



EVENTS

December 11-12
Orange County IEL Show
Oaks/Blenheim Rancho Mission
Viejo Riding Park

December 27
RHE Equestrian Committee Meeting
Rolling Hills Estates City Hall

January 15
Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival
Empty Saddle Club

Clinician emphasizes ground work, safety

by NICOLE MOORADIAN
DISPATCH EDITOR

More than a half-dozen riders spent two days working with clinician Jerry Tindell at the Empty Saddle Club on Nov. 13 and 14.

The first day of the clinic focused primarily on ground work. Using a tight circle, Tindell taught participants how to communicate with their horses through body language.

"We really focused on the ground work ... and that was different," said Barbara Tent, who participated with her horse Cash. "(He told us) the problems you have on the ground are going to be mimicked in the saddle."

On the second day, the riders were back in the saddle and working on lateral movements—such as turns on the forehand and haunches—bending and suppling. He also had the riders practice fast rollbacks.

"(Tindell) is very patient but demanding," Tent said. "He wants to see you be safe."

On his website, Tindell says his program is rooted in six basic behaviors: backing up; shoulder yield-



VIVIENNE KIMMEL

Tindell, left, teaches clinic organizer Julie Ringer how to ask her horse to perform a turn on the forehand.

ing; walking, trotting and loping in a proper circle; yielding with the hind-quarters; stopping; and backing up.

"My job is to help the human understand his horse or mule," he says.

Tindell, who has been working with horses and mules for more than 30 years, did exactly that, Tent said.

"Cash is much more supple (and) responsive," Tent said. "He's like a new horse with a new attitude."

For more information on Jerry Tindell and his Horse & Mule School (Humans, Too!), visit his website at jerrytindell.com. U



STEPH SCARDAL

'Hard-wired to kill,' part 2 of 2: Rider offers solutions for public safety in light of what she calls the aggressive nature of the 'bully breeds.' Page 4.



Need gift ideas? Check out our 2010 Gift Guide! Page 6.

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No Dec. meeting; Poetry Festival scheduled for Jan.

Save the date for our annual poetry and western music extravaganza—the Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival—on Saturday, Jan. 15, at the Empty Saddle Club. Homemade chili and cornbread will be served at 6 p.m., and the poetry and music will begin at 7 p.m.

— Charlene O'Neil, VP Education

NEWS BRIEFS

Rain forces cancellation of jumpers clinic

The Peter Weber Equestrian Center Show Series' jumping clinic with trainer Amanda Tallman was rescheduled for Dec. 4-5 after rainstorms threatened the Peninsula.

Tallman, who was originally scheduled to present the clinic Nov. 20-21, won numerous awards as a junior rider, including placing in the top 10 riders during the 1997 USEF Finals in Harrisburg, Pa.

Details from the clinic were not available at press time.

Sararuth Grimes, 92, passes away

Sararuth Grimes, wife of the late Elmer Wilson Grimes, died Nov. 27, the Palos Verdes Peninsula News reported.

The PV News called Sararuth and her husband "the last remaining links to farming on the Peninsula."

A memorial service and potluck reception was held Dec. 4 in her honor. She is survived by her four children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Area schools rack up points at IEL show

After four shows, local high schools remain at the top of the rankings in the Orange County Interscholastic Equestrian League.

Palos Verdes High School was No. 1 among the 52 competing schools, with nearly double the points of the No. 2 school. Chadwick and Palos Verdes Peninsula High School were neck-and-neck for the Nos. 6 and 7 slots, respectively, with fewer than 10 points separating the two.

Rolling Hills Preparatory School ranked at No. 43; however, its riders only competed in two of the four shows.

The next shows are scheduled for Dec. 11-12.

Last chance for Comedy & Magic Club tickets

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 in December—cost \$15 per pair. They can be purchased at the Rolling Hills Estates City Hall or from a PVPHA board member.

News briefs are generally 2-3 short paragraphs. To submit one, e-mail the text to PVPHA2010@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to not include briefs and to edit briefs for length and clarity. U

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TRAINER SPOTLIGHT: KIM ARRANAGA

Trainer: Horses are my passion 'I've always been interested in and attracted to Arabians,' says Kim Arranaga

According to local trainer Kim Arranaga, she was born horse-crazy, and when she began riding with a friend in Rolling Hills at 8 years old, horses immediately became her passion.

