



EVENTS

March 8
Chandler Ranch workshop
Rolling Hills Estates City Hall

March 17
PVPHA general meeting
Empty Saddle Club

March 28
RHE Equestrian Committee
meeting
Rolling Hills Estates City Hall

April 4
Chandler Ranch public hearing
Rolling Hills Estates City Hall

May 1
Local equestrian convention
Ernie Howlett Park

Clinician kicks off horsekeeping series

by **MELODY COLBERT**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

About 50 people gathered around Susie Lytal on Ernie Howlett Park's lawn on sunny Sunday, Feb. 13, to listen to an introductory presentation on how to become better caretakers of horses.

Lytal has a Master's degree in equine biomechanics, among other qualifications. According to an Internet definition, biomechanics is the science concerned with the internal and external forces acting on the body and the effects produced by these forces. Anyone can see how this science would apply particularly to horses, since owners have to deal with the effects on a daily basis.

"Sharing this information is paramount to my work as a practitioner,

as I believe in the dissemination of knowledge to further the good of all equines, from the elite athlete to the retired companion," Lytal wrote on her website.

But she took it easy during Sunday's clinic and didn't get too technical: she started out with her own history of horse owning and the gradual realization of how she could fulfill her purpose with horses in a professional endeavor.

She discussed what she called the "Pillars of Wellness":

- the horse's own structure
- environment
- nutrition
- exercise

She explained how each of these factors can affect a horse's overall well-being and gave recommendations for

See "Lytal," Page 3.

Learn about acupuncture at March meeting

by **CHARLENE O'NEIL**
VP EDUCATION

What is acupuncture? How can a bunch of needles help healing? How could it possibly help digestion, skin problems, respiration or skeletal problems like arthritis? Well, the general meeting on March 17 will be a most amazing and informative session with Dr. Sylvia Colladay, DVM, of the Coastal Veterinary Clinic. Colladay has 10 years of experience in the sport horse community in Southern California. She provides an integrative approach to veterinary medicine complementing conventional therapies with alternative medicine. Come join us for a very informative meeting, and since it's St. Patrick's Day, don't forget to wear green! U



STUDIO 9ONE2

Chandler Ranch compromise: Learn about the controversy and find out what's being proposed for local equestrian facilities on Page 6.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Barn brings home ribbons at national-level show

The youth riders of Arranaga Arabians brought home numerous awards at the world-renowned Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show in February.

Lauren Sussman, Marianna Graziadio, Alex Davisson and Nicole Gibson brought home multiple Top 10 awards, while Kati Mosteller won the show's western horsemanship medal for riders 14-17 years old.

The riders are all students of Kim Arranaga, who is based at the Peninsula Riding Club in Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.

Advertise in the new edition of the Trail Guide

The PVPHA is planning to print 1,000 copies of a new edition of its extensive guide to the Peninsula's trails, and it's opening up the pages to advertisers.

The back cover is available for \$500, and the back inside cover is \$400. A full-page advertisement costs \$300; a half-page advertisement costs \$150; and a quarter-page ad costs \$70.

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MICHAEL MOORADIAN

Lori Barnett and other horsewomen enjoy a rest stop at Ernie Howlett Park during their weekly trail ride.

may renew their ads for a 25 percent discount.

Tack Room to close

The Tack Room, located in Torrance near Ralph's and Lamppost Pizza, is slated to close its doors for good at the end of March. Until then, everything but consignment merchandise is 50 percent off.

Want your show results included here? Submit them to the DISPATCH as a news brief! News briefs are generally 2-3 short paragraphs and fewer than 100 words. To submit a news brief, e-mail the text to the DISPATCH editor at pvpha2010@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to not include briefs and to edit briefs for length and clarity. U

Help the DISPATCH!

