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Rex Buchman mounted on one of his mares with foal at side was trail boss leading 75 riders from throughout the Midwest on the 19th annual Dream Ride in the Flint Hills at the Clover Cliff Ranch near Elmdale. Page 4 Inside

Flint Hills Become Dreamland As Historic Clover Cliff Ranch Hosts 19th Annual Ride

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"LETTER FROM ERNIE"

Hello Friends!

I hope all is well with you and your family. Fall is upon us and there is so much that has happened and happening. Have you been out to Equus Currito Equine Center yet? I would strongly encourage you to stop by and see all what they have to offer. Training, lessons, events, sorting, roping, and of course their State of the Art Obstacle Course and a great team of people behind it all. See their ad on page 2.



We are coming close to completing our second season with Better Horses TV both on KCWE-TV29 in Kansas City and KSNW-TV3 in Wichita television in Kansas on Channel 3. See times and info on page 21. We are having a blast producing and bringing this show to you. We have so many great stories in our area and it is so great to have a TV Show that will showcase them on our local networks. It is our way to say thanks to the horsemen in the area for what they have and are giving us.

Our 19th Annual Dream Ride at the Clover Cliff Ranch was the best! I hope you will enjoy the great write up in this issue. We continue to get calls to sign up for next year's ride at the SAME PLACE! We hope to see you next year.

I have been cutting down on the number of horses we have. If you are in the market of a horse or a couple of well broke horses, give me a call at 785-418-6047. I have a 4 year old finished reining horse gelding and we have a real nice 3 year old gelding by Wimpys Little Step that is just started with 7 months riding. A great Ranch Riding prospect. Call me or give Brent Wright a call at 785-229-2647.

Exciting News! As of this Oct. 1st, I have brought on a partner with Better Horses. I am proud to team up with Ed Adams as my partner with Better Horses. Ed and his wife, Tara, live in Kansas City and bring me a whole new level of management and business experience. On top of that he has a tremendous passion for the Horse and Horse Industry. We are excited what Ed and his wife, Tara will be bringing to Better Horses. With all of the media Better Horses has to offer we are quickly becoming an exciting new marketing direction for the equine industry. Make sure you check out our website at www.betterhorses.com.

I have expanded my efforts to be a part of the team at Heartland Therapeutic Riding Center near Bucyrus, Kansas. We all know what the "outside of the horse, does for the inside of a man". A good friend of mine who I went to school with told me, "We should want to hope to leave this place better than we found it". My personal goal is to put my effort forth in making sure I can help every child or adult see and experience the benefit of the horse. The team, facility, and therapy at Heartland is second to no one when looking at what they get done. My challenge to you is to help me take HTR to another level by teaming up with me and the support at Heartland in putting more smiles on the students at HTR. When you see the positive effects of Heartland Therapeutic Riding Center has not only on their riders, but also on their families, that is really what it is all about. Email me at ernie@betterhorsesradio.com or call me at 785-418-6047 and let me tell you what Heartland Therapeutic Riding Center is doing.

I hope to run into you at some of the events this fall.
It is always great to see you!
Happy Trails and God Bless!

Ernie



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& many more!!

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Flint Hills Become Dreamland As Historic Clover Cliff Ranch Hosts 19th Annual Ride

By Frank J. Buchman

"It could only be appropriately described as a dream come true."

There were some who even proclaimed "beyond the wildest dreams."

It was the 19th annual Dream Ride in the Flint Hills.

Sponsored by the Better Horses Network, bulk of the coordination legwork was done by The Horse Guy himself Ernie Rodina.

"This location is what brought everything together to be so special making the very best Dream Ride

ever," Rodina declared.

Warren and Susie Harshman hosted the ride and all of the many festivities with it at their Clover Cliff Ranch.

"This is truly the most beautiful place in the Flint Hills and the Harshman's are fabulous hosts," Rodina credited.

Located right off Highway 50 west of Strong City near Elmdale, the 4,000-acre Flint Hills ranch dates back to the 1860s. The elegant later-Victorian, Empire-style stone

home was completed in 1883.

Only the fourth owners of the historic ranch, the Harshman's operate it as a bed and breakfast with old fashioned hospitality.

"Guests can stay in the main home, or there are cabins nearby," Rodina described. "They've added a beautiful pavilion to host meetings, banquets and family gatherings just the perfect place for all to gather."

With Rodina and the Harshman's, Suzan Barnes, proprietor of the Grand Central Hotel, was instrumental in the weekend harmonization, too.

More than 20 sponsors generously provided stipends, services and products to help guarantee the success.

Pickups with living quarters trailers hauling horses of every shape and color started arriving Friday morning.

"We had about 75 horses with riders from throughout the Midwest," Ernie said. "The hosts even provided horses for some who didn't have their own."

There was an Friday afternoon ride led by Christian horseman-trail boss Rex Buchman into the lush green Flint Hills. After a cookout supper, riders then could go into Cottonwood Falls and stroll



The Clover Cliff Ranch at Elmdale is a 4,000 acres Flint Hills working cattle operation also offering a bed and breakfast as well as a new pavilion for public gatherings.



Warren and Susie Harshman were hosts for the 19th Dream Ride in the Flint Hills at their Clover Cliff Ranch Bed & Breakfast near Elmdale in Chase County. The Horse Guy Ernie Rodina interviewed the couple at the ranch for the Better Horses TV Show.



Ron McDaniel of Merck Animal Health, Dawn Dawson of the Better Horses Network and horse clinician Curt Pate rode on the Dream Ride in the Flint Hills at the Clover Cliff Ranch near Elmdale.

Broadway listening to live musical entertainment.

While a few guests stayed in the hotel or guest facilities, most trail riders were emphatic to bunk in their campers. Some horses were provided overnight pens on the ranch, but most were tied or penned at their owner's trailers.

Coffee pot was on at 7:30, Saturday, as additional riders checked in, and horses were saddled for a morning ride.

Air was chilly at first, making some mounts a bit frisky as riders followed behind trail boss Buchman marking the route. Sun occasionally peaked around light clouds in the blue sky creating a beautiful collage with green of the hills.



Frank Buchman expressed appreciation when inducted into the Better Horses Hall of Fame at the Clover Cliff Ranch Pavilion during the recent Dream Ride in the Flint Hills. Presentation was made by Dawn Dawson, Better Horses Radio host; The Horse Guy Ernie Rodina of Better Horses Radio-TV fame; and John Teagarden, horseman, rodeo promoter and a Hall of Fame member. Carolyn Kaberline was also inducted into the Better Horses Hall of Fame but was unable to attend the ceremonies.



Cowboy poet-entertainer Geff Dawson and horse trainer-clinician Josh Rushing rode on the 19th annual Dream Ride in the Flint Hills at the Clover Cliff Ranch near Elmdale.

Horse trainers and prominently recognized clinicians Curt Pate and Josh Rushing were among the trail riders. "They provided assistance and advice to any of the riders seeking it for and with their horses," Rodina said. "Josh even brought his family with him and his children on their pony and miniature mule were a special attraction."

A brisket dinner at the Clover Cliff Pavilion provided time for relaxation and visiting. Some sponsors informed about their horse health products, and there was a drawing for several useful prizes.

Back in the saddle again, trail riders walked hills and valleys, sometimes interweaving the elaborate disc golf course on the ranch.

Legs relaxed, horses fed and watered, riders were on time for the steak supper prepared by chef Mark Burkdoll.

Geff and Dawn Dawson, cohost of the Better Horses Radio Show, entertained with cowboy stories, poetry, music and songs.

Carolyn Kaberline and Frank Buchman were inducted into the Better Horses Hall of Fame. Both horse owners, breeders and exhibitors in their own right, they're recognized writers about horses and horse people.

Serving as a benefit for the American Association of Equine Practitioners, cowboy

poet Ron McDaniel of Merck Animal Health introduced veterinarians reminiscing true unique client stories.

As soon as the horses were cared for Sunday morning, trail riders had coffee and gathered for church services. Chef Burkdoll was then anxiously ready to serve up the cowboy-cowgirl breakfast in fitting style.

"Saddle up," Rodina coaxed, soon followed by trail boss Rex Buchman announcing "Get mounted; let's go ride the green pastures."

Noon came; it was officially time to "break camp." Still with already three days in the saddle plus all of the extra fun, nobody was anxious to head home.

"Mark your calendars," Rodina advised. "The 20th annual Dream Ride in the Flint Hills will be right here at the Clover Cliff Ranch Bed & Breakfast.

"Thank you Warren and Susie Harshman for making our dreams come true. We'll be back here in 2019, the first weekend of September. See you then."





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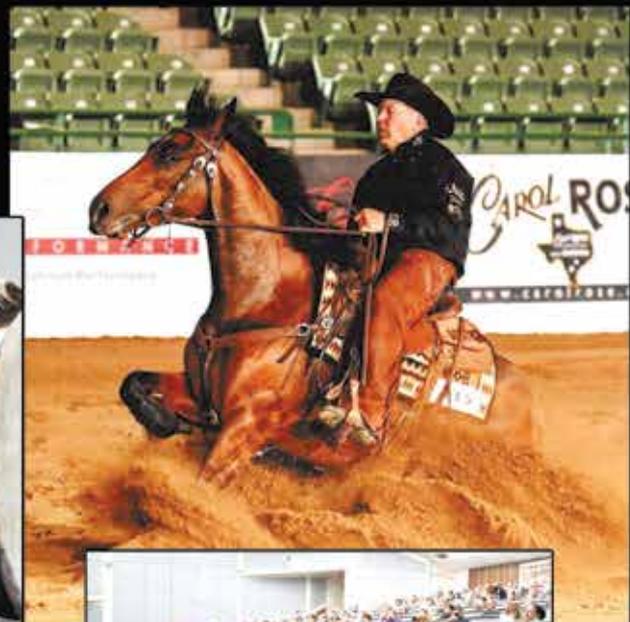
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- The 7th Annual Horse Care 101 is Oct. 6th. A one day learning symposium hosted in collaboration with Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. 2018 Topic is Emergency Preparedness. Register at www.kansashorsecouncil.com.

