

# NEWS FROM ONION CREEK RANCH

*Can you believe September is here!*

I love September. It heralds long-awaited autumn -- the long hot summer is ending -- it's early but signs of the imminent change of season is occurring. And, September is the month of all my sisters and my birthday. The Cherokees call it Nut Month, appropriately, because all our family celebrate with a September Babies Birthday Party. In addition, my aunt **Liz Carpenter** turns 88 and we are celebrating that with a little do at *Grass Roots*, her home overlooking the Colorado River and the Austin skyline.

I drove out to the Pedernales River Sunday for L-Rod's birthday party.

Labor Day weekend upon us! **Labor Day** is the first Monday in September and has been a holiday since 1894. We can all use a little three day holiday, right? And you can't say there isn't plenty to do around Texas.... My faves are:

1. [Luckenbach Labor Day Celebration](#) The tiny town of Luckenbach, made nationally famous by a Willie Nelson song, will be hosting its Labor Day Celebration. And, as usual, there will be plenty of good live music to go with the festivities.
2. [Batfest](#) Celebrating the enormous bat colony located under the Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, Batfest features arts & crafts, music, food, children activities and a "Bat Breakfast." This year's Batfest is set for Aug. 30-31.
3. [Westfest](#) Every year West, Texas - located just north of Waco - hosts its "Westfest," which is one of the largest Czech Polka fests in the state. The event will be held Aug. 29 - 31 and features polka bands, dancing, Miss Westfest contest, parade, baking contests, fun run, horseshoes, arts & crafts and more.
4. [Colorado River 100](#) Beginning in Bastrop and finishing in Columbus, Tx, the Colorado River 100 Canoe Marathon attracts paddlers and adventure racers from across the country. This year's event is set for Aug. 30.
5. [Ruff Rider Regatta](#) A South Padre Island Labor Day Weekend tradition, the Ruff Rider Regatta is an 'around the Island' catamaran race. Registration is set for Friday, with racing taking place Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 30 -31.



**HE'S EVERYWHERE!!!**  
star...

What a

**Buckshot** made the front page of the Celtic Festival website from last year's Minis and Friends visit. Put it on your calendar to come (Nov. 1 and 2). It's *really fun!*

<http://www.austincelts.org:80/festival/index.html> (they posted over his pic, "what is strange is beautiful" .... what can they ever mean...?)

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What we are all really seeking is an experience where we can feel the rapture of being alive. -  
Joseph Campbell



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO A NEW RANCH OWNER!!**

Kudos to **Otis Dyer** and his sister on the purchase of their big, new, grass-covered horse ranch near Temple. All fenced and with a barn no less. Otis and his sister raise and train very fine Arabians. Otis has brought along several new horses I've had and started some of my babies here, and you know if I let someone handle my babies, he would to be gentle, patient and a good teacher.

Otis Dyer is one of the best horsemen and trainers I know. He genuinely loves horses and that goes into his hands and his emotions when he teaches them --

they know it and feel appreciated and loved. He praises them a lot and makes them feel good. He always ends on a good note with them and never pushes them. If you want a good trainer for your horse, you can really trust this man. He can be reached at [odyer@austin.rr.com](mailto:odyer@austin.rr.com), H. tel: 512-707-7174 (leave a message).

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"Practice reading your horse. Know when he can't do more, and always end on a good note."

--Bo Jenå, International Judge and Director of Dressage at the National Riding Academy of Sweden



## Equestrian Olympics U.S. takes gold

*U.S. team McLain Ward, Beezie Madden, Laura Kraut, and Will Simpson*

Hong Kong, August 18, 2008 -- When it counted the most, the U.S. show jumping team demonstrated why it so richly deserved the Olympic gold medal, turning in three perfect trips in a thrilling jump-off to beat the Canadians and take top honors after two hotly contested days of competition.

A gold medal is always special, but this one means something extra to the American team. Although the U.S. was the defending champion, it got the 2004 gold long after the fact, when the Germans were disqualified because one of their horses tested positive for a prohibited substance. McClain Ward's mare, Sapphire, colicked in May and was 10 minutes away from being operated on. That would have spelled the end of making the Olympic team with her. But the vets did their thing and saved her without putting her on the table and she was able to go on to compete.

Beezie Madden won Gold for Individual Show Jumping.

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**Horses know nothing of money, status, beauty or accomplishments....Horses see only our hearts and accept or reject us based on what they find within us. In short, Horses do naturally what humans can pass a lifetime without mastering...**

## **Olympic gold brings back brutal memories in Ward family**

**McClain Ward** won a gold medal last week in Hong Kong as part of the United States Olympic Equestrian Jumping Team. However, the win brought the spectre of his father's crimes against horses to haunt him once again before celebrations began.

In an article penned by Timothy O'Connor for the *Journal News*, he gives all the grisly details of the horse murders for insurance money scam involving his father, Barney, that shocked the horse world.