By age 12, she had her own horse, an Arabian and Welsh pony cross.

"I've always been interested in and attracted to Arabians," says Kim, who now specializes in training that type of horse.

With her first horse, though, came a caveat: she would have to work to support it. Since baby sitting didn't cover the bills, she started working with Palos Verdes trainer Sandra Plante in exchange for board and one lesson per week.

The most important part? "I (was) able to observe" Sandra ride all different breeds, Kim says. "(It was) such a blessing."

As a teen, Kim also worked with Evan K. Shaw, who was most known for driving his horse-pulled fire truck around the arena at the Portuguese Bend Horse Show.

By the time she was 28, Kim and her husband owned 12 Arabians, and at 32, she felt it was time to turn horses into a career.

Kim is now the owner and train-

er of Arranaga Arabians, which is located at the Peninsula Riding Club in Rolling Hills Estates.



PHOTO COURTESY KIM ARRANAGA

Kim Arranaga checks a student's bridle at a horse show, one of about eight the barn competes in each year.

Kim focuses on not only teaching her students sound riding skills, but also responsibility, self-confidence and sportsmanship.

Her riders, who don't all ride Arabians, also learn to tack up, groom and care for their horses.

Though she specializes in

training Arabians and half-Arabians hunter and western pleasure, her students also show saddleseat, sidesaddle and dressage.

At its core, "my training is basically dressage training," she says.

She cites Arabian horse trainers Margaret Haverstock and Mike Villasenar as influences in her training philosophy, which involves training horses to their strengths.

"We train horses to be the best at what they're best at," she says.

Under her tutelage, Kim's students—both human and equine—have collected many blue ribbons at Class A Arabian horse shows in California and Arizona, as well regional and national championship wins. At the most recent Arabian Youth National Championships,

See "Kim Arranaga," page 10.

President's message:

Trail issues? Notify board

by DALE ALLEN
PVPHA PRESIDENT

I hope that everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and is not too tired from getting up at 3 a.m. to go shopping on Black Friday. Now that Thanksgiving is over and everyone is back to the normal grind, we can add the little task of getting ready for the holidays. Wow, is it almost the end of the year? It seems impossible.

First, I would like to congratulate our DISPATCH editor Nicole Mooradian on winning her second Rocky Mountain Emmy for her work at KPHO-TV in Phoenix. Nicole and her team won the award on Oct. 10 for investigative reporting. Now you know the secret of why the DISPATCH has looked so great in the last few months. Thank you so much, Nicole,

See "Message," page 8.

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'HARD-WIRED TO KILL'



A version of this article appeared in the August online edition of California Riding Magazine. It is reprinted here with the author's permission.

Joy Bruce: Breeds originally created for fighting can't easily shake off innate instinct

by JOY BRUCE

SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

Editor's note: This is the second article in a two-part series; the first appeared in the November issue of the DISPATCH and described the author's terrifying experience when several dogs attacked her and her horse on the trail. The opinions expressed in the article are hers and do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the PVPHA, its board or the DISPATCH.

Nature versus nurture

Owners argue that if properly socialized and trained, pit bulls and their relatives make great companions and do not pose more risk than any other breed.

The argument boils down to "nature versus nurture." I submit both its aggressive nature and proper upbringing will be expressed by a dog at some point in its lifetime. After all, if breeding for certain characteristics didn't work, we wouldn't do it.

An owner can make a dog very obedient while under his or her control but cannot erase its heritage by socializing or training it. These owners would have you believe it would be surprising if an escaped border collie near livestock began herding cattle. You cannot socialize or train the herding instinct away. Border collies are hard-wired to herd just like the dangerous "bully breeds" are hard-wired to kill.

To clarify the meaning of the word "dangerous"—a thing, activity, dog or person should be considered dangerous if it presents an unacceptably high risk of serious injury, even before causing harm. If cars, plastic bags, electrical cords and other mundane objects are considered dangerous to some degree because of their potential for harm—not their individual history of crashing, suffocating or electrocuting—why not extend this assumption to dogs with ancestors bred to kill?

The issue is not whether a particular dog will ever bite, but whether it presents too great a risk for serious injury—not because of what it has done, but because of what others in its class have done, and what the individual is capable of doing or has been bred to do.

