

Horse & Agriculture

June/July 2019

Gowns & Crowns

Show Pen Promise

**A Pony and His Boy
Story of Berry & Josh**

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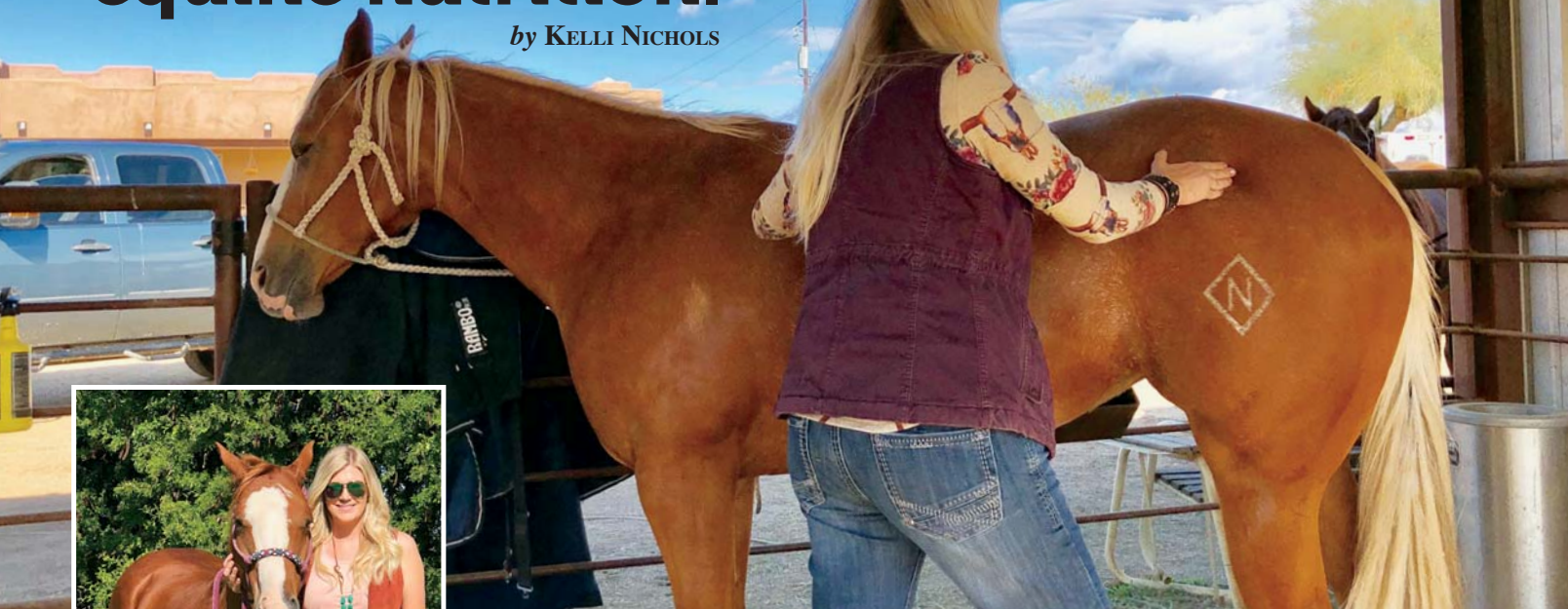
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The Whole Horse Connection Pt. 5

"The basics of equine nutrition."

by KELLI NICHOLS

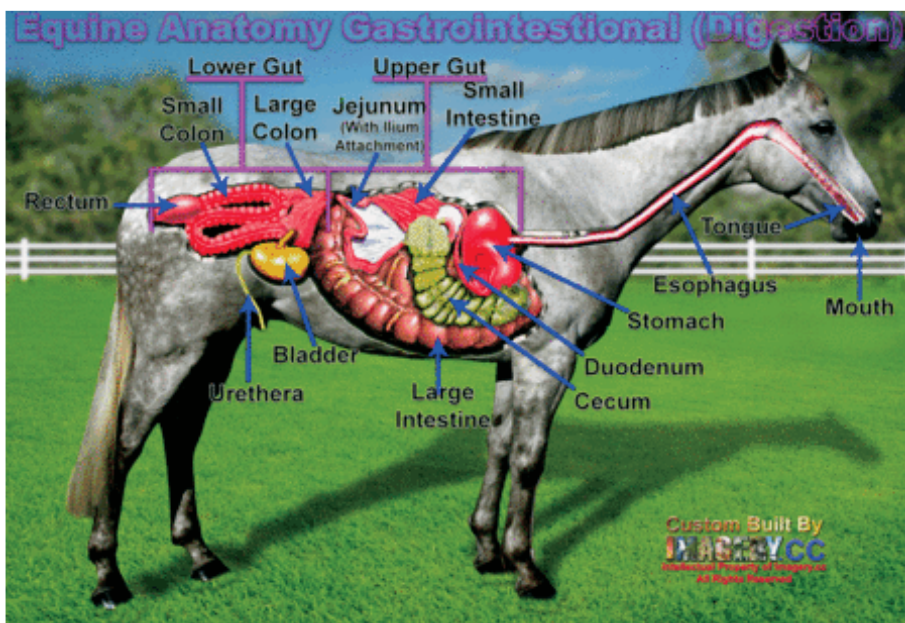


There is no doubt, horses are superior athletes. "However, to achieve optimal performance in any equine sport, a conditioning program must be designed that improves cardiovascular function, capillary density in muscle, flexibility, bone strength, increased muscle mass, increased energy substrate storage, and more efficient utilization." - And a quality feeding program to meet each horse's nutritional needs.

In today's market, there are feed options by the hundreds, from different types of hay, pelleted hay, and grains. To supplements specifically made for horse's coats, manes, tails, hooves, joints, cellular health, and more. So, how do we choose what to feed our horses to best support their overall health? First, let's start with the basics. To survive a horse's basic needs are carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, and water. A secondary factor to consider is what is your horse's workload? Are they competing at a high level or is your horse a weekend trail companion? Both jobs require different nutritional needs.

Before supplementing a diet, always invest in good quality forage, and plenty of it. Horse's digestive

tracks do best with small frequent meals throughout the day to mimic grazing. Owners that compete at a high level, ride vigorously, live on dry lots or places that have inconsistent hay quality - then would be a time to consider a supplement or grain to make up for what forage is lacking. I recommend owner always consult with their veterinarians to see what they recommend for their horses specifically to best suit any health problems they may have. You want your feed program to contain a balanced ration of the six basic needs listed above. A feed program that I have found helpful for those trying to understand better what their horses are needing is an online software, found at, www.feedxl.com. FeedXL works as a national calculator to give you an idea where you may have too little, or too much in your feeding regimen.



**For more information,
you can find FullStride Equine
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and Conditioning at
www.FullStrideMassage.net.**



The Good, the Bad and the Pretty

by JEFF COOK • photography by JOYCE TANNER

The Arizona Horseman's Challenge brought together trainers and clinicians from all over and showcased their knowledge and experience to horse lovers from around the region.

I had the honor of being selected as one of the five trainers to compete in the three day colt starting challenge. On Friday I chose a gorgeous four year old black mare as my partner in this adventure. The first two hours went really well. I got a halter on her quickly and we went to work on our ground training. I left the round pen feeling really great about our progress.

Saturday turned out a bit differently. My horse objected to most everything we did and figured out that bucking worked pretty well for her. My first ride was a disaster and she bucked me off. We went back to the drawing board and I got a couple of decent rides on her. Saturday night consisted of lots more bucking but ended with a good ride. Rene Noriega and Samantha Jepson schooled me on body work and I applied it to my mare who responded really well to it and we made great progress on Sunday morning.



