

HOMETOWN
EVENTS

City girls visit country, learn to saddle up

A rich aroma of dust, hay and well-worn leather fills the air as the cowgirl walks across the ring and mounts her golden steed.

Controlling the reins with practiced hands, she completes a full circle before rising upright on 1,500 pounds of pulsating muscle. The ranch hands jump to their feet and applaud as she waves her cowgirl hat in the air in victory.

This is the scene as imagined by 11-year-old **Isabel Medrano**.

Really, the cowgirl is a city girl and the horse is dull-gray, 27-year-old **Mouse**. The hands have only been practicing for five weeks, but Medrano does stand upright — with some help. The ranch hands are Mastering Abilities Riding Equines volunteers, and the cowgirl hat is a plastic helmet.

Nevertheless, on July 18, the Bakersfield Police Department's Police Activities League and MARE Riding Center joined together to make the dreams of eight little girls come true. Trading the asphalt jungle for wide-open spaces, participants saddled up to demonstrate their riding and vaulting skills for friends, family and judges.

"It's hard to believe that only five weeks ago not one of these girls had ever ridden a horse — or even touched a horse, for that matter," said **Sandy Morris** of the department's crime prevention unit.

Morris selected the girls, ranging in age from 9 to 16, based on the potential they demonstrated through PAL, a social development program for at-risk youth.

Before the show, they spent three



LAUREN WARD / SPECIAL TO THE CALIFORNIAN

MARE riding instructor Helen McKee helps rider Isabel Medrano complete an obstacle course at the horse show.

hours a day, five days a week cleaning stalls and handling tack (riding gear). They practiced fancy moves like "the scissors" and "a back roll onto the neck." And they bonded as a group by reading stories about the Old West.

"All of the activities were designed to build confidence and

self-esteem," said Morris, leaning over the rail to watch the girls complete the obstacle course.

"The majority of them don't have animals at home that they can love on," she said, noting that a horse can be a more challenging companion than a cat or dog.

"They had to build a rapport with

the horses, and become familiar with their different personalities. Horses might be big and strong, but it's soft words and gentle caresses that tame them in the end," Morris said.

Participant **Sulma Fuentes**, 16, agreed with Morris that talking is the way to a horse's heart.

REUNIONS

Seeking alumni

Taft High School, class of 1973, 30th. Details, 589-7007.

High school reunions

August

8-2: Highland High School, class of 1993, 10th, Coconut Joe's Private Beach Club. Details, 873-7170.

8-8: East Bakersfield High School, class of 1963, 40th, Coconut Joe's Private Beach Club. Details, 871-9583.

8-9: North High School, class of 1983, 20th, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Bakersfield. Details, 587-1788.

8-9: South High School, class of 1968, 35th, Red Lion Inn, Bakersfield. Details, (877) 604-6532.

8-9: Strathmore Union High School, class of 1983, 20th, La Patio Restaurant, Lindsay. Details, (805) 844-4452.

8-16: Arvin High School, class of 1963, 40th, DoubleTree Hotel, Bakersfield. Details, 393-7151.

8-16: Delano High School, class of 1968, 35th, Red Lion Hotel, Bakersfield. Details, 871-5331.

8-16: South High School, class of 1973, 30th, Coconut Joe's, Bakersfield. Details, 398-7075.

8-23: Foothill High School, class of 1983, 20th, Petroleum Club, Bakersfield. Details, 327-1200.

8-23: South High School, class of 1993, 10th, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Bakersfield. Details, 204-0507.

8-23: East Bakersfield High School, class of 1948, 55th, DoubleTree Hotel, Bakersfield. Details, 327-0616.

September

9-6: Bakersfield High School, class of 1983, 20th, Coconut Joe's, Bakersfield. Details, 393-1476.

9-6: Kettleman City School, classes through 1982, Shamel Park, Cambria. Details, 871-7413.

9-13: Foothill High School, class of 1973, 30th, Bell Tower Club, Bakersfield. Details, 589-0280.

9-13: Bakersfield High School, class of 1953, 50th, Holiday Inn Select, Bakersfield. Details, 399-7589.

9-20: Bakersfield High School, class of 1973, 30th, Petroleum Club, Bakersfield. Details, 862-5674.

9-20: Arvin High School, class of 1993, 10th, Best Western Crystal Palace, Bakersfield. Details, 834-6840.

9-20: Shafter High School, class of 1993, 10th, Coconut Joe's, Bakersfield. Details, 589-4024.

9-27: Highland High School, class of 1973, 30th, DoubleTree Hotel, Bakersfield. Details, (818) 888-1941.

9-27: East Bakersfield High School, class of 1983, 20th, Bell Tower Club, Bakersfield. Details, 392-0332.

