

Nebraska’s “Oldest Junior Rodeo” tradition continues

The Annual Dunning Junior Rodeo is set for Wednesday, July 4, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Blaine County Fairgrounds in Dunning.

This is one of the oldest junior rodeos in Nebraska and continues its fourth of July tradition the western way. Youngsters will compete for all-around buckles and cash prizes and will include ages 0 to 18 years.

The young athletes are divided into four groups, 0-6 years, 7-10 years, 11-14 years and 15-18 years. The youngest competitors will compete in events including the penny shower and stock horse racing, while the older children will compete in dummy roping, barrels, poles, goat tying, calf riding, tie down roping and team roping.

A concession stand will be available at the fairgrounds.

For more information contact Mel Coffman, 308-



LINDA TEAHON PHOTO

Quinton Jones, Stapleton, brings his pony home in the barrel race.

539-1562 or Cindy Coffman, 308-538-2654. Entries can also be found online at www.youthrodeo-ne.com. Entries are due June 25 and must be

postmarked by June 22.

Plan now to enjoy a day with friends along the beautiful Dismal River for some rodeo fun!

Annual “Sandhills Days” Celebration is June 30

Join your family and friends for a fun-filled day at the annual “Sandhills Days” celebration in Halsey. This year’s event is set for Saturday, June 30, at the Halsey Park.

Schedule of events includes:

- 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament benefitting the Sandhills Alumni Scholarship Fund at the Halsey Gym - 9:30 a.m. To enter, or for more information, go to www.sasf.weebly.com or call 402-322-0579.

- Spuds and Sundaes at the community building - 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Purdum Women’s Fellowship.

These afternoon and evening events are sponsored by the Halsey Service Club, Inc., d/b/a The Halsey/Purdum Service



Club.

- Games in the Park - 1:30 p.m. - Children’s games; cake walks; face painting; turtle races; card bingo; kissing booth. Something for everyone of all ages!

- Buffalo/Beef barbecue at 6:00 p.m. This is a free will donation barbecue!

Extra meat packages will be auctioned after the meal.

- Duck Race - Middle Loup River. Finish at John’s Bridge - 7:30 p.m.

- Fireworks display at dusk. All donations for fireworks are greatly appreciated.

Thomas Participates In 24th Annual Masonic All-Star Marching Band

Savannah Thomas, from Thedford High School, is one of 262 high school students from across Nebraska who participated in the 24th Annual Masonic All-Star Marching Band, which performed Saturday (June 2) during Shrine Bowl festivities in Kearney.

Thomas is the daughter of John & Terri Thomas of Seneca.

The band members devoted four days of intense practice starting May 29, to learn the music, marching steps and field formations. The band gave their first public performance with a public concert at Harmon Park on Friday evening (June 1). The band led the Shrine Bowl Parade down Kearney’s Central and 1st Avenue on Saturday morning (June 2), and it also performed the pre-game National Anthem and during half-time of the 60th Annual Shrine Bowl football game at Ron & Carol Cope Stadium, on Foster Field, at the University of Nebraska—Kearney.

The band members were hosted by the Masons of Nebraska, and were directed by Brad Weber, retired Band Director from Wayne High School, currently Instructor of Percussion at Wayne State College; Dan Sodomka, Band Director at Aurora High School; and Dr. Dave Bohnert, Director of Bands at Wayne State College. Thomas received a scholarship from Seneca Lodge No. 284. The scholarship covered the costs of the camp.

“We demanded a lot of the students during the past week,” Weber said. “They responded professionally and worked very hard. That was evident by the high-quality shows they performed Friday and Saturday. There’s no doubt these young musicians are among the best in the state.”

Coupled with hard work, the members also participated in a pool party, bowling, and a dance. Many are looking forward to the opportunity to use the instruction provided by the band directors when they return to their respective high school bands.

“The band members worked hard during the week preparing for the Shrine Bowl performances,” said Patrick Barger, Grand Master of Nebraska Masons. “They also had a lot of fun meeting new people and enjoyed



COURTESY PHOTO

the activities, but they also understand the main reason for the long hours and hard work. Patients at the Shriners Hospitals for Children will benefit the most from the band’s efforts this past week. We sincerely appreciate their contribution to raise awareness and funds to enable the Shriners to help even more children.”

