

Rio Verde

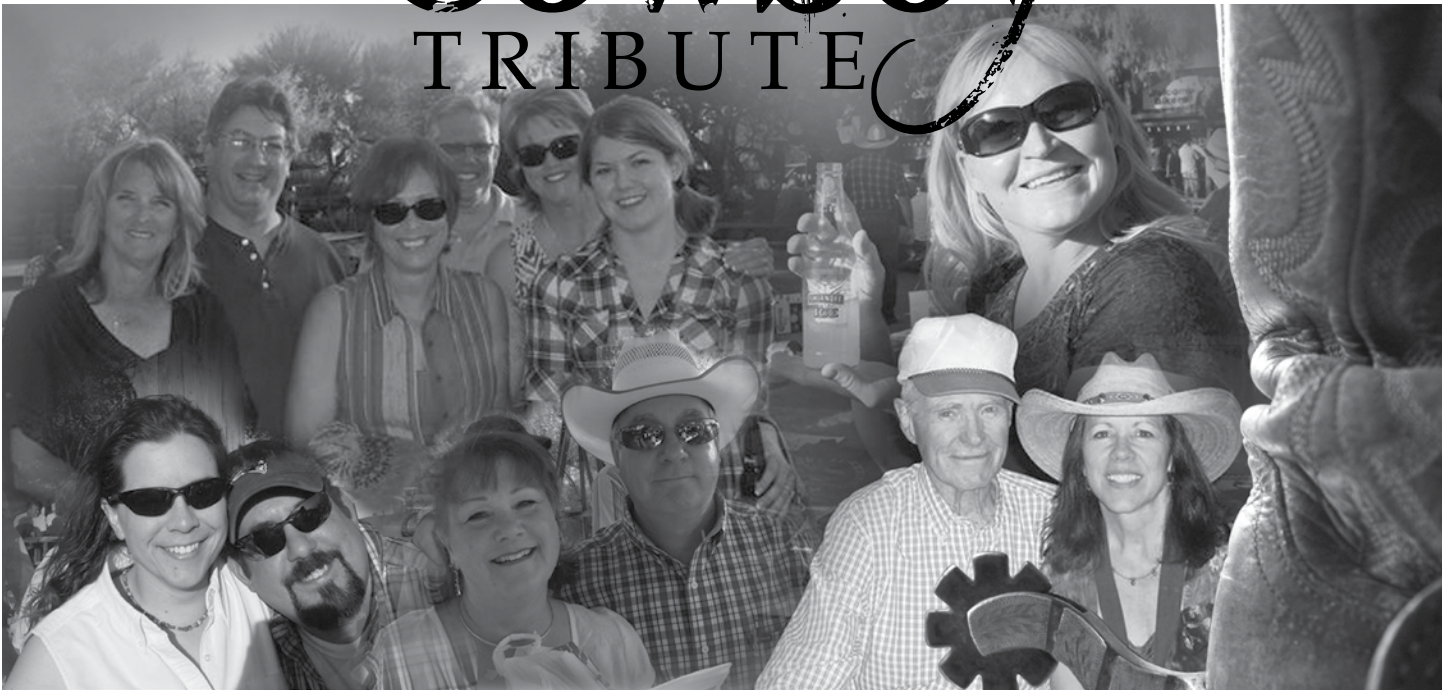
June 2011



The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association serves the unincorporated county lands north and south of Rio Verde Drive. The Association's purpose is to protect all horse properties and privileges and to preserve the equine and rural lifestyle. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support this purpose. Voting is only open to property owners in this area.

Cowboy TRIBUTE

-by Mary Kay Della Vella



If it had been any later in the year, it would have been too hot! The stars were out, and not just in the sky. George Williams was the brightest of all! We had a lovely evening celebrating our cowboys with probably more than one hundred attendees. There were pictures of George as a rodeo star. And we can never forget Doc. Without him, we would not have had Greasewood. Joyce had pictures and a history of the Cavalliere family for all to see. What a beautiful evening!

We had many items for our silent auction. I hope everyone got a chance to look at everything we had and get their bids in on the things they wanted. We appreciate all our sponsors. The only problem we encountered was the lack of a PA system in the back area where we were. It was hard to shout and make ourselves heard (although my kids always told me I was too loud). I had guest speakers lined up but nobody wanted to shout to be heard. All in all, I think everyone had a good time.

So until next time, everyone be good and make it a good day.

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Mary Kay Della Vella • (480) 206-2937

Off-Trail Rides – Chairman
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

It's starting to warm up out there and with the heat comes 'Fire Season'. Everyone please take the time to check your property. Make sure you have at least a thirty foot clearing around any buildings and barns. Make a plan with family members and neighbors of what do in case of an emergency. Be safe!

