

Buckin' bronco

Ray Segura is back in the saddle after a devastating accident.

NEVER IN HIS 54 YEARS WOULD RAY SEGURA — a dyed-in-the-wool native Nevada cowboy — imagine he would have something in common with a national television news reporter.

It was an early summer day in 2007 when Segura suffered the same traumatic closed-brain injury as former ABC news anchor Bob Woodruff. However, instead of reporting on the war in Iraq, Segura was doing what he does best: lending a hand to up-and-coming teenage cowboys. Woodruff was hit by an improvised explosive device in a war-torn country, while Segura was hit by the sheer explosiveness of a bucking horse at a Fallon ranch.

"It hit so hard that it knocked my brain loose," says Segura, who remembers little of the incident.

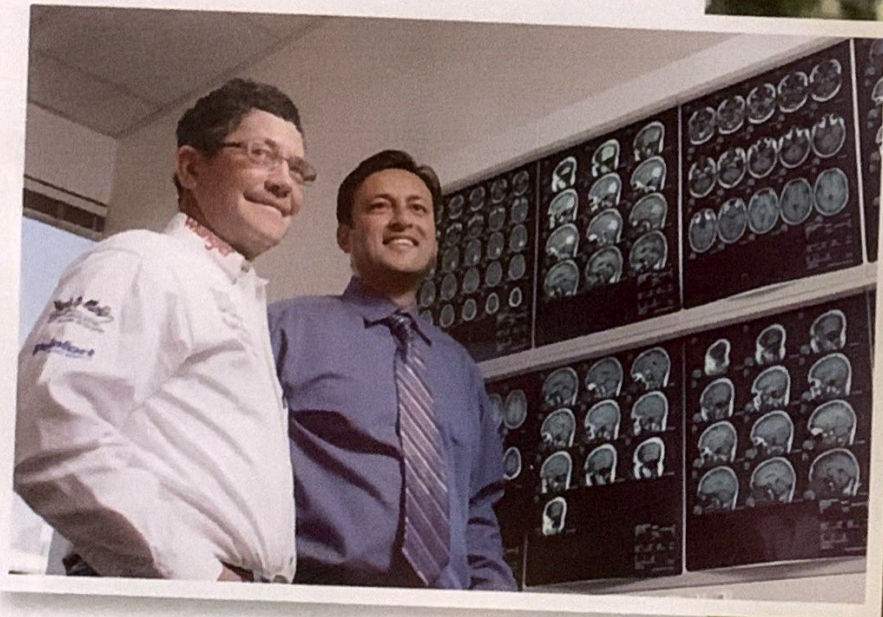
As the Care Flight helicopter transported Segura to Reno, a trauma team assembled. Trauma surgeon Marty Bain and neurological surgeon Deven Khosla were among the first to treat Segura at Renown Health.

According to Khosla, Segura's frontal lobe intracranial pressure/swelling was off the charts.

"I'd never seen anyone live through intracranial pressure in the 90s," Khosla says, though he recognized that Segura did not want to die.

In the next several touch-and-go hours, Segura was put into a drug-induced coma while family members gathered to make critical decisions. Thinking that her husband might get superior care elsewhere, Sue Segura called upon friends in the medical field for referrals.

"I was told, you don't have to go anywhere, you have one of the best doctors in the nation right there," Sue recalls. "Now I believe it was a medical miracle — we had the best doctors in the nation and God was with us."



Brain trust) From left, Ray Segura with his neurological surgeon Deven Khosla.

