



Arts & Entertainment Magazine of The Taos News

Tempo

Feb. 12-18, 2009

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MANE EVENT

Equine Spirit Sanctuary
celebrates the love
of horses in art



Drawing by one of DeAnn Hall's art students

Courtesy photo

Mane event

EQUINE SPIRIT SANCTUARY CELEBRATES THE LOVE OF HORSES IN ART

BY RICK ROMANCITO

It's not hard to love a horse. So big and strong, possessed of grace and eloquent serenity, they have been our companions, helpers and, in some cases, healers. And yet, when they need help, it is often left to humans to understand.

"To me, horses are not a business," Ruth Bourgeois said. "Horses are a gift. My connection with horses has brought me joy, inspired me, challenged me, taught me valuable life lessons, and healed many wounds.

Through ESS, I can offer others the chance to experience all the wonderful things these beautiful animals bring to our lives."

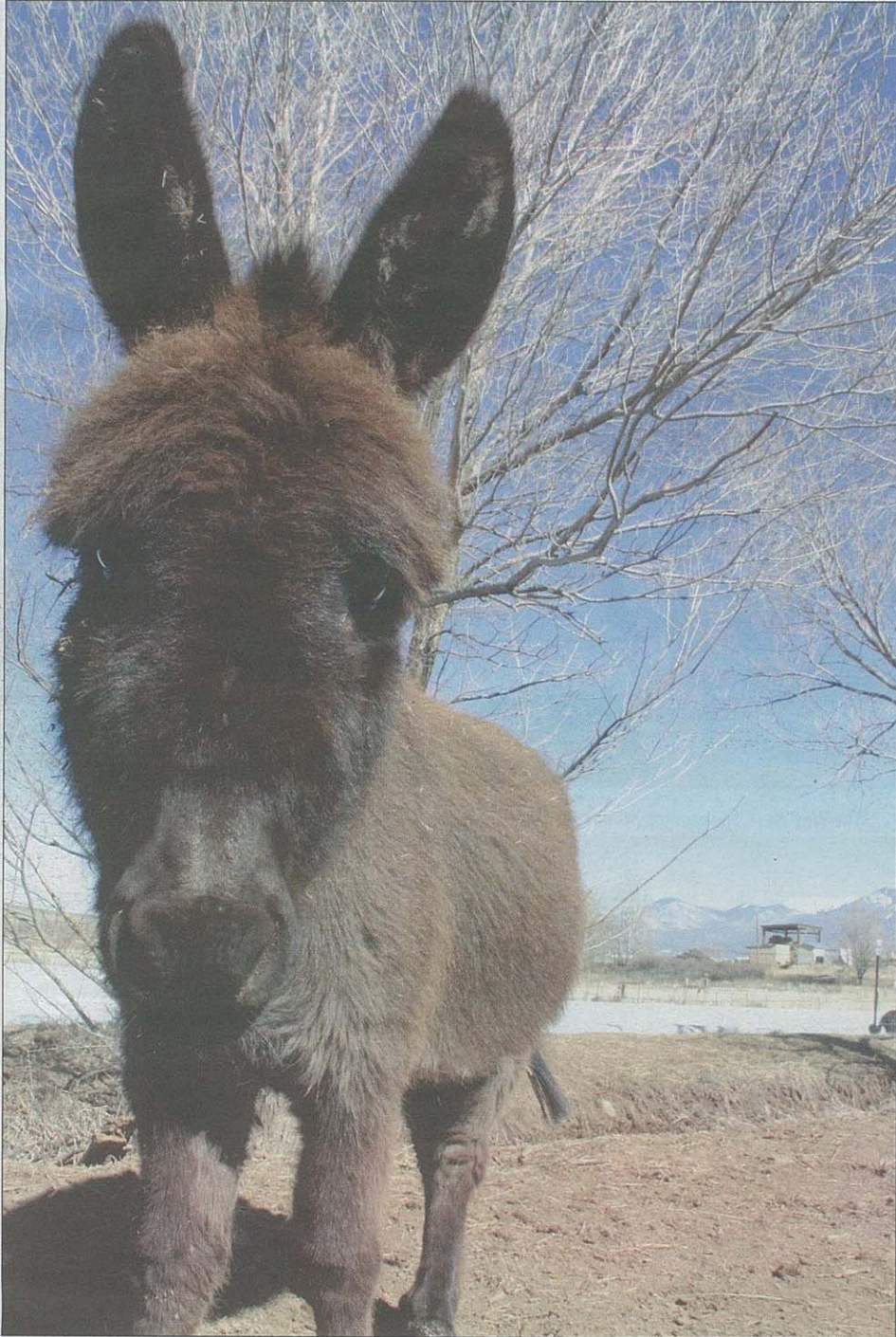
ESS is the Equine Spirit Sanctuary, an organization Bourgeois founded to bring horses and people together. Located off Cuchilla Road, southwest of town, the 10-acre property is where horses are given refuge for whatever reason. Of course, it is an effort that cannot operate on goodwill alone. To help increase awareness of its mission and to raise funds, ESS is having its second annual art exhibition titled "Spirit of the Horse."

