



## EVENTS

June 11

**Lomita Sheriffs Posse event**

*Ernie Howlett Park*

June 16

**PVPHA general meeting**

*Empty Saddle Club*

June 19

**ETI Corral 8 horse show**

More info: 310-982-9835

*Ernie Howlett Park*

June 26

**LSAC horse show**

Show manager: 310-326-3983

*Ernie Howlett Park*



KATHARINE BLOSSOM LOWRIE

### Big month for PV horses (pages 6-7):

The Peninsula's horse community kicked off the month with the first-ever 'Horse Happenings,' and RHE continued its annual mayor's breakfast ride.

### ALSO INSIDE

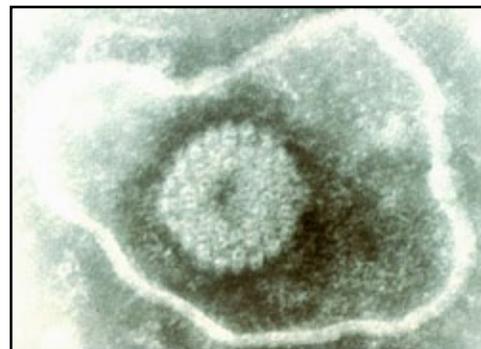
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## EHV-1/EHM appears in Calif.

by NICOLE MOORADIAN  
DISPATCH EDITOR

An outbreak of equine herpes virus-1 (EHV-1), which causes equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM), at the National Cutting Horse Association's Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah, has local horse owners on alert.

So far, 21 cases of EHV-1/EHM have been confirmed in California—five in Glenn County; three each in Placer and Stanislaus counties; two in Kern County; and one each in Amador, Colusa, Los Angeles, Marin, Napa, Plumas, Shasta and Ventura counties, according to the California



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

**An electron photomicrograph of EHV-1 from the College of Agriculture.**

Department of Food and Agriculture. Sixteen of those horses competed in the Ogden, Utah, event; two of the horses only competed in the Kern

**See "EHV-1/EHM," Page 8.**

## Learn Good, Bad, Ugly of Saddle Fit

The PVPHA's June meeting at the Empty Saddle Club will spotlight local horsewoman Susie Lytal, M.S., who has been working in the field of bodywork and equine wellness since 1995. Her expertise ranges from general bodywork to saddle fit assessment.

Her career in equine wellness consulting has blossomed into a multifaceted life that incorporates principles of horse behavior, rider and horse integration, movement assessment and biomechanics, she has become a valuable local resource for the Palos Verdes Peninsula horse community. A graduate degree in equine biomechanics and a life lived among horses have contributed to her expertise in equine wellness.

As a coauthor of the new book *99 Ways to Not Kill Your Horse*, she has broken new ground in the realm of good horse sense.

Lytal's program—called "Saddle Fit: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"—will focus on the principles and practical application of saddle fit for both English and western disciplines. The PVPHA general meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m.

**Please note:** Per Empty Saddle Club policy, people who aren't members of the riding club may not bring dogs to the PVPHA's general meetings. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. U

## NEWS BRIEFS

**PVPHA to hold election for board members**

The PVPHA's annual election will be conducted at the June 16 meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Empty Saddle Club. The following positions are up for election or re-election:

- 🐾 Vice President of Civic Affairs
- 🐾 Vice President of Education
- 🐾 Vice President of Fiscal Affairs
- 🐾 Recording Secretary
- 🐾 Corresponding Secretary
- 🐾 Treasurer

All terms except those for the Vice President of Civic Affairs and the Corresponding Secretary, will last two years. The Vice President of Civic Affairs and Corresponding Secretary terms are for one year.

To place your name on the ballot or nominate someone for any of the above listed positions, contact nominating committee members June Olney at 310-326-4531 or Do-reen Houle at 310-375-5157.

**RHE to offer Pony Camp this summer**

There's still time to sign up for late-summer sessions of Rolling Hills Estates' annual summer Pony Camp at the Peter Weber Equestrian Center. Weeklong Camp sessions are offered during both mornings and afternoons.

