

# Reaching Hands Ranch



## January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy Birthday Angelo!  Happy New Year!	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Open Ranch 1-3
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Open Ranch 1-3
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Open Ranch 1-3
25 <hr/>	26	27	28	29	30 Happy Birthday Shelby!	31 Open Ranch 1-3

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## Buzz From The Barnyard

### Adoptions

We have one exciting adoption through the partner program. "Silver", a mustang gelding found a wonderful new home with the Huston's in Clark. He is a beautiful horse, but had never been handled, let alone had a halter on. Mike worked with him for a short time in a stall we had guided him into away from his herd mates. In less than five minutes he was haltered. Silver was not completely willing to jump in a trailer for the first time the next morning, but with a little work, patience and time he was loaded without incident. I spoke with the Huston's the next day and they had him loading like a dream and even saddled for the first time. Mike is amazing with horses and this is one smart horse. I can't wait to see how they are advancing over the next few months.



"Silver"

### Horses

It continues to be a joint effort to convince Ivy that we are not the bad guys. Unfortunately, before coming to RHR, kindness is not something she had ever experienced. The majority of her problem is fear, but I also get the feeling she has a general dislike for humans, period. On the bright side, she made it to the roundpen yesterday with Will. We have a long way to go, but are gaining ground. Big thanks to Dean, Auggie and Will for taking the time to help her.



"Ivy and Will"

### November Financial Supporters

Kathy Coulter - Corona, CA, John and Kathy Hopkins - Burlington, WY, Poor Boy Feeds - Powell, Fran Guerney - Billings, MT, Christ Episcopal Church - Bargain Box, Cody Rotary Club, Mike and Stacey Huston - Clark, WY, Ron and Janis Adams - Powell, WY, Cathy Greenfield - Fonda, IA, Lannie Sircable - CA, Brady and Ella Stewart - Cody, WY

**THANK YOU!**

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### Book

Big Book News this month!!! I'm sure many of you ranch hands remember the day you were forced to read at Open Ranch! You read the first draft of Napoleon's book and gave us your opinions. You also voted on an illustrator and picked the perfect one. We have now made it over the huge hurdle of financing the printing of this very important book. Christ Episcopal - Bargain Box Mission gave us an extremely generous grant covering the majority of the printing. Cody Rotary contributed generously as well and we are so very close to complete funding. Once Genie has finished the illustrations we will be ready to go! We anticipate the book proceeds will help us support our organization without having to rely on large grants each year.

### Ranch Hands and Open Ranch

Weather has not been kind to us on our planned open ranch days. We miss all of you ranch hands and the horses miss you even more. Lets hope January brings more pleasant Saturdays so we are able to get back on track. Someday... we will have a nice little indoor facility where we can work with the horses rain or shine, snow or wind.

I know it gets confusing as to whether we are canceling or not, so please feel free to call myself, Tracie or Gini if you haven't heard from one of us. In general, we have decided if the temperature is below 25, we will not have open ranch. Also remember to dress warm even when it is above 30. Coats, gloves or mittens and a hat are a must!

### Horse of the Year

It was a close race and all were deserving candidates. The horse of the year, 2008 goes to....HOBO! Congratulations! We were not able to celebrate because of the weather, but we will get to that as soon as we can!

I'm not sure that all of you know Hobo. He came from a wonderful home in Cody. His owner had to move to Texas and since he founders and was not completely sound, they knew he couldn't make the trip. They also knew it would be difficult because of this condition, to find him a good home where he would be cared for and have a certain future. We did not know if he would ever be sound enough to ride. Hobo was evaluated at RHR and we found he had great ground manners. He became a horse we used in the youth program to teach grooming and leading. He became sound, but seemed a bit fragile and we still had doubts as to whether we could attempt to ride him. Last winter's ranch hand program brought us Sara who thought Hobo was the greatest thing ever. With her graduation, we came up with a plan to enroll interested graduates in 4-H. They would each use a horse from RHR as their projects. Sara was offered several horses at the ranch...and she was only interested if she could take Hobo. I explained she may not be able to ride him and would be quite limited at Fair if she chose him. She never wavered from her decision. She convinced me to ride him one nice spring day at open ranch. He was fabulous. His eyes brightened and he developed a spring in his step from that day forward. He went on to enter every class imaginable at fair, from trail class to speed events. They even won high point beginner together. Yes, Hobo truly deserves this award. Thank you Sara for being so determined and proving to us what you could see in him all along.



Hobo and Sara

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### Ranch Hand of the Month

Sara also happens to be our Ranch Hand of the Month. She graduated with the Winter 2008 session nearly one year ago. Sara enjoys Reaching Hands Ranch because she likes learning new things and loves the ponies. Her favorite horse is Hobo (there is a big surprise!). Her other hobby is hanging out with friends and likes having fun, the color black, mac and cheese and pickles. Dislikes include Jenny's husband Will and that's pretty much it (Will must have been teasing Hobo that day.) Sara attends Parkside Elementary and wants to be a professional barrel racer when she grows up.



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!