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HISTORY OF RODEO

Professional rodeo is a sport, perhaps the fastest growing sport in the nation, but to the cowboys and cowgirls who compete, it is a lifestyle. The cowboy doesn't compete at rodeo as much as he/she lives it.

The best cowboys, those within reach of a top-15 finish and an invitation to the lucrative Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, will travel to as many as 125 rodeos per year, covering perhaps 100,000 miles. Of course, cowboys still drive pickups, punch cattle on their ranches and wear jeans and boots. But cowboys today are businessmen and athletes, as likely to have refined their skills at rodeo schools as on ranches.

They pursue glory in the dust and rain of rodeo arenas across North America. But unlike other professional athletes, the rodeo cowboy pays for the privilege to compete. Every rodeo requires an entry fee and promises nothing in return.

The cowboy doesn't get paid unless he produces. One missed throw, one lost grip and the cowboy doesn't even recoup his entry fee.

The life is demanding, but then the life of a cowboy always has been. Rodeo is the only sport in America that evolved from the skills required in a work situation. And today, the sport retains the fierce independence of the ranch hands of the 1900s who turned work into sport.

BEHIND THE SCENES- THE COWBOYS AND THE ANIMALS ARE THE STARS, THE OBVIOUS CENTERS OF ATTENTION.

But the stars of rodeo would never shine if it were not for the work of a large supporting cast, a cast that includes announcers, stock contractors, rodeo secretaries, timers, pickup men, chute laborers, specialty-act personnel and rodeo producers.

The announcers inform and entertain the audience, provide contestant background and scores and generally lend atmosphere to the event.

Stock contractors supply the animals and often serve as producers. The producer is responsible for every aspect of the event, from hiring laborers to promoting the rodeo to producing opening ceremonies. Timers keep the official time of the timed events and sound the buzzer after eight seconds in the rough-stock events. The rodeo secretary records the times, figures the payoff and pays the winning cowboys.

Specialty acts entertain the audience with vaudeville routines, animal acts and trick riding. Pickup men assist the saddle bronc and bareback riders to dismount after their rides, and to help free cowboys who get hung up in their rigging.

Chute laborers aid the cowboys in mounting and adjusting their equipment and open the chute gate when the cowboy indicates he/she is ready to ride.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Our National Anthem is lead this year by Angela & Hyrum Hansen & Kylie Caffe (Saturday)
&
Sarah York (Sunday).



Join us as we honor our great nation,
“the Land of the Free,
and the Home of the Brave.
Thank You to our Veterans
& all who served.



Your Professional Rodeo Announcer, Bryan Frye



Bryan began his rodeo career in the bucking chutes as a bull rider. After 10 years of riding bulls, he and his wife Melissa started a family, and it was time for a change. He wanted to continue his rodeo career and had an opportunity to announce a local bull riding and hasn't looked back since. He has announced rodeos, rough stock events and motorsport events throughout the Western United States for over 20 years now. Bryan is a member of the PRCA and the Challenge of Champions Tour. Bryan and his wife Melissa, who is a PRCA Music Director, rodeo together as often as they can. They have two wonderful children; their daughter, Ashtyn, is a graduate of the University of Arizona (Bear Down...Go Cats). Their son, Kolton, attends Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. Kolton is also on the rodeo team there as a bullfighter. Bryan is very involved with the West Valley Mavericks organization, a non-profit that supports many beneficiaries in his local community. When they are not on the rodeo trail, the family enjoys playing golf, family vacations, and spending time with their dachshund. They hope their love of rodeo produces a fantastic rodeo performance that you will enjoy immensely!



Meet Your Music Director, Melissa Frye:

Melissa has been mixing rodeo sound since 2010, but music has been an integral part of her life from a very early age. She has studied live sound production at Paradise Valley Community College and holds degrees in Organizational and Business Management. Her goal is that everyone at the rodeo from the youngest fan, to the vendor selling kettle corn, can connect to the rodeo through the music. Now that her two amazing children, Ashtyn & Kolton, are grown, she rodeos full time and as often as she can with her rodeo announcing husband, Bryan. When they are not on the rodeo trail she and Bryan live with their dachshund in Surprise, Arizona.

