



EVENTS

November 6-7

Orange County IEL Show
Oaks/Blenheim Rancho Mission Viejo
Riding Park

November 13

ETI Corral 8 Awards Banquet
Rolling Hills Country Club

November 13-14

Jerry Tindell Horsemanship Clinic
Empty Saddle Club

November 18

PVPHA General Meeting
Empty Saddle Club

November 22

RHE Equestrian Committee Meeting
Rolling Hills Estates City Hall

December 4

Peninsula Holiday Parade
Peninsula Center

December 11-12

Orange County IEL Show
Oaks/Blenheim Rancho Mission Viejo
Riding Park

Area tack stores to show off wares

Come see new products from the three horse stores that supply our feed, our bedding, our saddles, our gifts, our non-prescription medications and more! Jeff Gibson from Lomita Feed will introduce you to an innovative bedding material, exciting new merchandise and answer questions regarding any other products that he carries—and there are many!

Tracy Savitch from the Rolling Hills General Store has some new holistic sprays and remedies that she will share, as well as Christmas gifts (yes, it's close) for the kids.

Cindy Yule from the Tack Room will have horsey gifts, books and Kensington leather goods. We are so lucky to have three knowledgeable owners who are here for you and will answer any questions on products that you might have! See you Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.

— Charlene O'Neil, VP Education

Local high school riders win big at IEL horse show

by **HALEY HARRINGTON**
DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Riders from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, Palos Verdes High School and Chadwick competed against more than 50 schools at the first Orange County Interscholastic Equestrian League horse show of the year on Oct. 9 and 10.

Peninsula students rode to ribbons in all their divisions. Rebecca Fish won the Freshman OC IEL Medal class and ribboned in many of her other classes. In junior varsity jumpers, Whitney Feng and Authentic rode to a win. Kelsey Landrum and Spellbound placed second in both junior varsity English pleasure classes.

Palos Verdes students also had a great start to the season. Kaitlin Huben with Requested Honor and Shelby Tsuji with Zippos Goodstuff each had multiple wins in western li-

mit. Mariana Huben and The Te Master won many of their classes in western novice. Maggie McCarthy rode Time Will Tell to a first and a second in freshman flat equitation. Amanda Stefan and Della Notte were third in junior varsity working hunter.

Chadwick, too, saw a successful beginning of the season. Michelle Geller and Sprite were second in freshman English pleasure. Zoie Nagelhout rode Piper to a second and third in varsity working hunter and a first in varsity English pleasure. Morgan Geller and Zumanity took a second in varsity English pleasure.

Riders compete individually in hunter, jumper and western events. Riders compete not only for themselves, but also for their schools at IEL shows, which are held at the Oaks/Blenheim Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano.

See "IEL," page 10.



'All hell broke loose': One rider recounts her terrifying experience with the 'bully breeds.' Page 6.

MONTHLY FEATURES

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NEWS BRIEFS

Comedy & Magic Club tickets still on sale

The PVPHA continues to sell tickets to the Comedy and Magic Club in Hermosa Beach, Calif., to benefit the organization and the Pepper Tree Foundation.

Tickets—which are tax-deductible and can be used any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday through December—cost \$15 per pair. They can be purchased at the Rolling Hills Estates City Hall or from a PVPHA board member.

Wet weather cancels events across Peninsula

More than one-quarter inch of rain fell across Palos Verdes from Oct. 18-23, forcing the cancellation of multiple equestrian events.

The Oct. 21 PVPHA general meeting, which was supposed to feature a gymkhana demonstration by students of local trainer Sean Martin, was canceled after thunder-

storms flooded the arena at the Empty Saddle Club.

The next general meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18.

Additionally, the Jerry Tindell horsemanship clinic, originally scheduled for Oct. 23-24 at the ESC, was rescheduled for Nov. 16-17. Those interested in participating should contact Julie Ringer at 310-292-4034.

The second gymkhana in the buckle series at the ESC, scheduled for Oct. 29, was also canceled. **U**

News briefs are generally 2-3 short paragraphs. To submit one, e-mail it to pvpha2010@gmail.com by the final Friday of the month. The editor reserves the right to not include briefs and to edit briefs for length and clarity.

