

Alumni gather for annual THS banquet



Class of 1957. Front row, l-r: Nikki (Hanna) Mousel and Mary Ann (Florea) Mintle. Middle row, l-r: Allan Jameson, Rena (Ayres) Piel, and Bill Peters. Back row, l-r: Gerald Ritenour, Gene Piel, and Ron Blauvelt.



Class of 1947 - Doris (Hickman) Bowen.



Class of 1977 - Bobbi DeNaeyer.



Class of 1967. Front row, l-r: Shari (Pound) Jensen, Alice (Weil) Chase, Nancy (Hilderhoff) Isom, Mary (Licking) Feyerherm, Lynne (Baxter) Johnson. Middle row, l-r: Marlyn Miller, Dean Figard, Lyle Neal, Ron Dubry. Back row, l-r: Dean Andersen and Allen Andersen.

Pictures & Story
By Verla Hamilton

The annual Thedford High School Alumni Banquet was held Saturday, June 17, 2017, at the Thedford High School. Dinner was prepared and catered by Reta Teahon of Halsey,

and served by Parker Ballenger, Tucker Ballenger, Morgan Rines-tine, and Marlee Taylor, members of the Family, Community, Career, Leadership of America organization (FCCLA), under the direction of Rosalea Gift. Mya Essman, Cameron Carr, and Sierra Carr, grand-

children of Rosalea and Leon Gift and Marilyn and Bill Essman, also helped serve the meal. Rosa Lee Hamilton provided dinner music by playing several songs on the keyboard.

The following people read the members of the class members of
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Locals qualify for National High School Rodeo Competition



Brewster Cowboy, JT Bradley, repeated as the NHSRA All-Around Cowboy. He is headed to Nationals this year as the Nebraska Boy's Cutting and Steer Wrestling State Champion. He also qualified in the Tie Down Roping event.

By Ruth Nicolaus

The Nebraska High School Rodeo season wrapped up with the high school finals in Hastings at the Adams County Fairgrounds. Rodeo athletes from across the Corn-husker State competed in two go-rounds on June 15-16 and the short go-round on June 17. The top four contestants in each of twelve events were determined, and they will go on to compete at the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming, July 16-22.

Champions from the 2017 Finals are: Gauge McBride, Kearney, bare-back riding; JT Bradley, Brewster, boys cutting; Morgan Kessler, Callaway, girls cutting and break-away roping; Maddee Doerr, Creighton, goat tying; Grant Turek, St. Paul, tie-down roping; Sage Miller, Springview, saddle bronc riding; Brook Jamison, Ashby, barrel racing and pole bending; Zane Patrick, Bartlett, and JT Bradley, Brewster, co-champions in the steer wrestling; Mason Ward, North Platte, bull riding; and Tee Whited and Rio Whited, North Platte, team roping.

The year-end all-around winners were JT Bradley, Brewster (boys), and Brook Jamison, Ashby (girls).

Reserve all-around champs were Gauge McBride, Kearney (boys) and Maddee Doerr, Creighton (girls). Rookie of the year went to Gracie Pokorny, Bartlett, (girls) and Gauge McBride, Kearney (boys). The V-Bar Sales Men's Timed Event Trailer was awarded to Gus Franzen of Kearney. The 2017-2018 Nebraska

High School Rodeo Queen is Joscelyn Soncksen of Lexington.

Bull riding champion
Mason Ward

Mason Ward led the pack of bull riders in the Nebraska High School Rodeo Association all year long.

The North Platte resident, who will be a junior at McPherson County High School this fall, broke his ankle at the 2016 National High School Finals Rodeo in July of last year, and ended up sitting out the first three rodeos of the fall season. But then he never looked back, winning first at eight rodeos (O'Neill, Grand Island, Nelson, Callaway, McCook, Mitchell, Harrison and Crawford), and placing second at Stapleton.

He entered state finals in first place, and won the title with a total of 129.5 points, more than forty points ahead of the number two bull rider, Conner Halverson.

Ward knows the mindset of a bull rider has to be positive. "You have to believe in yourself, and you can't ever fight your head. You have to go at it 100 percent." He describes his attitude towards bull riding as "grinding" away.

Ward also plays football and wrestles at McPherson County High School and is on the honor roll.

This will be his second qualification for the National High School Finals. At state in Hastings, Ben Wood, Greeley, was the only bull rider out of six riders to cover two of his three bulls; two riders covered one of three (Ward and Halverson).

Ward is the son of a former bull rider, Mark, and his wife Kelly.

Bareback Riding:
Champion: Gauge

McBride, Kearney
2. Ty Richardson, Ainsworth
3. Trey Seevers, North Platte

Boys Cutting:
Champion: JT Bradley, Brewster

2. Josh Powers, Arthur
3/4 tie Chase Miller, Broken Bow
3/4 tie Mark Kasperbauer, Spalding

Girls Cutting:
Champion: Morgan Kessler, Callaway

2. Kesha DeGroff, Broken Bow
3. Concey Bader, Palmer

4. Bayli Bilby, Chadron
Goat Tying:

Champion: Maddee Doerr, Creighton
2. Shelby Spanel, Anselmo

3. Mataya Eklund, Valentine
4/5 tie Rachael Calvo, Bassett

4/5 tie Riata Day, Fleming, Colo.
Tie-Down Roping
Champion: Grant Turek, St. Paul

2. Kurtis Palmer, Madison
3. Will Thiele, Atkinson

4. JT Bradley, Brewster
Saddle Bronc Riding
Champion: Sage Miller, Springview

2. Wyatt Kunkee, Lexington

3. Garrett Long, Valentine

4. Trey Seevers, North Platte

Barrel Racing
Champion: Brook Jamison, Ashby

2. Rachael Calvo, Bassett
3. Shenyenne Hammond, Valentine

4. Bailey Witt, Valentine
Breakaway Roping

Champion: Morgan Kessler, Callaway

2. Maddee Doerr, Creighton

3. Brittini McCully, Mullen

4. Georgie Lage, Arthur
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Obituary

- Marilyn M. Maseberg



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