



Part of the Jacob’s Ladder Therapeutic Riding Center practice under the Center’s new arena canopy in preparation for their competition at the Equestrian Special Olympics in October.

Equestrian Unified Drill Team prepares for Georgia Special Olympics

By Carol A. Moore

There are area residents who are preparing to become members of The Georgia Special Olympics State Horse Show which will compete in Gainesville on October 19-21. From Lanier County, both Torrie Ekman and Emma Moore are among those who have been giving up their Sunday evenings in order to develop a unified competition drill at Jacob’s Ladder Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center along GA-122. Both competitors attend Lanier County Middle School.

Unified Freestyle Drill Team provides a chance for equestrian athletes to experience unified competition. In Unified Sports, each Special Olympics athlete is paired with an athlete without intellectual disabilities called a “partner”. Within this class all rules follow the same guidelines as in the equitation/horsemanship classes. Any style tack may be used in combination within a class. Athletes and their unified partners must follow the attire and approved safety equipment

rules as in the equitation/horsemanship classes. When worn, costumes, must not be a hindrance to the safety of either the athlete or the horse. A caller may be used in all divisions, but is bound by the same rules of dressage/western riding. Music must be submitted in advance. The performance must be between 2 ½ to 3 minutes in length. Coaches can be “partners” although the “no coaching” rule will apply.

Jacob’s Ladder Riding Center will have only two teams this year. There will be multiple judges for this event. Each will assign a score from 1-25. Each drill must specific feats somewhere in the performance. Athletes and their partners are asked to demonstrate all gaits required by their division. They must gait in a straight line, circle, come to a halt and transverse within the arena, either by diagonal or serpentine. Athletes and partners must go both ways. Their performance scores are based on originality, use of music and/or

costumes, creativity, precision and horsemanship, and the overall success of all riders to perform drill with accuracy. Timing, spacing, and positioning are important as well as suitability of performance (how well the routine matches the athlete’s skill and incorporates the unified partnership).

“Increased social contact, friendship formation, and development of social skills are among the elements that participating in such an athletic exercise bring to each of our riders,” said Leslie Jacobs, who is the director at Jacob’s Ladder Therapeutic Riding Center. “Riders have an improved self-concept, improved self-esteem, more pride as well as gain a real sense of accomplishment as his or her confidence increases.”

Quotes from parents and ways the program has benefited children and youth: “He knows he can – he knows what he can do now.” “He’s become more independent, and he’s become more self-reliant, and he can feel proud of himself.”

Increased participation in

activities or in the community; new experiences; inclusion “Activity – mostly activity. It keeps him busy.” “I guess being part of a team. He likes to be included. He doesn’t like to feel left out.” “...makes him feel like he’s a valuable part of society.” “She’s gotten to see and do a lot of things that she wouldn’t have gotten to do.” Physical exercise; better health; improved athletic ability “He’s in pretty good shape for a boy with Down syndrome.” “It’s really helped improve her motor skills.”

To become a sponsor of the 2018 State Horse show, the public is asked to contact Meghan Daves at meghan.daves@specialolympicsga.org. More information can be found on-line at <http://www.specialolympicsga.org/>. Lanier Countians are encouraged to come join the nearly 600 athletes participating in the 2018 State Horse Show at Chicopee Agriculture Center this year and cheer them on!

New signals will aid traffic flow at busy Lowndes intersection

New traffic signals are expected to bring relief to drivers traveling through the busy intersection of state Route 125/Bemiss Road and the North Forrest Street Extension in Lowndes County.

The signals are scheduled to be activated around mid-morning Sept. 19 and will be a big improvement for drivers on the Extension who want to turn left onto Bemiss Road. The annual average daily traffic count on Bemiss Road in this area was 27,500 vehicles in 2016, the last year for which data is available.