9-27: South High School, class of 1983, 20th, Coconut Joe's Private Beach Club, Bakersfield. Details, 587-8107.

October

10-4: Garces Memorial High School, class of 1983, 20th, Petroleum Club, Bakersfield. Details, 664-7854.

10-4: Delano High School, class of 1988, 15th, Los Amigos Grill & Cantina, Bakersfield. Details, 721-5294.

10-4: Shafter High School, class of 1952, 1953, 1954, Shafter Green Hotel, Shafter. Details, 589-3744.

10-18: South High School, class of 1963, 40th, Basque Club, Bakersfield. Those who did not graduate are welcome to attend. Details, 831-4259.

10-19: St. Helen's School, Fresno, all classes, Sunnyside Country Club, Fresno. Details, (559) 251-3184.

MILITARY
REUNIONS

August

8-24: USS Saint Paul (CA-73) and USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN-708), Boston. Details, (770) 393-1385.

September

9-3: USS Columbus CA-74/CG-12/SSN-762, Seattle. Details, (626) 339-3568.

9-4: USS Maddox Destroyer Association, DD-168, DD-622, DD-731, Buena Park. Details, (714) 960-5283.

9-8: USS Long Beach CGN-9 Association, Inc., Radisson Hotel & Suites, Buffalo, N.Y. Details, (716) 569-2314.

9-8: Veterans of the Aleutian Islands, 60th, Marysville/Loma Rica. Details, (954) 423-1852.

9-13: 832 (E.A.B.) Engineer Aviation Battalion, 50th, Grand River Inn, Chillicothe, Mo. Details, 822-3031.

9-15: USS Floyd B. Parks (DD-884), all former shipmates, Charleston, S.C. Details, (530) 283-2165.

9-17: USS Turner DD/DDR-834, 12th, Adam's Mark Hotel, Mobile, Ala. Details, (717) 764-3834.

9-17: USS Taussig DD-746, Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco. Details, (661) 588-4441.

9-20: USS Colorado Alumni Association BB45, Clarion Palace Inn, Branson, Mo. Details, (800) 472-7860.

9-23: USS Forrestal CVA/CV/AVT-59, Virginia Beach, Va. Details, (888) 434-5955.

9-24: 467th Bomb Group Association, USAF 8th AF, San Antonio, Texas. Details, 821-5101.

10-8: USS Canberra CA-70 and CAG-2, Airport Renaissance Hotel, St. Louis. Details, (740) 423-8976.

10-3: USS Worcester CL 144 Association, 14th, Branson, Mo. Details, (845) 255-2603.

BIRTHS

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

THORPE: to David and Maria, a son, Pierce William, 6 lbs. 8 oz., 20 in., May 18.

TORRES: to Lino Torres and Charlotte Urbano, a daughter, Aaliyah Tatiana, 8 lbs. 2 oz., 20 in., June 1.

UMANA: to Oscar Umana and Jesenia Torres, a daughter, Janette Maribel, 7 lbs. 7 oz., 21 in., June 6.

VALADEZ: to Jose and Arlen, a son, Jose Angel Jr., 8 lbs. 6 oz., 20½ in., June 21.

VALDEZ: to Kelly and Dianna, a son, Ian Andrew, 8 lbs. 4 oz., 20½ in., June 29.

VALENZUELA: to George and Christina, a son, George, 6 lbs. 11 oz., June 25.

VALLEJO: to Christopher and Michelle, a son, Nicholas Andrew, 7 lbs. 14 oz., 20 in., June 22.

VASQUES: to Angelo Vasques and Rebecca Ramirez, a son, Adrien Ramos, 7 lbs. 13 oz., 20 in., May 29.

WALTERS: to Kevin and Gracelda, a son, Avery Nash, 7 lbs. 4 oz., 21 in., June 27.

WEST: to Frank West and Legina Pittman, a child, Jordan, 7 lbs. 7 oz., 20 in., June 1.

WILLIAMS: to Deon Williams and Dominique Davis, a son, Deon Walter Jr., 5 lbs. 8 oz., May 31.

WILSON: to Carl and Maricruz, a daughter, Isabella Elena, 8 lbs. 15 oz., 21 in., May 22.

WINSTON: to Gregory Winston and Tonisha Colter, a daughter, Kyasha Masiah, 5 lbs. 13 oz., 18½ in., June 2.

WRIGHT: to Joseph Wright and Sabrina Andrews, a daughter, Skylyn Elizabeth, 7 lbs. 1 oz., 20 in., June 19.

WOODARD: to Terry Woodard and Genesis Hicks, a son, Jordan Trammel, 6 lbs. 1 oz., 19 in., May 29.