Wee Tot Camps, designed for children ages 3-5, begin the week of May 16, and regular Pony Camp for children ages 6-12 starts the week of June 13. The last sessions for both camps are held the week of Aug. 29.

The registration fee is \$230 for RHE residents and \$250 for non-residents.

For more information, call 310-377-1577, ext. 109. The Peter Weber Equestrian Center is located at 26401 Crenshaw Boulevard.

*Want your show results published here or your equine event publicized? Send us a news brief! News briefs are generally 2-3 short paragraphs. To submit a news brief, email the text to [pvpha2010@gmail.com](mailto:pvpha2010@gmail.com). The editor reserves the right to not include briefs and to edit briefs for length and clarity. U*

**Elite Equine burglarized, computer records stolen****Dr. Sylvia Ouellette: Clients should monitor credit reports, mailings**

The Elite Equine Veterinarian offices were burglarized in late May. Thankfully, no one was in the office at the time, and all of our paper records and patient files, veterinary equipment and medications were untouched. Unfortunately, all our computer equipment and backup devices were stolen.

Because of the nature of the theft, we recommend all of our clients monitor their credit closely for the next several months. This should include suspicious activity on your credit card (if you used one with us) and your personal credit information. Even though all of the information on our computers were securely protected with multiple passwords, there is still a chance that some information could be extracted.

If you do notice any fraudulent activity—and after you notify your bank/credit bureau and remedy the situation—please contact us. The more information we can collect, the more likely the police will find the culprits. We would also ask that if you receive unsolicited emails/mailings/calls about horse services, please let us know, as the thieves may have been after client information to sell to other businesses.

This has been a very stressful and trying time for all of us—and because of the theft, we do not have a complete, up-to-date list of clients to contact individually, so please forward this information to others that might need it.

Thank you for your understanding.

Dr. Sylvia Ouellette  
Jessica Anderson

*This notice was printed as a public service. U*



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## TRAINER SPOTLIGHT: TIFFANY CHIU



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# Tiffany Chiu emphasizes total horsemanship

by **TIFFANY CHIU**  
SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

I've always been crazy about nature and animals—especially horses. Before I could write my own name, I drew horse herds, told their stories and dreamed of horses.

I went on my first real trail ride at 5 years old, thanks to my Wisconsin relatives and their quarter horses. Summer camps with Jan Ball at today's Peter Weber Equestrian Center and the pony camp at Palos Verdes Stables camp let me enjoy horses locally once I was 7 years old.

The turning point came while I was selling Girl Scout cookies on my block in Redondo Beach—I saw a pony grazing in our neighbors' back yard! As it turned out, Lisa and Erin Murphy had more horses in Portuguese Bend. They gave lessons, and they became my first instructors.

They were also the source of my first wild pony, Whitney, when I was 9 years old. Spending six days per week at the barn with Whitney changed my life! I took Eng-

lish jumping lessons at the Portuguese Bend Riding Club, was a member of the Portuguese Bend Pony Club, and enjoyed summer camp with riders who brought their ponies over on the barge from Catalina Island.

After years of property searching and commuting to riding lessons, my parents bought their Palos Verdes Peninsula home with a nine-stall red barn and arena in our own back yard. Having my horses at home meant 5:30 a.m. feedings, afternoons mucking stalls and feeding, and riding every day without the commute.

This move was difficult for me as a 12-year-old; I left my riding friends and Pony Club support group to live on the unknown, more urban side of the Hill.

By this time, I had Whitney and a relative's half-quarter horse, half-Arabian gelding Zane who *loved* to run! Over the years, we bred Whitney for her first foal Magic, and my parents purchased the thoroughbred gelding Bolaire "Bo" so I could compete on Peninsula High School's team in the Interscholastic Equestrian League. I cross-trained

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for dressage, hunters/jumpers and cross country, just as I did with Pony Club, and joined the Palos Verdes Peninsula 4-H Club run by Dee Keese. When Cathy Gardner and others set up the Palos Verdes Peninsula Pony Club, I leaped at the opportunity to join with Bo.