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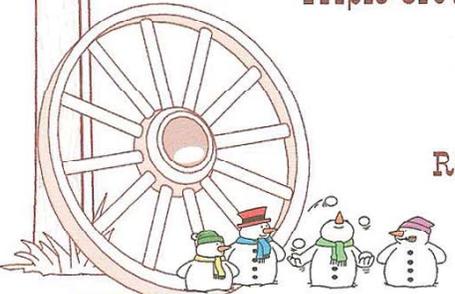
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President's message:

Hearings held on proposed developments

by **DALE ALLEN**
PVPHA PRESIDENT

After a very busy September, the show world has finally slowed down; however, equestrian activities on the Peninsula are still buzzing along.

The Rolling Hills Estates planning commission's public hearing for the planned Chandler Ranch/Rolling Hills Country Club development was held Oct. 4. The environmental impact report for Chandler Ranch was discussed

and opened for public testimony. There was an overflow of people in attendance.

Speakers from the audience spoke both for and against the project. The primary objections were

1. removal of the 228 acres from the "Horse Overlay Zone" and
2. not including the equestrian trail around the north and west sides of the project to connect the trail from Narbonne to the trail behind the Empty Saddle Club near the Little League field.

Both items are included in the RHE General Plan.

Other concerns about the project related to the construction and possible desecration of American Indian burial sites. Also, there were questions concerning whether the project complies with SB 375 and how the filtration system works.

The public hearing was continued to Nov. 1. Details from that hearing were not available at press time.

The EIR for the project is on the city's website. The PVPHA board will continue to meet with representatives

See "President's message," page 9.

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TRAINER SPOTLIGHT: MARILYN SCHULLER



PHOTO COURTESY MARILYN SCHULLER

**Trainer Marilyn Schuller:
Dressage provided answers**

I grew up in Ohio, the second of five children, with a passion for horses from the time I can remember. Absolutely no one else in the family had any interest in horses at all except, perhaps, a distant grandfather who was in the cavalry during the Civil War.

After a couple of family trips on my insistence to visit the thoroughbred farms in Kentucky, I decided that horses would someday be a part of my life. There was no money for me to pursue that dream as a child.

I was 23 before I ever got on a horse. By this time I was in graduate school, working and married.

My passion for horses is combined with a passion for teaching. Small-group and one-on-one instruction always suited me the best, and I found my niche teaching children with learning disabilities at UCLA's Fernald School. Following graduation from the university, I completed a Masters in this field at Cal State Dominguez Hills. I earned a Life Credential while teaching for the Long Beach Unified School District in the Department of Special Education, Resource Specialist Program. I taught for 35 years, working with elementary, middle school and high school age children. I spent the last 12 of those years at Long Beach Polytechnic and retired in 2002.

During this time I started backpacking and scuba diving, but eventually I bought my first horse and pursued hunt seat. Within a short time, I became frustrated by my lack of understanding of how to get a horse properly presented to a fence. I began reading extensively and keeping a journal of my lessons, clinics and notes from equestrian articles.

I found the answers I was looking for when Hilda

See "Schuller," page 9.

Check for locking lug nuts on trucks, trailers, USRider says

As an added safety measure, some wheels—including certain spare tires—require a special lug nut key to remove them from a vehicle. These locks safeguard tires from tampering and theft.

Nevertheless, it's important to keep the required tools to unlock the tires with you when traveling, according to Mark Cole, the managing member for USRider, which provides emergency roadside assistance for horseback riders.

"Without these special tools, a simple tire change can become a major event if you are on the side of a highway," Cole said. "This is especially true if you are towing a horse trailer.

"We recommend that horse own-

ers take a few minutes to check to see if they can locate any lug nut key or spare tire key that came with their vehicle and make sure that it is in a safe place and easily accessible in the event of a flat tire," he added.

Cole also said people purchasing used vehicles should check the spare tire holder and wheels for locks or lug nuts that require special equipment for removal; sometimes the tools aren't transferred to the new owner.

Those who can't find a needed lug nut or spare tire key should take the car or truck to a dealer to verify if the lock is original equipment and purchase the correct key, Cole said.

"Ensuring you have the necessary tools will help get you back on the

road more quickly during a breakdown," he said.

Cole also recommended owners lubricate the nut and bolt on the spare tire holder assembly every time they change the oil in their vehicles. This keeps the bolt from rusting and prevents further complications in the event of a blowout.

