



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

April 2022

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

CREATED & EDITED BY HEATHER CARDER

ROMAN EMPEROR CALIGULA

and his Legendary Horse Incitatus

"But when the spur's point ever so lightly touches its flank, a thoroughbred breaks into a gallop, generously out of proportion to the impulse of the spur. The reaction of the horse, rather than a response to an impulse, is a release of exuberant inner energies. Indeed, a skittish horse, with its nervous head and fiery eye, is a splendid image of stirring life. Thus we imagine the magnificent stallion whom Caligula called Incitatus."

--Jose Ortega y Gasset
Spanish Philosopher

Much is legendary about Incitatus, the favorite mount of the Emperor Caligula. The chroniclers of his imperial rule written years afterward were biased toward the Julian/Claudian clan and wished to make his behavior toward Incitatus and otherwise the object of ridicule. Caligula undoubtedly was guilty of much cruel and bizarre conduct, even by Roman standards. He is thought by modern scholars to have become progressively worse as he continued on the throne. Caligula might have been

the victim of a mental disease which was unknown in his day.

But if Caligula ever loved anything, it was his steed Incitatus. His often foolish treatment of this beautiful white stallion may have been an indication of his deteriorating mental soundness.

Whatever the reason, Caligula's Incitatus has passed into legend of both horses and man.

Some have indicated that Incitatus was attended to by eighteen servants, and was fed oats mixed with gold flakes; according to Suetonius, Incitatus had a stable of marble, with an ivory manger, purple blankets and a collar of precious stones. Suetonius wrote also that Caligula planned to make Incitatus a Consul. Caligula even procured him a wife, a mare named Penelope. It has also been said Caligula claimed his steed to be a 'combination of all the gods' and to be worshipped as such.

Incitatus would also "invite" dignitaries to dine with him, and had a house with full complement of servants to entertain such guests.

--Suetonius, Lives of The Twelve
Caesars

Caligula used to invite Incitatus to dinner, where he would offer him golden barley and drink his health in

wine from golden goblets; he swore by the life and fortune of Incitatus and even promised to appoint him consul, a promise that he would certainly have carried out if he had lived longer.

--Cassius Dio: Book 69

Incitatus meaning "impetuous" in Latin, came from Spain to add to Caligula's stable of racehorses. The emperor adored Incitatus so much that after ordering a stable built of marble with a veneer of ivory, he later constructed a house and garden with servants so that this steed would lack nothing for the entertainment of his guests. There is a legend that before a race, Caligula slept by the side of his Incitatus to be sure that no one would disturb his rest under pain of death.

Caligula shared with most of the Romans a passion for horse-racing. His family owned most of the land where St. Peter's now stands and Caligula built there a private hippodrome, which is usually known as Circo Vaticano o di Nerone. He embellished this circus by placing at its centre an obelisk. Notwithstanding his private circus, he spent a lot of time at Circo Massimo watching the races in which Incitatus took part. No expense was spared

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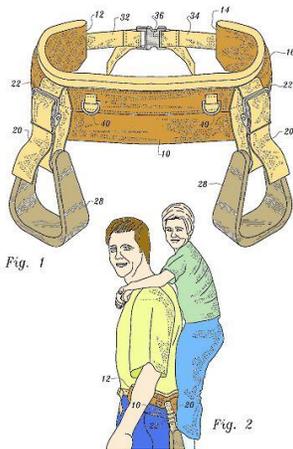
A totally absurd inventions

Dad Saddle

US Patent Issued in 2002

Yee haw, giddy up! Strollers are fine for tiny tykes but larger kids need their own modus operandi for freeloading a ride. We think this kid is way too big to not be hoofing it on his own... but hey, maybe they're watching a parade.

The Dad Saddle slips around Daddio's waist and evenly distributes the weight load on his hips for maximum comfort. We want to know where the reins are for steering this steed and we highly recommend no spurs!



