

Locals Qualify For High School National Finals

The 2024 Nebraska State High School Rodeo Finals got underway on Wednesday, June 12, with the final round being held Saturday, June 15. High school rodeo athletes converged on Burwell to compete at the Nebraska's Big Rodeo arena. The top four athletes in each event punched their ticket to the National High School Finals Rodeo that will take place in Rock Springs, Wyoming July 14-20, 2024.

Area cowboys and cowgirls competed in 15 events with four local athletes qualifying for Wyoming.

Cayson Johnston of Stapleton had an outstanding State Finals and ended his Junior career qualifying in three events and taking home the 2024 Boy's Timed Event Trailer sponsored by V-Bar Trailer Sales of Broken Bow. Johnston will be representing Nebraska in the Tie Down Calf Roping, Team Roping and Steer Wrestling.

Other locals qualifying were:

Kallan Cox of Purdum in the Girl's Barrels

Tate Johnston of Thedford and his partner JT Lantis of Hershey in the Team Roping

Carson Cooksley of Elsmere in the Steer Wrestling.

The complete list of 2024 National Team members and alternates are:

Boy's Cutting - 1. Kaddo Schrunck, Pender; 2. Alex Hathaway, Pender; 3. Trey Vance, Roseland; 4. Quinten Jones, Hershey; Alt. Lucas Burkey, Milford

Girls Cutting - Ava Smith, Pender; 2. Brooke Forre, Newman Grove; 3. Remi Wells, Central City; 4. Gracyn Hicks, Burwell; Alt. Haylea Miller, Merna

Barebacks - 1. Koldyn Heath, Minden; 2. Tanner Olson, Gordon; 3. Kanin Heath, Minden; 4. Trevo Burdick, Johnstown; Alt. Cooper Walker, Seneca

Goat Tying - 1. Laney Hoier, Herman; 2. Lynsie Lancaster, Hastings; 3. Reagan McIntyre, Grand Island; 4. Tatum Reid, Crawford; Alt. Laynee Ohm, Arthur

Steer Wrestling - 1. Wyatt Reichenberg, Harrisburg; 2. Dawson Doggett, Callaway; 3. Carson Cooksley, Elsmere; 4. Cayson Johnston, Stapleton; Alt. Cale Buss, Atkinson

Pole Bending - 1. Rylee Nall Sullivan, St. Paul; 2. Clancy Jo Brown, North Platte; 3. Bailey Bell, North Platte; 4. Maci Herrington, Bassett; Alt. Reagan McIntyre, Grand Island

Tie Down Roping - 1. Taylor Druke, Sutherland; 2. Owen Littau, Newport; 3. Cayson Johnston, Stapleton; 4. Emmett Sortum, Taylor; Alt. James Druke, O'Neill

Breakaway Roping - 1. Reagan McIntyre, Grand Island; 2. Kiele Walz, Ainsworth; 3. Laney Hoier, Herman; 4. Jaycee Lambert, Harrison; Alt. Laynee Ohm, Arthur

Saddle Broncs - 1. Cooper Fay, Valentine; 2. Sutton Schrunck, Valentine; 3. Everett Blackburn, O'Neill; 4. Cort Buss, Atkinson; Alt. Grady Gorwill, Hyannis

Team Roping - 1. Reagan McIntyre, Grand Island and Owen Littau, Newport; 2. Jackson Wykert, Grant and Taylor Druke, Sutherland; 3. Tate Johnston, Thedford and JT Lantis, Hershey; 4. Cayson Johnston, Stapleton and Reese Swanson, Arthur; Alt. Tacey From, Bridgeport and James Druke, O'Neill

Girl's Barrels - 1. Hailey Witte, Valentine; 2. Tyley Sears, Valentine; 3. Jaycee Lambert, Harrison; 4. Kallan Cox, Purdum; Alt. Anna Clark, Thedford