The annual RVHA Election Luncheon was held at Greasewood Flat on Sunday, March 20. The weather was wonderful and the turnout was big. It was nice to see many old and new members come together to discuss community issues. I'd like to welcome Marjorie Porter, our newest board member, she is already doing an outstanding job on the social committee.

Thank you to Chuck Monroe for serving on the board. Due to other commitments Chuck needed to resign his position as director. The Trails Committee is still working with the Tonto on getting access gates to the Verde River. We will keep everyone updated by email when we have more news.

McDowell Park has come to some new agreements with the equestrian riders on the staging area in the park. Look for an update article in this newsletter.

On Saturday, May 14 the RVHA held an event honoring cowboys, titled "Cowboy Gathering - End of an Era" at Greasewood Flat. Cowboys from all over came to honor the old timers from our area. Two of the honorees were our very own Doc Cavallier and George Williams. I'd like to thank Mary Kay Della Vella, Carl Della Vella, Marjorie Porter, Pat Mixer, Cortland Parks and Annie Hodgkins for working so hard to make this event such a success. Thanks also to Joyce Eller for donating so many wonderful memorial auction items. Also, thank you to everyone who donated something to the auction.

RVHA member and horse trainer, Simone Aamold, was seriously injured in a horse accident recently. The RVHA along with several members have made donations to help Simone. If you would like to help please contact me at Margaret@rvha.us

Remember to patronize all our advertisers. Show them how much we appreciate them and their support.

Margaret Scott
RVHA President



Membership in the Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is thriving! At the time I'm writing this our membership totals 425 members. A good number are members who have renewed their membership, but 81 are brand new members for the year 2011. This is an increase of 74 renewed members since our last newsletter, and 38 new members just since March.

Our social events will taper off during the summer, but come September we'll be starting to plan for Fall and Winter activities. A lot of you "checked the box" on your application that you'd be interested in joining various committees. We are always looking for assistance. If you'd like to offer your time, let us know. We'll be more than happy to put you to work!!!

We'd like to welcome the following people who have become members since our last newsletter:

Kermit & Vicki Beseke	Janet & Roger Norbom
Ed and Haley Brace	Eileen Parisi & Michael Noonan
Ric and Maureen Cox	Donna Perkin-Hart
Bruce & Chris Estey	Brenda & George Poulos
Kelli Mealey	Larry & Catherine Ross
Amanda & Christopher Moore	Hope Schoenbrodt
Gordon & Diane Morey	Martha Sockwell
Marijo & John Nolan	Sandra & Wiley Swearingen

With the help of our very capable website designer, Frank Turben, we're now set up to handle online applications and payments can be made using PayPal. We also have a renewal form set up on the website so that everyone can renew their membership online using PayPal. Thanks, Frank for all your help.

As members everyone is entitled to RVHA vehicle license plates for your car or truck. If you haven't received yours yet, please contact me and we'll see to it you get yours.



If any of your personal information changes, make sure to contact us so we can update our database. Don't forget your email address; people make this change quite often. For any questions we can help you with, please contact either me or Judy.

Membership Committee Contacts

Mo Wachman * 480 471-3131 mo@rvha.us
Judy Riley * 480 471-0056 judy@rvha.us

THE ARIZONA HORSE COUNCIL

-by Jean Anderson



Arizona Horse Council (AzHC) has a lobbyist, his name is Robert Shuler. The fact that he is our lobbyist comes from the 2008 Equine Summit we organized, and put on for other equine owners/breed associations/breeders/boarders/trainers, etc. The one main item that

came out of that summit was for AzHC to hire a lobbyist. We did indeed hire Robert. He is not only our lobbyist, but he's a horseman who owns several horses; that means that he has a vested interest in representing the Arizona Horse Council. I tell you all this because at this moment, he, along with the Arizona Farm Bureau, the Arizona Cattleman's Association, and with the Arizona Department of Revenue, is involved with the continuing process of discussing how the assessors will interpret all bills.

I mention this because of all of the AzHC volunteers who work tirelessly for you, the equine owner in Arizona, we have only ONE paid employee.....that is Robert Shuler, our lobbyist. I want each and every member of the RVHA to understand that it is costly to retain him.

AzHC has been running a membership campaign, and many of you have been contacted by a AzHC board member asking you to consider becoming a member. PLEASE think about joining. We all work for YOU.



DOGTOR T --- THE PET VET

-by Melissa Thompson, DVM

You've seen it at the local mall or pet shop. The cute little balls of fur jumping around, still learning how to use their little legs. How can one resist the power of the cuteness?