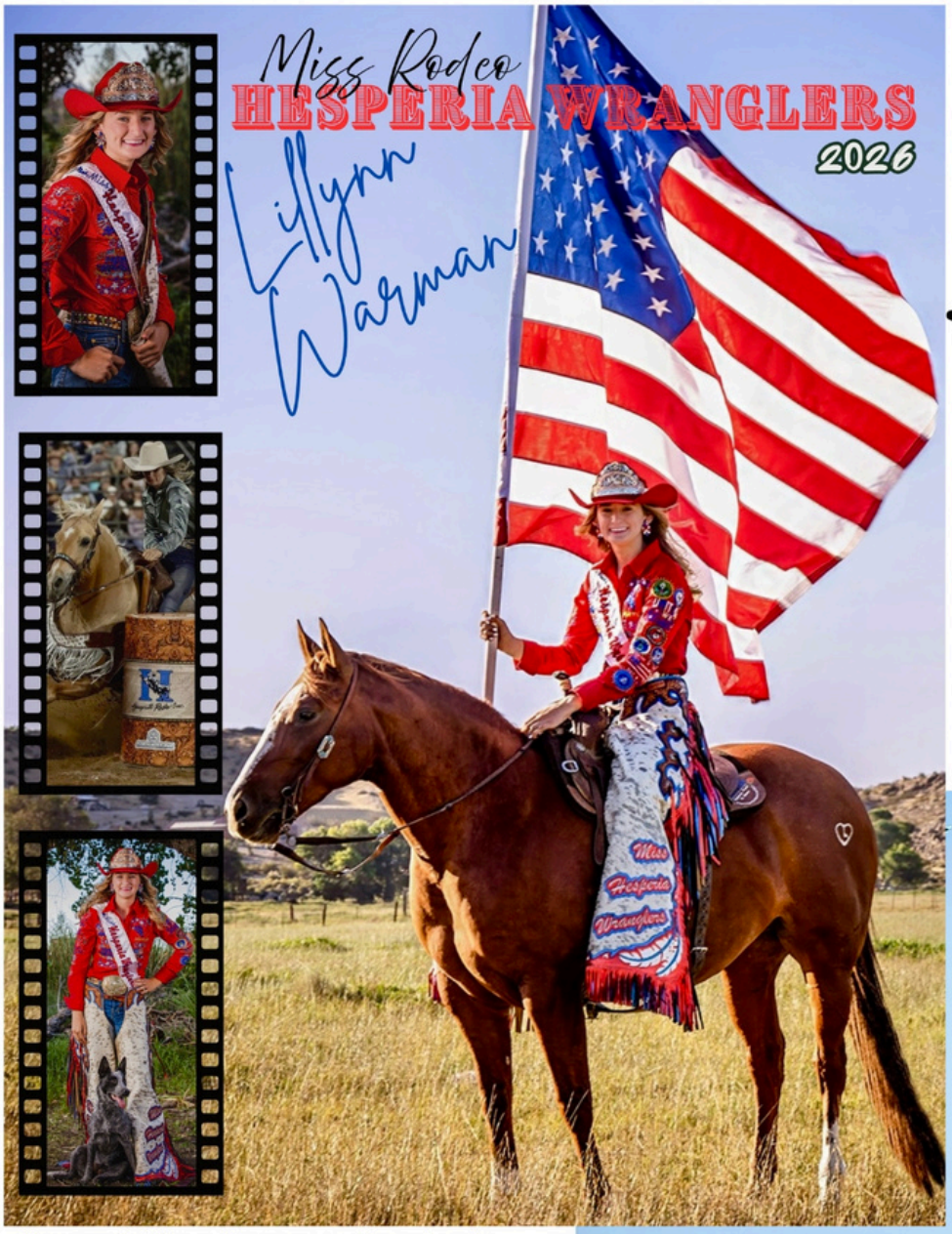
Your Professional Rodeo Clown/Barrel Man "Shotgunn" Nate Reed"

Shotgunn works rodeo events all over the United States from PRCA to PBR & everything in between entertaining audiences everywhere putting smiles on their faces. Shotgunn feels truly blessed in being able to share his dream & excitement of rodeo with thousands of people, as he travels up & down the highway. Making people smile is his biggest accomplishment at the end of every rodeo.

Shotgunn was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was 18 years old. He has lived his whole life being told you cannot do this & cannot do that because of his illness. He never looked at himself as if he had an illness. Taking shots, pricking his fingers was just the way of life.