The move turned out to be the best thing for me in the long term. After joining all the local equestrian groups, my increased visibility meant my neighbors knew I had ponies. They asked me to ride their horses and give lessons to their kids. Even competitive riders sought my help because their kids wouldn't listen to their parents as riding teachers! I felt connected and needed; I became an asset to my community. I was a role model and teacher, leading by example—I was growing up through riding!

Searching for colleges also meant finding the nearest stables. Instead of a car, I needed a horse trailer to bring Magic and Bo to the University of California, Santa Cruz. I walked to classes and ran to the barn to feed hay and clean stalls. I continued giving lessons.

Still, I missed my family and wanted to be closer to home. Fortunately, my transfer to UCLA was approved. Thank goodness we got that trailer to bring Bo and Magic to and from Santa Cruz for summer and winter breaks! After graduating, I resumed managing my parents' red barn Mystic Canyon Stable.

I always dabbled in entrepreneurial endeavors—selling homemade crafts; working retail; waiting tables; assisting a CPA; house, pet or baby sitting; tutoring; modeling; teaching riding lessons; riding others' horses; trimming hooves; and volunteering with charities. Working as a TA at a private charter elementary school broadened my

skills of working with groups of different developmental ages. Holding more than one job at a time was normal; I never thought I could make a living working full time with horses. All these connections and skills prepared me for going out on my own as a riding teacher.

As I managed Mystic Canyon Stable and taught lessons, word spread. Thanks to referrals and a reputation for safe and sound horsekeeping, I gradually attracted students and offers of good mounts to fill the barn, which now has 10 horses and ponies. I *love* helping horses and riders develop a relationship; it doesn't matter if they ride English, western or bareback and on the trail or in the arena.

In my lessons, riders halter and handle their mount, groom, tack up, ride and untack. I emphasize the responsibility that goes into the care of the horse—not just riding. With these practical classes, I hope to empower riders with the necessary skills to be competent equestrians, whether they want to keep their own horses or take up an offer to ride a friend's horse if given the chance.

Riders can be as young as 3 years old and as old as 70. I empathize with tiny riders who begged for riding for years, just as I did. Adults who finally make the big step to take their first lesson warm my heart because it takes courage to overcome fear or previous negative experiences. Adults who come back to riding—whether it's after a productive professional career or once the kids are grown—are the easiest to teach because their bodies have natural muscle memory and remember how to stay on.

I teach lessons all year, including pony camp on week-day mornings in the summer. I'm most noted for my patience and calm demeanor; I'll repeat the steps until each

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rider understands how to do various tasks and maneuvers on horseback.

I've found the best way to remember what I've learned is through photos of events, so I started writing down what each camper did during the day and taking photos to document the processes. The highlight of pony camp is when each camper takes home their custom-made photo journal. I take photos of each camper as they learn how to groom, tack up, ride, identify parts of saddles and bridles, clean tack, muck stalls and more. Putting together these scrapbooks takes more time than camp, but it's meaningful work because I understand the value of the journals. Reading the journals reinforce what the campers learn.

My program and teaching philosophy constantly evolve as my understanding of the whole horse approach deepens. From home study through books, videos and the Internet, to observing others and clinics with other professionals, I strive to continue my education. I welcome new insights and ideas. Staying friends with longtime equestrians and building new friendships with horse people keeps horses at the social forefront of my life socially, too.

When I'm not working, I give back to the community by co-leading the PVP 4-H group with Lisa Vidov of Martin Performance Horses. I feel blessed to have so much to offer and so much to learn. I am so happy that my passion for horses and riders has become my job. For me, horses are more than a fascination—they are a lifestyle choice!

*For more information, contact Tiffany Chiu at Mystic Canyon Stable at 310-621-4247. U*

**JENN WINNICK, DVM, CVA**



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## Student: Tiffany Chiu helped me find my passion for horses

by **MAYA HAIMSOHN**  
STUDENT OF TIFFANY CHIU

Mystic Canyon Stable is like a second home to me, and Tiffany is like a second mom. I still remember Tiffany's greeting when I first walked into the stable: "Hello! Welcome to the barn!"

