



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 18

**PVPHA general meeting**  
*Empty Saddle Club*

April 28

**Patrick Spanton jumping clinic**  
Info: 310-377-3507  
*Portuguese Bend Riding Club*

May 4

**Ride to Fly fundraiser**  
*Empty Saddle Club*

May 4

**Annamay Memorial Gymkhana**  
*Empty Saddle Club*

May 5

**ETI Corral 8 horse show**  
*Ernie Howlett Park*

May 11

**RHE Mayor's Breakfast Ride**  
*Ernie Howlett Park*

May 19

**LSAC horse show**  
*Ernie Howlett Park*

*Events listed here are not necessarily sponsored or endorsed by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association. If you would like an event included, send the information to pvpha2010@gmail.com.*

## Local woman saves 'Baby Angel,' a premature miniature horse

by **JOHN SCHREIBER**  
PALOS VERDES PATCH

A Rolling Hills Estates woman who saved a premature miniature horse from certain death is now asking for the public's help in covering some of the filly's medical bills.

At the beginning of March, Deborah Melzak Gorney rescued a grown female miniature horse from a "bad situation" and was told by the previous owners that the horse was simply fat and not actually pregnant.

To Melzak Gorney's surprise, on March 6, the miniature horse delivered a premature baby girl in her backyard barn.

"When she delivered that tiny little filly in my barn and I saw the tiny baby laying on the cold ground not

moving, just shivering, I wrapped her in a blanket and held her in my arms until the vet came," Melzak Gorney recalled.

After a 6-hour visit from the veterinarian, it became clear that the newborn would die unless it was rushed to an equine hospital intensive care unit. The filly—who Melzak Gorney named "Baby Angel"—was brought to the Chino Valley Equine Hospital where she was put on a steady drip of plasma and antibiotics for more than two weeks.

"We could not afford this, but we just could not let this poor innocent baby die," Melzak Gorney said. "I really can't explain it but it was like a miracle that happened in my barn—the miracle of life—and even though

*See 'Baby Angel,' Page 8.*

NEXT PVPHA GENERAL MEETING: APRIL 18

## April meeting: Wylene returns

by **NICOLE MOORADIAN**  
DISPATCH EDITOR

Trainer and Extreme Mustang Makeover winner Wylene Wilson will be back in Palos Verdes the week of April 14, and she'll be at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association general meeting on April 18.

Wilson will be available to answer members' questions on horse behavior, training and more. For more information on her training philosophy, visit her website at [wylenewilson.com](http://wylenewilson.com).

As a reminder, the Empty Saddle Club requests that meeting attendees leave their dogs at home. **U**

### ALSO INSIDE

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**Grant sought for trainer's medical expenses**

Devon Gibson, a trainer at Seahorse Stables, sustained a serious injury after a fall from a horse at Thermal in February. She is currently in an acute rehabilitation facility in San Pedro.

Because her medical costs exceed her insurance coverage, Gibson is applying for a grant from the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association to pay for medical care.

"We are requesting people who know her or know her by reputation to write letters to the (USHJA) supporting her request for grant funding," according to a flier distributed by Carol Porter at the Rolling Hills Estates Equestrian Committee meeting.

Letters should be sent to the address below. USHJA members should include their membership number. Emails will not be accepted.

USHJA

Attn: Leslie Mangan  
3870 Cigar Lane  
Lexington, KY 40511

**Annamay Naef Memorial Gymkhana, Ride to Fly fundraiser set for May 4**

Both the Annamay Naef Memorial Gymkhana and Ride to Fly Country Carnival and Silent Auction fundraiser will take place at the Empty Saddle Club on May 4.

The gymkhana, which is held in honor of local teen Annamay Naef, who died in a car accident in 2011, will begin at 9 a.m. and feature five events—Birangle, Big-T, Skill Barrels, Hurry Scurry and Cloverleaf Barrels—in schooling and speed divisions for different age groups. There will also be a leadline division with Birangle, Big-T and Skill Barrels events.

