

It's a Boy! And a Girl!

It was a true long shot, but at Sweet Cypress Ranch in Hendry County, a 13-year-old mare named Sue did the extraordinary: Four weeks ago, she gave birth to twins...Will and Grace.

And ,they're still alive. Though multiple births are the norm in

many animal species, it's extremely rare and often fatal in horses, said veterinarian Carla Hudson, an Arcadia equine specialist. Most mares that conceive twins lose one or both before they're born. If a mare does manage to carry them to term, the chance of both foals surviving is remote - about one in 10,000.

Most horse breeders choose to "pinch" off one of the fetuses in a twin pregnancy. It's a business decision made in favor of the mare and remaining foal. But Carns, who sells registered quarter horses along with top quality hay and Seminole feed from the Sweet Cypress Ranch in LaBelle with her fiance Al Curry, had been caught off guard. In this case the mare was supposed to have been bred for a March baby and instead had lost it sometime in the 11 months of gestation. When a baby didn't show up and the stallion had already been put back in the herd prior to arrival of the new babies they knew they were late getting her checked back by ultrasound, something they always do with their bred mares.

"King Leo Sue and Doc's Texas HiredHand (the stallion) had been fooling around at night," Carns said, a fact they learned when they brought in their regular veterinarian, Dennis Van Roekel of Alva, to check the mare at what should have been the earliest stages of pregnancy."He just said, 'Uh-oh - there are twins in there. And they're about 60 days along, " Carns said. Ending the pregnancy at that stage would have been complicated so they decided to hope and pray for the best. It was a hard decision knowing the odds for twin survival was slim to none.

Sue got bigger. And bigger. And bigger. The day before she delivered she weighed 1550 pounds. The day after she weighed 1350 lbs and had 135 lbs of babies emerge. Although estimated three weeks early the filly and colt were spunky, hungry and strong from the minute they hit the ground.

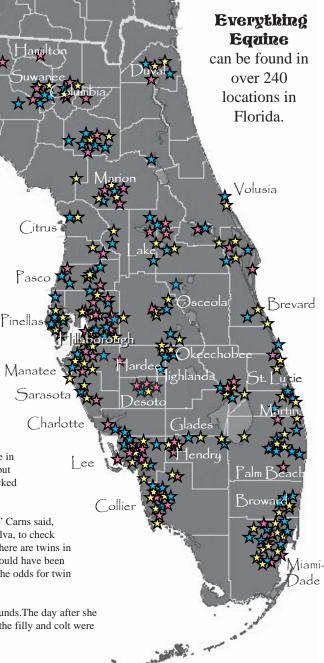
Will and Grace roller-coastered through their first days of life. Sue came through like a champion - producing enough for both babies and caring for them attentively. "She's just an awesome mother," Carns said.

By the time the colt was two weeks old, he appeared to be on his way to being normal. "That's why I named him Will - he's got the will to live."The filly she named Grace - "Because it's only through the Grace of God that she's here at all." It was plain Grace was not nearly as healthy as Will. Her long, fawn-looking legs tangled underneath her when she tried to walk. Often they bent at odd, unnatural angles when she stood. Dr Flint. of Vanroekel and Associates recognized her condition at one day old to be called "Windswept", a condition resulting from lack of space in utero...Will took up more than his fair share of space being a typical guy.

Grace is now under the care of Dr Ben Schachter at Wellington Equine Associates. Her left front leg is casted for 2-4 weeks. Once it is repaired he will cast and/or perform minor surgery on her right leg to get it growing right. Her prognosis is excellent. Dr Schachter is projecting an optimistic full recovery for Grace. Drs Vanroekel, Starbuck, Flint and Hudson are all lending their expertise and nuturing hands to "Team Grace" to see her and big brother Will into the record books of surviving twin foals.

To follow the twins' progress and see updated photos go to www.sweetcypressranch.com.

To schedule a visit to see them or to make a donation to the Will and Grace wellness fund you can contact Jo at 863-673-6751.







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The Poker Ride held to benefit Happy Trails 4-H Club of Collier County, sponsored by Hemmer Construction was a huge success! The big winner was Ariel Folk of Happy Trails 4-H and her horse "Billy". Ariel's ride was sponsored by Jackie Lockerby, also pictured. Ariel plans on spending her winnings on her horses! The 2nd place winner was Dori Smith and 3rd place went to Annabelle Moll.



A huge THANK YOU to the sponsors of this event: Hemmer Construction, Estates Feed, BB Locksmith, DeMarco Tile, Cobb Corp, Franks Equipment and Repair Inc.

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What can I feed a toothless horse?

