fatal case of colic. The local veterinarian had treated her, and then gone home, almost certain the mare would not survive the night. As a last ditch attempt to turn this around, Allan called and asked me to do what I refer to as a "long distance healing" on her. He had listened to me speak at a horse expo in Oregon years before, and while he had not seen any actual proof that I could make a difference, desperation was the obvious motivation that drove him to pick up the phone and call.

At the time, he was in Salt Lake, Utah, and I was in California, but being in close proximity to a subject is not an issue for me; I have been doing long distance healing work for well over 18 years now. To make this particular story short, I worked on the mare, sight unseen, and she survived. This man still rides her to this day.

Now, this type of healing work that some of us do is hard for most to comprehend, or even believe in. It's not tangible enough for the average person to consider possible. Yet it does have a viable place in this changing world we live in, and since I've been "practicing" this for 18 years, I have far more than just a handful of the owner's testimonials to show that it has an effective outcome.

So how is this type of

healing work done and a positive outcome possible? Quite simply, because it is not being done on a physical level, but rather on an emotional level. And the reason that is in truth a possibility is because that is actually where all source of disease in the physical body initially occurs; whether it be for an animal or a human. And because the healing is not done from a physical perspective, it can be done outside of space and time, from a mental perspective. For in fact, all things are actually created initially with thought, as many of us are now beginning to realize. Thoughts are things!

This can also work in a somewhat different manner, in determining a problem that may not be detected by "normal" veterinary or medical procedures.

Following that first interview, we drove down to a Northern California racetrack training facility, and filmed the last segment of the video, which was to be an interview with two licensed racehorse trainers for whom I had also done a consultation. In this case, this scenario was a little different regarding what was required of me.

This husband-wife training team was having problems with a mare they could not get quite fit enough for a race, in spite of her impeccable breeding and the obvious talent she showed, and this was a mystery to all involved. So, I was asked to look at her from a slightly different perspective than from where most of us see things. That is to say that I was not viewing her overall with my physical eye, but rather from the higher mind of my clairvoyant vision, which is incidentally what all of us have the ability to do; most of us just don't realize that we use it all the time.

What I discovered was a problem in an area no one had ever thought to look, including their veterinarian. What I "saw" indicated

that the mare had a serious electrical problem in her heart. I don't actually ever diagnose anything, since I am not a licensed veterinarian. So I simply suggested they have their vet do a test to check that out. I never assume that I'm always right about anything, but I wasn't really very surprised when the veterinarian confirmed my suspicions.

The mare had a serious heart murmur, which might have had tragic results, had she actually run a race. So they made the decision to take her out of training and retire her as a broodmare, thus saving themselves quite a bit of money, frustration, and possibly the mare's life.

Let me point out here that we all agreed that the type of healing I might have done on this mare would have been too great a risk to depend on, to change the condition that would have put more than one life in jeopardy, had she continued as a race prospect. Nor did the vet think that heart surgery was an option, either.

I never know what might happen when I'm asked to do this type of work; if in fact I can even call it that. I was recently asked to do a general healing on an older male cat that belonged to a client I have done many such healings for. The owner felt the cat's life was close to an end, and she wanted his release to be as pain and infection-free as possible. She never indicated any specific details for me to direct my attention to when doing the healing, so I just

did a general overall healing on his "light body," for lack of another way to describe it from my perspective. Quite often, animals react to these healings in rather amusing ways, but in this case, the owner did not observe anything specific. It was not until the next day that I received the following email from her:

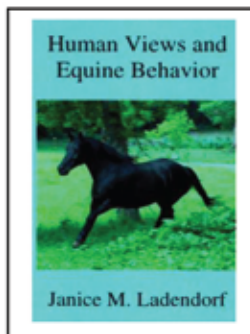
"Vanya has had a lump on his back for as long as we can remember; five years at least. It periodically gets red and ugly and we have to treat it with antibiotic. This evening it "exploded" and seems to now be gone. There you go! Sometimes even a little relief can be a lot."

What this is really all about is showing people that there are other options that can work hand in hand with traditional approaches to veterinary medicine and the medical world at large. The world as we know it is changing, and so are our levels of consciousness. It's as simple as that. 🐾

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

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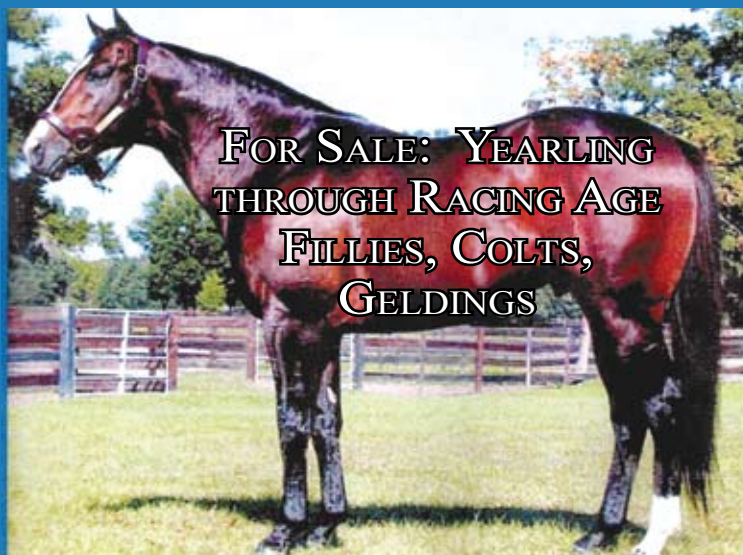
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Johnny Crawford Performs at Pioneer Days in West Fargo, ND

Article and Photographs by Ley Bouchard

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Actor, musician and singer Johnny Crawford, who rose to fame as a child star playing Mark McCain in "The Rifleman" series, brought his roping and musical talent to Pioneer Days at Bonanzaville August 16-17 in West Fargo, N.D.