But where do these pets come from? That is always the big question. Many of the puppies that are found in pet stores are from puppy mill breeders. Puppy mills are large operations that have hundreds of dogs housed in small wire cages. The goal of these businesses is pure money-making. These mills will breed dogs over and over again with no regard to the health of the breeding dogs or for the newborn pups. With a little luck on their side, many problems in the pups won't be identified until the puppy is older. In which case the pup will be sold and its new owner will have to deal with the issue. Once a breeding dog can no longer be bred, whether due to age or injury, it is sold at auction, killed or even worse, left to die on its own. The females will be bred at a young age, usually the first heat. This can be as early as 6 months in some breeds. From that point on she will continuously be bred every cycle, yielding about 2-3 litters a year. She will live in a small wire cage, which she will never be let out of. If she is lucky, she will not have another wire cage on top of hers, so urine and feces from the above momma dog and puppies won't fall on top of her. If she is really lucky, she may have a covering over the cage to protect her from the hot sun in the summer and the snow in the winter.

"Aren't there any laws that protect these pets?" The short answer is yes, but in reality the laws don't require much. If we as private citizens were to house and take care of our pets the same way, we would be on the next episode of Animal Cops. The Animal Welfare Act requirements include having a cage six inches larger than the dog on all sides. There can be up to 12 dogs per cage and the dogs never have to be let out.

No consideration is given for mental well being of the dogs at all. The USDA is in charge of licensing and inspecting these facilities. In 2008 there were over 4400 USDA-licensed dog dealers in just a handful of states with very few inspectors to check all the facilities. This allows for many violations to fall through the cracks.

"Well, I know that puppies from the pet stores come from puppy mills, so I bought my dog

on-line. The breeder was so nice and had great pictures; she even shipped the puppy from Missouri for me." I hear this too often in the clinic, unsuspecting people shopping on-line for their next pet. Haven't you ever found it amazing you can Google any breed or any "designer or hybrid" breed and find a breeder? Puppy mills use the internet to sell their products all over the country. They use cute little websites and pictures as a disguise. What is even worse is that since they are selling directly to the consumer and not to a pet store, they are not required to be licensed by the USDA and the Animal Welfare Act does not apply to them. So what little protection the dogs had, is now gone.

"But my dog that I got is AKC registered, so it must not have come from a puppy mill!" Wrong again. The AKC is a registration club that will register dogs that are from

registered parents (or at least what is listed on the registration papers) The AKC is not a stamp of quality, just that the reported parents were pure-bred, and who's to say the puppy mill breeder even listed the right parents on the certificate?

Once a breeding dog can no longer be bred, whether due to age or injury, it is sold at auction, killed or even worse, left to die on its own.

If you are in need of a pure bred dog, do your homework. Talk to many breeders, try to buy locally, visit the facilities to see what you are truly getting. A good breeder will want to show you their dogs. A good breeder will not have puppies available all

year round. And a good breeder will not specialize in 8 different breeds or have 40 breeding pairs.

Many people think that breeders are too expensive. Well, I have seen many invoices from clients that have spent \$1200-2500 and even more for dogs from pet stores or on-line. One would bet that the cute, cuddly little pup came from a mom with fecal and urine stained matted hair, a few teeth and sore feet from standing on wires her whole life.

Another worthwhile option is adoption.

With many pure bred rescues and pure bred dogs popping up in the shelter, you are bound to find one that will fit into your home.

Dr. Thompson is a Rio Verde Foothills resident and RVHA member.

She practices at Banfield, The Pet Hospital, at 7077 E. Mayo Boulevard.



RVHA 2011 ELECTION RESULTS

The election results were announced at Greasewood Flat on March 20th, 2011 and are as follows:

- *PRESIDENTMARGARET SCOTT
- *1ST VICE PRESIDENTMONICA WACHMAN
- *2ND VICE PRESIDENT.....CECILE RUDIS
- *SECRETARY.....JENNY POWERS
- *TREASURER.....JUDY REILLY

DIRECTORS:

- *CORTLAND PARKS
- *MARY KAY DELLA VELLA
- *MARJORIE PORTER
- *RAY WALLAGE
- *LORI BRIDWELL

Thank you to all that voted and were able to attend. A complimentary lunch was provided by RVHA.

Everyone is encouraged to run for a position.... see you next year!

136TH STREET AND RIO VERDE DRIVE INTERSECTION

All:

Thanks for the emails. I did make a field visit on Tuesday, April 19th, to evaluate the existing signage and striping to see if any improvements could be made with the current roadway conditions. I am recommending that the eastbound "Intersection Warning Sign" and street name sign be relocated approximately 290 feet west of its current location, before the vegetation, and be installed with new reflective signs. This work order has been written and it takes usually 2 to 3 weeks to be completed in the field. I am also in the process of getting traffic volumes and speed data on Rio Verde in addition to turning movement counts in the peak hours (AM and PM peak) at the intersection of 136th Street and Rio Verde Drive. This data will help finish my analysis of the intersection. I have already pulled the collisions at this intersection in the past 2 years.