- Kansas Horse Council was instrumental in passing the **Livestock Limited Liability Act**. Post the liability warning sign to protect against frivolous lawsuit. Get yours at www.kansashorsecouncil.com.



- **Equestrian Trails in Kansas** is a handy guide providing complete trail information for the state parks, federal reservoirs and public lands in Kansas. Get a copy at www.kansashorsecouncil.com or call Kansas Horse Council at 785-776-0662.

- Show your support with a colorful Kansas Horse Council license plate available at your local county treasurer's office. Each plate purchased and renewed provides support to KHC educational programs and sponsorships.



- Dozens of **scholarship awards** are provided each year by the **Kansas Horse Council Foundation** to equestrians who are headed to college for the first time or as a returning student. Applications and criteria are available on our website, www.kansashorsecouncil.com.

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Joyce's Apple Dapple Cake

3 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 1/2 cups oil
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup coconut
1 cup chopped nuts
3 cups diced peeled apples
2 teaspoons vanilla

Cream eggs, oil, and sugar. Add flour, soda, salt, and cinnamon. Mix well. Add nuts, coconut, apples, and vanilla.

Spread in a 9x13 inch pan (batter will be very thick). Bake at 350 degrees for 45minutes to 1 hour.

Topping:

1 cup brown sugar
1 stick butter
1/4 cup milk
Mix in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour over hot cake.



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Where Have They Gone?

By Dennis Jeffers

When I was a teenager fresh with a drivers license and a horse trailer, I would go to a local open horse show every weekend in the summer time, sometimes two shows. Many were at night and under the lights. The bleachers were full. The food was good. The chance of winning some money was there, always good for a teenager. I remember when the legendary breeder Howard Pitzer supported local shows and local circuits. I'm sure he realized the success of local open shows helped the interest in association shows

and his horses. We can all agree that lots of things change in 50 years. I'm not here to speculate about why or where have they gone but to support two local open shows that are earning a lot of interest.

Then Platte County Fair in Tracy, MO is the longest consecutively held fair west of the Mississippi. I remember the horse show there when I was a kid. It was one of the best and an important part of the fair. Dave and Monte Kaye Clark manage the horse show and are committed to providing a reasonable and convenient

place to show a horse. The ranch riding (a pattern class that is very popular) has \$200 added money and the reining class has \$200 added money and also in a WP Class. Special attention is taken for the preparation of the arena footing. A very important consideration for those with reining horses. The show is held in July and is outside but there are a lot of shade trees in the parking area. The food is good and the fair has many things of good interest.

The Northwest Missouri Stallion Owners Futurity is yes a futurity but what they

are doing is remarkable. They have an open western pleasure class with \$300 added money, a ranch pleasure class with \$300 added money, and a reining class with \$300 added money. All three classes are open to anyone. The show is held at Hickory Hills Arena in Bethany, MO. The facility is a very nice indoor arena and stalls are available at a reasonable price. Janelle Smith is president of the futurity. She and her family have a long history of good show horses. The futurity has many sponsors, the largest is MFA. I'm sure it is

important for us to support any sponsor of a horse show. The show is held in October.

In my many years of being around horses, horse shows, horse people and the never ending changes, I have learned at least one thing. The little things make the big things work. Support and help improve local open shows, even if you are on your way to the world show.



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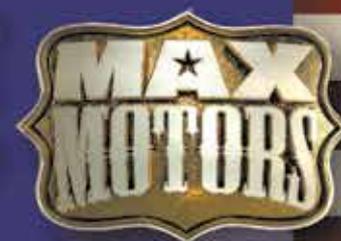
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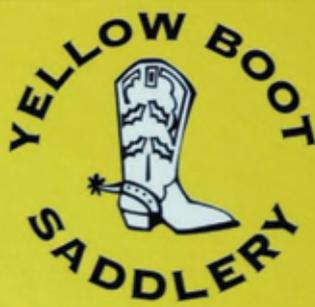
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A Cowboy's Faith

By Frank J. Buchman

Errors Must Be Admitted

"Making mistakes can have very serious consequences."

Nobody wants to make a mistake, but there isn't anybody who hasn't made a mistake.

Certain errors in judgement carry lifetime penalties. That doesn't necessarily mean going to jail or even public rebuttal, but rather personal unforgiving regret. Sometimes, there's absolutely nothing that can be done after the fact, other than have to live with oneself.

It's contended to just "let it go, forget it." Easy to say that, but such is definitely not possible in some situations.

"Oh, there's never any need to cry over spilled milk," reminders are freely given. So very true many times, likely of most wrong doings, but some things are just different.

Not the most serious error made in a lifetime of many mistakes, a horse killed itself when tied to pout. Similar training techniques worked well previously, and since, but not that specific time. Forever that sad day is reflected, despite trying to forget and go on.

To make advancements, mistakes must be made. Often it's a trial and error effort, if one way doesn't work, pitch it, and try something else.

Mistakes might even be as essential as doing everything right.

The most important part of blunders is not making the same slipup again. Again, that's much easier said than done. Sadly, there are some missteps that are made repeatedly. "Will he ever learn?" others have asked.

Perhaps it's not learning, or even forgetting, maybe force of habit that is incurable. Yet doing what's right should still be the objective every time.

Another issue comes to forefront at this point, what is right and what is wrong? Opinions can vary widely, one considers an action correct, and it is viewed the opposite by another.

At this point, perhaps only personal conscience can be the judge. Maybe not "right" but one has to sleep without haunts, live in a community and be free in faith.

Nobody does everything correctly all of the time. The worst thing is when all of the facts are on the line, and an error is not admitted. That's even when impossible to change.

It could be resolved with one simple: "I made a mistake."

Reminded of Proverbs 28:13: "He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes his sins will obtain mercy."

+++ALLELUIA+++

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BIOGRAPHY

Walker Montgomery is a country singer from Nicholasville, Kentucky. Walker's love of music comes naturally; he is the son of multi-platinum selling country music star, John Michael Montgomery, and nephew of Eddie Montgomery, of Montgomery Gentry. In addition to his family musical influences, Walker is inspired by a wide variety of musicians ranging from Randy Travis, Frank Sinatra, and Luke Bryan. Walker performs locally around the Lexington, Kentucky area, as well as fairs, festivals and other venues throughout his hometown.

Simple Town, Walker's current single, is aired regularly on local radio stations including 98.1 The Bull and 97.5 WAMZ. Over the past few years, he has had the honor of being included in Acoustic Jam 2016 and 2017 alongside other touring artists. Additionally, Walker won a University of Kentucky fan poll in 2017 allowing him to perform in concert at their season opener. Walker is looking forward to continuing his family's musical traditions and sharing his love for classic country while adding a modern influence and style.



Our First Year at the Races

By Peach Madl, Madl Farms

I believe I could have been a wild horse in another life.

Throughout my younger years, driving by large open spaces, like the Flint Hills, I would have a compelling desire to jump out of the car and run. The openness of a pasture somehow gave me a sense of freedom and an incredible desire to run. Maybe it was about freedom, not being penned in, or maybe it was the desire to come as close as I could to flying.

My husband Ted and I have been breeding and showing halter horses at Madl Farms for over 20 years. We have both enjoyed the day to day operations of a breeding farm, never felt it a burden, even though the work is hard and repetitious.

The birth of the foal is the most exciting time for us in the spring. Waking up, checking pastures finding a mare with her beautiful new foal is a magical time. And many cups of coffee are shared thinking and conversing about the future of that foal.

We have a wonderful AQHA/ABRA stallion Xtreme Classic Style. He has won several world titles and now his babies are doing the same. We pride ourselves in the temperament of our foals as we spend time with them daily from birth to when they are sold.

My desire to raise a thoroughbred to race probably comes from my family. My father was born in Kilkeedy, Ireland and my mother's parents not far from there. He was raised on a dairy farm, that today is still operated by my cousin. Ireland, one of the smallest countries in the world, boasts its success for raising and racing some of the finest thoroughbreds in the world.

As a child, I dreamed of owning horses one day. I remember getting in trouble with my older brothers for taking their hockey sticks, turning them upside down, attaching a rope for reins, and I was on my way for a day of pretending. I owned an appaloosa named "Kilkeedy", as a teenager, but wasn't able to really become involved with horses until I

married Ted Madl in 1995.

Ted and I became involved with the "Race for Kansas Alliance" in 2015, an effort to help encourage our legislators to allow parity in slot machine tax rates, because a private individual was interested in reopening the old Woodlands racetrack in Kansas City, KS. The man's name was Phil Ruffin.

The issue was a no brainer, and the right thing to do. We enjoyed going to all the meetings, meeting with legislators and joining our Kansas Thoroughbred Association.

The only Kansas bred thoroughbred to win the Kentucky Derby was a colt named Lawrin. The year was 1938. He died in 1955 and you can still visit his grave in Prairie Village, Kansas on the cul-de-sac located at 59 Le Mans Court.

What better way to jump full into the issue of racing in Kansas, then to find a couple of well bred broodmares in foal. Heck, Ted wouldn't notice a couple more!

My dear friend Sha, not a big horsey person, but loves new adventures, joined me and we took off for a sale. Ted hooked a two-hole trailer to his pickup and let Sha and I drive to Oklahoma to the Heritage Thoroughbred Sale. Before we left, Ted so politely, said, "Please have one hole empty when you come home"!

Our neighbor and Cousin, Leo Butell, a longtime quarter horse race owner and enthusiast, did his best to go over the catalog and picked five bred mares that he thought would make the best choice for us. Bloodlines, the mares past race performance, and what sire they were bred to, were all discussed and agreed upon. Sha and I decided, we wanted foals with some Irish blood in them, and two were bred that way.

Of the five mares he selected, two of them were in foal to Notional, a 2004 Thoroughbred Stallion, winner of more than \$700,000. Notional's sire was "In Excess(IRE)". An Irish grandfather!

Down the road we went.



Lilly's first day on a race track

Ted and his brother Jay have been long time auction goers. Horse and farm equipment auctions were always a part of their upbringing and always filled their calendar with social reasons also. Mondays were often spent at the Linnwood sale barn, burgers, visit friends, and of course, see if there was a horse we couldn't live without. This was my first introduction to understanding the process and vocabulary in live horse auctions.

