It was a day of celebration for Brittney Ferguson and her family as Brittney marked her 20th birthday Tuesday, Jan. 27.

Life as she once knew it changed drastically for Ferguson when she was involved in an auto accident Sept. 25 in Laramie, Wyo., where she was a student at the University of Wyoming.

Now a rehab patient at Craig Hospital in Englewood, Brittney's progress is steady, but very slow.

Her mother Connie reported Monday that this past week was better than the previous one, as Brittney recovered from the dehydration that was making her very sick.

In fact, she was well enough to go out on her first outing to the Stock Show and Rodeo Wednesday, Jan. 21. "She did very well, and never cried all day. She seemed to enjoy it," said Connie.

One day last week, Brittney figured out how to disconnect her feeding tube and just eat it. Her mother joked that she couldn't imagine it tasted good, but Brittney seemed to think she was funny doing it.

Connie added Brittney was pretty tight and toned over the weekend, so she cried a lot. Monday, she did well with therapy and scooted herself around in a wheelchair, propelling herself with her left foot.

"We still don't have a way to communicate with her," said Connie, explaining their way of communicating with their daughter is that she screams, and they have to guess what it is that's bugging her. "It does get hard to take some days," admitted Connie.

Initially hospitalized at Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Brittney suffered a fractured skull, multiple face fractures, broken ribs, a blown eye socket, fractured right ankle and foot wounds, among other traumas.

On Oct. 14, Brittney was moved to Kindred Hospital in Denver, and a month later she relocated to Craig Hospital in Englewood.

Her parents, Rance and Connie, as well as sister Amanda, a junior at HHS, have remained with her for the four months since her accident.

Correspondence can reach Brittney and her family at the following address:
Brittney Ferguson
Craig Hospital
3425 S. Clarkson St.
Englewood, CO 80110

Benefit raffle conducted
for Brittney and her family

Holyoke Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a benefit raffle for the Ferguson family.

The raffle idea was initiated by staff and board at Highline Electric Association, where Rance Ferguson is employed as line superintendent.

There are three prizes in the raffle, including a half beef processed and two quarters of beef processed.

Tickets will be available until the drawing, which will be held at halftime of the boys' varsity basketball game between HHS and Caliche Thursday, Feb. 12 in the HHS gym.

A number of Highline employees, as well as Chamber businesses, have tickets available for purchase. For information, call Highline at 854-2236 or the Chamber office at 854-3517.

Connecting in a family way to the Fergusons, Highline is actively promoting the benefit for

Brittney's family.

Highline board member Steve Oestman and Ron Oestman of Wray are donating the beef for the raffle. Additionally, Wray Meat Packing Plant is donating some of the processing and Chris Wisdom of Wray is donating feed.

Chamber director Mary Tomky noted any local organization interested in conducting a benefit raffle should contact the Chamber for information.