



Johnston To Compete at U.S. Junior Championships

JENNIFER FIERRO

Coy Johnston can't remember a time he wasn't rodeoing. At four years old, the Stapleton native was goat tying and barrel racing. Now that he's 18, he's steer wrestling. And to say that he's pretty good at it is an understatement. Johnston is terrific at it and has the belt buckles to prove it.

The reigning National High School Finals Rodeo Steer Wrestling National Champion is headed to Marble Falls, Texas with the goal of adding the U.S. Junior Steer Wrestling Championship to his list of accomplishments in 2022.

The event is Sunday, Oct. 9, and will be televised on The Cowboy Channel at a later date.

Johnston, who is the Nebraska Steer Wrestling State Champion, is the latest in a family of rodeo champions. Grandfather Jim won the Bull Riding Championship in 1962 – 60 years to the day Coy won his national title. Jim and Judy had four sons – James "Chad," Jason, Jeff and Joel – and all four qualified for the National High School finals thanks

to ending the year in the top four. Chad won the team roping header title in 1987, while Jeff won the team roping heeler title in 1992.

Steer wrestling, however, is the Johnston family event. Jason won state titles in the event and the all-around in both 1990 and 1991 and Jeff won the state championship and the all-around in 1992. Joel won the all-around in 1995.

Jason was still competing on the rodeo circuit when he met another rodeo standout – Jennifer Kreikemeier. Once the two married, Jennifer became a registered nurse. Meanwhile, Jason got into the well service business and started his own company in 1999. Jason built an arena so their sons, Coy, Cayson and Cotter, could continue the rodeo legacy that began generations earlier.

"It's a family tradition I'm trying to carry on," Coy said. "Since all my uncles grew up doing it, it's easy to get help. Dad practices with me at night. I get a lot of help. A lot of people have done it and have had quite a bit of success."

But the addiction, he



Coy Johnston of Stapleton is representing Nebraska at the U.S. Junior Steer Wrestling Championship where he'll face other state champions and gifted contestants representing Alabama, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

adds, comes from the feeling he gets when he steer wrestles.

"I like the adrenaline rush," he said. "There's nothing like it."

One change from when his dad and uncles competed is that high school rodeo contestants can win prize money, including Coy. He said he's saving his money to buy a trailer and wants to earn a rodeo

scholarship to attend college.

"After college, I definitely want to make some runs at the National Finals Rodeo to see if I can make it," he said. "Maybe I'll be good enough."

He'll face others his age at the U.S. Junior Steer Wrestling Championship who've won state titles from Alabama, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

More than 20 junior steer wrestlers are competing for \$12,500 in prize money. Each contestant competes in as three-round qualifier. The top four money winners advance to a four-man match play tournament. The No. 1 money winner meets the No. 4 money winner in one semifinal, while the No. 2 and No. 3 money winners face off in

the other semifinal. The winners of the semifinals meet in the final to determine the champion.

The champion earns \$5,000 and the Reagon Walker Buckle created to honor the late Reagon Walker, who is one of the most decorated Texas high school rodeo athletes in history who died in an auto accident in 2011. The reserve champion wins \$2,500, and the contestant with the fastest time of the day in the qualifying rounds or matches receives a \$1,000 bonus.

Coy said this is his first year to compete at the U.S. Junior Steer Wrestling Championship.

"You definitely have to be consistent," he said. "You make one bad run, it'll take you out. You have to be at the top of your game and you definitely have to be consistent. I like going to different places and having different competition. I think it's fun. This event is going to be great. It has a good setup. I'm excited. In rodeo, you always have ups and downs. Overall, I think I'm sitting pretty good."

Go to usjsw.com for more information and a list of contestants.

“Through the Years” at the ‘22 Oldsters Party



Ken Jividen and his dad, Bill Jividen, sing and play old favorites at the 71st annual Oldsters Party held Sunday, October 2, at the Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Stapleton.

MARCIA HORA
STORY AND PHOTOS

Thirty-six signed in at the 71st annual Logan County Oldsters Party held Sunday, October 2, in the fellowship hall of the Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Stapleton.