You do not want to pay more than there really is a bid for. Things I learned, "the starting bid is never a real bid"....."give it a lick"..... .."don't do anything, there is no one on him right now, wait"..... and when you find the owner or representative of the horse bidding on their own horse ?....."hang that SOB for running the bid up", and of course..."no sale", when the owner decides he will take the horse back as the bid was not enough.

A thoroughbred sale goes a lot faster! The auctioneer does not spend time working on getting a bid higher, you have got to be ready and have all your homework done before the auction starts. We were slightly unprepared for the speed of the event. We took our time getting to our seats, we felt compelled to start

a tradition of a Bloody Mary's from the bar before bidding.

Heritage Place, in Oklahoma City, is the closest auction house around these parts that gives you a feel of what an auction is like at the famous Keenland Sale in Kentucky or the Tattersall Sale. The chairs are nice and upholstered, and the auction room is more like a live theater. Your bidder numbers are on paddles and the horses are in top shape, shining and groomed as if they were in a horse show.

As soon as we sat down, we heard the number of one of our selections..... not thinking clearly. I told Sha "hit on her" not realizing there was no other bid in place. No one else placed a bid, and the auctioneer shouted...sold! \$1500 That was too fast!! We were not ready to be done! We had driven too far, with all kinds of notions of fun, conversation and people watching. So, we drank another Bloody Mary, watched and enjoyed some of the high dollar horses sell and then waited for our second choice "Mein Fra lien" to appear.

Of course, we filled the second hole, we didn't want "Magnolia Marie" to ride to her new home

Continued on the next page

without some company, that was our excuse.

The Midwest is most known for its Quarter horses. Quarter horses are the work horse for farmers and ranchers and the most popular race horse in the Midwest. As they are so versatile, they can be used for many other sports. The quarter horse is a sprinter; thus, the quarter horse got its name from racing the best at the quarter mile. A typical quarter horse race will last about 22 seconds, a thoroughbred races a little over a minute, as they run most often, over a mile.

Thoroughbreds are not as common in the Midwest. You find them more on the east and west coasts. They are used for racing and jumping sports.

An interesting fact about Thoroughbreds, to be registered with the Jockey Club, they must have been live covered. Meaning no artificial insemination. It is important to be in somewhat proximity to the stallion. Most thoroughbred stallions are in Kentucky and California.

On March 27, 2016 Lilly was born, yes that was Easter Sunday! A true sign for something great. Her Registered name is "First Times A Charm". Magnolia Marie, foaled one month later to the date, "Treasure Isle" arrived.

We named Treasure Isle to honor Phil Ruffin, a Kansan, who tried to get the Woodlands open for us again, our Kansas Senate was short the votes to allow parity in tax rates. Hmm. Anyway, He currently owns the Treasure Island Hotel in Las Vegas.

We pastured our foals with our other halter bred foals. They look like string beans compared to the thicker hardier look of the other foals. I enjoyed fooling around with them in the pasture as they are terribly curious and very high energy. We always handle our babies young, getting them used to a halter and being patient enough to stay tied for a couple hours at a time. Patience is the best thing to teach a young horse, and you don't really teach it, it's your job to let them experience it, not being able to walk anywhere and stay tied, learning to control their instinct of

flight. Each time they do it, it will be easier on their mind the next time, and the younger they learn it the easier it is for them and you.

During their yearling year, Richard Schrake visited our farm with Steve Miles to have a clinic on horsemanship. During part of their clinic, they measure a horse, back, legs, neck, girth etc. They would then tell you if your horse had a healthy confirmation, they measured Treasure and Lilly, I got a "Ahhh very nice and athletic" score. At that time, Richard suggested..." spend time with them, pony them on long rides, put a saddle on them, get them used to a bit and you will save THOUSANDS of dollars when they go into training". He was right, the trainer also likes a young horse "willing", so he can get right to work.

Many owners take their yearlings out of the pasture on their way to the trainer, with no previous handling. Maybe thinking about keeping them as natural as they can, if they can, might give them an edge over more "handled" horses?

January 2018, both foals were two years old, just like quarter horses, all thoroughbreds turn a year older January 1st. I started calling around to see who knew who and where to start, believing that no real race training starts until they are closer to three years old.

Silly me! It is essential to start a race horse early. Research shows, less injury to a young horse's legs and lungs if trainers start exercising the colts during their growth times as a late yearling. This early training makes a horse less prone to injuries, I have seen bone comparisons with a horse that is pastured and one that has been properly exercised, early training wins.

Through the Kansas Thoroughbred Association past president, Mark Evans, I was told to call a super cool trainer, Lance Gabriel. Lance and his son Chase start and finish horses at their farm. Back when the Woodlands track was opened, Lance enjoyed the sport, like so many others. After two months, (yes, you can save months of training bills by preparing your colt at home first) Lance called and said they are ready to come

home. They are good, listening, like being ridden and.....

One is a runner! Lilly wants to "pull on the bit", she wants to run. Treasure, on the other hand, is very curious and likes to hang around you and take his time enjoying the ride, a competitive jumper or dressage prospect.

So, Lance introduced us to an old and close friend, Tom Ehardt. Tom and his wife have been in the race horse business most of their lives and keep a few horses on the track, and handle only one or two outside horses themselves. Lance said this was the place to bring a young talented filly to condition with confidence, if she needs a little more growing and maturing, this would be the man who would tell us, saving us training dollars, and our filly's well-being.

By this time, it was time to get serious about the finances. We had a monthly bill of \$1500 plus expenses. Sha and I wanted to keep expenses down, so there wasn't financial pressure for Lilly to run. So, we looked for another person to join in.

Our dear friend Bill Boehm had been dating a pretty cowgirl named Terry and she joined our girly group, she is a techno nerd and loves horses, so we put her in charge of the bookkeeping. Together, we Started our new LLC "Baldwin Racing Adventurers" abbreviated "BRA".

Lilly went to Clairmore, Oklahoma to train with Tom Ehardt, a long-time jockey and trainer with many years of experience and personally, spends most of the time handling Lilly. Terry, Sha and I visit her once a month. We talk to Tom every other week.

Before a horse can race in the United States, they must receive a "gate card". They must prove they can stand in a starting gate without injury to themselves and others. Also, they must have at least three conditioned time runs through the gate to prove they are able to do so, without injury to themselves or others. All owners, trainers, grooms, jockeys must be finger printed and given an all clear by the FBI. This is a very, very regulated sport. The

health and well being of the horse are held to a very high standard.

Interesting facts: When your horse is racing at a track, there are no stall fees. Most races do not have entry fees. In thoroughbred racing, races are organized to have the horses with the same experience and race records in the same race. So, for instance, you can have a slower horse that can win more money than a horse able to run at much faster speeds. That's why you learn, that it isn't just speed that makes a successful race horse, but equal parts of heart and desire to win.

There are so many different types of races, that it is highly possible to enjoy the sport and win enough money to pay for the trainer during a given year.

Lilly has been training with Tom now for just over two months. She has received her "Gate" Card and has had three or more official workouts. Tom said she is very smart and likes to run and eat A LOT. She likes to sleep laying down, not as common as you would think. Tom thinks it is funny, each morning trying to get her up out of bed, so they can get to the track and workout.

Our last visit to Oklahoma to see Lilly, we were very happy to see how content she was and after a mile and ½ workout, she wasn't sweating much.

That same morning, we had a breakfast meeting with Tom. I asked Tom if he had ever asked Lilly for speed. He said, "not yet". I nicely asked Tom, "before you use the crop to cue her, and you are ready to ask her for more speed, can you do what we practiced at home when she was a yearling?

Tom said, "what was that?". I leaned forward and with a loud voice and said "RUN LILLY RUN! He smiled.

Stay tuned, Lilly will run this fall at Remington Park in Oklahoma City, whenever she (Lilly), tells Tom she is ready!



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Riding In The Clouds

By Denise E. Farris

As a lifelong equestrian, I've always been interested in expanding my horse activities to keep it interesting. Starting as a backyard pony owner, I graduated to a string of tough grade horses without knowing a correct lead from a lead rope. In later years I graduated to a "registered" horse, began taking

lessons, did some Class A and regional shows, and decided I liked trail riding better. I then learned everything I could about competitive trail riding and endurance, learned how to ride longer more challenging terrains through competition in NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference), and studied human/

horse conditioning for riding in extreme conditions. I purchased a Dodge Ram Duely and a living quarters trailer and began exploring the breathtaking parks in the U.S. And then, needing ever expanding horizons, I turned my sights to overseas excursions on horseback.

In 2015 a group of girlfriends and I took our first "equi-tour" to the Dali Coast Trail ride in Spain. The 100 mile ride began just outside Barcelona, through various towns in the Catalan region of Spain, along the Costa Brava coast (yes, with exhilarating horseback rides through ocean spray on the beach), with periodic stops in quaint cobble stoned villages or various sites which figured prominently in the life of artist Salvador Dali. The ride was demanding, as the Andalusian/Barb cross horses were strong and powerful, and it was our responsibility daily to feed, water, groom and tack/untack, and the hours in the saddle were long. Yet it was also magical, with hearty breakfasts in historic inns, picturesque lunches on checkered tablecloths next to fast running rivers, that GREAT Mediterranean food, tours of various Dali homes and sights, and lots of good stories and laughter. In fact, it was such a great experience that many of our group (sadly, excluding me), went on to similar rides in Africa, Morocco and Romania.

Not to be outdone, in January 2018 I signed on for the challenging Andorra Beach to Beach ride in Spain. Touted as the most physically challenging ride in Europe, the ride lasts 11 days, and covers 200 miles through three countries – Spain, France, and Andorra – all through the topmost peaks of the Pyrenees. Covering between 25 to 30 km per



day, the ride was tough not only for long hours in the saddle, but also long days coupled with challenging terrain. On a typical day you were up at 6:30 am, breakfast at 7:00 am, pack bags packed by 8:00, feeding, grooming and tacking horses by 8:45, and on the trail by 8:45 am. Riders then rode for about 4 hours, took a 2 hour lunch and siesta break, retacked and rode another 4-5 hours before ending that day's ride, untacking, grooming and feeding the horses, and either helping to pitch our tents before cleaning up for a 9:30 pm dinner. Ride briefing for the following day occurred at 10:30 pm, and then to bed by around 11:00 to 11:15 pm each night, only to repeat the schedule the next day.