USRider provides emergency roadside assistance, towing, emergency stabling, veterinary referrals and other services for those who travel with horses. Those interested in the company's Equestrian Motor Plan can visit the website at usrider.org or call 800-844-1409. U

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'WE WERE CORNERED'

Attack prompts discussion of dangerous dogs on trail



part one of two

by Joy Bruce
Special to the Dispatch

“Snarling and growling, saliva streaming from their mouths, all five grown dogs leapt at us.”

A version of this article appeared in the August issue of California Riding Magazine. It is reprinted here with permission from the author.

It was Saturday, May 15, around noon when my friend John and I went riding near San Diego County's Fallbrook on the Santa Margarita trail. It was warm and sunny and we were looking forward to a beautiful ride through the shady trees and many cool water crossings.

About 20 minutes along the trail from the main staging area off Pico, we were coming to our second water crossing. We could hear people and children, and I shouted out to them that riders were coming. We couldn't see them yet because of the heavy river brush and trees, but we wanted to give them a heads up so they would be calm and not scare the horses as well as make sure their children were safely out of the way of the trail where the horses would be crossing.

I led the way on Sundance, my Missouri foxtrotter, and John was about 50 feet behind me on Riley, his quarter horse. From around a blind corner I stepped into the water and began to cross when all hell broke loose.

Four pit bulls and a husky charged me from about 45 feet away. Initially, I didn't run. My horse stood still, calmly facing them, having experienced that dogs are less likely to pursue an attack when their prey is not running.

I yelled loudly, "Bad dog! No! Go home!" but there was not even the slightest acknowledgement of hesitation from the pack of dogs.

Snarling and growling, saliva streaming from their mouths, all five grown dogs leapt at us.

Sundance reared slightly and pawed the air, striking one pit bull, then spun around to take off running. On the turn, the adrenaline-infused pit bulls and husky charged Sundance's hindquarters.

Two pit bulls jumped up onto his hips, and I felt them scrambling to grab my back when Sundance bucked high, throwing both dogs over my left shoulder. I felt him kick out as his legs were coming down from bucking and heard another pit bull get slammed into the water. As Sundance began to run, I felt him kick out with every step, sometimes hearing the thud of his hooves connecting with the dogs, but I never heard a yelp.

Sundance was sinking almost to his knees in the sand and water, which critically impaired his ability to escape. The dogs didn't sink and were gaining on him within a few seconds of retreat. Each kick only served to enrage the dogs more.

“I felt the sickening realization that neither Sundance nor I would survive if the attack continued much longer.”

Over and over, he spun around to face them. Pinning his ears, biting and striking at the dogs, his legs flying with lightning speed, he would try again to run away but the five big dogs were too much for him. Several minutes had now passed—the attack had escalated into a frenzy, and I could feel Sundance beginning to tire.

In that moment, I felt the sickening realization that neither Sundance nor I would survive if the attack continued much longer.

Helpless Dog Owners

Terrified, I screamed at the owners to grab their dogs before Sundance or I fell and were torn to pieces by the enraged dogs. They ran toward us but stood helplessly nearby, afraid of their dogs in a full-on attack.

Sundance and I ran for our lives for the trees, but they were thick as a wall. We were cornered. All five dogs surrounded us, jumping at us, teeth barred, growling and salivating, their ears flattened. I kicked one pit bull in the nose as he lunged for my leg; Sundance repeatedly struck and kicked at the dogs as fast as he could.

He struck a pit bull that leapt at his shoulder, knocking it down. He dodged a pit bull attacking his face, bit him on the back in mid-air and threw him down. He struck out like lightning as the husky hit him and sent him running away.

The pit bulls got up and came in for what I believe was the kill. Sundance became like a wild stallion defending his herd, and I felt like I was part of that herd. Sundance was fighting for my life, too.

The four pit bulls closed in, coming at his belly from both sides. They were underneath my stirrups—going for the horse's underbelly—when Sundance jumped high in the air, kicking and pawing the air furiously as he went. I heard more thuds. He hit the shallow water running full speed in the direction of the dog's owners.