Now it was time to show off what we have accomplished in the finals. I drew the first number and had five minutes to get my horse ready and ride. We made a few trips around the round pen and then out to the arena. It went well for a bit and then my black mare exploded and I was knocked out cold before I hit the ground. I ended the day at Chandler Regional hospital with a concussion and two broken ribs.

The show was a great learning experience for me but I don't think every horse is capable of learning at such a fast pace. I am glad to be back home taking the time to work each horse at the pace they need for success. Always trust your gut when it comes to deciding when to ride and when to wait. Thank you to Arizona Horseman's Challenge & Expo for all you guys did to make it a great weekend!

Jeff Cook and his wife Kelsey own Dream Horse AZ. In Tucson, Arizona and can be found at Dreamhorseaz.com and Dream Horse AZ on Facebook.



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Boys Called Susan

Debut album "Pennsylvucky"

by MIRIAM LUCERO with BRYAN RUSSO AND CHRISTOPHER SHEARER

Tell me about the song "Company Man", who had the idea? It is great by the way, I love the Americana/blues soul you put in the song!

Bryan: First off, thank you for your kind words about the song. It's always tough to look back in hindsight and determine who had the idea for the song, especially in the truly unique way this album was crafted prior to us going to Nashville and making it. The whole album was a collaboration with Christopher, and the songs would have never hashed out the way they did without both of our input. For me, the song came from memories of hard working blue collar people that I looked up to in my younger days...like my father and our grandfather and certain blue collar fathers of friends that I had growing up. We wanted that song to be a blue collar anthem for the guys who never get the credit for working the grunt jobs that provide for their families in such a big way. "No one dreams to be a Company Man" become not just a hook but one of the main themes of the album at a really early stage in making the phone demos which later turned into the record we ended up with.

Christopher: I have to agree with Bryan, it can be hard sometimes in hindsight to accurately pin down the play by play of how a song was written. This is especially the case since Mr. Russo has on more than one occasion sent me demos of 3-4 songs in a week that are all worth working on. As far as meanings are concerned, it's certainly a song speaking directly to the dignity of the "blue collar" working man who leads a hard life so his family can have an easier one. I also hear in its more pointed lines, frustrations with 21st century corporate culture that requires us to happily stare at a computer screen 40+ hours a week, then buy our happiness off of amazon.com with our paychecks. The bottom line is that I don't believe you'll find many people who would call being a company man their highest aspiration and I think the vast majority of people in this country could relate to that idea.

You have some A list musicians on this album, you can hear it in every note and chord. Share with our readers who the musicians are, producer, and influencers to put this album together?

Bryan: Phil Madeira produced the album, and he was always our first choice. The "Mercyland: Hymns for the Rest of Us" albums that he spearheaded were something sonically and lyrically that we both loved, and what he brought to the table musically and with the team he brought to the recording process were incredible. His resume of artists that he's written for and worked with is just staggering. Additionally, to have 3/4 of Emmylou Harris' touring band (The Red Dirt Boys) on this album was mind boggling when we look back on it, and of course, when we listen to it today. To have seasoned players like Chris Donahue and

Dennis Holt, Phil and Wil Kimbrough on it was a dream come true, and to have guys we brought like violinist Dale Shuler (who played with Shania Twain at the height of her celebrity) and guys who had played with us for years like Jim Miller on the horn or Big Mike (Noyes) on the harmonica was more than we could have ever asked for.

Christopher: It was a very new experience for me to have players of that caliber playing music that I had a hand in writing. Having both grown up in string orchestras, Bryan and I both were instantly and immediately aware of the chops Phil's guys had. We're also very proud of our long time partners in crime, Mike Noyes, Jim Miller, and my sister Annie who sang backups on a couple of the tracks. She was instrumental in everything from the

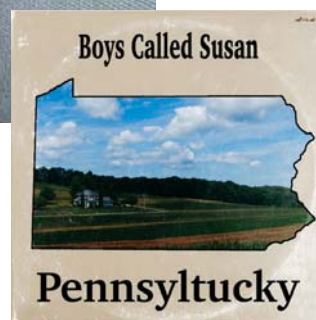
booking of flights, to lending her voice and it's impossible to imagine pulling this off without her. I also have to tip my hat to Sean Sullivan, who ran the board as audio engineer for us that whirlwind of a week we spent at The Butcher Shoppe.

Anyone who's good enough for Sturgill Simpson is most certainly good enough for Bryan and me.

Listening to the entire album, while outside with my horses. I hear a complexity of family issues that is being solved with the music and lyrics. Very clever. Would you both share with our readers what songs strike each of you the most? Why?

Bryan: It's hard to just pick a few songs that move me, because I really think this album is a cohesive collection of songs in a way that a lot of records don't capture anymore these days. But, if I had to pick out a few songs that really capture what we were trying to showcase in bringing people into this rural landscape of humanity called "Pennsylvucky", I'd have to steer people toward "The Ballad of Little Cherie", "Pretty Pantomime", "Company Man", "The Home Team" and "Heaven Knows."

Christopher: When we first got in touch with Phil about doing the album in Nashville, we bombarded the poor man with a solid 20 track offering right off the bat. These were just songs that the muse had granted Bryan and me over the previous 8 or 9 months, so we were determined to put our best foot for-



www.boyscalledsusan.com

ward as far as what was going to make the album. Naturally, I'm fond of all of them. However, Company Man, Pretty Pantomime, and Heaven Knows are the songs I think best highlight what we were going for on this record. We also put a lot of effort into making sure that these songs have something to say. In a world that seems to get stranger every day, we're trying to write songs that provide the social commentary that country/folk/blues artists have traditionally provided in this country.

Christopher Shearer, you're leaving Arizona to work closer with Bryan Russo? What is on the horizon, career wise? Any tours planned this summer?

Bryan: I'm so excited for Christopher and me to be in the same zip code, let alone the same time zone. That will vastly improve hundreds of things in the creative process. We've got more than 40 songs for the next record that we've been kicking around and I am really happy that we can approach this second "Boys Called Susan" album differently than we did with "Pennsylvucky." In regards to the future, we have a lot of really great opportunities on the horizon and we are certainly focused on more shows, more songs, and pushing each other to write and perform songs that matter.

Christopher: As one of my musical hero's John Lennon put it, "life is what happens while you're busy making other plans" and I've certainly found that to be the case in regards to my own 31 laps around the sun. I've bounced back and forth between the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Arizona for the last 5 years, this next trip will be my 3rd move in. As far as plans, we're rolling with the punches and trying to come up with our next few moves. While Bryan and I would happily play our music to ourselves for the rest of time, having anybody like it besides us is a genuine thrill. That being said, we're confident in our material and are very excited about the next batch of songs that are waiting in the wings.

Christopher your mom passed from ovarian cancer. However, she knew and could hear in you two that a gift of music is for both of you. What do you think her thoughts would be right now? What advice did she give? Let's talk about the name Boys Called Susan, Susan is Christopher Shearer's mom and Bryan Russo Aunt.