He never knew anything different. He looked at every doctor that told him, "You can't, or you won't be able to" as if it was a challenge. So, in his travels from rodeo to rodeo, he has met so many others with diabetes, mainly younger adults or kids. He truly believes God puts you in situations & guides you in a purpose. If he can help one of these young diabetics with adapting and coping with their diabetes by helping them see they can live a normal active life, he feels it was a success. Diabetes will not stop you if you don't let it. AS he always says... Let the Good Times Roll!!



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My name is Lillynn Warman, and I am deeply honored to serve as Miss Hesperia Wranglers. I am the proud daughter of Lee Graham and Katrina Warman. I am currently a junior in high school while also taking college classes, balancing my education with my passion for horses and rodeo.

I was the 2020 Young Miss Hesperia Wranglers and the 2024 Jr. Miss Hesperia Wranglers Rodeo, and being crowned as the 2026 Miss Hesperia Wranglers Rodeo was a moment I won't soon forget. I am especially proud of the fact that with each of these titles I earned the prestigious Horsemanship Award, and I am equally proud that I broke and trained the horse that I won my current title on.

I love barrel racing, training horses, and spending as much time as possible in the arena. My goal is to continue growing as both a rider and a horse trainer while proudly representing the western lifestyle\ with sportsmanship, dedication, and integrity.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to represent the Hesperia Wranglers, and I look forward to encouraging others to get involved and become part of our western community.



MUTTON BUSTING

Mutton Busting is an event where a sheep is held still, either in a small chute or by an adult handler while a child is placed on top in a riding position. Once the child is seated atop the sheep, the sheep is released & usually starts to run in an attempt to get the child off. There are no set rules for mutton busting.

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BRONC RIDING

Bronc riding is one of rodeo's classic rough stock events and comes in two main forms: saddle bronc and bareback bronc. In saddle bronc riding, the cowboy uses a specialized hornless saddle and holds a thick braided rein attached to the horse's halter, with the event judged heavily on style, rhythm, and grace. In bareback bronc riding, there is no saddle; instead, the rider grips a leather and rawhide handhold called a rigging that is secured directly to the horse's back.

The goal in both events is to complete a qualified 8-second ride. During that time, the rider's free hand cannot touch the horse, the saddle or rigging, or the rider's own body, or the ride results in an immediate disqualification. Another important rule is the mark out rule, which requires the rider's spurs to be above the horse's shoulders on the first jump out of the chute until the horse's front feet hit the ground.

Scoring is based on both the rider and the horse. Two judges evaluate the horse's bucking performance as well as the rider's control, timing, and spurring technique, with each side worth up to 50 points for a total possible score of 100. In general, any score above 80 points is considered an excellent ride.







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CHUTE DOGGING

Chute Dogging is a rodeo event related to steer wrestling, in which the steer used weighs between 400 & 500 pounds (180 & 230 kg). However, the competitor starts the event in a bucking chute with the steer as opposed to grabbing onto the steer from horse-back. The event is designed to give novices a chance to prepare for steer wrestling.

When the chute opens, the competitor must bring the steer to a line ten feet from the chute & wrestle (or "dog") the steer to the ground. In order to count as a legal fall, all four feet of the steer must be in the air when the steer is on the ground. Other falls are called, "dog falls," & the competitor must try to let the steer get up, & try again to get all four legs in the air. The competitor can be disqualified for losing contact with the steer or tripping the steer.

It is a timed event, with the time starting at the moment the chute dogger crosses the ten-foot line. The steer must be wrestled within 60 seconds.





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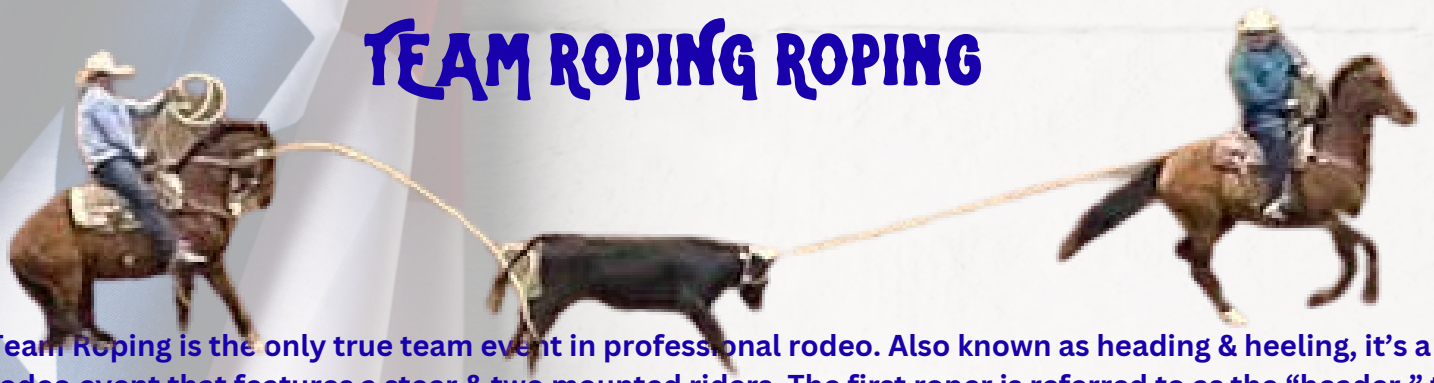