Hate the new layout? Have an idea for a column or feature? Let us know! We've put together a brief survey for our readers, and we would really appreciate your input. You can access the survey online at:

<http://dispatch2011survey.tk>

Responses are anonymous.
 Thank you!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plan to attend Chandler development workshop

by **DALE ALLEN**
PVPHA PRESIDENT

The PVPHA general membership meeting on Feb. 17 was a presentation of the Chandler Ranch/Rolling Hills Country Club development. More than 40 people attended the meeting to see how this project might affect the equestrian community.

I gave a short overview of the project and introduced the team who have been working on the equestrian projects. Architect Patrick Killen went into each of the projects that were on the list of equestrian facilities that had been reviewed, and project manager Greg Keenan answered questions about the building details. The team then answered questions about the equestrian projects and ask for more input and suggestions for the equestrian projects.

The people present seemed very favorable toward moving forward with the proposed projects. (For more information on the project and the meeting, see the article on Page 6.)

The next step is the Rolling Hills Estates Equestrian meeting which will be a joint workshop with the City Council, Parks and Activity Commission and the public on March 8 at 6 p.m. at the City Hall Council chambers. Please plan to attend this important meeting and participate in the workshop. Now is time to help define what new equestrian facilities we will get with this new project. U

Continued from Page 1...

Lytal: Horse's behavior reflects owner's attitude

best practices. She also emphasized the importance of learning to listen to horses, and told participants to try to be more aware of how owners' own attitudes are reflected in their horse's behavior.

A survey was handed out to clinic participants. It included questions that would help Lytal get to know the participants and their relationships with their horses to help her present relevant information in upcoming clinics on a variety of topics, including:

- Saddle fit principles
- Rider biomechanics
- Equine movement
- Equine wellness

Not only was Lytal's presentation informative and enjoyable, but it gave attendees a chance to



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Susie Lytal

socialize — something we never seem to get enough of these days with everyone's busy schedules!

For more information, Lytal can be reached on the web at <http://theworthyhorse.com> or via phone at 310-488-4389. U

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Super Bowl Sunday: 'Girls' day out' at Equine Affaire

by **DOREEN HOULE**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Editor's note: Every year, Doreen and Gil Houle attend the annual Equine Affaire in Pomona, Calif. Doreen was kind enough to share her impressions of this year's event with readers of the DISPATCH.

Our annual trek to the Equine Affaire was thoroughly enjoyed. As always, the event was full of new vendors, but the familiar, seasoned sellers still carried a full array of goods and services, including tack of all kinds to hay that had sprouted and was ready to feed in only six days.

The crowds on Thursday were larger than we had anticipated, especially with today's economy. It was impossible to see everything in one day.

We went back Sunday to top off our experience with a few great clinicians, and we were pleasantly surprised to find it was unusually quiet. We saw Chris Cox, Craig Cameron and Jonathan Field. What a great way to learn!

We've never been able to leave without buying something, and this year was no different. Nevertheless, we only had to run back to our truck twice with armfuls of merchandise!

We later discovered that Sunday of the Equine Affaire has been dubbed "Girls' day out" because it's usually scheduled on the same day as the Super Bowl. We'll certainly remember that next year! U

Thomas A. Hackathorn DVM
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USRider: Trailer breakaway systems should be checked every year

Is your trailer's breakaway system safe?

When a breakaway system is working properly, the trailer brakes will automatically lock if the trailer disconnects from the tow vehicle.

"Be a good steward — don't take chances with the safety and welfare of your precious cargo," said Mark Cole, a managing member for USRider, a nationwide roadside assistance program for equestrians.

To ensure your breakaway system is in good working order, follow these tips:

- Have a qualified mechanic test the system for proper operation annually.
- Have your battery load tested to check the current in the battery; replace old and weak batteries.
- Regularly inspect the cable and switch for the breakaway system. Replace the cable if it is showing signs of wear.
- Keep the top of the battery and the battery terminals clean. A small wire brush and dielectric grease will help maintain an excellent electrical connection. The battery should be removed from the trailer when the trailer is stored or not used for awhile. If possible, store the battery in a warm area away from children.
- Be sure that the breakaway system is using the correct battery. Consult your owner's manual or check with the manufacturer to make sure.
- If your battery has removable cell caps, maintain acid levels by adding distilled water. Take care when adding water. Be sure to wear protective eyewear and do not overfill.
- Do not allow a battery to remain discharged for extended periods. Twelve-volt batteries are considered totally discharged below 11.9 volts. Check the voltage with a digital voltmeter.

