

Brookings Area Program STARS Provides Horses For Healing

BY JOHN KUBAL
Brookings Register

BROOKINGS (AP) — For more than 15 years, Special Training And Riding Skills — aka STARS — has been around in the Brookings area with a simple mission for those who use its services: “To help them benefit from riding. The more rides that they have, the more helpful it is to them.”

On a recent Thursday, a clear, warm and beautiful afternoon for being outdoors, riders and volunteer assistants who make the program possible, were enjoying their therapeutic time with the horses at Dick Halstead’s Circle H Stables.

In simple layman’s terms, Program Director Linda Bohlmann explained that STARS is a “therapy-based riding program that helps with muscle tone, relaxing of muscles. We have some riders who are wheelchair-bound; they benefit the most, because riding a horse is the closest they would get to actually walking and using their muscles.”

“We can see it right in front of us. The muscles start to relax and the range of motion going down from real tight to riding more comfortably.”

“So the more they can ride, the better physically they’re going to be.”

Bohlmann explained that STARS accommodates all types of disabilities: physical, emotional and social, as long as they have some sort of an identified program from their school, whatever that might be. The qualifications are in place, because STARS is partially funded through United Way donations.

She added, “We can go as far as if they’re diabetic. We will stretch to that.”

Over the years, riders have come from Volga, Estelline, White and Aurora, the *Brookings Register* reported.

Volunteers have come from as far away as Arlington. In addition to all the workers, the horses are volunteered for the program. Horses presently in the program include Dolly, Duke, El Shade, Maxwell, Woody and Two Bits.

“Pretty much they find us,” Bohlmann said of those drawn to STARS. “We have a website and we have a Facebook page. We get a lot of young people from SDSU to come and volunteer.”

As to the age range of STARS riders, she noted, “The youngest I had was three and my oldest was 67.”

This was the second year of adding

a fall session, with rides still scheduled for Oct. 1 and 8. Ride dates are driven by weather for the selected dates. Each rider is guaranteed seven rides.

“We’re here for the kids; we’re here for the people, the community,” Bohlmann said.

One of the day’s riders was Jennifer Groen’s daughter, Sophie, 5, who has cerebral palsy. Her mother said STARS “has really helped with her balance somewhat. She loves it.”

Dominic Knudson, 9, is in the second session of his first summer. His mother, Nikki Knudson, said, “It’s a good way to get him to relax. When you ride a horse, you use over a 100 different muscles and bones that you usually don’t use; so it’s good therapy. We really like the program.”

For Kacy Freeseemann, her twin sons Talan and Hunter, 6, are in their second year in STARS. “They have a great time here, lots of fun,” she said. “It really gets them around other kids and other people to help them socialize.”

“They’re non-verbal autistic, so any type of typical situations we can get them in is beneficial for them.”

Invasive Quagga Mussels Found In SD Reservoir

PIERRE (AP) — An invasive mussel species closely related to the zebra mussel has been found in a South Dakota reservoir.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks says quagga (KWAH’gah) mussels have been found in the Angostura Reservoir in the southern Black Hills.

Department Aquatic Resources Chief Jon Lott says officials are working to find a second positive sample of the small invasive mollusk.

The mussels can rapidly spread under the right conditions and clog underwater structures such as irrigation systems.

The larval quagga mussels were found during a water sampling test by federal Bureau of Reclamation.

Lott’s department is searching for adult mussels in the reservoir. He says a snorkeling search hasn’t turned up anything but the department likely will use a dive team next.

Enterovirus Cases In SD Now Up To 12

RAPID CITY (AP) — The number of confirmed cases of enterovirus 68 in South Dakota has risen to a dozen.

State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger tells the *Rapid City Journal* that a majority of the cases are in the western part of the state.

Enterovirus is a rare germ believed to be the cause of a severe respiratory illness that affects mainly children. There’s no vaccine, and it’s been linked to hundreds of illnesses nationwide.

Most children recover within a week. Four infected people have died but it’s unclear what role the virus played in the deaths.

Neb. Education Officials Get Mixed Response

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Board of Education received a mixed response to a proposal to publicly oppose the new Advanced Placement U.S. history course framework.

Conservatives around the nation have labeled the new outline for the elective class as anti-American by focusing on the nation’s missteps. They say it ignores or skims over American achievements and also leaves out key figures and events such as the Holocaust.

The College Board, a non-profit that offers the courses for U.S. high schools, said the history class offers a balanced view of America’s past. It also said the new framework requires students to study examples of U.S. successes, but also “events, incidents or actions that did not achieve the ideals of our nation.”

Sonya Stejskal, president of the Nebraska Council for Social Studies, told the board that students need to be “globally aware.”

They should be taught about “all the beauty in American history, but also the ugly,” Stejskal said.

A state teachers union official asked the board Thursday to not support a proposed resolution recommending the College Board to rewrite the

course framework, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported.

“As a state board, you look ridiculous doing that,” said Jay Sears, a former social studies teacher now in charge of the Nebraska State Education Association’s instructional advocacy.

But retired civil engineer Henry Burke disagreed and spoke in favor of the proposed resolution.

He said the course will now reflect a “relentlessly negative view of America,” violating Nebraska’s Americanism statute that requires public schools to teach students to appreciate the U.S. government.

It was passed in 1949 and states that Nebraska’s educational system has “to conduct its activities, choose its textbooks and arrange its curriculum in such a way that the love of liberty, justice, democracy and America will be instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth of the state.”