I am recommending that an eastbound left turn bay be installed as a interim measure until roadway improvements occur along the entire corridor. This intersection is now identified on our "Roadway Capacity Improvement" list for an eastbound left turn lane. This list currently has around 100 intersections throughout the city and it is prioritized by a variety of factors including: traffic volumes, speed, geometry of roadway, number of collisions, and current

conditions, etc. We usually have the funding to do around 20 improvement projects a year but with the current budget reductions this could be much less, and high volume and accident intersections would be a priority. I am currently working with the engineer that oversees this list and after my analysis is complete we will determine when we can move forward with the survey, design in-house, and cost estimate. I do understand some of your concerns of straightening out the southbound approach of the intersection with the project and in the design process that will be analyzed. There could be some constraints in the design phase in dealing with the utilities (power poles) and existing drainage features.

Thank you all for your feedback and concerns, as I have documented the emails. I will send a follow up email after I complete my safety analysis. If you have any further questions or concerns, please call or email.

Thank you,

Kathryn Kleinschmidt, P.E., Traffic Engineering Analyst
City of Scottsdale, Traffic Engineering Division
Ph: (480) 312-7613
Email: kkleinschmidt@scottsdaleaz.gov



Fedwell Farm Rescue



Fedwell Farm Rescue, Inc. has had an awesome spring! We have had a lot of adoptions and have been blessed with some wonderful dogs! Our volunteers have been tremendous; without them we could not have helped so many dogs.



help socialize these pups, so if you are looking to spend a little time with some cute and fuzzy little puppies, give Carrie a call at 602 316 8919.

Currently, Fedwell Farm Rescue is pulling dogs from the Maricopa County Shelter and we have also started saving dogs from the Yuma Humane Society and Show Low Animal Control and receiving dogs from them weekly.

We would like to thank the community, our adopters and volunteers for all the support and help that has made Fedwell Farm Rescue what it is today.

Fedwell Farm Rescue, Inc is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization and can use volunteers and donations so we can continue to save these wonderful dogs from the euthanasia list. Fedwell Farm Rescue, Inc does not have any paid employees or staff. All donations received go directly toward vet and food expenses.

We have attended some fabulous PACC 911 events. The Highlands Church event we attended enabled us to find new homes for seven of our dogs. The Fountain Hills event that was held during the first weekend in April found five new forever homes for pups.



We also attended our first Amazing Pet Expo at the University of Phoenix Stadium. This was a fabulous event with many exhibitors, spectators, with lots of fun and entertaining events. This event helped seven dogs find new homes. We are still receiving calls every day due to publicity from the event.

Currently we have three litters of darling puppies that we saved from the euthanasia list at the county shelter that will need homes shortly. Volunteers are needed to



Fedwell Farm Rescue, Inc.
602 316 8919
Fedwellfarm.com
fedwellfarm@yahoo.com

FIRE SAFETY

Fire season is upon us again. One little whiff of wind or a dust devil and these small fires could quickly spread with all the dry debris and crunchy weeds surrounding our homes.

HERE'S SOME INFORMATION FROM MARICOPA COUNTY.

As per Maricopa County: It is illegal to have an open burn between May 1st and September 30th. IF one sees a neighbor illegally burning, contact the non-emergency number of Rural Metro - 480-945-6311 and they will send out a representative to talk with the person. http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/divisions/compliance/dust/burning_activities/Default.aspx

For the safety of your home, it is recommended to weed-whack the fluffy weeds 30 ft around your house as a barrier. Using weed killer and/or a pre-emergent retardant is very helpful to prevent future growth. A further 30 feet from this barrier, trim branches from trees, such as your Palo Verde and Mesquite, as well as any dried bush limbs to prevent a fire laddering.

Further, if a fire occurs out here and the fighters see a home surrounded by fluff and debris, they X out the house as they will use their resources to try and save homes they know they can save as well as protect the firefighters.

Good FYI as the dry hot season is around the corner.

Here are sites for more information about burning permits and air quality issues.
<http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/Default.aspx>
http://www.maricopa.gov/aq/divisions/permit_engineering/applications/Default.aspx

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PARK ASSOCIATION

-by Pam Griffin

I am happy to announce that the Equestrians prevailed in keeping the **Main Trailhead open to equestrians at all times** including "during the season". All restrictions have been removed and will not be placed again.

County Parks is following the suggestions below, except for overflow RV camping. The RVs will still be parking temporarily at the Main Trailhead in that there is difficulty in communications within the park to let people know when space opens up at the campground. However, this will not exclude equestrian use.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED is the rule. When the lot is full you will have to find another trailhead to park.

IN ADDITION,

1. County Parks is to EXPAND the Main trailhead by 75 yards in order to accommodate more vehicles (much needed!).
2. 10 new tent camping sites at the Ironwood campground are in the process of being created to open up more RV spaces.
3. Online reservations are now in place and active so people will know what and where is available.
4. More "hard" trails are to be built to Four Peaks and other areas within the park to handle more

users and better access.