Bryan: I'm so proud that we could pay homage to my aunt Sue. She was the coolest of the cool and just the most loving and amazing person you could ever wish to be in your life. To have her in our corner was always everything to both of us, and her loving words of advice and guidance were life changing. I know she would be so thrilled with not just what this record sounds like, but more importantly, what it has to say. We feel like these songs and this band is carrying on the spirit of such a beautiful soul and to be able to share that with audiences is just the coolest thing to that I've ever encountered with writing songs

and performing music to a live audience. Neither one of us really understood the volume of what she tasked us both with, but when our voices blended together the first time in my dining room, we immediately got it. Even from the other side, she's still always right. The only thing that makes me sad about all of this is that she won't hear it.

Christopher: The entire project has been very uncanny. There are easily 4 crossroads in time where I thought we'd maxed out our universal benevolence quota only to have something else happen that reset our expectations of what this record was going to be. Since my mom was the last person you'd want on your case about something, it's hard not



to attribute a couple of those moments to my mom leaning on the fates in the great beyond to give us a shot. I can't really put it any better than Bryan did. I owe her and my dad for my snobby music taste, for the hundreds of hours of musical instrument lessons they paid for, and last but not least the Bachelor's degree I'm making such brilliant use of as a lead guitar player! Apart from the obvious tribute to her in our band name, we also photo shopped her initials off of one of her records from when she was growing up and threw it on the corner she always wrote them on, since that's how I remember records growing up. Like Bryan said, she always knew that we would have chemistry, and I'm sure the first thing she'll say the next time we see each other will be "I told ya so!"



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Show Pen Promise

By Author Carly Kade

Interview Story with
MIRIAM LUCERO and CARLY CADE



Carly Kade, I want to dive into your new book, "Show Pen Promise", part three of "In the Reins". Would you share a synopsis from "Show Pen Promise", and what our readers can expect?

Synopsis of Part Three in the In the Reins series

Just when everything is starting to come together in life and love, fate throws a curveball at wannabe cowgirl Devon Brooke. She has some tough decisions to make regarding cowboy McKennon Kelly, her future plans and her beloved horse Faith.

Devon is devastated when a simple mistake causes serious consequences for her horse, and she falls hard back to square one losing hope she can ever amount to the equestrian she wants to be.

No longer running from his past, McKennon is desperate to bring Devon back to the saddle and honor his show pen promise, but he soon finds that Devon is ready to hang up the reins and her dreams of a buckle for good. Can McKennon convince Devon that another horse will be able to

take Faith's place in the show pen? Should he? Will the suggestion bring them together or push them apart?

Show Pen Promise, the highly anticipated third installment of the award-winning In the Reins series, follows McKennon's quest to help Devon believe she has the strength to be the cowgirl of her dreams. Can Devon love a horse as much as she loves Faith? Will her relationship with McKennon and his show pen promise ever become reality? Is fate a friend or a foe?

In Show Pen Promise, you'll start reading exactly where Cowboy Away left off, reconnect with some surprise horse characters, and learn what the future holds for wannabe cowgirl Devon Brooke and her cowboy/horse trainer McKennon Kelly. Is there a happy ending in store for them? Add Show Pen Promise to your want-to-read list and find out!

"In the Reins" and "Cowboy Away" are the first two books that start this trilogy. Would you give a brief overview of both books?

About In the Reins

A city-girl-gone-country, a handsome cowboy and a horse meet by fate on a southern farm. She's looking for a fresh start and unexpectedly falls for the mysterious cowboy. But can a man with a deeply guarded secret open himself up to the wannabe cowgirl in the saddle next to him?

Deeply romantic and suspenseful, In the Reins captures the struggle between letting life move forward and shying away from taking the reins. Passionate, captivating, and full of equine epiphanies, this is a love story sure to touch your inner cowgirl.

About Cowboy Away

Cowboy Away, the sequel to In the Reins, follows horse trainer McKennon



Kelly as he hits the road with nothing but his memories, a pistol and hope to put his demon to rest. He's a cowboy caught between his present and his past who learns that sometimes one has to go backwards in order to go forward.

In the follow-up to *In the Reins*, readers start exactly where the first book left off, take a deep dive into the history of the Green Briar gang, meet some new characters, and follow the enigmatic Quarter Horse trainer into his tumultuous past.

How do you develop your characters? Have the characters in your books changed?

I think the best stories are told from the heart and my characters are part of my heart. I don't always know where my characters are going to take me. I let them lead and write their journey down as it comes. I don't think you can force a twist or a turn. I think character development just comes naturally when a writer taps into that special writing zone and lets their heart (and the characters) guide the writing.

Sometimes I wish they were real people, but alas the characters from *In the Reins* are a product of my imagination.

The leading man, McKennon Kelly, is all the things I think women wish men could be then sprinkled with a little bit of what I imagined a cowboy who can make the eight on the back of a really rank bronc would be like.

The leading lady, Devon Brooke, represents all the mixed emotions that make up a woman; strength, independence, uncertainty, desire to find love and that little bit of neurosis I think a woman can harbor when her fantasies don't exactly match up with reality. Devon's judgment certainly becomes impaired over a cute guy in cowboy boots!

Sophia is the gentle, intuitive, motherly figure I think every human wishes they had in their lives and JD is the driven, never-give-up type that lightens the mood and provides a good giggle every now and then.

Where do you get your inspirations for writing? What made you start writing romance horse novels?

The inspiration for my equestrian romance novels comes from time spent at the barn and riding my horse Sissy. After my rides, I often have to scurry to capture the words on the only thing I can find when inspiration suddenly hits me – torn out insides of my horse's feedbags! I scribble down my thoughts while perched on hay bales listening to the sounds of the horses rustling in their stalls.

Reflecting on the process today, it feels as if *In the Reins* just flowed out of me and was just something I had to do. That's the way, I feel about having a horse in my life, too. It's just something I have to do. Writing equestrian romance novels about horses and riding them are both good for my creative soul. My history with (and rich knowledge of) horses is definitely a reason why I think other horse lovers have been drawn to the books. I know what it feels like to enter a show pen and be nervous. I know what it feels like to feel stuck with my horse's training. I know what it feels like to swoon over a cute cowboy. Ha!

I hope that sort of authenticity comes through in my writing. I'm a horse owner. I've shown competitively most of my life. I write about my life-

style, not something I've researched, but what I do.

Some of the best feedback I've gotten though has been that non-horsey readers say that one doesn't have to love horses, or have knowledge about them, to enjoy my story or fall in love with the characters. Many readers are actually enjoying the fact that they are learning so much about the human-horse connection because of my books.

I think one reason the books resonate so much with readers is because the trilogy is a romantic drama about life and the struggles we all go through to overcome life's challenges. The *In the Reins* series captures the struggle between letting life move forward and shying away from taking the reins.

Being an equestrian is a lifestyle. It inhabits everything you do. I know I will pick up anything with a horse on it, especially a book. I think the link between horses and romance is due to the fact that loving horses is a lifestyle. It starts as a girl and grows throughout life, so it only makes sense that people would want to read an equestrian romance once they've grown up that mirrors their lifestyle and chosen riding discipline.

I remember how much I loved horse stories when I was a little cowgirl, but I grew up. In my adulthood, I am just as horse-obsessed as I was as a child. I think the equestrian fiction and equestrian romance genres are the books that young horse lovers grow into to feed that need to read about their passion for horses.

I was inspired to write an equestrian romance novel that all horse lovers could appreciate no matter their discipline. I have found that my readers are just like me – horse crazy, book crazy, and crazy for handsome hunks who know a thing or two about horses.

When you're not writing novels, you're very active in the equestrian world. Share with our audience some of the events that you're involved with?