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PINON HILLS

TEAM ROPING ROPING



Team Roping is the only true team event in professional rodeo. Also known as heading & heeling, it's a rodeo event that features a steer & two mounted riders. The first roper is referred to as the "header," the person who ropes the front of the steer, usually around the horns. Once the steer is caught by one of the three legal head catches, the header must dally (wrap the rope around the rubber covered saddle horn) & use his horse to turn the steer to the left.

The second roper is the "heeler," who ropes the steer by its hind feet after the "header" has turned the steer, with a five-second penalty assessed to the end time if only one leg is caught. Team roping is the only rodeo event where men & women compete equally together in professionally sanctioned competition, in both single-gender or mixed-gender teams.

Cowboys originally developed this technique on working ranches when it was necessary to capture & restrain a full-grown animal that was too large to handle by a single man.

A taut rope, called a barrier, runs in front of the header's box & is fastened to an easily released rope on the neck of the steer of a designated length, used to ensure that the steer gets a head start. An electric barrier, consisting of an electric eye connected to a timing device, is sometimes used in place of the barrier rope.

When the header is ready, he or she calls for the steer & an assistant pulls a lever, opening the chute doors. The freed steer breaks out running. When the steer reaches the end of the rope, the barrier releases. The header must rope the steer with one of three legal catches: a clean horn catch around both horns, a neck catch around the neck, or a halfhead catch around the neck & one horn. The header then takes a dally, and the rider turns the horse, usually to the left, & the steer will follow, still running.

The heeler waits until the header has turned the steer. When they have a clear throw, the heeler throws a loop of rope under the running steer's hind legs & catches them. As soon as the heeler also dallies tight, the header turns their horse to directly face the steer & heeler. Both horses back up slightly to stretch out the steer's hind legs, immobilizing the animal. As soon as the steer is stretched out, an official waves a flag & the time is taken. The steer is released & trots off. There is a five-second penalty for roping only one hind leg & a ten second penalty breaking the barrier if both occur on the same run; then then penalties are added together for a total of 15 seconds added.

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TIE DOWN ROPING

Tie Down Roping traces its roots to the working ranches of the old west. When calves were sick or injured, cowboys had to rope & immobilize them quickly for veterinary treatment. Ranch hands prided themselves on how quickly they could rope & tie down calves, & they soon turned their work into an informal contest. As the sport matured, being a good horseman & a fast sprinter became as important to the competitive tie-down roper as being quick and accurate with a rope.

In today's modern rodeos, the mounted cowboy starts from a box adjacent to the shoot holding the calf. The box opens into the arena. The calf gets a head start determined by the length of the arena. One end of a breakaway rope barrier is looped around the calf's neck & stretched across the open end of the box. When the calf reaches its advantage point, the barrier is released. If the roper breaks the barrier before the calf reaches its head start, the cowboy is assessed with a 10 second penalty.

When the cowboy throws his loop & catches the calf, the horse is trained to come to a stop. After roping the calf, the cowboy dismounts, sprints to catch the calf, & then throws it by hand in a maneuver called flanking. If the calf is not standing when the cowboy reaches it, he must allow the calf to get back on its feet & then flank it. After the calf is flanked, the cow-boy ties any three legs together with a pigging string, a short looped rope he carries in his clenched teeth during the run. While the contestant is accomplishing all of that, his horse must pull back hard enough to eliminate any slack in the rope, but not pull so hard as to drag the calf.

