



# McPherson County News

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Serving McPherson County & Tryon, Nebraska

## MCHS alumni gather for annual reunion



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the 60 year honor class of 1957, l-r: Larry Neal, Marla (Connell) Sonnenfelt, Ilene (Power) Daly, Don Leeds, Charles Haskell, Charles Trumbull, Vernon Waits, and Riley Shimmin.

Approximately 70 members and guests enjoyed the chicken fried steak meal, prepared by Kathleen Fisher at the McPherson County High School Alumni Reunion held May 27, 2017, in the high school auditorium. They were joined by approximately 23 more members and guests to spend the evening dancing to Top Shelf Country, and visiting with old friends.

A lot of interest was generated by a quilt raffle. The quilt was a friendship quilt, made by ladies in the community in 1955. Kathryn Kahoe Compton (1942 graduate) donated the quilt as a fund raiser for the alumni organization. She said her mother, Rose Musser Kahoe, had won the quilt in a raffle. Everyone enjoyed viewing the signatures embroidered on the blocks of the quilt.

Maudene Haskell Sowders (1958), held the winning ticket. Her mother's name was on the quilt. The quilt raised almost \$600. A silent auction of other donated items was also held.

About \$1,200 was donated to the scholarship fund. New officers for the coming year will be Ed Sowders, president; Errol Waits, vice president; Ilene Power Daly, secretary; and Rochelle Rodewald Kemp, co-secretary. Gayle Neal will continue to keep the address list up to date and edit the newsletter.

**Priest-Worden Reunion is July 9**  
Mark your calendars for July 9. This is the date of the Priest-Worden Reunion. The picnic will be at the North Platte Senior Center at 901 E. 10th Street. Music and devotions will be held at 11:30 a.m. with a carry-in dinner at 12:30 p.m. Please note the change of place. The auditorium is available if kids are with an adult.

## From the Graphic Files

### TEN YEARS AGO JULY 5, 2007

Attending Bible School on Friday were, Katie Powers, Carl Yonker, Kendal Neal, Wyatt Hammit, Garrett Hammit, Elizabeth Fanchy, Brianna Powers, Madison Yonker, Michael Curtis, Garrett Neal, Jincy Starr, Haley Munson, Maggie Waits, Wyatt Olson and Wiley Munson.

The Mullen and Tryon United Methodist Churches welcomed their new pastor on Sunday, June 28. Lynda Parson will officially begin duties on July 1.

The Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben and the Nebraska Fair Managers Association have announced the 189 honorees for the 2007 Pioneer Farm Family Awards. Vernon Waits of Tryon was among those to be honored.

### TWENTY YEARS AGO JULY 3, 1997

Bible School children at the Tryon United Methodist Church pictured were: Mara Seifer, Molly Hinkle, Logan Krull, Eric Trumbull, Cody Rutan, Logan Rutan,

Michelle Neal, Tanis Pettit, Katie Hamilton, Aleasha Rutan, Whitney Trumbull, Ben Cochran, Duell Arensdorf, Talia Miller, Jacob Sowders, Tasha Miller, Derek Neal, Kate Seifer, Alison Sowders, Stacy Neal, Brittany Pettit, Jamie Fisher, Emil Krull, Dale Riley Arensdorf, Taylor Hall and Taylor Waits.

Rev. Clifford Fryda, the new pastor for the Mullen-Tryon United Methodist Church starts July 1.

Mr. Dennis D. Krominga, the new superintendent for McPherson County High School, began his duties at Tryon this week for District No. 90.

### THIRTY YEARS AGO JULY 2, 1987

Herbert L. Karre, a 57-year-old rural Stapleton man, was killed at about 7:00 p.m. June 23, 1987, in an accident at the Eldon Starr ranch north of Ringgold, when he was mauled by a 2600 pound bull while crossing a corral. His funeral services were held June 26 in North Platte.

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## Lincoln-Logan-McPherson FSA County Committee Nominations Currently Being Accepted

Bruce Solko, County Executive Director for the Lincoln-Logan-McPherson County Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that farmer and rancher candidate nominations are currently being accepted for the local FSA County Committee (COC) election. Nominations are being accepted in Local Administrative Areas (LAA) 1, which covers all the northwestern third of Lincoln County and Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, which covers the southwestern third of Lincoln County. Nominations must be received by August 1, 2017 with the election taking place in November. Ballots will be tabulated in early December.

To be eligible to serve on a FSA COC a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a COC election and reside in the area in which the person is a candidate.

Producers may nominate themselves or others and organizations representing minorities and

women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA COC elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/> elections or you may visit any local FSA office to obtain a copy. Nomination forms for the County Committee election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by close of business August 1, 2017.

FSA COC members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA. They help deliver FSA farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on committees help decide the kind of programs their counties will offer. They work to make FSA agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers.

"Life is ironic. It takes sadness to know happiness, noise to appreciate silence, and absence to value presence." ~ Quotes Central

Recently I attended and helped with a friend's 80th birthday party. We had a great time and a big hi-lite was that an almost 102 year old friend was able to attend. He had known her since she was a baby. The stories of their lives could fill a couple of books I am sure. I've known both of them for nearly 20 years and the quotes I have chosen tell how they handle what life throws at them.

Life can be so interesting. My Jeep recently acted like it was trying to overheat so I took it to the mechanic. They couldn't get it to overheat but they did catch a rear wheel bearing that needed replaced. I have to wonder if the overheating incident may have been a wake-up call to take it to the shop! We never know when what seems to be bad at the time may actually be a blessing in disguise.

Struggles are required in order to survive in life, because in order to stand up, you have to know what falling down is like. Stay POSITIVE!

"You must take personal

## Locals qualify for National High School Rodeo Competition

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 Cornhusker 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, bareback riding; JT Bradley, Brewster, boys cutting; Morgan Kessler, Callaway, girls cutting and breakaway 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, Kear-



Sandall Photography

MCHS Cowboy, Mason Ward, was crowned the Nebraska State Bull riding champion at the 2017 NHSRA Finals in Hastings.

ney (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 DeGross, 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. Sheyenne 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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## Over The Hills

By J.R. Trumbull



responsibility. You cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the wind, but you can change yourself. That is something you have

charge of" ~ Jim Rohn  
"Equality is about giving everyone an equal chance, not giving everyone an equal result." ~ Unknown

### WHIRLWIND

When life becomes a whirlwind  
And you're not sure which way is up,  
Just remember one thing,  
Don't ever, ever stop!

Don't ever stop praying  
As life goes on its way,  
Just keep on doing the right thing  
No matter what the sway.

When someone comes knockin'  
And you're not sure the intent,  
Just cast it all on Jesus  
And you'll be far more content.

When life seems all against you  
And nothing seems for good,  
Just keep your eyes on Him  
And act as you know He would.

Sometimes you get discouraged  
By life's many tough rejections.  
It's hard to hang on  
And deal with the emotions.

It's hard to keep on praying  
When all seems so unfair  
Then comes the light  
As Jesus our burden bears.

Opportunities never dreamed of,  
Doors open in places unknown,  
Provision made in every case  
Cared for by Father and Son.

Whirlwinds bring pruning,  
Some for good and others bad.  
Man's decisions without God  
So often make me sad.

God provides for each of us  
If on Him you do rely  
But if you're leaning on yourself,  
You're leaning on a lie!

To God be the glory  
For all He provides!  
Keep looking to Him  
As your life He guides.

J.R. Trumbull  
30 July 2006