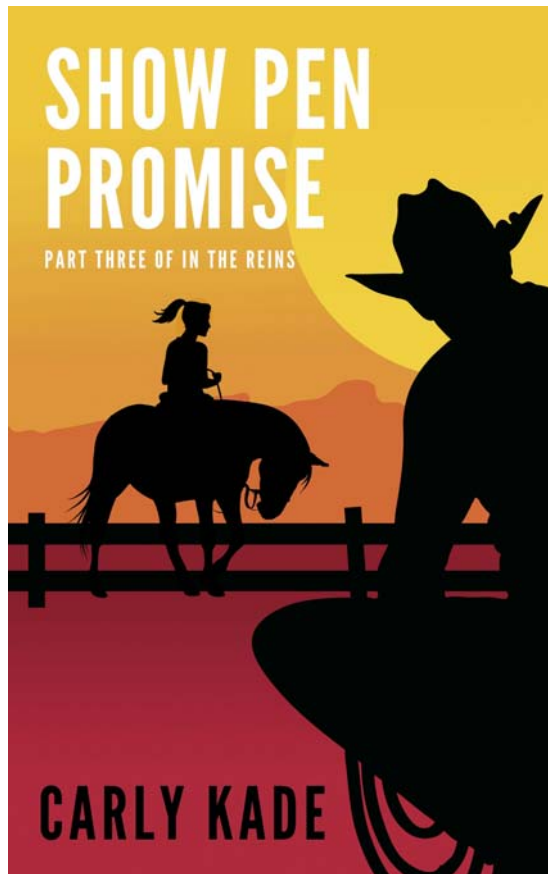
I am a member of the American Paint Horse Association and love competitively showing my Paint Horse, Im Gonna Kiss You (Barn name is Sissy).

The classes I primarily show in are Showmanship, Western horsemanship and Western pleasure. Recently, I've been back in my English saddle and am thinking about showing in some hunt seat classes again.

My books afford me a lot of amazing opportunities to attend events in the equestrian community. Recently, I attended the EQUUS Film Festival Tour Stop in Sedona, AZ. I am honored that my books are EQUUS Film Festival WINNIE Award recipients. The EQUUS Film Festival is an excellent platform for bringing the storytellers of the horse world together through films, documentaries, videos, art, music, and literature.

What is on the horizon for Carly Kade, new books, new characters?

The *In the Reins* horse book series will include at least four novels. I will be sharing series sneak peeks, updates and new release info on my blog and in my Readers' Group for readers who can't wait to find out what *(continue on page 12)*



(continued from pge 11)

happens next for McKennon, Devon, Sophia, JD and the Green Briar horses. I am excited about the journey this series is taking me on!

Right now, I am working on the first draft of the fourth book in the In the Reins series. I'm calling it JD's Story, but I never know what I am going to name my books until the story tells me what it wants the title to be. I didn't name In the Reins until the moment those three words left my fingertips toward the end of the novel. It was the same with Cowboy Away. When I typed the three words "show pen promise", I instantly knew what the title to the third installment would be.

I can't wait to see where my bull riding heartthrob takes me in the next book in the series. I have had readers tell me that they love JD McCall and want more of him. That makes my spurs jingle because I was hoping it would be difficult for readers to choose between JD and McKennon. I think the combination of these two very different men in the In the Reins series is the perfect storm when it comes to hot cowboys!

We can't leave this article without asking about Sissy. Tell our audience who Sissy is, and what she means to you? How is life in Scottsdale treating you?

I've been lucky enough to own horses most of my life. I love the color breeds. I had a Palomino as a girl and now I have a Paint. I really love how color breeds stand out in a show pen and that each Paint is uniquely patterned. No two are colored the same!

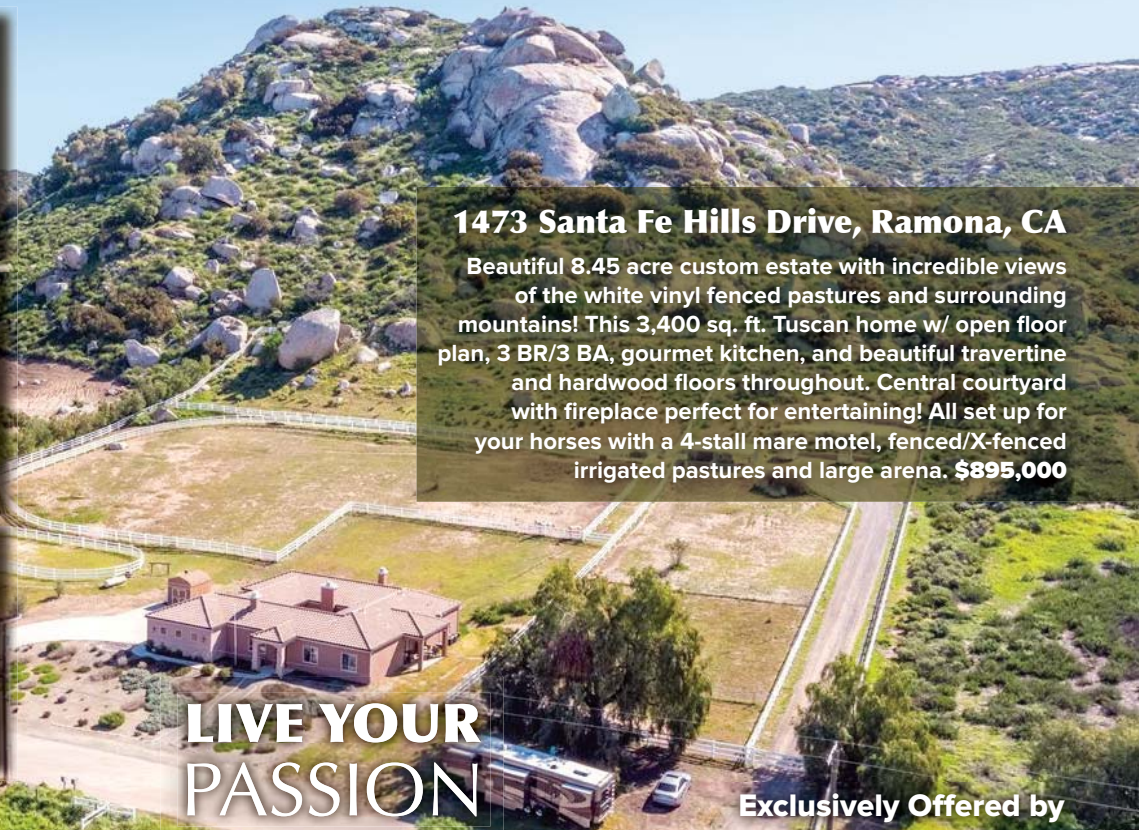
Sissy is my adult horse and the one I always dreamed of owning. She is a registered Paint mare and I am happily spending time with her in Arizona. If you've taken a tour of my website or followed me on my Carly Kade Creative Facebook page, you'll notice Sissy also stands in as Faith in my promotional videos for my books. I do all the marketing for the book series myself so it helps to have my own horse to work with as I film the footage!

When I'm not writing or reading, I'm riding my horse. When I feel Sissy's stride beneath me, everything else fades away and I revel in being in the NOW. When I was younger, I was very competitive and went to a lot of horse shows. A friend once said something to me that really stuck. She said, "What about just being a horse owner and enjoying that?" That question really resonated with me. Now it's the simple pleasures of horse ownership that I have come to enjoy most ... long grooming sessions, the meditative rhythm of barn chores, or a lazy Sunday ride.