USRider also recommends using built-in battery chargers, which can be installed on the truck so the bat-

tery charges while trailering.

For infrequently used rigs, USRider recommends using a charging system that provides a float charge for when the trailer's not in use, Cole said.

"For frequent travelers, we especially like breakaway battery systems with built-in chargers and battery status LEDs," Cole said.

Additionally, owners should make sure their trailer's brakes and electrical system are in good condition.

"We have seen numerous wiring issues with horse trailers," said Cole. "Regretfully, the wire handling aspects on most horse trailers is a black eye in the trailer manufacturing industry."

A competent mechanic can check a horse trailer's wiring for issues, Cole said.

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 <http://usrider.org> or call 800-844-1409. U



ROGER H. GOUN / FLICKR

Breakaway systems on horse trailers should be checked annually, according to Mark Cole of USRider. Have a mechanic check the battery load, the system's cable and switch, and acid levels regularly.

In October 2010, the Rolling Hills Estates Planning Commission held its first official hearing on the Chandler Ranch development, seven years after the project was first proposed. 🐾 The plan, presented jointly by the Rolling Hills Country Club and Chandler's Palos Verdes Sand and Gravel, calls for a luxury residential development and new golf course in place of the current golf course, the quarry and the landfill. 🐾 The \$350 million project, which involves a 32-acre, multimillion-dollar land swap between RHE and Torrance, would also require the removal of a proposed trail and the elimination of the horse overlay in the area. 🐾 Some see the removal of the horse overlay as one step down a slippery slope leading eventually to the demise of horsekeeping in the city. Others, however, see it as an opportunity to improve RHE's existing equestrian facilities.

