

SPRING 2025



## "We've Seen Fire.... And We've Seen Rain"

Friday March 14, won't be soon forgotten at Turning Point. All 13 horses had to be evacuated quickly in heavy smoke as fire approached.

Staff and volunteers answered the call, Totusek Arena opened their doors and the crisis plan reviewed every semester was implemented. Five trips in our two trailers.

It was 4am before we knew Turning Point Ranch had not burned, The horses acted like it was a fun Spring Break trip - maybe because Rachel and Jim spent the night with them at Totusek.

Saturday we were able to move all 13 back home.

Our hearts go out to so many of our friends and supporters who lost everything.

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# Wes Watkins: Way to Serve!



Between 2003 and 2019, Wes Watkins led the Turning Point Board in prayer, as President and in Fundraising- almost always wearing OSU Orange,

His enthusiasm for giving kids with challenges a chance to build great futures never faltered. He established the Sally Vielma scholarship fund

Much of the success Turning Point enjoys today is thanks to Wes's service and support.

There's a reason the road to Turning Point is called: **Wes Watkins Way!**



Wes and Lou Watkins at his retirement from the Turning Point Board. They set an example of servant leadership for everyone at Turning Point.

In his memory, Turning Point riders will "Walk On!" for years to come,

## HEARTBEAT FOR HORSES



**Elvira**

**Sidekick**

**Baxter**

**Bart**

**Skip**

**Larry**

The HIGHS and LOWS of horses hit **Turning Point** this Spring.

Sweet **ELVIRA** retired and returned to her owner who thanked us for the wonderful way we cared for her during her two years.

We lost beloved **SIDEKICK** to colic after 6 years as the most emotionally intelligent horse ever. The volunteers who fed him at 22 below got a chance to love on him one more time at the OSU Vet Hospital before he passed.

**BAXTER** stole the red carpet at the Night to Shine Prom where he's a fixture for selfies with attendees.



**BART** arrived at Turning Point from a reining career at OSU Equestrian. He seems to be enjoying his tryout as a therapy horse.

The Equestrian Team saluted **SKIP** on his retirement as a champion jumper. Skip is also coming to Turning Point to try a new gig.

And riders and volunteers alike "Pinked Out" for **LARRY** on his 25th Birthday on Valentine's Day. Every horse has a color and PINK is Larry!

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## You Go Girl!

### TINSLEE HITS HER STRIDE ON ISAIAH



You'd never believe this girl practicing her two point trot while holding a beanie baby is the same **Tinslee** who couldn't even make eye contact last fall.

She's gone from scared speechless to finding her voice and confidence in just two semesters.

Her horse, Isaiah, is called "The Power Potato" because he stays round even with a grazing muzzle. But in Tinslee's case he's a magician!

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## First Touch Means Field Day is Coming!



**Books about Horses AND Horses, Oh My!**

**Baxter** and **Buddy** passed out free books to EVERY first grader at Stillwater's Title One schools: Highland Park and Will Rogerson on February 28.

The students will practice reading about horses then come to Turning Point on April 11 and 25 to read to horses and do 15 other activities to learn about horses.

If you learn to love reading as a first grader, your life is changed!



**I takes a great team to get books to students, wrangle horses and take pictures. We have the best!**

## Get in the Race on May 31

**Futures are Riding on Your Support**



**Grab your Hat and Place your Bets!**

**You're invited to the Party with a Purpose for horses that make a Difference EVERYDAY at Turning Point.**

- Gourmet fare fit for an Owner
- Wine and Bourbon Pull
- Silent Auction
- Mystery Raffle

5pm to 9pm

At the home of Larry and Jimi Reece

Click [HERE](#) for details & tickets!

**\$100 per person**

## Intern Power

**Faces of the Future: Rylee & Andrea**



**Rylee celebrating the completion of her Pioneer Pathfinders Internship.**



**Rylee at Special Olympics in 2014.**

**Andrea Vogt** chose Turning Point for a Leadership Stillwater internship. And now she's agreed to join the Board. She is the Assistant Director of Premium Services .



**Andrea works for the OSU Athletic Department.**

Former rider, **Rylee**, completed an internship at Turning Point to polish job skills. She was in charge of the family and friends area of the arena - cleaning and straightening plus her favorite: using the leaf blower. Making a list and getting things done!

**Our Contact Information**

**Turning Point Ranch**

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**[www.turningpointriding.org](http://www.turningpointriding.org)**



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