



**New Mexico Horse Council**  
**P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184**



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**MAY JUNE JULY 2013**

*"From this day forward, in sickness and in health, for blue ribbons or vet bills, I now pronounce you horse poor. You may kiss your money goodbye." (From an e-card.)*

**Calendar**

- May 6: NMHC Board Meeting**, teleconference via Rondee, 6:30 PM.
- June 10: NMHC Quarterly Board Meeting**, 1501 Los Arboles NW, Albuquerque, 6:30 PM.
- July 8: NMHC Board Meeting**, teleconference via Rondee, 6:30 PM.
- August 4: NMHC Board Meeting**, teleconference via Rondee, 6:30 PM.
- September 9: NMHC Quarterly Board Meeting**, face to face, location TBA (see website).
- June 15-18, American Horse Council Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum; Coalition of State Horse Councils Semi-Annual Meeting**; Washington, D.C.
- July 27: NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY.**
- September – NM State Fair Horse Shows:**
  - 6-8: Hunter Jumper**
  - 11: Carriage Driving, Equine Services for Heroes.** (Fair officially begins.)
  - 12: Donkeys and Mules.**
  - 13: Miniature Horses.**
  - 14-15: AQHA.**
  - 16: Paints, Appaloosas.**
  - 17: Pintos, Buckskins.**
  - 18: All Breed.**
  - 19: 4-H State Championship.**
  - 20: Draft Horses, Pull.**
  - 21-22: Purebred and Half Arabian, Morgan, Saddlebred, Hackney Pony.** (Fair Ends.)
- October 1: Nominations due for NMHC Lifetime Achievement Award** ([nmhc@swcp.com](mailto:nmhc@swcp.com))
- October 25-27: Coalition of State Horse Councils Semi-annual meeting, hosted by NC Horse Council at the Sheraton Imperial in Durham, NC.** Theme: "The Big Picture". Any Horse Council member may attend.

**Mission Statement: To act on behalf of the New Mexico equine community through education and promotion of activities benefiting all equine interests.**

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**American Horse Council  
 Annual Meeting and Issues Forum**

The AHC Annual Meeting, National Issues Forum, Coalition of State Horse Councils meeting and Congressional Ride-In took place in Washington, DC, June 15-19. In addition to the two day CSHC meeting, other AHC committees met Monday, as did the Unwanted Horse Coalition and the Animal Welfare Council. The AHC also presented updates on current federal legislation and regulations, hosted panels and seminars, and presented the Van Ness Award luncheon and a Congressional reception.

The Coalition delegates met Sunday to hear individual presentations on each state's



structure, successes and problems. The CSHC continues to help unite state horse councils with committees, shared information, and creation of a “toolbox” with resources. The day ended with a reception for all AHC attendees, sponsored by state horse councils. On Monday, all AHC committees including the CSHC held business meetings, as did the Animal Welfare Council and the Unwanted Horse Coalition. Monday concluded with a reception hosted by the American Horse Council. On Tuesday, several interesting panels and seminars were given; my favorite: “women leaders in the horse industry”. Tuesday’s luncheon was hosted by Populus, the architectural firm (in their talk they mentioned facilities planned and being built worldwide, and also talked about the Rodeo de Santa Fe arena). The Van Ness award, named in honor of “super volunteer” Marjorie Van Ness, is presented annually after a nomination and selection process. This year’s winner was Bev Raymond of Maryland, a founding member (35 years ago) of the Maryland Horse Council, and a tireless worker for the horse industry ever since. The Maryland Horse Council and the Maryland Horse Industry Board are thriving because of her dedication.” A Congressional reception concluded Tuesday’s program.

Wednesday was the “congressional ride-in” when attendees visited their members of Congress. I was able to set up appointments with staffs of all five. Memorable: four of the five support the SAFE act prohibiting horse slaughter, with only Steve Pearce in favor of horse processing; Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham attempted to add the SAFE act as an amendment to the House Agriculture bill. And Senator Udall’s office has introduced a horse racing bill to shift drug testing and penalties from the individual racing jurisdictions to the US Anti Doping Agency.