Crawford told of his experience starring as the 12-year-old son of Lucas McCain, played by Chuck Connors. Crawford holds many fond memories of those years and his relationship with Connors and many other regular cast members. "The Rifleman" series aired on the NBC network from 1958 to 1963 and is again enjoying popularity on MeTV reruns.

Tall, lanky, handsome and agile, "Mark McCain" remains as we knew him in our collective childhood. Many fans remembered him and he certainly has not changed much over the years.

Crawford played guitar and sang a few songs in



the gazebo at Bonanzaville during Pioneer Days, after which he showed the audience many rope tricks. A video of his roping performance may be found on the VEN Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/VE-News and on our web site at: www.theveonline.com. Crawford and his wife, Charlotte McKenna, spoke to fans after the performance and parade, telling

many stories and answering fan questions, autographing memorabilia and posing for photos with fans. The couple lives in Burbank, Ca. where they enjoy visiting the last horse they owned which is now owned by and lives at a neighbor's. Crawford still enjoys riding, he said.

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Update: 184 Colorado Quarantines Guidelines for Livestock Shows, Fairs, Exhibitions, and Events

BROOMFIELD, Colo. –The Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office currently has 184 locations under quarantine after horses and cows tested positive for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS). The quarantines are located in Adams, Boulder, Broomfield, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld counties; results on additional tests in these and other counties are pending. VS can be painful for animals and costly to their owners. The virus typically causes oral blisters and sores that can be painful causing difficulty in eating and drinking. In Colorado there are 201 horses and 3 cows that tested positive for VS.

"The Colorado Department of Agriculture is not recommending events be cancelled; instead, we are recommending that events and livestock owners take extra caution to control flies," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr. "Livestock owners should not grow weary in doing well concerning insect control. There is some evidence that fly control practices have been an effective prevention tool in this present VS outbreak."

County totals are:
Adams County - 9
Boulder County - 60
Broomfield County - 1
Douglas County - 1
El Paso - 1
Jefferson County - 7
Larimer County - 38
Weld County - 67

For a map of Colorado counties with confirmed cases, visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/our-focus/animalhealth?1dmy&uril=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_animal_disease_information%2Fsa_equine_health%2Fsa_vesicular_stomatitis%2Fct_vesicular_stomatitis.

Veterinarians and livestock owners who suspect an animal may have VS or any other vesicular disease should immediately contact state or federal animal health authorities. Livestock with clinical signs of VS are isolated until they are healed and determined to be of no further threat for disease spread. There are no USDA approved vaccines for VS.

While rare, human cases of VS can occur, usually among those who handle infected animals. VS in humans can cause flu-like symptoms

and only rarely includes lesions or blisters.

Colorado State University – Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (CSU-VDL) has assisted CDA and USDA in responding to the VS outbreak by acting as a sample drop-off site in which practicing veterinarians can drop off samples from possible VS cases. The samples are then packaged and submitted to the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa by state or federal personnel. CSU-VDL's involvement has helped us to be more efficient in our response activities.

CSU Online Presentation Colorado State University hosted an interactive online discussion about VS on August 14th. The presentation can be viewed at <http://csu-cvmb.colostate.edu/vth/Pages/vesicular-stomatitis-presentation.aspx> and will help all interested horse and livestock owners understand the disease, its transmission, reasons for quarantine, economic concerns during the current outbreak, the fate of horse shows and events, disease treatment and preventative measures.

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Signs and Transmission VS susceptible species include horses, mules, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, pigs, and camelids. The

clinical signs of the disease include vesicles, erosions and sloughing of the skin on the muzzle, tongue, ears, teats, groin area, and above the hooves of susceptible livestock. Vesicles are usually only seen early in the course of the disease. The transmission of vesicular stomatitis is not completely understood but components include insect vectors, mechanical transmission, and livestock movement.

"The State Veterinarian's Office is not recommending that livestock shows be cancelled. Instead, it is more important to consider certificates of veterinary inspection prior to or on site observations at entry into events and then insect control measures during before during and after events occur," said Roehr. "If event organizers have questions, they can contact our office."

Tips for Event Organizers and Livestock Owners:

- Strict fly control is an important factor to inhibit the transmission of the disease.
- Avoid transferring feeding equipment, cleaning tools or health care equipment from other herds.
- Colorado veterinarians and livestock owners should contact the state of destination when moving livestock interstate to ensure that all import requirements are

met. A list of contact information for all state veterinarians' offices is available at www.colorado.gov/ag/animals and click on "Import Requirements."

• Colorado fairs, livestock exhibitions, and rodeos may institute new entry requirements based on the extent and severity of the current VS outbreak. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection issued within 2-5 days prior to an event can be beneficial to reduce risks. Be sure to stay informed of any new livestock event requirements.

• The CDA website has a document that has guidelines to help equine shows, fairs, and competitions reduce their risk to VS: <http://www.colorado.gov>

• During an event, important VS disease prevention procedures include minimizing the sharing of water and feed/equipment, applying insect repellent daily (especially to the animals ears), and closely observing animals for signs of VS.

• If moving livestock internationally please contact the USDA APHIS VS Colorado office at 303-231-5385 to determine if there are any movement restrictions or testing requirements for VS.

Important Points for Veterinarians

• Any vesicular disease of livestock is reportable to the State Veterinarian's Office in Colorado – to report call 303-869-9130. If after-hours, call the same number to obtain the phone number of the staff veterinarian on call.

• Since VS is considered a foreign animal disease, any case with clinical signs consistent with VS will warrant an investigation by a state or federal foreign animal disease diagnostician (FADD).

• When VS is suspected, the FADD will gather the epidemiological information, take the necessary blood samples, collect the necessary fluid or tissue from the lesions, and inform the owners and the referring veterinarian as to necessary bio-security and movement restrictions

For additional information, contact the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office at 303-869-9130 or visit www.colorado.gov/ag/animals.