WOFFORD: to Ronnie and Ginendolyn, a daughter, Navaeyah Deloris, 7 lbs. 8 oz., 20½ in., June 14.

YOUNG: to David and Lisa, a son, Scott David, 9 lbs. 7 oz., 23 in., June 7.

ZEPEDA: to Walter Zepeda and Beatriz Alvariz, a daughter, Arianna Lizette, 5 lbs. 7 oz., 18 in., June 4.

ZEIMET: to Bradley and Tammy, a son, Joseph Henry, 7 lbs. 15 oz., 21 in., June 14.

MERCY SOUTHWEST HOSPITAL

ARNEY: to Charlie and Amber, a daughter, Teri Renee, 7 lbs. 6 oz., 20½ in., June 27.

AYON-FLORES: to Salvador Flores and Guadalupe Flores, a daughter, Clarissa Jordan, 8 lbs. 6 oz., 20 in., June 18.

BICKELL: to Christopher and Kimberly, a son, Bert Blaine, 11 lbs. 2 oz., 20½ in., June 19.

BINNING: to Matthew and BJ, a son, Gavin Shane, 8 lbs. 15 oz., 21 in., July 1.

BOYD: to Jeffrey and Darlene

Emfinger, a son, Blake Anthony, 7 lbs. 3 oz., 20 in., June 29.

CAMORLINGA: to Jaime and Sharon, a daughter, Nadia, 8 lbs. 6 oz., 21 in., July 2.

CARR: to Daniel and Pamela, a son, Jared Ray, 7 lbs. 15 oz., 21½ in., June 30.

CASILLAS: to Joel and Rosie, a son, Sabian Elijah, 7 lbs. 6 oz., 20 in., June 25.

CASTRO: to Richard and Monique Lopez, a daughter, Desirre Marie, 6 lbs. 15 oz., 18½ in., June 22.

CHURCHWELL: to Todd and Jaima Belluomini, a daughter, Ainsley Marie, 6 lbs. 12 oz., 19 in., June 27.

CLAYTON: to Alexander McHenry and Sherrie, a son, Jordon McHenry, 9 lbs. 2 oz., 21½ in., June 24.

DYER-VARGAS: to John Dyer and Brenda Vargas, a son, Joshua Taylor, 7 lbs. 7 oz., 21 in., June 16.

DAVIDSON: to David and Maritza, a son, Conner Andres, 8 lbs. 13 oz., 20½ in., June 21.

EPPERLY: to John and Elizabeth, a daughter, Emily Alene, 7 lbs. 4 oz., 20 in., June 21.

FAIRWEATHER: to William Tyler and Brittainy, a son, Everett Tyler, 8 lbs. 12 oz., 19 in., June 15.

FORE: to James and Ramona Barela, a son, Andrew James, 8 lbs., 22 oz., June 26.

FRANCIS: to Terron and Andriana, 6 lbs., 18½ in., June 27.

GAINES: to Andy and Brittney, a son, Brant Allen, 7 lbs. 1 oz., 19 in., July 1.

GARCIA: to Gabriel and Amie, a daughter, Isabella Ann, 8 lbs. 12 oz., 21 in., June 16.

GONYER: to Ross and Heather, a daughter, Grace Renee, 8 lbs., 19 in., July 2.

GONZALES: to Ray and Krystina, a son, Isaiah Rey, 9 lbs. 7 oz., 22 in., June 28.

GONZALES: to Joel and Marivic, a son, Joshua Thunder, 8 lbs. 10 oz., 20½ in., June 19.

HARPER: to William and Tracey, a son, Maverick Johnson, 8 lbs. 11 oz., 22 in., June 18.

HEATH: to Ronnie and Amanda Provence, a son, Mason Von, 7 lbs. 20 in., June 21.

HERNANDEZ: to Juan and Jaqueline Perez, a son, Dorian Juan, 7 lbs. 2 oz., 20 in., June 24.

HERNANDEZ: to Miguel and Stella Garcia, a son, Isaac Miguel, 8 lbs. 5 oz., 21½ in., June 20.

HERNANDEZ: to Sammy and Tanya, a son, Jonathan David, 6 lbs., 18½ in., June 18.

HERRERA: to Julian and Maria, a daughter, Madelyon Jade, 8 lbs. 14 oz., 21 in., June 15.

HILBURN: to Michael and Heather, a daughter, Malaki Duece, 9 lbs. 6 oz., 20½ in., June 17.