Miraculously, Sundance, with his legs flailing, escaped what was certain to be an ugly and bloody ending when the owners lunged and grabbed a hold of their dogs after Sundance jumped over them. Like an airplane propeller, his fast and fierce hoof strikes, kicks and bites had saved us

after repeated attacks and bought us the fraction of time needed for the owners to finally grab the dogs.

Incredibly, Sundance and I had teeth scrapes, yet none of the dogs had actually gotten a bite hold on us! Had they gotten a bite grip, they would have to have been pried off with a “break bar” to unlock their jaws. The leftover scars are reminders of the emotional trauma. I shudder to think what our fate could have been but for the grace of God.

John and Ridley were far enough behind me that when Riley heard the dogs charging me, he spun around scared and took off running. John struggled to get him under control but couldn't. Riley was too frightened; he didn't settle down until John jumped off him and got control of him on the ground.

John heard me screaming but was helpless to do anything until he got Riley under control. Afraid of what he'd find, he rushed to my aid, barely able to hold onto Riley, who was still jumping around in fear.

Shaken and terrified, I yelled some angry words and told the owners I would be filing a police report. They responded, “We have a right to be here, and the police are only going to give us a ticket for not having our dogs on a leash.”

Sadly, without massive injuries or death, they are probably right. They had full-arm tattoos, piercings, spiked hair and attitude, and I was too scared to ask any questions while they held the pit bulls by a mere shoulder harness.

John got back to the water crossing in time to hear my angry words and their response. He told the owners he'd have shot the dogs if he'd had a gun at the time.

What Would You Do?

What do you think would have happened to us if Sundance had fallen down or I had fallen off into the jaws of the pack? This could have happened to you, your child or your horse. Imagine the terror of four big pit bulls and a husky attacking you, your horse or a loved one. What

Continued on the next page.

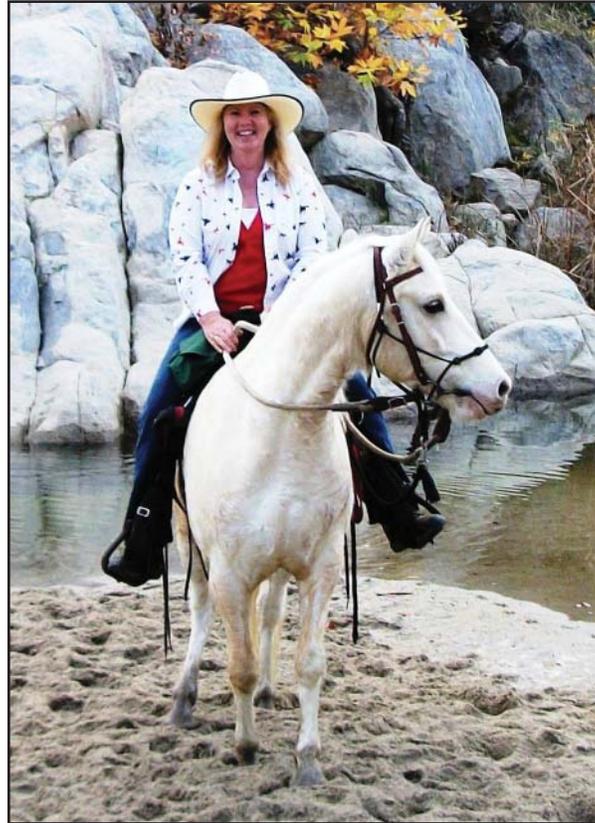


PHOTO COURTESY JOY BRUCE

The author and her Missouri foxtrotter near the attack site. Bruce credits Sundance with keeping the dogs away until the owners could grab them.

“I have been on the receiving end of many dog training attacks while wearing protective gear, but I’ve never been so terrified of being torn to pieces.”

would you do?

How can we stop—or better yet, prevent—an attack by dogs bred to kill or a pack of dogs, wild animals or companion-type dogs bred to retrieve or herd while out trail riding?

Riding for 50-plus years, I have been blissfully leaving the safety of my horse and me in the hands of others who supposedly have their dogs leashed and under control.

That proved to be an almost fatal mistake for Sundance and me. Previous encounters with dogs bred to retrieve or herd were resolved by facing them, yelling and not running—not so with pit bulls or with those under the influence of the pack mentality.

