

Ailing farrier gets by with help from friends

IN THE HORSE world, those of us who find a trusted farrier tend to stick with that person through thick and thin.

A few, such as **Duane Ctract**, tend to be thought of as family.

Lately, Duane's been knocked off his feet a bit, so to say, with health issues. A cancer survivor, he seems to be on the mend, but the last time I saw him he mentioned how difficult it's been for him to be inactive.

"I like to be on the go," said Duane.

Everyone who knows Duane is hoping for his speedy recovery.

Ted, Shirley and Pam Crosby are among his close friends. The Crosbys have hosted horse shows for more than 30 years at their home in Agnew.

I think Ted summed up all his friends' feelings when he wrote the following note:

"Hey Duane! We heard you're a little off your feed. Just to let you know we're thinking of you and waiting for you to show up around here for some good ol' BS (to heck with the horses). Just kidding.

"Seriously, we appreciate how much you put into the horse programs on the Peninsula, and of the support you provide for your granddaughter, **Taylor [Lemon]**.

"All that's good, of course, but selfishly, we need you to come to Vegas for the National Finals Rodeo again. Not for the rodeo but for the slots. Remember that lady who sat next to the machine you were playing and hit two jackpots? We want you there so one of us can play next to

PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

Karen Griffiths



you. "As a teen, Pam used to rope cows with Duane and gallop his race horses for him.

"Duane is one hard-working son of a gun, and you can

always count on him," said Pam.

"He loves all of his family but Taylor has his heart. He loves her so. He will haul her to any show she needs to go. I think he would even haul her to the moon if she asked.

"Our hearts and prayers are with him and his family."

Lost a shoe

I first met him about seven years ago at a 4-H horse show at **Marie Dickin**'s previous home in Agnew.

I was there with my niece. Her horse, April, had lost a shoe and someone mentioned asking for Duane's help.

I got the craziest stares when I innocently asked, "Who's Duane?"

At that time I was new to the area, and it seemed everyone in the horse world knew Duane.

Duane was there with his granddaughter, Taylor. He wouldn't accept any money for putting a new shoe on April, saying all the local farriers just help each other out in that way.

I'm still traveling with Duane and Taylor, Pam and



JEANETTE COZART

Sequim's Colton Crouch shows visitors to Freedom Farm the art of trick riding during October's Harvest Festival. Colton is an avid student of Parelli Natural Horsemanship training techniques, in which emphasis is put on bonding with the horse, plus riding bareback and without a bit in the horse's mouth. During the festival, visitors also viewed free pony rides, a treasure hunt, informative displays and theatrical skits.

her daughter, **Ady**, to gaming shows where Duane is always one of the first one to volunteer to help out with arena work — and the last to leave.

Duane wasn't always a farrier.

He mentions several jobs he's held, but one he's most proud of is building and owning the Sportsmen Motel in Port Angeles in the 1950s.

We're all hoping to see Duane and Taylor on Nov. 22 at the PSHA Olympic Region's year-end awards banquet at the Mariner Cafe in Sequim.

Award

Congratulations to Sequim's **Pamela Cameron**. On Oct. 16, Pamela, along with trainer, **Ken Siefer**, and **Jennifer Eastburn** took her thoroughbred mare, Makala, and her yearling Holsteiner filly, Zara Zarifa, to the American Holsteiner Horse Association 2008 Inspection.

Makala received a total of 45 points and was admitted into the Holsteiner main mare book. Zara Zarifa was classified as a merit foal with 14 points.

The inspection, put on by

Karen Reid, owner of a Holsteiner breeding facility called Fox Fire Farm, was held at Northwind Farm. Judges were **Arlene Rigdon** of the AHHA and **Michael Gonell** of the German Holsteiner Verband.

Pamela says Makala and Zara Zarifa looked stunning, thanks to Ken and Jennifer's grooming and bathing, and the braiding jobs by **Vickie Foote** and **Kristin Mitchell**.

Events

■ **Nov. 13, 7 p.m.** BCHW's Buckhorn Range

Chapter is holding its annual meeting at the Chimacum Grange Hall on Rhody Drive.

The program includes farrier **Chris Niclas** as a guest speaker as well as election of officers.

Open to the public. Contact **Bob Hoyle** at 360-732-5042 or bobhoyle@usa.net.

■ **Nov. 16, 9 a.m.** Second Baker Stables Winter Buckle Series. Additional show dates are Feb. 15, March 15 and April 19.

■ **Nov. 22, 6 p.m.** PSHA Olympic Region's year-end awards banquet at the Mariner Cafe, 705 W. Washington St., Sequim. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Awards at 7 p.m.

Phone Waynora 360-683-3902 or Pam at 360-452-6087 to confirm attendance.

■ **Nov. 22, 10 a.m.** BCH Peninsula Chapter ride at Robin Hill Farm County Park and Olympic Discovery Trail.

■ **Dec. 8, 7 p.m.** BCH Peninsula Chapter open house in the Clallam County Fairgrounds kitchen to welcome Olympic National Park Superintendent **Karen Gustin**. Join the group to learn more about packing skills and exploring backcountry trails.

Karen Griffiths' column, Peninsula Horse Play, 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.

Briefly ...

Church bazaar phone the library's children

Things To Do

4 p.m. Food, drinks and pull tabs of the county. The lower gallery for dars 12 to 24 months and their