



Photo by Scott Maben

Chuck John of Eugene halter-breaks a young Appaloosa, one of 39 wild horses up for adoption in Lane County this month.

Program gives horses new homes

By Scott Maben
Of the Emerald

Twenty wild horses from eastern Oregon were sold Saturday and Sunday at a temporary Oregon Bureau of Land Management "Adopt-A-Horse" center west of Eugene.

BLM began the adoption program two years after the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act was passed in 1971. The act arose from public concern about wild horses and burros competing with cattle for western rangeland.

In an attempt to control the animals' populations, the BLM gathers hundreds of horses and burros in eastern Oregon and sells them, according to Don Wilbur, Eugene district BLM wild horse specialist.

Wilbur said horses brought to Eugene this weekend are the first available for adoption in the southern Willamette Valley for three years. The horses were rounded up in the Warm Springs Heard Management Area (southeast of Mt. Hood) in January.

Private citizens from as far as 100 miles away visited the center on Greenhill Road both days. Horses sold for \$125 each.

"We have some pregnant mares, studs... a little bit of everything. These are very adoptable horses," because of their age, Wilbur said.

None of the horses is older than two, he explained.

Interested adopters are pre-screened by BLM officials. Wilbur said applicants must have adequate facilities —

available food and water supplies, a barn with high-walled stalls and pasture acreage sufficient for exercise.

"We want to ensure the people are genuine in terms of being able to take care of the horse. That's the bottom line," Wilbur said.

BLM limits adopters to four horses or burros per year to prevent illegal marketing of the animals. Each is given a U.S. freeze brand that usually keeps them from showing up in auction yards, Wilbur said.

After a year of "proper care," BLM will grant title to the owner, after which the owner is free to sell or keep the horses, he said.

Although a few isolated poaching incidents did occur when the program was young, Wilbur said citizens generally leave the animals alone, a likely result of BLM's population controls.

"I think I'd rather see them go to loving homes than slaughter houses," said University journalism student Tia Politi, who owns a half quarterhorse/half Welsh pony and boards two other horses.

Although Politi believes BLM's adoption program is beneficial to the survival of the wild horses she said she objects to placing priority on cattle over the horses, which she describes as "endangered tribes."

Politi also cautioned against adopting one of the horses on the basis of hoping to find an instant playmate or pet.

"You've really got to know

what you're doing with a wild animal like this," she said.

People adopt the horses for various uses, including riding and packing, Wilbur said. He noted the animals are "excellent with kids."

"These horses will tame down real easy," he said.

"We've found that the best quality for working with wild horses isn't necessarily experience. It's patience. People who've taken things slow and easy, who work with horses everyday, end up with the best animals," Wilbur said.

More than 60,000 horses and burros have found homes during the 15-year history of the program.

Provided there are some left over, the "Adopt-A-Horse" center will be open again next weekend at 88930 Greenhill.

Officials at seminar debate tax money use

By Steve Edwards
Of the Emerald

Should Oregon's tax dollars go toward building prisons or keeping schools open?

This was one question facing a panel of local and state officials Saturday in Eugene at a day-long seminar on the justice system in Oregon.

The seminar was sponsored by the Innovative Educational Development Program.

Panelists did not see the issue in terms of a conflict over funding. Rather they felt the relationship between the correctional system and the educational system is cooperative, not competitive, according to Mary Byrne, the assistant principal at North Eugene High School.

Sen. Rod Monroe, D-Portland, advocated aggressive education from a young age to help reduce crime in the future.

Evidence is "overwhelming" that such programs as kindergarten-age education are successful in improving chances of law-abiding lifestyles, he said.

Monroe also suggested "counseling for (students of) all ages" and advocated a greater freedom of counselors "to counsel."

He suggested a more aggressive intervention in the cases of obviously troubled students, saying one needn't "wait until kids get to junior high to know" which are going to have problems.

Eugene attorney Ed Fadeley questioned this. One must wonder "if (Richard) Nixon's third-grade teacher would have known he would authorize burglary" and participate in the Watergate coverup, Fadeley said.

Doug Densmore of the Oregon State Parole Board said in addition to needing "more space" for housing criminals, the state system needs some reorganization.

Densmore said in summary: "Everybody agrees there's a problem; nobody's quite sure how to deal with it."



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10:00 Calligraphy: Korea. EMU
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11:00 Film: Korea. Room 167 EMU.
11:15 Taiwan. "Tradition & Moder-
nization." EMU Lobby.
11:30 Thailand "Buddhism in
Thailand." & "Thailand."
Room 167 EMU.
12:00 Films: Karate Demonstra-
tion. EMU Brick
Courtyard.
12:40 Dance: Japan. EMU Brick
Courtyard.
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1:10 Flute recital: Hong Kong. EMU
Brick Courtyard.
1:30 Film: India. "The Sword and the
Flute." Room 167 EMU.
2:00 4-man Band: China (PRC). EMU
Brick Courtyard.
2:15 Slides: Pakistan. Room 167 EMU.
2:30 Judo Demonstration. EMU Brick
Courtyard.
2:40 Slides: Hong Kong. Room 167
EMU.
3:00 Film: Pakistan. "Land and People."
Room 167 EMU.
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