Entry fees for the schooling and speed divisions range from \$40-\$50, depending on when they're submitted. Leadline entry fees range from \$20-\$25.

Ribbons will be awarded for first to sixth place, and prizes and high-point awards will be given in the speed divisions. Leadline participants will receive a ribbon and "fun bag."

Money raised in the gymkhana will be donated to Ride to Fly, Annamay's favorite charity.

The Ride to Fly includes lunch, a raffle, a silent auction, children's games, pony rides, line dancing and live country music from the Merchants of Moonshine.

For more information on the gymkhana, visit [martinperformancehorses.com](http://martinperformancehorses.com). More information on the Ride to Fly event can be found at [ridetofly.com](http://ridetofly.com).

*Do you have something important or special to announce? Submit a news brief to the Dispatch! News briefs are generally about 100 words. Submissions may be edited for spelling, grammar, space and style. To submit a news brief, email [pvpaha2010@gmail.com](mailto:pvpaha2010@gmail.com). U*

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## Rancho Palos Verdes may reinstate equestrian committee

by NICOLE MOORADIAN  
PALOS VERDES PATCH

The Rancho Palos Verdes City Council may consider reinstating the city's equestrian committee this month, officials said.

Members of the city council initially discussed reinstating the committee during the Jan. 15 study session at the suggestion of Councilman Anthony Misetich.

"Rancho Palos Verdes has enough horse enthusiasts to qualify these individuals as a group having unique needs within the community that should be addressed and recognized by the city," Misetich wrote in a memo to council.

He also noted that the committee could address issues involving local trails, such as tension between the cycling, horse and hiking communities over trails in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve.

The council directed staff to

place the item on a future agenda.

The item, tentatively scheduled for the April 16 council agenda, will also include a discussion of a broad public lands focus group.

Misetich's memo to the rest of the council recommends that a five-member committee meet one or two times per year "to address and resolve the challenges to their unique needs so that horse users/owners and (the) public will continue to enjoy all that our city has to offer."

Questions about the committee's should be directed to Associate Planner Leza Mikhail of the Community Development Department at 310-544-5228.

A previous equestrian committee for Rancho Palos Verdes was dissolved in 2009.

*This article originally appeared in Palos Verdes Patch. It is reprinted with permission. U*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Feeding the natural way: slowly

by CHARLENE O'NEIL  
PVPHA PRESIDENT

Betsy Schoettlin's presentation at the March general meeting was not only informative but exciting—there are so many options out there to feed the natural way.

These "slow feeders" and a VERY slow feeder (you can put a bale in this one) can take your equines back to a more natural state of eating and digesting. They range from the "Freedom Feeder" at \$9 to the Porta Grazer, which is over \$200.

With slow feeders, issues with colic and ulcers diminish because the intestinal tract is always full. Even when a horse is not eating, stomach gases and gastric juices are active and can become an irritant.

Betsy's favorite slow-feeder: the Porta Grazer. She says it takes about a week for the horse to realize that there will always be feed for him and he doesn't have to "wolf down" his supper. So then, he returns to his normal state of grazing when hungry, eating bits and pieces at a time.

Betsy told us that John Lyons (famous horse trainer/whisperer) just ordered 25 Porta Grazers.

Betsy's presentation was so great that she could "put it on the road!" If you missed the meeting, you missed a fabulous presentation!

In May, we will have our local veterinarians discussing emergencies of many sorts and how to handle them.

The weather is great—time to hit the trail! U

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# RHE Equestrian Committee: New footing for Howlett arenas, round pens for two parks

by **MELODY COLBERT**  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

The Rolling Hills Estates Equestrian Committee met March 25. Here is a brief recap of the discussions.

## City will not enlarge large warm-up arena at Ernie Howlett Park; GGT footing to be replaced

It was determined at a previous meeting that there was not adequate space to enlarge the large warm up arena—also known as the western arena—at Ernie Howlett Park to meet minimum size standards for reining competi-

tions, so another solution was sought.

