

# HESPERIA DAYS RODEO



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# HISTORY OF HESPERIA RODEO

In 1956, the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce, together with a local riding club, The Rough Riders, put on the first professional rodeo in Hesperia. Two years later, the Hesperia Wranglers, Inc., was formed & they hosted both International Rodeo Association (I.R.A.) & Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (P.R.C.A.) rodeos until 1994. In 1997 the Rocking Bar H Rodeo committee was formed & they hosted rodeos until 2010. Due to public demand, in 2022, the Hesperia Recreation & Park District & the H.A.R.D. Foundation, along with the support of local stock contractors, the Hesperia Wranglers, & the community, brought back the Hesperia Days Rodeo.

## OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

Our National Anthem (Saturday) is lead this year by Irvin Everett Bounds

(Saturday) (Saturday) He grew up rough, always testing limits and getting into trouble. He turned to music, not for fame, but because it was the only thing that made sense. His sound is raw, honest, and shaped by everything he's had to come through just to stay standing.

&



Jennifer Hawken (Sunday) is a 40-year-old resident of Apple Valley and high desert native. She grew up in Phelan, graduating from Serrano High School in 2002 and has been teaching music in high desert public schools for almost 20 years. She is currently an elementary music teacher at Hesperia School District. She is also a part of the rodeo community where her son (11) and daughter (9) have competed in junior rodeos and Hesperia Wranglers gymkhana events!



Join us as we honor the our great nation,  
"the Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave.

*Thank You to our Veterans, & all who served.  
Please join us at Hesperia Lake Park on  
November 11, 2024 at 11:00 am for our annual  
Veterans Day Ceremony.*

Welcome to the 2025 Hesperia Days Rodeo! I want to express my gratitude for your participation in this wonderful community event that supports scholarships and park programs.

We have an amazing Rodeo committee that dedicates their time and effort to provide you with the best experience possible, all while managing full-time jobs, raising families, or simply navigating life.

Additionally, the banners and flags you see around the Rodeo represent our sponsors who have chosen to contribute to this event for the community's benefit. So, please take a moment to recognize these businesses and support them in your everyday life.

As we uphold the tradition of the Rodeo, it reminds us of the great country we live in. God bless each of you, and God bless America.

James Blocker





# YOUR PROFESSIONAL RODEO ANNOUNCER

Meet your announcer, Bryan Frye:

Bryan Frye began his rodeo career at 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 22-year-old daughter, Ashtyn, is a graduate of the University of Arizona (Bear Down...Go Cats). Their 18-year-old son, Kolton, is a Freshman at 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!!





# YOUR PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY ACT

## RIDER & BETHANY KIESNER

Rider grew up as a 5th generation cowboy, he was competing in YOUTH & Little Britches rodeos as far back as anyone can remember. He won his 1st buckle when he was just 5 years old. He was given a Will Rogers trick roping kit for Christmas when he was nine. Rider would push the living room furniture back and watch instructional videos over & over until he mastered each trick. He started performing locally that next summer. He then began performing in professional rodeos by the time he was 11. Rider continues to practice the cowboy skills of trick roping, gun spinning, & whip-cracking daily. At age 18 Bethany decided to pursue trick riding full time earning her PRCA Card which had been a dream of hers. She and Rider joined forces when she was 19 and have performed at many big events. Their biggest accomplishment was winning the title of 2020 PRCA Dress Act of the Year.



## MISS HESPERIA WRANGLERS RODEO 2025

*Krystal Morales*





# 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.**

[illegible]

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*Alyssa Burke*



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# BAREBACK RIDING

With a long history, Bareback Riding is one of the most wild & spectacular events in the rodeo! It's the most physically demanding event - eight long seconds riding a bucking horse with only a firm hand grip around a leather or rawhide hand hold. This single hand or one hand rigging use for bareback riding at professional rodeos across the globe was first designed & made by rodeo champion Earl Bascom back in 1924. Meeting PRCA safety specifications, the rigging which looks much like a "suitcase handle" mounted on a wide leather strap fits on a back & is held in place by a latigo, or leather strap, with a cotton cinch tightened around the bronc's girth. From the moment the bronc & rider burst from the rodeo shoot, both are judged on their performance - the horse for his bucking strength & action, & the rider for his spurring action or "lick," & his "exposure," or ability to lean way back.