Please open discussions on this topic and let me know your ideas. An attack of some sort on horseback is something all trail riders should be prepared for. As for John and myself, there is no doubt in our minds that Sundance, my beautiful and courageous foxtrotter, saved my life, albeit during the rodeo ride of my life! I am grateful to God for this horse and for the strength to have held on while he fought the jaws of death.

I wonder how many more family pets, children, people or livestock need to be mauled, mutilated or killed before we legislate a separate classification of dogs who have been

bred to kill? I pose this question as someone who understands and appreciates these breeds.

I used to own a guard dog company and trained police guard dogs, junk yard attack dogs, service dogs and rescue dogs. I have been on the receiving end of many dog training attacks while wearing protective gear, but I’ve never been so terrified of being torn to pieces as I was during the May attack.

There are more and more of these types of dogs on the trails. Be prepared and train yourself and your horse to carry pepper spray, a gun, a cattle prod, a Taser or whatever you decide is best for you.

There is a great bear spray that shoots a 25-foot stream, which lessens any danger of it blowing back on you or your horse. This temporarily blinds a dog or human with no permanent damage but may buy you the seconds you need to escape.

Remember that you’ll only have a split second to think and use your

weapon of choice before the attack and rodeo begins, so choose something you’ll not hesitate to use in the presence of people, cars or houses, and keep it with you.

Until a person witnesses the incredible power, relentlessness and unpredictability of the bully breeds, it’s hard to comprehend them as anything more than the energetic, sweet dogs they most often are. I recommend learning about some of the fatalities on www.dogsbite.org. It’s nothing like a personal experience, but it will give you an idea.

I welcome questions, suggestions and chances to brainstorm with others concerned about this issue because believe me, it’s a subject we all need to address.

Joy Bruce can be reached via e-mail at ducntuc@aol.com.

Next month: Bruce discusses the aggressive nature she believes is inherent in the “bully breeds.” U

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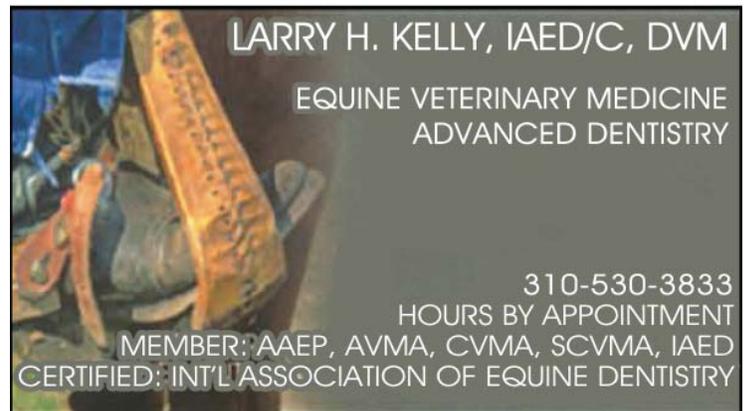
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HORSE FUNNIES

'Who says Friesians can't fly?'*Submitted by Debbie Boyle. Photo by Patti Anglin.*

Have you taken a funny picture of your horse in a crazy situation? Send it to ghoule@cox.net with a funny caption, and you could win a trail map!

Winner will be announced at the 2011 Music and Poetry Festival on Jan. 15.

Continued from page 4...

Schuller continues to keep riding journal

Gurney came to Portuguese Bend to demonstrate dressage on her future Olympic horse, Keen, and also give lessons. Dressage taught me how to ride a horse forward, calm and straight with proper rhythm and relaxation. Thanks to Gurney, Inez and Peter Credo, Franz Rochowanski, Louise Koch and others, I was able to systematically move up the levels.

With my late quarter horse/hanoverian cross General Grant, who was 3 years old when I bought him I enjoyed many successes. He was the First Level United States Dressage Federation Region 9 Horse of the Year Champion, and we successfully qualified and competed in every level final through Prix St. Georges. Grant is the reason I was able to earn the USDF Bronze and Silver Medals, as well as a Silver Bar for a Fourth Level

Freestyle ride to music that we performed at the LA Equestrian Center.

These are the credentials I wanted to earn before training others. I have been teaching horsemanship now for 8 years, and it is an extreme pleasure to share my knowledge with other riders. I have worked with riders in many disciplines, like dressage, hunt seat, endurance, trail and western pleasure. My own studies continue, and I still write in my journal, which now covers 40 years of riding, showing, training and teaching experience.