After ruling out several options, it was decided that the most cost-effective solution, which would also be the most accommodating to residents and various equestrian disciplines, would be to “scrape” off the GGT footing from the “Hawthorne side” arena—also known as Arena No. 2—and replace it with Capistrano sand so that reining classes could be held in the that arena. The GGT footing would be stored on site.

It was also decided that city staff should investigate the cost to move the footing (i.e. take out the sand and put in the reserved GGT footing) for jumping shows as needed. This is what they do at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center and Huntington Beach, according to audience members. It would be the responsibility of horse show operators to move the footing material in and out for their shows, should they so choose.

The “warm up arena” will not be enlarged, but the footing will be re-done (with sand).

## Trail connections between cities

The city of Rancho Palos Verdes sent a letter to RHE City Manager Doug Prichard saying that in response to public concern over the loss of trail connections between “neighboring jurisdictions,” RPV staff was directed to monitor and prepare quarterly reports to the council on inter-jurisdictional trail matters.

In the letter, RPV Community Development Deputy Director Ara Mihranian asked Prichard to advise him of any trail issues between the two cities. Mihranian can be contacted at 310-544-5228 or [aram@rpv.com](mailto:aram@rpv.com).

## Turning out in Ernie Howlett Arena No. 2

The 90-day trial period allowing use of one of the oval arenas for turnout ended. Carol Porter moved that the arena be permanently opened for turnout and longeing. The motion was unanimously approved.

## Licensed trainers in RHE

A list of trainers who have purchased a 2013 business license, which is required for all trainers who use the public arenas and facilities in RHE, has been posted at all the public rings, and trainers are required to wear an identification badge issued by the city when giving lessons.

Portuguese Bend Riding Club

Boarding - Training - Lessons

Miles of Scenic Trails

English  
John Vogel  
Mary Hirsch

Western  
Callie Bell

Upcoming April Clinics

Special Jumping Clinic - Patrick Spanton  
April 28

Dressage - Louise Koch April 3, 4, 10, 19, & 21

Western Trail Class Judging - Callie Bell April 7

For more information contact:  
Laura 310-377-3507  
[pbrc1@verizon.net](mailto:pbrc1@verizon.net)  
[www.ridingatpbrc.com](http://www.ridingatpbrc.com)

### Peter Weber Equestrian Center project update

Plans for the new barn are at 90 percent completion. Recently, the Department of Toxic Substances Control notified the project manager that any underground pipes would be prohibited because the department forbids any excavation into the landfill beneath the project site. The plans have to be reworked to meet this criteria.

### Round pens to be replaced at Pepperwood, Dapplegray parks

The RHE City Council was expected to approve the expenditure of funds to re-build the deteriorated round pens at Pepperwood Park (at the corner of Crenshaw Boulevard and Palos Verdes Drive North) and Dapplegray Park using "kick-proof" panels.

### Mayor's Ride May 11, 2013

Dale Allen reported he needs to round up four horses to be ridden by city officials in the upcoming Mayor's Ride on May 11. If you have a nice, calm mount (or two or three, or four!) that you'd be willing to loan for the ride, please contact PVPHA and we'll get in touch with Dale. U

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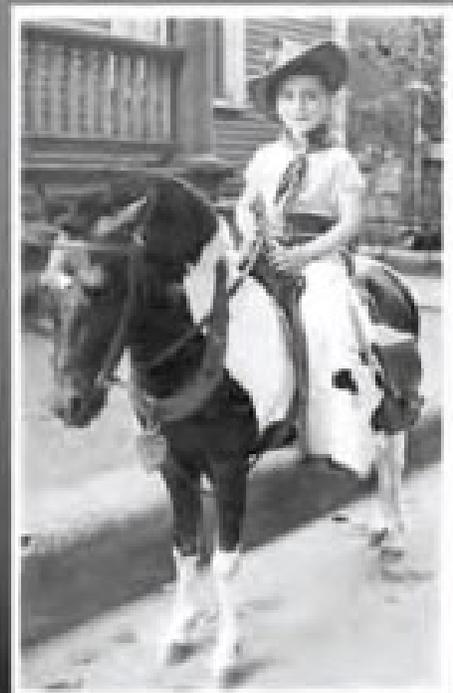
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# THE HORSE: EQUINES AT WAR