Since that day, I've practically grown up there—mucking stalls, bathing the horses, helping with lessons and, of course, riding! Tiffany has taught me everything I know about horses. I went there three years ago when I was 10, just to see if I like it. Now I'm there 5 days a week.

I went there knowing nothing about horses except they were live animals. It was news to me that there were different breeds! When I first heard the term "quarter horse," I thought it literally meant "a quarter horse, a quarter something else." Boy, was I wrong, but Tiffany taught me.

She taught me horsemanship as well as the parts of a saddle, different styles of riding, the parts of a horse and so much more. In fact, by summer, I was ready to be a helper. That was really thrilling news because helpers at Tiffany's are like assistant instructors. I always thought about how smart my helpers were when I was just starting to ride!

I taught kids to ride, how to be safe, and much of what Tiffany taught me. I now lease a horse for two days per week, take a lesson once a week, and help out two days per week. Thanks to Tiffany, my love for horse, as well as my equitation skills, has grown! I have truly found my passion: horseback riding! U

**Thomas A. Hackathorn DVM**  
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# 'Horse Happenings on the Hill' a success

by NICOLE MOORADIAN  
DISPATCH EDITOR

More than 100 people attended the first-ever "Horse Happenings on the Hill," an event designed to showcase local horse professionals and the equestrian community, like a local version of the famous Equine Affaire.

The event included demonstrations of dressage, jumping and other disciplines, as well as a parade of breeds, and between demonstrations, people were free to walk around the grassy area and visit booths set up by trainers, riding clubs and veterinarians.

Kelly's Korner, a Rolling Hills Estates landmark, served lunch on the sweltering day.

Peninsula resident Kelly Yates organized the event to bring together the local horse community and other Peninsula residents.

"I wanted to show what great opportunities exist on the Peninsula for anyone who has any level of interest in horses," she told *Palos Verdes Patch* at the event. **U**

**Clockwise from top: Local veterinarian Larry Kelly explains the importance of equine dentistry. / Event organizer Kelly Yates stands next to Debbie Boyle atop her Friesian, Teamen. / Trainer Linda Cooper of Maverick Farms is ready to answer questions at her booth. / Aeryl Lytal and her Welsh pony Midnight were just one of the horse/rider combinations to participate in the demonstrations.**

PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE: KATHARINE LOWRIE / PATCH.COM  
USED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER





PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY DOREEN HOULE

**Top: Riders, led by RHE Mayor Steve Zuckerman, departed from Chandler Arena and rode around the landfill before heading to Ernie Howlett Park for the Boy Scouts' annual pancake breakfast. Bottom: PVPHA President Dale Allen enjoys his pancake breakfast (left) and local Boy Scouts serve breakfast to equestrians and residents alike (right).**

# 2011 Mayor's Breakfast Ride

by **DOREEN HOULE**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The annual Rolling Hills Estates Mayor's Breakfast Ride began without a hitch on the morning of May 14. With PVPHA President Dale Allen in the lead, Mayor Steve Zuckerman rode with about two dozen other equestrians at about 8 a.m. from Chandler Park to the Red Barn, then up and around the landfill and down over to Ernie Howlett Park an hour later, where local Boy Scouts were serving their annual pancake breakfast.

The breakfast was great as always, with the Boy Scouts filling our plates as full as we wanted with pancakes, sausage and eggs and our mugs with coffee, milk and juice. We were all in good company, relaxed and enjoying the morning as we ate our delicious meal.

Even with the dreary weather and moderate drizzle, the line was long—though it moved quickly—proving this event was again a great success.



**Dale Allen (far left), Steve Zuckerman (center), John McBride (far right) enjoy an after-breakfast conversation.**

Proceeds from the breakfast tickets, which cost \$3 at City Hall in advance and \$5 at the event, went to local Boy Scout troops. **U**



Continued from Page 1...

