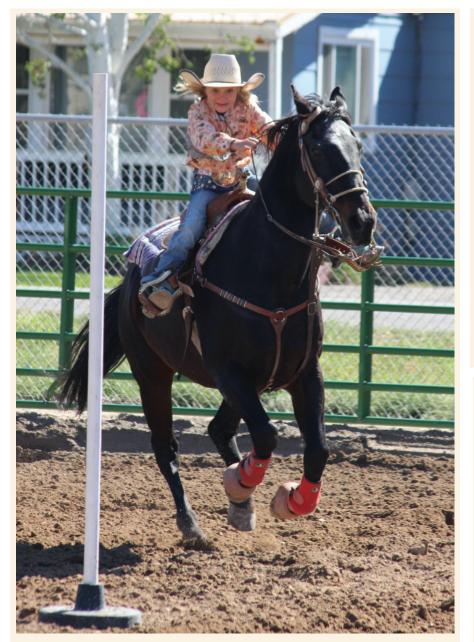
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FEATURES

THE PEOPLE OF

A look inside Grand Junction's rodeo for kid cowboys and cowgirls





Brannan Allen, 9

Allen is an expert roper and has plenty of experience with rodeo-related injuries — but he's a self-proclaimed "tough cowboy." "I've fell off my horses a couple times, but I just got back on," he said. "I never broke my log or entithing."

broke my leg or anything."



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TO LASS H RYDER BADGEROW



Gentry Coza, 6

Coza has been riding horses since she was four years old and loves the responsibility of taking care of animals.

"I feed them, I water them and I wash them," she said. "It's really fun."

Spin your lasso. Hold on loosely to the rope and the end of the loop so the rope can slide through your fingers. Badgerow advises to "keep your elbow up." But the key is in the spin itself. "It's all in the wrist," he said.

Throw your rope. Aim for the back legs of your target, and release with a flick of the wrist. Release your roped tar-get, and call it a day. "It takes some practice," he said. "But it gets easier and easier."

Badgerow, 11, rides his horse to the shoot before his roping event Saturday.







Ryley Beach (right), 14 Auntie B, 14

Beach grew up on a ranch and met his horse, Auntie B, when he was five years old. The two have been together ever since. "I've known Auntie B my whole life, basically," he said. "She's a great horse."

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