Shoulder Saddle

US Patent Issued In 1972

Does your tiny tyke like to ride on your shoulders but you find it hard to hang on to fidgety feet? Have you recently discovered that your neck is starting to get a little diaper rash? Then you need the Shoulder Saddle! The saddle's plastic yoke fits over your head and the breast plate and back plate evenly distributes the load.

The breast plate also makes an effective kick guard. Now if you can just get your petite passenger to understand that slapping your ears repeatedly doesn't mean "go faster"!



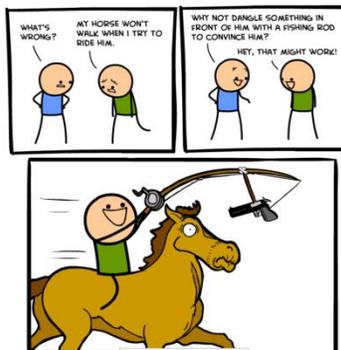
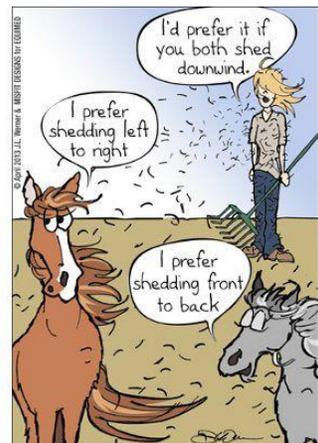
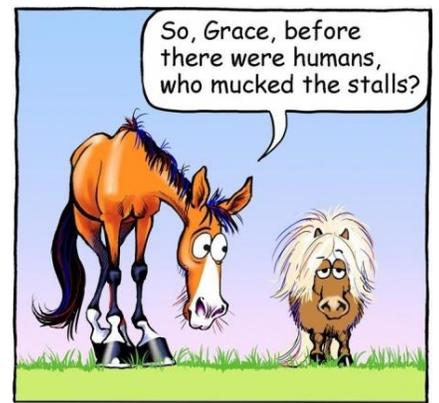
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New Items for April





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“We will never have to tell our horse that we are sad, happy, confident, angry or relaxed. He already knows—long before we do.”

-Marijke de Jong



“It is the horse’s gift to connect us with heaven and our own footsteps.”

-Ronnie Sweet



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BLOOD BUILDING SUPPLEMENTS

Many race horse trainers swear by blood-building supplements, but do they work?

Most blood builders contain various combinations of ingredients, including iron, copper, zinc, and some B-vitamins. All of these ingredients are necessary for production of red blood cells and hemoglobin, a protein that carries oxygen in the blood. Delivering oxygen from the lungs to the working muscles is obviously very important in performance horses. The theory that many trainers work on is that because hemoglobin is necessary to carry oxygen, feeding ingredients that can form hemoglobin will produce more hemoglobin. The question of whether these substances actually work is dependent on the diet.

For example, if a horse is receiving high-quality hay and a balanced concentrate (one containing vitamins and minerals), the blood builders will not stimulate further production of red blood cells or hemoglobin. If the horse is getting only hay and oats (not fortified with vitamins and minerals), the horse will need the nutrients provided in a blood builder, and the trainer will see the benefit in overall health. Feeding blood builders is not necessary if you are providing your horse with a balanced concentrate.

Additionally, over-supplementing with iron can be damaging to the gastrointestinal system and cause diarrhea short term. Long term excess iron can accumulate in the organs and possibly cause fatal damage to the liver or brain.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.
Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior over other products primarily because of the EquiMix technology and the research support of a leading edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top level riders and trainers

In Memory of Reflection

With Sadness in our hearts we said goodbye to VFP Reflection on February 25th. Our condolences to Robin, who brought Reflection to Wildwood Farm in 2015. We will miss his gentle soul and goofy expressions- and nickers of excitement at feeding time!

My Wish

by Shirley Cruickshank

If the day should come when I'm in pain,
And you know that I won't be well again
Promise you'll do what must be done
If this is the battle that can't be won.

It'll break your heart but please be kind,
Don't let your grieving sway your mind.
For this is when you'll let me see
Just how much you do love me.

