Students saddle up at rodeo

By Andrea Kelly

The shiny silver pinstripes running through Wesley Kimble’s blue shirt reflected sunlight in the arena of the Tucson Rodeo Grounds Saturday as, tops in hand, he raced on his horse after a calf.

Kimble, an agricultural education senior, was among eight other UA students at the 65th Annual University of Arizona Intercollegiate Rodeo.

He won the calf roping competition after securing a loop around a calf’s horns 10.3 seconds after his horse bust- ed through the starting gates.

Kaci Malouf, an agricultural education junior, tied for first place in the breakaway rope tying event.

Malouf looped the rope around the calf’s horns in 3.3 seconds, but the calf kept running because the rope broke off the saddle.

The competitors in Saturday’s rodeo were from teams in the Grand Canyon region, which includes the UA, Arizona State University, Pima Community College, New Mexico State University, Cochise Community College, Central Arizona College and Northland Pioneer College.

Worn cowboy boots, dusty jeans and half-tanned faces peeking out from cowboy hats attested to the hours of hard work the students put in before the rodeo.

Valerie Spate, an equine sciences junior, said she practices a few hours at a.m., when she feeds her three horses.

A normal day for Spate starts at 7 a.m., when she feeds her three horses. She also takes them riding. She said she’s lucky she has afternoon classes so she can spend the morning with her horses.

When Spate gets home around 7 p.m., she feeds her horses again.

She also works a weekend job to pay for all the costs associated with traveling to rodeos, including entry fees and the cost of owning horses. She pays for feed, shoes, shots and veterinary appointments, all of which add up to the cost of owning horses. She pays for feed, shoes, shots and veterinary appointments, all of which add up to about $3,000 per year, she estimated.

The event was one of 10 rodeos in which UA students will participate.

The scores from the regional rodeos are compiled at the end of the year to determine which individual students and teams advance to the national college competition in June in Casper, Wyo.

Scores for the events are based on time.

Those who participate in roping events try to take the least amount of time to rope the calf after they leave the starting gates.

“The tie-down open is my favorite event,” Kimble said. “It’s the one I think I have the most luck at.”

See RODEO10

Bill would add money to financial aid funds

By Bob Purvis

PHOENIX — With another potential tuition increase looming at the UA, a Tucson legislator is trying to increase the amount of money the state puts toward financial aid at state universities to make higher education more accessible.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Tom Fee, R-Tucson, would increase the amount of money the state puts into the Arizona Board of Regents financial aid trust fund by increasing the ratio at which they match funds from the universities from 1 percent to 1.5 percent.

The fund, established in the late 1980s, matches the $55 fee students pay to the regents with a state contribution. The fee, which is 1 percent of in-state tuition, increased by about $20 last year because of the UA’s record-setting tuition hike.

However, the state has failed to match the universities’ contributions to the fund for the last three years, as lawmakers struggled to overcome gaping budget shortfalls.

Last year, the state’s universities collected $2.9 million in fees, but only received $2.2 million in state appropriations.

If the bill does pass and the ratio increases, it may be more of a symbolic victory than a practical victory because neither the governor nor the GOP’s Joint Legislative Budget Committee has allocated money for the fund in their budgets this year, said Greg Fahey, UA lobbyist.

“Money is so tight that we may have to keep working at it next year,” Fahey said. “In better times financially for the state, we can get it done.”

The bill has the backing of student lobbyists from the Arizona Students’ Association, who will be at the Capitol when the bill is discussed early next week, said Amy Hicks, ASA associate executive director.

“Right now, students pay a disproportionate amount into the fund compared with what the Legislature does, and that’s not fair to students,” Hicks said.

President Peter Likens spoke to the House and Senate appropriations committees last week, stressing the importance of financial aid in making college

ResLife rule kicks clubs out of dorms

By Jesse Lewis

Student clubs and organizations not affiliated with residence halls are no longer allowed to meet in hall common spaces, according to a new rule adopted by Residence Life.

In order to keep groups from taking over student space and disrupting residents, clubs and organizations are no longer allowed to meet on a weekly basis in semi-public spaces like study lounges, lobbies and other meet- ing spaces in residence halls on campus.

“Some groups monopolize space, and if they meet on

By Shane Dale

Gov. Janet Napolitano sat on the women’s basketball bench Saturday with more on her mind than just hoops.

Napolitano was a guest coach for the Wildcats as part of National Girls and Women in Sports Day, which promotes the advancement of women’s sports.

It was the second time the governor has joined the Wildcat women on the bench. Napolitano was accompanied on the floor of the McKale Center in a half-time ceremony by UA athletic director Jim McCarthy, assistant director Kathleen Mullen and diving coach Michelle Mitchell-

Napolitano joins Wildcats for a day

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Closet country fans emerge

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