Mostly designed to ride the peaks of the Pyrenees, the riders were required to pack in/pack out, sleep in ground tents for at least half of the ride, and manage the amazing but strong willed horses on extremely steep mountain terrain. Long rides straight up a mountain peak were ALWAYS equaled by an equally long and treacherous foot hike DOWN that same mountain, often over

Continued on the next page



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wasn't for riders with "fear of height" issues. Confidence in the saddle was paramount, and no whining – no matter how much you were tempted - was allowed.

But oh, was the challenge worth it! Riders encountered magical picnics in hidden mountain grottos, serenaded by the sound of fast running icy mountain water over smoothed boulders. Many evenings our campsites were near old abandoned stone shepherd huts with scenic overlooks into the valley floor below. Sometimes our eyesight drew level with the clouds. Sometimes we rode through herds of wild mountain horses – yes, even with the experience of being challenged by a not-so-happy herd stallion. One minute we'd encounter mountain hikers from Spain who happily greeted us with "Buenos Dias". In the next thirty minutes, we rode past the border (no passports required in mountain crags) into France and now the limited hikers we encountered greeted us with "Bon Jour"! Sometimes we were lucky and stopped for lunch at a lonely mountain village or tavern, and sometimes we just tethered the horses on a mountain top and ate where we found ourselves. And many, many times we were greeted with pristine scenery that simply made us breathe deeply and quietly, while thanking God for the experience.

Sadly, I took a bad slip on loose scree Day 7 of our ride and injured my ACL ligament. With five days of mountain climbing left, I had to pull but my tough sisters completed the ride at even higher altitudes. The outfitter was incredible in arranging evacuation from an unfriendly mountain top. My highest altitude was 2000 meters; but the rest of

my gang, featuring women riders from the U.S., Luxembourg, the U.K., Wales and Switzerland, made it up to 2800 meters, encountered a mountain hail / thunderstorm, traversed narrow logs across a raging river to a shepherds hut for shelter, and concluded the 200 mile ride worn to a pulp but proud and happy.

These rides are wonderful experiences. While the Andorra ride is the toughest, there are many options available which provide full range experiences for every level and type of rider. Our particular trail outfitter on the Dali Coast and Andorra ride experience is Panorama Trails, a 30 year company specializing in a wide variety of riding experiences in Spain which range from a gentle Wine & Culinary Experience, to historical, to the more demanding rides such as the Dali Coast, Shepherds Trail and Andorra Rides. See: <https://www.panorama-trails.com/en/trail-rides/pyrenean-trail-riding/trail-riding-pyrenees-andorra-packing-trip>.

A variety of rides are available both locally and world-wide. For a wonderful local tour group, check out Jerry Bridge's company Pony Up Excursions featuring rides to beautiful horse parks in MO, KS, AR, and even guided tours through Bryce Canyon, Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills, and many others. <https://www.facebook.com/ponyuptrailrides/>. Other U.S. tour companies interface with international counterparts for easy international equitour booking. One of the U.S.' preeminent horse tour companies is actually called "Equi-Tour", featuring staff and services to arrange everything from cow herding in Montana, to Canadian pack mule trips, to touring the vineyards in

France's Loire Valley on horseback, to experiencing Iceland on hardy Icelandic ponies. See:

<https://www.equitours.com/>

So work with your group to decide the parameters of the equine vacation you desire. Condense your wish list and contact tour companies such as Equi-Tours locally, or outfitters internationally, to obtain more details on the ride. With groups of 6 to 8, you can negotiate for custom private rides that the outfitter will design specifically to your criteria. Be sure to read the ride instructions carefully. PACK LIGHT! (If you don't know what this means, pack remembering you're often carrying your own suitcase or trail bag up three flights of narrow, steep, old stone steps). Go with people you enjoy. Be sure you're in sufficient physical shape for the ride you've selected. Take lots of pictures. And breathe deeply – you'll never forget the experience.

© Denise E. Farris, Esq. (September 7, 2018). This article may not be reprinted or reproduced in any manner without the consent of the author. Contact: Denise Farris, Esq. at 913-220-6203 or denisefarris2@gmail.com. Denise recently retired as a nationally recognized equine and business attorney, "AV" rated with Martindale Hubbell and recipient of numerous business law awards at the local and national level. She was recognized in the March 2013 issue of EQUUS Magazine as among the national "2013 Leaders in Equine Law". She currently lectures and writes for various equine magazines, and provides equine Dispute Resolution Services through Perspectives Dispute Resolution Services LLC.



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Margaux's Musts

Column 1: You can only control, what you can control

For years I have constantly tried to perfect perfection! In the process I have felt the spectrum of emotions from happy to sad, miserable to joyous, and anger and fear. Tirelessly I fought to stay on top more times than I can count. I constantly sought more of my horses and myself, by pushing my limits to the extreme. Each was valued and rewarding in their own respects. Without struggle triumph cannot be achieved.

I learned, in time, you can only control the things you have in your control. These things may be anything from a vivacious, contagious smile to a solid stop, to the shine on your show saddle. Your strengths are never too small or insignificant, because somewhere someone in the world finds those tasks to be daunting and hard to achieve. Stay focused on yourself, and watch others to learn from them, not to be defeated. Remember the effort applied at home and the hours spent working towards your goals.

Set your sights on achievable milestones for you and your horse, and build from there. Confidence breeds success.

The best resource you have as an exhibitor to go about achieving your goals is your rule book. No matter what association or group you show with, there will be a set of rules which the judge has been versed. You will be judged and scored in accordance to those rules. If you have trouble interpreting something, seek the guidance of a leader in the association or a professional trainer to get clarification. And remember, the judge is not there to condemn you to failure. A judge only wants to see you succeed. A judge hopes to see the same results you do from your endless efforts of practicing and perfecting. They also hope to see that you did your homework, and adhered to the rules which were written.



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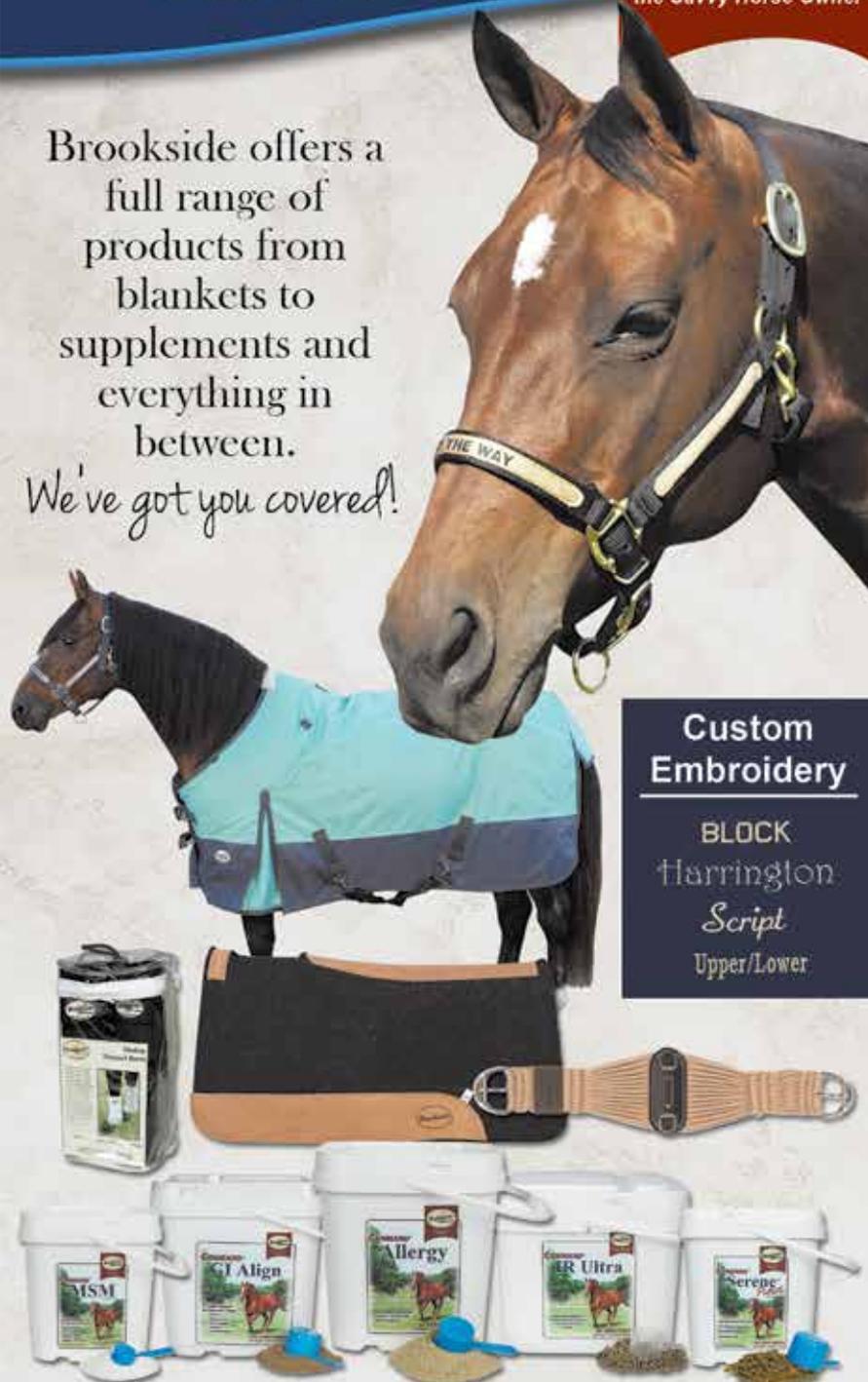
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Mustang Beginnings Challenge Attracts Youth To Train Horses From The Wilds

By Frank J. Buchman

It's nothing like playing a video game on the computer or cellphone.