Bull Riding - 1. Grady Gorwill, Hyannis; 2. Sutton Schrunck, Valentine; 3. Cody Brinkman, Kimball; 4. Cooper Kerner, Sutherland; Alt. Haydn Hegemann, Arlington

Reining Cowhorse - 1. Callie Olson, Bloomfield; 2. Kiele Walz, Ainsworth; 3. Reese Gillespie, McCook; 4. Remi Wells, Central City; Alt. Abigail Russell, Hay Springs

Trap Shooting - 1. Jason Nelson; 2. Colton Kirchmann; 3. Colter Wright; 4. Bladen Arensdorf; Alt. Wade Krysl

Light Rifle - 1. Emma



COURTESY

Cayson Johnston, pictured above right, with the timed event trailer he won at the 2024 Nebraska State Finals High School Rodeo for being the Boy's Timed Event Champion. Johnston is pictured with Kem Oatman owner of V-Bar Trailer Sales of Broken Bow.

Brube; 2. Wade Krysl; 3. Cale Buss; 4. Tate Krysl; Alt. Dylan Norby

Boys All Around went to Koldyn Heath, Minden and Reserve All-Around went to Sutton Schrunck of Valentine

Kaddo Schrunck of Valentine was the Boy's Rookie winner

Girls All Around went to Reagan McIntyre of Grand Island and Remi Wells of Central City

Girls Rookie winner was Kinsey Walz of Ainsworth.

The 2024 Nebraska



Photo By Cathy Sandall, Sandall Photography

Tate Johnston and partner JT Lantis ended the season in third place in team roping to clinch a National Team spot.

See HS Rodeo
Page 10



Photo By: Cathy Sandall, Sandall Photography

Cayson Johnston qualified for Nationals in three events. He was third in the State in Tie Down Calf Roping; fourth in the state for Team Roping with partner Reese Swanson and fourth in Steer Wrestling.



Photo By Cathy Sandall, Sandall Photography

Carson Cooksley is headed to Nationals after ending the season third in Steer Wrestling.



Photo By Cathy Sandall, Sandall Photography

Kallan Cox qualified for Nationals in the Barrel Race. She ended the season fourth in the state.

Summer Reading winding down

The third Summer Reading day started off with eight Kindergarten and preschoolers. A book was read about camping and then the kids made a picture with a tent with a camp fire. The kids used cotton balls and paint to make the fire. The kids were given binoculars and they went outside and looked at birds, butterflies, and everything else that would stay still long enough. The group then enjoyed playing ring a-round the rosie and duck, duck, goose. Kids were then given s'more snack bags.

The fifth through third graders made lightening bugs with tea lights and wind chimes for outdoors. The kids also enjoyed a book "Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping." There were lots of laughs about this silly book. These kids were also given binoculars and went outside to see what they could see. This group also enjoyed the s'more snack bag.

The fourth through sixth graders made solar ovens using pizza boxes. They had to try them out so they assembled s'mores and while the s'mores were cooking the kids made tin can



COURTESY

Pictured with their tin can lanterns are front row, l-r: Elsa Walker, Hope McIntosh, Piper Hanson, Emerson Pettit, Heston Licking, Lachlan Stephens, and Beckett Thomas. Back row, l-r: Helpers - Chandler Pettit, Katen Licking and Shelby Schukei.

lanterns using a soup can, nails, and tea lights.

The last week of summer reading this year will be on June 26. In July watch on Facebook and there may be some more water days announced. Also don't forget that Adam White will be presenting a magic show on July 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Pictured at right displaying their fire flies are Claire Thomas, Colt Smith, Ellie Hanson, and Scarlet Strohecker.



Masek Appointed To NE Brand Committee

Governor Jim Pillen is announcing the appointments made to boards and commissions from January 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024.

A list of current board and commission openings can be found on the Governor's website (<https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>), along with instructions for completing an application.

Brenda Masek of Purdum and Christopher Gentry of Hyannis have been named to the Nebraska Brand Committee.



COURTESY