

Bobby Kerr's Gift

Kevin Holten



What were you doing last Friday? I was upstairs at the Jace Romick Gallery in downtown Steamboat Springs, Colorado interviewing one of rodeo’s top entertainers, Bobby Kerr.

Bobby was in town to perform at the Steamboat Springs Pro Rodeo series. Or at least try to.

He is a legend. And plenty of legends of every kind are a little self-centered and self-promoting. But not Bobby Kerr. He’s as humble and appreciative as the prodigal son, someone on a life raft being picked up by an ocean liner or a parachutist who survives a jump despite his chute not opening.

Why is he so humble? For no particular reason. He’s just a good guy.

Bobby grew up in Ontario, quit school and snuck away from

home to work at a horse stable in Illinois when he was just 14 years old. His mother tracked him down and ordered him to come back. But the stable owner suggested that she let the boy be because he was a natural when it came to working with horses. It was his gift.

Then later, because he was so good at it, he was lured down to Texas to do the same in Fort Worth.

For a while he also had a wood chip hauling business there and did quite well, supplying chips to all kinds of customers. And he did that while still training and working with horses, of course, which was something he’d always do.

So, when hauling chips got a little old, he entered an unusual horse competition that he’d somehow heard about and did very well.

Fact is, he did so well that people said, “you’ve got to turn that into a rodeo act” and so he did, and the rest is history.

To this day, the act is hilarious and cute, real cowboy stuff and one of those that makes you chuckle every time

you think about it. And what is there in life that is better than making people laugh, not only in the moment, but for days, weeks, months and years afterwards. It’s his gift.

In a nutshell, his act consists of him training wild mustangs to do riding tricks, he and a mustang jumping over an old jalopy with flames coming out of it, and him riding out of the arena with a mustang seated in the jalopy next to him, making for a very hilarious image.

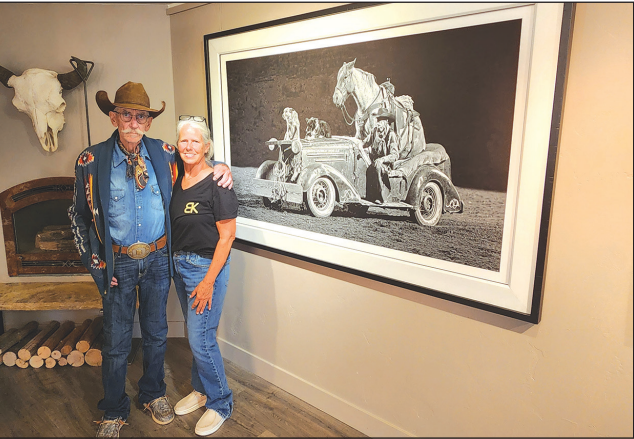
So, I was honored to meet him face to face and interview him to find out all about his life, looking at it from the inside out.

But Bobby was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2021. And so, he underwent chemotherapy treatment at the time and that proved to be successful in that it shrunk the tumor. But in 2023, it was discovered that the tumor had spread to his stomach, liver, chest and lungs.

It was suggested that he take it easy and go into hospice care. But instead, unsurprisingly, Bobby hit the road again and he continued with his act.

So, at first, when I saw him at the Steamboat gallery, I was taken aback by how this tough cowboy had become so frail and weak looking, and short of breath. And I hoped we might be able to get him through at least a half hour of what is typically an hour-long interview.

But Bobby sucked it up and made it the full hour. And I wasn’t surprised. Because, after all, he’s Bobby Kerr.



Bobby and Susan Kerr stand next to a photograph presented to them at the Jace Romick Gallery in downtown Steamboat Springs, Colorado by photographer, cowboy and former U.S. Ski Team downhill racer, Jace Romick.



Runners shine at Bowman County

Area cross-country runners turn in solid results at Bowman County Invite

By Gaylon Wm. Parker
GS Publishing reporter

With the first official Class B cross-country meet in the books, area runners are starting to get their wind and off to a flying start after the Bowman County Invite at Sweetwater Golf Course on Friday, Aug. 29, as Beach, New England, Mott-Regent, Dickinson High, Trinity High and Killdeer all were in action. Bowman County topped both the girls and boys events as the ladies notched a 27 to Killdeer’s 51 and Dickinson’s 65, while in the boys’ meet Bowman earned a 20 and Dickinson finished with a 45, while Killdeer was in third with a 109 overall.

As the scores are combined by overall placement and the lowest score wins, some solid individual results for area runners were on the clock with Summer Olsen winning the girls 5K for Killdeer in a time of 19:20.9 and BCHS’s Jordyn Honeyman behind her at 19:38.7 and teammate Anna Sarsland rounding out the top-3 with a 19:38.8 in a bang-bang finish.

Among other Class B racers on the girls

side, Beach’s Ahava Kerr entered the top-40 with a 24:48.2 and teammate Tori Steiner was at 44th with a 26:44, while New England’s Hannah Dinius completed the race in 33rd at 24:31 and fellow Tiger – and volleyball standout – Breanna Erickson turned in a 27:07.1. For Mott-Regent, meanwhile, Kara Roll was in at 27th with a 23:09.8 and Dickinson’s Leila Gregoire was the top-Maverick with an eighth-place time of 20:31.4, while Richardton-Taylor’s Joelle Bartow earned 25th at 23:07.3.

Individual results for the boys saw top-Dawg Jonah Njos earn first with a 15:55.8, more than 10 seconds ahead of teammate Warner Bowman’s 16:08.4 and Glen Ullin-Hebron’s Jaxon Rolle at third with a 16:40.6. Area runners included Beach’s Gavin Farstveit taking 17th with a 19:04.2 and Buccaneer teammates Owen Davidson at 50th with a 22:01.5 and Kristian Trewhella clocking in at 24:31.5. For New England, Beau Keith came across the finish line with a 41st-place 21:09.8 and Tiger teammate Mark Schmidt was in at 27:33. Richardton-

Taylor’s Tracy Aune took ninth with a 17:39.8 and Dallys Goetz clocked a 21:48.2 in front of Cade Bohlman’s 23:28.4.

Heart River’s cross-country team was at the Fox Hills Invite on Saturday, Aug. 30 as the boys finished in fifth overall with a 158 score and the girls dialed in at fifth with a 60. Individual results included Serra Buerkle’s 10th-place showing at 29:08.81, while Gus Tessier took 12th for the boys in a time of 18:55.56.

Most area Class B teams will be headed to the Beulah-Hazen Invite on Friday, Sept. 5 at Black Sands Golf Course, with Beach, Heart River, Mott-Regent, New England, Richardton-Taylor, Bowman County and Trinity all coming to town.

For more information about cross-country in North Dakota, please keep reading the products from GS Publishing and/or visit the website at www.athletic.net/cross-country/usa/high-school/north-dakota. There also is a gallery of photos of the athletes at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088238995329.



The Bowman County Invite was the first official Class B meet of the 2025 season at Sweetwater Golf Course, as Beach, New England, Mott-Regent and Killdeer all were in attendance. Heart River, meanwhile, traveled to the Fox Hills Invite in Watford City on Saturday, Aug. 30 for their first official foray into the Class B calendar.

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