Bemiss Road traffic will have a flashing yellow arrow (FYA) signal to turn left onto the Extension. The Georgia Department of Transportation has been phasing in FYA signals for several years and many have already been installed at other locations on Bemiss Road. The signal uses an arrow to display the type of left turn movement allowed. A solid green arrow provides a protected left turn

(oncoming traffic has a red light). A flashing yellow arrow allows a driver to turn left after yielding to oncoming traffic and/or pedestrians.

The signals were requested by the Lowndes County government and are part of other intersection upgrades. Sidewalk ramps compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and pedestrian signals were added on all quadrants of the intersection. The work was done as a Georgia DOT Quick Response Project. These projects typically cost less than \$200,000 and can be completed in a short period of time. The money comes from the state motor fuel tax and is primarily used for small operational improvement, safety and maintenance projects on the state route system. The Bemiss Road/North Forrest Street Extension project cost \$108,859 and the contractor is Corbett Electrical Construction Inc. out of Lake Park.

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From Page 5

But can we really communicate with the spirits of the dead? Not according to Scripture. “The story of the rich man and Lazarus (Lk.16: 19-31) reveals the fact that communication with the spirits of our departed dead, is not only unnecessary, but isn’t permitted. It’s not necessary because we have Moses and the Prophets, that is, the Holy Scriptures, to give us all we need to know of the state of the dead. And it’s not permitted, or Lazarus, or the rich man himself, would have been al-

lowed to return to earth and warn his brethren. The inevitable conclusion drawn from this story is, that the spirit of a good man “may not”, and the spirit of a bad man “cannot” return to this earth. If this be true then Spiritism is a fraud, and is one of the devices of Satan in these latter days to lead astray the unwary. Those who dabble in Spiritism are in great danger of having their “understanding darkened” (Eph.4:17-19) and come under the power and control of Demons.”

PUBLIC SERVICE ANN.

Drug overdoses have become the leading cause of accidental death in the United States with heroin and other opiates being the largest contributor. If your loved one is struggling with drug abuse of any kind, now is the time to get them the help they need. Learn more about the signs of heroin addiction.

If you believe one of your loved ones is abusing drugs, learn how you can make a difference by visiting <http://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/drug-rehab/>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Lanier County

0.5K LAZY DONUT DASH: SUPERHEROS OF SAFETY

Not everyone can be super spectacular and run a 5k, but with the Lazy Donut Dash you don't have to be! Bring your SUPERHERO COSTUME and prepare to be awesome superheroes of safety!

\$5 registration fee gets you free donuts and a medal

\$10 registration fee qualifies you as a VIP and you get a BIGGER medal, and a ride to the finish line

All Children Registered Get A Card For A Free Happy Meal Provided By McDonald's!

Either way come out to cheer on the community and enjoy FREE COOKIES, bounce houses, safety demonstrations from first responders, Cornhole Tournament, and much much more!

Registration ends October 5TH! You can register at The County Commissioner's Office. Arrive at the Threatte Center by 8:30AM for sign in. Race starts at 9AM. For vendor or volunteer information contact Randy Patten or Genevieve Chavez on Facebook

OCTOBER 13TH AT THE THREATTE CENTER



TRMC Foundation donates \$20,000 to substance abuse recovery center

The Tift Regional Medical Center (TRMC) Foundation donated \$20,000 to the State Court of Tift County on Sept. 11 to support a new substance abuse community resource center under development in Tifton. Funds will help purchase venue furniture, office equipment, computers, audio-visual equipment and other needs within the center.

Pictured from left to right:

Tift County DUI-Drug Court Coordinator Michelle Calhoun, Tift Regional Health System President/CEO and TRMC Foundation Board Member Chris Dorman, State Court of Tift County Judge Herbert Benson, TRMC Foundation Executive Director Mandy Brooks and TRMC Foundation Board Member Joe Manning.

“This new community partner will provide a pro-

gram that supports Tift Regional’s mission to enhance the health and wellness of our population,” said Brooks. “This service can significantly help in reducing emergency room utilization and hospital readmissions. We commend Judge Benson and the state court for developing this innovative program that integrates recovery services with justice system case processing.”