

The CARBON COUNTY NEWS



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\$1.00

BEHIND THE MASK

Barto's Mission

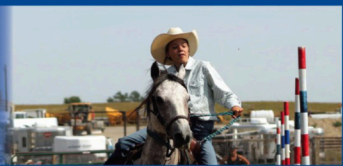
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YOUNG BUCKS

Bridger Youth Rodeo

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The Man Behind Bone Daddy

Barto's mission to help Veteran's of War

By Alastair Baker
News Editor

Away from his alter ego Bone Daddy, Ben Barto has another life; as the founder of Horns For Heroes. He started this non-profit organization to help veterans.

Barto, of Dubois, Wyoming, has made various products, including knives, for over 40 years and is a horn broker. He has donated knives to fundraisers for different events and charities throughout the state, but wants to do more for veterans.

"Eighty-five percent of the proceeds from the donated antlers we purchase from the American Legion or VFW stays at the local posts to help Veterans in need. The other 15 percent covers shipping and handled fees," he said.

Barto recently presented a check for \$1,520 to the VFW Ramar Post 10056 in Dubois.

"Anyone who has animal horns lying around their garages from hunting or collecting is invited to donate the horns, with the proceeds going to local American Legions," said Barto.

To ensure that a fair price is paid, the Horns for Heroes project has gathered a number of sanctioned buyers. The buyers will come to donators' locations and sort the horn per grade, weigh it and write the local American Legion post a check for 50 cents less per pound than spot price of horn.

The price of horn has been higher in the past few years due to demand from crafters, dog treats and the export for medicinal purposes. Idaho Falls-based Little Bighorn, the largest antler broker in the Rocky Mountain region, will buy all the horn Horns for Heroes can supply.

Barto is also a self-taught artist born and was raised in Rock Spring, Wyoming. He developed an early love and appreciation of wildlife by fishing and hunting in the Wind River Mountain Range with his father. He started carving wildlife 24 years ago and has expanded his subject matter to include wildlife, charcuteries, tractors, hot air balloons



Photo by Alastair Baker

Ben Barto in his other incarnation as Bone Daddy standing with Dana Bowman, Sgt. First Class (Ret.) 82nd Airborne at the recent Beartooth Rally weekend in Red Lodge.



Photo courtesy of www.bartowildlifecollectiblesinc.com

Ben Barto and his wife, Sherry.

custom name drops and recently a full line of bike related products. He requires only a photograph of any subject to create a 3-D collectable.

He and his wife run Barto Wildlife Collectibles online.

To make a donation you can drop off horns at any American Legion or VFW Post anywhere in the country. For more information, contact Ben Barto at 307-455-3272.