What Barney Ward did was he named Tommy Burns to kill George Lindemann's show horse Charisma at Cellular Farms in Armonk on Dec. 15, 1990, so that Lindemann could collect on the horse's \$250,000 life insurance policy.

Burns said that wasn't the first time Barney Ward had tapped him to knock off a horse for insurance money.

According to court records, Burns testified at Lindemann's trial that Ward had arranged for Burns to carry out 14 horse slayings before the killing by electrocution of Charisma.

full story <http://tuesdayshorse.wordpress.com/2008/08/26/olympic-gold-brings-back-brutal-memories/>



**and thinking....**

———— **I've been watching you**

"The history of all times, and of today especially, teaches that women will be forgotten if they forget to think about themselves." ~Louise Otto



FOR SALE, NICE TB -- oops, nevermind!

*(FOR SALE: "I Believe I Will"- registered Jockey Club Thoroughbred, 5 yr old, 16.1 hh, athletic, moves with ease and beauty. He is healthy, friendly, and ready to go. He has a gentle nature and comes to you at the gate. Will is built big, broad and solid. He is out of Pure Prize and a very good lineage. Priced to sell at \$1,000.00.)*

Lisa, a trainer from Retama, called me and said, "Will you buy this big beautiful TB so he doesn't go to the sale? His name is Will and he won't win a race but he'll make a great trail horse." As always, I said sure, bring him over. I love helping make a better future for these sweet, beautiful TBs.

She brought him Monday morning and he was *drop dead gorgeous*-- he ran around holding his tail high and looking magnificent. I took pix of him and sent out the above *for sale* notice on Monday. Tuesday morning, Veronique came out for our usual trail ride with friend Sherrie, who is a great rider. As a favor for me, I asked Sherrie to ride Will to acclimate him to the trails. After the usual initial nervousness about going down into the creek, he settled right into riding. He loved the creek, he loved the trails. He loved moving out, leading or following. He tried so hard and did so beautifully and had such a gorgeous slow canter, that Sherrie raved about him. I was pleased and knew he'd come along fast.

After the ride, when we went to our regular texmex lunch place, Sherrie went to the restroom to wash up. Five minutes later she emerged, sat down at the table, and said decisively "I want to buy that horse."

Well, blow me down and call me Buckshot! She had called her husband Victor in there and being a good husband of a horsewoman, he had said Yes. So in 24

hrs, Will went from failed Retama racehorse to perfect trail riding boy with a new home.

I just love Happy Endings, don't you...?

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"I do not want to talk about what you understand about this world. I want to know what you will do about it. I do not want to know what you hope. I want to know what you will work for. I do not want your sympathy for the needs of humanity. I want your muscle." - Robert Fulgrum

## Ginger Finds a Tortoise

Ginger found this tiny terrapin in the white pipes at the horse washup stand...and proudly brought it to me and dumped it at my feet as I worked at my desk... I thought it was a bone till IT MOVED!

- Lin

[View photos](#)

If you can't see the pictures in this email, click here to see it in a web browser:  
[http://www.kodakgallery.com/l.jsp?c=5nbj5z0.5l8y2ffs&x=0&h=1&y=-8iqvov&localeid=en\\_US](http://www.kodakgallery.com/l.jsp?c=5nbj5z0.5l8y2ffs&x=0&h=1&y=-8iqvov&localeid=en_US)



## My Favorite TRAVEL

Recently a friend asked me "If I had never been anywhere, what 5 trips would you suggest?" I had a heck of a hard time limiting it to five, but I listed:

\*Kenya safari with Micato Tours, first class all the way. [micato.com](http://micato.com)

\*Canyon Music Trips in Big Bend with Far Flung Adventures

<http://www.farflungoutdoorcenter.com/?page=RiverTrips.Music>

\*Sailing in Belize to the southern islands...nothing prettier, no water better.

\**Anything* in Scotland or Ireland, but particularly carriage driving and riding and the summer horse fairs

\* Star Clipper cruise <http://www.starclippers.com/> of St Kitts and Nevis -- unique. Or Alaska Inside Passage cruise on Holland America.

Need some ideas for where to ride? Here ya go!

<http://www.equitrekking.com/Blogs/4/Travel-Articles.html>

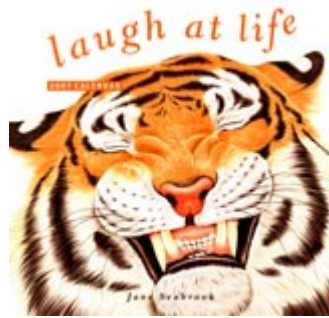
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## Video of the Week – The Lion Who Thought He Was People

***This has been circulating the web and is extremely touching***

Two young lads shopping at the upscale Harrod's in London couldn't bear to see a lion cub locked in a cage at Christmas. They bought and raised the cub, but when it grew too big, decided to send it to Africa. Upon returning a year later, they were told the lion would not recognize them. But, the home movie capturing their ecstatic reunion has become an internet sensation - more than 11 million views on YouTube. Click on: [A Lion's Hugs](#)