When the cowboy finishes tying the calf, he throws his hands up in the air as a signal that the run is completed. The cowboy then mount his horse, rides forward to create slack in the rope, then he waits six seconds to see if the calf remains tied. If the calf kicks free, the cowboy receives no time.



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BREAKAWAY ROPING

Breakaway Roping is a variation of calf roping where a calf is roped, but not thrown & tied. It is a rodeo event that features a calf & one mounted rider. The calves are moved one at a time through narrow runs leading to a chute with spring-loaded doors. The horse & rider wait in a box next to the chute that has a spring-loaded rope, known as a barrier, stretched in front. A light rope is fastened from the chute to the calf's neck, releasing once the calf is well way from the chute & releasing the barrier, which is used to ensure that the calf gets a head start. Once the barrier has released, the horse runs out of the box while the roper attempts to throw rope around the neck of the calf.

Once the rope is around the calf's neck, the roper signals the horse to stop suddenly. The rope is tied to the saddle horn with a string. When the calf hits the end of the rope, the rope is pulled tight & the string breaks. The breaking of the string marks the end of the run. The rope usually has a small white flag at the end that makes the moment the rope breaks more easily seen by the timer. The fastest run wins

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JR. BREAKAWAY ROPING



Junior Breakaway roping is a variation of calf roping where a calf is roped but not thrown and tied. It is a rodeo event that features a calf and one mounted rider. The calves are moved one at a time through narrow runs leading to a chute with spring-loaded doors. The horse and rider wait in a box next to the chute that has a spring-loaded rope, known as the barrier, stretched in front. A light rope is fastened from the chute to the calf's neck, releasing once the calf is well away from the chute and releasing the barrier, which is used to ensure that the calf gets a head start. Once the barrier has released, the horse runs out of the box while the roper attempts to throw a lasso around the neck of the calf.

Once the rope is around the calf's neck, the roper signals the horse to stop suddenly. The rope is tied to the saddle horn with a string. When the calf hits the end of the rope, the rope is pulled tight and the string breaks. The breaking of the string marks the end of the run. The rope usually has a small white flag at the end that makes the moment the rope breaks more easily seen by the timer. The fastest run wins.

The most common penalty in breakaway roping is the 10 seconds added when a roper breaks the barrier, failing to give the calf the appropriate head start. Breakaway ropes may also be flagged out (disqualified) for any catch other than a bell-collar catch, that is, a clean catch around the calf's neck.





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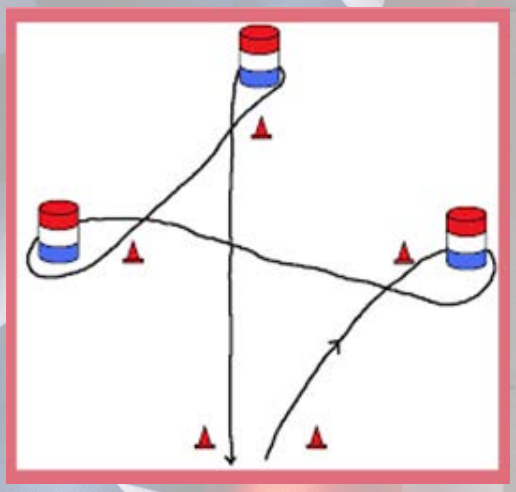
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BARREL RACING





Hesperia Wranglers Inc. 1958

GghgBarrel Racing is a rodeo event in which a horse & rider at-tempt to run a cloverleaf pattern around preset barrels in the fastest time. Beginning a barrel race, the horse & rider will enter the arena at top speed through the center entrance (or alley if in a rodeo arena). Once in the arena, the electronic timer beam is crossed by the horse & rider. The timer keeps running until the beam is crossed again at the end of the run.

In collegiate and professional ranks, it is usually a women's event, though both genders compete at amateur and youth levels. It requires a combination of the horse's athletic ability & the horsemanship skills of a rider in order to safely & successfully maneuver the horse around three barrels placed in a triangle pattern within a large arena. In early barrel racing, the pattern alternated between a figure-eight & a cloverleaf pattern. The figure eight was eventually dropped in favor of the more difficult cloverleaf.

It is believed that competitive barrel racing was first held in Texas. The Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) was founded in 1948 by a group of women from Texas who were trying to find a place for women in the wider sport of rodeo. When it began, the WPRA was called the Girls Rodeo Association (GRA). It consisted of 74 members, with about 60 approved tour events. The Girls Rodeo Association was the first body of rodeo developed specifically for women. The GRA changed its name to Women's Professional Rodeo Association in 1981 & the WPRA still provides women competition opportunities in several rodeo events, but barrel racing remains the most popular.