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Horse and rider have parted company in mid-air.
Sans levitation, falls won't hurt...but sudden stops will!
Impacts, vertical exits, emergency rooms fill.
When your pony just "chickens out" and you clear leather
Mishaps, when ex-steed and you planned to land together.
Horse riders do not have "both feet on the ground," that's why.
Yes, we tried a new skill. We kissed common sense good-bye.

"NEIGH"-SAYERS

High jumps, not conclusion leaps, my fav'rite track event;
Some horsing-around event version, was our intent.
Fence repair duties completed, we set our sights high.
Repetitive trials, gravity laws, we would defy.
Having great transportation modes made us want to fly.
Mastering techniques planned? Or an artificial high?
"Come on horse, one recreational jump? Just one try?"
We archive competitive events from days gone by.

JUST SAY "NEIGH"

We stacked heavy railroad ties to a 3-foot-high hump
For a new talent, proceeded to train ponies to jump.
Railroad ties seemed rigid, hazardous, and made them tense.
Our horses became skittish and refused in self-defense.
My brother's horse turned left but my horse stopped on a dime.
Then my horse veered. REFUSED! Just said "neigh" a second time.
With their "horse sense" they stopped! Common sense passed us by.
We forgot to remove the stacked ties! And "pigs did not fly."

EXPERIMENTAL AGE

A competitive streak. . . is inherent in ev'ry youth.
A contest, a challenge loomed, that's the unbridled truth.
My overo pinto was superbly trained, and spry.
Spice up work-a-day-world with some bragging rights? Let's try.
We were trained by an expert horseman, fondly called "Dad."
At 16, nailed his first shoe, eight nails, and horse-shoe clad.
Equine studies came later. We tried tricks to qualify.
The fence fixed. Experiment failed. Page turned in our mind's eye.

DAD JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS

WHOA! The next day Dad asked pointedly about the ties.
"I've wondered what you boys tried." Inaudible sighs!
"Did you boys attempt to teach pinto ponies to jump?
Over stacked railroad ties?" My breath stopped, my heart went thump.
My mind went blank. How many seconds do I have to answer?
My throat got so dry. The best I could choke out was "No, sir."
No other answer given. . . I tried silence that denies.
Tension, thick as breakfast oatmeal; those were tell-tale ties.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE PARENTAL KIND

If I live to be one hundred, I could not prepare
For the next candid statement that both of us heard there!
"In case you two young boys tried, I'll tell you what I did:
I trained my riding horse to jump. He could not be hid."
Our Dad asked me early, if I'd taught my horse to jump.
And I simply answered "No," but my throat had a lump.
That was no breakfast table fable. In my mind's eye
We were caught red-handed, not reprimanded, but why?

WHAT GOES 'ROUND COMES 'ROUND

"Gramps said, 'Your horse is outside the gate; he can't get in.
I just can't understand what has gotten into him.'
Another morning my Dad said, 'That high-jumping horse
Is outside the same gate. He cannot get in, of course.
He can't jump back in; there must've been some training done
On how to jump. He's is a one-dimensional one.
There he waits, he's back outside again!' Dad did imply.
Neither of us did admit, we'd trained him on the sly."

MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THE SAME

As my Dad spoke again, said "If they won't jump for you,
You'd be very lucky, 'cause they'd be bad-actors too!"
To make my questionable disappointment very clear;
I'm very thankful we had our own riding-crop failure.
Whenever future generations can make, or break
On their own recreational jumping horse mistake.
If youth fail to train to jump, they're lucky on that try;
(Hindsight wisdom gained), Gramps, Dad and I will know why!

Orv Alvshere
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A Day of Pure Joy!

Continued from page 3

I was equally struck by the zest and vigor for life displayed by many of the athletes, such as Hanna from Mounted Eagles. Hanna is a 22-year-old developmentally-delayed young woman with a twinkle in her eye and a total enthusiasm for life. Hanna's elation was tangible as she rode her horse, Mahler, in several classes. Each time Hanna received her ribbons on the podium she celebrated by high-fiving her competitors and raising a fist in the air. This joyful exhibition made me smile several times. She was happy and proud and she wanted everyone to experience that!

Throughout the day I saw many demonstrations of teamwork and enjoyment; happy dances, grins, fist-bumps, high-fives and horse hugs to name a few. These beautiful, honest and pure displays of the best kind of emotion we can experience left me feeling motivated to find more opportunities to express joy and love without reservation.

Really, at the end of the day, isn't that all that matters?

Staci Grattan, and her husband, Brion Fornshell, co-own Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minn. Staci enjoys using her focus on good solid horsemanship basics, true classical dressage and natural holistic horsemanship to assist horses and humans. Spirit Horse Center is located in North Central Minnesota and provides, boarding, training, lessons, and

regularly hosts clinics and events benefiting horse owners and horses. For more information on go to www.spirithorsecenterinc.com.



Georgianna and Parfait competing in halter with a little help from 15-year Jack Pine Stable volunteer, Scott.

Katherine Windfeather-Thompson

For over eighteen years, Katherine Thompson has helped countless people and their animals resolve health and relationship problems. As a former trainer, and as an author, clinician, animal communicator, and certified clairvoyant healer, she's worked on many people, and everything from small pets to horses. She has extensive hands-on knowledge of the equine industry, with over 30 years experience as a professional horsewoman. She has conducted numerous workshops, and as an experienced speaker and author, she has traveled and lectured in many parts of the United States.

Katherine is the author of the successful book *When Doves Cried, and Horses Wept*, available on her website. Her second book, *The Return of The Buffalo and the Dove*, is due to be released sometime this next year.



Katherine will be offering an informative and instructive presentation for those interested in communicating with animals and becoming better healers themselves. She will demonstrate and teach simple techniques, that can be used to detect, address, and heal issues in people and animals. This event will be held in many locations including: Salt Lake City, UT, Rapid City & Sioux Falls, SD, Grand Rapids,, Brainerd & Minneapolis, MN, Fargo & Bismarck, ND.

