

# Grand Valley Equine

Assisted Learning Center Newsletter

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## Volunteer Opportunities

Spring is just around the corner! This is such an exciting time for us here at the farm. Not only are our pens filled with the cutest babies, but we also get to invite you and your families back out to the farm. We are planning a big celebration for this year's grand opening on May 4th. Please keep your eye out for more details on what to expect at this event.

But before we can open the gates, we need your help! We want to see the farm flourishing and completely ready for families to enjoy all summer long. If you have been to Moon Farm you know just how big the facility is and how much work, we have ahead of us. We are looking for people to come out and help us paint, trim trees, or bushes, and clean the display cases.

Now is a great opportunity for college and high school students to fill those community service hours before graduation. 4H and FFA kids are always welcome as well as those that love Moon Farm and want to see the tradition continue. Please join us at the farm on March 16th for a volunteer lunch-in where we will discuss the upcoming year and what interests you have in helping at the farm.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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March 10<sup>th</sup> - Bingo at Gold Mine  
Bingo 12:00pm

March 11<sup>th</sup> - Bingo at Gold Mine  
Bingo 7:00pm

March 16<sup>th</sup> - Volunteer Lunch-in at  
Moon Farm 11:30am

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Bingo at Gold Mine  
Bingo 7:00pm

March 25<sup>th</sup> - Bingo at Gold Mine  
Bingo 7:00pm

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

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - CAESA Homeschool Open  
House 5pm

April 6<sup>th</sup> - Night At the Races at CMU  
Ballroom 5:00pm

## Executive Director

For the past few months, the board members have been working tirelessly to find an executive director for the equine therapy and the farm. The goal was to find someone driven, motivated, known in the community and who stands behind our mission. At the February board meeting Lewis Martin of Fruita, Colorado was voted into the position.

Many of you may know Lewis from different organizations around the valley or just recognize him from around town. Lewis has volunteered on numerous boards in Western Colorado including Habitat for Humanity, Little League, and Grant A Wish. Throughout his time on these different boards, he worked hard to help rebuild financial status, company dynamics, community support, and fill management position.

Lewis has also been a co-owner of several businesses in town include his ice cream truck and his food truck, Spuds. Now days Lewis can be found helping his wife, Dawn, in The Fruita Copy Shop

We are excited to welcome Lewis to the team.



## New Around the Farm



We are excited to announce the building completion of our indoor arena! This is a major addition to the farm and our organization. Having this new arena will allow us to provide therapy services year-round.

We are still working to raise funds for overhead doors and lighting. The funds raised by our Night at the Races event will go towards these last few things needed to fully complete the arena.

This has been a major goal of ours since moving to the Moon Farm facility and thanks to our amazing community we have reached that goal. Thank you!

## Open Board Seats

We currently have 3 seats open on our executive board. We are looking to fill these seats with members of our community that are willing to help push our organization to the next level. Being a member of our board means supporting our mission and helping to organize events throughout the year.

If you are interested in becoming a board member or learning more about what it takes to be a part of our team, please contact Lewis at [lmartin@gvealc.com](mailto:lmartin@gvealc.com).

# Night at the Races

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## 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://gvequineassistedlearningcenter.org)



# CAESA Homeschool Enrichment Program

In the fall of 2023 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 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 year's class. Enrolment for new students start on February 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 \(caesacademy.org\)](http://caesacademy.org).



## Bowling for Horses

We want to say a huge "thank you" to everyone who came out and enjoyed the Bowling for Horses event we hosted in February!

We had 10 wonderful teams join us for a night of fun with the winning team being Matt Wilkinson's team.

We also want to thank all of the wonderful bakers who donated baked goods towards our silent auction.

## Balaam Brays

By: John Bruington

Hee haw! April is not always a fun month for most human folks as the Tax Man cometh, but for a good many it is a month of real fun and excitement, that is because it is the Moon Farm/ Grand Valley Equine Assisted Learning Center's "Night at the Races".

I was explaining all this to Charlie, my top assistant Pinto Pony at the paddock, and he could sense all the excitement amongst my human employees. "What's going on?" he asked. Fritz, Cash and Comanche were interested as well, so I explained.

"This is a big fundraiser to help work with us in helping all those kids and adults we help with Equine Therapy. They have pre-recorded horse races and folks can 'bet' on the horses and jockeys to win prizes. They also get to advertise their businesses, services, or families in the race program. "

I explained how all the details are available in the March newsletter and anyone interested can get the details online at the website. (I did have to explain to Cash what a website is...he is a fun character , but a tad out of touch.)

Basically, they can be a "Stable Table" owner with 6 horses for \$750, or a "Grandstand Table" attendee with 8 folks at their table for \$650, or an individual race fan at \$60 with a pair for \$110. There will also be drawings that folks can enter with dinner and drinks. Fritz wanted to know if there would be carrots - and while I don't know, I suspect there will be more than that available for this fun night.

Check out the article online or in the newsletter for more details. And no, I will not be running in any of the races. I don't want to discourage the racehorses. One must be fair, after all.

Hee Haw! Balaam!