## EHV-1/EHM: Vet says practice common sense

*Horse owners can still go on trail rides with barn buddies, says Dr. Larry Kelly*

County Cutting Horse Event in Bakersfield, Calif.

Four of the horses diagnosed with EHV-1/EHM had been exposed to a horse that participated in the Ogden event. In all, two horses were euthanized after showing “severe neurological signs associated with EHM,” according to the CDFA. Both horses tested positive for EHV-1.

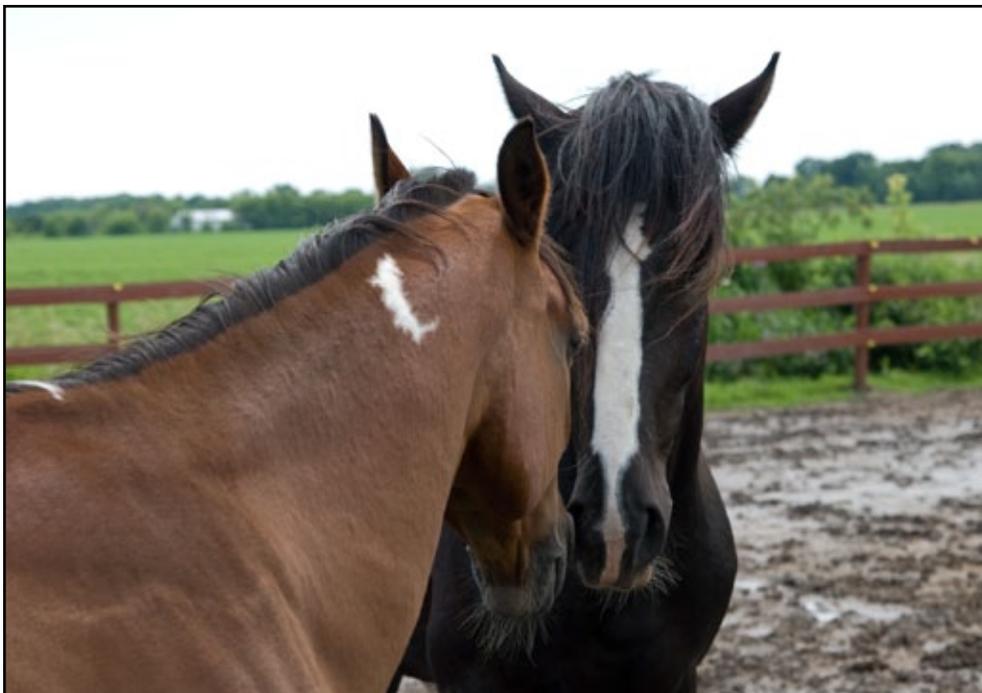
The standard EHV-1 infection can cause “respiratory disease, abortion in mares, neonatal foal death and neurological disease” in horses, the CDFA said in a fact sheet about the virus. In the neurological progression of the disease, also known as EHM, the “EHV-1 virus damages blood vessels in the brain and spinal cord causing the various neurological clinical presentations of the disease.”

Symptoms of EHV-1 infection include a fever over 101.5 degrees, mucus discharge from both nostrils, cough and neurological signs, Dr. Larry Kelly said at a recent PVPHA informational meeting on the virus. These symptoms can be subtle, and a horse may not exhibit all of them.

The virus, which dies in sunlight, is transmitted from horse to horse through direct contact with nasal secretions and droplets in close proximity and has an incubation period of two to 10 days, Kelly said. Though horses can recover from the initial illness, the virus can become dormant and reactivate during stressful times.

Though humans can't be infected by EHV-1, all equids are susceptible—including mules and donkeys, which are asymptomatic carriers, according to the CDFA.

Instead of panicking about a potential outbreak, horse owners



TONY DUCKLES / FLICKR

**The EHV-1 virus is spread through horse-to-horse contact. If you fear your horse may be infected, keep him away from other horses, and don't bring him to horse shows and other events.**

should use common sense, Kelly said. Instead, they should practice good hygiene, including washing hands after visiting other barns and changing close after visiting a stable where horses are exhibiting symptoms of the virus.

