

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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NO. 48

Auxiliary Meets In May

Five members were present at the May 14 meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Steidley-Kayton Unit #230 meeting. The treasurer's report was approved and bills for cleaning the building and supplies for a total of \$76.65 was approved. Also a bill of \$270 to the Village of Thedford for March through August was approved.

All memberships have been collected. The Annual Convention will be held June 22-24 in Kearney. The Auxiliary will do tray favors for Western NE Vet's home in April 2019. Copies of the Constitution were available for all members.

Memorial Day services were held May 20 with a potluck afterwards. Poppies were also sold that day. Miles Maseberg was the speaker and Ewoldt's and Mintle's sang. Marlee Taylor played taps.

The Auxiliary will not have a float in the Thomas County Parade.

Election of officers will be held at the September meeting, because not enough members were available to fill the positions.

Watch next week's issue for the 2018 Thomas County Fair Parade Theme.

High School Athletes Qualify For State

The Nebraska High School Rodeo Finals got underway on Wednesday, June 13 in Hastings. The top thirty individuals in each of the 13 events will vie for the top spots and the chance to represent Nebraska at the 2018 National High School Rodeo Finals in Rock Springs, Wyoming, July 15th through the 21st.

Event Leaders:

Bareback Riding - 1. Trey SeEVERS, North Platte; 2. Gauge McBride, Kearney; 3. Jared Schultis, Tryon.
Barrel Racing - 1. Bailey Witt, Valentine; 2. Lexie Lowery, Burwell; 3. Sydney Adamson, Cody; 4. Reece Stanley, Sidney; 5. Mable McAbee, Ansley; 6. Madison Stracke, Stuart; 7. Madison Mills, Edenville; 8. Jaylee Simonson, Dunning; 9. Shanna Bailey, Lakeside; 10. Brooke Becker, Hastings; 11. Brooke McCully, Mullen; 12. Adeline Hobbs, Mitchell; 13. Danielle Wray, Ord; 14. Hadley Teut, Lincoln; 15. Mataya Eklund, Valentine; 16. Sheyenne Hammond, Valentine; 17. Taya McMillen, Lodgepole; 18. Wacey Day, Fleming, Colorado; 19/20. Brooklyn Leach, Dunning & Ashlyn Jensen, Burwell; 21. Riata Day, Fleming, Colorado; 22/23. Brianna Schip-poreit, Ainsworth & Elle Ravenscroft, Nenzel; 24. Hanna Huffman, Burwell; 25/26. Taryn Underwood, Crawford & Lauren Lehl, Alliance; 27/28. Josee Saults, Big Springs & Anna Esch, Spalding; 29. Jady Cross, Harrisburg; 30. Tallyn Simpson, Maxwell and Payton Gorrill, Hyannis.
Boy's Cutting - 1. Sage Konicek, Ord; 2. Ty Bass, Brewster; 3. Wacey Flack,

RUTH NICOLAUS

The Buffalo Bill Rodeo will have a new face in the arena this year.

Zach Call, Thedford, Nebraska, will work as a bullfighter at the rodeo.

It's the 25 year old's first time to work the North Platte event.

The Mullen-born and raised cowboy will work the rodeo alongside a family friend. Quirt Hunt, from Gordon, was working high school rodeos as a bullfighter when Call's older brothers were riding bulls. Call "grew up watching Quirt when I was really young," he said. The two worked a Professional Bull Riders event in Kearney last winter.

Call started his rodeo career as a bull rider, competing in the Nebraska High School Rodeo Association and qualifying for the high school state finals twice. He competed collegiately at Dodge City (Kan.) Community College for two years, then continued at Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Oklahoma.

His sophomore year of college, he was fighting injuries and things weren't going smoothly with bull riding. So he tried the bullfighting, and found it to be to his liking. "I enjoyed it a lot more," he said and slowly, the bullfighting: protecting the bull riders after their

ride, overtook the bull riding.

He went to a bullfighting school put on by world champion bullfighters Rob Smets and Miles Hare. Hare, who grew up in Gordon, took a liking to the young Nebraskan and gave him pointers and tips.

It was at the school that he began freestyle bullfighting. In freestyle, there is no bull rider to protect: it's a competition among bullfighters with points awarded for how well they maneuver around the bull, how close the fighter gets to the bull, and how well they stay in control.

Call shows a particular affinity to it and has competed in the Bullfighters Only (BFO) events for two and a half years. He finished the 2016 year in sixth place in the BFO world standings, and the next year in ninth place.

In North Platte, Call will be doing cowboy protection bullfighting only. He likes a mix of both types: "you get to change it up every once in a while."

Call works as many as thirty events a year,



Zach Call will serve as one of two bullfighters at the Buffalo Bill Rodeo in North Platte, June 13-16. The 25-year-old cowboy grew up and lives in Nebraska.