Together we've had happy years,
The future now can hold no fears.
Please don't let me suffer so
When that day comes please let me go.

For my usual vet please will you send?
But stay with me until the end.
Hold me steady, speak to me
Till my once bright eyes no longer see



In time I hope you'll come to see
It's the last kindness you'll do for me
One more time please stroke my mane
And know that I'll have no more pain.

And don't be sad that it was you
Who decided this was what to do.
We've been such buddies through the years
Don't let me be the cause of tears.

You'll always see me graze now,
With the sun upon my back
Painful limbs won't tire me now,
However long the hack.

I live now in your heart and mind,
A lovely place to stay.
And what you have in memories,
No one can take away.



HORSE BECOMES A WEEKLY REGULAR AT DUNKIN' DONUTS IN FLORIDA

A Florida cowboy and his horse have become local celebrities after repeatedly turning heads with their weekly trips to the local Dunkin' Donuts drive-through. David Bosselait, a retired bull rider, has become well-known to employees and regulars at the Dunkin' Donuts in LaBelle after he started making weekly treks to the drive-through atop his horse, Jackson.

Bosselait said the round-trip is about 12 miles.

"It's a half-a-day event. Once we make it over the bridge, we head right to Dunkin' Donuts to get our coffee," Bosselait told WBBH-TV.

Bosselait, who has documented some of Jackson's Dunkin' runs on social media, said he always gets a coffee for himself and treat for Jackson. "His order is just a plain donut hole," he said. The employees are always happy to see Jackson, Bosselait said. "They like to pat him, they scratch him, they hand him his donut," Bosselait said.

He said the weekly treks have a positive impact on the horse. "It's a good experience for Jackson to be around the vehicles and whatnot," he said. "Really shows him patience and, you know, to stay focused".

YOUNG WILD HORSE FOUND WITHOUT FAMILY, RESCUED FROM OUTER BANKS BEACH

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund has rescued a foal from the wild after he was found struggling without his family. At the end of February, the group learned that Brio, a horse born last summer, seemed to be alone.

"While he was understandably calling for his mother and the other horses, he did not seem to be in any immediate physical danger," herd manager Meg Puckett wrote in a Thursday Facebook post. "Since he was technically old enough to be weaned, we consulted with the vet and decided not to intervene right away, and wait to see if he joined back up with the group that contains his dad Rocky, grandmother, and Betsy, who was also born last year. His mom was nowhere to be found.

The organization, which manages the herd of about 100 wild mustangs roaming the northernmost beaches of the Outer Banks, watched Brio for about a week.

"And while he did settle down and stop calling for his mom, he never moved very far from the place where he was first spotted," Puckett wrote.

Last week, Brio's dad Rocky and the rest of the family, minus his mother, were within eyesight of Brio several times, and he never showed any interest in them, nor they in him.

A few days later, caretakers found Brio becoming weak, lethargic, losing weight and wobbly in his back legs.

"It was clear that Brio was certainly not going to thrive on his own, and most likely would not survive," Puckett wrote. Fund workers caught him and brought him to their rescue farm in Grandy, where it was found that Brio had pneumonia and was very thin. He was started on antibiotics and has a follow-up appointment next week about his legs.

COWGIRL, 95, GETS BUCKET-LIST WISH FOR ONE MORE HORSE RIDE

ESCONDIDO, Calif. - When 95-year-old Opal Hagerty showed up for her horse-drawn carriage ride in Temecula, she was nattily dressed in a fringed suede jacket and a cowboy hat. For much of the Escondido cowgirl's life, horseback riding had been a hobby and a passion. But age and health issues forced Hagerty and her late husband, Donald Gale Hagerty, to sell their horses more than 20 years ago, so it had been decades since she even had the opportunity to pet a horse. So when she got the chance recently to fulfill her bucket-list wish for one last horse ride, the widowed mother of three was determined to dress for the occasion, which came off without a hitch.

"It was the most beautiful ride I ever had," she said afterward. "I'll remember it for the rest of whatever life I have left."