For a high scoring ride, the cowboy must mark out his horse the first jump out of the shoot (meaning to have his spurs above the horse's shoulders), must turn his toes out & spur in motion with every jump of the horse, all the while holding onto the rigging with only one hand & the other hand held in the air, never touching the horse or himself. Champion bareback riders of the Victor Valley include Earl Bascom, Frank Bogert, Eddie Akridge, and Buck Abbott.



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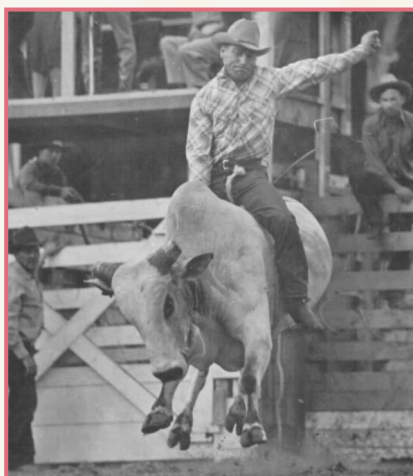
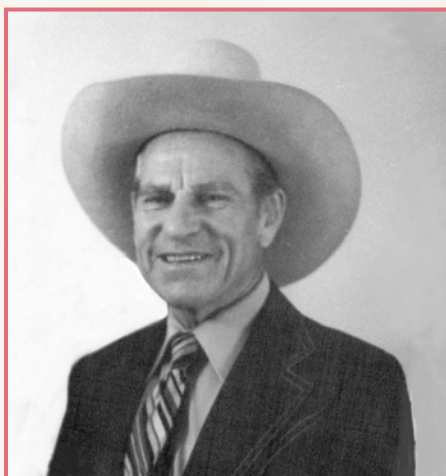
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**Pictured Below: Local, Earl Bascom, sometimes noted as the father of modern rodeo.**







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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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## HESPERIA WRANGLERS RODEO

*Abigail Lee*  
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# SADDLE BRONC RIDING

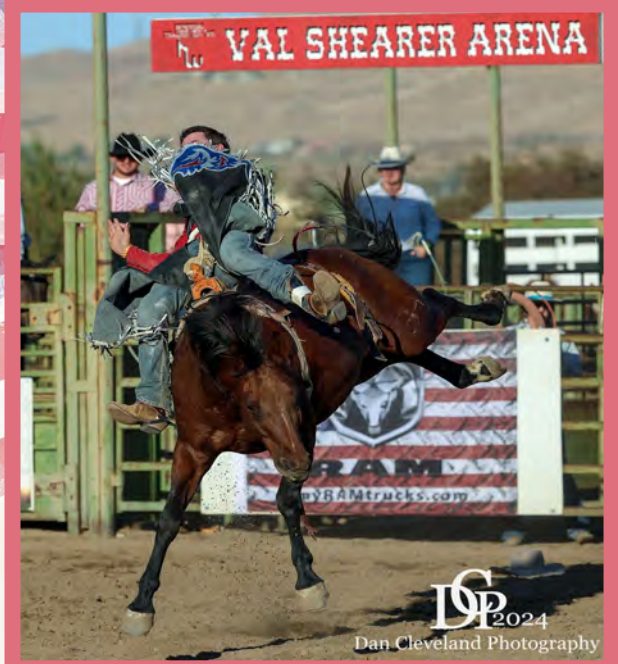
Saddle Bronc Riding, known as rodeo's classic event, takes us back to the heritage of how rodeos began. Many cowboys claim riding "saddle broncs" is the toughest rodeo event to master. It evolved from the task of breaking and training horses to work the cattle ranches of the old west. Early-day bronc saddles had a saddle horn like most stock saddles of the day, but the modern-day rodeo saddle is hornless - an innovation which was designed & made back in 1922 by rodeo equipment designer & rodeo champion, Earl Bascom.

The cowboy sits on the horse differently due to the saddle & rein, & the spurring motion covers a different area of the horse. Saddle broncs are usually several hundred pounds heavier than bareback horses & generally buck in a slower manner. Because of this, every move the bronc rider makes must be synchronized with the movement of the horse. The cowboy's objective is a fluid ride, somewhat in contrast to the wilder & less-controlled rides of bareback riders. While striving to keep his toes turned outward, the rider spurs from the points of the horse's shoulders to the back of the saddle. To score well, the rider must maintain that action throughout the eight-second ride. The key here is the rhythm between the cowboy & his horse. It requires strength, style, grace, & precise timing.