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The bites of a teacup-sized dog and retrieving or herding dogs (whose mouths are designed to seize and guide rather than crush and rip) do not present the risk of serious injury inherent in the bites of dogs which were bred to kill. The force of the bite of a shepherd-type dog is around 185 pounds per square inch; the force of the bite of a pit bull or related dog is around 540 pounds per square inch!

The fact remains that if almost any other dog has a “bad moment,” someone may get bitten; if a pit bull or Staffordshire terrier has a “bad moment,” someone may be maimed or killed, creating an off-the-charts risk.

To argue it is the owner’s—not the dog’s—fault is generally true but hardly comforting. The dog’s potential for harm rests in the hands of its owner.

While a Peterbilt truck and a Honda car are both vehicles, the legal requirements to operate each are different; it should be to own a pit bull versus a collie. Pit bulls are not for amateurs.

In my experience, few people have trained their dogs for “recall and out” (come back and stop chasing or attacking) under stressful or tempting situations on- and off-leash. An obedient dog at home seems to lose all its training when tempted or triggered by something. Realistically, all dogs escape their back yards, homes or leashes at some point, leaving owners with very little—if any—control.

The reality is most people cannot stop their poodle, collie, Labrador, Jack Russell terrier, pit bull or any other breed of dog mid-chase from attacking a cat, dog, chicken, livestock, person in uniform or child on a bicycle. People who own members of bully breeds are no different, but their dogs are. Your safety rests in their hands.

It is illogical to expect people to be comforted by being told that the death of their child, family pet or horse was because the owner wasn’t responsible.

Why is keeping wolves or cougars as pets banned? I submit it’s partly because of the inherent nature of the wolf or cougar to kill presents too high a risk, even if they

are very sweet with their owners and hand-raised from babies. Why then are these dogs not banned as pets? They are not ordinary dogs and should be treated with respect.

Solutions for public safety

Rather than breed-specific legislation, classify the variety of breeds bred to kill as *prima facie*, a legally dangerous and vicious animal subject to the ownership, breeding and importing restrictions that we currently impose on dangerous and vicious wild animals. This is critical for these types of dogs safety and appropriate treatment not to fall into the hands of amateurs.

Treat the owner of a dog bred to kill who attacks a person, livestock or pet as a “co-attacker” and hold them criminally liable for the assault, battery and/or fatality and

civily liable for physical and emotional damages.

Other requirements might include mandatory spay/neuter procedures, microchips and a ban on ownership by convicted felons.

Mandate inescapable housing and liability insurance minimums; ban them from certain public areas; require them to be both muzzled and leashed where allowed;

and require owners to have their dogs pass a recall and out test both on- and off-leash under typical stress and temptations, such chasing a cat, car or child.

Establish hot lines for anonymous tips of violations.

Immediately ban the breeding or import of such dogs except as meets above requirements.

Be proactive about your safety and that of your family and friends by obtaining a defensive weapon, such as pepper spray or a Taser, and practice using it.

And finally, press your legislators for constructive changes for safety.

Additionally, if you have a dog whose ancestors were bred for fighting, err always on the side of extreme caution—train it for recall and out to perfection on- and off-leash under distraction and stress, keep it muzzled and

See “Author,” page 9.

Why are these dogs dangerous?

- A pit-bull type dog kills a human approximately every 21 days in the U.S.
- Pit bulls, presa canarios, Staffordshire terriers, their mixes and similar breeds are involved in about 68 percent of all mauling-related deaths.
- Born with a genetic fault from cross-breeding, they never emotionally mature beyond that of a teenager—an energetic, sweet dog with an unpredictable attack trigger.
- Many pit-bull type breeds are banned or restricted by insurance companies due to an unacceptably high risk for expensive claims.
- Their approximately 540-pounds-per-square-inch bite paired with mouths designed to crush and rip make them similar to a wolf in their capability to severely maim or kill. Rescue centers often send new owners home with a “break bar” to break the dog’s iron grip if they bite someone or something.
- Fifty-eight percent of dogs euthanized by shelters are bully breeds and their mixes.
- The dogs are bred to be impervious to pain, unpredictable and relentless, making them more dangerous than a wild predator animal whose very survival depends on being mindful of pain.

GIFT GUIDE

by **NICOLE MOORADIAN**
DISPATCH EDITOR

Once again, it's the that time of year—time to find the perfect gift for the horseback rider in your life. Stumped on what to buy? Let the DISPATCH help!