My horse and I share a close bond. I've always had to board my horse though so I look forward to the day I can have her in my backyard. For now you can find me walking around Arizona between the barn and my city life in my cowgirl boots and spurs! I feel so fortunate to live in Arizona because it seems like there's a horse event (almost) every weekend here. It's the kind of place I dreamed about as a girl!



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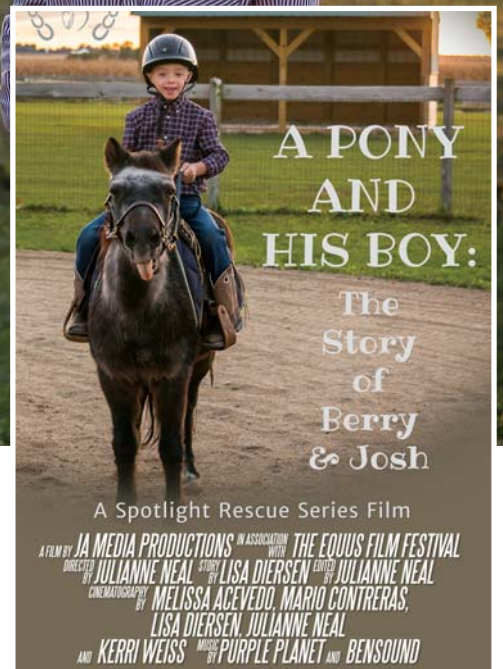
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A Pony & His Boy

The Story of Berry & Josh

a film by DIRECTOR JULIANNE NEAL



NEW DOCUMENTARY FOCUSING ON A YOUNG BOY WITH DOWN SYNDROME AND HIS PONY An award-winning heartwarming story about an 8-year-old boy with Down Syndrome and a very special little 28-year-old pony. Directed by: Julianne Neal / 25 minutes "A Pony And His Boy" has been selected to screen at the National Down Syndrome Congress in June. "A Pony and His Boy: The Story of Berry & Josh" directed by Julianne Neal, shows the power of a pony and the effect that he has had on one small boy. Josh, an 8-year-old with Down Syndrome, had been afraid of animals, and especially horses all of his life. One summer afternoon, when walking in the pasture full of horses with his mom and Lisa, Josh was asked "Do you want to ride?" When he surprisingly said yes, they caught him off-guard, swept him up and placed him on Berry. The relationship that started between Berry and Josh that day has been life-changing, not only for Josh, but for everyone who loves him.

Filmed in Illinois, North and South Carolina, plus featuring heartfelt testimonials and informative interviews, "A Pony and His Boy" is a testament to the power of the horse.

WINNIE Award winner in New York City!

EQUUS Film Festival is proud of our partnership with Director Julianne Neal who has helped to create the Spotlight Rescue Series. We are working together to bring the issues facing horses today to the world through documentaries. Collaborating as well to highlight some of the wonderful stories of horses helping people. The new film "A Pony And

His Boy", is one of those stories. Many people have now found the wonderful power of horses to help break through the silence of Autism and the pain of PTSD. This film addresses Down Syndrome and the power of horses to help us connect. Berry, the pony star of the film, teaches us that even though a pony may be old it doesn't mean he can't find a new job and be loved.

ABOUT FILMMAKER JULIANNE NEAL

Julianne Neal Julianne Neal, Organizer of the CAMDEN Tour Stop is the owner of JA Media Connections LLC, a production company out of South Carolina. She is a graduate of the Director's Program of the Manhattan Film Institute. As an educator and the Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts for the Fairfield County School District, she enjoys engaging students in the filmmaking process, giving them hands-on experience in production. Through Arts in The Basic Curriculum and Distinguished Arts Program Awards over the past decade, the district's arts department has partnered with the Student Services to enhance opportunities in the arts for students with special needs. Julianne also partners with Bruce Anderson to provide services for Nature's View, Inc. and The Marley Project, a non-profit 501(c) (3) dedicated to equine awareness and education through the arts.

For more about their programs, visit www.naturesview.usor www.jamediaconnections.com
Contact Julianne at julianneneal@me.com

an interview with **JULIE MARTIN**
by **MIRIAM LUCERO**

Julie Martin, you're Josh's mother and Josh is diagnosed with down-syndrome. Would you share who Josh is, his likes and dislikes? How he met Berry?

Joshua, aka Josh (he now likes to be called Josh) is an amazing 8 year old boy who was born having a very special extra chromosome. Josh has Down syndrome. However, Down syndrome does not define him. To us he is a typical, smart, loving, handsome boy full of energy, and loves to be center of attention.

Josh has a great energy for people...mainly the DUDES as he would say. He is happy, and very stubborn all at once. He is very active, on the go and athletic. Josh love basketball, swimming, playing with his friends, and now, most of all, riding his pony Berry. There isn't many things that Josh doesn't like.

The documentary/movie, "A Pony and His Boy" is The Story of Berry & Josh. Julie, how would you describe the relationship between Berry & Josh when he first started riding, and now? What significant change/growth has been the most impactful for Josh?

Josh met Berry, basically as a baby, at my step Mom's, Lisa Diersen's, Lusitano Farm. However, early on Josh had developed a huge fear of all animals, so we no longer went to the farm to visit the horses for about 6 years. He would tremble anywhere new we would go and not want to go in because he thought everyone had dogs...and if they did, I would just have to invite to our home, or just go to friends without him. All this took place while we ourselves had two dogs. Josh did grow to love our Jack Russel, Spike, as he grew, and he always was standoffish with our English Bull dog, Lily.

As he got older, I began bringing him to the farm again as I was helping to break the baby, Lusitano's. He would stay as far away from the barn and horses as possible, slowly after about a year's time getting closer and closer. Even as little and gentle Berry was to him, he was still afraid.

Then one day it happened. In April of 2018 he gave Berry his first kiss as he was amongst a couple of his best friends and saw them with Berry. And the BIGGEST MOMENT was the connection made on May 25, 2018...Josh asked "ME RIDE Berry" as we were walking amongst him and the other horses in the pasture.

So Lisa Diersen and I scooped up Josh and threw him up there onto Berry. Didn't let a second go by to let Josh think about it. Mind you, Berry also hadn't had anyone on his back for about 15 YEARS. The connection they both made was a memory I will NEVER forget. Josh also gave Berry a new life, a new purpose. And they have been best friends since.



ABOUT THE EQUUS FILM FESTIVAL

The sixth annual EQUUS Film Festival took place November 29 -December 2, 2018 in New York City and is the first event of its kind to offer a home to the storytellers of the horse world, with films, documentaries, videos, commercials and shorts from around the world and cultural elements of fine equestrian art and literature.

Founded in 2013 by Lisa Diersen, Director/Organizer, and an avid equestrian, who has spent her life in the company of horses. The festival was joined by Diana De Rosa, and international equine photographer and journalist in 2015, as Co-Organizer of the NYC Festival. The EQUUS Film Festival highlights and rewards the diverse and creative efforts of those who pay artistic homage to the horse. Lisa's mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities or disabilities. She presently raises, trains and loves Lusitano horses in Maple Park, Illinois.

The EQUUS Film Festival is now available ON-DEMAND, streaming to all your devices.

For more information contact:

Lisa Diersen, Founder/Director -lisa@equusfilmfestival.net, 630-272-3077.

Visit our website at:<http://www.equusfilmfestival.net/>and ourFaceBookpage.