RESTAURANT
INSPECTIONS

Tehachapi Little League, Meadow Brook Park, Tehachapi, 5/22/03

Tevis Junior High School, 3901 Pin Oak Park Blvd., 5/27/03

Tompkins Elementary School, 1120 S. Curry St., Tehachapi, 5/22/03

Town Market, 14 Midway Road, Fellows, 5/29/03

Trader Joe's Company, 8200 Stockdale Highway, 6/21/03

Traders Pizza Southwest, 6300 White Lane, 5/28/03

Walgreens Drug Store, 40 Chester Ave., 5/8/03

Wells Elementary School, 300 S. Robinson, Tehachapi, 5/23/03

West High School Snack Bar, 1200 New Stine Road, 5/29/03

Violations were reported at the following establishments:

Texaco and Los Tacos Express, 6501 S. Union Ave., 5/30/03:

Restroom door not self-closing. Faucet at three-compartment sink leaks.

Tropicana Lounge, 1622 Union Ave., 5/28/03: Drain line at floor sink lacks minimum 1-inch air gap.

Vera's Health Foods, 2850 Niles St., 6/3/03: Deteriorated wall near rear door.

Vests Market, 1831 Chester Ave., 5/30/03: Chipping paint on walls in deli. Chili holding 132°F. Lacking paper towel dispenser at sink in deli.

Lacking person certified in food safety. Food stored on floor in storage area. Lacking sneeze guard on hot dog cooker.

HONOR
ROLL

Honor Roll submissions must come directly from schools via e-mail to local@bakersfield.com. Please format as shown below, using first name, then last name, and upper- and lowercase. Questions? Call assistant features editor Colleen Jiron at 395-7416.

Sing Lum School principal's list: Jacqueline Powers, Kristopher Bolts, Claudia Camacho, Cody Weedon, Brittany Chiapa, Jessica Norwood, Stephanie Plake, Danielle Gray, Vanessa Hairston, April Chung, Steven Gaede, Lexie Martin, Chase Reed, David Roth, Jasmine Sandoval, Amanda Smith, Amanda Francis, Jennifer Magno, Bijhan Mirkazemi, Jacob Garber, Isaiah Griggs, Erika Torres, Chad Heliker, Hebah Huzaibi, Jeremy Quiroz, Matthew Chiapa, Chase Toy, Corina Smith, Michael Cruz, Kori Gooden, Melissa Taylor, Breanna Bracamonte, Coral Cavanagh, Carlos Mendoza and Christopher Nino.

Honor roll: Courtney Bittle, Zachery Castillo, Freida Cruz, Laina

Gilmore, Eric Guevara, Alexander Katz, Renee Miller, Seth Pannel, Andrew Stevens, Chris Mullich, Savannah Adams, Jarrett Alarcon, Nickolaus Bader, Paige Bessler, Anthony Damian, Brooke Garner, Haylee Martin, Alex Miller, Stephanie Moore, Onyx Mora, Justin Schallock, Shelby Bayne, Frances Bland, Chloe Caldasso, Analicia Flores, Lauren Osborne, Nathan Sheetz, Numan Blanco, Katie Aburto, Aboubaker Ataelgeed, Andrea Bersentes, Jake Cady, Alexandria Guerard, Cory Heliker, Lloyd Jones, Sabrina Millard, Clara Morones, Chase Myers, Christopher Orta, Sara Roth, Leah Stewart, Ryan Aris, Johnathan Bracamonte, Sara Copeland, Kasey Cutshall, Jessica Dunham, Benjamin Duval, Cecily Eguao, Ilyssa Espiritu, Cody Gooden, Cody Joslin, Brittany Kennedy, Devin McKee, Ashley Montgomery, Dillon O'Connor, Anthony Prieto, Adrian Esquivias, Sonya Fisher, Cameron Gibbs, Vanessa Hestlow, Hannah Keller, Hunter Lisuk, Richard McAuliffe, Emily Myers, Jamikia Tate, Amanda

"I love being around horses," said Fuentes, who picked 21-year-old Streetwise as her favorite equine. "They are such great listeners."

Streetwise may not have Mr. Ed's vocabulary, but his presence alone, along with the occasional "neigh," has given the girls a lot to talk about.

"I was scared at first, but now I just think of riding as fun," said 12-year-old **Maritza Gasea**. "I just love coming here. I love the smells and braiding the horses' manes."

Organizers said MARE provides the young ladies with a positive recreational and educational outlet.

"We're teaching them teamwork, respect, and patience," said **Michelle Rasmussen**, executive director of MARE. "But more than anything, we're teaching them that there is more to be found in the world than what they know."

"I had such a great time that I plan to come back as a volunteer," Fuentes said.

Deborah Durkan also taught participants crewel, a type of stitching. She's been with the MARE program for years as the program director and head riding instructor.

"I wanted to teach them stitching, because you can't take a horse home with you," Durkan said.

"But what they're really taking home is just what they came with — excellent attitudes and willingness to learn," she said.

For more information, call MARE at 589-1877.

By **LAUREN WARD**
Special to The Californian