If you are interested in scheduling a reading, healing, or a workshop, contact:

www.katherinewindfeather-thompson.com

email her at: returnofthedove@gmail.com

or call: 916.770.9376

Gilhousen's and MCHF & WHC Announce \$100,000 Founders Challenge!

The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center (MCHF & WHC) announced today a \$100,000 challenge gift made by Klein and Karen Gilhousen of Copper Spring Ranch. The gift kicks off the Founders phase of the MCHF & WHC Homesteaders Campaign.

The Homesteaders Campaign will fund the construction and endowment of the hall of fame's cultural education center. As the statewide headquarters for the MCHF & WHC's educational programming, the center will inspire future generations through the examples of those that have contributed to our rich cultural heritage.

"We understand the importance of creating momentum to launch a fund raising campaign," said Karen Gilhousen. "We are excited to realize the building of this center as a tribute to those that have come before us and as a resource to the next generation as it carries on the great tradi-

tions of our Montana way of life."

"History often overlooks the hardworking members of our communities who have selflessly contributed to the day-to-day improvement of our hometowns while providing leadership for the next generation," said Director of Finance Aaron Lyles. "The hall of fame exists most notably to celebrate and pass forward these examples of leadership."

Board member Mike Gurnett observed, "This is truly an idea for which the time has come. Each day we lose more of our heritage and it is our responsibility to act now. How many of us regret not capturing the stories of our parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors before they were lost forever?"

Officially designated by Montana state legislature, the MCHF & WHC is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Having selected the strategic location of Big Timber Montana for its building

site, organizers have worked with nationally renowned firms Storyline Studio and ConsultEcon to complete the exhibition design and operations planning for the center. The announcement of the Homesteaders Campaign marks an important milestone for the organization as it works to realize its vision of building Montana's premier western heritage destination attraction.

Gilhousen adds, "It is our hope that this initial challenge encourages others to become examples of leadership, and to inspire those who cherish our Montana way of life to invest in the promise it holds for the next generation."

To learn more about the Founders Challenge click here: <http://www.montana-cowboyfame.org/homesteaders-campaign.html>

To watch a brief video about the MCHF & WHC go to: <http://vimeo.com/12409955>.

Reach Out to Horses' Foal Gentling Program Assists in the Rescue of Slaughter-Bound Foals

Centennial, Colo. -- Reach Out to Horses (ROTH), in partnership with Friends of Horses Rescue and Adoption (FOHRAA), Centennial, Colo., will begin their annual Week of Foal Gentling program on September 8, 2014. ROTH and FOHRAA will rescue ten foals from the feedlot to give them a chance at a new life.

During this week long event, Anna Twinney, founder of Reach Out to Horses, will guide participants and auditors through her exclusive foal gentling process, introducing the foals to first touch, halter, leading, loading and lots more, in a non-stress, compassionate and effective way! The training they receive is priceless and a crucial step to these young horses getting adopted to the right forever homes and having that second chance at life.

By the end of the week many of the foals are fully

gentled and ready to take the next step with a new adopted family.

Did you know?

It is illegal to send a foal under six months of age to horse slaughter. However, foals from one-day-old to six-months-old, are being skinned and sold for high-end leather. Others who aren't rescued are sent to slaughterhouses. These foals have no chance at life from the start. Their meat is considered a delicacy in some countries. Horrifically, some countries actually believe that if a foal is skinned while it is still alive the meat will be more tender.

"By gentling the foals and introducing them to humans it is our intention to make them better candidates for adoption. It is too easy to just throw these horses away like unwanted refuse. It is our hope to show the world just how valuable they are and help them find

their way to new life," says Twinney.

Reach Out to Horses was developed with the mission of bringing harmony to horses and humans. For more than a decade, ROTH has been instrumental in the rescue and rehoming of hundreds of horses and bringing well over hundreds of thousands of dollars to the horses and the rescues with which they worked.

Friends of Horses Rescue and Adoption, with over 150 horses currently being cared for, is a 501 C 3 non-profit charitable organization located in Centennial, Colo., since 2001. FOHRAA is dedicated to rescuing good horses and adopting them to good homes, therapeutic riding and community service.

For more information contact Vincent Mancarella at info@reachouttohorses.com or Bill Stiffler at 303-649-1155.

2014 USPC Festival Recap

August 18, 2014 (Lexington, Ky.) —The United States Pony Clubs Inc. 2014 Festival wrapped up after eight days of competition and education on July 21. USPC Festival is a triennial event hosted at the beautiful Kentucky Horse Park. The first part of the week is a national championships team competition while the second part of the week hosts clinics, demonstrations, and presentations aimed at offering education in all aspects of equine care and riding. While celebrating Pony Club's 60th anniversary, USPC Festival gathered

over 1,100 members competing in seven disciplines as well as a record number of Horsemasters participants.

Quiz -290 competitors
Eventing- 271 competitors
Show Jumping- 239 competitors
Dressage- 140 competitors
Mounted Games- 100 competitors
Tetrathlon- 49 competitors
Polocrosse-27 competitors

The educational portion of Festival featured over 600 members learning

from Olympians such as Lendon Gray and Gina Miles, as well as other internationally known equestrians. Popular clinics were offered by the Kentucky Horse Park Mounted Police and the Iroquois Hunt, with more than 100 members choosing to participate in a mock hunt in the early morning fog.

Festival hosted more than fifty vendors in the upper arena course of the Alltech Arena, while activities such as the opening ceremonies, games, a polocrosse demonstration, and many of the

clinics took place on the arena floor. Other venues included the dressage complex, five show jumping arenas, and the world famous cross-country course. Polocrosse fields were situated to the west and south of the Alltech Arena, with tetrathlon competitors completing three of their four competition phases on the Horse Park.

