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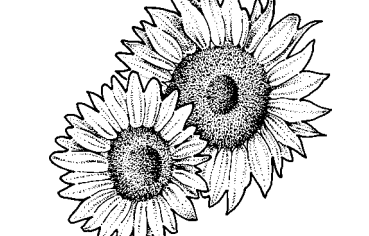


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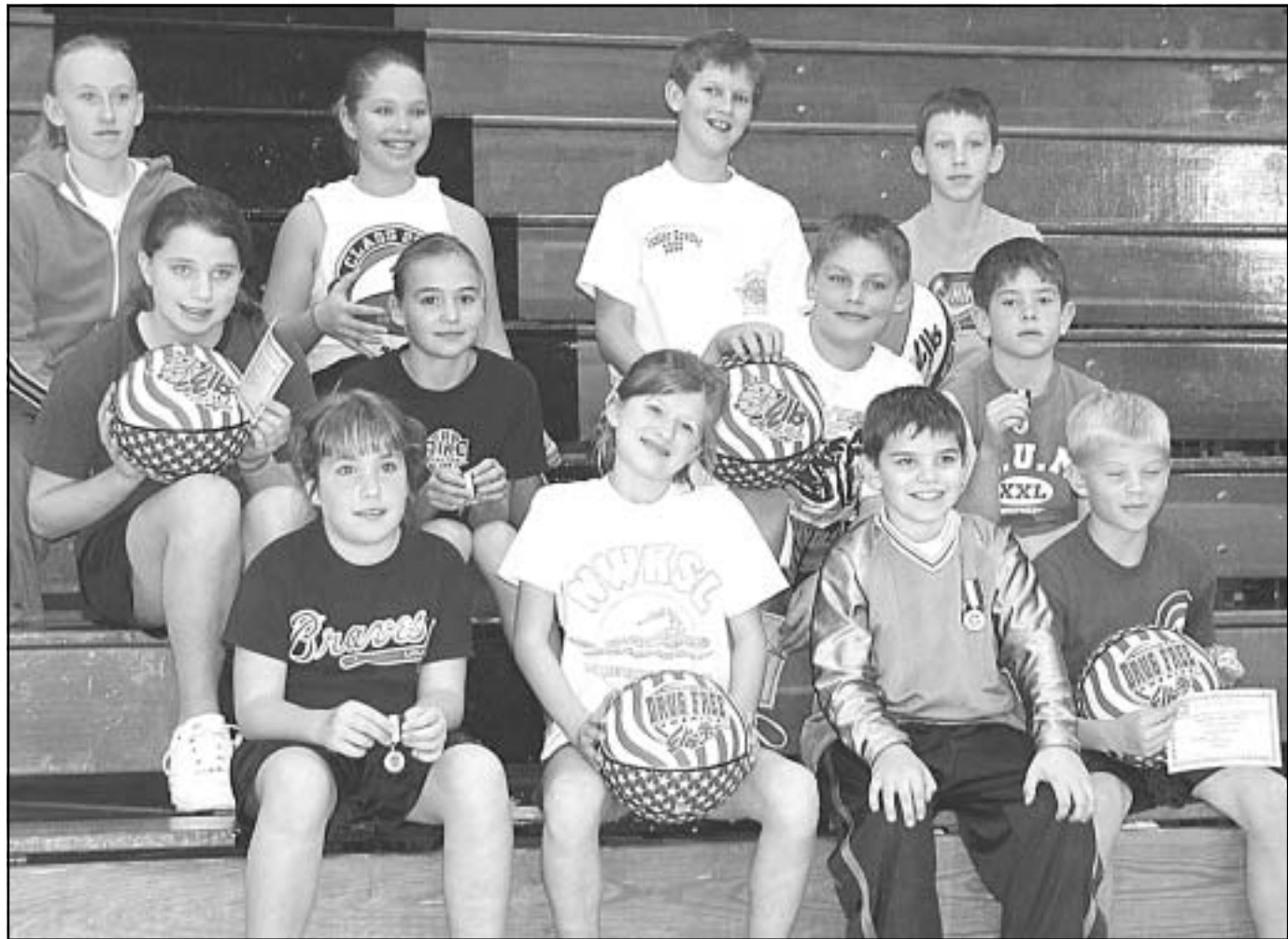




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Congratulations to the winners of the Elks Free Throw Contest



