

Tractor pull to benefit injured Goodland man

It took just a few seconds to forever change the life of a young Sherman County man when he was involved in a farm accident five years ago.

Now his friends want to help him pay the pile of medical bills he's accumulated on the long road to recovery.

The Sunflower Spinners Antique Tractor Pulling Club is planning a benefit tractor pull and stationary engine show at the Sherman County Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25. Proceeds will go to help pay the medical costs of Doug Hilty, who was injured in a farm accident in the spring of 1999.

During the show, Phoenix Pulling Team of Eastern Colorado is planning a Pedal Tractor Pull for the youngsters on Saturday, April 24. The pedal contest, free for children up to age 12, will be held in front of the grandstand during the lunch break.

A special event on Sunday, scheduled during the lunch, will be a "grandstand invite" for any spectators who wish to try their hand at pulling. People can register as they enter the grandstand that day for a chance to compete with tractors provided.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will have a bake sale in the 4-H Building from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Members from Goodland and Burlington will furnish items for sale.

Cub Scout Pack No. 142 will have a concession stand in the 4-H

Building.

Pull entrants will register between 8:30 and 10 a.m. and the pull will begin at 11 a.m. both days. Pullers can register early by calling Bonnie Stasser at 899-5756 or Marla Harrison at 890-2610. Each hook (pull) will be \$20 and entrants must prove they have liability insurance or buy it each day.

On Saturday, pulls will be held for percentage and distance and on Sunday pullers will be vying for distance and can participate in the "double tree" event.

An Antique Tractor and Stationary Engine Show will be held both days on the west side of the grandstands. Visitors can walk among the displays provided by area collectors and reminisce about "the good ol' days." Anyone with an item they would like to display should call Stasser or Harrison for participation guidelines.

Hilty, a Goodland resident since 1970, is a grandson of the late Floyd and Wanda Hilty, former Goodland business owners. He was a mechanic. In the spring of 1999 he was working with Craig Mann on his farm. As they were unloading a tool bar from a trailer, the equipment slipped, crushing his pelvis and severely injuring several organs.

Hilty spent four weeks in a Denver hospital and has returned countless times for treatments and surgery. Unrelenting pain has caused him to need four orthopedic and neurological surgeries, plus many

therapy sessions and treatments, stretching his insurance and finances to their limits.

In September, he underwent an orthopedic surgery, hoping to alleviate some of the pain and help him regain some mobility.

Hilty has been a member of the Sunflower Spinners since it began. When members heard he had another surgery and was worried about money, they decided to sponsor a benefit, with the proceeds going directly to Hilty's medical providers. The Thrivent chapters from northwest Kansas and eastern Colo-

rado are helping with the show, sponsoring the bake sale and providing matching contributions up to \$2,500.

Tickets for the benefit will be \$2.50 at the door or can be purchased in advance for \$2 through Sunday, April 18 at Western State Bank, Orscheln's Farm Supply and Frontier Equity of Goodland or at NAPA Auto Parts in Burlington. All spectators 13 and younger will be admitted free.

Checks or cash donations can be left at Western State Bank in care of the Hilty Medical Fund.

Pins on sale!



Special color souvenir pins featuring the giant Vincent van Gogh sunflower painting on the big easel in Goodland are now on sale.

The pins are **\$3⁴⁹** each and are available at *The Goodland Star-News* office, 1205 Main. They can be purchased wholesale through the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau office at 890-3515 or 888-824-4222.

Pins are on sale at both Sinclair stations, Knott Just Books, Goodland Regional Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary gift shop, KOA Kampground, Bowmans Heating and Air Conditioning and at The Total Look beauty shop.

The
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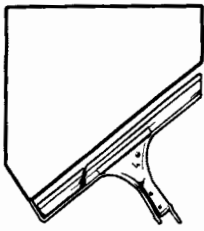
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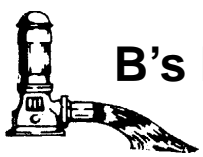
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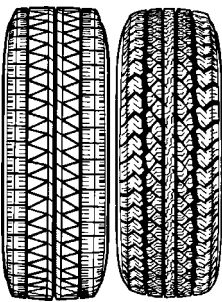
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