Modern barrel racing horses not only need to be fast, but also strong, agile, & intelligent. Strength & agility are needed to maneu-ver the course in as little distance as possible. A horse that is able to "hug the barrels," as well as maneuver the course quickly & accurately follow commands, will be a horse with consistently fast times.

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JR. BARREL RACING

Junior barrel racing is an exciting rodeo event where young riders guide a horse in a cloverleaf pattern around three barrels for the fastest time. Children often start on lead lines as toddlers, begin independent riding around age five, and can compete in youth divisions. High Desert Rodeo allows kids 14 years old to compete in Junior divisions.

Getting Started and Safety

- Riding basics: Kids need a solid, balanced seat and must walk, trot, and lope under control before trying speed.
- Right horse: Match the child with a calm, experienced pony or horse rather than a high-energy performance animal.
- Safety gear: Always use a certified riding helmet, proper boots with heels, and well-fitted youth tack.

Training and Progression

- Professional coaching: Regular lessons with a knowledgeable rodeo trainer help prevent bad habits and building confidence.
- Slow practice: Walk and trot the cloverleaf pattern slowly before adding speed to teach both rider and horse the turns.
- Focus on fun: Keep early goals centered on safety, horsemanship, and enjoying the ride rather than winning ribbons.



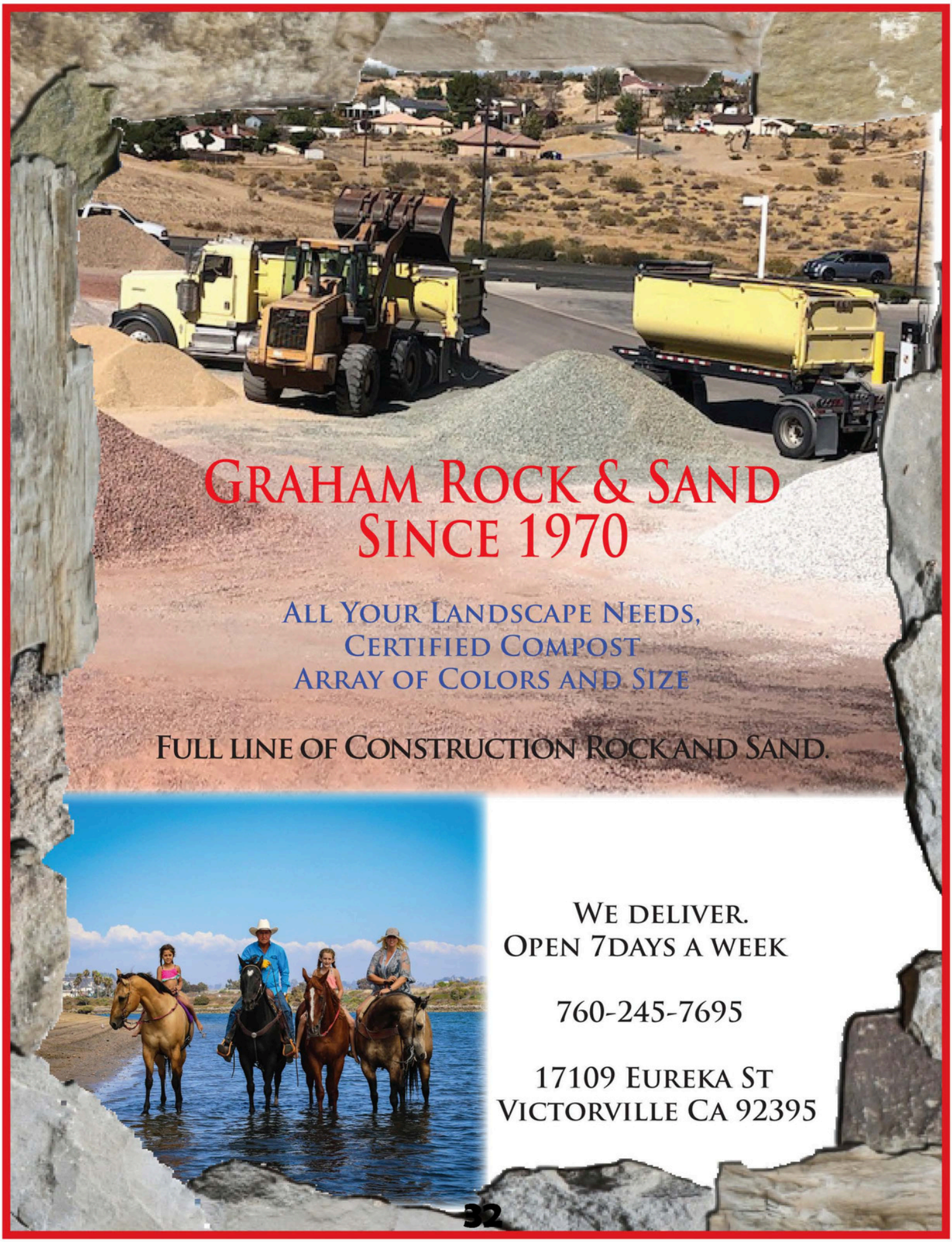




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BULL RIDING

Bull Riding. Some people say it is the most popular rodeo event, while others say it's the bronc riding, but no one will argue that bull riding is the most dangerous event in rodeo. This rodeo event demands fearlessness as well as physical strength & mental toughness from every cowboy who sits astride a 2,000-pound bull with horns.