"Far better than that," agreed 23 participants in the first Mustang Beginnings Challenge.

"These young people, eight to 18, learned about hard work, being patient and using their time efficiently," insisted Cindy Branham.

"They were each rewarded by a relationship with a horse that learned as they did. It's a lifetime experience these dedicated youth will always cherish," Branham verified.

Trainer at, and co-owner with husband Ryan of, The Rockin' RC Horsemanship facility near Tecumseh, Branham is passionate about mustangs.

"Wild horses are an important part of our American heritage, and must be better understood for their value," she declared.

Dedicated to "saving one mustang at a time," Branham has owned a number of mustangs that have become exceptional using horses. She's been a finalist in the Extreme Mustang Makeover training wild horses right off the range.

In clarification, mustangs are feral (undomesticated) horses originating as far back as 1519. Spanish horses escaped from their owners, survived on their own proliferating throughout several regions of the country, Branham informed.

"There are about 40,000 mustangs on government land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)," Branham said. "An estimated 70,000 mustangs

are in holding facilities around the country; like those wild horses in pastures down by Florence."

Since 2001, inmates at Hutchinson Correctional Facility have aided the BLM in alleviating the over-population of wild horses. Dexter Hedrick is now retired from overseeing that program

A dozen minimum-security inmates care and train the wild horses making them suitable for adoption.

There's a certain semblance of that with the Extreme Mustang Makeover and the Mustang Beginnings Challenge. Branham and Hedrick were masterminds of this first challenge for youth working with mustangs. Branham is credited as the chief organizer.

A number of others interested in mustang preservation assisted with development of the educational effort. Among those was Justine Staten, director of the Kansas Horse Council, which she said "absolutely supports this great program."

"We wanted to give youth an opportunity to take part in gentling a wild horse," Branham said. "The competition gave an added incentive for the young people to prepare their horse for a useful life.

"It is a program to promote building character, responsibility, work ethic and their future," she emphasized. BLM provided the wild horses through a foster agreement program.

Youth interested in the Mustang Beginnings Challenge had to apply for participation and meet

certain stipulations. "They needed experience working with horses and be capable of caring for the mustangs with family cooperation," Branham summarized.

Twenty three youth drew for their yearling mustang right out of wild from Nevada and New Mexico.

"The horses were completely untouched, but had been at the Hutchinson Wild Horse and Burro location a few days," Branham said.

"The horses were purchased by the youth for \$25 each," she explained. "But, the young handlers received a \$4 stipend per day for the horse's care."

Participants picked up their projects May 12, and the challenge was September 15-16, at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. There were divisions for juniors eight to 13, and youth, 14-18.

Classes included condition and handling, trail, showmanship, trainer's choice, and freestyle.

For conditioning and handling evaluation, the yearlings were led into a pen and halter was removed. Judges inspected the entry before the handlers came back, haltered their project and demonstrated abilities in a trail class.

Six obstacles included walking over poles, weaving course, carrying tarp, ground-tying, picking up feet and going over a bridge.

"The second day youth participated in showmanship and had 30-seconds to present their 'trainer's choice.' Unique skills performed included bowing and laying down their horses," Staten



Brianna Shook showed her mustang, Bullet, to be grand champion of the youth division in the inaugural Mustang Beginnings Challenge at the state fair. With only a neck rope, hand gestures and a lunge whip, Shook never touched Bullet during the "freestyle finale."



Junior division champion of the Mustang Beginnings Challenge, Alyssa Hogelin received the saddle given by the Justin Branham Foundation. Comradery of youth horse enthusiasts participating in the inaugural program was most evident as competitive friends congratulated the winner. Shown are (back) Brook Boland, Brook Staten, Morgyn Small, (front) Madison Branham, Alyssa Hogelin, Elizabeth Fecteau, and Olivia Rhodes

Continued on the next page

said. Grand finale was the “freestyle,” where exhibitors did a four-minute choreographed presentation with background music. Several competitors wore unique costumes and had special decorations.

“These routines were colorful, creative and great fun to watch,” Staten smiled. “The ‘freestyle’ attracted passersby so the crowd packed the bleachers and many people were standing outside the arena fence watching.

“Throughout the competition, there was one exhibitor who was certainly cream of the crop,” Staten insisted. “Brianna Shook stunned everyone, young and seasoned alike, with her liberty trained colt called Bullet.

“Brianna only had a neck rope on Bullet while using hand gestures and a lunge whip never touching her horse,” Staten continued. “It was quite impressive the connection Brianna had with the once wild



Alyssa Hogelin and Chester claimed the grand championship in the junior eight to 13 category of the Mustang Beginnings Challenge.

mustang and how willing Bullet was to do anything she asked.”

Brianna and Bullet were named grand champions in the youth 14 to 18 division. Brook Staten and her horse Porter ranked third in every class, to be the reserve grand champion in that age-group.

Alyssa Hogelin and Chester claimed the grand championship in the junior eight to 13 category. Madison Branham exhibited Seven to collect the reserve grand champion junior title.

“Each division champion received a trophy saddle with special prizes to the top six of each group,” Branham said.

“R Bar B Tack & Trailers of Topeka donated one of the saddles, and the Justin Branham Foundation presented the other one in memory of our son,” Branham said. “Justin passed away three years ago, but was already an outstanding horseman.”

The contestants had the opportunity to keep their mustangs or they could sell them at a silent auction.

“Brianna sold Bullet, but the other three top entries kept their horses to continue training and probably riding them,” Branham said. “Highest selling yearling brought \$2,000, with several bringing \$400-\$500, and some sold in the \$125-\$150 range.”

“Most of those who sold their horses were quite sad. They’d become so attached to them, like part of the family,” Staten confirmed.

Success of the inaugural Mustang Beginnings Challenge points to continuing the program next year.

“It was just amazing what these young horse enthusiasts did with their mustangs,” Branham affirmed.

“We’re hoping to have another challenge next year, but details have

not been finalized,” she informed.

“We might even add a riding division sometime in the future.”



Spectator appeal was apparent as Madison Branham showed Seven in the “freestyle finale” at the Mustang Beginnings Challenge. The young pair was honored as reserve champion in the junior eight to 13 division.



Elizabeth and her mustang Crow competing in the trail class during the Mustang Beginnings Challenge during the Kansas State Fair at Hutchinson.



Brook Staten showed Porter to third place in every youth 14-18 class at the Mustang Beginnings Challenge during the state fair. The pair was honored as reserve grand champion in their division.

Evaluation of Equine performance at Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State University

By Elizabeth Santschi

Performance horses participate in diverse athletic activities including cutting and reining, endurance and eventing, racing and pulling. Compromise in a number of different areas can diminish a horses' ability to perform, and determining the problem and developing treatments and rehabilitation programs are central to returning a horse to performance. Lameness is the most common malady limiting performance, but other issues including wounds, respiratory and cardiac issues, myositis and neurologic problems can occur. At the Kansas State Veterinary Health Center, we are committed to helping riders to discover the source of performance limitations, and developing strategies that return

their horses to performance.

The Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State University (VHC at KSU) has multiple faculty members and facilities that contribute to performance evaluation. Drs. W. Beard, Lutter and Santschi are board-certified surgeons with expertise in evaluation of the musculoskeletal system. Drs. L. Beard and Delph are board-certified in internal medicine with expertise in evaluation of the cardiopulmonary and neurologic systems. Dr. Chris Blevins and Jason Grady both provide field service coverage, and they both have expertise with equine dentistry. As performance limitations can be multifactorial, KSU faculty often work together to solve difficult problems to find answers for horse

owners, utilizing their knowledge and experience as well as the facilities and equipment available at KSU. The most remarkable facility available is our new Equine Performance Testing center (EPTC). The EPTC has a working area with footing designed specifically for performance horses. Horses can be ridden in this area to observe subtle performance issues. There also is a hard surface area for lunging and a straight jogging to observe issues that may be better seen on that surface. Imaging is available at the EPTC for rapid evaluation of areas of concern, including digital radiography of the distal limb and ultrasound. Also available at the EPTC is the Lameness locator system, which is a computer-based technology that

can assist in the evaluation of subtle or complicated lameness issues. The lameness locator provides an objective evaluation of lameness that can be very useful in determining the effectiveness of nerve blocks.

Respiratory problems (including upper and lower airway diseases) are common problems that can affect performance. Endoscopy of the upper airway is often done at rest. However, some abnormalities of the upper airway are only detected during exercise. The VHC at KSU does have a dynamic endoscope that allows visualization of the upper airway while the horse is being exercised or even ridden. Gastric ulcers is a common problem of

Continued on the next page

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athletic horses that can result in anorexia, weight loss, and poor performance. The VHC also has the capacity to perform gastroscopy (endoscopic exam of the stomach) to diagnose gastric ulcers. The VHC also provides high quality dentistry exams (floating of teeth), that includes the use of power equipment.

Additional equipment available at the VHC for performance evaluation include nuclear scintigraphy, cardiac electrophysiology and ultrasound (and a veterinary cardiologist if necessary), digital radiography for the upper limb, myelography, and of course, fully staffed anesthesia and surgery areas. An exciting new facility near to completion at the VHC is a Magnetic Resonance Imaging facility that will be available to horses as well as small animals. The MRI will have a high power magnet that will provide superior detail to assist us in diagnosing subtle injuries of the distal limb. MRI has been proven to be a unique tool in the accurate diagnosis and treatment of injuries of the horse foot, and area of historical frustration for many horse owners and veterinarians. And finally, we have partnered with local expert farriers who, guided by imaging and our veterinarians, provide shoeing and trimming strategies to maximize the athletic capability of our patients.

At KSU, we are in a constant process of improving our ability to assist Kansas horse owners and veterinarians in the evaluation of equine performance limitations, and look forward to helping riders return their horses to performance.



