

Royalty Crowned



EVERY TAYLOR PHOTO

The 2018 Sandhills-Thedford Homecoming was held Thursday, October 18 in Thedford. Gage Haake, son of Tony and Jane Haake of Thedford was crowned king. Marlee Taylor, daughter of William and Jamie Taylor, also of Thedford, was crowned queen. Crownbearers were, Paisley Ray, daughter of Seth and Bec Ray, and Cinch Reiser, grandson of Russ and Leigh Reiser.



CELESTE ROGERS PHOTO

Carlie Collier, daughter of Travis and Ann Collier of Dunning, was crowned the 2018 Sandhills Homecoming queen. Ty Bass son of Steve and Teresa Bass of Brewster was crowned king. The coronation was held following the Homecoming football game on Thursday, October 18. The Knights defeated Medicine Valley to clinch a spot in the 2018 D2 Football Playoffs.

Horse & rider team up for tour of Halsey Forest



TERRI LICKING PHOTOS

Pictured above are the riders after they left the trees and rode over some of the vast, rolling hills of the Sandhills that encompass the forest reserve. With a total of 90,000 acres, 22,000 of which are hand-planted forest, the participants enjoyed a multi-faceted ride. Riders and their horses enjoyed wide open spaces and blue skies after riding through the trees.

Halsey - Will Rogers is credited with saying, "The best thing for the inside of a man, is the outside of a horse." That conventional wisdom is even more true in today's world of cell phones, video games and computers, keeping man, woman, and child so wrapped up they do not take time to enjoy the outdoors or other humans, let alone other species.

The weekend of October 6 and 7 saw over 85 equine enthusiasts take the road less traveled away from technology, to enjoy God's and man's handiwork in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey. The forest is located on the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway, NE Highway 2. Riders from all over the state, including Omaha and Lincoln, and the surrounding states of Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, and South Dakota, were in attendance.

The headquarters of the ride is Windmill 125. To get to this point one must travel off the access paved road onto a dirt road where only 4-wheel drive vehicles should be allowed. Forest staff, under the direction of district ranger, Julie Bain, had the area mowed, and the windmill turned on and pumping fresh water. Jody Swisher, 4-H camp staff, provided meals for two days.

This year the annual 4-H benefit trail ride observed its 20th anniversary. It was the first without charter organizer and co-trail box, Gary Stauffer. Stauffer was a longtime UNL extension educator from O'Neill, who passed away from ALS just one week prior to this ride.

Fellow trail boss, Dewey Teel, Neligh, a retired UNL extension educator, led Gary's riderless horse

for the first segment of the ride to honor him. Gary's brother, Monte, also in UNL extension, later rode Gary's horse during the remainder of the rides.

Other committee members and fellow UNL extension educators were Bruce Treffer, Lexington, and Kathy Pothoff, Lincoln. Stuart Sheppard, Nebraska 4-H Foundation director and his staff handled registration. The Licking family of Thedford made sure portable panels were on deck at Windmill 125. Hall Cattle Co. and AL Ranch also donated panels. Weed-free hay is also required on all federal lands and these

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Dewey Teel, co-organizer for all 20 rides, leads fellow co-organizer, Gary Stauffer's riderless horse. Stauffer succumbed to ALS just one week prior to the ride.

MPCC steer wrestler leads the region

A Mid-Plains Community College cowboy is leading the region in steer wrestling following a strong performance in Iowa last weekend.

The MPCC Rodeo Team competed at the Iowa State University Cyclone last Friday and Saturday.

Team member JT Bradley, of Brewster, won the steer wrestling - propelling him to the top of the leaderboards in the Great Plains Regional standings. He wrestled his steer in 3.7 seconds. That jumped him up five spots from sixth place, where he was sitting after the first round, to win the average.

"He did a great job, which is just kind of what we expect out of JT," said Garrett Nokes, MPCC Rodeo Team timed event coach. "He's got the talent to do that every week. I was expecting big things out of him, and I'm real pleased with where he's at halfway through the year."

Bradley also ended up third in the tie-down roping. Clay Bauer, of Arcadia, was second in the tie-down roping and sixth in the team roping alongside JD Draper, of Oakley, Kan. Draper also placed fourth in the steer wrestling.

Sheyenne Hammond, of Valentine, placed second in the breakaway roping, which contributed to MPCC's third place ranking in the women's team standings. The men's team also finished third.

"The team as a whole had a handful of kids do outstanding, and everyone else had a rough weekend," Nokes said. "Draper and Bauer both made it back to the short round in two events, and they kept us in it. The men's team ended with a third place finish, but could have won first very easily. Only three out of our six point-scoring guys made it back to the short go."

All three women on the team qualified for the short round.

"I was really pleased with them," Nokes said. "Mykelsi [Schnose, of Oelrichs, S.D.] slipped up a little bit in the short round in the barrels, and Danielle [Wray, of Ord] had a rare miss in the team roping. It happens to everyone. Danielle is still sitting third in the regional standings, and I expect her to end up in the top two in the region."

Despite starting out slow this season, Hammond has had a phenomenal last two rodeos. She also competes in barrel racing and team roping for the college, but breakaway is her strongest event.

"She's really been stepping up and putting a lot of time and effort into it, and it shows," Nokes said. "She and Koby [Jacobson, of Haiku, Hawaii] probably could have made it to the short go, but they drew a hard dragging steer, and her horse could hardly pull him. All that aside, she's got to feel really good about how things are going. It's fun for me to be a part of."

The fall rodeos will wrap up with the rescheduled Sisseton Wahpeton College Rodeo in Sisseton, S.D. November 1-2.



COURTESY PHOTO

Brewster cowboy, JT Bradley leads the region in steer wrestling

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Prairie Feed Supply,
LLC
- Notice Of Sale Of Real
Property By The Village
Of Halsey To The Public

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News Briefs

Farmers and ranchers are invited to attend a free one-on-one, confidential clinic. The clinic staff specialize in legal and financial issues related to farming and ranching, including financial planning, estate and transition planning, farm loan programs, debtor-creditor law, and water rights. The clinic will be held November 15 at North Platte. For more information contact Michelle at 1-800-464-0258.