The bull rider uses only one hand to hold onto a flat-braided rope tied around the bull's chest just behind the front legs. The rider must stay aboard for eight seconds. His free hand & arm must not touch the bull or himself, or he receives no score. The rider uses his free hand to counter the bull's spins and turns.

Unlike other rough stock events, bull riders are not required to "mark out" their animal on the first jump out of the chute, just stay on. A bull rider's balance is most important & the rider has to move his body with every jump to keep in time with the animal. Spurring the bull will add more points to the cowboy's total score & you might say it's a "spine tingling" action for anyone rugged enough to enter this competition.

Bull riding became a rodeo event by the 1930's. Before that, steers or wild cows were used; some were even ridden with saddles.

The flank strap is a soft cotton rope at least 5/8" in diameter & is used without extra padding like sheepskin or neoprene. It is tied around the bull's flank. This rope is to encourage the bull to use his hind legs more in a bucking motion, as this is a true test of a rider's skill in maintaining the ride. If it is applied improperly, a rider may request to ride again, as the bull will not buck well if the flank strap is too tight. The flank strap is applied by the stock contractor or his designate.

Rodeo bulls come from a variety of breeds, with a variety of shapes, sizes, & colors, even spots or stripes. Some have horns, others are "mulee," or without horns. Bulls with horns have the tips sawed off so they won't be quite as dangerous. Some horns turn up, some down, some straight out flat, & some point forward.

Every bull is unique in its bucking style. They can jump, kick, spin, twist, or use any of those motions in combination. All are tremendously strong, agile, dangerous, & unpredictable. Some are downright mean.



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Barrel Racing.....High Desert Rodeo

