



HOOFPRINTS

A Publication of

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A LEGEND HAS PASSED THIS WAY

By Ashley Whitlock



Christine Towne and Legend

We are dedicating this month's Hoofprints to a legendary soul who passed through our barn, and left a mark on many hearts forever. Legend came to TRRC early in 2019. His kind eye and willingness to please quickly made him a barn favorite. New and seasoned riders alike found confidence in his steady nature. He was an integral member of our Special Olympics equine team this year, and helped his athletes achieve their personal goals and make a memory to last a lifetime. **Christine Towne**, a longtime rider and Special Olympics athlete, had the honor of riding Legend just after the Special Olympics Equestrian Competition at TRRC. She says "I'd seen instructors like Ashley training him before. I would like to ride Legend. So I did that first Wednesday on June 5, 2019. I learned a lot of

different things about him. We will miss him even after the short time we had him at TRRC. Farewell Legend!!! You were a legendary horse!!!" Legend's memory will always remind us of how lucky we are to work with our equine friends and partners every time we come to the barn, not a



and take

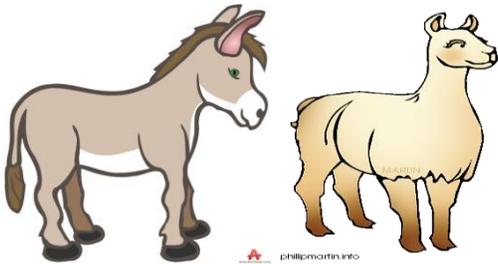
moment with them for granted. Thank you Legend, for the boost you gave every rider that had the honor of sitting on you, and to all the love you gave to the volunteers and staff. We only knew you a short time, but your legend will live on, and we are all better for knowing you. Rest easy sweet boy.

"The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining. It is best to make changes to your business while things are going well, not when they have started to turn. By then, it's often too late. The same applies to life."

SPECTACULAR HOLIDAY PARTY AT BANK BARN

The TRRC party was held on Saturday, December 14th from 3-6pm. If you missed this festive event, mark your calendar now for next year. There were elaborate decorations everywhere, thanks to **DuBois Murphy**, **Karis Smith**, and **Mary Murphy**, working in-tandem with **Robin Horton** for the cozy set-up stations, a sumptuous Italian feast provided by **LEDO'S** with **Mike Donnelly** selecting the menu, desserts provided by all the TRRC families; Robin Horton providing salads, water, and ice, with **John Tuel** filling the rolling beverage carts with a varied selection of beverages. **Elf dogs**, aka pugs **Bentley** and **Artie**, Mrs. Claus (**Joanie Flynn**, albeit delayed traveling from the North Pole), Santa (aka **Dave Furman**) with a huge sack overflowing with an abundance of gifts for all, distribution assistants **Dylan** and **Henry Tuel**, Mr. Piano Man (**Scott Camillo**) at the piano orchestrating all the attendee voices--all 125 of them! Thank you **Porter Family** (**Cathy** and **Bob**, who donated all the gifts to Santa's sack. It was an evening of happiness and joy with the fireplace warming everyone's hands and toes. Thank you to **Laurel Church of Christ** for loaning the Center so many chairs for the overflow crowd.

DONKEYS AND LLAMAS!



“The right guardian animal can be an important asset on a livestock farm. Selecting the right animal for the job requires a lot of research and thought, according to reporter **Jane W. Graham** (*The Delmarva Farmer*, December 3, 2019), who interviewed three panelists at the **New River Sheep and Goat Club**, “who agreed that guardian animals cannot be treated as pets and need to be part of the flock or herd they are protecting. Good guardian dogs are known for their ‘intelligent disobedience,’ meaning the dogs become anxious when people handle their animals. Let the guardian animals bond, thinking they are part of the flock is a good way to go. A female donkey, called a jenny keeps coyotes and other predators away; males or jacks are too aggressive and pose a threat to lambs and kids. Llamas need to be the largest animal in a flock of sheep or goats to assume the role of guardian; they naturally know their job.”