### **Coalition of State Horse Councils Meeting October 25 – 27, 2013**

Sue Gray reports that the North Carolina Horse Council has completed planning for a “traveling meeting” with some sessions presented on the bus between tour stops. “The Big Picture” is the theme, and topics will include building advocacy



groups, legislative agendas, Equine Health (at NCSU Southern Pines), Marketing, Travel and Tourism, Land Use issues, a tour and dinner at The Fork (equestrian facility near Charlotte) and the CSHC business meeting. There will be a trail riding opportunity for those who arrive early. Any horse council member can attend and enjoy this program – the meeting cost is \$125 and, unlike Washington, the room rate is reasonable.

### **NM State University Horse Program Hosts Equine Science Society Symposium by NMHC Vice President Dr. Jason L. Turner**

The New Mexico State University Horse Program hosted the 2013 Equine Science Society Symposium on May 28-31 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Mescalero, NM. Equine scientists and educators from across the USA and seven foreign countries presented the latest research findings in the areas of equine genetics, exercise physiology, nutrition, reproduction, and applied management techniques, and teaching. There were five workshop sessions, 44 poster presentations, and over 150 oral presentations made by the 290+ professors and students in attendance. The positive feedback from the participants indicated that they truly enjoyed their time in the Land of Enchantment. Thanks go out to all of those members of the NMSU Host Team that made the meetings run like clockwork.

### **Art, Culture and “Art”**

The **Hubbard Museum of the American West** (formerly the *Museum of the Horse*) in Ruidoso is the first NM Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. They are currently hosting, through September 9, a ***Celebracion del Arte***, a juried fine art competition that “seeks to recognize and honor excellence in the contemporary visual arts of the American West”. The competition features drawings, paintings, sculpture and other media, and most works may be purchased. For details, see [www.hubbardmuseum.org](http://www.hubbardmuseum.org). NMHC lifetime member Nance McManus (who has two monotypes in the show) says the exhibit is beautifully done and well worth the scenic trip.

“***Cowboys Real and Imagined***” is still running, with many special presentations, at the Natural History Museum in Santa Fe (through mid-March





2014). See [www.nmhistorymuseum.org](http://www.nmhistorymuseum.org) for a list of special presentations. From the event catalog,

“When America needed hard workers, the cowboy was there. The job was dirty and difficult, low-paid and lowly regarded. But when an America torn by the Civil War needed a hero to unite its soul, the unassuming cowboy was an unlikely – and ultimately lasting – pick.”

“Since riding out of the Spanish horse culture, he’s been an itinerant hired hand, an outlaw, a movie star, a rodeo athlete, a radio yodeler, and a rhinestoned disco diva. He’s been Spanish, Mexican, African American, Anglo, male, female, straight and gay. His image has been co-opted to sell trucks, beer, boots, beans, jeans, tires, cigarettes, leather couches, presidential candidates, and a lifestyle far beyond the means of real-life buckaroos...”

**Her target audience: horse people.** *Juni Fisher* ([www.junifisher.net](http://www.junifisher.net)), former cow horse trainer, is now a western music singer and songwriter, and speaks to us – “people who aren’t horsemen won’t get the connection in my songs”. Her latest album, “**Listen...to your horse**”, is dedicated to horses and horsemen. Fisher performed in Placitas on July 27. The concert was presented by the Placitas chapter of the Western Music Association. In addition to being the WMA Female Performer of the Year in 2011, she has won eight other awards from the Association, including Song of the Year.

**Mine That Bird**, the surprising longshot winner of the 2009 Kentucky Derby, is “really happy to be back home” at his ranch in Roswell, reports one of his owners, Dr. Leonard Blach. The gelding was in residence at the Kentucky Derby Museum during the Churchill Downs Spring meet. While there, the horse displayed a new talent: creating “Moneighs”, artwork that is sold to help fund ReRun, an organization that helps find new careers and homes for retired race horses.

Mary Simons of ReRun said “he held a paintbrush, which is unusual because you never know if they’re going to be able to hold a stick, but he took the paintbrush and smushed around on the paper and used his chin and his muzzle,

and completed six paintings.” ReRun will auction the artwork on Ebay in November.