Photo courtesy BFO/Todd Brewer

counting both freestyle and rodeos. When he's not in a rodeo arena, he's day working for several ranchers around Thedford, where he now lives. It's a nice balance. "I work (rodeos and freestyles) in the big city, but get to go home to the hills."

This year, in addition to North Platte, he'll work rodeos in Nampa, Idaho;

Garden City, Kan.; Dickinson, N.D.; Cave Creek, Arizona; and Hastings and Omaha.

His parents, Craig and Lori Call, will most likely be in North Platte to watch their son in action. The Buffalo Bill Rodeo is the closest pro rodeo to Thedford, and Call was pleased to be asked to work it. "I was excited

when I got it. That's as close to home as it's going to get."

Call will be in action during the bull riding, the final event during each night of the Buffalo Bill Rodeo. The rodeo is June 13-16 in North Platte; it starts at 8 pm each night. For more information, visit the website or call 308.532.7939.

Confessions of an uninformed voter



COURTESY PHOTO

Karen Hough of Arnold, spurred a bill that would exempt equine, cat and dog massage practice from licensure and regulation. LB 596 becomes operative July 19, 2018. Pictured, l-r: Brad Beam who is involved in animal welfare; Nichole Fox of the Platte Institute; Senator Mike Groene, Karen Hough, Governor Pete Ricketts, Kerri Kelsey, dog grooming service owner, North Platte; Dawn Hatcher and Jennifer Lewis.

MARCIA HORA

Karen Hough of Arnold is passionate. She's passionate about horses and barrel racing. She's passionate about politics and serves as Logan County Republican County Chairman. She is passionate about writing and illustrating children's books and sharing the love of Christ.

Although Hough is passionate about many things, she also confesses she was a really uninformed voter. "Yes. I was one of those people," Hough said. "The one who marked the box by the person whose name sounded most familiar. The one who put a check by the box of every judge without knowing anything about them."

Hough said she read about government in books, but much like thinking you can see something by looking at a picture, she had missed a much bigger picture.

"I called HHS in 2012 to find out how to be licensed for Equine Massage," Hough said. "I had apprenticed and taken classes and was curious as to how to take the next step. I was told that I needed a veterinarian license to practice and was not allowed to do it for money, for free or teach anyone else how to do it."

Two weeks later Hough received a cease and desist order with the threat of 25 years in prison or a \$20,000 fine if she continued to practice.

After visiting with people who were practicing this "forbidden art," Hough learned you could give the person a dollar and buy the horse, work on the horse, and then sell it back for a dollar.

Hough said she effectively painted herself into a corner, in front of children, when she said, "In America, we don't break the law. We change the law."

Thus began her journey through the maze of the reality of government.

Hough made calls to the Attorney General. She was referred to her State Senator.

"Senator Fischer was my first attempt, but she was leaving as she was running for senate. She referred me to Senator Tyson Larson."

Hough came to realize HHS's Veterinarian and Human Massage and Chiropractic Boards were writing regulations for the practice.

"They were writing regulations that would require

me to first take human massage therapy classes and then equine massage classes. Why should it take twice as much schooling to massage a horse as a human?" Hough questioned.

Hough was undaunted. She contacted senators, worked on campaigns, and campaigned for Governor Ricketts since the Governor chooses who will be on the HHS boards.

"I learned that HHS has teeth and it likes to bite. One man, a vet who had received a cease and desist told me, don't mess with those people, they can destroy you."

Hard work and perseverance paid off for Hough and others in Nebraska.

Senator Mike Groene introduced LB596 which deregulated equine massage, along with cat and dog massage.

Karen Hough, accompanied by her husband, Bob, traveled to Lincoln to attend the signing of the bill into law by Governor Ricketts. Nebraskans will no longer need a time-consuming license to massage horses, dogs, or cats. Animal massage therapy can relieve tension, boost range of motion and help with rehabilitation after trauma. With roughly one horse for every 12 humans, Nebraska's equine economy generates roughly \$700 million each year.

Other supporters were Brad Beam who is involved in animal welfare and believes massage can make an animal more adoptable; Nicole Fox from the Platte Institute who spent hours organizing and making sure the public knew what was happening; Senator Groene who worked tirelessly to get this legislation passed; Governor Ricketts who Hough has found truly cares about the people he serves; Kerri Kelsey, a North Platte dog groomer; and Dawn Hatcher and Jennifer Lewis who stepped up when stepping up was 'scary.'

"After dipping my toe into government, I have a great appreciation for the responsibility that I carry as a voter," Hough said. "Can one person make a difference? I believe so. In this county many races are determined by one or two votes."

Will Hough vote for someone by name recognition without knowing where that person stands on the issues? Absolutely not.

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