Everyone attending received a door prize and Bruce and Virginia Huffman were first-time attendees.

dees.

Jacque Trumbull served as master of ceremonies and shared a poem she had written for the occasion entitled “Through the Years,” the theme of this year’s party.

“Through the years my mind wanders. Memories of days gone by, old friends who have passed on, fond glimpses in minds eye. Do you remember three grocery stores? Three service sta-



Clarence Lanka, 93, was the oldest gentleman and he and his wife, Judy, were recognized for being the couple married the most years at the Oldsters Party.

tions too? Two lumber yards and feed stores? Oh my, what did we do? So many changes through the years! Once we were young, but now older – Friends and places come and gone. Are we aged or just bolder? Share your memories as they come. Tell us about things gone past. I know we each have different memories. So tell us and make memories last.”

Pastor Mark Rohrbach

gave the opening prayer. Special music was by Bill and Ken Jividen. They sang and played old-time favorites.

Ann Wells of Stapleton, 97, was honored as the oldest lady present. She received a beautiful flower arrangement donated in memory of Maxine Lovitt.

Clarence Lanka, 93, was the oldest gentleman present and he and his wife, Judy, were also hon-



Ann Wells, 97, was the oldest lady present at the Oldsters Party and received a flower bouquet given in memory of Maxine Lovitt,

ored for being married the most years. The Lankas were married September 14, 1952, at the Presbyterian Church in Stapleton. They ranched at Cody Lake all of their married life and moved into Stapleton two years ago.

The Gandy Youth Group served refreshments with

members Haylee Dimmitt, Tucker Myers, Jaylen Dimmitt, Kaden Allen, Caleb Burnside, Kempton Florea, and Camron Berliner. Their sponsor, Polly Burnside, accompanied them.

Everyone present received door prizes and the afternoon was spent reminiscing and visiting.

Halloween Events

The Stapleton Area Chamber of will be sponsoring their annual “Tricked Out Trunk” event on Main Street, Monday, October 31. Enjoy safe Halloween fun for the entire family from 4:15-6:15 p.m. that evening.

The best “Tricked Out Trunk” will receive \$25.00 in Chamber bucks. To register your trunk call Frey’s Store at 308-636-2636.

Chamber is also sponsoring the annual costume contest at Stapleton Public Schools for Pre-K through 6th grade. First place winner in each class wins \$5.00 in Chamber bucks. Junior Chamber members will be the judges.

Stapleton Cooperative Market & Deli will be serving hot dog and chili dog meals.

The Sandhills Valley Maverick boys basketball team will be presenting “Butcher Shop” in downtown Stapleton from 6:00 -9:30 p.m., Saturday, October 29. They will be serving a rattle snake chili meal for \$5.00 at the Stapleton Community Center. Admission to the haunted house will be \$1.00 for munchkins and \$8 for adults.

Herbie’s Speakeasy, located in Creative Printers, will be holding a Spooktacular Tasting, Thursday evening, October 27, from 4:00 -9:00 p.m. Come in costume and winners will be selected on our Facebook page. Free samples of food and adult beverages.

Weather

DATE	HI	LOW	MT.
1	80	49	0
2	83	46	0
3	84	56	0
4	70	48	.20
5	71	43	.01
6	74	43	0
7	59	36	.38

Oct. 3 had intermittent showers. Smoke was observed Oct. 6 and thunder recorded on Oct. 7. Moisture is measured at 7 a.m. for the previous 24 hour period.

Event Calendar

Thursday, October 13 - Cornerstone Christian Women, 1:30 p.m., Cornerstone Church
Friday, October 14 - Poker, 7:00 p.m., Stapleton Vet’s Club
Monday, October 17 - Stapleton Public School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Stapleton School;

McPherson Co. News



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- Hunter Safety Info

Notices

- Logan County Board of Commissioners & BOE Public Notices
- Village Of Gandy Board Proceedings
- School District R-1 Public Notice
- Logan County Planning Commission Public Notice
- Logan County Voter Registration Notice

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