The basics

It's hard to go wrong with a few horse-related items. Gloves, for one, can be a good gift for almost anyone—trainer, trail rider or even a beginner—and you can get a new pair for anywhere between \$7 and \$30, depending on the brand, style and materials.

Polo wraps, horse boots and bell boots are also handy. They come in a myriad of colors and styles and can be found at most tack stores.



PROFESSIONALS CHOICE

Horse boots, which come in a variety of colors, can run to \$150 per pair.

Saddles and bridles will always need cleaning and polishing, so put together a saddle-care kit with tack sponges (generally less than \$10 for a 12-pack), saddle soap (such as Fiebings or Murphy's Oil Soap) or leather cleaner (like Lexol), and leather conditioner. You can also add a suede brush, some cotton or microfiber clothes, and silver polish. For an added creative touch, wrap it



FORTIFLEX

"Wrap" your gift in something utilitarian—use an 8-quart plastic bucket.

in an 8-quart utility bucket (usually less than \$10).

The competitor

Whether you're at a horse show or at the barn, it's easy to mix up bridles and halters, so why not have a halter or bridle plate or tag engraved with the recipient's (or his or her horse's) name? They'll generally run you \$10-\$20.

Where to shop

Though we mention items in this gift guide that may be difficult to find in area stores, we encourage readers to check the local tack and feed stores first before venturing online. Remember, a higher percentage of dollars spent locally stays in the community. In case you needed reminding, many of these items can be found at:

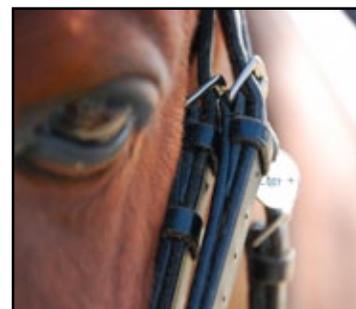
- Lomita Feed
- The Tack Room
- Rolling Hills General Store

If you can't find what you want locally, try these online stores:

- Back in the Saddle
<http://backinthesaddle.com>
- Dover Saddlery
<http://doversaddlery.com>
- Schneider Saddlery
<http://sstack.com>
- Valley Vet Supply
<http://valleyvet.com>

For the most difficult to track down items on this list, we've included web addresses of online retailers.

Alternately, you can give a gear bag for storing and transporting show supplies. Gear bags range from simple duffles (about \$20) to padded bags with special pockets for boots, helmets and more (up to \$150 for a custom carry-all).



HALEY HARRINGTON

Bridle tags can help identify tack at horse shows.

The new rider

This person just might be the easiest of the group to shop for. Grooming supplies, books, halters—the list is practically endless.

It's easy to find pre-organized color-coordinated grooming kits, but it's easy to create your own for less

Need help finding the perfect gift for that special equestrian in your life? Not to worry, the DISPATCH has you covered!

than \$35. A typical kit includes a rubber currycomb, a soft brush, a dandy brush with stiff bristles, a hoof pick and a mane and tail comb.

In the same vein, you can easily put together a bathing kit. All you need is a spray nozzle for a hose, shampoo and conditioner (though there are horse-specific brands, we've found that drugstore brands like Suave work just as well), a couple of sponges (available at your local home improvement store) and a sweat scraper (about \$5). If the recipient braids his or her horse's mane and tail, you can also include elastic ponytail holders.



AMAZON.COM

Oster's 7-piece grooming kit sells for about \$50.

The trail rider

A fancy gift would be Victorinox's Equestrian Swiss Army knife (\$39; swissarmyexpress.com). The tool features a large locking blade, a corkscrew, a wood saw, bottle and can openers, a screwdriver, a wire stripper, a reamer, tweezers, a toothpick and, of course, a hoof pick. It even has a key ring; use it to hook the knife onto your saddle.

The Equestrian knife includes a hoof pick.

A less expensive but still useful tool would be a good hoof pick—a sure bet for someone who spends time on the trails, and you can find one at any local tack store for less than \$5.

Of course, our No. 1 recommended gift for the trail rider in your life would be the PVPHA's own Trail Guide (\$20, PVPHA.org), which provides a map of all



PVPHA

The trail guide includes a full-color map of the hill.

the trails on the Peninsula. It's spiral-bound and small enough to fit into most saddlebags.