What's next? What do you need to do? SHOW UP AT Public TRAILS MEETING - JUNE 23 - 6:30 PM at McDowell Mtn. Park Visitors Center.

Please put this on your calendar

and bring your ideas for new multi-use trails to the trailheads and in the park.

This will be your best time to give input so that we have better ways to get around on true trails rather than a

deep wash or hard rocky track (I know it's a drive but at least it's late enough to make it after the workday).

They will have maps and drawings to look at. Please spread the word!



FOUR PEAKS ANIMAL RESCUE CORNER



My Name is Gracie
I had a house, I had it good.
I had a family that loved me;
we shared meals, lots of them.
But over time it got harder
and harder for me to move,
so they just brought the food
to me. One day we went for a
car ride, I love car rides by the

way. They took me into this place with a lot of other dogs, I later found out the place is called the shelter. They told the lady they lost their house and they couldn't take care of me anymore. The lady took me to a kennel where I waited at the front gate for a week, saying hi to those that would pass me by, but waiting for my family to come back. A few more days passed and I realized I was alone. I became withdrawn and didn't want to talk to anyone anymore. But just as the shelter people were talking about some special list I was on, my now foster mom came in and sprung me! It was hard for me to get into her car; I barely fit in the back seat. On the way home, we stopped at the store and I got a new collar and weighed in at 104 pounds. At my new house I got a bath because I was covered in ticks. I couldn't even stand for my bath; it was too hard on my legs. My foster mom put me on a

strict diet (no more people food - sigh) and we go for walks every day. The first few weeks I could only go for 5 minutes at a time, now I am a walking machine! My favorite time of day is morning, since that's when we go for our walks and I get to go visit the horses. Foster mom says I still have some weight to lose, but that I have lost about 30 pounds already. I like my foster home; I just wish that they didn't have other dogs. Most other dogs just don't understand that I am in charge and always will be. My foster mom says that I listen really well. I am not sure what that means, I just come when I am called, sit and lay down when I am told, it's not too hard to do. I love attention and I have really learned to enjoy getting brushed - it feels pretty good. I am patiently waiting for my new family to find me so I can watch over them and get all the attention to myself. I am about six years old, was spayed a long time ago and have received all of my vaccines. There is always a debate as to what I am; my old family told the shelter I was a Border Collie/Australian Shepherd mix. People see how large I am and think I am a Bernese mountain dog. I don't remember what my parents looked like, so I can't tell you who is right. But what I can tell you is that I am a great mix of happy, loving and loyal.

For more information about Four Peaks Animal Rescue, our available pets, events, etc, please visit our website at www.fourpeaksanimalrescue.org

*Funding for FPAR is derived from fundraisers, public & private donations, & adoption fees. Donations & Auction items are tax deductible. IRS 501(c) (3) ID No. 36-4262371

Four Peaks Animal Rescue
28150 N Alma School Pkwy # 103/470
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
480-471-3520
Fax: 480-471-2201



My Name is Gracie

AGRICULTURE-EXEMPT PROPERTY FIASCO

-by Lori Bridwell

On April 29, 2011, Bill Bridwell and I drove to the County office to try to establish whether or not our property still had Ag-Exempt status. Through the grapevine and on our property valuation notice in 2010 I was classified an "M", which means "mixed use of two or more legal classes":

- Class 1: Commercial
- Class 2: Vacant Land, Agriculture, Non-Profit
- Class 3: Owner-Occupied Residential
- Class 4: Residential Rental, Common Areas
- Class 6: Historic Residential, Foreign Trade Zone, Enterprise Zone
- Class 7: Historic Commercial
- Class 8: Renovated Historic Residential
- Class 9: Certain Improvements on Government Properties

We're not sure what happened to Class 5 (whatever the state wants to do with it, I suppose). In 2011 unbeknown to me I was classified as Class 3 – Owner-Occupied Residential, not Ag at all, which changed my taxes.

So started my treks to and from the not-so-close County office! We met with Jerod O'Neil, Property Appraiser, Maricopa County. We explained that we were there to question why we were removed from Ag-Exempt status after having that status since October, 1999, and that we held the Farm #5186, issued by Bill Moody since that day. Not many of us have a Farm #, do we? Mr. O'Neil seemed surprised that we had always had the Ag-Exempt status and that the Ag Department had records of it since October 22, 1999.

On our 2010 property tax statement it is shown "with agriculture value". We showed these records to him which did not seem to matter; we are now shown "without ag" status.

We showed Mr. O'Neil the "Resolution of the Maricopa County Board of Adjustment", Article xx111, Section 2302 of the Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance dated December 14, 1988, signed by Moses Campbell, Jr. This resolution was assigned to me by Bill Moody in October, 1999, and should still be in the records at the Ag Department. Here is a synopsis of the resolution. Actual words of the first paragraph:

1) In order to qualify for an exemption from zoning regulation as property uses for "grazing or general agriculture purposes" the property must meet each of

the following standards.