How do you get 15 lbs of roughage into a toothless horse? I have a Paso Fino/ Quarter Horse gelding in his twenties. He should weigh 1100 lbs. I am presently feeding 7 lbs of a pelleted grain mix and 4 lbs of 10% protein sweet feed.



The best way to get a horse with bad teeth to eat anything, especially roughage, is to feed hay cubes. You can purchase grass,

legume or a legume/grass mix cubes. I recommend straight grass hay cubes for your horse. They can be fed with water so they break down and turn into a mash. You can actually add all of his feed to this mash, sweet feed included.

However, if he has no teeth at all, I would recommend switching your sweet feed to a pelleted, or, better yet, an extruded feed that you can add to the water and cubes for a total mash. Beet pulp and rice bran are also good additions to the diet. Rice bran is high in fat and can help him gain weight. Beet pulp is high in fiber, so if he doesn't like the hay cubes, add beet pulp to the wet mixture. Remember, when feeding moistened feed, always weigh out what you are feeding before adding water to it!

Answer provided by Carey Williams, Ph.D., Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

http://www.esc.rutgers.edu/ ask_expert/ ate_nuto.htm#2lw





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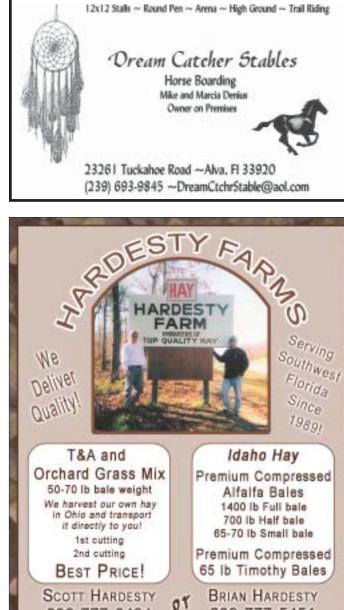
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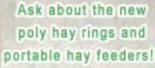
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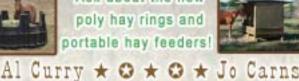
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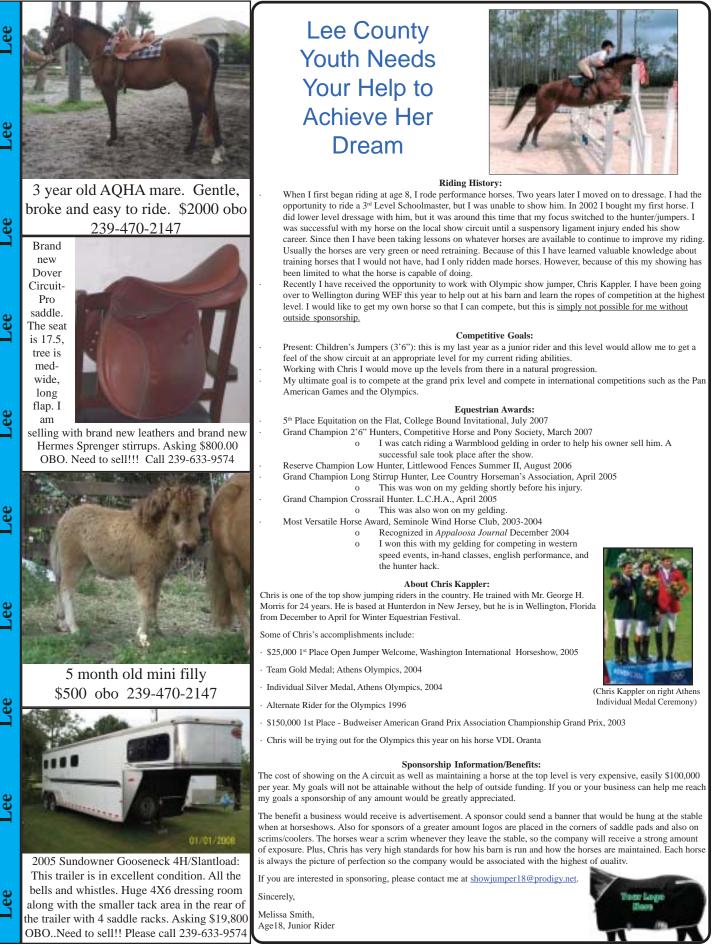
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Do the Math!

A Missouri farmer passed away and left 17 Horses to his three sons. The instructions left in the will said that the oldest boy was to get one-half, the second oldest one-third, and the youngest one-ninth. The three sons, recognizing the difficulty of dividing 17 horses into these fractions, began to argue.