Saddle bronc riding is judged similarly to bareback riding. However, there are more ways to get disqualified: losing a stirrup or dropping the rein are two of them. Getting out of the chute requires technical skills & timing as well. In order to properly mark out his horse, the saddle bronc rider must have both heels touching the animal above the point of its shoulders when it makes its first jump from the chute. If the rider misses his mark, he receives no score.

While a bareback rider has a rigging to hold onto, the saddle bronc rider has only a thick rein attached to his horse's halter. Using one hand, the cowboy tries to stay securely seated in his saddle. If he touches any part of the horse or his own body with his free hand, he is disqualified.

Judges score the horse's bucking action, the cowboy's control of the horse, & the cowboy's spurring action.



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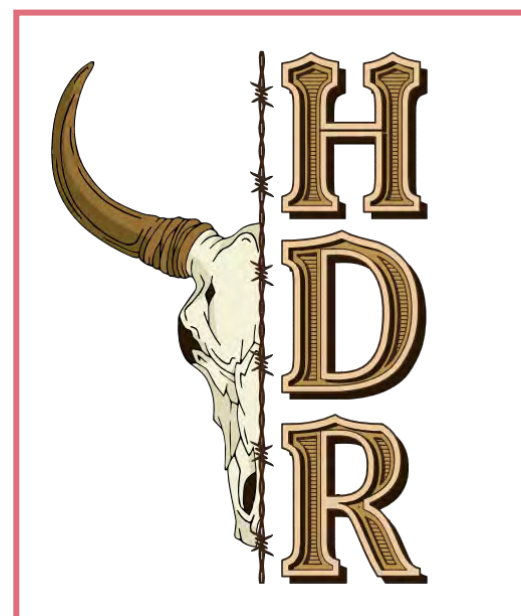


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# TEAM ROPING

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 half-head 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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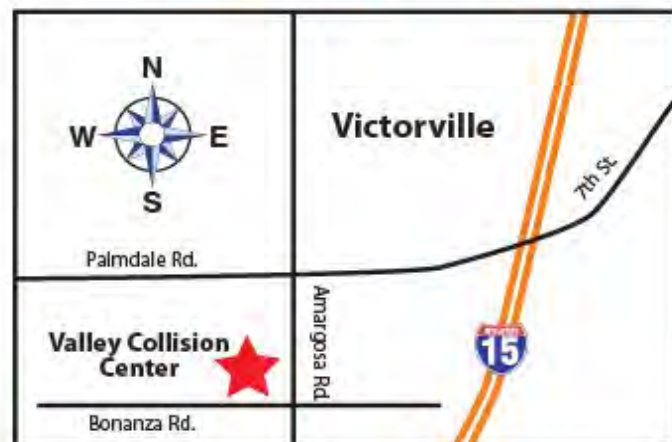
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# TIE DOWN ROPING

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 cowboy 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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An advertisement for AUDIOTISTICS. At the top is a logo featuring a cowboy hat with a star and the word "AUDIOTISTICS" in a stylized font with stars. Below the logo, the text reads: "CAR • MOTORCYCLE • UTV • MARINE • GOLF CART • RV", "AUDIO", "MILITARY/FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT", "HIGH GRADE AUDIO FABRICATION", "VEHICLE SECURITY", "OFF-ROAD LIGHTING", "UTV WHEELS AND TIRES", "AND SO MUCH MORE....", "@AUDIOTISTICS". At the bottom, there are social media icons for Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook, followed by the address "12284 INDUSTRIAL BLVD STE 3A VICTORVILLE, CA 92395", the phone number "760-843-1000", and the website "AUDIOTISTICS.COM". The entire ad is framed by a rope border.





# JR BREAKAWAY



Contestant	Time

Contestant	Time



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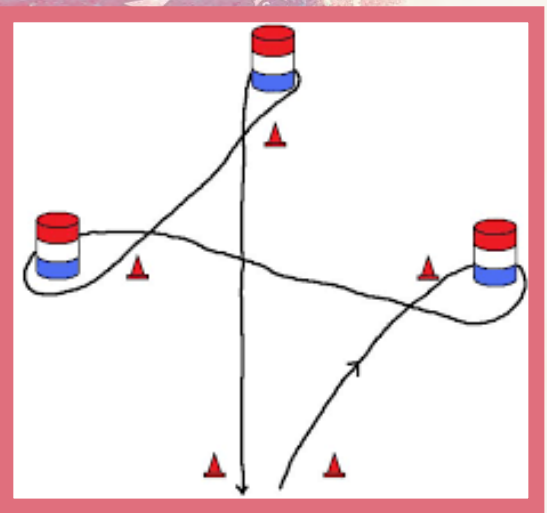
# BARREL RACING