This year, the show will be on Valentine's

Day weekend (Feb. 13-15) at the Stables Gallery of the Taos Center for the Arts, 133 Paseo del Pueblo Norte.

The theme of the show is "celebrating our love of horses." An opening reception is planned Friday (Feb. 13) from 5-8 p.m. with flute music by Paul and Grace Jones of Kokopelli Flutes. It will be catered by Caffé Renato.

"Last year was our first show," Bourgeois said. "It was our first public awareness event. We had so much fun with it last year, we just decided to make it an annual event. A lot of the people exhibiting have had something to do with ESS. They've been volunteers here or sup-



Marley, a miniature donkey, poses for the camera.

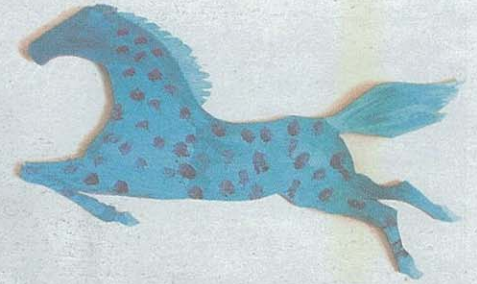
Rick Romancio

ported our programs through the years or are interested in what we're doing."

Taos area artists who will be exhibiting their horse-related art include Kristi Benson, Tony Manzo, Lenny Foster, Sandra Miller, John Farnsworth, Grant Besley, DeAnn Hall, Lynard

Stroud, Kim Treiber, and photographer Ursula Jorch from Toronto.

These Taos artists are exhibiting a wide variety of paintings, sculpture, photography, and other art for horse lovers to enjoy. Also on display will be works by Kylie Lujan, Destiny Man-



Courtesy image

Woodcut wall hanging by DeAnn Hall

uelito, and April Montoya, students of DeAnn Hall's from the Taos Pueblo Day School who participated in the Horses and Art Program, a Creativity and Culture Grant funded by the Taos Community Foundation.

"We do educational activities and programs for people to learn about horses and that's for people of all ages," Bourgeois said. "We've done a lot of little clinics, lessons, we had a learn-about-horses program last summer where we gave kids lessons about horses, learning how to groom them, lead horses, work safely around them and it included some riding."

In addition to original works of art, some artists have donated items that will be available for purchase. These include Giclée prints by Ed Sandoval and John Farnsworth, an oil painting by Kristina Benson and much more. All proceeds go to support ESS programs. There will also be raffles for prizes.

A children's coloring book featuring the horses of ESS, designed by Kristina Benson, also will be available to purchase.

In addition to the fine art, ESS is actually bringing live equines to the exhibit also. Art show attendees will have the opportunity to meet two of ESS's residents, miniature donkeys Bindy and Marley. The donkeys will be stabled in the courtyard during the show hours.

Since its inception in 2005, ESS has worked towards providing rescue and rehab for horses, equine-assisted growth and learning and therapeutic activities, and educational clinics and workshops. For more information, go to www.equinespiritsanctuary.org.

Horse owners are invited to bring in a photo of their favorite horse which local artist Valerie Graves will use to create a unique portrait that will appear on a carousel horse. This will cost \$35, which is a donation to ESS. "A detailed photograph of the horse's face is best for this unique portrait," Bourgeois said.