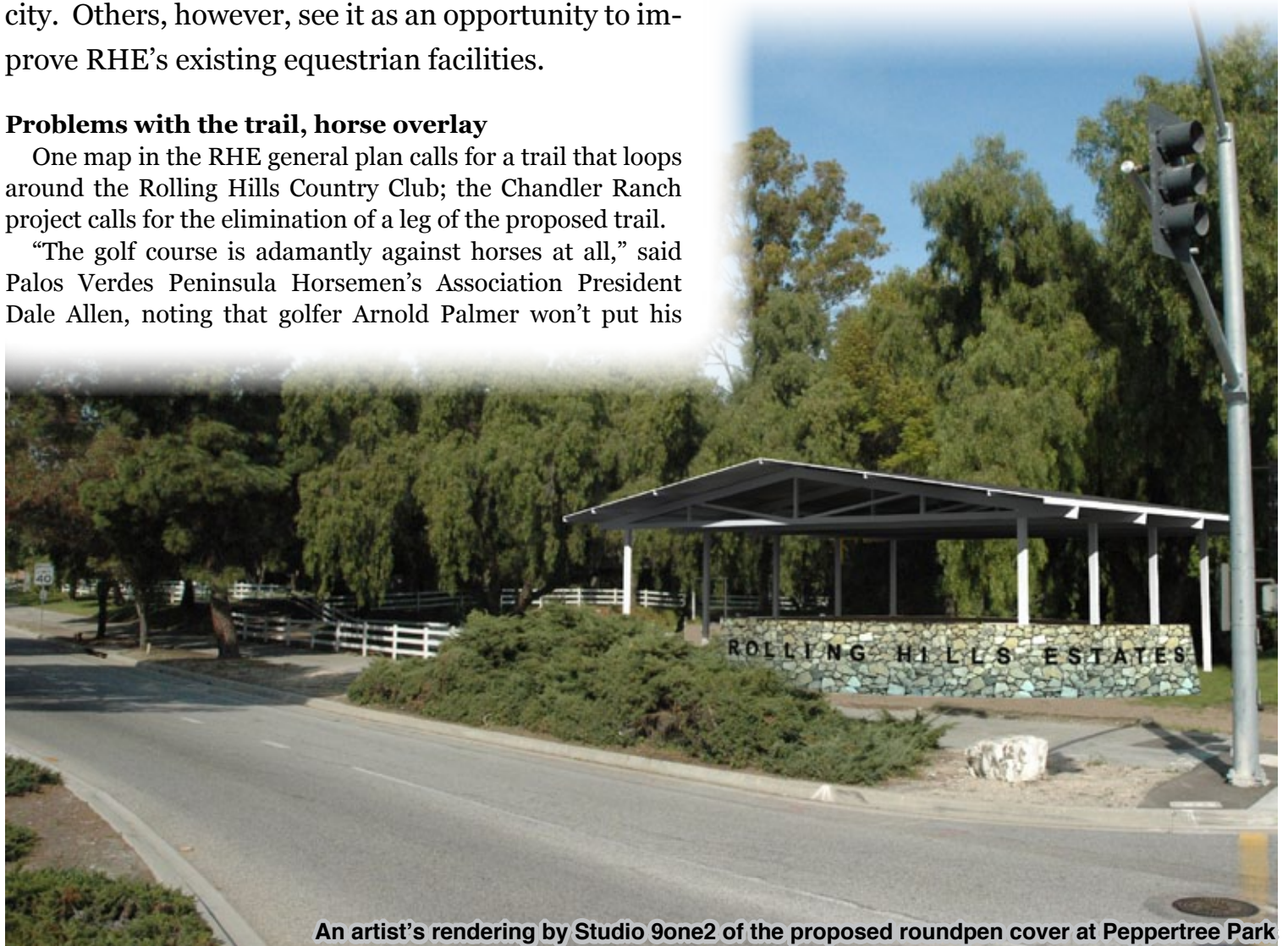
Problems with the trail, horse overlay

One map in the RHE general plan calls for a trail that loops around the Rolling Hills Country Club; the Chandler Ranch project calls for the elimination of a leg of the proposed trail.

"The golf course is adamantly against horses at all," said Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association President Dale Allen, noting that golfer Arnold Palmer won't put his

DEVELOPMENT STIRS DEBATE

by Nicole Mooradian, Dispatch editor



An artist's rendering by Studio 9one2 of the proposed roundpen cover at Peppertree Park

name on the course if the plan includes a trail.

Apparently, the inclusion of a loop trail would impact the golf course configuration, which in turn would cause it to fail to meet required specifications to qualify as a Palmer-trademarked course.

The cities of Torrance and Lomita are also against the trail and have blocked prior efforts to have it built.

The elimination of the horse overlay — which essentially limits developments to two houses per acre — is perhaps more controversial than the trail.

“What concerns me is that if the city decides that they can ... go ahead and rezone and take (the property) out of the horse overlay zone, what’s going to keep another party” from doing the same, said horseman Jim Moore.

“That could be just the beginning of a long operation of us losing our horse facilities, horse trail, horsekeeping,” he said, noting that decisions from this project could set precedents for future projects.

If the horse overlay remains in place, only 56 residences can be built on the approximately 60 acres reserved for housing. The current project calls for 114 houses; the developers have said the project won’t work financially without the elimination of the overlay.

Nevertheless, some believe the area designated for construction is less than ideal for horsekeeping. The new golf course and development will be built on area that includes the quarry and construction-waste landfill.

“(The area) would in all likelihood never have been developed as horse property,” said local horsewoman Melody Colbert.

“While I recognize the slippery slope,” said Lisa Blank, another equestrian, “I want to put my efforts into worrying about stuff that’s really viable horse property.”