- A) The property is at least five contiguous acres in size.
- B) The primary use of the investment in the property is directed toward production of agriculture products through agronomy, horticulture, or animal husbandry (exempt purposes)
- C) The property is intended for and is reasonably capable of producing a normal profit through exempt purposes.
- D) Not less than two-thirds of the owner's income from the property is derived from exempt purposes.

There is a statement at the bottom of this Resolution that says, "In order for this to be changed, it must be amended in conjunction with the State Enabling Legislation." This was agreed to and signed by me and Bill Bridwell on October 22, 1999, and filed with Bill Moody, Agriculture Department.

While we were there we filled out the four-page Agriculture Land Use Application. (**Make sure you have it dated and stamped right then and there**) We also filed a Taxpayer Notice of Claim to let them know we would like to be reimbursed for any taxes that have been raised because of the Ag Status change.

By the statute they must review property every 4 years by the Ag Department. I have never had anyone come out to my property nor have I ever been notified that I

was reviewed. I was told they were very shorthanded there. TO THAT I SAY "NOT MY PROBLEM".

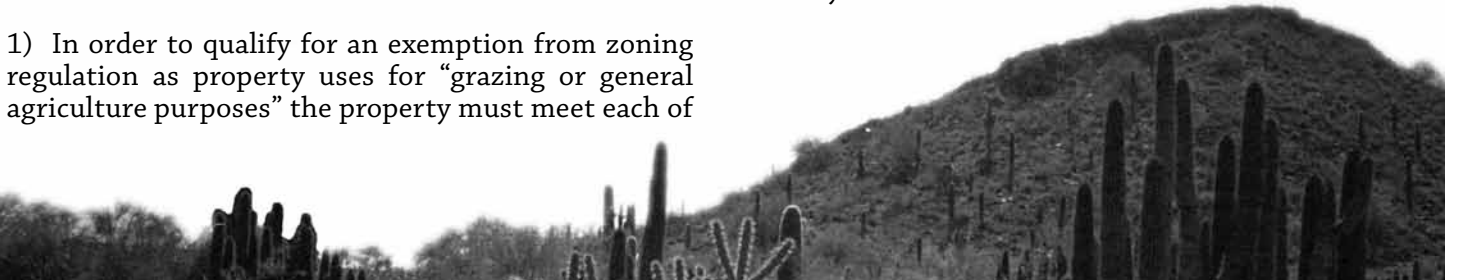
I was told it could be 120 days before I hear from them, so I will call every 10 days to make sure I have been entered into the computer and to see what has happened to my status.

Next, you should make an appointment with the next guy on the ladder-to-nowhere, David Boisvert, before the end of August. He will, they tell us, be making the decision about my life and livelihood.

Last, but not least, if you are turned down, you can go and state your problem to the "State Board of Equalization".

I hope this helps some of you that have wondered what you can do, or need to go down to the County and appeal this huge mismanagement of our land and money.

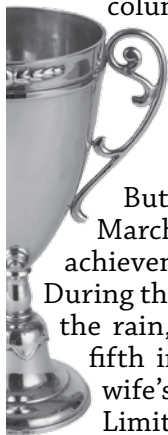
I have never had anyone come out to my property nor have I ever been notified that I was reviewed. I was told they were very shorthanded there. TO THAT I SAY "NOT MY PROBLEM".



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

-by Jenny Powers

For the first time in over 7 years of writing this column, time and work constraints have made it impossible to gather all the information for this Roundup issue. We'll be returning in September with more great stories on our local "winners".



But we would like to correct an error in our March issue. We inadvertently omitted the achievements of RVHA member, Scott Debi. During the multi-day Resolution Ride, Scott braved the rain, snow and wind on Day 1 and finished fifth in the Limited Distance event riding his wife's Arabian horse, JC Mackay (Junior). The Limited Distance ride is 25 miles.

Also, on Day 3, Scott completed the Limited Distance ride with another Top Ten finish, this time on his own Quarter Horse, Sully.

Congratulations, Scott, and once again, we're sorry we missed you in March.

LORILL EQUESTRIAN UPDATE

We finished this last year with a great show season. All our riders placed in the top 10 in their respective age divisions. We also had quite a few finishing highpoint and reserve in their disciplines.

Between the English and Western shows at Scottsdale Saddle Club, gymkhanas, three-day events and Quarter Horse shows, it seems we have all our weekends booked. Adam Mamerow, Hunter Popp, Perla Corrales and Maddy Schmidt all finished strong in the gymkhanas. Lori, Elaine, Perla, Kodi, Maggie and Jessica were top 10 in the English Scottsdale Saddle Club shows.

