

Equine Spirit Sanctuary news

By Ruth Bourgeois

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Mark Rashid clinic a great success.

A special thanks to Taos Tack and Smith's Grocers, clinic sponsors. The clinic was held May 4-6 after being rescheduled due to bad weather in April that prevented Rashid from traveling to Taos.

The days were filled with learning opportunities, centered around Rashid's gentle, respectful but highly effective manner of horsemanship as he worked with a variety of horses and their riders, explaining, showing, helping them work through issues of trust and confidence with their horses.

Skip Ewing, fellow horse trainer and highly acclaimed Country Western singer/songwriter, also came to Taos for the clinic, making it even more of a special event for ESS. What a great way to start off the riding season!

Horses helping kids

Thank you also to Bob's 5 Star Burgers for hosting a benefit day last month for ESS' Horses Helping Kids program.

Support for this program is greatly needed and greatly appreciated. We couldn't do it without the generosity of businesses like 5 Star Burgers and everyone who made a point of going there that day for ESS.



Courtesy photo

Hope, nearly 3 months old, is the newest resident at Equine Spirit Sanctuary.

Trading Post Café will be hosting a benefit day June 6 for the Horses Helping Kids program. Mark your calendars and enjoy a delightful lunch or dinner that will benefit the special needs kids of the Taos community.

We are now scheduling the lesson times for the kids' programs. Call or email ESS if you have a child that would like to participate.

Lessons are once a week, one hour each and consist of learning to groom, lead and riding. Each lesson is designed to best address the needs of the individual child and is open to anyone interested.

The lesson fee is \$40, with a sliding scale of \$5 to \$40. We are always seeking sponsorships and donations to help offset the costs of providing this program, as well as applying for grants.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with the program. No horse experience is necessary, but volunteers must attend training sessions prior to assisting with lessons. We offer new volunteer training on Wednesday afternoons, starting at 1 p.m.

The ESS Spring Open House will be held Saturday (May 25), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be free pony rides for the kids.

Meet our horses, donkeys, pony and miniature horse, our wonderful volunteers and our riding instructors. You can also meet

Hope, the newest resident of ESS.

Hope came to ESS when she was barely a week old, after she had lost her mother and then she was attacked by dogs. Hope is now nearly 3 months old and her wounds have healed almost completely. She is a very happy, healthy baby who loves visitors!

For more on the activities at ESS call (575) 758-1212, e-mail (ruth@equinespiritsanctuary.org) or come and visit the sanctuary at 283 Cuchilla Road, Ranchos de Taos.

We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment. To sign up for our email newsletter, go to equinespiritsanctuary.org. Stay current with ESS happenings on facebook at facebook.com/equine-spirit-sanctuary.