Hagerty is the latest recipient of the Dreams Do Come True program at Cypress Court Retirement Center in Escondido, where she has lived since 2011. Over the past five years, Cypress Court Wellness Director Judy Lucous has granted more than a half-dozen residents' wishes. Grantees, many of them on hospice or disabled, have gone for bike rides, a hot-air balloon ride, a motorcycle ride, a boat trip and a shopping excursion.

Sometimes the residents have a hard time figuring out what they want most, but Hagerty has never wavered. For nearly 10 years, she has been telling anyone who asked that she wanted to ride a horse one more time. But because she has limited mobility and relies on an oxygen tank, the excursion didn't seem safe or feasible. Then, Mark and Marika Matson of Temecula Carriage Company offered Hagerty a free horse-drawn carriage ride through the city's vineyards and the date was finally set.

"I have wanted to ride horses all my life," Hagerty said of her equine passion. "I always found it wonderful sitting up on a horse and being able to look at everything around me. I loved the freedom of it."

Hagerty said being around a horse again brought back pleasant memories of her many happy years with her husband. Since Hagerty's ride was a wish-fulfillment, the Matsons arrived in a Cinderella-style carriage drawn by Blossom, a 16-year-old Belgian draft horse. After giving Hagerty time to kiss and pet Blossom for a few minutes, they went on an hour-long ride through 109 acres of vineyards and olive groves at the Carter Estate Winery.

The Most Fantastic Horse Cakes



Misty of Chincoteague

Museum of Chincoteague

Chincoteague Island, Virginia

The taxidermy remains of the most popular pony in children's literature.

Add to list



WHAT IS PERHAPS THE MOST beloved pony in children's literature is preserved in more than just books and movies. The body of the real-life Misty of Chincoteague is displayed for all to see. Her pinto coat still looks fluffy and shiny, and her lifeless eyes still hold hints of the sweetness that endeared her to children around the world.

Marguerite Henry was inspired to write her book *Misty of Chincoteague* while spending a summer on the titular island in 1946. Henry was there to witness the annual pony swim and auction. This long-time tradition involved "Saltwater Cowboys" rounding up feral ponies on nearby Assateague Island and having them swim the channel to Chincoteague, where they would be auctioned off.

While on Chincoteague, Henry met the owners of Beebe Ranch, and was inspired to write about it. She told the Beebes it would help make their ranch famous and they would be able to sell a lot of ponies reared there. Henry also wanted to buy a foal from the ranch named Misty. The Beebes were hesitant, but agreed to sell Misty if Henry would include their grandchildren Paul and Maureen in the book.

Once Misty was weaned, Henry had her brought back to her house in Wayne, Illinois. Misty lived there with Henry for 10 years. During that time, Misty did many fan appearances, learned to perform tricks, and was the only equine member of the American Library Association. Henry also hosted a public birthday party for Misty every year.

After 10 years in Illinois, Misty was sent back to the Beebe Ranch so she could be bred. More than 300 children attended her farewell party. Back on her native island, she had three foals, including Stormy, the subject of another book of Henry's. Misty lived out the rest of her life on the Beebe Ranch.

Misty died in 1972 at the age of 26. The taxidermy remains of her and her daughter Stormy, who died in 1993, are now on display at the Museum of Chincoteague.

Know Before You Go

Admission is \$4.00, though children 12 and under can enter for free. Its hours vary by season. After Labor Day, it's open Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Caligula & the Legendary Horse Incitatus (Continued from page 1)

Although we do not know whether Incitatus was actually happy to be living in a marble stable or to be eating from an ivory manger. Incitatus was covered with fine cloths with red borders and from this detail historians claim that Caligula appointed him to the position of senator; we do know that he was the best dressed of all the horses in Rome.

In *I, Claudius*, Robert Graves wrote that Incitatus was made a senator and was put on the list to become a consul; that eventually, Claudius removed the governmental stipend for Incitatus and his status as senator for lacking the monetary requirements; that later, Incitatus was slaughtered after injuring his leg at a race; and that the mate of Incitatus, Penelope, was used by Claudius during his war with Britain.

