Group fights to keep families together

Fractured Families works to help parents who have had their children taken away because of medical issues that were mistaken for abuse

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Rebecca Vanwark spent months fighting for custody of her children in 2013, and now she has joined forces with four other women who are battling to keep other families united. Vanwark, along with Bria Huber and Rana Tyson, of Texas; Cynthia Ross, of Maine; and Christine Jackson, of Massachusetts, is waiting for 501c3 status to be approved for Fractured Families, a new nonprofit dedicated to helping families who have been falsely accused of child abuse because of unexplained bone fractures in their infants.

All five Fractured Families board members have been accused of child abuse, and all five women have children who have been diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, an inherited connective tissue disorder, which according to the Mayo Clinic causes overly flexible joints and stretchy, fragile skin.

Stoutland ranch uses equine therapy to help veterans with PTSD

HEALING HEROES WITH HORSES

A ranch at Stoutland helps veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by using horses as healers. Rick Morrow from Heroes Rein Ranch spoke about the ranch’s therapeutic work with veterans and emergency workers at Thursday’s Lebanon Rotary Club luncheon.

Morrow has been a minister for more than 21 years and has been around horses since he was a young boy. He said the ranch’s mission was “to provide health and well-being to our nation’s heroes, veterans, firefighters, police officers and their families through healing horsemanship and other equine-assisted activities.”

According to Morrow, there are numerous studies showing the benefits of equine therapy, especially for people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Shalyn Howe was named as the new principal of Esther Elementary.

During a Lebanon R-3 Board of Education special meeting held on Wednesday, May 17, Shalyn Howe was named as the new principal of Esther Elementary. Howe has been the Assistant Principal at Esther for the past six years and will replace Dr. Sheila Moore, who has accepted the position of Director of Early Childhood for Lebanon Schools.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve the students and staff at Esther,” Howe said. “Over the past six years, it has been my privilege to work with the Esther team. I look forward to what the future holds as we strive to meet the needs of our students. I consider it a blessing to be able to help lay the foundation for our community’s youngest learners.”

Prior to Howe’s role as assistant principal at Esther, she was a 5th grade teacher in the Conway School District for 11 years. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree and Elementary Education Certificate from Missouri State University and completed her Masters Degree in Elementary Administration through William Woods University. She lives in Conway with her husband Donnie and three children Sophie, Claire, and Thomas.

SHALYN HOWE

LEBANON R-3 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shalyn Howe promoted to Esther principal.