“Masonic lodges across Nebraska support local youth and community projects, humanitarian efforts including a child identification program, academic scholarships, and efforts to support our military,” Barger said. “At the statewide level, the Grand Lodge helps to maintain two homes: The Nebraska Masonic Home at Plattsmouth for Masons and their female relatives, and the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont. The combined philanthropic efforts of Masonic-related organizations amount to more than \$2 million a day.”

Freemasonry is the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world and is based on the lessons of living a life of brotherhood and high moral standards as portrayed symbolically in the work of stone masons who built the cathedrals, abbeys and castles of Europe.



Pastor Marton Novak

TERRI LICKING

Pastor Sunny Ridings conducted her last service for the Thomas County United Church of Christ triple parishes in Halsey, Thedford, and Seneca, on Sunday, May 20. All three of her church congregations came together at Seneca to hear her last sermon and to treat her and her husband, David, and son, Douglas, to a grand send-off. A potluck dinner was held after the service in the community hall. There had been a farewell reception at the Thedford UCC the day before and people in the community had two choices of sending the family off with well wishes as they moved back to Tennessee. The move will enable them to be closer to David’s family.

“I was closer to my family in Kansas City,

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2018 parade theme

The Thedford Service Club met at the Sandhills Corral for their monthly meeting, Monday, June 4. The main topic of discussion was planning for the Thomas County Fair. This year’s dates are Thursday, July 26 to Sunday, July 29.

This year’s parade will go down the route Saturday, July 28 at 11:00 a.m., under the theme, “Anything Goes.” Line-up will begin at the ball park at 10:30 a.m.

“In the past, no matter what we decided for a theme, people said they just didn’t know how to carry it out in a float,” said Jay Jones, Service Club member. “They can’t say that this year.”

Get your creativity flowing and enter this year’s Thomas County Fair parade. There are no individual categories. First place winner will receive \$100; second place, \$50; and third place \$25. There is also \$50 for the winning family float. Wayne Licking has won this award the last two years with his fire truck hauling his grandchildren.



There will be narrative sheets placed in various business places soon. Come on and join with - “Anything Goes.” Of course it must be G-rated, fun for all!

Some of the other activities during fair include 4-H activities starting off the week. Exhibits for 4-H and open class will be entered on Thursday. There will be a rodeo on Friday with slack at 1:00 p.m. and the main event at 7:00 p.m. The rodeo is sponsored by the Ag Society.

There will be a pedal tractor pull at 4:00 p.m. under the pavilion on Friday, along with night golf that evening.

Saturday begins with a

fishing tournament, breakfast at the Life Center, and the parade. All events then move out to the fairgrounds. The Historical Society will hold a lunch stand at noon, there will be kid’s games, Bingo, mud volleyball, 4-H livestock sales, a watermelon feed, and free will donation pit roasted barbecue. New this year will be a river triathlon. Contact Sandhills River Trips at Ewoldt’s Grocery at 308-645-2235 for details.

The 2018 Thomas County Fair will conclude Sunday with the American Legion and Auxiliary serving pancakes, followed by a community church service on the courthouse square.

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Thomas Co. Blood Drive

A blood drive will be conducted in Thedford at the Thomas County Fair Building, Monday, July 2, from noon until 6:00 p.m.

For an appointment, call Joy Miles at 308-748-2297.

Free T-shirt! Come and give blood July 2-7 for an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt while supplies last!

Thedford Baseball & T-Ball Games

The Thedford area youth will be hosting Mullen on Thursday, June 21, at the Ball Diamond in Thedford. T-Ball games begin at 5:00 p.m. and baseball at 6:30 p.m. The youth will be in Stapleton on June 23 for a tournament.

See complete story & pictures on Page 7.

Local Youth Participate In Junior Rodeo Bible Camp

Several area youth participated in the C Bar C Junior Rodeo Bible Camp held recently north of Ringgold.

Find story, pictures and complete results of the many activities on Page 7 inside this issue.

Watch For Area Rodeo Results Next Week