Anyone who suspects his or her horse is infected should contact a veterinarian and quarantine the horse. Tools and grooming instruments used on infected horses should be disinfected with a one part bleach to 10 parts water solution, Kelly said.

Kelly also said owners should not worry about the people who deliver shavings, hay, etc.; however, horse owners should speak with their veterinarian, farrier, stall cleaner, equine dentist, equine massage therapist and other horse professionals about cleaning and disinfecting procedures

between treatments. Owners should also ask horse professionals which other barns they visit.

If they'd like to further protect their horse, owners can ask their veterinarian for a Rhinopneumonitis (“Rhino”) booster shot if the horse was vaccinated 4-6 weeks previously. Revaccination may boost a horse's immunity and reduce viral shedding. Horses who have been vaccinated may not become as sick.

There is also some evidence that feeding horses supplements with natural immune boosters, such as lysine, can be helpful; however, owners should consult with their veterinarian before starting a new or modifying an existing supplement program.

*PVPHA Recording Secretary Erin Ryan contributed to this report. U*

# From the kitchen: Apple explosion

*Adapted from a recipe published online by the Moniteau Saddle Club.*



## Ingredients:

- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- ½ tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 spoonfuls molasses
- ½ cup water
- ¼ apple, diced

## Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix together, in order, the following ingredients: oatmeal, whole wheat flour, brown sugar, molasses and water.
3. Spoon lumps of batter onto a greased cookie sheet.
4. Place a piece of apple in each of the lumps of dough. Bury the apple completely in the dough.
5. Bake for 8-10 minutes.

*Do you have a favorite recipe for horse treats? Share it with the rest of the PVPHA! E-mail your recipe to [pvpaha2010@gmail.com](mailto:pvpaha2010@gmail.com), and it may be published in the Dispatch. U*

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HORSE FUNNIES

**'Hiiiiiiiiii!'**

*Submission and photo by Lauren Sussman.*



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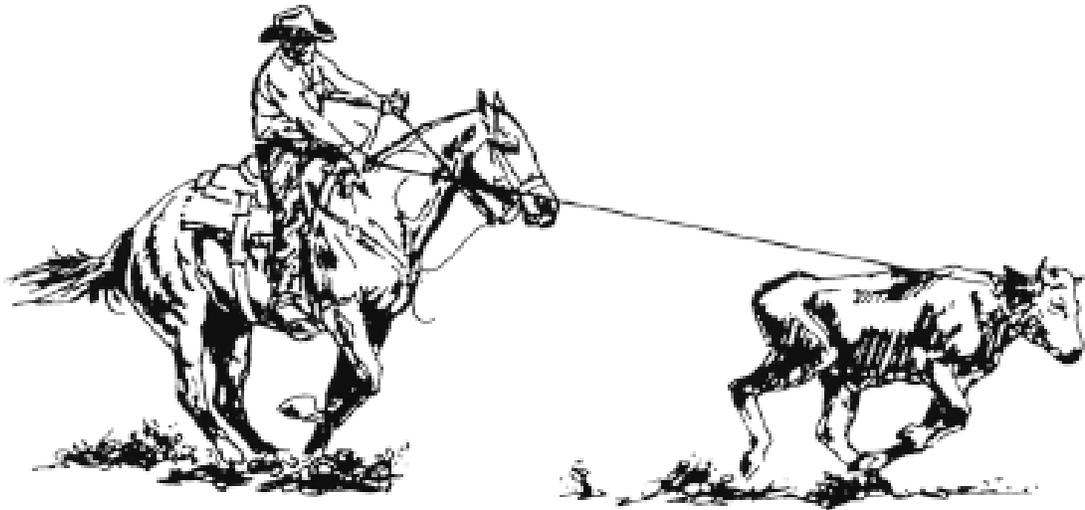
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DISPATCH edited by Nicole Mooradian.

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