### Old, Old Horse

**Thistle Creek** (named for the excavation site where his leg bone was discovered) was a Middle Pleistocene stallion active some 700,000 years ago in Alaska. He is the oldest equine to have his DNA fully sequenced. Ludovic Orlando led a team of 56 scientists at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark in the groundbreaking study. By sequencing this one horse, Orlando and his colleagues have been able to compare data with domestic horses of varying breeds as well as the partial sequencing of a 43,000 year old horse. They now calculate that the common ancestor of the horse, donkey and zebra roamed North America four million years ago, twice as long ago as paleontologists had thought. And the Przewalski’s horse diverged from this line about 50,000 years ago.

Thistle Creek was probably 14.2-15 hands tall. Between 700,000 and 500,000 years ago the horse evolved to become smaller. The team detected numerous changes in horse populations at different times throughout prehistory, connected to severe climate changes.

### Animal Welfare and Animal Rights Animal Welfare Council Press Release

The media and public use *animal welfare* and *animal rights* interchangeably, but they are not synonymous terms. In fact, the philosophical gulf between these two belief systems and the advocacy efforts currently underway by each group carry enormous implications for the future of the horse industry. In light of legislation pending on the Federal level as well as in various state houses, it is imperative that the general public, as well as anyone with an interest in horses as work or recreational animals, come to a full understanding of each philosophy and the methods by which proponents of each carry out their missions.

“**Animal Welfare and Animal Rights: A war of words with casualties mounting**” is a research-based article commissioned by the Animal Welfare Council; it discusses not only the





philosophical differences but the comparative implications of each approach. The consequences of pending legislation will be critical to the future of the horse industry and will likely carry over to affect other livestock producers and users in the recreation, entertainment and agricultural/food industries. Download the entire article from [www.AnimalWelfareCouncil.org](http://www.AnimalWelfareCouncil.org).

**The Animal Welfare Council** is a non-profit, tax exempt 501 (C) (3) organization established for charitable and educational purposes, and includes organizations and business entities who are actively involved in caring for animals in recreation, entertainment, sport and industry. Cindy Scholholtz of the AWC was the featured speaker at the NMSU/NMHC Equine Summit this spring, and Jill Montgomery, author of the article, is a frequent attendee of the AHC and Coalition meetings.

*The NM Horse Council membership supports humane processing of horses in the US as one option in dealing with the unwanted animals.*

### **New Mexico Livestock Board**

**Dr. Dave Fly**, NM State Veterinarian, reports that the comment period is now open (until the next Livestock Board meeting TBA) for Title 21, Chapter 32, Part 6: the Horse Shelter Rescue Fund. The draft rule can be found on the Livestock Board web site, [www.nmlbonline.com](http://www.nmlbonline.com), under "Horse Rescue". Dr. Fly also asked that we share the following letter for anyone transporting horses within or outside the state:

**August 1, 2013**

**New Mexico Livestock Board  
Office of the State Veterinarian  
300 San Mateo NE, Suite 1000  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108  
(505) 841-6161**

#### **TRAVELING WITH YOUR HORSE IN NEW MEXICO.**

New Mexico offers a variety of equine events and trail rides. In order to insure a safe and enjoyable outing please be aware of the following requirements:

Currently, New Mexico does not have any health restrictions or advisories. For updates refer to the



New Mexico Livestock Board website

[www.NMLBonline.com](http://www.NMLBonline.com)

**Pursuant to NMSA 77-3-1, 77-3-14.1 and NMLB rule 21.30.4.6**

To comply with New Mexico Livestock Board Rules, USDA interstate requirements and to protect the safety of your horse, the following is required:

#### **INTERSTATE TRAVEL-Entering New Mexico from another state**

1. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) no older than 30 days (NMAC 21.32.4.13).
2. Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggin's) test, within 12 months.(NMSA 77-3-14-1)
3. All equine animals residing in New Mexico over 10 days require an import brand inspection. (NMSA 77-9-28)
4. Breeding stallions(36 months of age) are required to have proof of a negative Equine Viral Arteritis Test (EVA) (NMAC 21.30.7.11)
5. Breeding stallions entering New Mexico must have a prior entry permit.(NMSA 77-9-28)
6. Horses traveling to New Mexico sanctioned race tracks must have a negative Equine Piroplasmosis test (T. equi) within 12 months of entering the state of NM.(NMSA 77-3-1)