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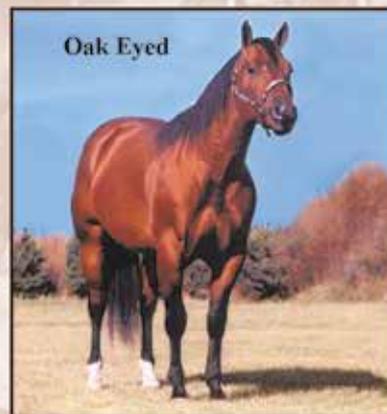
TRR Model Playgun

◀ TRR Model Playgun (2002 sorrel)
Model Badger

Playgun

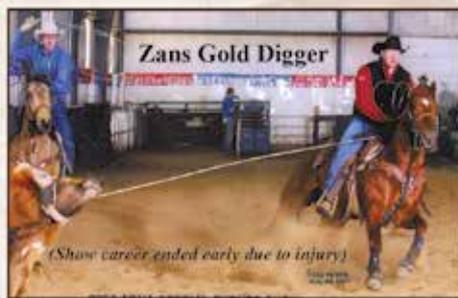
{ Freckles Playboy
{ Miss Silver Pistol

{ Tenino Badger
{ Model Gin



Oak Eyed

Oak Eyed (2000 bay)
Two Eyed Red Buck { Mr Baron Red
{ Ima Tyree
Docs Freckled Oak { Colonel Boots Bar
{ Ali Oak ▶



Zans Gold Digger

(Show career ended early due to injury)

◀ Zans Gold Digger (2001 sorrel)

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Zans Mr Jack

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Zanquette

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2 tbs flour
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2 cans cheddar cheese soup
1 1/2 cups shredded sharp
cheddar cheese
a few dashes hot sauce
(depends on desired heat)
1 cup heavy cream
some milk
salt and pepper
2 to 3 cans crab meat

Melt the butter then add all the veggies with some salt and pepper cook until the veggies are tender then add the flour. Keep stirring till the flour gets a little color add the cream and same amount of milk, all the soups, and cheese, salt and pepper again (not the crab meat) Stir lots as not to burn the bottom, when it comes to a boil lower heat. Now adjust the thickness by adding more milk. when it gets to the rite thickness add the crab meat (you can use real crab meat but it don't add a lot to the bisque.

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November 10

December 8

Rodeo Stars Claim Championship Buckles

Competing Successfully At Three Competitions

By Frank J. Buchman

Champions have been named for the 2018 Eastern Kansas Pro Rodeo Series.

The region's three largest Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sanctioned rodeos joined forces for the series, according to John Teagarden, coordinator.



John Teagarden

Rodeos included the Linn County Fair Rodeo, August 10-11, Mound City; the Interstate Fair Rodeo, August 16-17, Coffeyville; and the Eureka Pro Rodeo, August 17-18, Eureka.

"Goal of the coalition was to raise awareness, convenience and efficiency of the rodeos among both contestants and rodeo fans," verified Teagarden of La Cygne.

"Collectively, the three rodeos produced six professional rodeo performances in an eight-day period between August 10 and 18," Teagarden said. "In the southeast quadrant of Kansas, the rodeos are approximately 80 miles from each other in a triangle."

In addition to seeing professional

rodeo contestants from more than a dozen states, Teagarden said, "Rodeo fans were entertained by top rodeo clowns, announcers and award-winning livestock."

New Frontier Rodeo Company of Gypsum provided livestock for both the Mound City and Coffeyville rodeos. The rodeo at Eureka was produced by United Pro Rodeo of Palestine, Texas.

According to Teagarden, the Eastern Kansas Pro Rodeo series began in 1984 and continued until 2008 with several Kansas county fairs.

"It was revived four years ago by the three rodeo committees now a part of the series," he said.

"Collectively, the three rodeos paid out more than \$100,000 to the



Jared Keylon

winning contestants and attracted nearly 25,000 spectators," Teagarden said.

Top contestants in each rodeo event who competed at all three rodeos received a Maynard trophy buckle.

The lone Kansas cowboy collecting one of the Eastern Kansas Pro Rodeo Series buckles was Jared Keylon of Uniontown. The 33-year-old former National Finals Rodeo

qualifier won the Coffeyville rodeo, split first at Mound City and was fourth in Eureka.

Collecting the saddle bronc series championship buckle was Justin Hagland, Boone, Iowa. He placed second at the rodeo in Eureka and was sixth at Coffeyville.

Trey Kimzey of Strong City, Oklahoma, was the bull riding series winner. He claimed Mound City winnings, while being the only bull rider qualified for the championship buckle.

Gavin Foster, Elmore City, Oklahoma, and Daniel Reed, Guthrie, Oklahoma, joined to place in team roping at all three rodeos. Their series buckles came from being third at Coffeyville, fourth at Eureka and sixth at Mound City.

Cole Bailey, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, was second at Eureka and third at Mound City to win the tie down roping buckle.

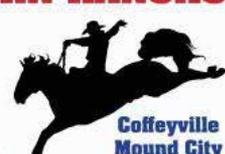
Brady Garten, Oologah, Oklahoma, won first go-rounds at both Coffeyville and Eureka, and was second in the Eureka average. He strapped the series championship buckle on his belt.

To claim the barrel racing series title, Jeannie McKee, Lenapah, Oklahoma, won at Eureka and was fourth at Mound City.



Jared Keylon, Uniontown, shows the bareback bronc riding form that claimed him the Eastern Kansas Pro Rodeo Series championship buckle.

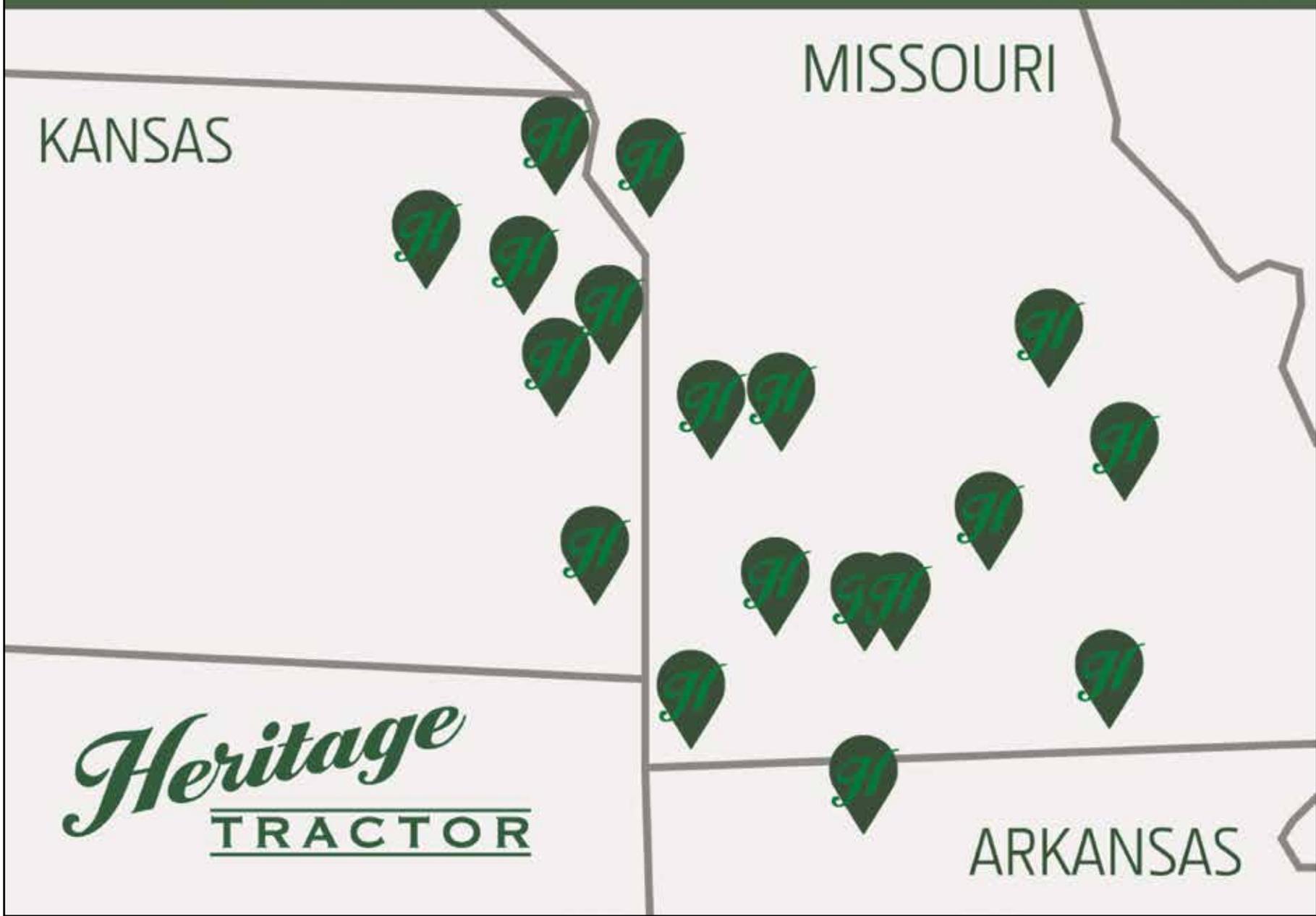
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Cowboy Church with Steve Stafford

In early September, for the past 19 years, Ernie and about 100 of his closet friends gather together in the Flint Hills of Kansas. I love the Flint Hills, as I spent much of my youth growing up there. So as always, when Ernie calls, I pack up and go. I never grow tired of the views, of the history, of God's creation, of the people that call this place home. We will ride horses over the weekend, we will catch up on each others lives, we will eat way to much, and laugh ever so often. Philippians 1:3 says this; "I thank my God every time that I remember you".

I have lived in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, I now live in the Ozarks, but I'll take the Flint Hills any day because of the memories that I have, with the people that I love the most. We here at Better Horses Network hope and Pray that you have that place and those people in your lives that make you rich. Please do not take them for granted, forgive them, love them, live life to the fullest with them. Whether



that be friends from your past, or family in your present. But even though I have many friends that I value, there is one that stands above all else, and his name is Jesus. John 15:15 "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends...". Well there you go, these are the words of Jesus, and as a Born Again Believer, he says, that we are His friends. For me, that's all I need.

So our prayer here at Better Horses Network is that Jesus knows you in a way that He would call you His friend.

