

Equine program that aids injured veterans will host open house Saturday



HANNAH POTES/Gazette Staff

Paul Gatzemeier, co-owner of the Intermountain Equestrian Center, pats Zoe, a therapy horse, earlier this year.

Horses Spirits Healing, an equine therapeutic provider, invites the public to an open house on Saturday at the Intermountain Equestrian Center, 7256 Highway 3.

The day begins with a noon lunch, during which an overview of the program will be provided.

Lesson demonstrations will be offered from 1 to 2 p.m.

Tours of the facility will begin at 3 p.m. Staff will be on hand to answer questions.

“We want the public to see firsthand how this program helps our veterans recover,” said Barb Skelton, who with her husband, Paul Gatzemeier, established the program in 2014. “We’ve got the support of our entire U.S. Congressional delegation — Sens. Tester and Daines and Rep. Zinke — as well as Gov. Bullock and many locally elected officials, and we want the public to see what they see as the potential for this program to significantly impact our veterans’ health and well-being.”

Horses Spirits Healing works in conjunction with the U.S. Veterans Administration, Rocky Mountain College, Montana State University and Montana State University Billings, among other partners.

For more information, contact Skelton at 245-4076 or 698-9121.