#### **INTERSTATE TRAVEL: Leaving the state of New Mexico**

1. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) no older than 30 days or as required by the state of destination. (NMAC 21.32.4.13).(9 CFR 86.5)
2. Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggin's) test, within 12 months.
3. NMLB brand inspection Form 1.(NMSA 77-9-41) .
4. Animals being transported to other states may be subject to additional import regulations.
  - a. **It is extremely important that the state of destination is contacted IN ADVANCE for their current import requirements.**





b. NMLB form 1-H is a permanent In-State hauling certificate and is not intended for out of state travel. (NMSA 77-9-42)

**INTRASTATE TRAVEL (WITHIN NEW MEXICO)**

Within District:

1. Proof of ownership: registered NM brand, bill of sale or registration papers

Across Districts:

1. Brand inspection 'Form 1' or permanent traveling papers "owners transportation certificate-1H." (NMSA 77-9-42)
2. New Mexico Horses traveling to New Mexico sanctioned race tracks must have a negative Equine Piropalamosis test (T. equi) within 24 months and a negative Coggin's test within 12 months. (NMSA 77-3-1) NMLB, NMRC

**Trails And Land Use**

**The Placitas Area Trails Project** proposes transforming a mix of trails, unauthorized roads and paths in the Sandia Ranger District into a system that will better protect the environment, be easier to maintain, and provide a quality wilderness experience, if all goes according to plan. Sandia Ranger District trails and wilderness manager Kerry Wood, who has physically surveyed existing facilities on the 3,500 acres, will include building (and rebuilding) trail segments using sustainable design and construction techniques; eliminating trails and roads not part of the system; prohibiting cross country travel on nonwilderness areas; building designated parking areas; and installing trail markers and signs. Volunteers are expected to do much of the trail work, so the main cost would be trail markers, signs, fences and parking lots. The written comment period ended July 8, with input received from hikers, bikers, runners and equestrians. Next steps: a survey, followed by a revision based on the comments and the survey results. Keep track at Cibola National Forest NEPA Projects, online at [www.fs.usda.gov/Cibola](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Cibola).

**Commentary to NMHC newsletter by Oscar Simpson, NMHC Board member and also a member of BCHA.** How will the US Forest

Service's inability to operate and maintain its national trail system, and new trail classification system, affect pack and saddle stock use? Whenever new "trails plans" are created, we must ensure that if traditional trail use accommodated pack and saddle use they must not be eliminated.

A recent government study conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluated the ability of the Forest Service (FS) to operate and maintain the National Forest trail System – 158,000 miles of trails. The FS estimated the value of its trail maintenance backlog to be \$524 million in fiscal year 2012. That annual figure has doubled since 1989, the last time the GAO evaluated the National Forest trail system, and is further compounded by a significant increase in their use. In 2012 the FS reported that it was only able to maintain 37% of the trails and only one quarter of its trail miles met the agency's standards. According to the report, this backlog prevents public access, poses dangers to public safety, and degrades clean water.

For equestrian trail users the situation is further compounded by the creation by the FS of a new trail classification system. In 1998, the Forest Service determined that a more uniform and integrated national trail classification system would improve inventory and on-the-ground management. Consequently, in 1999 the FS transitioned from three classes called "mainline" (primary), "secondary", and "way", all of which accommodate equestrian use, to five classes in effect today. (FS RINo596-AC47.) These classes are created for major recreational users, and many will not accommodate pack and saddle stock use. Horsemen are concerned that managers will assign trail classes that will not allow pack and saddle stock use even on trails historically accessible to horses. Preliminary information received from the FS indicates that as much as 59% of the existing trail system will not be managed for pack and saddle stock under the new system. Horsemen need to get involved in monitoring the implementation of the new trail system or ***we may find that our favorite trails are no longer managed or funded for our***





**use.** For more information contact Oscar Simpson, [oscarsimpson3@yahoo.com](mailto:oscarsimpson3@yahoo.com) or 505-345-0117.