*(if that doesn't work, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=adYbFQFXG0U>)*



## **DUI TEXAS STYLE**

Recently a routine police patrol parked outside a bar in Austin , Texas after last call the officer noticed a man leaving the bar so apparently intoxicated that he could barely walk. The man stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes, with the officer quietly observing. After what seemed an eternity in which he tried his keys on five different vehicles, the man managed to find his car and fall into it. He sat there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started the car, switched the wipers on and off--it was a fine, dry summer night--, flicked the blinkers on and off a couple of times, honked the horn and then switched on the lights. He moved the vehicle forward a few inches, reversed a little and then remained still for a few more minutes as some more of the other patrons' vehicles left. At last, when his was the only car left in the parking lot, he pulled out and drove slowly down the road. The police officer, having waited patiently all this time, now started up his patrol car, put on the flashing lights, promptly pulled the man over and administered a breathalyzer test.

To his amazement, the breathalyzer indicated no evidence that the man had consumed any alcohol at all!

Dumbfounded, the officer said, 'I'll have to ask you to accompany me to the police station. This breathalyzer equipment must be broken.'

'I doubt it,' said the truly proud Texan. 'Tonight I'm the designated decoy.'



## AUSTIN EQUINE CLINIC

Open House SUNDAY 9/6, from 6-9 pm, at the new hospital facilities in Driftwood - **Dr. O'Gan and Dr. Evans** are the great. Their prices are very competitive and their new clinic can do abdominal surgery! No more having to take your colicking horse to Elgin or A&M. Check out their website, <http://www.austinequine.com/>



## BOOK OF THE WEEK

*"Two for Texas"* written by excellent Texas cum Louisiana wordslinger James Lee Burke ([www.jamesleeburke.com](http://www.jamesleeburke.com)). This was made into a movie with Kristofferson.

**"Corrupt and dishonest politicians belong on chain gangs. Those who lie and lead their nations into wars that cause suffering for hundreds of thousands of people probably have a special room in hell waiting for them." - J. L. Burke**



## The Lucky Ones...?

This is 8 yr old Addison and her baby Nugget, rescued by Bluebonnet Equine Rescue in June, so severely malnourished they had trouble standing. The good news? They are both doing very well now, thank heavens and the good people at <http://www.bluebonnetequine.org/>

Join me, Buckshot and **Minis and Friends** in helping support this wonderful organization at the BEHR Expo/fundraiser **October 11, 10-6pm at the Travis County Expo Center.** <http://www.bluebonnethorseexpo.com/index.htm>

The 2008 Bluebonnet Horse Expo includes: Clinics and Demos - training, horse health and fitness, and various riding disciplines

Live Auction - Bid on saddles, artwork and other exciting items

Meet the Bluebonnet Horses - Horses, ponies, mules and donkeys who are available for adoption will be on hand to meet attendees

Parade of Breeds - Learn about different breeds and see them perform under saddle and in front of horse-drawn vehicles

Sale Area - Buy horse equipment, ranch equipment and other items

Silent Auction - Bid on horse-themed jewelry, home decor and clothing as well as new tack Vendors - Shop the exciting vendor hall

Please put it on your schedule! You'll be glad you went.



**True Texas News**

**"Hard at Work"**

A police officer in Beaumont, Texas, has gone to court to contest his suspension for having sex with prostitutes on duty. Officer Keith Breiner, one of four officers suspended by the department, says he was ordered to have sex in a prostitution sting case on at least five occasions, and his wife testified she knew what was going on and approved. But "There does not appear to me to be a logical, work-related reason to have repeated sex with prostitutes in order to make a misdemeanor case," testified Beaumont Police Chief Frank Coffin. Breiner's lawyer said his client had an exemplary record, reading from one evaluation that Breiner "eagerly completes all assignments given to him and offers to help other officers." (*Beaumont Enterprise*)

...And that's supposed to help his case?



*The White Stallion by Lola*

## BEST ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

*Jones*

**Penny Stone's** "Full Bucket Theory".

[http://www.wholehorsepower.com/articles/full\\_bucket\\_theory.htm](http://www.wholehorsepower.com/articles/full_bucket_theory.htm)



## HORSE PEOPLE HEALTH **Adult Vaccinations**

Are you getting your horse his vaccinations, but not you? Well, horse people are really at risk from rusty cuts around the farm, so a tetanus booster *if not more* is a must. Check it out at

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/health/2008/08/29/fortin.hfh.adult.shots.cnn>

I'm getting lots of calls this morning to board hurricane Gustav evacuated horses. Three arrived today from Port Arthur -- it took them 9 hours to get to Austin! The roads are jammed it appears...

Here's a thought for today...

*'What's ahead of me and what's behind me are nothing compared to what's inside me...'*

Have a great week,  
Lin Sutherland

[www.onioncreekranch.net](http://www.onioncreekranch.net)

Austin, Texas