

Clallam County 4-H riders win at fair

READER LADONA WILSON recently e-mailed me to share how well her daughter, **Marissa Wilson**, did at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup.

Marissa represented Clallam County's 4-H in senior performance horse and western games where, among her winnings, she received a champion ribbon in showmanship.

LaDona generously included a photo of Clallam County 4-H's intermediate performance horse riders **Holly Cozzolino** and **Cassidy Hodgin**.

Holly got blue ribbons in showmanship, bareback equitation and stock seat, along with sixth place overall in stock seat, a red ribbon in hunt seat and a white ribbon in trail.

Cassidy received a blue ribbon in showmanship and hunt seat, red in stock seat and white in bareback and trail.

Riley Reed and **Emily Van Ausdale** represented Clallam County 4-H in intermediate games.

Riley got blue ribbons in showmanship and flags, red in figure eight and a white in key race.

Emily got a blue in barrels, plus a blue and sixth place overall in poles; a blue and eighth place overall in figure eight, and red in showmanship.

Smart and athletic

Recently, I discovered that the Super Bowl 1996 commercial with the Budweiser Clydesdale horses playing football is real — including kicking the football over the goal posts!

It's a magnificent commercial, but I always thought it included trick photography until I saw trainer Robin Wiltshire on TV talking about his training methods.

Listening to Robin talk and seeing his results helped me to realize how smart and sensitive horses are.

You can see for yourself by visiting his website at www.turtleranch.net/.

Knowing how much my Indy

PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



likes to play games, I bought one of those giant soccer balls for horses (<http://horsesoccer.com>). While we don't have any official leagues in our area, I've heard horse soccer is the new craze

in Texas and Arizona.

The ball arrived from UPS while my niece, **Brooke Stromberg**, was riding Lacey in our arena.

I pumped it up, took it to the arena and set up a goal area between two posts. Brooke directed Lacey to the ball.

The horse showed no fear of the ball and within two minutes was either kicking with her hoof or nosing the ball toward the goal.

She caught on so quickly! I could tell she loved it.

Later, I introduced it to Indy, but he wasn't saddled up and was a bit confused as to what I wanted him to do.

So, first, I used the ball as a desensitizing tool by throwing it over, in front and back of him, and rolling it between his legs.

He's since caught on to the game and now has as much fun as Lacey pushing the ball around.

Winter checklist

Are you ready for winter?

Are the gutters around your barn clean so rainwater flows away from your feed areas instead of in it?

Need to spread more gravel so your horses have an area to stand out of the mud?

A few more suggestions include:

- Make sure you always have at least a three-week supply of hay on hand, if not more, in case it snows.

- Develop a backup plan for



Clallam County 4-H performance horse riders Holly Cozzolino, left, and Cassidy Hodgin, hold awards they earned at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup.

watering your horses before you lose power to your private well. Water can be stored in rain barrels or garbage cans.

Emergency personnel generally recommend having a three-day supply of water on hand.

That would be a minimum of 30 gallons of water per horse.

- Flashlights and/or battery-powered head lamps that free up your hands are excellent equipment to have on hand if the electricity goes out.

Store them in an easily accessible area, like near doorways.

- Set up a water supply that won't freeze or get icy cold.

Horses prefer water temperatures of about 45 to 65 degrees and tend to drink less when water is cold.

A decrease in water consumption can lead to colic, so ensure that your horses are drinking enough.

It is important to realize that horses cannot get enough moisture by eating snow. On very cold days, either break and remove ice

in the morning and again in the evening, or consider getting a stock tank heater or heated stall buckets.

Plan ahead and have this equipment on hand before the snow flies.

Another reminder: Older horses or those with dental problems may not be able to drink very cold water and may require additional warming of their water. You can warm their stall buckets with some hot water from your teakettle.

- Check your blankets for rips or other needed mending or washing if you plan to blanket your horse this winter.

If they are dirty, send them out now for cleaning before that first cold front moves through.

Events

- Sunday, 9 a.m.: Baker Stables Schooling Show, 164 Four Winds Road, Port Angeles. For information, phone 360-460-7832.

- Nov. 18, 7 p.m.: Equine den-

tal presentation and talk by Dr. Richard Vetter at the Washington State University Extension office, Spruce Room, in Port Hadlock. Great learning opportunity is open to everyone.

For information, phone Betty Mysak at 360-379-6931.

- Nov. 19-21: Equine dental clinic with Dr. Richard Vetter of Performance Equine Dentistry hosted by Jefferson County 4-H Horse Project at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Vetter also will be available to answer questions. Phone Betty Mysak at 360-379-6931 or e-mail mysak@cablespeed.com to schedule your horse.

Karen Griffiths' column, Peninsula Horseplay, appears every other Wednesday.

If you have a horse event, clinic or seminar you would like listed, please e-mail Griffiths at horseplay.kbg@olympus.net at least two weeks in advance. You can also write Griffiths at PDN, P.O. Box 1330, Port Angeles, WA 98362.