Chandler Ranch LLC, which was formed specifically for the project, acknowledged the potential conflict with horse owners at the beginning.

“The issue of equestrian overlay is probably the most



USGS SATELLITE IMAGE

The area slated for the new development and golf course covers the existing golf course and the quarry.

sensitive issue on the project — we certainly recognize that,” Chandler Ranch project manager Michael Cope told *The Daily Breeze* in June 2010, shortly after RHE released a new draft of the project’s environmental impact report. “There’s go-

Proposed equestrian facility improvements

Ernie Howlett Park

- Cover main arena and increase size
- Upgrade existing and add new restrooms
- Build 40 additional permanent stalls to free up parking during horse shows
- Build covered roundpen
- Replace arena fencing and sprinkler system

Dapplegray Park

- Build two covered roundpens
- Add restroom
- Build equipment storage building
- Improve sprinkler system

Peppertree Park

- Enlarge and cover existing roundpen

Chandler Arena

- Cover arena
- Build and cover roundpen

Rockbluff Park

- Build covered roundpen
- Build new riding arena
- Add restroom
- Pave parking lot

Trails

- Improve trail on west side of Palos Verdes Drive East from the Rolling Hills Country Club parking lot that continues north to the Lomita city border, then west to Lomita water tower
- Fix Chandler Trail that washes out where it turns between Dapplegray Park and the Rolling Hills Country Club
- Fix low spot on botanical gardens trail below Lariat Lane where it floods during rainstorms

ing to be a lot of public discussion, obviously.”

Parties work toward compromise

According to Allen, a compromise between the PVPHA and Chandler Ranch calls for only the residential properties to be removed from the horse overlay. The other approximate 115 acres will remain in the overlay and be zoned for commercial recreation, meaning the land cannot be used for residential property with the exception of a sole caretaker’s house.



STUDIO 9ONE2

Part of the proposal calls for several upgrades to Ernie Howlett Park, including a covered arena.

In exchange for concessions on the trail and the horse overlay, Chandler Ranch asked for a “wish list” of improvements to local trails and parks, and after some consideration, Allen and others offered a few ideas.

First, several trails on the hill would have to be fixed and improved. Second, a number of existing equestrian facilities — including Ernie Howlett and Dapplegray parks — would be improved.

The most significant upgrades would go to Ernie Howlett Park; the proposal calls for enlarging and covering one of the two show arenas, adding a new sprinkler system, building a covered roundpen, adding new restrooms, and building 40 additional stalls to free up parking lot space for horse shows.

Chandler Ranch has hired local horseman Greg Keenan to manage the equestrian projects and Killen of Studio 9one2 as the project’s architect.

At a PVPHA meeting held to discuss the proposed improvements, “(many) equestrians felt that focusing the improvements on Ernie Howlett Park would be of the most benefit to the broadest range of equestrian users and also would help benefit the city ... by making the park a more attractive venue for profit-generating shows and events,” Colbert said in a letter to other area equestrians.

Under the proposed plan, Chandler Ranch will provide improvements worth a certain amount of money. If the city agrees, RHE will match the amount out of the Quimby fees the developers must pay.

The city calculates Quimby fees based on how many people will live in the proposed development, and the funds must go toward park improvements.

Once finalized, details of the project would be added to the Chandler Ranch development agreement, preferably with the requirement that the equestrian projects begin immediately, even if construction on the actual development is delayed, Allen said.

“We have to press as hard as we can to get teeth in the development agreement,” Killen said.

Equestrians express their views

The majority of those who attended the Feb. 17 PVPHA general meeting about the proposals appeared to be amenable to the compromise.

The upgrades to Ernie Howlett Park could bring “bigger horse shows — a better class of horse shows,” said Gil Houle, the PVPHA’s vice president of membership.

A few people, however, were concerned about maintenance of the facilities; Killen said they were trying to design the upgrades to be as maintenance-free as possible.