Hey this is Steve Stafford, I am the pastor at Risen Ranch Cowboy Church, and a very proud member of the Better Horses Network.



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Samantha Fogg

Retired Racehorse Project Competitor | TIP Youth Ambassador | Eventer

I am a third generation horse lover. My grandma loved horses as a child, although she would not have a horse of her own until she was in her thirties. My mom grew up around horses and I have been around horses since I was born. I started by riding a naughty pony named Midnight. I felt as if he taught me how to fall more than ride. He would jump out of the dressage arena, jump out of the show jump arena, run off with me (and adults!), and bite.

My mom was in Pony Club growing up and she made sure that I joined as soon as I was eligible. I joined the Fox Hollow Pony Club in Florida when I was five. Many of the same instructors that taught my mom were now my pony club instructors. We moved to Kansas City when I was nine and I transferred to Mission Valley Pony Club (MVPC) at that time. I am still with MVPC and have made lifelong friends in the process.

After moving to Kansas City, I eventually grew out of the pony and my parents bought me my first thoroughbred, Wish, from my local trainer Chris Pope. Although he was never on the track he taught me so much about the thoroughbred breed and my riding. If I went over a jump and hit him in the mouth (did not have a good release), he would buck after a fence. If I held with both hands to slow him down, he would run faster. If I didn't ride him forward and confidently to a fence, he would refuse. By the end of his career, we were a really good team. He taught me all the basics. After retiring Wish, I wanted to adopt an off the track thoroughbred

to train as an event horse. I ended up adopting a beautiful three year old 16.3 hand bay gelding named Mindanao (Arrow) in the beginning of 2015. He introduced me to the Retired Racehorse Project. Arrow was already signed up to compete in the 2015 RRP with someone else, but after I got him that entry turned over to me. The Retired Racehorse Project (RRP - also known as the Thoroughbred Makeover) is an organization whose



Nacona my preliminary level event OTTB at Catalpa Corner Horse Trials. PC: Derith Vogt

goal is to promote the Off the Track Thorough Bred (OTTB) breed and increase their popularity and demand. Starting back in 2010, the RRP has and continues to inspire people to choose an OTTB as their next horse. Hundreds of trainers are accepted to adopt and prepare their thoroughbred/thoroughbreds (without exceeding ten months) in one or two of ten riding disciplines. These disciplines include competitive trail, dressage, eventing, field hunter, freestyle, polo, ranch work, show hunter, barrel racing, and show jumping. This year, 794 trainers were originally accepted to compete at the Makeover for a chance to win their horse the title

of America's Most Wanted Thoroughbred. The grand prize is \$10,000 and is awarded to one horse.

There are also \$5,000 prizes for the top horse in each discipline. In addition, there are multiple smaller prizes for special categories, such as Iron Horse (must be at least 10 years old), top placing horse bred in certain states, top amateur, top junior, placings through fifth, etc. Many trainers participating in the RRP list their horses for sale in the marketplace and during the event, an abundance of people stroll through the barns searching for restarted ex-racehorses that are looking for a forever home. The RRP does a fantastic job sharing horse sales all over social media. Even if you are not participating as a competitor in this show, I highly recommend spectating! It is so much fun watching these thoroughbreds begin their new careers. So Arrow and I ended up doing a lot of groundwork, hacking, and slowly progressed to dressage. For my first ever young horse, he was perfect. He had a great brain, a willing and curious personality, and a calm attitude. We competed at the RRP in the dressage discipline successfully and on the way home picked up two more horses off the track (Brownie and Johnny)! It seemed that we were now collecting thoroughbreds. In 2016, sadly Arrow was diagnosed with Wobbler's Syndrome (which is a neurological disease) and we retired him. After that time, I started working with Brownie as a project. Again, I was working with a talented young horse with a great brain and fun personality. The only thing about Brownie was his heart was in show jumping and I am an eventer. As winter was arriving I was letting

everything sink in. I missed showing, I missed doing more than beginner dressage tests and low jumps. I lightly started looking for a horse that was going at least novice level. I came into contact with Dorothy Trapp Crowell, who I met back in 2015 when I adopted Arrow. Dorothy is a former olympic rider and won a silver medal in the Winter Equestrian Games in Hague (Netherlands) in 1994 on her thoroughbred horse Molokai (who has been inducted into the USEA Eventing Hall of Fame). <http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/throwback-thursday-could-molokai-have-been-a-short-format-world-champion> She mentioned that she had a horse that just moved up to training level and was looking for a forever home. Dorothy said that if I came, tried him, and it was a good fit, I can lease him and work for her during her stay in Florida (even though I was only 15 at the time). So of course, I tried him, liked him, leased him, and ended up buying him. His name is Nacona. He is a 16.1 hand (now 9 year old) chestnut OTTB gelding who had 9 starts on the track. He is the definition of a thoroughbred. Cona has a huge heart, is very athletic, smart, fit, and lovable. We are currently competing at the preliminary level in eventing. I have continued my relationship with Dorothy and go back and forth from Kansas City to Kentucky (her home base) and Florida (her winter base) to train with and work for her.

Due to my work with Dorothy and thoroughbreds, I became one of 12 T.I.P Youth Ambassadors in North America. As a T.I.P Youth Ambassador, I work to help bring attention to the breed and show that they are useful after their racing career ends. T.I.P., abbreviated *Continued on the next page*

for the Thoroughbred Incentive Program, is another organization created to encourage the retraining of ex-racehorses into other disciplines. The first T.I.P. event was back on March 8, 2012 at Red Hills International Horse Trial in Florida. If a horse has been registered with The Jockey Club or a foreign Thoroughbred stud book approved by The Jockey Club and the International Stud Book Committee, he/she is eligible! T.I.P. is involved in classes for eventing, combined training, dressage, English pleasure, hunters, jumpers, western, in hand, and polo all throughout the nation. If a show is T.I.P. eligible, cash prizes and ribbons are given to the top placing TIP registered OTTB.

A recreational riding program for T.I.P. is also set up in order to reward Thoroughbred owners that enjoy recreational riding or driving on a regular basis. For this, all riding or driving must be done on trails, endurance rides, or other organized

group rides. Arena riding, lesson hours, and show hours are not eligible. Eligible hours begin January 1 and there is no limit for completion of award levels. Based on the hours completed, prizes will be given out!

The T.I.P. Thoroughbred of the Year Award recognizes a Thoroughbred that has excelled in a non-competitive career, such as equine assisted therapy or police work. The award includes a \$5000 grant to the non-profit associated with the horse or a horse related charity chosen by The Jockey Club.

The Thoroughbred Championship Horse Show was created in 2017 by The Jockey Club. The T.I.P. Championship offers 12 championship divisions for Hunters, Jumpers and English Pleasure, Dressage, and Western Pleasure.

Thoroughbreds are very versatile when given the opportunity to try something new and they should not be simply discarded because they can no longer race. I also help other

thoroughbred owners learn about the incentives that are available to them when they own an OTTB.

Separate from my work as a Youth Ambassador, I am also participating in the 2018 Retired Racehorse Project. It wasn't until the end of June this year that I found my new OTTB! His name is Mutaka. He is a 16.3 hand bay 8 year old OTTB gelding. He is a warhorse who has raced 53 times. He won his last race. After racing, he was turned out and not ridden for over a year. His first ride since his retirement was at the end of June by me. His breeders are Mike and Patricia Freeny (Dunquin Farm) who were Nacona's breeders. Nacona and Mutaka are half brothers so I know he is going to be special! I have been working with him for roughly nine weeks now. We just completed at our first schooling combined test successfully at the beginner novice level! We will be competing at the beginner novice level at the Retired Racehorse

Project in the eventing and dressage disciplines. The show is October 3-7 in Lexington, Kentucky. Most of the competitors have been in training since January 1st of 2018, so we had a late start. Mutaka will be for sale after the show, but I will only let him go to a home that will be a good match for him.

I hope to make a career out of horses somehow and I know it will involve the OTTB. I am a senior in high school and I do not have a Plan B.

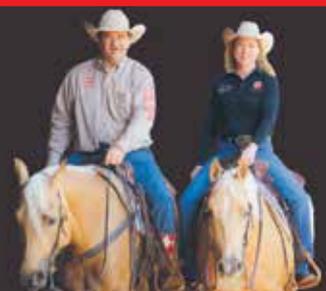
For more information about any of these topics visit <https://www.tbmakeover.org/index.php/rrp-tb-makeover-spectator-info/rrp-makeover-competition-info/tb-makeover-rules#overview> and <http://tjctip.com/default>



Mutaka my Retired Racehorse Project OTTB. His first show.



