

Cowboy Crowned World Champion



COURTESY PHOTO

Friends and family welcomed World Champion cowboy, Coy Johnston home from Gillette, Wyoming on Sunday, July 24. Pictured above with signs made for Coy's welcome are, l-r: Heather Harwager, Cotter Johnston, Jason Johnston, Coy, Johnston, Cayson Johnston, Jennifer Johnston, Connie O'Brien and Michele Needs at the Johnston family ranch west of Stapleton.

Marcia Hora

Stapleton cowboy Coy Johnston said he wasn't nervous, but his mom and grandma sure were, as he set up in the box for his final run at the 2022 National High School

Rodeo Finals held last week in Gillette, Wyoming.

Johnston, who was the last person to go in the short go handled the pressure to win the world title 60 years to the day his grandfather, Jim Johnston won the national bull rid-

ing title in 1962. He clocked a cumulative time of 13.79 seconds over his three runs to win the average and title.

Johnston was the first one out in the first go and set the pace with the fastest time of 4.14. He followed that with a time of

4.86 in the second go and placed 7th, and posted the 4th best time in the short go Saturday night at 4.79.

It was the culmination of a rodeo career that began at the age of four. "I practice bulldogging two days a week and something else every night," Johnston said. "Rodeo is what our family has always done."

The 18-year-old will be a senior at Stapleton High School this fall where he also participates in foot-

ball and basketball.

Johnston made it to state this year in team roping and calf roping and was the Nebraska State High School Rodeo Steer Wrestling Champion. He also brought home the timed event trailer.

"Ote Barry called me yesterday to congratulate me," Johnston said. "He was the national steer wrestling champion in 1980 and while I was at nationals, I competed in the Ote Barry Junior

World Championships and placed third in the jackpot to qualify for Vegas."

Johnston adds his name to the list of Nebraskans winning the world steer wrestling title, in addition to Berry, and includes Casey McPeak in 1976; Jim Will in 1967; Bill Hammond in 1965; and Tony Weise in 1963.

Johnston's dad is also a two time Nebraska State Steer Wrestling Champion with titles in 1990 and 1991. His uncles on both sides also made it to nationals.

Johnston gives a lot of credit to his horse, Jazz, and hazing horse, Freckles.

"I couldn't have any better horses. They're good. I started using Jazz my sophomore year and he was my mom's barrel horse. He likes steer wrestling better than he liked barrels. I also have to credit my dad who is a great hazer. He knows what he's doing."

Johnston said none of his achievements in the rodeo arena would be possible without the support

See Johnston
Page 2

Coffee Anyone?



Frequent visitors, especially on Fridays at the newest business in Dunning, enjoy early morning coffee and treats with friends, l-r: Linda Teahon, Carol Thompson, JeanAnn Teahon, GeriAnn Smith and Tim Buchtel.

Photos & Story By:
Terri Licking

Dunning in Blaine County, population 80, has added a new business this summer.

Lil' Bits, a coffee shop owned by James and Jodi Swisher, is now open in the Dunning business district.

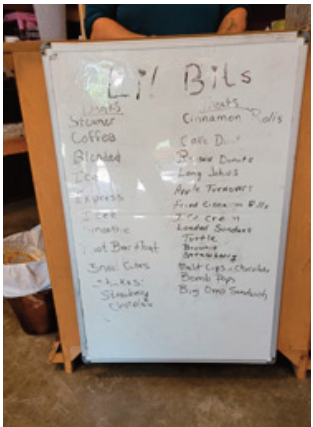
The Swishers purchased a house and converted the garage into an early morning gathering place and their daughter, Pebbles, is the manager.

"We are open from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and along with coffee, espresso and flavors to enhance them, there are cinnamon rolls, donuts, long johns, ice cream treats and other goodies. Mom Jodi is the chief cook and bottlewasher at the State 4-H Camp in the forest west of Halsey and that keeps her busy. Dad is our handyman when needed. My sister April Smith, Thedford, has her own business "Made Sweet by April," which offers baking delicacies and helps make our baked goods as well," Pebbles said.

Lil' Bits is located on the west end of the Sandhills Dunning football field.

After crossing the Dismal River, take the first turn as you are coming from the east, or the last turn as you are leaving town.

"The previous owner had many a tailgate party when the Sandhills-Thedford Knights football team had games. We do not know what the future holds. We are just glad to have another gathering place for early morning coffee enthusiasts or for those who just want to catch up on the latest local news. Norm's Sinclair station on the highway as you come from the west offers coffee and other food items."



The menu is full of yummy homemade treats for people to enjoy with their coffee.

Evans Feed Company Continues Business On The Scenic By-Way

Photos & Story By:
Linda Teahon

Evans Feed Company Inc. of Broken Bow has a long history in the feed business.

Founded in 1927 by Clyde and Vava Arnold, the company has always been a full service feed store. Today the business is owned and operated by grandson Mike Evans and wife Amber. They purchased the thriving business in 1995. The location at 142 South 10th Ave. has stayed the same all throughout its history.

Serving central Nebraska not just in Broken Bow, but they also own and operate a satellite store in Oconto.

Open five days a week and till 2 p.m. on Saturdays, customers can pick up chicken, dog, cat, pig, sheep, goat, horse and cattle feed as well as bird seed. Deer feed has lately become quite popular. Also offered is milk replacer, mineral and salt. The warehouse in Broken Bow is the historic FA Bates building. Always a



good supply of inventory is on hand.

Evans Feed buys local grains from area farmers. They rent grain elevators for storage and have five delivery trucks on the road five days a week delivering bulk feeds. Fifteen - 20 employees make sure customers are served in a timely manner.

Mike says "We have a lot

of really good farmers and ranchers in the area." He also states that "book-keeping is most important," and Amber is in charge of that area.

The couple is heavily involved in the Custer Economic Development Corporation, Lions and contributes to many local activities including area county fairs.

Mike spends a lot of time volunteering on projects at The Barn which is known as the visitors center of the Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway.

Mike and Amber, their two children and families look forward to 2027 as they will then celebrate 100 years of family owned feed business.