FURRY PHARM!



Vanderbilt researchers look to the **ALPACA IMMUNE SYSTEM** to search for novel treatments for autism, Alzheimer's, and cancer. “Alpacas have the ability to create unique antibodies that may be used to study human disease and to treat patients. The team isolates fragments of alpaca antibodies to visualize and potentially regulate the PPP2R5D GENE, which has been linked to diseases.” Researcher **Wadzinski** says that, “Alpacas have an exceptionally unique immune system. Their antibodies can be used for research and for diagnostic and therapeutic services, and because of the unique features of these antibodies, researchers have been able to harvest them, because they are acid stable, heat stable, and there is good evidence they can pass the blood-brain barrier.” Researchers visit the alpaca farm for blood samples, sometimes for fun, and sometimes to shear them for fur that can be used to knit soft hats for cancer patients who have lost their hair during chemotherapy treatments. (*Vanderbilt Magazine*, Fall 2019)

BINKY PATROL WITH DONNA SERRA!

Thirty-four handmade blankets for small children, dozens of festive colors and cartoon characters adorn these fluffy, huggable blankets, retrieved by **Caprice Miller**, just after the holiday party, but delivery is happening now, to local shelters, hospitals, churches and food pantries for an added surprise for so many smiling faces and loving hands to enjoy. Much appreciated, **BINKY PATROL SEWING CREATIONS AND THE JOY THEY BRING!**

Missed out on Spirit Wear? Starting January 4, see Helen or Ashley Whitlock to buy fleece jackets, beanies and unisex long sleeved tee shirts. 100% of all sales go to TRRC. Do you have TRRC Spirit Wear your children have outgrown? Please donate it to Helen so she can pass it along.

HORSE HAPPY!

Photos by Steve Towne



TRRC riders and instructors celebrating rider Christine Reno's birthday after riding lessons



Christine Towne has been riding at TRRC for many years. During that time she has shared her love for horses with many others, including her boyfriend Bruce, pictured here with her and Agua. Bruce recently came to see her ride and really enjoyed it.

TRRC has renewal status with the State for complete registration of this Center, as a registered public charity. Our renewal number for the State of Maryland is: 800

TRRC TESTIMONIAL!

We are attaching a contribution check for the wonderful work you do with children. We are a group of seven women who met about 10 years ago while exercising at Curves. We started meeting for coffee afterwards and have become great friends. Over the years we have done different things to celebrate the holidays and have donated money to various charities as a group. This year we decided to help out your organization since one of our lady's beautiful granddaughter, Vivian has been riding at your facility for a while now and has benefited from and loves riding the horses, So please accept this contribution with our heartfelt thanks for offering this wonderful program for children such as Vivian.

SOMETHING NEW ON THE HORIZON!

Watch for news in upcoming issues about AN **ACTIVITY BARN** which is brewing into different ideas and activities to be experienced at TRRC. The rental of the elegant historic **Caitlin Kelly Bank Barn** can also be rented for special life events with all-accessible, spectacular views in every window, Steeped in history, where union soldiers sojourned before moving-on. Contact Director **Helen Tuel** at **Trrc01@aol.com**. Make your event historically memorable, but presently wrapped!

RIDING POINT

Lee Bass, an emeritus trustee of the **Vanderbilt Board of Trust**, spoke recently to a gathering about his admiration for the **BASS MILITARY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**, comprising seven military veterans, who are pursuing professional degrees at Vanderbilt: "The part of Texas I grew up in is known for its cattle drives, and there's an expression there called 'riding point.' "It refers to the cowboy, who would lead the drive. He set the direction and the pace, and the success or failure of the drive was largely up to the decisions he made. These military scholars are "riding point," setting direction for this new initiative." (*Vanderbilt Magazine, Fall 2019*).