Their uncle heard about the argument, tacked up his horse and rode over to settle the matter. He added his horse to the 17, making 18. This settled the arguement and the Uncle kept his horse. How?

The oldest got one-half, or nine, the second oldest got one-third, or six, and the youngest son got one-ninth, or two. Adding up 9, 6 and 2 equals 17. The uncle, having settled the argument, hopped on his horse and rode home.

Answers to word search found on page 9

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Bess Wall and Florida Mule Win Ultimate Trail Horse Competition at the Alabama Horse Expo

I'm always on the lookout for a truly good trail obstacle challenge. I'm addicted, I admit. When I received an e-mail from Gail Shrine of Dixie Plantation Equestrian

Events with links to The Ultimate Trail Horse Competition in Montgomery, Alabama, I immediately checked it out. I knew that it was way too far for an obstacle challenge, but I had to at least look. With diesel fuel costs reaching almost \$4 a gallon, 440 miles one way was out of reach. Well, out of reach until I saw that first place money was a whopping \$1,000. Having calculated the distance and cost and confidence in my mule's ability, a check for the \$50 entry fee was in the mail the next day.

I have a wonderful husband who, although he does not share my excitement about obstacle courses and challenges, supports my addiction to them. I had an idea that because of the prize money the obstacles might really test my mule's calm resolve if she did not have her very own specially built obstacles on which to practice.

My husband Charlton was made aware of Grace's need for an above ground bridge, complete with grating in the middle and a water obstacle underneath. It had to have a Texas two-step up with a slope down the other side. It needed to be in the neighborhood of 4 ft. above ground level, before the moat was dug. The span needed to be 16 ft. long. It took a while to get Charlton motivated.

A month went by. Why in the world was Charlton dragging his feet about building this silly little bridge? If you saw the pictures of Grace's bridge under construction, you would understand that Charlton does not do "silly." He built it to hold not only my mule but as many mules as would fit at one time on the bridge. The little project turned into major bridge construction. Backhoe, bridge tenders, telephone poles, heavy grating, 2 x 8's...well, you get the idea.

The bridge was finished; time to try it out. I didn't have time to ride Grace over it, so I decided to slip a few fingers through her fly mask and lead her up the steps. I figured that wouldn't be much of a problem, but she might put on the brakes when we came to the bridge. Nope. I led her across the bridge and grating as if she had been crossing it on a daily basis. I have to say I was excited but at the same time a bit disappointed that this major construction project didn't intimidate her just a wee bit. The next day I rode her up the steps, across and down. We practiced the jumping up and down quite a bit. So, was there a major bridge at the competition, you ask? You'll have to wait.

We left home at 5 a.m. Friday, July 25th, for Montgomery, Alabama and arrived early in the afternoon. It was not the best weather; it was decidedly cold for our thin Floridian blood. We got Grace settled with lots of good hay and water and her heavy blanket; then we got settled with our heaters and blankets and a good cup of hot coffee.

Brrrr. It was below 40° F. at 7:00 a.m. when I woke up Saturday. I fed Grace and hurried back to the warmth of our trailer. Several clinicians were there during the day and some wonderful horse events at night. The weather was cold and bitter with the wind chilling us to the bone.

Sunday arrived. Ken McNabb held cowboy church and gave a wonderful testimony of how God showed him that He still works miracles, even when we aren't acknowledging them. Little did I know I would need a miracle.

Time for the competition. I was a nervous wreck and didn't want conversation. I had watched the course being built and needed time to plan a strategy. The obstacles were fairly simple. My sister, Carol, who



also loves obstacle challenges, told me that simple can make us over confident. I was feeling a bit short tempered and had to get a grip. Focused, I watched as the first few competitors came face to face with the water obstacle, sheep and stairs. They had difficulties. I was going to be all right. This course wouldn't be a problem for us if we took our time.

Then Larry Simpson of Dayton, Tennessee, came on the scene with his two fabulous spotted saddle horses. I had spoken to him Saturday and knew that he would be a contender. I was not expecting a perfect score of 100 plus 5 for the bonus obstacle with his first horse or the 104 points with his second. Knowing I could very well not place first or even second, it was back to strategy. Going the course with a faster time and a perfect score would be my only hope. Although the competition was not set up as a race, per se, time was the tie breaker. For me, it had turned into a race.

At 11:00 a.m. I left to get Grace ready. I walked, trotted, and cantered through water. I opened and closed gates. I did more water. We went to the back of the field where I found a ditch with water in it. Back and forth. Back and forth. Grace was not handling like she should. It was cold out. She jumped the ditch instead of going through it. I was edgy. Grace was uncooperative. I had had enough of her being mulish. I pulled her a bit too quickly at the bottom of the ditch.

