



## EVENTS

Jan. 14

**Cowboy Boot Camp saddle & tack workshop**

More info: 310-377-8834

*Cowboy Boot Camp*

Jan. 14-15

**Interscholastic Equestrian League horse show**

More info: ocie@cox.net

*Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park*

Jan. 21

**Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival**  
*Empty Saddle Club*

Jan. 23

**Equestrian committee meeting**  
*Rolling Hills Estates City Hall*

*Send events to pvpha2010@gmail.com.*



FACEBOOK

### Equestrian community memorializes

**Annamay Naef:** Read about the trail ride held in honor of Peninsula High School student and local rider Annamay Naef in this issue's news briefs.

### ALSO INSIDE

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## Rolling Hills Estates to install new arena, bleachers at Ernie Howlett Park

by NICOLE MOORADIAN  
DISPATCH EDITOR

The city of Rolling Hills Estates will use some of its Quimby funds to install a new arena for lunging and warming up as well as new bleachers at Ernie Howlett Park.

Quimby funds are park fees paid to the city by developers. They must be used for capital projects and cannot be used for ongoing maintenance.

According to a notice in the winter edition of the RHE newsletter, the new arena, measuring 65 feet by 85 feet, will be located on a former storage deck near the city's maintenance yard at the park. The new bleachers will be installed at the equestrian center's viewing area.

Once finished, local riders can use the arena to lunge, turn out and warm up their horses during regular park hours, according to the city. The



CITY OF ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
**Ernie Howlett Park currently features three "regular" riding arenas and a dressage arena.**

arena will also serve as a warm-up area during horse shows.

The city expects the projects to be completed by July 2012, hopefully in time for the annual Las Amigas equestrian competition.

Currently, Ernie Howlett Park features a small barn, three riding arenas, a dressage arena and a grandstand area, according to the Rolling Hills Estates website. **U**

## Jan. meeting is Poetry Festival

by NICOLE MOORADIAN  
DISPATCH EDITOR

Remember, there will not be an "official" January general meeting for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association. Members are encouraged to attend the 15th annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival at the Empty Saddle Club on Jan. 21, instead. For more details on the event, see the news briefs on Page 2. **U**



RUTH SOBECK / FACEBOOK

Horses and riders gather at the Rolling Hills General Store at the end of the Annamay Naef memorial trail ride.

NEWS BRIEFS

**Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival to celebrate 15th birthday**

The annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival will be held at the Empty Saddle Club at 6 p.m. Jan. 21.

Enjoy homemade chili and cornbread before the entertainment begins at 7 p.m.

The event will feature amazing musicians like Pat Bolen, The Cross Town Cowboys, Kathy Stowe, and Steve Deming and the New Westernaires, as well as poets Wanda Smith, Janice Lukstein, Charlene O’Neil and Steve Deming, among others.

**Annamay Naef memorial trail ride raises funds for Ride to Fly**

The Annamay Naef memorial trail ride, held in honor of a well-known local rider and Peninsula High School student, attracted about two dozen riders Dec. 18 and raised more than \$100 for Annamay’s favorite charity, Ride to Fly.

The riders left Ernie Howlett Park at about 9 a.m., and at the end of the ride, participants enjoyed refreshments provided by the Naef family.

“Thank you all who came to remember Annamay, riders and friends,” Heinz Naef, Annamay’s father, wrote on the event’s Facebook page. “Special thanks go to Kelsey and Katie for putting it together. Looking forward to seeing you next year.”

**Orange County IEL looks to season’s final shows**

The Interscholastic Equestrian League in Orange County, which sponsors horse shows for students in elementary, middle and high school, will host its final shows on Jan. 14 and 15.

Results from the shows were unavailable at press time.

*News briefs are generally 2-3 short paragraphs. To submit a news brief, email the text to pvpha2010@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to not include briefs and to edit briefs for length and clarity. U*

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**FROM THE EDITOR: I NEED YOUR HELP**

As you may have noticed, this month’s *Dispatch* is only eight pages instead of the usual 12. This is because I simply don’t have enough content. This is where you come in. Do you have a horse care tip? Did you take home a ribbon at your last show? Got a great recipe for horse treats? Want to express an opinion on an equestrian issue? Have a clinic to put on the calendar? Send it to pvpha2010@gmail.com, and I include it in a future issue.

—Nicole Mooradian

# Opinion: Slaughter sometimes humane option

*Local veterinarian Dr. Ruth Sobeck argues that horse slaughter may not be as horrific as many believe.*

by **RUTH SOBECK**  
SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

*Editor's note: Dr. Ruth Sobeck posted a version of this essay on her Facebook wall in response to Erin Ryan's opinion piece on horse slaughter. (See "Opinion: Save horses from slaughter," December 2011.) With her permission, it is reproduced here. It has been edited for punctuation, grammar and clarity.*

The slaughter issue is not about our horses going to slaughter. These are unwanted horses—people have already demonstrated that they don't care about them. There are not enough people with the desire nor resources to save them all. Slaughter within our borders seems to be a more humane option than what these horses are otherwise subjected to.