**Barrel Racing is a rodeo event in which a horse & rider attempt 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 (WPROA) 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 WPROA 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 WPROA 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 maneuver 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

Contestant

Time


Contestant

Time




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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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# 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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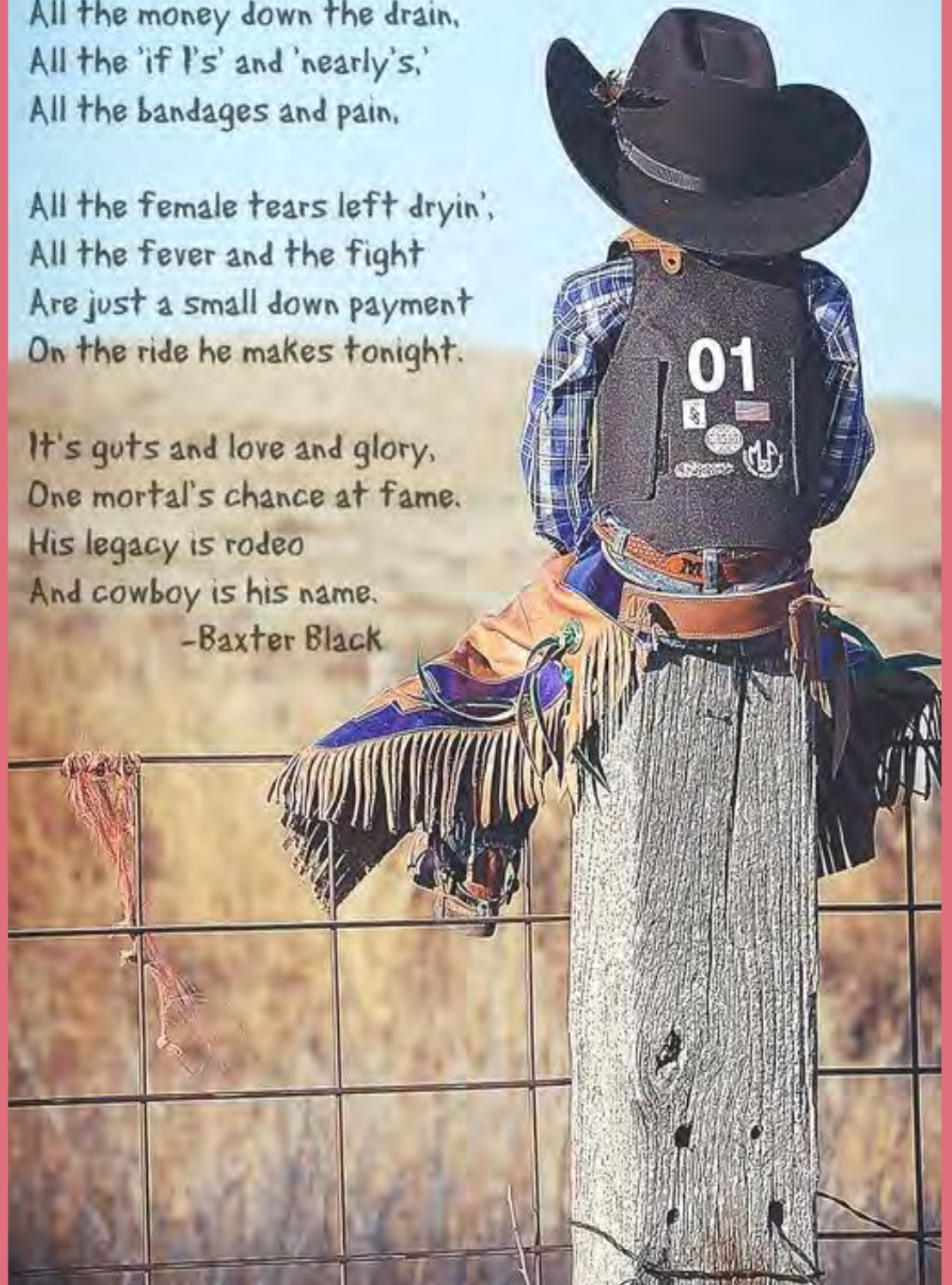
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