Sploosh. "Don't turn her loose," was my thought. As Grace struggled to get up, my tight grip on the reins caused me to do a face plant and act like a submarine for a few feet. She finally stood up with me stretched out hanging onto the reins. Everybody does it who finds themself in my circumstances. I quickly looked around to see who saw me. Nobody, I hoped. I got back on, worked carefully in the ditch for a few more minutes and went to the trailer to change. I carefully avoided riders so I wouldn't have to explain why my right side was a darker blue than my left and decorated with brown splotches.

I apologized to Grace and gave her some carrots, dried her off, cleaned my muddy saddle and decided that we had practiced enough.

Finally, "Number 143, Bess Wall on her mule, Grace." I was ready. Jacket on, open gate, jacket off, lope to and through the water obstacle, bridge, backpacker, sheep and the bonus tire. "Mules Rule," I shouted when I reached the half-way point, feeling proud and a bit cocky. We made short shrift of the rest of the obstacles.

Okay, so was there an above-ground bridge? No, but there was a two step up with a jump down on the other side. Grace handled it like an old pro and never slowed down. She finished the course almost 10 seconds faster than Larry's time. We whizzed through the course in 1 minute 51 seconds, from what I understand. I have to think that was only one side of the course, but they said it was for both.

I knew I had won. The time came for the awards. Trophy, ribbon, \$1,000 cash, an interview with Tom Seay of Best of America by Horseback and a spot on his show in April or May. Oh, and bragging rights. Mules Rule. . .for now.

Practice, practice, practice. If I know little else, I know that finding anything and everything to challenge my mule's prey vs. predator theory about life is essential. Grace is confident, trusting, and honest. Trail rides to wagon trains, dirt roads with clanking vehicles to rides through dense woodlands are all part of our lives. I learned to pop a whip so that guns and backfiring cars would not be an issue. Grace learned to pull a small garden wagon in order to carry water tubs to our campsites. Tarps,



aluminum roasting pans, 55-gallon plastic barrels. Pull, drag, carry. I don't think much surprises Grace any more. I know she thinks I stay up late at night trying to figure out what else I can have her do. She's right you know.

For information about Bess Wall's trail obstacle clinics, you can contact her at (386) 437-3472 or e-mail her at <u>howlingpl@msn.com</u>.

Trailer for Rent

by Half Vast Connie

"I'll rent horse trailers." To me one day the idea came. Someone should have warned me, It would drive me insane. I was pretty successful so I thought that I'd done right But sometimes they'd bring the darn thing back in the middle of the night!

There were times they'd pick it up at the crack of dawn. I'd crawl out from peaceful sleep and greet them with a yawn. Often they'd return it late & I'd worry, my trailer did they keep?

The manure would be high against the walls, with no broom would they sweep!

Can you believe they'd park it - pull away and forget to disconnect the lights,

My husband would nearly self destruct. It caused him many sleepless nights!

A girl took out the mats – washed them at a station when she got gas.

She left them on a fence and drove away. "Where's my mats?" I have to ask.

Abby Bauman's drawing of a

Chincoteague stallion

protecting his herd from another stallion. The stallion

protecting his herd is as wild as they come!

They'd call me at breakfast time, hot bacon & eggs upon my plate.

"I'm sitting down here in the front. Can you come open the gate?"

Through the years my trailers saved colicking horses—the number, twenty five.

If they had waited on the vet, today they would not be alive.

The reward of renting trailers, this the best one I find, People going back from whence they came to get the horse they left behind.

The one that makes me smile the most I really must confide. A pony hauled on Christmas eve - Santa and father in a pasture have to hide.

There's been donkeys, miniature horses, cows, and some zebras too!

One zebra made the news from open cracked door it flew. If you think I do it for the money, you better think again! The grief and anxiety I endure is actually a sin.

I probably should quit renting trailers if I was wise! But I see horses with my heart and not with my eyes. I won't get rich doing this I realize, of course But what better gift can I give better than a horse???



Horse tales is an area where original, unpublished works by local writers and artists will be featured. If you have a short story, poem, work of art or anything that you've created and are interested in seeing in print, please submit to Everything Equine. Everything Equine provides this opportunity for children and adults alike to show their creative abilities and talents to the entire community. Please limit your submissions to horse related tales that coincide with an equestrian or farm oriented way of life.

Horse Tales



Osceola

March



Horseback Safaris - Standard one-hour, two-hour, or threehour horseback safaris are available daily. Horseback Safaris can be arranged for riders with varying levels of experience. All guests should be

at least 12 years of age; 10 years of age is an acceptable age with proven riding experience. Guests weighing more than 275 pounds will need to be assessed by our Equestrian Director before they are allowed to take a Horseback Safari. Call-in reservations are recommended in order to assure that we and our horses are ready for you.