Stocking stuffers

These fun gifts generally cost less than \$15 and can fit into a Christmas stocking.

Why not include actual socks in a stocking? Ovation Zocks come in fun, bright colors and prints, and can be worn under field boots.

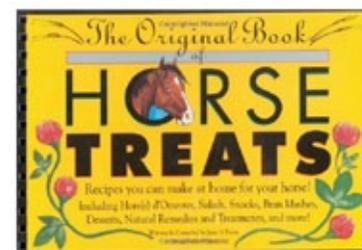


OVATION

Zocks are knee-high socks with a ribbed top.

If the recipient likes baking or likes to go the DIY route, especially for his or her

pony, you can't go wrong with the *Original Book of Horse Treats* (\$14; amazon.com), which includes numerous recipes for horse treats and homemade remedies. Or, bake some tasty horse cookies and wrap them in colored cellophane to give the recipient a gift he or she can share with equine friends. (Tip: Want a recipe? Check out our new "From the kitchen" feature on the next page!)



AMAZON.COM

The book also includes instructions for homemade mane and tail detangler.

Finally, if you're looking for a gift for a young rider, check out Breyer Stablemates. These beautiful miniature horses made of durable plastic cost between \$5 (single horses) and \$40 (play sets). Check out the full line of horses and accessories at breyerhorses.com.



BREYER

Breyer Stablemates are meticulously sculpted and painted for realism.

Still stumped?

If you still can't think of the perfect gift for the horseman or horsewoman in your life, there's always the gift certificate. Many tack and feed stores offer them, and the recipient can choose whatever his or her heart desires. **U**

From the kitchen: Chewy horse cookies

Adapted from a recipe appearing in Horse Illustrated.



SUE NAGYOVA

Ingredients

- 1 cup carrots, grated
- 1 apple, grated
- 2 tbsp corn or vegetable oil
- ¼ cup molasses or honey
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup flour

Directions

1. Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix carrots, the apple, oil and molasses or honey together, then fold in salt, oats and flour until well mixed.
3. Drop the dough by spoonfuls 2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes or until lightly browned. Be careful not to overbake!

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Continued from page 3...

Send ideas for events, meeting programs

for your effort and the outstanding job you are doing.

I hope that everyone has been managing well with all of the rain that we have had recently. I would also like to remind everyone to report any trail problems to any of the PVPHA board members, and we will try to have them taken care of as soon as we can. I would like to ask everyone to use the bridle trails along Palos Verdes Drive North; in consideration of the school children and other walkers, do not ride on the asphalt walking path.

The PVPHA Board of Directors has enjoyed working with you this last year and would appreciate hearing from you, especially your ideas for future events and monthly membership meeting programs.

As always, there will not be a membership meeting in December. We look forward to seeing you at the annual Poetry and Music Festival on Jan. 15, 2011, at the Empty Saddle Club.

I wish all of you and your families a merry Christmas, happy holidays and a healthy 2011! U

Continued from page 4...

Author: Legislation needed to protect public from dangerous dogs

leashed when in the presence of the public, and make sure its housing is inescapable. That is, I believe, what a responsible owner of these dogs should do to protect people, other animals and the dogs themselves from grave consequences their heritage can impose.

Just as it becomes more important to house train and obedience train a big dog than a toy dog, so it becomes more important to respect the capabilities of pit bulls and related types by imposing stricter requirements on their ownership, housing, training and liability than on dogs bred to retrieve, herd or simply be lap dogs.

Joy Bruce, a former guard dog trainer, can be reached via e-mail at ducntuc@aol.com. She welcomes any and all input on her stories and ideas. U

Ho, Ho, Ho and ... a Merry Christmas!

Something's different in the evening sky
 Santa can be seen streaming by
 With a sleigh pulled by horses
 With towers of gifts in tow
 Their manes flowing freely
 Their gallop strong and bold
 Giddyup beauteous creatures, we have a long night
 There's millions of children for gifts to delight
 So off they flew to nations afar
 Jumping planets and moons and star after star

—Charlene O'Neil, VP Education



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Continued from page 3...

Kim Arranaga: All horses, riders welcome at barn

her students took home two reserve national championships and multiple top 10 awards in western, hunt seat and sidesaddle.

Especially exciting was watching several years of hard work of her daughter, Alexis, culminate in a youth national championship in hunter pleasure in 2005.