by **ERIN RYAN**  
PVPHA RECORDING SECRETARY

*Editor's note: This is the second part of a multipart series on an exhibit entitled "The Horse" at the San Diego Museum of Natural History. The first part of the article was published in the January issue. Most of the following text was copied from the panels on display in the exhibit:*

## The Golden Rule

One of the oldest existing works on the care and training of horses was written by the Greek historian Xenophon in 350 BC. Xenophon offered tips for mounting a horse, controlling its movements and even fighting on horseback—at a time in Greek history when saddles and stirrups were still unknown.

Like many modern horse trainers, Xenophon also taught that riders should treat their horses with understanding. In dealing with a horse, he wrote, "The one best precept—the golden rule—is never to approach him angrily."

It makes me wonder—is this book still in print?

## Knight & Samurai

European knights and Japanese samurai have some interesting similarities. Both groups rode horses and wore armor. Both came from a wealthy upper class and both were trained to follow strict codes of moral behavior.

In Europe, these ideals were called chivalry; samurai code was called Bushido, "the way of the warrior." The rules of chivalry and Bushido both emphasize honor, self-control,

loyalty and military training.

## No Guns for Shoguns:

In the late 1500s, the Japanese had more guns than any nation in Europe. Using guns, an army of peasants could be very powerful, threatening the social order. In the 1600s, the samurai leaders, or shoguns, banned guns. With their traditional power secured, the samurai ruled in peace for 250 more years. A class-driven group, only upper-class Samurai were allowed to ride horses.



ERIN RYAN

**A Samurai saddle. Note the interesting stirrup design.**

## A Horse in Shining Armor

A knight in shining armor wouldn't get very far unless his horse was well protected, too. During the 1500s, the armor worn by horses in Europe rivaled that of the knights that rode them.

European knights had different horses for different purposes. The largest, grandest horses were re-

served for battles, tournaments and jousts and were referred to "great horses."

Knights in shining armor were too heavy for most British horses, so large horses had to be imported from other European countries until at least the 1500s. Determined to increase the size of British horses, King Henry VIII decreed in 1535 that major landowners must keep at least two large mares, and in 1541 he banned stallions from grazing on public lands unless they met certain height requirements.

The king may have had a vested interest in breeding strong horses, since his own waistline ballooned after an injury that the once-athletic monarch suffered while jousting.



ERIN RYAN

**A knight on horseback's armor was only as good as his horse's. Large horses were required to carry the weight of the knight and his armor, as well as the horse's own.**

## Spanish Only

Incas were not allowed to ride horses for centuries after the Spanish occupation began. The Spaniards wanted to keep the power of horses for themselves—and with good reason. When native people acquired horses in Chile, Argentina and the U.S. Great Plains, for example, they quickly became superior riders and used them to fight off the European invaders for years.

In the 1800s, the Crow people of the northern Plains kept some of the area's largest horse herds. The Crow traveled long distances to trade with allies, exchanging horses for other valuable goods. When a band moved camp, a wealthy Crow Woman would adorn her horse head to tail with beautifully beaded buffalo or buckskin trappings. Women made their own saddles and bridles thought Spanish bits with dangling trim were traded from tribe to tribe. Another American Indian tribe, the Nez Perez Indians, selectively breed horse for spotted coats, now called Appaloosas.