But what if Caligula actually did plot to create Rome's first equine official? According to historian Aloys Winterling, author of "Caligula: A Biography" (2011), insanity isn't the only logical explanation for such behavior. In his book, Winterling makes the case that many of the emperor's wackier stunts, including his treatment of Incitatus, were designed to insult and humiliate senators and other elites. By bestowing a high public office on his horse, then, Caligula aimed to show his underlings that their work was so meaningless an animal could do it.

A Short History Lesson

In 37 AD, the people of Rome rejoiced when they finally gained a new emperor. The dour, Emperor Tiberius was dead, and it was good riddance as far as the populace was concerned. For Tiberius had instigated a wave of treason, trials and executions that had disrupted society. Worse still, he had murdered members of his own family. The new emperor was one of the survivors of this purge. Gaius Julius Caesar Germanicus was just 24 years old. A great-grandson of Augustus, he was also the son of the war hero Germanicus. In the people's minds, the emperor Gaius as he was known could only mean a return to the good old days.

They were wrong. For within four short years, their "savior" was dead, murdered by his own guards after a morning at the games. History would remember the emperor Gaius as one of Rome's worst rulers. It would also remember him by his hated childhood nickname. For Gaius Caesar became "Little Boots" or Caligula. A bloodthirsty megalomaniac, Emperor Caligula was guilty of blasphemy, incest, and state-sanctioned murder, torture, and robbery. However, interspersing the cruelty and sadism were moments of breath-taking ridiculousness- such as the occasion he made his favorite horse a consul. Such actions led the emperor's contemporaries to question his sanity. So was Caligula bad- or just plain mad?

The first seven months of Caligula's reign went well. The new emperor paid Tiberius's legacies promptly- and wooed the already adoring Roman people with lavish gladiatorial games. He also ruled Rome democratically, consulting the Senate before all decisions and avoiding too many honorific titles. Caligula recalled all exiles, poured money into public works such as a new aqueduct in the Tiber region and passed laws that restored popular control over the magistrates. Then, in October 37 AD, he fell seriously ill. For a time, his life was uncertain, but to the great joy of all, he lived. That joy was short-lived, however, when it became apparent that Caligula was significantly changed.

Certain of the emperor's behaviors could be regarded as eccentric, if not outright 'batty.' For one of the first things Caligula did was to announce his divinity. The Senate had deified Julius Caesar and the emperor Augustus after their deaths. However, it was unprecedented for a living Roman to claim such an honor. Caligula, however, had decided he was one of the most ancient Roman deities, Jupiter Latiaris. He immediately established his own priesthood and a temple- complete with a life-sized golden statue for worshippers to adore.

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2326 Happy Valley Rd
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Caligula's divinity was mutable. One moment he was roaming the palace as Jupiter, complete with a false golden beard and a thunderbolt. The next, he had armed himself with a trident to become Neptune, or a serpent-entwined staff when he was Mercury. Caligula even donned a woman's gown and slippers when he became Venus. To reflect his divine omnipresence, the emperor had all the heads of the statues of the gods removed and replaced with his own. When he was not imitating the gods, Caligula subdued them. He reduced the divine twins, Castor and Pollux, to the status of doormen when he had their temple incorporated into the Imperial Palace. He even claimed to have blackmailed Capitoline Jupiter into sharing his temple- and to have forced the moon goddess to sleep with him every full moon.

Caligula's mad behavior was not confined just to religious matters. In 39 AD, he decided to go to war. He attacked the Germans- or rather the trees of their forests. Once he had collected enough branches as booty, he moved onto the coast of Gaul. There, Caligula lined up his soldiers and artillery to face the channel. The emperor's commanders presumed he intended to invade Britain. Instead, Caligula gave the order to gather seashells. His troops were then forced to walk the seashore, filling their helmets and tunics with seashells that were presented in chests as "plunder from the ocean."