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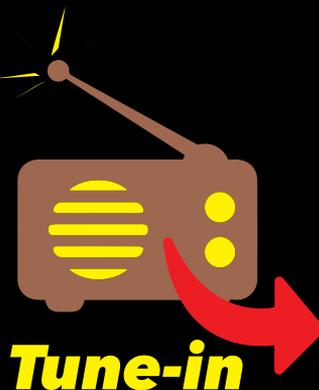
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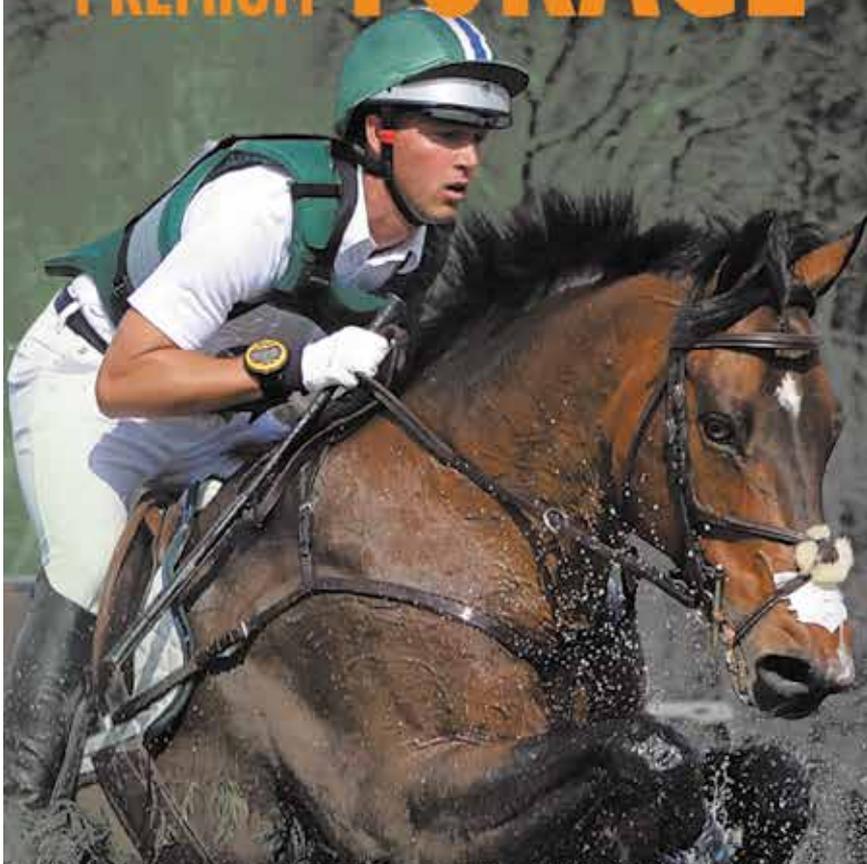
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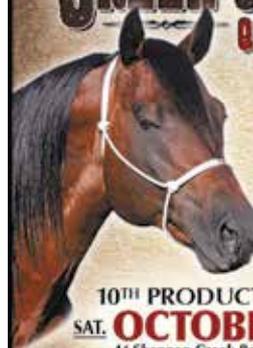
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Scholarships To Youth For Education Toward Career Horse Endeavors

By Frank J. Buchman

Young people looking to futures involving horses have received financial boost for their equine objectives.

"The Kansas Horse Council Foundation (KHCF) has awarded 15 youth scholarships to encourage education in the equine industry," according to Theresa Peddicord, KHCF scholarship committee chairperson.

Founded by the Kansas Horse Council (KHC) in 2004, the KHCF, a non-profit group, has awarded \$121,450 to assist youth interested in horses since formation.

Available to members of the KHC looking to further their college education, scholarship selection is based on involvement, academics, community service and equine objectives.

The Kansas Horse Council Foundation is a 501c3 charitable

organization whose mission is to provide educational opportunities to horse owners in Kansas.

Scholarships are awarded annually and are funded through private donors and fundraising efforts hosted at Equifest of Kansas as well as the Weary Family Foundation guided by Mrs. Dale Ann (Weary) Clore.

Equifest fundraiser activities include a silent auction, a raffle, and an art sale.

"The amount of scholarships relates directly to how much is raised," Peddicord said. "We greatly appreciate all donations and are always looking for auction items and additional assistance."



Kansas Horse Council Foundation Scholarships were recently presented to MaRyka Smith, Hoyt; Jade Edwards, Hamilton; Caroline Gatschet, Topeka; Isabella Hubbell, Topeka; Alyssa Leslie, Inman; Natalie Vesta, Clay Center; Samantha Guy, Walnut; Rachel Brown, Topeka; Sidney Murray, Topeka; and Madison Hetherington, Valley Falls. Recipients not shown include Emily Brightbill, Manhattan; Collin Champagne, Perry; Kinsey Griffith, Wakeeney; Alan Hinds, Lawrence; and Jacob Grinstead, Hutchinson.

This year's recipients include Emily Brightbill, Manhattan; Rachel Brown, Topeka; Collin Champagne, Perry; Jade Edwards, Hamilton; Caroline Gatschet, Topeka; Kinsey Griffith, Wakeeney; Alan Hinds, Lawrence; Isabella Hubbell, Topeka; Alyssa Leslie, Inman; Jacob Grinstead, Hutchinson; Samantha Guy, Walnut; Madison Hetherington, Valley Falls; Sidney Murray, Topeka; MaRyka Smith, Hoyt; and Natalie Vesta, Clay Center.

Presentations were made at a recent banquet in Wamego. Rachel Zenger, secretary of the Kansas Cowboy Dressage Association, spoke concerning that group while inspiring the evening's honorees about involvement in the horse industry.

"We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the late Bob Clore and Mrs. Dale Ann Clore of Manhattan for their continued support of the scholarship program through their fourth Weary Family Trust contribution," said Justine Staten, executive director of the Kansas Horse Council headquartered in Manhattan.

"Bob Clore was the original artistic creator of the Bud Newell award for outstanding service, given at the Kansas Horse Council annual meeting and banquet, since 1995," Staten said. "Bob's involvement with the Kansas Horse Council and the equine industry was long and vast, and he will be missed."

Theresa Peddicord has served as the KHC Foundation leader since 2012 and mentored her replacements through the 2018 scholarship awards banquet, Staten credited. Peddicord was presented a token of thanks for her seven years of service.

New leaders of the foundation are Liz Wine, Wichita, and Paula Williams-Lamb, Basehor, while Staten serves as treasurer.

Susan Jaax of Wichita is the Kansas Horse Council adjunct director for the foundation. Pam Davis and Diane Taylor serve on the selection committee.

"The new 'team' will soon begin making plans for the Equifest of Kansas 2019 Foundation silent
Continued on the next page



Theresa Peddicord (center) has served as the Kansas Horse Council Foundation leader since 2012. New leaders are Liz Wine (left) of Wichita and Paula Williams-Lamb (right) of Basehor. Not shown, Susan Jaax of Wichita is the Kansas Horse Council adjunct director for the foundation.

42 auction and art sale,” Staten pointed out.

Two incoming KHC collegiate liaison representatives were introduced during the banquet, Megan Irick, Olathe, and Emily Elfers, St. Francis, are students at Kansas State University and will serve for the next two years.

“The collegiate liaison of the Kansas Horse Council has a non-voting seat on the board to assist the executive director with social media, to connect the board members with ideas and information influencing younger equestrians, and to promote the Kansas Horse Council among peers,” Staten said.

“MaRyka Smith served as our first collegiate liaison for two-and-a-half years and is stepping down to concentrate on dual doctorate degrees in veterinary medicine,” Staten related.



MaRyka Smith from Hoyt (center) has served as the collegiate liaison for the Kansas Horse Council and is stepping down to concentrate on her Veterinary Medicine studies. Emily Elfers (left) from St. Francis and Megan Irick (right) from Olathe will now serve as the KHC collegiate liaisons.

“A sophomore, Emily Elfers is pursuing a degree in animal science with a production management option and an equine science certificate. Megan Irick is currently a junior also pursuing an animal science degree with the production management option plus an equine science certificate.

“Both will take an active role in representing the Kansas Horse Council beginning in August,” Staten noted.

Mission Statement of the Kansas Horses Council is to “provide the Kansas equine industry with leadership and direction through education, promotion, and public policy advocacy.”

Set goals include:

Create and identify educational opportunities that will enhance the abilities of horsemen/women to further their skills and knowledge of the equine industry.

Create and identify opportunities that will promote the Kansas equine industry. Support development and tourism within the state as related to the equine industry.

Create an atmosphere in Kansas, through public policy advocacy, whereby the equine industry has the ability to grow and prosper.

Officers of the Kansas Horse Council in addition to Staten are Dennis Goodwin, Leavenworth, president; Marty Bloomquist, Tecumseh, vice president; Cheryl Thomas, Lyndon, secretary; and Rodney Schwatken, treasurer.



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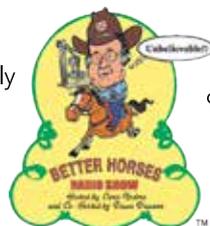


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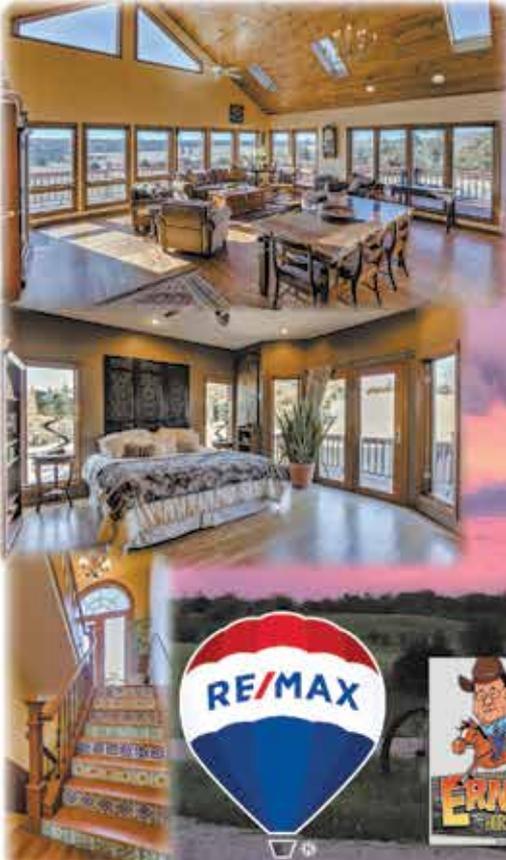
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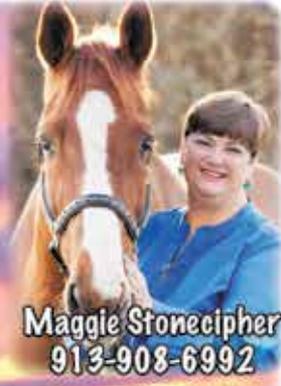
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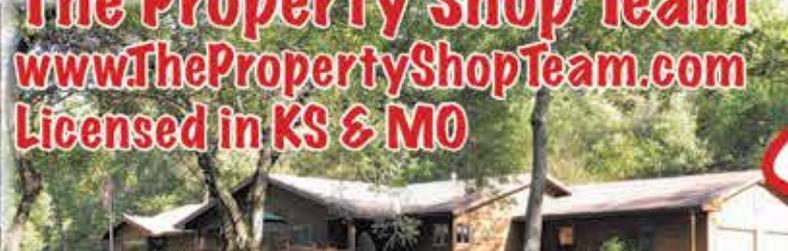
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