AZ Chef's & Farmer's Helping Foster Kids Cook

by JEN BRUGGER, SCOTT FOUNDATION VISION PARTNER

GratITUDE and selflessness are two ingredients for community and lasting happiness. When you put yourself aside, when you think about the contribution that you can make to others and start making our world a better place, you allow yourself to start behaving in a way which brings purpose into your life. It's about realizing that life isn't just about your own needs, but rather looking out for others well-being.

That is exactly what happened at the TasteAbout Arizona's Chef Challenge on May 2, 2019, where country recording artist Shari Rowe and an all-star team of Arizona's favorite artisan chefs and farmers paired up with Scott Foundation foster youth to create a culinary experience for the guests and kids that also raised funds for their growing Culinary & Agriculture Programs.

Organized by Chef Brett Vibber of Cartwright's Modern Cuisine, Chef David Duarte of The Social on 83rd, Chef Tamara Stanger of Cotton & Copper and Chef Jason Alford of Bulthaupt [lab] Scottsdale, donations were made by ten farms and ranches across the state starting with Agave Farms, who hosted the event at their location, Mountain Sky Farms, Rhiba Farms, Ramona Farms, Crow's Dairy, The Farm at South Mountain, Date Creek Ranch, Adams Natural Meats, La Campagna Homestead and Steadfast Farms.

What felt like a family reunion, farmers, restaurant staff and volunteers poured into the event to help these kids realize their self-worth and their plans to make the world better than they found it. Building a Culture of Community, chefs and farmers worked side-by-side to prepare and serve a 5-course plated dinner to 250+ guests that came



to support their growing culinary and agriculture programs. Here kids soaked up a kind of wisdom more useful with hands-on real-life content as they have big plans to be in service of those in need along the way.

This was not just a one day event as these kids worked for several months with each of these chefs, learned to forage nature's bounty, learned to shuck oysters, food safety, the importance of ingredients, presentation, collaboration in the kitchen and the sense of family and friends around the table. These lessons and more will carry with them for a lifetime.

Scott Foundation has big aspirations and a different path for Arizona foster youth. We imagine a journey that changes the face of humanity and inspires our kids to be their absolute best today while making tomorrow's world a much better place for all. We imagine an education and societal system focused on the power of community rather than competition; and we imagine a world where children are taught, we are not separate, but instead, we are all a part of something much bigger than ourselves - we are one.



With events like this one we change the statistics and give everyone hope and shift our way of thinking. We sincerely thank our community for the support given to our growing Thought & Service Leaders. Together we are raising the vibration of community that is providing love, peer support and senses of family; a new way of thinking which supports each other while quietly rendering the present foster care system obsolete.

Scott Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the 4-year future of Arizona foster youth who wish to make the world better than they found it. Serving kids for 12+ years, Scott Foundation has impacted the lives of 6,000+ kids and have redirected over \$763K In-Kind gifts to those in need while teaching mindful selfless service. The foundation produces year-round experiential programming that highlights, inspires and educate youth on the importance of developing inner-wealth, while mindfully developing their heart and purposeful career path through selfless service.

Special Thanks to Wire-2-Wire Golf, Mission Linen Supply, Pillsbury Wine, Dulce Vida Organic Tequila, Frankly Organic Vodka, I Am Watrrr www.watrrr.com, Uncle Bear's Brewery Taproom & Yard and Horse & Agriculture Magazine.

Jen Brugger, Scott Foundation Vision Partner



No hope, life, or path
Fully me, strong, accepted
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SERVING ARIZONA FOSTER YOUTH

EDUCATION OF SELF, SELFLESS SERVICE, CAREER & TRANSITION

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THOUGHT & SERVICE LEADERS**

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Country Recording Artist Jackson Michelson

The Big Thing, It's A Country Thing

by MIRIAM LUCERO with JACKSON MICHELSON

What do you feel is the best song you've ever released and why?

My favorite song I've released at this point in my career is "Down By The River". It tells the story of growing up in a town with a river running through middle of it, and life revolving around it. From catching my first fish to a first kiss & eventually being baptized in the river. The song has a lot of meaning to me & the co-writers who wrote it with me. And it ends with an anthem of "Down by the River" & is really fun to play live.

Jackson, you have developed your own sound, which has some cool hooks and riffs. I hear a Jackson Michelson signature sound. Who are your music influences? Who is producing your music?

I grew up loving soul music (Sam Cooke, Al Green, Ray Charles) and Country music (Collin Raye, Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks). Justin Ebach is producing my music. He's written songs like "Sleep Without You" for Brett Young & "Good Girl" for Dustin Lynch. He is co-producing with the legend Jim Ed Norman. Jim Ed has worked with countless artists from Hank Jr. to the Eagles. We are getting a really cool sound and look forward to putting new music out in June!

Jackson, you're a very creative songwriter. You write with a positive, feel good, put it out there style. Where do you get your inspiration? Favorite place to write?

Thank you! I get my inspiration from all sorts of places. My own life as well as the lives of the songwriters I co-write with. I consider it an honor and responsibility to not only put my life to music, but the lives of millions of other people who don't have the lyrics and melodies to sing their stories also. My favorite place to write is in the studio. I love to write and build the music as we are writing the song, it really

captures the energy.

Jackson, I've listened to "Rollin", "Boys Will", and "Down by The River". I really like "Down by The River". They are fan favorite songs. If you can have your fans remember one thing about you, what would it be?

I want my fans to remember that I want to connect with them. I'm not an artist that wants to play a song at a show and have people clap because they watched me. I want them to connect with me & participate in the show and know that my music once it's released belongs to them as well.

Your new song "One at A Time", is releasing soon. Would you share with our readers about this song?

My new song "One at a Time" is being released in June! I wrote this one with an idea to create a feel good story of a boy and a girl taking everything "One at a Time". From every second in a minute, to every backroad, to every kiss. Slowing it down and soaking it in. Our world moves so fast and it's a good reminder that there's something special about taking things as they come. And the song feels upbeat and fun!

Jackson, you're performing at The Big Sting, It's A Country Thing in Prescott, Arizona Oct 10-13, 2019! Which is always a great event! What type of performance can the audience expect? Is there a favorite artist you would like to perform with? Why?

I can't wait to perform at The Big Sting! The audience can expect my band and I to bring a high energy, fun, engaging show. We'll make some memories and enjoy some good country music together in Prescott! I love AZ. If I could tour with anybody right now it would be Keith Urban. The reigning Entertainer of the Year just keeps getting better. I've opened for him at a few festivals and it has always inspired me. Not only do I love his music, but he puts on a wild live show.

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Craig Morgan
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Yavapai Humane Society Executive Director Rich McClish

by MIRIAM LUCERO with RICH McCLISH



Left to right:
Christine Campbell,
Rich McClish, Brandi Baker
and Matt Bourgoin



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Tell me about what problems Yavapai Humane Society program/services solves?

For close to 50 years, the primary mission for the Yavapai Humane Society (YHS) is find forever homes for lost, injured and unwanted dogs and cats. We fulfill our mission through the services provided within fourteen core programs ranging from low cost dog & cat spay/neuter to equine intake, assessment, and placement.

Can you tell me about a specific adoption that touched your heart?

Every forever home adoption is unique and special. During the "meet & greet" phase of the adoption process, one will observe that initial magical connection that is formed between the Adopter and their future dog, cat, or horse. It's truly a "love at first sight" moment - and that warm feeling of making a difference radiates throughout everyone involved.

What was their life like before they began working with you?