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. There are approximately 10,000 Pony Club members in over 600 clubs and riding centers throughout the country. Many of the nation's top equestrians, including several of our Olympic team members, business professionals, government leaders and career military officers, have roots in Pony Club. Members traditionally range in age from as young as four years old through age 25. Pony Club also offers educational opportunities to over 500 adult members in its Horsemasters Program.



Selling Palomino Quarter horse mares. Not broke. For more information call 218.790.1790 after 4 p.m.

More Time with My Horses, Thanks to School Choice

By Emily Schimnich, 10th grade, Sauk Rapids, Minn.

I started really liking horses when I was about five years old and got my first miniature horse for my 11th birthday in October 2009. His registered name is Butrfly's Little Ace of Hearts or Ace for short. Little S came shortly after that to keep Ace company. I kept getting more and more frustrated with school because I would have to leave home by about 7:30 a.m. and wouldn't get home until 4 p.m. or sometimes later. I had so little time to be with my horses, and they are very important to me. I kept asking my mom to be home schooled, and yet she kept saying, "No."

We joined 4-H in 2010 and went through that year in the Horse Project, but the miniature horses didn't quite fit with the big horses. So in September 2010, my mom and I began a coordinated effort to start a Minnesota 4-H Miniature Horse Project. We had a couple meetings then held an event to demonstrate what could be done with miniature horses. Soon after, we contacted Renee Kostick, Extension Educator, of the Horse Project. A committee was formed, which included adults and parents of children who showed miniature horses in other venues, miniature horse judges, and interested 4-H parents and youth, to develop a Minnesota 4-H rule book. We also coordinated several events over time including a vet/farrier/feed clinic, spring trainings and fairs shows, and regional shows.

This is my fourth

year with my mom coordinating the 4-H Miniature Horse Show at the Benton County Fair in Sauk Rapids, Minn. We held a training at the Benton County Fair Grounds in July and additional events have taken place over the summer.

When it came to school, my mom finally said that we could check into alternative



school options during the start of my eighth grade school year. She felt that I was getting to the age that I could work pretty independently. I attended Foley Public Schools through the first quarter, then switched to an online public school. I was able to spend more time with my horses, but this particular online school was strictly online. I had no textbooks to read and spent a lot of time in front of a computer with minimal interaction with the school. I was frustrated and felt like I wasn't learning much.

In March of 2013, we attended an informational meeting in St. Cloud for a different online public school, MTS Minnesota Connections Academy. There was a slide presentation about the school and we met

some of the teachers. They were very knowledgeable and able to answer many of the questions we had. There were samples of text books on display, and many were the same being used in the public school. Since I would be starting high school in the coming year, Connections Academy would provide us with a computer for

more interactive and fun. I did really well last year at Connection's Academy and plan to take AP Biology and Honors Math this year, along with my regular classes. There are many electives to choose from and I plan to take Psychology and Digital Arts this year. It should be a fun year!

The program combines the accountability of public school with state-certified teachers and mandatory state testing, but I still get to learn at home, around my schedule. My mom serves as my Learning Coach. I get the best of both worlds because I still get to spend a

lot more time with my horses year-round, and I am getting an awesome alternative public school education.

Last August, several boxes came from Connections Academy. This included the computer, computer screen, keyboard, mouse, and headphones. Plus, they sent the required text books and work books for each class I was enrolled in. Once school started, I could attend weekly LiveLessons. The teachers were really good about making sure I kept on track, and I had the opportunity to join clubs such as Pen Pals and the Student Newsletter. I really like Connections Academy because there is a variety of ways that the lessons are presented from online, to textbooks and workbooks, and LiveLessons. I wasn't just sitting in front of a computer screen reading for school. This was a lot

of fun. I did really well last year at Connection's Academy and plan to take AP Biology and Honors Math this year, along with my regular classes. There are many electives to choose from and I plan to take Psychology and Digital Arts this year. It should be a fun year!

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For more information on the 4-H Miniature Horse Program, visit: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/horse/miniature-horse/index.html>

For more information on MTS Minnesota Connections Academy, visit: <http://www.connectionsacademy.com/minnesota-online-school/home.aspx>
Emily Schimnich is the daughter of John and Carol Schimnich. Emily attends MTS Minnesota Connections Academy, a tuition-free K-12 online public school that students across the state attend from home. Information Sessions are ongoing. www.connectionsacademy.com

Excellent Hunting and Fishing Property for Sale by Owner

Approx. 21 acres on the east side of Big Stone Lake, on the MN/SD border, 1,175 total feet of shoreline. Comprised of 16 lots, 13 have 75+ feet of shoreline. Natural, untouched property has been in the family for 50+ years. High bluffs with excellent views, forested ravines shelter lots of deer, tons of deer tracks throughout. One of the best fishing spots on the lake is right out front. Beautiful western exposure. Also has vineyard potential. Access road to and through property. Known as Hewitt's Hideaway, the property is immediately north of Bonanza Beach. Located 21 miles NW of Ortonville, MN, 115 miles south of Fargo, ND, approx. 7 miles SE of Brown's Valley, MN.

Contact: James Island, owner, 612-801-4563
or email Kari at kari.venews@hotmail.com

Sabin Harvest Days

Heat and high humidity didn't daunt the townsfolk or members of the Red River Harness and Saddle Club from celebrating Sabin (MN) Harvest Days. Members of the RRHSC provided wagon rides and drove in the parade which provides the finale for this two-day event.



Pictured far left driving the mule team of Kate and Pearl are father-son team Eugene and Mark Radtke. Polly Thorsness is holding the team while folks get in the people mover. Pictured right below is Tammy and Davis Jensen, Karen Radtke, Radtke's horse, Jay, and Polly Thorsness who



cracked a joke about a horse noise Jay made, sending 5-year-old Davis into laughter. Other events include a teen dance, many

events for kids, the popular local group The Rooster's played for the Street Dance on Friday, vendor's booths, and more.