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STUDIO 9ONE2

The artist's rendering of the proposed covered arena at Ernie Howlett Park shows the planned roof, which would be built of galvanized steel. The gable would let in natural light, but artificial lighting would also be installed. The plans also call for new footing and a sprinkler system.

Nevertheless, the proposal didn't sit well with some.

"One of the things that bothers me the most about this ... Mr. Chandler had horses on that property; he had cattle; he had doggone near everything," said longtime resident Kathy Glikzman. "That they could turn their back on the goal of the trail around the city ... really frosts me.

"This is like picking up the pieces, like salvaging what's left," she said.

"There's a lot more than the horse community at stake right here," Killen said. "The city has a lot to gain with this development (during a recession) ... Now we're down to '(How) can we as a community benefit from this?'"

Future meetings planned

The next step in the project was the March 8 working session at RHE's city hall with the City Council, Parks and Activities Commission, Equestrian Committee, Chandler Ranch, the PVPHA and the public. Details from the meeting were not available at press time.



The city's next public hearing on the Chandler Ranch project will take place at city hall on April 4 with the planning commission.

PVPHA Recording Secretary Erin Ryan contributed to this article. U

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From the kitchen: Oatmeal cookies for horses

Adapted from a recipe published by the Agriculture in Montana Schools program.



STEVE JURVETSON / FLICKR

Ingredients

- 4 cups flour
- 1 egg
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 4 tablespoons brown sugar
- 3/4 cup applesauce
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup hot water
- 1/2 cup molasses

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees and grease a baking sheet.
2. Mix oatmeal, flour and brown sugar together, then mix in egg, vegetable oil, applesauce and molasses. Add hot water and mix well.
3. Roll out dough to 1/2-inch thickness on a floured surface. Use cookie cutters to create shapes.
4. Place cookies on baking sheet and bake for one hour. Take out and let cool.

HORSE FUNNIES

'How many pushups do you want?'

Submitted by Nicole Mooradian.



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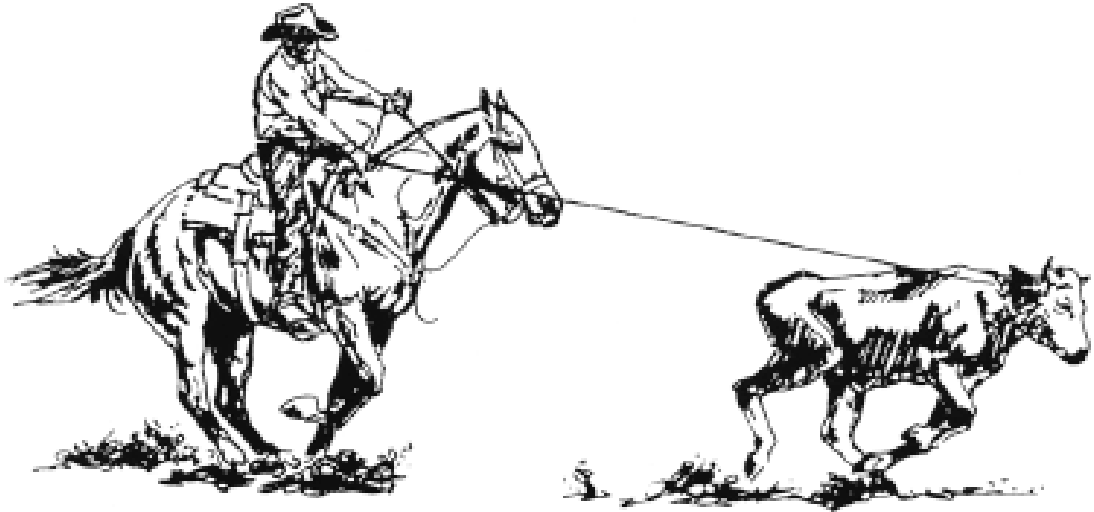
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DISPATCH edited by Nicole Mooradian.

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