

COWPOKE COURIER

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RANCHERS SUFFER BRUISIN' IN MULE MOVIN' BUT HANG ON TO THE CHASE

The Rawhide Trail competition exploded with energy in Mule Movin', when rustlers were able to hitch themselves to their opponents and haul each other around like pack mules. Marshall Rush had warned the ranchers that they would want some durable cowpoke britches and shoes to protect from the rough prairie terrain, which held up to its reputation. The contest was close—so close, only a point separated the herd tally in every arena. The Cowboys tugged their way into the lead as fierce determination flashed like warpaint on their faces.

Not to be outdone, the Ranchers retaliated against the Cowboy's brawn ("It's really just fat," they claimed) with a show of wit in the relay spell-off scramble on the Chuckwagon Pasture. Adding another blow with their strategic hunt for valuable horseshoes, the Rowdy reds set an all-time record as a team. They turned in 11 horseshoes at Cattle Counting, earning mystery beef bucks for their team safe. The score is precariously close as the auction nears. Excitement and exhaustion are evidently building.



OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNIN'

High of 79° Low 59°

We got us a gorgeous day fer a trail ride, folks.

OVERHEARD OUT WEST

One **Madeline Brazeal** suggests the new obstacle at Indian Territory should be called "The Hill of Difficulty" (Pilgrim's Progress). The **Bullet Brothers** are becoming connoisseurs of Italian Ice pops, which they heartily declare a better texture than Walmart's versions. Meanwhile, **Joy Andrews** asked Mrs. Rush where the ATM machine is; Mrs. Rush says we are where you call "rural." **Emma White** was working on her gunslingin' aim, and kindly asked Marshall **Jesse Keck** if "the guns were on?" **Sven Loeffler** seemed to think that some high tree climbing was an "approved" activity because **Eddie Labadorf** said so. **Kate Huffstutler** heard about it and gasped; "I wouldn't do anything Eddie told me to do." Kate has passed the official MCBC Youth Group admission test. **Abby Boyd** was noticeably nervous when she attempted a ride on the zipline today. Marshall Keck was surprised to see her return for another go. "Well, Pastor's been preaching 'bout fear, so I figured I'd better go twice," she explained. Her fears didn't seem to stop her from enjoying the Rifle Range, despite the most amazing kickback ever slow-motion-recorded by the world-renowned Courier press. Abby may be bruised, but those are earned



scars of a brave afternoon. Speaking of brave, let it be known that Trail Boss **Meg Willis** cheered on her girls at the Horseless Carriages to "drive it like you stole it." (Now we know how she so deftly won **Jared Rush's** heart.)



THOUGHTS ON "PAIN"

Adelyn Newton—My stomach is sore from that tube tuggin' but I *think* that's a good thing. Ask me later.

Julia Brazeal: It's all good pain, til you sit down & can't get back up.

Donna Boyd, coaching her friends in Mule Moovin': "IF IT HURTS, DO IT!!"

Madeline Brazeal: What pain? Go ask the Ranchers.

The Gunpowder Gang: Our painful news is that Carl Yount drank TWO Mountain Dew's Tuesday and couldn't sleep. And yes, we noticed.

The Deputies and Marshalls: (no words, as they quietly swallowed more ibuprofen.)

Trail Boss **Michael Schaedel:** It pains me how much my guys complain about the cold.

Samuel Liss: I'll tell you what. It's really painful to watch icicles grow on your body overnight thanks to Mr. Michael's freezing cold fan.



Mrs. Rush sold 2 more Mountain Dew's to Carl on Wednesday. While we hope they wore off during the Night Game, we expect to see the Gunpowder Gang lookin' rather drowsy by dawn. Everybody turn now to take a close look at 'em and see if they're ok.

FEAR AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD

In the morning chapel message, we looked at Gideon's struggle with fear. Those who serve God must fear Him more than they fear men; and God grants us His fear by His gracious promises to help us decrease sinful fears. He graciously calls us to fear Him, and then gives us strength. We sin when we only look at self, and our resources, instead of Who God is. God even lets the enemy destroy themselves by their own fear: a sober reminder to us of the importance of overcoming a fear of man. Wednesday night Pastor Joel led us through more riches in Psalm 33: *God sees you*. Are your eyes on Him? If the world has a piece of your heart, then you better run to Jesus. We are in a spiritual battle—and there *are* casualties. Even the most powerful of distractions are futile to us; God clearly warns us that the arm of the flesh will fail us if we live our life depending on anything but Him. But He takes care of His own! We can trust in the lovingkindness of the Lord. Will you depend on God, His promises, His Word? Don't be a casualty.



YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK YET?

The sun set, and the stars twinkled above in all the serene grace of beautifully spoken Creation. But down below, the stillness of the cold night air was pierced with shrill shrieks. The Ranchers and Cowboys stumbled upon some Renegade Rustlers, who silently hunted the cowpokes who were determined to collect supplies from secret storehouses in the dark. Though some supplies were forfeited in the fray, the rustlers seem to have been thwarted... for nowwww.

