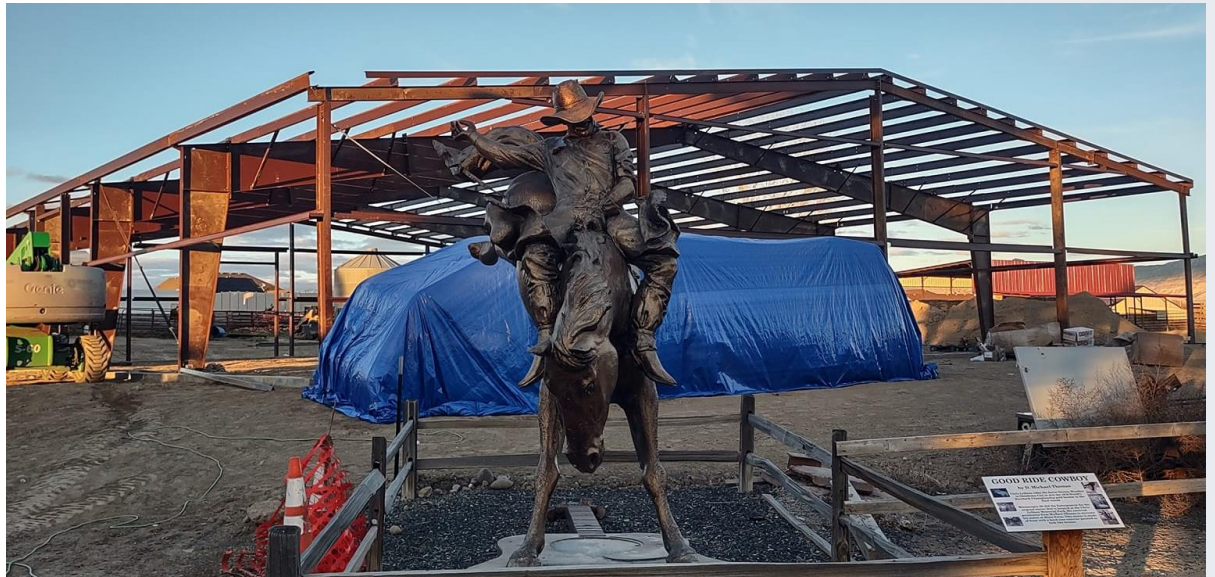


Grand Valley Equine Assisted Learning Center

Newsletter



Construction progress on our indoor arena

Volunteer Of the Month

This month we would like to give a special thank you to one of our newer volunteers, Jaclyn Abbuehl. Jaclyn joined our volunteer program in July of 2023 and since then has stepped up to the dirty job of “pen cleaner”. Jaclyn and her husband moved here from Tucson, Arizona in 2021 along with their dog and two cats. While in Tucson Jaclyn volunteered at Tucson Wildlife Center helping rehab wildlife before returning to the wild. Since being in Colorado she has continued her love of animals to the medical field at Orchard Mesa Veterinary Clinic as a technician and helps coach young women through The Cycle Effect. When not loving on animals she enjoys spending her time hiking, stand-up paddle boarding, scuba diving, XC skiing and snowboarding. Thank you, Jaclyn, for all your hard work and continued support.



Colorado Agribusiness and Equine Sciences Academy 2024-2025 Open Enrollment

In the fall of 2024 GVEALC partnered with Colorado Agribusiness and Equine Sciences Academy (CAESA) to bring a horsemanship enrichment class for homeschool kids to Moon Farm. We currently have a class of 15 kids ranging from ages 5-11. The kids spent the fall semester learning about handling and safety, basic anatomy, horse care and handling, and horse first aide. For the spring semester the kids will continue learning about what it takes to own a horse, jobs your horse can have, different types of riding, and riding safety.

Now that we have reached the spring semester, we are gearing up to open books for next years class. Enrolment for new students start on February 11th. We will be accepting up to 20 students between the ages of 5-11. If you are interested in more information or getting your student enrolled, please visit [CAESA \(caesacademy.org\)](https://caesacademy.org).