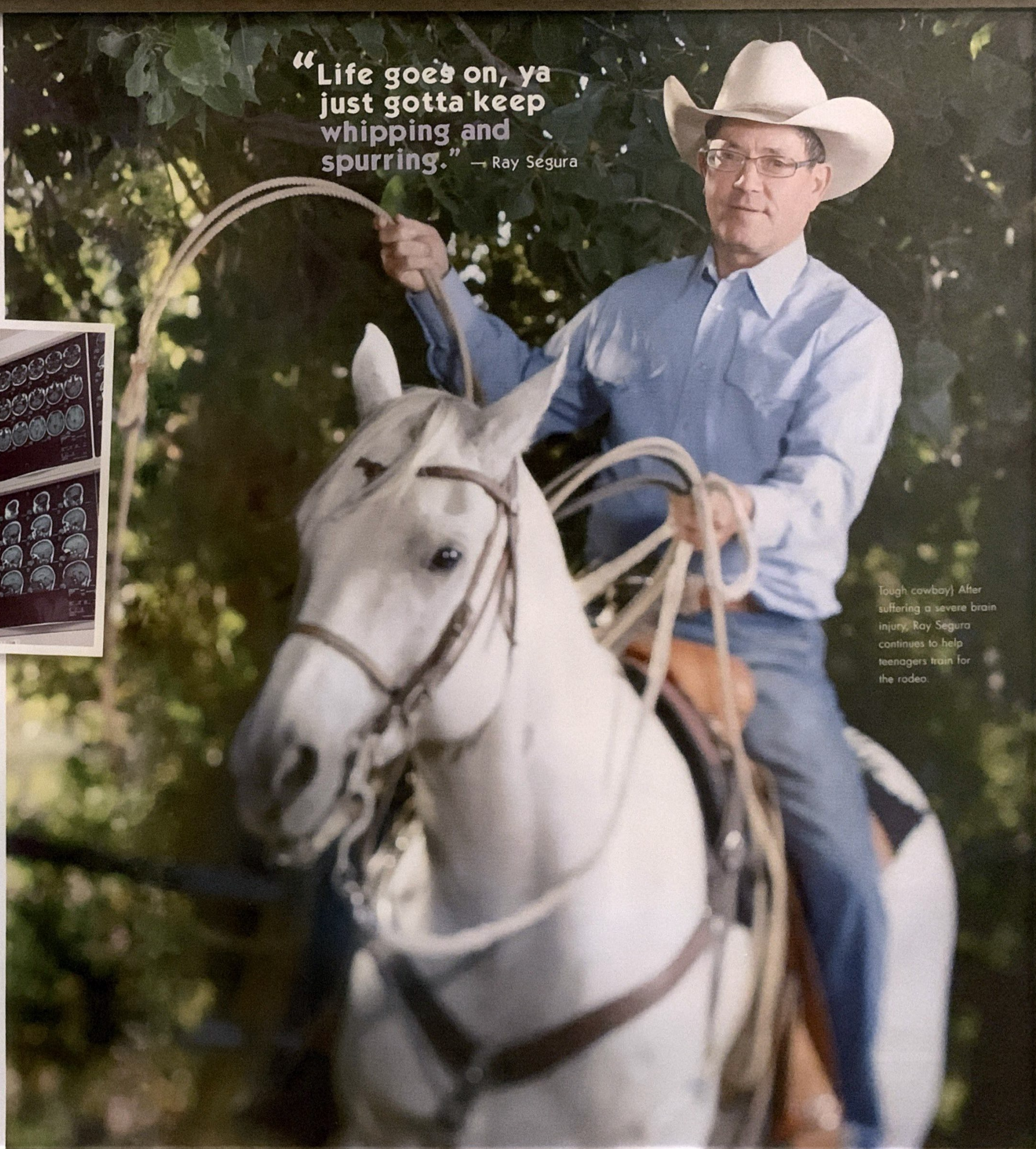
In an incredibly complex bone-flap surgery, Khosla removed a portion of Segura's skull to reduce the damage from brain swelling. Additional surgeries followed, as well as many weeks in a rehabilitation hospital. Today, Segura still struggles with short-term memory and fine motor skills, but he is back on the horse. His wife admits that Segura will "never be the same," but her husband retains his dry wit.

"Life goes on," the stoic cowboy says. "Ya just gotta keep whipping and spurring."

You can help

The Reno Rodeo Foundation is committed to enhancing and enriching the lives of Northern Nevadan families by aiding children with extraordinary needs, building community partnerships, and providing scholarships to the University of Nevada, Reno. For details, visit Renorodeofoundation.org or call 851-3505.

"Life goes on, ya just gotta keep whipping and spurring." — Ray Segura



Tough cowboy) After suffering a severe brain injury, Ray Segura continues to help teenagers train for the rodeo.