Even "humane" euthanasia is becoming a thing of the

past. In some regions, the barbiturates commonly used to euthanize horses are considered an environmental hazard because contaminated carcasses may put wildlife at risk. Some rendering facilities are refusing bodies with pentobarbital. In those places death by bullet or captive bolt—the same method of death used in a slaughterhouse—may be the only options. To wit, now the only argument becomes one of the distaste we may have for horse meat.

I realize many argue that the horses are frightened by the screaming and the smell of blood and death. I would argue that this scenario is a made-up one.

First, we often subject our horses to new and frightening situations, such as the first ride, the first haul, the first overnight at a show.

Second, as a veterinarian, I routinely find myself in the situation of needing to euthanize a horse in front of other horses at a stable. It is rare that the other horses even

*See 'Horse slaughter,' Page 4.*

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## Horse slaughter: Vet responds to December *Dispatch* article

*Continued from Page 3.*

appear to notice that one of their own has just fallen to the ground and died. Should they do anything at all, the typical response is a lifting of the head for a few seconds before resuming whatever they were doing at the time.

While I have never shot a horse to death before, veterinarians that have describe the death as instant and far less disturbing (other than the noise) than the lethal injection. Captive bolt is essentially the same process. To say that the procedure can be “messed up” puts it in the same category as chemical euthanasia—I’ve had those go badly myself.

I don’t think I can change anyone’s mind on the issue, but just please realize that it’s not my horse or your horse that is going to the kill pen by the recent passage of a bill to re-fund inspectors for slaughterhouses, essentially legalizing horse slaughter in the U.S. once again. Every single one of us that has an opinion on the issue—whether for or against—clearly has his or her own humane plan in place for his or her own horses. It’s the other horses that are headed for slaughter. U

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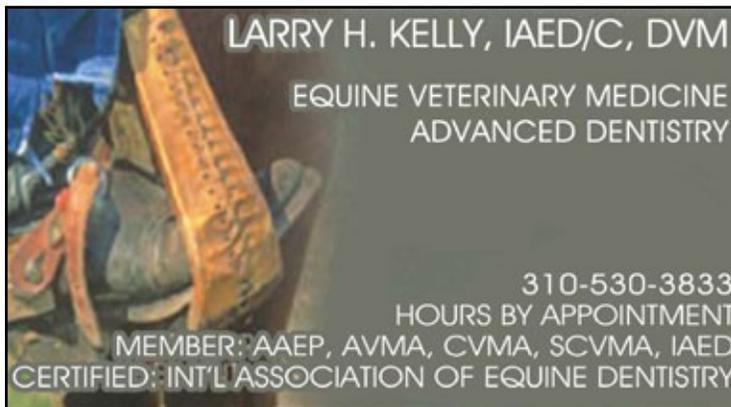
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*Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.*

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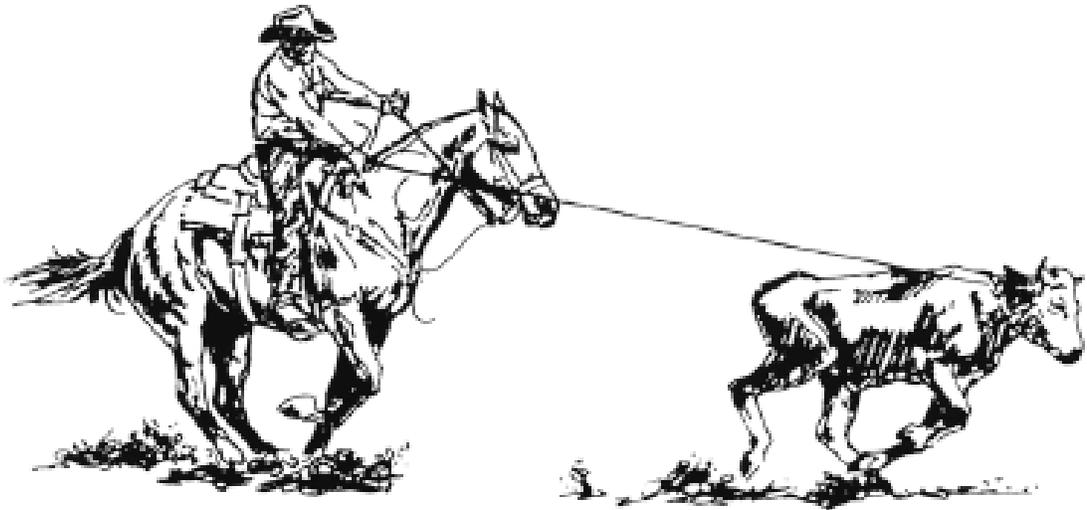


**POETRY!!!**



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