Marilyn Schuller can be reached on her cell at 310-849-4384 or at home at 310-375-8988.

Want to be featured in the DISPATCH's Trainer Spotlight? Contact Gil Houle at ghoule@cox.net. U

Continued from page 3...

President's Message

from the project.

Additionally, the planning commission's public hearing for the development of the northeast corner of Palos Verdes Drive North next to the Jack Kramer Club was Oct. 18. The project calls for 11 houses on 8½ acres. It would also have a horse trail running through it.

Upcoming activities

The October general membership meeting was cancelled due to the heavy rains. The November general membership meeting will be Nov. 11 at the Empty Saddle Club. There is no meeting in December. The new year will start off with the annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.

With the winter weather approaching, remember to drive and ride safely. If you find trail problems, please contact any PVPHA board member; we will do our best to have them repaired as soon as we can. U

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Continued from page 1...

IEL shows bring out team spirit

The schools receive points for individual riders' ribbons, which are used to determine year-end school awards.

PVHS' wins were enough to make it the No. 1 school in the ranking both days of the show. Peninsula ended up at Nos. 6 and 7 on Oct. 9 and 10, respectively, and Chadwick placed fifth overall both days.

Usually, equestrian competition is not a team sport—individual riders and their horses compete for individual awards—but at IEL, teams are a major component. Most schools have a team area in the grassy section between the arenas where students can relax and get a snack. When a rider is announced, so is his or her school.

Being on a team offers equestrians an experience unlike any other. They compete for each other and with each other, and are drawn together with

the thread of horses that entwines them. They are affected not just by their own rides, but by the rides of their friends. Unlike other horse shows, riders must rely on each other for the overall win.

Even though Peninsula and PVHS are rivals, many of the competitors grew up riding together at the same barns and on the same trails. Unlike in other sports, it's not uncommon to see people from both schools cheering for each other.

The next shows are scheduled for Nov. 6-7 and Dec. 11-12 at the Oaks/Blenheim Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park in San Juan Capistrano.

Haley Harrington competes on the Peninsula equestrian team as well as in regional- and national-level Arabian horse shows. U



PHOTO BY HALEY HARRINGTON
 Peninsula rider Jamie Lesser and her horse Midas Touch took home a 12th place ribbon in freshman equitation.



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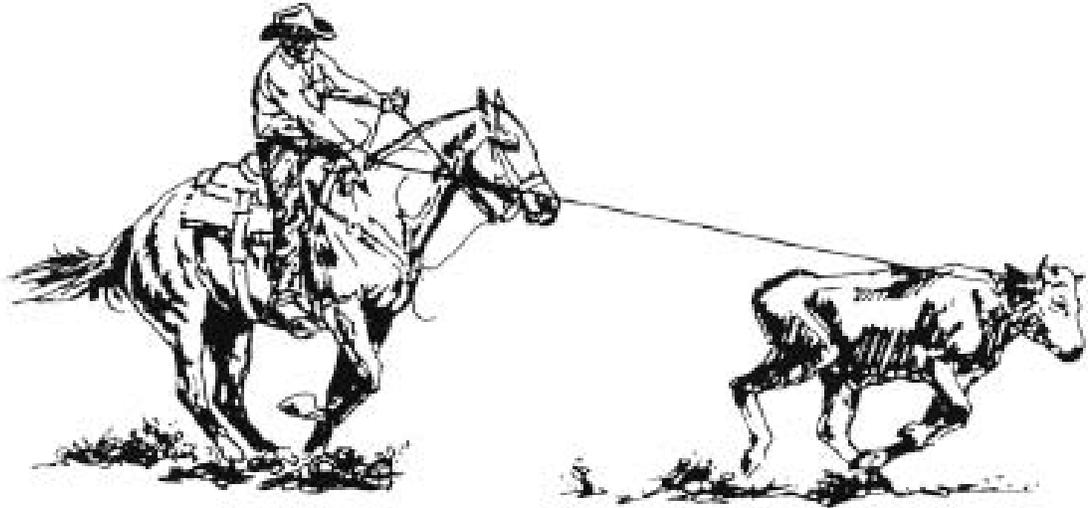
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