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Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

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Four Blonde Girls And Their Horse The Last Run Of A Legend?



Jim Sybrant is pictured holding a framed photo of Snoopy with, l-r: Abby Sybrant, Jaylee Simonson and Hannah Harwager, three of the four blonde girls that had so much success on his horse.

KENDRA CUTLER

In the world of rodeo there are many legends. Cowboys, cowgirls and animals that will go down in the history books as the greats! Stories will be told about them for years to come and their immortality will grow with each

retelling of the story.

Well for four little blonde girls in Nebraska one of those legends is a 21-year-old horse named Snoopy. Snoopy has competed in the rodeo arena for years, he was trained by his first owner, Abby Sybrant from Bassett. Snoopy has been used in

barrel racing, breakaway roping and goat tying, but he excelled at pole bending, which is where he could be found his final year in the arena.

"When Snoopy gets done with a good run, he smacks his bottom lip," stated Hannah Harwager. "We called this his 'smack

talk'." Hannah also said you couldn't forget his prancing and hopping right before he went into the arena.

"We were both very competitive. He knew when it was time to make a run, just as I did with the butterflies in my stomach."

Snoopy has also carried Jordan Hagedorn from

West Point to Nationals, and this year he took top honors in the Nebraska State High School Finals in Pole Bending, earning first place in the standings with Jaylee Simonson of Dunning on his back.

Snoopy received the National High School Rodeo

Association Professional Choice Equine Athlete of the month in May 2015. In her essay about Snoopy Hannah said, "Not many horses can move sideways faster than forward, however Snoopy can. I think Snoopy should be considered for equine athlete of the month because of his

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Jaylee Simonson, Dunning, rounds the last pole towards home at the National High School Rodeo Finals in Rock Springs, Wyoming. This may have been Snoopy's final career run, and if so, he ended with a 10th place in Performance 12 with a time of 21.23.

Opposition mounting for R-Project route

All comments are unfavorable

U.S. Fish & Wildlife's public meeting held Wednesday, July 25, at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in North Platte drew a total of 92 people. Bob Harms, Fish & Wildlife Biologist and Eliza Hines, Assistant Field Supervisor and Biologist with the South Alda Road, Wood River office, were on hand to obtain input regarding potential impacts to cultural and historic resources as the result of Nebraska Public Power District's 225-mile-long R-Project Transmission Line.

Seven sites identified with potential adverse effects include well-preserved ruts of the Oregon/California Trail south of Sutherland and the Mormon Trail north of it, a prehistoric camp with Native American artifacts in the Birdwood Creek valley and the "state aid" bridge on a county road north of Sutherland.

Also included is a Logan County ranch north of Stapleton on U.S. Highway 83. Harms said the ranch has historical meaning and could be listed on the National Register of Historical places. St. John's Lutheran Church near Brewster



also appeared on the list. Harms said the meeting was scheduled to run from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Fish & Wildlife was pleased with the good turnout and comments ran well past the allotted time.

"No one spoke in favor of the route and those in attendance want nothing but avoidance of this area," Harms said. "We heard that loud and clear."

Harms went on to say he understands visual impact on historical places.

"It would be like me viewing the president's faces carved in stone at Mt. Rushmore and also

looking at a power line. It would certainly minimize the experience."

Those opposed to the route were Sutherland trail historian Linda Tacey and two Nebraska members of the Oregon-California Trails Association. Letters were read from the Lincoln County Convention and Visitors Bureau stating their official opposition to the R-Project route.

Residents in the Sandhills also spoke, as did Sutherland rancher Neal Hansen who said he would fight the R-Project and said NPPD uses shareholder money and they need to listen to the people.

State Senator Tom Brower reiterated his warning to NPPD and stressed the need for people to provide Fish & Wildlife evidence to deny the permit.

Senator Brower has been an advocate to prohibit Nebraska electric utilities from using eminent domain authority to obtain right of way on behalf of a third party accessing the infrastructure to sell electric energy. Brewer has said eminent domain should not be used for private interests or for one group of private citizens to impose their will on another. He also questions whether we have outlived public power and it's time to break it up.

"NPPD is of the mind this is the route they want the transmission line to go, but we will look at other routes and see if a different one will have less impact," Harms said. "We are still proceeding and taking comments, and the public will have another opportunity to express their concerns."

The R-Project has already seen a year and a half delay.

Two groups, Preserve the Sandhills and Save the Sandhills, are continuing their work of educating people about this unique region, found only in Nebraska.

The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Young Farmers & Ranchers Staying Positive

In Face of Trade & Commodity Uncertainty

Young farmers and ranchers tend to feel the weight of agriculture's challenging times sooner than those who have been in the business for a while. Trying to manage the daily talk of international trade disputes, farm bill debates, the back-and-forth battles over ethanol mandates, low crop prices, high overhead costs, and tight or nonexistent profit margins. But despite all these challenges, members of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, who attended a national affairs trip to Washington, D.C. July 16-18, are optimistic about their future in agriculture.

"Right now, you are seeing good corn and soybean crops, so it's not uncommon to see lower commodity prices at this time. At the same time, the current trade situation is also likely having an impact. Despite all of this, we remain cautiously optimistic President Trump will be able to score a few victories as he works through our nation's trading relationship with the rest of the world," John Temme, youth-at-large member of the NEFB board of directors said July 20. Temme farms and operates a dairy farm near Wayne.

Nebraska Farm Bureau works to equip young farmers and ranchers in Nebraska to lead effectively and advocate for positive change in agricul-

ture, by sharing personal stories of how decisions made in Washington, D.C. effects their farms and ranches.

"We had a good and diverse group that visited with our Nebraska delegation bringing a lot of perspective to the issues facing agriculture today," Steve Nelson, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau said. "There is support for President Trump's efforts in doing the right thing on trade, but the longer the current situation remains unsolved, the greater the concern grows among young farmers and ranchers," Nelson said.

While the group's main message was one of hope to make countries like China play fair in trade, they also stressed that there needs to be a quick resolution to these trade disputes.

"Those in agriculture who stand to lose the most from a trade war are young farmers and ranchers who have not built up a lot of equity in their farms and ranches, since they are just getting started. The administration needs to show it can conclude trade negotiations and pass a Farm Bill. If the U.S. can finalize an agreement with both Canada and Mexico and get a farm bill passed by the end of September, it would go a long way toward calming the unease in the countryside," Temme said.

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Notices

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 - Thomas Co. Commissioners' Public Notice
- Be An Informed Citizen
Read The Notices & Proceedings

News Briefs

The 2018-2019 school year is just around the corner. Fall sports practice begins for the Knight athletes, Monday, August 6. Thedford school starts August 6 at the High School and August 22 at the Elementary School.

August 15 is the start date for both of Sandhills Public Schools

Inside This Issue

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