**Governor’s Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Committee.** This committee has been unique since its creation (bicycle/pedestrian committees are mandated for every state by the federal government, but the New Mexico Highway Commission [now the state Department of Transportation] and our governor Bruce King asked for an **equestrian** component in New Mexico’s committee). The enabling CP (Commission Policy) 66 specified a coordinator and a committee that was a mix of Highway Department employees, representatives from other state and regional planning organizations, and civilians. It met quarterly in different highway districts and solicited public involvement as well as producing (and updating) an Advisory Plan on Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian non-motorized transportation for the Department Secretary.

Fast forward to 2012, with a new administration in place and a new vision for the committee. After discussion in various Transportation Commission meetings, CP 66 (which had sunsetted) was rewritten. I can’t find a copy of the rewritten policy, but the July 19, 2012 Commission minutes state “White moved to strike out everything starting after Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian on A: “fulfilling the requirements of federal aid policy” and under number 1, say “the Department shall have a position of a Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian coordinator and strike out everything after coordinator” so it would seem that major changes have been made. The existing committee (of which I was a member) was instructed to cancel any planned meetings, and told also that the new committee membership would consist of DOT employees. It has apparently not yet been reconstituted or held any meetings. I have been attempting to find out who would represent “equestrians” but have learned there would not be representatives for specific interests. We will see if this internal DOT committee is to announce its meetings, provide minutes or invite the public.

**Fires.** With recent rains in many areas of the state, many trails closed due to fire danger are reopening. (However, the fires have made many burned over areas susceptible to flash floods.) Check the status of your proposed riding trail at [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com).

**Edgewood Community Arena.** this new arena near Wildlife West is a project made possible by many groups including Santa Fe County Open Space, Parks and Trails program. The ribbon cutting will be held August 2, with the Severs family and their mules carrying dignitaries on the first lap around the facility. Events will continue through the weekend, with a show hosted by Rio Grande Mule and Donkey Association on August 4. For further information, see their website, [www.rgmda.com](http://www.rgmda.com). At this point, there is no rental fee for the arena.

**American Horse Council Alert (July 24, 2013)**

The AHC alerts all horse councils, recreational riders and trail users that Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) is planning to offer an amendment (**S Amendment 1742**) to the “Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (S. 1243) that would strip all funding from the Recreational Trails Program. The funding would be transferred to pay for bridge repairs. The AHC urges all trail users to call their Senators and ask them to vote “no” on S. Amendment 1742 to the 2014 Transportation Appropriations bill S. 1742. Don’t write a letter to the Washington offices; by the time security tests are finished, weeks have passed.

NMHC contacts for the Senators are:  
**Senator Martin Heinrich:** Washington office, 202-224-5521; aide Maya Hermann, [Maya\\_Hermann@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:Maya_Hermann@heinrich.senate.gov)

**Senator Tom Udall:** Washington office, 202-224-6621; aide Kevin Cummins, [Kevin\\_Cummins@tomudall.senate.gov](mailto:Kevin_Cummins@tomudall.senate.gov)

**NMHC Membership Update**

Please welcome the following 2013 members, who have rejoined since the membership list was published in the previous newsletter.





**ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO**, Jim Porcher, P.O. Box 25541, Albuquerque, NM 87125 – [www.nmarab.org](http://www.nmarab.org)

**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEW MEXICO**, Debbie Spickermann, P.O. Box 37005, Albuquerque, NM 87176 – [www.bchnm.org](http://www.bchnm.org)

**CAZAM FARMS**, Cathy Fenner-Garcia, 6301 Indian School Road NE # 200, Albuquerque, NM 87110 – [cbacathy@aol.com](mailto:cbacathy@aol.com)

**FOUNDATION FOR THE PURE SPANISH HORSE**, Barb Clark, 115 Elm Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102 – [www.prehorse.org](http://www.prehorse.org)

**HORSEMEN'S FEED & SUPPLY, INC.**, James Owens, 8812 2<sup>nd</sup>. St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114, [www.horsemensfeedandsupply.com](http://www.horsemensfeedandsupply.com)

**NEW MEXICO HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION**, Lisa Hooper, P.O. Box 10357, Albuquerque, NM 87184 – [www.nmhja.org](http://www.nmhja.org)