Upcoming Events

February 4th - First Presbyterian Church Mission Fair at First Presbyterian Church 8:00am-11:30am

February 4th - Bingo at Gold Mine Bingo 7:00pm

February 5th - Bingo at Gold Mine Bingo 7:00pm

February 10th - Mesa County Workforce Center Volunteer Fair at Mesa County Workforce Center 9:00am-11:00am

February 11th - Bingo at Gold Mine Bingo 7:00pm

February 11th - Open enrollment for new CAESA students

February 12th - Bingo at Gold Mine Bingo 7:00pm

February 19th - Bingo at Gold Mine Bingo 7:00pm

February 20th - Bowling For Horses at Freeway Bowl 6:00pm

February 26th - Bingo at Gold Mine Bingo 7:00pm

March 30th - Fruita Co-Op Farm and Ranch Days at Fruita Co-Op 9:00am-3:00pm

April 6th - Night At the Races at CMU Ballroom 5:00pm

Horse Fact of the Month

Arabian horses have fewer bones than other breeds.

The Arabian horse is the foundation of many other light horse breeds. They also possess some unique characteristics. Most Arabian horses have one fewer vertebra, one less tail bone and one less rib.

Balaam Brays

Written by John Bruington



Hee Haw from Moon Farm/ GV Equine Assisted Learning Center. In case you didn't know, I am now the Head Donkey and am taking over the operation. Fortunately, I have a good staff and a group of volunteers that will help me build on my vision.

I was very pleased to learn that at the Board meeting in January, they spent the whole 2 hours discussing and planning for bringing on an Executive Director to serve as my assistant. I have great plans and visions, but input from a few humans couldn't hurt. (Hope she/he brings carrots). As the new DD (Donkey Director) I am doing a lot of catching up and am rather pleased to discover how well my staff and volunteers were doing in the past before I came and now that I am here to take over are ready and eager to do even more. It is like being at the base of the Empire State Building when the foundations were laid and in place, and then looking at the architect's plans for each stage of the structure. In the end, King Kong ain't nothing. (Yeah, I watched an old movie through the owner's window the other night. Hee Haw!)

Well, the foundations are in place and Moon Farm and the Equine program are on solid ground. In this month's Newsletter and on the website, you can see the stages of growth and the vision being fulfilled step by step. Check out CAESA, First Presbyterian Mission Fair, and The Mesa County Workforce Volunteer Fair set for February and reported on in this Newsletter. And as they say, you ain't seen nothing yet~! More events in March and, of course, Night At the Races in April with so many organizations and individuals attending to help raise funds. (Disclaimer here: I will NOT be running in the races myself as it would be unseemly for the Head Donkey to compete and unfair to the horses).

I intend to keep you in the loop, so look for me in the Newsletter, on the Website, and on Facebook Posts. -Balaam

Playhouse Adoption Program

Those who have been to the farm before know how big of a staple our playhouses are to the farm. As a team we have been working hard to preserve these beloved playhouses. This includes cosmetic and foundation work to keep them safe for families to enjoy. We have started an adoption program to help with the workload of these houses. Your adoption sponsorship would also give you the house of your choice to be decorated for Halloween and our Christmas Lights event. Your money will go towards purchasing the needed materials for your sponsored playhouse. Each available house is priced at an adoption rate of \$200 which covers your sponsorship through the rest of the year.

For more information or to adopt your favorite playhouse, please contact Lewis Martin at 970-712-9648 or lmartin@gvealc.com.



Night At the Races

Where is this event?

CMU Ballroom: 1455 North 12th St, Grand Junction, Co 81501

When is it?

April 6th, 2024

Doors open at 5:00pm

Races starts at 5:30pm

Dinner starts at 5:45pm

What are we doing?

Join us for a night of virtual horse racing! Each attendee will be given play money to use to place their bets with. Win raffle tickets to place towards large prizes, such as a 2-night stay at the beautiful Red Cliffs Lodge in Moab, Utah. We will also have silent auction items available for you to bid on, a gift card grab bucket, and live auction items.

What do you need to bring?

Bring your best Derby hat! Get creative and make your own or bring one already in your closet.

Prizes will be awarded to be the best hat.

What's for dinner?

Taco bar and BBQ - food will be provided by CMC Culinary Arts Student Program

*Gluten free options provided

How can you get involved?

Stable Table: Includes tickets for you and 7 of your friends, dinner, 2 drink tickets per person, naming rights for one horse and rider per race, winner circle photo, and recognition in our race program and throughout the night.

Grandstand Table: Includes tickets for you and 7 of your friends, dinner, 2 drink tickets per person, recognition in our race program.

Individual Tickets: Includes dinner and 2 drink tickets.

Tickets can be purchased in person at Cowboy Mercantile, Fruita Copy Shop or, on our website at: [Night At the Races - GRAND VALLEY EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING CENTER \(gvequineassistedlearningcenter.org\)](https://www.gvequineassistedlearningcenter.org)