The winners and runners-up from Sunday's Hoop Shoot in Max Jones Fieldhouse are (first row from left) Tatym Ruadel of Colby, girls 8-9 runner-up; Taryn Bedore of Goodland, girls 8-9 winner; Gage Ihrig of Goodland, boys 8-9 runner-up; and Luke Cox of Colby, boys 8-9 winner. Second row, Bailey Tillitsen of Burlington, girls 10-11 winner; Alexa Haas of Colby, girls 10-11 runner-up; Laine Herl of Goodland, boys 10-11 winner; and Todd Kane of Colby, boys 10-11 runner-up. Third row, Angie Hillmer of Goodland, girls 12-13 runner-up; Jade Herl of Goodland, girls 12-13 winner; Brock Wilkens of Goodland, boys 12-13 runner-up; and Dillon Trachsel of Goodland, boys 12-13 winner.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Contest draws 58 area competitors

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

Fifty-eight boys and girls competed at the lodge-level "Hoop Shoot" in Goodland on Sunday in Max Jones Fieldhouse as part of the annual Elks national free-throw contest.

The basketball shooters were split into six categories, boys and girls in ages 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Each competitor got 25 free throws, with each boy or girl first shooting 10 then, after going through the line and shooting 15 more. Each was allowed up to five warm-up shots.

For the 8-9 competition the free throw line was moved up four feet. In the case of a tie for either first or second place, a five-shot tiebreaker was used and, if still tied, each got an additional five shots until the tie was broken.

Luke Cox of Colby won the boys 8-9 competition, hitting 19 of 25 free throws. Gage Ihrig of Goodland finished second with 17.

Taryn Bedore of Goodland won the girls 8-9 competition after two tiebreakers. Tatym Ruadel of Colby and Bedore both hit on 11 of 25 in the regular competition, then both hit two of five in the first tiebreaker. Bedore hit three to Ruadel's one in the second tiebreaker to take first place.

Laine Herl of Goodland hit 15 of 25 to win the boys 10-11 category. Todd Kane of Colby was second with 14.

Bailey Tillitsen of Burlington won the girls 10-11 category, hitting on 12 of 25. Alexa Haas of Colby hit 11 during the regular competition, then took second-place by hitting three of five in the tiebreaker.

Dillon Trachsel of Goodland hit the most free throws in the contest, 20 of 25 for first place in the boys 12-13 competition.

Brock Wilkens of Goodland was second with 19.

Jade Herl of Goodland hit on 19 of 25 to win the girls 12-13 category. Angie Hillmer of Goodland hit 17 for second place.

Each of the six winners received a basketball and a certificate proclaiming him or her lodge champion, while the runners up got a medallion. All competitors got a "Hoopy" the hoop shoot bug in the color of their choice.

The six winners advance to the district



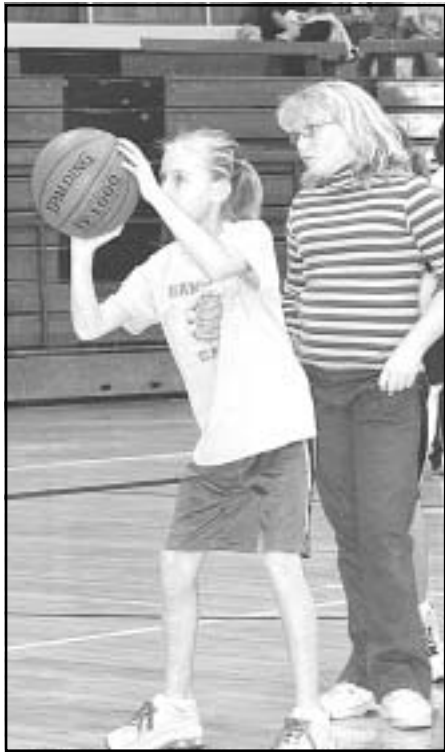
Brook Bahe of Goodland (with ball above) prepared to make one of his shots in the boys 8-9 competition while Cowgirl basketball player Stephanie Shelden waited for the rebound. Brenna Royer of Idalia (below) took aim during the girls 10-11 competition.

competition on Jan. 8 in Russell. If a winner cannot attend, then the runner-up will go in his or her place.

Zona Price, who helped coordinate the event, said Sunday's competitors were chosen from among the 428

boys and girls who competed at the school level in Goodland, Brewster, Colby and Burlington, Idalia and Bethune in Colorado.

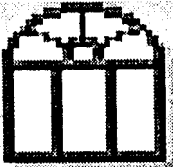
Traci Waugh was the director of this year's lodge competition, with the help of lodge officers Dale Price and Rod Roeder. About 25 volunteers helped run the contest, including members of the Goodland Cowgirls basketball team.



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