Junior Barrel Racing.....Barn Bash

Bull Riding.....Boot Barn

SCORE SHEET

Bareback Riding

Contestant	Score

Saddle Bronc

Contestant	Score

Chute Dogging

Contestant	Time

Team Roping

Contestant	Time

Tie Down Roping

Contestant	Time

Barrel Racing

Contestant	Time

Breakaway Roping

Contestant	Time

Bull Riding

Contestant	Score

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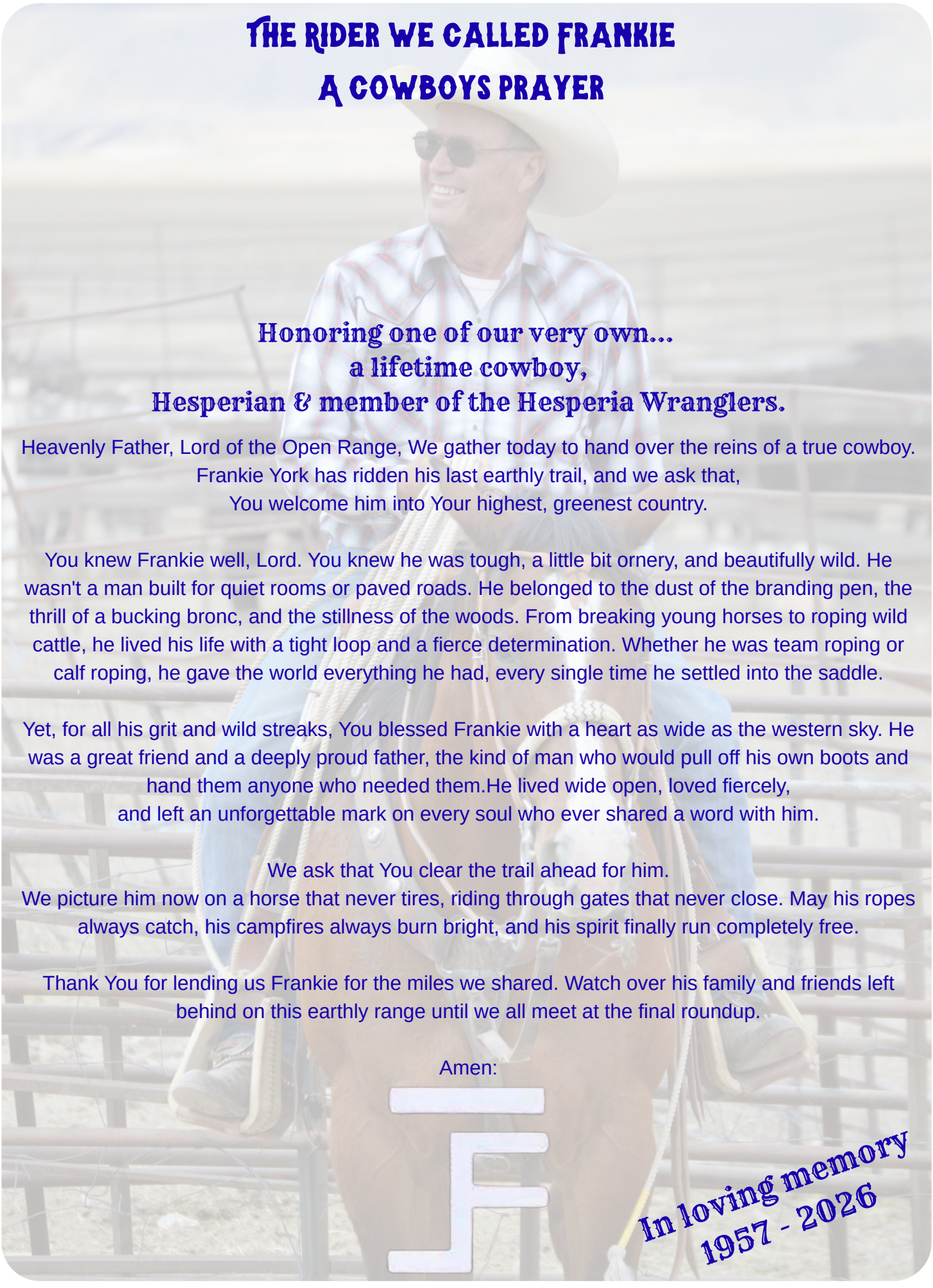
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THE RIDER WE CALLED FRANKIE

A COWBOYS PRAYER



Honoring one of our very own...
a lifetime cowboy,
Hesperian & member of the Hesperia Wranglers.

Heavenly Father, Lord of the Open Range, We gather today to hand over the reins of a true cowboy. Frankie York has ridden his last earthly trail, and we ask that,
You welcome him into Your highest, greenest country.

You knew Frankie well, Lord. You knew he was tough, a little bit ornery, and beautifully wild. He wasn't a man built for quiet rooms or paved roads. He belonged to the dust of the branding pen, the thrill of a bucking bronc, and the stillness of the woods. From breaking young horses to roping wild cattle, he lived his life with a tight loop and a fierce determination. Whether he was team roping or calf roping, he gave the world everything he had, every single time he settled into the saddle.

Yet, for all his grit and wild streaks, You blessed Frankie with a heart as wide as the western sky. He was a great friend and a deeply proud father, the kind of man who would pull off his own boots and hand them anyone who needed them.He lived wide open, loved fiercely,
and left an unforgettable mark on every soul who ever shared a word with him.

We ask that You clear the trail ahead for him.
We picture him now on a horse that never tires, riding through gates that never close. May his ropes always catch, his campfires always burn bright, and his spirit finally run completely free.

Thank You for lending us Frankie for the miles we shared. Watch over his family and friends left behind on this earthly range until we all meet at the final roundup.

Amen:

F

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