The life of an animal prior to entering the Humane Society ranges from heavenly to down right unspeakable. We have situations where a wonderful pet owner passes away and their beloved furry companion is lost in sadness which makes it extremely difficult to look them straight in their eyes because we can't immediately ease their pain. In the end - our Staff and Volunteers shower all our animals with compassion and love.

With so many great organizations to support, why should others choose to support Yavapai Humane Society?

I feel that humans have a deep need to connect with nature. Animals provide that connection and the consequence of that bond usually gen-

erates balance and serenity on one's life. Supporting YHS not only helps our animals but more importantly the people in our community.

What was the biggest challenge you were facing?

Just like any other non-profit, one of the biggest challenges we face is funding. About 50% of our total revenue is dependent on contributions from donors and grants. This revenue stream is extremely unpredictable, so it makes it hard to rely on long-term strategy and business goals - basically it keeps me up at night!

What did you do to try to solve this challenge?

Contributions from donations and grants will come in as long as we are effectively fulfilling our mission and communicating the impact of our efforts back to our financial supporters. I think it is critical that YHS continues to be a client centric organization. It is also important that we fulfill the needs of our community and that we strengthen our relationships with other animal welfare organizations.

What attracted you to this cause?

I have been very fortunate because animals have always been a big part of my life. Growing up I had dogs, cats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, etc... so I can't imagine a life without a pet. When I met my wife, Jacquie, back in 1990 we quickly bonded because of our love for nature and our need to have four legged furry friends in our life. We never had children, so our pets became our babies. Working at YHS is an absolute blessing because I am surrounded by animals and a wonderful staff and tireless volunteers. In the end, the work at YHS is about increasing generosity in our community through the care that we provide our dogs, cats, and horses.

How has this changed you? How is your family adjusting to Prescott, Arizona?

Prior to moving to Prescott in 2016, Jacquie and I were vacationing here on an annual basis for at least 10 years. When we were deciding to move from Los Angeles, it was either to come here or go live on the big island of Hawaii. I'm so glad that we ended up here in Prescott. After living in CA for over 50 years, I'm still trying to acclimate to the colder winters and the summer monsoons. Plus, two of my three dogs do not appreciate the tremendous thunderstorms that come through during the monsoon season.

What do you think other people should know about YHS?

The non-profit sector is notoriously bad about self-promoting. I think most of the community does not have any idea of the great things that are accomplished each day at YHS. We have been here for close to 50



years and during the last 15 years we have increased our animal live release rate from 60% to 95%. We are saving so many more dogs and cats because of the great work conducted by our operations, behavior, and medical teams. But this compassion-based work does come at a substantial financial price.

What is on the horizon for the YHS Equine Center, Thrift Store, Spay & Neuter Wellness Center, and Dog/Cat Adoption Center?

No matter what location from which we serve our community, we must be diligent that we're abiding to our mission, that we're meeting our client's needs, and that we're leveraging every dollar towards the care of our animals. For the remaining portion of 2019 - the goal is to continue improving our operational efficiencies and customer service while spreading the love in our community through our animals.



www.yavapaihumane.org

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Western Couture! Julie Ewing Designs

by MIRIAM LUCERO with JULIE EWING

Julie Ewing, you're an amazing designer! Tell our readers the fabrics that you use?

The length of time to design a gown? I love specialty fabrics, especially beaded and/or sequin lace mixed with deer or lamb skin. And of course I love feathers!!! And Mongolian fur and shearling. Whatever gives more texture, interest and balance to a design is what speaks to me. My designs can take anywhere from twenty to two hundred plus hours to bring to completion.

What is new for this season? Colors? New Purse designs?

This season I am working with some very bold colors and will be implementing a few surprises into my designs. I also have a rather whimsical handbag with a western theme that is in the works along with the first of a series of T-shirt designs using some of my artwork.

Julie Ewing, you're living in Santa Fe, New Mexico now. Has the area inspired you to create new designs or expand your line?

Living now in Santa Fe I not only have the perfect studio to work in, but the weather, the landscapes, the galleries, the architecture, and other artists giving me such incredible inspiration. With New Mexico's magnificent beauty it exudes such inspiration for creating pieces to be photographed as art. These capture the essence of who I am as a designer at this point in my life.

Julie, you always have fantastic models, Jewelry, and photographers. Would you share who they're, and there special talent?

I have been blessed to have worked with several incredible photographers, models and jewelry artists. They are tagged on my Instagram page so others are able to contact them.

Our female readers, some of them may want a Julie Ewing Design Couture Western gown! What is the first step in designing for a new client? What time length do you need to complete the gown? Jacket?

Depending upon my workload and the project asked for, custom orders can take anywhere from 4 weeks to several months to complete.

How can our readers reach you?

For anyone interested in custom work, I can be reached at 512.581.1448 or message me through Facebook or Instagram under J. Ewing Designs.



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When Will She Foal?

by BERNIE TURNER



From the moment your mare became pregnant her body started undergoing changes, but were not noticeable. The average gestation period for a mare is 340 days so counting eleven months plus 5 to 7 days will determine her delivery date.

The first change in the mare is that she will stop having heat cycles, although I have had mares showing heat but were pregnant when my

vet did an ultrasound on them.

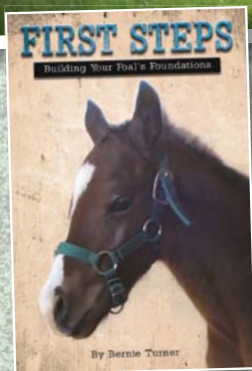
About five months into the pregnancy you will notice a fullness in the mares flank and her mid-section will sag a little. If you place your palm against her flank you may feel a fluttering sensation. You might see slight movements beneath her skin especially if she drinks cool water. The fullness and movement will intensify as her pregnancy progresses.

Because the fetus grows slowly during the first eight months, it is not necessary to significantly increase the mares feed. But you want to be sure her diet contains the adequate vitamins and minerals to support the foal developing muscle and bone structure. It is also important to keep the mare current on vaccinations and worming as well as regular hoof trimming to keep her balanced as her body changes with her pregnancy. A Rhino vaccination is recommended on the 5th, 7th and 9th month to prevent abortion of the fetus should the mare come in contact with horse who may be carrying Rhino virus. If it is possible try to keep her away from any new horses or surroundings.

Beginning with the 9th month and until she foals you may gradually increase the amount of hay you give the mare. It is not necessary to increase her grain intake but adding a warm wet bran mash will give her more fiber to prevent colic.

At the start of the 11th month she will look very pregnant. The muscles around her tail and head will be soft and her vulva will be very relaxed. Her udder will be fuller and drops of colostrum may form on the ends of her teats. This is called "waxing" and the appearance of these drops usually means the mare will foal within 24-72 hours. However, some mares do not wax before they foal so it is very important to keep a constant eye on her as labor could begin at any time.

I wrap the mares' tail to keep it out of the way when she delivers her foal. I also make sure her stall is prepared so I'm ready when she is. A small pile of straw in the center of her stall should encourage her to stay away from the walls when she starts foaling. Now you can just relax and wait for the arrival of that special foal.



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In Memory of Bruno Guiraldelli

by **LAUREN C. EBERT**

photography by **LAUREN C. EBERT**



"Grief, I've learned, is really just love. It's all the love you want to give but cannot. All of that unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and that hollow part of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go". -Unknown

When someone whose life shone so bright unexpectedly dimmers, it leaves a burned edge, raw and tender in the hearts of the people who loved them. Bruno Guiraldelli was a bright light. A light that dimmed too quickly. For many involved in horses especially the Arabian Horse Community, Bruno was known as the guy with the million dollar smile. Not just a trainer with titles and endowments, but a man whose heart truly couldn't get any bigger. The guy who had passion.