## Trade and Travel

For most of human history, there was not faster way to travel over land than on a horse. When it comes to transporting people and their possessions, horses have two important advantages: they can run very fast and very far. Their speed and endurance are amazing for a creature so large, making them the ideal animals to carry people and goods around the world.

Horses offer other advantages as well. Since they eat grass, horses can go almost anywhere that humans can, eating as they go. Unlike cows and camels, which must sit and rest to digest food, a horse's digestive system allows it to graze and walk all day. By carrying people, goods and ideas between civilizations, horses changed history.

## Mobile Mongols

In Genghis Khan's army (1200s), every soldier traveled on horseback. This all-cavalry army was easily the most mobile military force in the world. The Mongols horses could travel almost anywhere, grazing as they went, even if they had to kick through snow to reach grass. The Mongols themselves could also travel long distances without provisions.

The Italian explorer Marco Polo described Mongols riding for 10 days at a stretch while living on milk and blood from their horses.

## Silk Road

The feared Mongol horsemen not only conquered most of Asia, they created a vast trade network that linked previously isolated civilizations. The ancient Silk Road trade routes date back to well before the Mongol empire.

It wasn't until the Mongol army made them safe from bandits that the Silk Road blossomed, creating caravans of camels and donkeys to carry goods, people and ideas between Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

## Key to the Kingdom: an Ancient Passport

Using a Mongol pass, a visitor could travel all over the empire of Kublai Khan, Genghis Khan's grandson. His immense transportation network included thousands of luxurious way stations offering fresh horses for travels along the Silk Road and other trade routes. Like a combination passport and credit card, the pass told everyone that the wearer was to be treated as a guest of the great Khan.

Marco Polo writes, "The whole organization is so stupendous and so costly that it baffles speech and writing." Hmm, I like the sound of a combination card. Where can I get a one of those?



ERIN RYAN

**The Khan's Dynasty answer to a passport and credit card all in one. Not quite a foot in length and made of metal. Probably easier than our modern day version to keep track of.**

*Check out future issues of the Dispatch for more information on the history of horsemanship, and don't forget to visit the San Diego Museum of Natural History! U*

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# BABY ANGEL:

## Filly 'is doing better each day'

*Continued from Page 1.*

we couldn't afford it, we took her to the hospital so we could help that helpless little baby live."

While the hospital saved Baby Angel's life, the cost of treatment has placed a financial strain on Melzak Gorney. Each day spent in the hospital costs approximately \$1,000. Melzak Gorney said she has maxed out all of her credit cards to cover costs.

In the hopes of covering some of the costs of saving Baby Angel, Melzak Gorney started an online fundraising page. So far, she has raised more than \$6,400 of her \$8,000 goal.

"The vet says if we bring her home she will surely die, but we just can't afford to keep her there ... I am devastated since our family already loves this little filly so much," Melzak Gorney wrote. "The bills are piling up but thanks to the generosity of a few kind people that I don't even know, we have been able to keep her in the hospital and give her the proper care."

Since Baby Angel's admission to the hospital, Melzak Gorney said the horse's condition has slowly improved. On Sunday, the horse stood up in front of its mother and has also learned how to drink from a water bowl, Melzak Gorney said. When fully recovered, Baby Angel will return to Melzak Gorney's home in Rolling Hills Estates.

"Baby is doing better each day; she actually acted like a little foal yesterday and shows huge signs of improvement," Melzak Gorney said. "She will be able to come home soon we hope."

Donations for Baby Angel's medical care can be made via Melzak Gorney's online fundraising page, located at [gofundme.com/29zh8w](http://gofundme.com/29zh8w).

*A version of this article originally appeared in Palos Verdes Patch, located at [palosverdes.patch.com](http://palosverdes.patch.com). It is updated and reprinted here with permission. U*

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DEBORAH MELZAK GORNEY  
Baby Angel nurses from her dam, Buttercup, while at the equine hospital.