**PAPER PUSHER BOOKKEEPING**, Kathy Falter, 5704 Hayes Drive NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120 – [www.paperpusher.com](http://www.paperpusher.com)

**VILLAGE MERCANTILE**, Drew Burr, 3675 Corrales Road, Corrales, NM 87048 – [www.thevillagemercantile.com](http://www.thevillagemercantile.com)

**Individual Members:** Hilary Compton, Kathy Falter, Deborah Hollis, Paul Noble.

**Lifetime Individuals:** Bill Averill, Jennifer Averill.

### **New Mexico Horse Council Foundation 2013 scholarship**

Foundation Board Chairwoman Laura Burton has announced that its 2013 scholarship has been awarded to **Tel Pickett** of Deming. He graduated from Deming High School in May and plans to attend New Mexico State University.

Tel has been active in the National Honor Society, the National FFA, and 4-H, in addition to achieving a 4.5 GPA. Horses have always been an important part of his family, and he has won several prizes as a team roper, beginning at junior rodeos and now competing in US Team Roping Championship events. The NMHC Foundation Board is sure that his university experience will be as successful.

### **Expo New Mexico New Mexico State Fair**

NMHC Board member Ron Morris (cell: 417-6167) is working to create the NMHC Booth and stall in front of the Horse Arena during the 2013 State Fair. Please check with him on availability. The Horse Council area provides a priceless opportunity to reach out to the public to acquaint them with the world of horses. For the NMHC booth, we need friendly groups with friendly equines. The horse show schedule is on the front page of this newsletter; premium books for each show should be at [www.exponm.com](http://www.exponm.com). As of July 27, only premiums for the Carriage Driving and Quarter Horse shows are available; however, after a meeting with Sally Mayer, senior manager, Morris says that the show prep is well under way, with judges hired and schedules set. Expo has had a busy summer and has just finished hosting the Arabian and Half Arabian Youth Nationals.

### **Project Gelding Update by Kristin Darnell-Kreger**

NMHC's Operation Gelding is now "Project Gelding". We are no longer applying for grants from the Unwanted Horse Coalition, although NMHC would qualify. And we do still recommend a visit to the website for free downloadable materials on every aspect of the Unwanted Horse, at [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org).

UHC grant regulations require that the entire project be completed in one day at one location. This simply does not work in New Mexico, given our distances, legal requirements for transport and small number of equine veterinarians. Therefore, the NMHC Board is funding ten \$100 gelding vouchers from our operating account, and welcomes sponsors and donations as well. The new criteria for vouchers are completed and await Board approval prior to posting on the website.

To get a better picture of the entire unwanted horse population in New Mexico, Darnell Kreger is also gathering information from the NM Livestock Board, the BLM, Forest Service, Rescues, Ranches, Sales barns and private owners. She has given one presentation so far, to





the NM Department of Agriculture Working Group.

Darnell Kreger also points everyone to the NMHC Facebook page, where she posts “amazing horses” daily.

### **NM Roswell Processing Plant**

Valley Meats of Roswell has received a permit from the USDA Food Safety Inspection Services (FSIS) which allows the placement of USDA personnel at the plant to carry out necessary inspections.

However, the State of New Mexico has denied a request for a wastewater permit, pending a hearing. Valley Meats says it will haul the wastewater offsite.

Meanwhile, Robert Redford and Bill Richardson have suddenly created the “Foundation to Protect New Mexico’s Wildlife”. Its first action is to join a federal lawsuit brought by HSUS and others to make horse processing for human consumption illegal. Former NM governor Richardson said he would do “whatever it takes to stop the return of horse slaughterhouses...in my own state.” No details were offered on the funding of the new group, but Richardson flew to Washington to speak with USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, who said that he had to follow the law.

At least six applications for permits have been filed with the USDA. In addition to Valley Meats, they include Responsible Transportation in Iowa; Rains Natural Meats of Missouri; American Beef Company of Missouri; Trail South Meat Processing in Tennessee, and Oklahoma Meat company of Oklahoma. The situation changes daily.