Man Guilty For Underage Sex Trafficking

PIERRE (AP) — A Rapid City man has been found guilty in federal court of trying to pay for sex with underage girls during the 2013 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Thirty-two-year old Jerry Lane Gollither was one of nine people arrested and federally indicted for commercial sex trafficking in an undercover sting operation.

A sentencing date has not been set.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says Gollither faces a mandatory minimum term of 15 years in federal prison.

Men Charged In Alleged Robbery

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Two men have been accused of allegedly beating and robbing a man they met at a bar.

Police say 29-year-old Terrance Banks and 23-year-old Barron Knox were charged with second-degree robbery on Friday, following the early morning incident. Banks also was charged with fleeing police.

It was unclear Friday where the men were being held or if they had retained attorneys.

Sioux Falls Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the three men were walking from one bar another when one of the men “decided he wanted the money the victim had.”

Clemens says when the 22-year-old victim refused to hand over money, he was pushed to the ground, punched and kicked by the other two men.

Clemens says the victim was taken to the hospital for a suspected concussion.

Authorities: Candle Caused Fire In Neb.

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a fire at an Omaha house that displaced a family of nine was caused by a candle.

Battalion Chief Timothy McCaw with the Omaha Fire Department says an unattended candle in a bedroom caused the Thursday night fire at a single-family house in north Omaha.

Two adults and five children were inside at the time and were able to escape safely. Two other adults were not home. The American Red Cross is assisting them.

The fire caused more than \$18,000 in damages.

Man Accused Of Abusing 3-Year-Old Girl

SCOTTSBUFF (AP) — A Scottsbluff man has been accused of physically abusing his girlfriend’s 3-year-old daughter.

Scottsbluff radio station KNEB reports 25-year-old Cody Olbricht was arrested Thursday and charged with felony child abuse causing serious bodily injury.

Records show the girl was hospitalized in late September after her grandmother noticed she had a fever and was lethargic and vomiting. Doctors determined she had multiple injuries, including a lacerated liver and subdural brain contusion.

An arrest warrant says authorities interviewed Olbricht’s son, who claimed his father spanked the girl.

Olbricht is being held at the Scotts Bluff County Detention Center on \$250,000 bond. A message left for his attorney was not immediately returned Friday. A preliminary hearing is scheduled on Oct. 16.

Dad Gets Jail For Pot Cookies

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Lincoln man has been sent to jail after his 12-year-old daughter came in contact with marijuana-laced cookies and brought them to school.

Lancaster County Judge Matt Acton sentenced 38-year-old Ramon Noriega on Friday to about five months in jail. He will be eligible for work release.

Authorities say Noriega made the cookies at home sometime before the girl brought them to her middle school in February. At least three students are believed to have eaten the cookies. Police reported a strong odor of marijuana when they visited the girl’s home.

Game Commission Proposes Fewer Spring Turkey Tags

PIERRE (AP) — Turkey hunters would be able to bag about 800 fewer birds this spring and without using bait stations under proposed rule changes by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks commission.

Commission members proposed the changes Thursday at their October meeting in Sturgis.

Under the proposed changes, the number of resident single-tag and two-tag licenses would be reduced by a total of 765 tags. Non-resident tags would be decreased overall by 46.

Tom Kirschenmann, the terrestrial resources chief for the department’s wildlife division, said for the most part the department is reducing two-tag licenses down to single-tag licenses. He said the changes will account for about 7 to 8 percent fewer

tags than last spring. Kirschenmann said the reduction in tags stems from a changing population in western South Dakota.

“In those particular units or areas of the state, we’ve seen turkey numbers lower the last couple of years,” he said.

Big-game bait stations are currently not allowed from Aug. 15 to Feb. 1. The proposal announced Thursday would also prohibit bait sta-

tions from March 15 to May 31 so that the spring turkey season would be included as well. Wild turkeys, which are considered a big game species, are the only big game species available in the spring.

There’s an exemption in the proposed rules that allows for the department to do leave food for animals while doing deprivation management.

Candidate Debates

Watch live on SDPB TV

- Oct. 9: Gubernatorial candidates
- Oct. 16: U.S. House candidates
- Oct. 23: U.S. Senate candidates

Live at 8 p.m. Central / 7 Mountain

Sponsored by S.D. Newspaper Association, S.D. Public Broadcasting and AARP South Dakota.



LET’S FOCUS ON THE ISSUES AND FIX WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington, D.C. is dysfunctional and heading in the wrong direction. But we can change that with a little South Dakota common sense.

- Let’s stop out of control spending. Washington should balance its budget like we do here in South Dakota.
- We need to repeal and replace Obamacare. Let’s save Medicare and help, not hurt, our seniors.
- Let’s reduce the big government regulations from the EPA that are hurting our farmers and business owners.
- Let’s clear the way for construction of the Keystone Pipeline.

I’d appreciate your vote November 4th.

You may also vote early at your county courthouse.

Working Together, We Can Fix Washington and Build a Better Future for America

ROUNDS
FOR SENATE
ROUNDSFORSENATE.COM

Approved by Mike Rounds. Paid for by Mike Rounds for Senate, Barb Everist, Treasurer.



Know Your Pharmacist, Know Your Medicine.
Stop into the Clinic pharmacy during National Pharmacist Month and learn why we play a crucial role in your health.

PHARMACY & DRIVE-UP HOURS:

M-F: 8:30am to 9pm
SAT: 8:30am to 5pm
SUN: Noon to 5pm

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, PC
1104 West 8th Street - Yankton, SD 57078
www.YanktonMedicalClinic.com

We accept all insurance cards.
605-665-2929 or 800-572-2072