FLICKR

# LET SLEEPING HORSES LIE

by **JIM MOORE**  
SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

I've been asked many times if horses sleep standing or lying down. These questions usually come after I've told someone a story of hearing "Barley" snoring in her stall or watching "Zip" dream that he's running free in a pasture. My usual response is to remind my listener of the statement I make during Cowboy Boot Camp orientation: "The only reason why a horse is on this planet is that they are a food source."

Therefore, a horse must feel secure before he will lie down to get a good, sound sleep. Remember, they are hardwired to run at the first sense of fear. If they're laying down, they could feel vulnerable about becoming that food source for a predator.

In nature, not all of the horses in an entire band will lie down—there are always lookouts scanning the area for possible danger. Without a sentinel, a horse will not get adequate rest. Lack of sleep could lead to sleep deprivation, which can cause many behavioral problems, including bucking, irritability and colic.

Horses need rapid eye movement—commonly known as REM—just as we do. They can only achieve this by lying completely flat on their sides. Nevertheless, horses only need about 20 minutes of REM sleep over a 24-hour period, and that can even be in short sessions divided among day or night hours.

Of course, we've all seen horses nap while standing with one hind leg tipped on its toe, droopy lips and a lowered head, but this "slow-wave sleep" (SWS) doesn't

make up for missed REM sleep. Unlike teenagers, horses are awake and alert about 80 percent of the time!

In order to ensure your horse gets a good night's sleep, be aware of your horse's surroundings and environment. If you only have one horse, can he see another one in a neighbor's pasture or a nearby paddock? In his mind, this is still part of his herd.

If no other horses are around, get him a "prey friend" to stand guard; goats easily fill that bill. This gives him the security of being alerted to danger then can leap to his feet should the need arise.

Other issues to consider—are there other horses torturing him and not allowing him to stretch out to sleep? Is the stall too small for him to safely lie down? Is there some consistent, annoying noise nearby? Is the bedding wet or slippery?

All of these issues can make for a very tired horse and over time can make for an unsafe riding relationship.

*For more information about Cowboy Boot Camp, visit [CowboyBootCamp.net](http://CowboyBootCamp.net). U*

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*Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.*

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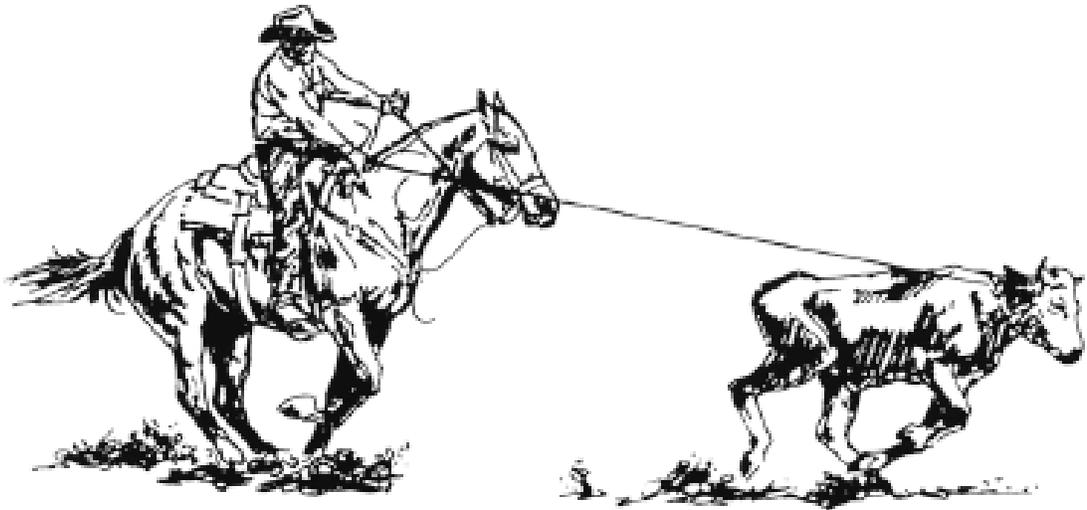
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