Through July 25, 2013, 53,832 horses have been shipped to Mexico for slaughter. Source: [www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/al\\_LS635.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/al_LS635.txt)

### **New Mexico Horse Racing by Michael Cusortelli**

**The Downs at Albuquerque** will open its 2013 race meet on Friday, August 2. The 57-day meet, which features Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing, includes a 17-day New Mexico State Fair meet in September.

A total of 33 stakes – 19 for Thoroughbreds and 14 for Quarter Horses – worth approximately \$1.2 million in purses are scheduled. Once again, the highlight of the meet will be the Lineage races for New Mexico-breds during the weekend of August 24-25. Six Thoroughbred stakes worth \$185,000, topped by the 1 1/16-mile, \$35,000 Lineage Stakes (R), are slated for August 24, and they will be followed by five Quarter Horse stakes worth \$150,000, headed by the 400-yard, \$35,000 Lineage Championship (RG3), August 25.

The State Fair portion of the meet will include two historic stakes for Quarter Horses – the 400-yard, \$85,000-est. New Mexico State Fair Senior Futurity (RG3) for state-bred 2-year-olds colts and geldings, and the 400-yard, \$85,000-est. New Mexico State Fair Seniorita Futurity (RG3) for state-bred 2-year-old fillies on Saturday, September 21.

The Downs at Albuquerque meet runs through Wednesday, October 30. Live racing will be presented primarily on a Wednesday and Friday-through-Sunday schedule, with the exception of the State Fair portion of the season, which will feature live racing every day from September 11-22. Post time for the first race will be 1:30 p.m. (MDT) on weekends and 2:30 on weekdays.

For more information, visit the track’s revamped website at [www.abqdowns.com](http://www.abqdowns.com), and click on the “Racetrack” link at the top of the homepage.

**Zia Park Racetrack** in Hobbs opens its 56-day Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse meet on Saturday, September 7. Live racing will take place primarily on a Saturday-through-Tuesday schedule, with special Wednesday race cards slated for October 23 and 30 and November 6-13.

Zia Park’s rich stakes schedule is topped by the New Mexico Cup races on Sunday, October 27. A total of 12 stakes restricted to state-breds will be run that day, topped by the \$300,000-est. New Mexico Cup Futurity (RG2) for Quarter Horses, and the \$180,000-added Rocky Gulch New Mexico Cup Championship (R) for Thoroughbreds. Post time for Zia Park’s race programs will be 12:15 (Mountain). For more information, visit the track’s website at [www.ziaparkcasino.net](http://www.ziaparkcasino.net).





A total of 382 horses have been consigned to the August 16-17 **New Mexico-Bred Sale** at the Ruidoso Horse Sales Pavilion in Ruidoso Downs.

226 Quarter Horses will be offered during the first night of the sale. On the second night, the 156 remaining, the Thoroughbreds, will be sold.

The sale will begin each night following that day's racing at Ruidoso Downs Racetrack. For more information, including a complete sale catalog, visit [www.ruidososelectyearlingsale.com](http://www.ruidososelectyearlingsale.com).

The **New Mexico Racing Commission** on July 18 heard comments from the state's racing industry stakeholders – horsemen (including owners and trainers), breeders, jockeys, and racetracks – regarding a pending sixth racino license for the state. The license came open in May, when the state Supreme Court refused to hear a case brought forth by developer Michael Moldenhauer, who lost his state racing and gaming licenses when he failed to meet deadlines to open a planned racino in Raton.

In summary, representatives of the New Mexico Horse Breeders' Association and the Jockeys' Guild told the commission that they would be in favor of a sixth racetrack if the license holders were committed to increasing racing opportunities for horsemen and improving the overall condition of the state's racing industry.

The New Mexico Horsemen's Association spoke in favor of a sixth track, saying that it might close the gaps between race meets in the southern and northern regions of the state and allow for a more fluid racing schedule that would keep some horsemen in the state during the spring and summer months.

Zia Park was the only racetrack clearly in favor of a sixth license being issued. The other four existing racinos – Ruidoso Downs, The Downs at Albuquerque, Sunland Park, and SunRay Park – came out against a sixth track, citing concerns about horse shortages amid declining foal crops, particularly for Thoroughbreds.