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"The Way West," oil painting by Anthony Manzo

Courtesy image

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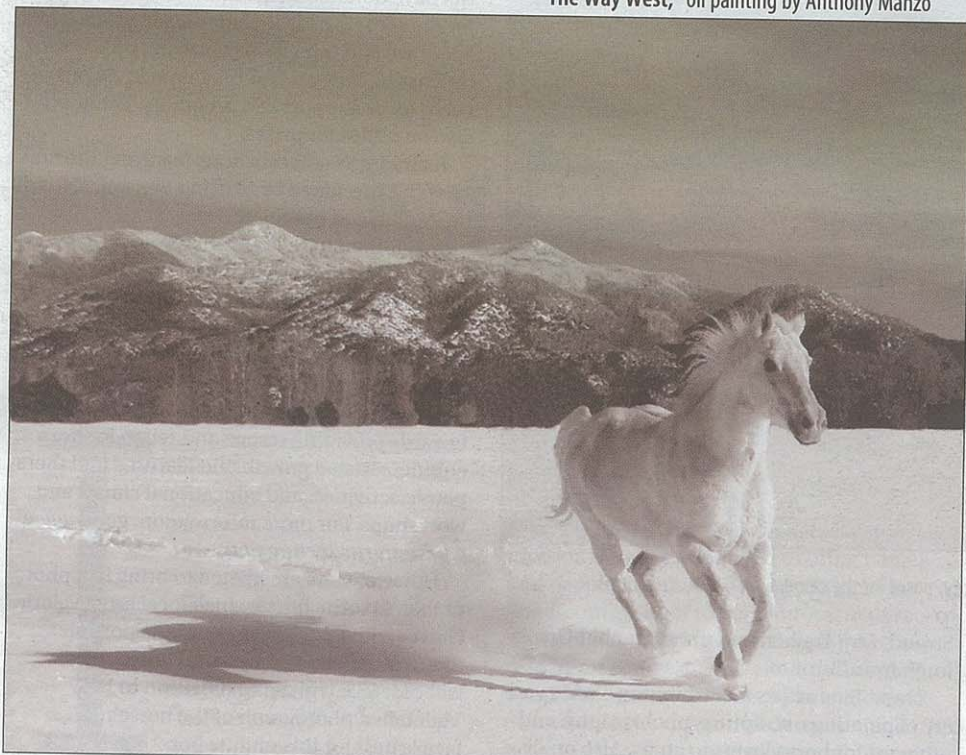
F Y I

Opening reception

- **When:** Friday (Feb. 13), 5-8 p.m.
- **Where:** Stables Art Gallery, 133 Paseo del Pueblo Norte
- **Admission:** Free, open to public
- **Information:** (575) 758-1212

Bourgeois said Graves did a volunteer project for the Kit Carson County Carousel Association in Burlington, Colo. "So, she's got a whole line of carousel horses and carousel-art. And, she's taken some of these carousel horses and made five different head drawings that she's going to donate to ESS. She's also going to set up her easel at the art show on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. If people bring in a photograph of their horse then she'll personalize these carousel horses so people have their own horse painted on a carousel horse. And, she's going to color it there while they wait. It'll be a Valerie Graves original ... In honor of the show being at the Stables, we're going to have Bindy (age 9) and Marley (age 4) there. They are two miniature donkeys, who are currently ESS residents.

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"Horse Photo" by Kim Treiber, one of the works on view in the show.

Courtesy photo

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Courtesy image

“Horse” by Ursula Jorch

ESS

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We actually are going to have live art as well as other examples of art, but we’ll have the real thing there so people can come and meet a mini-equine.”

Bourgeois said the purpose of ESS is rather simple. “By helping horses, we also help people to learn more about horses and their care and to improve the quality of life for all involved. When we help heal horses, we heal ourselves. By providing ways for people to learn, we reach out to many, many more horses than just taking in horses as a



Rick Romancito

This horse was provided to ESS by its owner to help with the organization’s programs.

rescue affords.”

ESS is located at 283 Cuchilla Road in Ranchos de Taos. Call (575) 758-1212 or e-mail ruth@equinespiritsanctuary.org. Visit online Equine SpiritSanctuary.org.



Rick Romancito

Volunteer Elyse Kotant leads a couple of horses from the ESS stable.