

Girls State legacy

Marlee Taylor of Thedford, followed in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother by attending Cornhusker Girls State in Lincoln, June 3-9, 2018.

Taylor, now a senior at Thedford High School, was able to learn about government and how it functions.

She attended exactly 50 years after her grandmother, Vicki (Dunning) Ray, who went in 1968 while attending Shelby High School. Taylor's mother, Jamie (Ray) Taylor attended in 1991 as a junior at Thedford High School.

Cornhusker Girls State emphasizes the importance of political knowledge and the voting process. All girls have the opportunity to pick a town, county, or state office to run for.

Taylor ran for State Attorney. She did not get the position and was appointed to be Superintendent of the State Troopers.

During the week, Taylor also participated in many debates and assemblies for her appointed party as a Nationalist.

Participants were able to hear speakers, including Nebraska football coach, Scott Frost; Nebraska volleyball coach, John Cook; Nebraska men's and women's basketball



COURTESY PHOTO
Marlee Taylor poses with Governor Pete Ricketts during Cornhusker Girls State in Lincoln. Marlee is a third generation Girls State attendee, following in the footsteps of her grandmother, Vicki (Dunning) Ray, who went in 1968, and her mother, Jamie (Ray) Taylor in 1991.

coaches, Tim Miles and Amy Williams; former Nebraska Governor Kay Orr; speaker Dr. Jo Owens; past Girls National President, Kamryn Sannicks; and Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts.

Tours included the Capi-

tol building where Taylor learned about the artistry and architectural history of the Capitol. She also toured the National Guard and learned about duties, equipment, and many unique aircrafts and weapons.

Local company awarded government contract



COURTESY PHOTO

Black Hills National Forest at Custer, South Dakota, recently awarded a contract to Diamond R Ranch Supply, Inc., of Thedford, for 84 steel fabricated greenhouse tables, 13' long and powder coated painted.

The tables were fabricated in the Diamond R. Supply, Inc. fabrication shop and delivered to the Bessey Nursery at Halsey.

Diamond R. Ranch Supply, Inc. was also awarded, by the Thedford Fire Department, the firemen's lockers, the PCBA cabinet, and the sign in front of the new Thedford Fire Station, which were all powder coat painted.

Ballot Certified

LINCOLN - Secretary of State John Gale has announced that the final list of candidates for offices across the state has been reviewed and certified by his office.

"My office has finalized the certification of candidates that file with the State of Nebraska," Gale said, "This certification is a vital part of the process and ensures that candidate names and party affiliations are listed correctly, among other details."

The 2018 general election ballot will also allow

voters to vote on expanding Medicaid Eligibility with Initiative Measure 427, following the submission of signatures to the Secretary of State and the dismissal by the Nebraska Supreme Court of a lawsuit challenging its placement.

"In accordance with the placement of this initiative measure on the ballot, my office will be hosting a hearing in each of the three congressional districts," said Gale. "These sessions will allow Nebraskans to have their questions addressed and

are required under state law." The announcement of the dates and locations of these hearings are forthcoming.

In addition, informational pamphlets on Initiative Measure 427 are being created by the Secretary of State's office. They will be available in county election official offices and the office of the Secretary of State by the end of September.

The certified list of candidates for the General Election ballot in Thomas County may be found inside this issue.

Bradley wins steer wrestling

MPCC rodeo team takes first at Wisconsin

The Mid-Plains Community College Rodeo Team set the bar high during its first competition of the season.

MPCC's men's team placed first and the women's team came in third at the Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo in River Falls, Wisconsin.

"I'm real proud of the kids," said Garrett Nokes, MPCC Rodeo Team timed event coach. "They've had three weeks of practice now and hit the ground running. They're a very competitive group. It's kind of like turning pit bulls loose in the practice pen. They want to win, and they are very team-oriented. So, they're pushing themselves and each other, and they get along awesome. It's been a really fun start to the year."

JD Draper, of Oakley, Kansas, was named Men's All-Around Champion after finishing third in the steer wrestling and fourth in the tie-down roping.

Several other MPCC Rodeo Team members proved they are a force to be reckoned with as well. Individual results are as follows:

Steer wrestling: First - JT Bradley, Brewster; Second - Austin Madison, Whiting, Iowa; Fifth - Blake Henry, Rushville.

Saddle Broncs: Second - Lane Kennedy, Orleans, NE.

Team roping: Third - Danielle Wray, Ord; Fourth - Sean Miller and Seth Pearson, both of Callaway

Tie-down roping: Sixth - Caden Kinderknecht, WaKeeney, Kansas.

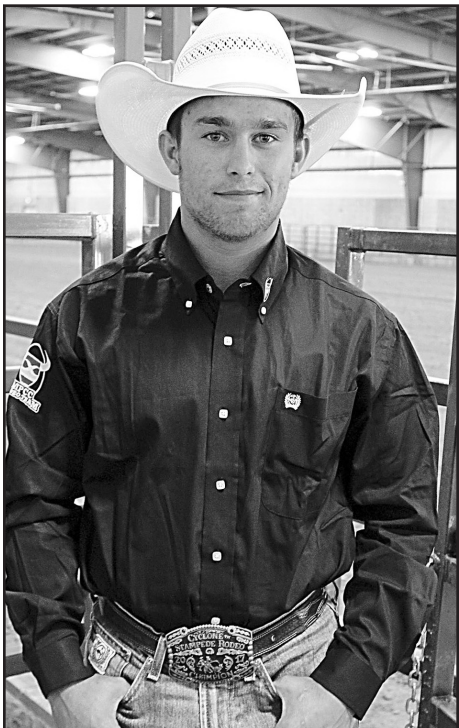
"We had six of our eight steer wrestlers in the short-go," Nokes said. "I would say we will probably have six steer wrestlers in the top 10 at the end of the year. They want it bad and are working hard. We can't ask much more than that."

He's looking forward to watching everyone improve and advance this season.

"I'm very, very happy with how the kids did," said Nokes. "But, I think at the end of the year we're going to look back and think this was just an average rodeo for us."

The rodeo team hosted their "MPCC Stampede Rodeo" at the Wild West arena last weekend.

The Iowa Central Community College rodeo will be held September 28 and 29 at Fort Dodge, Iowa; Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College Rodeo is set for October 10 and 11; North Dakota State University Rodeo is October 12 and 13; and Iowa State University Rodeo is October 19 and 20 at Ames, Iowa.



COURTESY PHOTO

J.T. Bradley, Brewster, won the steer wrestling event at the Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo in River Falls, Wisconsin.

Senator Brewer questions Whooping Crane data

I recently learned that NPPD has retained outside legal counsel in Denver and Washington, D.C., for the purpose of "Government Services" - also known as a lobbyist. The aim of this lobbyist is to try to influence the USFWS Office in Denver to ensure a favorable outcome for the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to NPPD's R-Project. I have very serious concerns about this. I want to

make sure there isn't any undue influence being applied to the US Fish and Wildlife Service by a public utility that is owned by the citizens of Nebraska. Those citizens, many of whom I represent, do not want their public utility doing this.

I recently mailed a letter to the Regional Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Denver with copies to Governor Ricketts, Sena-

tor Deb Fischer, Senator Ben Sasse Congressman Adrian Smith and the Director of the USFWS. The Denver office has supervisory authority over the USFWS office in Nebraska that is preparing the EIS for Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) R-Project.

This is the 225-mile high-voltage power-line

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