Dr. Getty Nutrition Information

Empty Fields Everywhere—Why Movement is So Important

Driving through Kentucky recently, I passed breathtaking farms – acres and acres of meticulously manicured pastures, lined with white Kentucky-style four board fences that seemed to travel for miles. What struck me, however, was their barrenness.

Where are all the horses?

Placed high on mounds in the distance were spectacular barns – horse “hotels” where horses reside – some just during the day, some for the majority of the time.

While this may be convenient for the horse owner, standing in a small area for hours on end (even if part of it is outdoors) takes its toll on your horse’s mental and physical health, to such a great extent, that it dramatically diminishes his quality, and length, of life. Horses need to move. Ever tried staying in a small room for most of the day? And we like cozy places! Horses do not! Their very survival depends on their ability to flee at a moment’s notice from dangers, real or perceived. Trapped, they eventually succumb to their fate, appearing as though they are accepting and perhaps even appreciating their solitude. But the stress takes its toll on their immune system and hormonal responses, leading to a vast variety of health issues.

All body systems, including cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, reproductive, neuromuscular, and skeletal systems depend on exercise to remain sound. If the horse cannot be ridden every day, many will benefit from simply being lunged or worked in a round pen. And all horses benefit from free exercise by walking around in a large pasture (or large dry lot with hay available).

Consider these potential problems

Obesity. The reason is obvious -- too little activity, combined with too many calories. Reducing calories can be accomplished by minimizing or even removing concentrates from the diet, but forage must never be restricted. Doing so starts a hormonal cascade that actually keeps the horse overweight. Please read my articles – “Restricting Forage is Incredibly Stressful,” and “Bring Back the Horse’s Instincts.” Both are in the Library section at www.GettyEquineNutrition.com.

Porous bones. Skeletal bones are made of living, dynamic tissue that is constantly being subjected to changes in mineral and protein content. The horse’s large size helps him build bone mass simply by moving. Inactivity can make horses’ bones porous, potentially leading to fractures when only a slight demand is placed on them.

Poor feet and hair coat. Inadequate blood circulation reduces the flow of nutrients and oxygen to the extremities and hair follicles. Don’t be fooled by the shiny coat that results from added dietary fat – that is simply a result of more oil secretion from the skin’s sebaceous glands. Truly healthy hair and hooves require exercise to deliver necessary nutrients.

Digestive disorders. Horses allowed to graze on pasture 24/7 rarely develop ulcers. Stall confinement is a significant cause of this painful condition, especially when forage is not available ‘round the clock. In addition, digestive tract muscles suffer from lack of activity. A steady, consistent supply of forage will help exercise these muscles.

Physical activity increases blood circulation and stimulates gastrointestinal motility, keeping the entire digestive tract in good shape, lessening the chance of torsions, impactions, and intussusceptions that lead to colic. Fiber digestion is also improved. What is so disheartening is that within two weeks of changes to stall confinement (such as experienced by horses



transported to training facilities), the vast majority of horses will develop ulcers and more than half of them will develop colon/cecal impactions.[i]

Mental well-being. The stress of stall confinement and isolation often leads to unattractive behaviors, consistent with trapping any animal – weaving, stall-walking and circling, pawing, wall-kicking, chewing, head-bobbing, self-biting, and even cribbing (which is more than just a bad habit – it is generally done to alleviate the pain of an ulcer). Horses are social animals, requiring time with each other in a herd environment to provide protection, comfort, and mutual grooming.

Metabolic impacts. Sedentary horses lose muscle mass and can become insulin resistant. Muscle uses a large amount of glucose for energy; the more muscle mass your horse has, the more glucose transporters are produced, leading to increased insulin sensitivity. Therefore, exercise not only burns calories, but reduces

insulin resistance. Exercise also helps reduce leptin resistance.

Fitness decline. Reduced exercise results in loss of muscle and bone mass which significantly impacts the horse’s fitness level and performance ability. Researchers at Virginia Intermont College[ii] found that horses on stall rest for 14 weeks lost fitness and

even more interestingly, pastured horses were able to maintain the same fitness level as horses who were stalled and exercised five days per week.

Growth retardation. A growing horse requires exercise for cartilage and overall bone and joint development. Restricting exercise can result in injury, under-conditioned joints, contracted tendons, deformed legs, and osteopathic disorders.

Accelerated aging. When the immune system is suppressed, the horse becomes more susceptible to catching infections from other horses, developing insect-borne diseases, and exhibiting allergic responses to the environment. Weariness from confinement increases oxidative stress, resulting in free radicals that damage healthy tissues, inhibit repair, and alter DNA. What we once thought as age-related conditions such as degenerative arthritis, and equine Cushing’s disease, now appear in horses at far younger ages.

Possible solutions

We need to think “outside the box” (pun intended). We need to find ways to offer our horses a safe environment that encourages movement and grazing time, as well as respects their innate physiological need for forage flowing through the digestive tract at all times.

One innovative approach is to transform an area into a “Paddock Paradise[iii]” where horses seek out new batches of hay while walking from place to place. This concept is quite versatile, allowing for even small sizes of land.

Relaxing standards that require keeping a horse stalled so he will stay clean

and well-groomed, in favor of having a happier, more naturally kept horse will actually cut back on maintenance requirements and allow more time for enjoying your horse. Think of creative ways to let your horse outside to be with other horses.

If some stall time is unavoidable, be sure to provide at least two places where hay is always provided. If your horse tends to eat very quickly, start by providing hay free-choice. Once he gets the message that he will not run out of hay, he will start to slow down his eating and be more relaxed. Commercially available “slow feeders” are a good option for many horses, as long as they are introduced gradually, to avoid frustration. Please read “The Correct Way to Use Slow Feeders,” available in the Getty Equine Nutrition library.