A favorite with visitors is our two-night "Crescent J Cattle Drive Weekend Safari," which includes some training in Florida Cowhunter skills of ridin', ropin' and cow cuttin'. (Florida cattlemen weren't "cowboys" because hunting those wild Spanish-descent cattle in Florida's woods and swamps was a man's job, they said.) Choice of campground depends on weather, type of group and recommendation of the riding instructors.

Another favorite is similar, but shorter - an Overnight Trail Ride Safari combined with a next-day "Rawhide Roundup." More time is spent riding the wilderness trails of Forever Florida and learning about nature, less on cowpoke skills.

Corporate Co-workers, Schoolteachers, Professional Club, Flying Clubs, School Groups, Church Groups, Families, Friends, Scout troops or multi-troop Camporees - there are activities and a campground on Forever Florida or the Crescent J Ranch that are just right for a bonding experience. See the Facilities and Events page for more details.

From a small primitive one-troop Scout Camp on the Crescent J that has been used by Girl and Boy Scouts for more than 30 years, we expanded to a remote but up-scale campground 'way back in the wilderness of Forever Florida, then added two campgrounds in between and most recently, a large area "up front" (near the highway) that comfortably holds up to twenty Scout troops for a big Camporee.

Variations on these basic campouts and safaris can be worked out with our staff.

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The next drawing is for a two hour horseback safari for two!

Congratulations to Christine Ellingson. She won last month's drawing for a two hour Horseback Safari for two at Forever Florida!



Enjoy the ride! There will be another drawing next month, so send in your entry form! Winner is chosen by luck of the draw. Odds of winning depend on how many entries received.

Congratulations to Ellen Thorsen, who won last month's drawing for MD's Choice supplements.

MD's Choice and Forever Florida Give-A-Way

ways to enter

- By mail. Use entry form below. 1)
- Email your request to be entered to 2) everythingequine@comcast.net.
- Automatically be entered by submitting a 3) classified ad.

Enter To Win One form per month enters you in all monthly drawings!

Name

Address _

Phone Number _____

Alternate Number

Email Address

If your name is drawn for the MD's Choice Products, please indicate if you would like Arthrosamine for ____Dogs or ____Humans.

Mail to: **Everything Equine** 460 6th St NE Naples, FL 34120

Must receive entry by the 20th of the month. One entry per person per month. Winner is chosen by luck of the draw.

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1-239-403-3784 © 2008 Everything Equine everything equine @comcast.net March 2008 Page 21 Submit your club or organization's event and it will be posted free on a space permitting 1st come 1st serve basis.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 PGHA Performance See page 16
2	3	4	5	6	7 Friday night Jackpot Lee County Posse Arena 8pm	8 Kid's Day Camp. Everglades Ranch see page 4 LCHA Speed & PerformanceShow pg 15 www.floridahorsesales.com Horse Sale, Ocala SBRA Signup 9am - Starts 11am www.leecountypossearena.com PGHA Speed See page 16
9 Spring	10	11	12	13	14	15 SPHC Show See page 16 www.johnparkerarenainc.com speed show Arcadia PASC show www.pasaddleclub.com
16 Sheriff's Equestrian Assoc. Venice, FL. Performance shows Cheryl Rowley @941-475-4480.		18	19	20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 2	21 Good Friday Ad Deadline	22 Collier County 4H show See Page 15 Kid's Camp, Everglades Ranch See page 4 PGHA HJ See page 16
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 www.swfda.org with Charlotte Trentelman "S*
30 LCHA H/J Show pg 15 Estates Trail Blazers of North Port Poker Ride 10am \$10entry/split pot 941-276-1763 941-426-2197 Aunior Posse Speed Circuit - Signup at Noon, Show Starts at 1pm	31					

Ad	deadline	is	the	21 st	of	the	month.

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Large 1/6 page	\$24	\$46	Back Cover	n/a		\$340
Extra Large 1/4 p	age \$35 80 words, additional w	\$60		n/a	n/a	334V
	e 60 words, additional		Centerfold	\$349	\$412	\$499
Description: (one word	per box, may use additional	paper if necessary)	Full page	\$214	\$2.46	\$299
	6		1/2 page	\$133	\$149	\$176
			1/4 page	\$90	\$101	\$123
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			1/8 page	\$53	\$58	\$ 69
			Business card	\$38	\$42	\$48
			Save 10% by p	repayi	ng for thre	e months.
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