

North Peninsula kids awarded in Pasco

I SPENT AN exciting week watching Washington State High School Equestrian Team's cream of the crop competing against each other at its state final inter-scholastic competition.

Only the top four riders or teams in each event were eligible for the finals.

Held at The Trac in Pasco, the crowd roared with delight watching Sequim's dazzling duo **Conner Ackley's** and **Lucas Martin's** fast and furious Cow Team Sorting, for which they won silver medals.

Team sorting involves individually cutting 10 cows out of the herd, and then moving them in numerical order from one pen to the other in the fastest time possible.

WAHSET's previous record was moving eight cows to the other pen in 90 seconds.

Connor and Lucas broke that record; however, a team from Deer Park school had already broken that record, not once, but twice.

Let me tell you, team sorting was one exciting event to watch this year.

I was so proud of Port Angeles' **Suzanne Heistand** for winning the gold medal in reining, which is a difficult and exacting sport.

Suzanne, along with teammates **Paige Witherow**, **Darian Rentas** and **Haley Hodgin**, also won the silver medal in Working 4s drill team.

In Working 4s, each team has maneuvers the members must execute but designs its own pattern for the five-minute performance.

The event is judged on spacing, timing, coordination, accuracy, pattern design and overall presentation.

Patterns include roll backs, circles, weaves and gait changes.

The team had its performance down pat.

Each move was smooth, exact and synchronized, each flying lead change performed flawlessly.

The four were just awesome to watch.

After watching them, I congratulated the team's coach,

PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



Nancy McCaleb, who declined taking any credit for the performance, saying the girls practiced and designed their performance all on their own.

Their silver medal was

well deserved.

In the end, Sequim's Equestrian Team, consisting of coach **Terri Winters**, **Brooke Stromberg**, **Jessica Holmberg**, **Ashley Priddy**, **Tori Cantelow**, **Cody Chase**, **Lucas Martins**, **Mishel Arthur**, **Conner Ackley**, **Clara Duncan**, **Shannon Robbins** and drill coach **Kelsey Umpstead**, was awarded the small team state championship trophy against more than 10 other WAHSET teams and brought home a total of eight medals at state.

Sequim had a 10-member drill team.

For the event, the team painted its horses with purple and gold zebra stripes and members wore glittering gold half-chaps.

They won sixth place for their performance.

The IHOR team of **Tori**, **Shannon**, **Lucas** and **Cody** won a silver medal, and **Cody** received the bronze medal in In Hand Trail.

On Saturday night at the district award ceremony, Sequim was awarded the district 4 small-team championship, receiving the most overall points against all the teams medium and large.

It was also awarded the district 4 sportsmanship award.

Other Port Angeles equestrian team members who did well competing at state were **Gabby Fors**, **Alice Bradford** and **Garth McCaleb**.

Colic

This sounds like an informative workshop all horse owners



KAREN GRIFFITHS

Sequim High School's equestrian team, from left, coach Terri Winters, Brooke Stromberg, Jessica Holmberg, Ashley Priddy, Victoria Cantelow, Cody Chase, Lucas Martins, Mishel Arthur, Clara Duncan, Conner Ackley, Shannon Robbins and drill team coach Kelsey Umpstead. The team won several medals and the state's overall high-point small team trophy at the Washington State High School Equestrian Team's state finals last weekend in Pasco.

could benefit from.

On Sunday, May 24, at 1 p.m., Freedom Farms and Sound Horse Solutions are hosting a Colic Drill Workshop.

Colic is a common illness among horses that can be fatal.

The workshop will cover how to recognize early signs, steps to perform on a daily basis to help prevent colic, what to do when it happens and ways to resolve colic before it becomes life threatening.

Freedom Farms is at 493 Spring Road in Port Angeles; contact Audry at 360-797-3760 or soundhorsesolutions@olyphen.com.

Events

■ May 23, 24 10 a.m., PSHA game show at Quarter Moon Ranch on West Runnion Road in Carlsborg. Contact Waynora, 360-

683-3902.

■ May 30, Chimacum Farm horse day camp. For more information, contact **Paula Stingle** at 360-710-5812 or e-mail Chimcrk@embarqmail.com.

■ June 6, Saturday, 10 a.m., PSHA game show at Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

■ June 7, 9 a.m. WSH System A, Approved Olympic Peninsula Zone show at Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

■ June 13, 14, 10 a.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday, PSHA game show at Quarter Moon Ranch on West Runnion Road in Carlsborg. Contact Waynora, 360-683-3902.

■ June 22 to June 26, June 29 to July 3 and July 6 to July 10, Freedom Farm summer camps sessions. For more information, phone **Mary Gallagher** at 360-457-4897 or e-mail freedomf@olyphen.com.

■ June 28, Sunday, 9 a.m., Silver Spurs 4-H hosts a performance horse show at Clallam County Fairgrounds. Signups available in local tack stores. Contact **Theresa Whitney** at 360-457-6028.

■ July 4 and 5, July 11 and 12, 9 a.m., PSHA game show at Crosby's arena, 122 Franson Road in Port Angeles. Contact **Pam Crosby**, 360-670-3906.

■ July 11 and 12, OPZ annual benefit show at Clallam County Fairgrounds.

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.