I could sit here behind my keyboard and be a champion of compliments but I can't do that. I choose to remember. To remember and smile. For everyone who has ever lost anyone instead I offer this. Memories are the only thing we can hold onto. The essence of things, people, good times that were shared. Robert Frost said it best, "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life, it goes on." When I think about Bruno, I know he would not simply whisper those words, he would smile and laugh and say, "Life goes on!"

He wouldn't want tears or sadness. He wouldn't want a shadow over his memory. Someday when my road has been travelled and I come to the end, I will tell Bruno and many others who touched my life, that while it was a long road without them, they were never forgotten. Rest in peace Bruno.



Gowns & Crowns

by MIRIAM LUCERO with LAUREN C. EBERT

Photography by LAUREN C. EBERT



Lauren C Ebert, you're the photographer behind the **Gowns & Crowns** production. Please share with our readers about this production?

The length of time to shoot? After the success of my Vikings shoot last year I knew I had high expectations this year. I knew I wanted a shoot that dripped with romance and drew the eye to tiny details. The planning phase took about six months to complete. I still hadn't found a suitable location until about three weeks before the shoot, I was starting to get nervous!!! Everyone arrived at 7am to prep for hair and makeup and we were done around 2:00 in the afternoon.

Who are the cast members, horses, and who came up with the theme of Gowns & Crowns?

I am blessed with crazy fun friends who are always up for adventure. When I started to put together the details for this shoot repeat models and behind the scenes folks were hands down all in. My dear friend and second shooter and impromptu model, Meaghan Estes, flew up from Texas for the weekend. I will add that she took little to no convincing to come, she heard "photos, horses, and fun" and she was in!

Second year model and the only man in the shoot Poli Kalugin flew down from Alaska. Margaret Keers, owner of the beautiful grey Andalusian Stallion in the shoot had a short three hour drive that she shared with Kara Hagerman who owns the darling Andalusian gelding you see my youngest daughter Kestyn mounted on in the shoot. Two of the teenagers, Payton and Nevaeh who are also my daughters, jumped at the opportunity to model alongside their close friend Natallie Hammons whose red hair was perfect for this shoot! Also repeat models, Brandi, Heidi and Tara Chambers are sisters that are close enough to me that I call them family.

Our second man in the shoot Jerret Kiser was tragically injured the night before the shoot and unable to participate, however I was sure to Photoshop him into some spoof photos and we all got a chuckle out of it. We had two stallions featured this year. Andalusian Stallion Licenciat ridden by his own



er Margaret and Arabian outcrossed cremello Stallion Hotshot, owned by Dawn Visser. We had three darling geldings, Sherman a dapple grey, Paris also a second year model with a glossy red coat and a large Draft cross who was absolutely swoon worthy. Stealing the spotlight was a darling mini horse who lived on location at BarnStar Events location.

The props, make up, and the gowns are gorgeous! Would you share about the location, and the behind the scenes of people involved in this production?

I spent many hours scouring thrift shops, hot gluing and sewing those costumes together! The real details that made this shoot amazing, were the CROWNS!!! Last year Christina Sparks, owner and creator of Limes Twisted wires, created pieces for us in the Viking Shoot. We got together and chatted about my vision for Crowns and boy did she deliver! On deck for hair and makeup was once again talented stylist Tianna Bergmann. This girl has a pension for artistry when it comes to hair and makeup!

Our behind the scenes videographer, Tanner Tovar did an epic job in producing a video that really captured the feel of this shoot! My copilots for organizing and the reason for behind the scenes efficiency were Lara McAlpine and my sister Danielle Pulido. A dear friend Chelsey Wood in charge of all things Equestrian ran the shuffling of horses like a boss! If ever there was a location where magic could happen, it is Barnstar! As I mentioned, I was struggling to find a place with an air of romance that fit into this scheme I had in my head. Chelsey mentioned to me a gal named Rebecca Miller, owner of Barnstar Events. I went to tour the property and instantly wished I could redo my own wedding at this amazing venue! I knew this place was the place I had been hoping for!

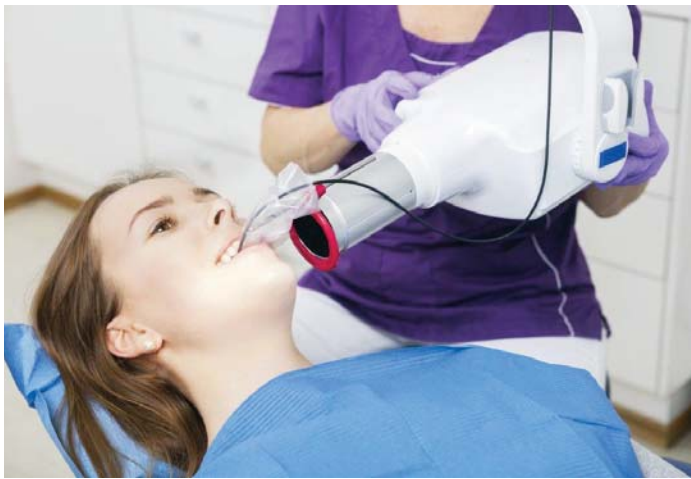
Lauren, you're an amazing photographer! Share with our readers some of your techniques in photographing horses, and people?

As always you're too kind! I have many photographers I look up to and model my own style after. I recommend good lighting and I love having sunlight to work with. Be sure not to set models in direct sunlight as the sun can cast harsh shadows. Don't be afraid to get dirty and lay down on the ground! Try something new! We tried out smoke bombs this year, it was a bit of a disaster but we did manage to get a few cool shots out of it! Be sure to count horse's strides when they are running or trotting so you can be sure to catch that moment their feet lift off the ground!

Lauren you're a mom to equestrian daughters, a photographer, and an equestrian yourself. How do you balance your life? How important are horses in your life?

At the heart of it, I am just a Mom and Wife doing her best. Some days I do less than my best and I try to make up for it later. Some weekends are jam packed with horse shows and family obligations. With four kids there is no shortage of obligation. I've had periods of my life where horses took front and center and periods where they were in the horizon. The thing about the love for horses is that it doesn't go away just because you're busy. It sits. Warming its self in your heart until you can find the time to ride or simply spend an extra ten minutes in the barn feeding or grooming. I think the important thing to remember is to do your best and forget the rest.





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by SHAWNA HENSLEE

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Cliff Schadt, Jr. 2019 Arizona Horseman's Challenge Champion!

Photography by JOYCE TANNER

The Arizona Horseman's Challenge & Expo congratulates Cliff Schadt, Jr. On his win. The trainers that participated this year were a very talented group from a diverse field of training. The judges had their work cut out for them, and at the end of a great weekend of training, Cliff Schadt, Jr. was awarded the championship.

The BLM mustang mares that ranged in age from 3-6 years, benefited from having 8 hours of training, and they were adopted out at the Florence holding facility. Three days of the Arizona Horseman's Challenge & Expo not only hosted the Arizona Horseman's Challenge Colt Starting Competition, but were also filled with more than 50 clinics, and riding participation clinics with leading experts in their fields. If you missed it this year, mark your calendars for next year, April 17, 18 and 19, 2020 at Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre in Queen Creek, Az.



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