

The Community Page





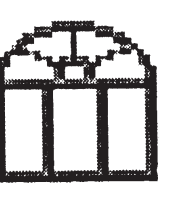
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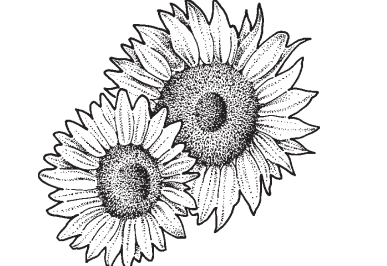
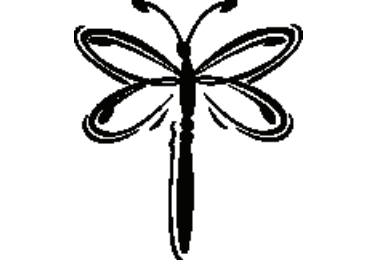
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Friends band together to help cowboy in need



M'Lynn Hinger (top), daughter of John and Jo Hinger of Goodland, competed in the barrel race at the George Phillips Team Roping Benefit and 4-D Barrel Race. She also competed in team roping with her father. Phillips (above, second from left) presented the prize belt buckle to Kaylee Jones, high money winner in barrel racing. Jon Anderson, left, and Craig Bennett, right, were instrumental in planning the event.
Photos by Sharon Corcoran and Tina Bennett/The Goodland Star-News

Rodeo raises money for hospital bills

By Sharon Corcoran
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After a Goodland cowboy spent two months in the hospital, friends knew they had to help him raise money to pay the bills.

Nine of them talked about planning a benefit for some time, then jumped in whole-hog in April to organize the George Phillips Team Roping Benefit and 4-D Barrel Race, which took place Sunday, June 22, at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

The planners included Craig and Tina Bennett, Jon and Tina Anderson, Dale and Brenda Smith, Candee Cottam, Janet Arnold and Justin Quain.

Tina Bennett said they have decided to make the event an annual fund raiser to help someone in need.

Phillips got sick in December, she said, and ended up spending two months in the hospital. He has no health insurance, she

said, and his brother Glenn died the day after he went into the hospital.

George would give the shirt off his back if someone needed it, Bennett said, and Glenn was the same way. Both have done a lot for many kids, she said, helping with their 4-H activities and gymkhanas. They got many kids started in riding, she said.

Both were into helping kids, she said, and if someone needed cattle moved, they'd be the first ones on their horses to help.

The barrel races started at 9 a.m. and the roping at noon, with the event running until 10:30 p.m. Fifty-three teams competed in the No. 12 roping, Bennett said, 112 in No. 10 roping and 43 in No. 8. A lot of people came to help the cause, she said, including many from nearby towns and some who came a long way off. Many came from Nebraska and Colorado, she added.

It was planned as a family event, she said, and a lot of women whose husbands

were roping competed in the barrels, and a lot of kids did as well. Not many women compete in roping, she said; this way, there was something for everyone.

"It was an expensive venture," Bennett said; "if it wasn't for the sponsors, I don't know if we would have gotten it done."

Since it was their first time planning a benefit, she said, it was a learning experience for the committee, but it raised about \$1,500. She said that is a rough estimate, since all the bills haven't been paid yet.

"I believe we did a good service for George," she added.

High-money barrel racer was Kaylee Jones, who received a gold belt buckle, and high money team roper was Ben Robinson, who received a saddle.

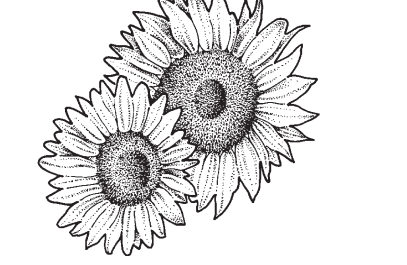
The top roping teams were Ted Howard and Ben Robinson in No. 12 roping, Joe Benham and Ben Robinson in No. 10 and Buck Martian and Joe Benham in No. 8.



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