Shelter from harsh weather is a must. This can best be accomplished by offering your horse the option to make choices. Barn stalls with open gates that can

be entered at will, allow your horse to decide what is most comfortable.

Bottom line

Confining a horse to a stall or small outdoor area without the ability to exercise leads to an animal who is mentally stressed and physically limited. Exercise, walking, grazing, socializing, and freedom to flee from perceived dangers are essential parts of what makes your horse, a horse.

Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an internationally respected, independent equine nutritionist who believes that optimizing horse health comes from understanding how the horse’s physiology and instincts determine the correct feeding and nutrition practices. She is available for private consultations and speaking engagements.

*Dr. Getty’s comprehensive resource book, **Feed Your Horse Like a Horse**, is available at Dr. Getty’s website, www.gettyequinenutrition.com, as well as from Amazon (www.Amazon.com) and other online book retailers. The seven separate volumes in Dr. Getty’s topic-centered “Spotlight on Equine Nutrition” series are also available at her website, where Dr. Getty offers special package pricing, and from Amazon (in print and Kindle versions) and from other online retailers.*

*Dr. Getty’s website, www.gettyequinenutrition.com, offers a generous stock of free, useful information for the horseperson. Sign up for her free monthly newsletter, **Forage for Thought**; browse her library of reference articles; search her nutrition forum; and purchase recordings of her educational teleseminars. Plus, for the growing community of horse owners and managers who allow their horses free choice forage feeding, Dr. Getty has set up a special forum as a place for support, celebrations, congratulations, and idea sharing. Share your experiences at jmgetty.blogspot.com. Reach Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com.*

MHARF Trainer's Challenge of the Unwanted Horse

Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. • Leatherdale Equine Center, St. Paul, MN
www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org • info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

Polo: The Sport of Kings

Polo consists of 4-6 chukkers or periods that last seven and a half minutes. Rules and teams vary for indoor or outdoor arenas.

The games at King Farms consist of four players per team. Each player uses a long mallet to move the white plastic ball, (which isn't a ball at all but resembles a hockey puck), across a field which is 300 yards by 160 yards with a goal at each end. Players attempt to hit the ball into the opponent's goal. Polo used to be an Olympic sport and is currently played profes-

"We have been having a simply dee-lightful time... We have been having great fun here with polo... I tell you a corpulent middle-aged literary man finds a stiff polo match rather good exercise."
 - President Theodore Roosevelt, 1888

sionally in 16 countries.

My cousin, Jane McChesney, invited my friend, Vickie Abentoth, and I to a polo match as we were staying in town for the week. She told us that the King Family Vineyard hosted the polo and families were welcome as spectators, at no charge, and in fact, it is a family day to enjoy the weather and polo. Alcoholic



beverages, if desired, must be purchased on the premises. However, families may pack their own water, soda, lunch, chairs, tents, and anything else that would make them comfortable for an afternoon of leisure. We saw young ladies wearing dresses and hats, or casually dressed as they prefer.

People bring their large canopy tents as protection against the sun's rays and lounge in their lawn chairs sipping on glasses of wine and eating lunch.

Polo was first played in Persia in the 6th century BC. According to the United States Polo Association (USPA), there are 250 polo clubs in the USA.



For more information, visit the USPA at www.USPA.org or King Family Vineyards at www.kingfamilyvineyards.com.



The Judy Thayer Memorial Coaching Award

Lexington, Ky. —The United States Pony Clubs Inc. gave the inaugural Judy Thayer Memorial Coaching Award at Show Jumping Championships held at the Kentucky Horse Park during USPC Festival. 2014 marks the first time in 30 years that Judy Thayer was not coaching riders from Eastern Pennsylvania and Delmarva Regions at the Championships. Just a few days before heading to the event Thayer passed away suddenly. She lived in Kirkwood, Pa.

To honor Judy Thayer's memory, the USPC Show Jumping Committee created this award in 2014 to be given annually during USPC Championship. Winners of the award will receive a lifetime membership to EquestrianCoach.com generously donated by the website's founder, Bernie Traurig, a graduate of Meadow Brook Hounds Pony Club.

The award will be given to the person who best demonstrates the attributes of Judy's coaching style. These ideals are the true measure of Judy Thayer's character as demonstrated by her coaching, teaching, riding, and care of her horses. The coach will:

1. Show respect for the rider and especially for the horse or pony during and after competition.
 2. Always encourage riders to focus on the positive in order to learn from each riding experience.
 3. Recognize the simplest methods in coaching often create the best communication between riders and their horses or ponies.
- This year's winner is David "Skippy" Crawford of Elgin, Ill., who was coaching for the North Central Prairie Region. Skippy is an Australia Pony Club graduate who now rides and trains in Illinois.

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. There are approximately 10,000 Pony Club members in over 600 clubs and riding centers throughout the country. Many of the nation's top equestrians, including several of our Olympic team members, business professionals, government leaders and career military officers, have roots in Pony Club. Members traditionally range in age from as young as four years old through age 25. Pony Club also offers educational opportunities to over 500 adult members in its Horsemasters Program.

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Minnesota Horse Council Offers Scholarships, Grants, Funding & Awards

These programs are funded from the proceeds of the Minnesota Horse Expo.

Scholarships: The MHC/Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarships are offered for high school seniors, undergrads, graduate, and vocational students, to be used toward education that would further the applicant's career in and contributions to the horse industry in Minnesota. Applications are due by November 1st. At least ten \$3,000 scholarships will be presented at the MHC annual meeting in January. For more info, contact Trina Joyce at 612-729-7798 or Scholarships@MnHorseCouncil.org.

Grants: of \$7,000 maximum per grant are given to Minnesota charitable/non-profit equine-related organizations as 'seed money' to inspire new projects or capital improvements, or for expansions of existing projects or services. Applications are due by October 1st. Grants are presented at the MHC annual meeting in January. Funds will be paid out as your project progresses. Contact Tim Bonham at 612-721-1007 or Grants@MnHorseCouncil.org.