Lori, Elaine, Adam, Hunter and Kodi were top 10 for the Western shows. Congrats to Mel and Maggie on competing and placing at their first 3-day even in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

We have some new riders showing this year, along with some young horses making their show debut. This current show season has already started and it looks to be a great one and a fun time. In between all these shows we've been doing a number of rides as well.

Our upcoming weekly summer camps are just around the corner. There are still openings in these camps, so give us a call if there's interest and for more information: 480.471.3151

RANCH NEWS

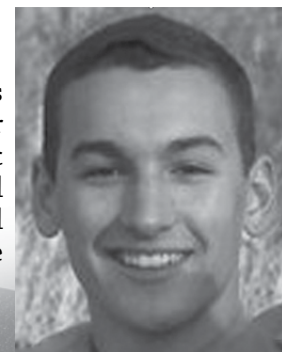


Those darn Border collies are at it again...both Cookie and Bryn have been in a couple of commercials produced last month. Cookie is in a PetSmart commercial that will air in the fall. It is a group of people going into and coming out of a PetSmart store. Cookie is in the middle and her handler is a little girl with long blonde hair. Bryn's commercial is for the Arizona Lottery and it should be out any day. She was what is called the "hero dog," which means the star. Well there was a person "hero," too. Bryn had to work off leash and if you have ever been to a set there are lights and cameras and people running all about, light boards, microphones and all kinds of odd looking things. Bryn had to sit on her mark until cued to move, then interact with the actress, go with her and jump in the van. Take, after take, after take she got it right every time. She had three other scenes it took six and one half hours to film, but it was all very exciting. Both Cookie and Bryn hit their marks. So who knows where you might see them next!



Rio Verde residents and 2011 Cactus Shadow graduates, Connor Henry, son of Scott and Dora Henry, and Will Bowers, son of Brian and Susan Bowers, have both made their parents very proud. Both have signed a Letter of Intent to attend Scottsdale Community College in the fall. Both were

awarded athletic scholarships in track and field, and Connor was also awarded an academic scholarship. Connor and Will have participated in football and track together for the last 4 years. Both were accomplished enough in pole vault and discus, respectively, to qualify for the AIA State track meet held on May 14 at Mesa Community College. Keep it Up!!!



RURAL METRO UPDATE

Captain John Kraetz, Fire Chief

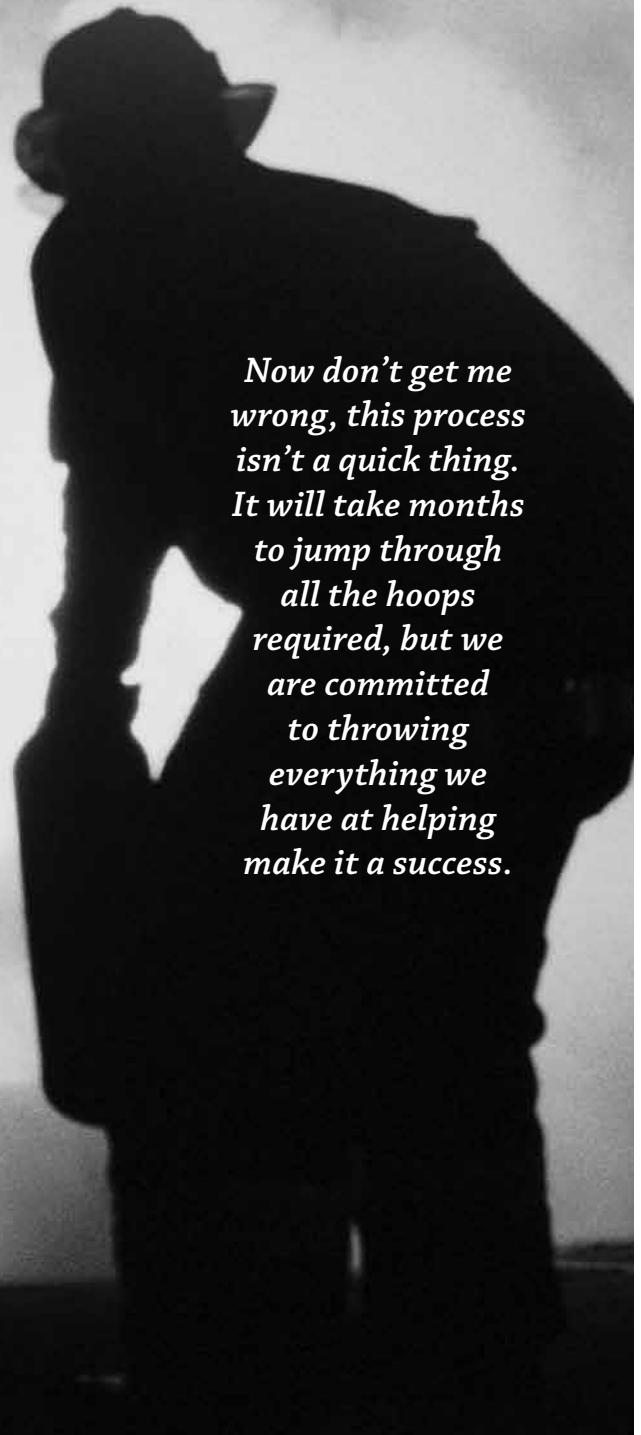
This past legislative session, an addendum to ARS 48 (known as the county island fire district law) was pushed through. The original law as it was written didn't really apply or help you folks in the formation of a fire district. This addendum has specific language in it that will make it not only possible, but maybe a little easier to form a fire district out there. It was actually written with your area in mind. The best way to get the necessary funds required to operate a sufficient fire station is to form a fire district. This way, all the home owners are responsible for a portion of the costs, instead a few paying for themselves and their neighbors.