Still, no matter who the student or the horse is, Kim loves teaching—the joy of seeing people learn how to ride is unforgettable.

“We welcome everyone,” she says.

For more information, call Kim Arranaga at 310-991-3142 or visit arranagahorse.com.

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

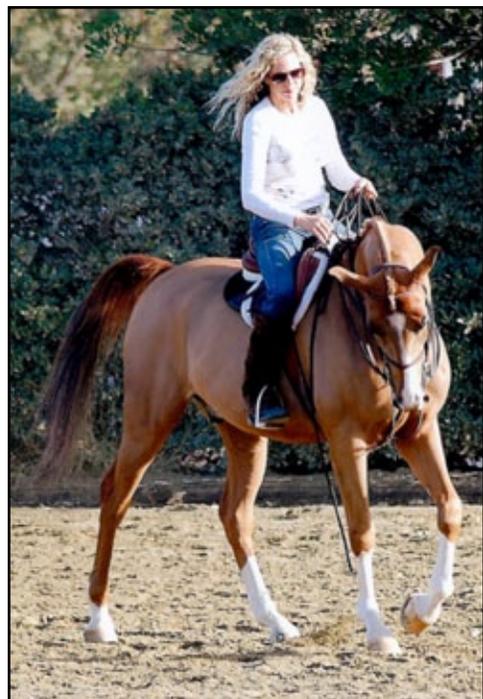


PHOTO COURTESY KIM ARRANAGA

Trainer Kim Arranaga specializes in Arabians and their crosses, though other breeds are always welcome.

HORSE FUNNIES

‘How much longer?’

Submitted by Chris Tabellario



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!

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State: _____ ZIP: _____

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Referred by: _____

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Household membership \$ 35.00

Tax-deductible contribution
to Trail Protection Fund \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

INTERESTED IN WRITING OR PHOTOGRAPHY?

The DISPATCH is always looking for writers and photographers to help fill its next issue. Contact the editor at PVPHA2010@gmail.com for more information.

DISPATCH Advertising Rates and Policy

Monthly Rates:

Full Page (approx. 8" x 10")	\$150
Half Page (4" x 10" / 8" x 5")	\$75
Quarter Page (4" x 5")	\$35
Business Card (2 1/2" x 4")	\$20
Per Line	\$2

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Any additional printing costs must be paid by the advertiser.

DEADLINE for the receipt of ads is the 20th of the month.

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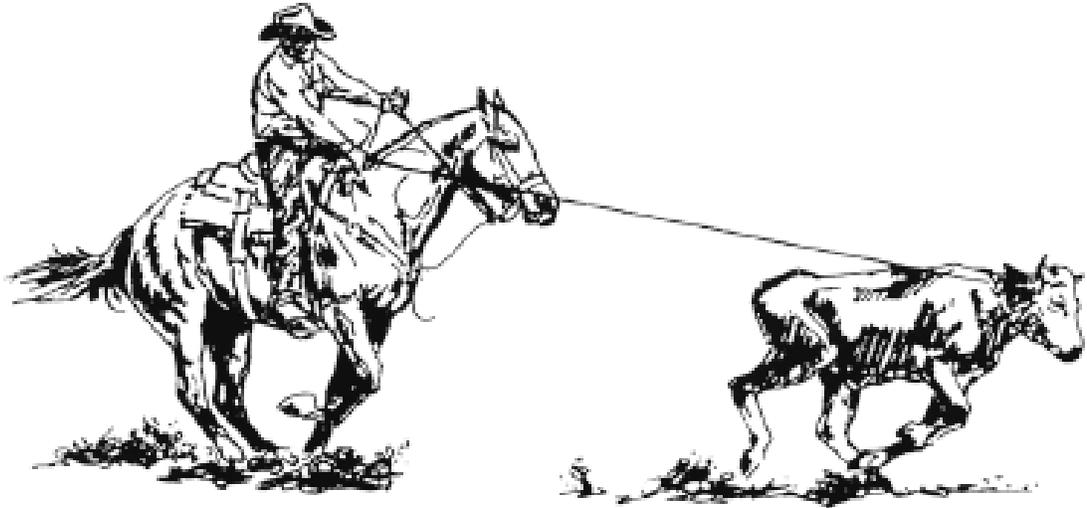
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