Direct Funding: The Minnesota Horse Council offers direct funding assistance (up to \$500) to any non-profit horse-related organization that develops or organizes any public clinic, program activity, or publication that advances the goals of the Minnesota Horse Council. Applications accepted any time during the year, response generally within 30 days. Contact: Mark Ward, DirectFunding@MnHorseCouncil.org, or 651-436-6557.

Sponsorships: As part of the MHC advertising budget, the MHC will sponsor your event in exchange for advertising. Events can be

horse shows, club dinners, trail rides, educational events, and fundraisers, etc. For more info, contact Dawn Moore, Promotions@MnHorseCouncil.org, or 952-949-6659.

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

Pioneer Award: This award is given to a deceased person who was a Minnesota horse pioneer -- someone who led others to horses. Nominations are due by March 1st each year. Contact: Doug Persian at Pioneer@MnHorseCouncil.org, or 763-242-5570.

Horse of the Year: To honor lesson horses in our state as well as great/foundation horses and exceptionally talented ones. The MHC has begun a Horse of the Year award. The MHC will honor lesson horses & horses in memoriam. Applications are due by October 1st. For nomination info, please contact Dawn Moore, Promotions@MnHorseCouncil.org, or 952-949-6659.

Further info about any of

The Valley Equestrian News (VEN) continues this month with the Q&A of women participating in the American Horsewoman's Challenge (AHC), (see the August issue of the VEN, online at: (http://www.theveonline.com/pdf/2-3_Aug14_VEN.pdf). We asked each contestant to answer the following questions: 1) In one sentence describe your history with horses. 2) How is it that you are (quoted from the AHC web site): "strong enough to stand alone, be yourself enough to stand apart, and be wise enough to stand together when the time comes." 3) What is your favorite training technique or what bit of wisdom is going to put you in the best position to win this competition? 4) Why do you think you should be the first AHC winner, and why do you want to be, the perks of winning, aside?

Danielle Gabree, Belmont, New Hampshire:

1. My journey from day one to today is difficultly summed up as this: I have a passion for horses and I am lucky to live it every day, no matter what ups and downs the journey has brought or will bring, I was born with a desire to live life optimistically to the fullest, and my life is strongly based around these amazing animals.
2. Interesting question, I would say because I am a confident unique individual, adaptable yet aware.
3. A bit of wisdom that is going to win me this challenge is, always keep learning. Anything that is stagnant never goes anywhere. Learn, change, grow.
4. Because my life is work-

these programs, including application info, is available from the Minnesota Horse Council web page at www.MnHorseCouncil.org, or by writing to Minnesota Horse Council, P.O. Box 223, Plato, MN 55370-0223.

American Horsewoman's Challenge: Contestants Continue to Prepare for October Competition

ing with these animals and the people that love them. The AHC, in my opinion, is a competition for a woman who promotes awareness and understanding in working with horses, through a unique style of techniques and mindset. Winning this competition is a lot more than just personal publicity, to me it's about advancing this style of training. I win by continuing to spread a way of working with horses that is fair and compassionate, to me that's better than any first place.

Julie Robins from Aiken, S.C.:

1. Horses changed my life, but horsemanship made all the difference!
2. Through self confidence, clarity of my life's purpose and God's grace I am able to be myself and share life with others.
3. When it comes to connection with horses, earning respect then rapport, building trust with time and experience, and holding true to the nature of horses creates partnerships that can do most anything!
4. I want to inspire others and show the world women deserve recognition in the horsemanship world too!

I hope this helps. Thanks for reaching out. I have a unique story about Carolina Moonshine, my horse for the competition. He was tossed aside twice, first by the nurse mare industry then by a neglectful foster home. He has such a resilient nature and I'm excited to bring him along for this competition.

Annie Chance, Joplin, MO: It's great to have so much support and interest in

North America's top horse women.

1. The entirety of my life has been wholeheartedly devoted to the mastery of horsemanship; the horse is the other half of my dream.
3. Flexibility is the key to succeeding in any discipline. I have found that if you maintain your composure and are willing to adapt, one will almost always excel.
4. I am constantly striving to achieve excellence in my partnership with a horse. When instructing or training I am passionately involved in the betterment of both horse and rider. I hope to achieve greatness for myself as well as help others achieve their own success. Should I win the AHC this year I hope to use that influence to help other young women achieve their dreams to become professional horsewomen.

Amanda Lane, West Bend, WI:

1. Starting with hunter-jumper lessons as a kid, I became a Certified Horse Trainer in 2006 and have competed in several training competitions around the country while I run my own business along with my sister, Double Lane Horsemanship LLC.
2. I know who I am in Christ and I will never change who I am or the way I do things because of what people think. I stand up for what's right and help those along the way that I can.
3. My favorite training technique is to take your time and do as much as you can on the ground first. Safety is so important for both the horse and 4th era rider.
4. There are so many amazing, talented horse training men AND women out there. I am so privileged to have the chance to compete and get recognized along with them. My goal is to just

compete at my best and have fun.

Michaela Lane, West Bend, WI:

1. I have competed in numerous hunter/jumper shows as well as the 2013 Mustang Million, and my sister (Amanda Lane) and I now have our own business, Double Lane Horsemanship.
2. God gives me the strength and the confidence in myself and I know He will stand by me in each moment and experience.
3. Being patient and building a good, solid foundation is very important in developing a safe horse. And it always makes it so much more fun and rewarding when you have developed a bond with the horse.
4. In all honesty, competing is not about winning. It's about doing your best and working with your horse and achieving your goals. If I can walk away at the end of this competition pleased with my horse and proud of what we accomplish, I will be a winner. The AHC competition will be held October 3-5, 2014 in Guthrie, OK. More information may be found at: www.horsewomanschallenge.com.



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