



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

## BACK AT THE RANCH...

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**September 2015**

**No. 9, Volume 4**

Fall arrived with a decisive "thump" on the first of September. The rain we had been praying for finally arrived...it was a bit on the light side, but the cooler air and higher humidity cleared our air beautifully and ever since it has remained smoke free. The mornings that used to start in the high 60s are now in the 40s and high for the day is 70 if that. The final sessions were held the first week of September and it was bittersweet to see another summer come to an end. All together we held 30 sessions with 17 different kids, 3 horses and a burro. We had 46 visitors cross our boundaries--from Goldendale to Germany and many places in between. It was an amazing summer of growing, learning, loving, and laughing. Souls were touched and hearts were stolen. It was magical, joyous and fulfilling and we hope that all who spent any time here at all would agree. We now have a brief interim that included a little vacation, some new projects (see "in other news") and returning to the familiar fall schedule as Steve returns to his teaching and Robin adds additional hours to her schedule. So many families have voiced the desire to "come and help out" that we hope to see some of them return this fall to feed, clean, and help with winterizing projects--if you are one of them, please contact us to make arrangements soon!!

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**Our mission/vision: To provide free equine experiences for youth in a safe, loving, and encouraging environment that is fun for both children and horses.**

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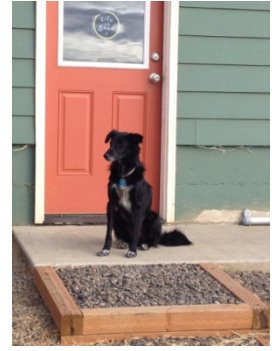
*Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29*

The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

## ZAC TAILS:

Every now and then something new happens on the property that kinda catches me off guard. You know....something unexpected shows up and you try to size it up: is it dangerous, is it a good thing/bad thing? How is this going to affect my life?

Interestingly, when this recently happened to me, I noticed a few other animals on the ranch experiencing similar reactions. One change that has affected us all is the weather. The wind has a bit of a chill to it. The sun comes up a bit later in the morning, goes down a bit sooner, and never seems to warm the ground up quite like it did even a few weeks ago. Last week, because of the incessant wind, my people made a few changes in the pastures so the horses' hay could be protected from the wind. To prevent the hay blowing off the ground before the horses had a chance to consume it, some mesh was put up that would keep it inside the fence lines. For Remy, a giant tire was put inside her pasture so that her hay could be tossed inside and she could eat it without the wind carrying it away. The man set the tire in there early one afternoon and Remy was pacing and trotting all around her pasture but keeping a large distance between herself and this strange new addition. She would stand in the center of the pasture and eye it from every angle--high, low, sideways, left and right. Then she would trot around again as if wondering when this thing would make a move. Only when it was feeding time and the lady hand carried some hay in to her and gently coaxed her closer and closer to the tire did she finally seem to understand that this was going to be a benefit for her. Today I came in from a mostly routine day and noticed something different on the floor by the front door. I barked at it. I moved all around it keeping my distance, waiting for it to make a move. The man opened the front door, not understanding my concern. I sat down and tried to stare the thing down. Still nothing. Finally the lady remembered that she had brought something in and set it down there. She came over and picked it up. It was long and smelled vaguely familiar. She tried to show it to me and gradually coaxed me to sniff it more closely. It was a tail feather from a pheasant found on our property...why was it in the house? Apparently my people think it is beautiful and wanted to display it. Why in the world they would want something like that inside the house is beyond me, but at least I was able to overcome my concern and see it for what it really was--something harmless and really of no consequence to me or my home. Sometimes it takes someone else to show us that what we are so concerned about really is going to be harmless like the feather to me and could actually be of benefit to us, like the tire for Remy. It's okay to look to someone else to show us the truth about something if we can't seem to see it for ourselves.



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Above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places.

~ Roald Dahl

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## OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS :



We had a couple of very generous supporters offer to help us rebuild our recently destroyed run-in shed, so that project is now underway. Remy already is spending her days in the partially re-built shed and it is obvious she is happy to have the shelter back even in these mild autumn days.



This month my sweet friend Lois came for a visit to experience life on the ranch. Sampson, the horses, the cats, Zac and especially the chickens enjoyed having her here helping out! We had a lot of fun and I am so grateful for all her help and desire to participate in all the ranch chores and activities!

ZP



***FINANCIAL UPDATE:*** Every month we purchase grains for the horses as a supplement to the hay to help with digestion and provide additional nutrients: beet pulp, soy meal, alfalfa pellets, and Senior feed. The average cost of a bag of grains is \$22. With winter on the horizon, we will also start adding to their diet to prepare them for the long cold months ahead. We would LOVE to receive extra funding to help purchase additional grains to stock up for the winter. Also, it's once again time for our farrier to come and trim everyone's hooves at \$30 per equine--while the trimming of one horse seems inexpensive, when you multiply it by 6, the cost becomes significant. If you would like to help, \$20, \$30 or \$50 will make a big difference! Donations can be sent to ZP Ranch, 11 Stirrup Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620. ZP Ranch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. You can also donate through GuideStar—just click on the link below.



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**LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND GET THE WORD OUT!!**

Email us at: [robin@zpranch.org](mailto:robin@zpranch.org) or [steve@zpranch.org](mailto:steve@zpranch.org)

We are currently at 196 likes! We would love to see that number rise to over 200--please spread the word about us!!

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