The changes to the law go into effect July 1 of this year. There are a bunch of steps required to make it happen, but until July 1st comes around, most of those steps are done behind the scenes. In order to be allowed to start the process, several individuals from the area have to apply to form the district. At that point an impact statement, study of all the properties in the area, a tentative budget put together, and an assessed value have to be performed. Normally this is done by the group initiating the petition to the state. The process can take a lot of effort and at times can be tough getting through the labyrinth of the state's various departments. We have met with the lobbyist that rewrote the law, and a few folks that are interested in spearheading the process. Because this is actually a political process, I've been advised that those individuals need to keep their names out of the public domain until July when the process starts.

Rural Metro has committed to assisting the formative group with professional resources that will hopefully make the process much more successful. If it turns out that this time around a fire district is formed, we will be on a fast track to put a station out in the area that will be staffed 24/7 by a professional firefighting crew. Now don't get me wrong, this process isn't a quick thing. It will take months to jump through all the hoops required, but we are committed to throwing everything we have at helping make it a success.

As July comes around, and I am able to get out more definitive information, I will send you another email that you can distribute to your association.

In the middle of July, Rural Metro and Rio Verde Fire District will be putting an ambulance up at the Rio Verde Fire Station. We will be co-staffing the unit, and it will provide much faster service to your area. I will email you the day it goes on line.



Now don't get me wrong, this process isn't a quick thing. It will take months to jump through all the hoops required, but we are committed to throwing everything we have at helping make it a success.

ARIZONA BORDER COLLIE RESCUE SUCCESS STORY

-by Theresa Thraen



Recently Arizona Border Collie Rescue (ABCR) was called upon to help out with a Border collie puppy mill and hoarding situation in Jefferson, Texas. Rescuers found

Taking on 25 extra dogs along with all the other Border collies that we take in right here in Arizona was a big undertaking. ABCR is 100 percent volunteer. All foster dogs are in the private homes of our volunteers. We are a 501(c)(3) so any money or donation of food, toys or bedding is tax deductible. Because we are all volunteers all monies go directly to the dogs. Some of these Texas dogs came with medical problems, which of course is an added expense. Please visit our website click and "donate." Apply to volunteer or foster or adopt. My breed is the Border collie, but there are dogs of every breed in rescue that need our help. **Visit www.azbordercollierescue.com.**

167 live dogs. At this time the owner has only been charged with two counts of animal cruelty, which means he can do this all over again. The puppies were sold on the Internet; he had a well designed, professional website. But when a family member finally turned him in, the first responders found a terrible situation. Dogs locked in crates, moms with puppies in tiny crates, and others just left to run loose. Garbage and old wrecked cars everywhere, several dead dogs and pups scattered about the property.

Please, if you must buy a dog, check out the seller carefully. What you see on the Internet is not always the true story.

Please, if you must buy a dog, check out the seller carefully. What you see on the Internet is not always the true story. ABCR took in 25 of these dogs; some of you may have seen the story on local news channels 3 and 5.

I am fostering two of these Texas dogs, Eve and Kruz. The people in Texas dubbed Eve the praying dog. She could not or would not stand up. She just bowed and stuck her head between her front legs. When she did walk she ran into walls so they thought she was blind. She would lie down to go potty. Kruz was unable to look at people and would just stand stiff-legged and not move. They had never had a toy or a bed, they had never been on a walk and they are both about 15 months old. The team in Texas begged for little Eve to get out on the first truck to leave. There were 37 spots Eve was dog number 37.

It is always amazing how dogs recover and forgive. Eve now runs and plays with toys and the other dogs. She can chase a ball and walk up and down stairs. She has even been herding sheep with Cookie and me. Kruz has started to wag his tail. He walks on a leash, knows his name and comes when called. He loves toys and butt scratches and playing with Eve and my girl, Bryn.



It is always amazing how dogs recover and forgive.



Cowboy TRIBUTE





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