Additional discussion on this topic will likely be held at the commission's next meeting on August 22 in Albuquerque. <http://nmrc.state.nm.us>



## **Corrales Mare Mayors Rock!** **Submitted by Elektra (QH)**

Summer is a busy time in Corrales. The biggest news is that my friend Aspen, the previous Pet Mayor, and I have recently achieved high honors from the American Competitive Trail Horse Association (ACTHA). Aspen won the NM Pleasure class in 2013 and I won the Open class, bringing state honors to Corrales, the Horse Capital of New Mexico, and to the role of Pet Mayor.

One way to enjoy your equine companion in the Horse Capital is to get out and enjoy our miles of trails. Aspen and I, just this past week, have navigated barking dogs, a coyote carrying a chicken, ducks taking flight, mountain bikers, joggers, blowing Wal-Mart bags, chain saws, and llamas. Endless trail experiences!

A new equine only trail that will open soon is "Rhythm's Way", a beautiful shady trail on an easement on private land that runs from the Corrales Rd Acequia to Loma Larga. This project has been in the works for many years with the Village, land owner Alana McGrattan, Andrew Burr of the Village Mercantile, along with the Corrales Horse and Mule People, "making it happen".

My year as Pet Mayor is flying by and a new election is coming soon. Aspen and I urge other charismatic, photogenic, civic minded horses to become involved! Money counts directly in this election – dollars buy votes and the total is donated to a very fine charity. Campaigning was enjoyable as voters also often provided carrots, apples and treats along with admiration and pats. You can find out more by going to the website <http://www.corralesharvestfestival.com>. The new Pet Mayor will be announced at the Festival. (Remember our motto: Don't Let Corrales Go to the Dogs!) Horses are definitely superior to those dog, chicken, or goat candidates.

There's a **Celebration of the Horse** Saturday, September 28. A separate event but just as fun, the justifiably nationally famous **Ditch Pony Promenade** presented by Dan's Boots & Saddles (no entry fees! many prizes!) has moved to Sunday, Sept. 29. Like the Celebration, it will be held at the Top Form arena.



### A Little Bit about the Economy & Horses

Several NMHC Board Members are involved with horses. **Ron Morris** (Little Hills Farm) and his wife teach, buy and sell, breed and raise, and show horses. **John Collins** (Cherry Tree Farm) and his wife have a boarding barn with emphasis on teaching and dressage. **Rusty Cook** breeds Arabians, rides, and officiates at horse shows nationwide. **Steve Komadina** owns Vista Hermosa Farms, which boards and hosts a teaching facility. **Erlene Seybold-Smythe** of Roy-El Morgans teaches, holds clinics and shows, breeds, buys and sells horses. And **Dacodah**

**Herkenhoff** of Acacia Riding Adventures provides, well, riding adventures. All these people see some signs, and many are encouraged, that the economy is looking up - a bit - and horse activities are picking up.

**Cathy Copher**, lifetime NMHC member, is now working for Santa Fe Mazda Volvo and presented this proposal to the NMHC Board: if any NMHC member purchases a new car from them through her, they will donate \$100 to the purchaser's favorite charity. It's called a "bird dog fee" and Cathy can be reached at [cathyc@santafecars.com](mailto:cathyc@santafecars.com) or at her cell phone, 505-228-9414.



The presentations from individual state horse councils at the AHC June meeting clarified the difference between those horse councils with, and those without, a dedicated and reliable funding source. The **New Mexico Horse Council** depends totally on **membership dues and fundraisers**; the horse shown above is a **fundraiser** and we need to sell many raffle tickets for "Night Horse", a sculpture by Curtis Fort ([www.curtisfort.com](http://www.curtisfort.com)). Cowboys staked a reliable horse, saddled and with the bridle over the horn, next to their bedrolls ready for the night shift. He is bronze, 13 ¾" high, 14" wide and 5 ¾" deep. The number of raffle tickets is limited; each costs \$20.00; the winner will be picked early next year. This horse really wants to help us with our state fair tent, our equine summit and our Project Gelding vouchers, and thinks he would look good in your home! Tickets available at [nmhc@swcp.com](mailto:nmhc@swcp.com) or our telephone, 505-345-8959.