

Happy Birthday America



"Happy Birthday America" hay bale art by Karen Swisher of Swisher Hay Company was on display this July 4th. The display is located in Halsey along Highway 2 on The Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway.

Photo by Linda Teahon

Plan Now To “See You At The Fair!”

The 2024 Thomas County Fair events have been released. The fair will run Monday, July 22 through Sunday, July 28 at various locations throughout Thomas County.

The 4-H events will kick-off this year's fair with the Small Animal Show being held at 8:00 a.m. at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The 4-H Style Review location has not been determined yet, but it will begin at noon.

On Tuesday, July 23 the 4-H activities continue with the 2024 Thomas County 4-H Horse Show beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Thursday, July 25 the Thomas County Fair-building will be the place to be. The 4-H Entry Day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the Open Class Entry Day will run from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The exhibit building will open at 5:00 p.m. that day to the public and will close at 7:00 p.m. The Open Art and Photo display will be held at the Thedford Art Gallery in Thedford from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. that day also.

Friday, July 26 will begin with the opening of the Open Art and Photo Show display at the Thedford Art Gallery at 509 Court Street in Thedford. The Thomas County Historical Society Museum will be open from 10:00 a.m. until noon and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 609 Court Street in Thedford. The Thomas County Fair Ranch Rodeo will be held at the Thomas County Fairgrounds at 5:00 p.m. and the Community BBQ provided by Seneca Lodge 284 will be held at 5:00 p.m. with the cornhole tournament and night golf at the Thedford Golf Course getting un-



derway at 7:00 p.m. that evening.

Saturday, July 27 is a full day of activities with breakfast at the Life Center kicking off the morning. They will start serving biscuits and gravy at 7:00 a.m. and run until 9:00 a.m. The annual Youth Fishing Tournament will meet in downtown Thedford at 7:00 a.m.

The Thedford Art Gallery will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and the Historical Museum will also be open again on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The parade will march down the streets of Thedford under the theme "I had the time of my life... in Thomas County" and gets underway at 11:00 a.m. The Seneca Lodge 284 will have a free-will donation lunch stand from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Thedford Area Community Foundation beer garden will open at noon on Saturday and remain open until 1:00 a.m. The children will gather on the courthouse square for the Turtle races at 1:00 p.m. and the car and bike show from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

RockIt Event Pros will have their water activities sponsored by Western NE Bank to cook off young

and old alike from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. and a cornhole tournament will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Bingo by Security First Bank will be held at the Thomas County Fair Building from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Sandhills Got Talent Show will get underway at 4:00 p.m.

The Community Pit BBQ will be free-will donation and run from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. During the BBQ a watermelon feed will be sponsored by the Seneca Lodge 284.

The 4-H Auction and release of all entries will follow the BBQ.

To round out Saturday evenings activities the Dueling Pianos will entertain the crowd beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 28 the activities will round out with the American Legion Pancake Breakfast at the Thomas County Airport from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Airplane Show and Shine at the Thomas County Airport will run from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m.

The Community Church Service, held on the Thomas County Courthouse Lawn in Thedford, will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Watch upcoming issues of the Herald for events, times and locations.

We will see you at the fair.

Local JH Rodeo Athletes Compete At Nationals



Caleb Clark catches his calf right out of the chute in the First Go of the 2024 National Junior High Boy's Breakaway Roping.

Photo by Jennings Photography

The National Junior High Finals Rodeo, one of the largest rodeos in the world, was held in Des Moines on June 23-29, 2024.

Approximately 1,200 middle school students that are the "best of the best" from 43 states, 5 provinces in Canada, Australia, and Mexico qualify for the National Junior High Finals Rodeo to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and prizes.

Contestants competed in a variety of events, including Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Goat Tying, Breakaway Roping, Tie-Down Roping, Chute Dogging, Team Roping, Ribbon Roping and Junior Bull Riding.

In addition to the rodeo, there was also one of the greatest western trade-shows in the nation.

Results for the Nebraska competitors are:

Barrel Racing
Go-1 - 7. Marisa Wykert, Grant, 15.689; 25. Phoenix Brown, North Platte, 15.965; 147. Brecken Cover, Ashby, 20.917

Go-2 - 7. Marisa Wykert, Grant, 15.385; 40. Brecken Cover, Ashby, 15.841; 139. Grace Krafka, Bellwood, 20.645
Final - 17. Marisa Wykert, Grant, 20.393

Bareback Riding
Go-1 - 16. Kelstyn Lindner, Broken Bow, 56
Go-2 - 10. Kelstyn Lindner, Broken Bow, 62.5
Final - 17. Kelstyn Lindner, Broken Bow, 45.5

Boy's Breakaway
Go-1 - 9. Caleb Clark, Thedford, 2.45; 19. Truett McIntyre, Grand Island, 2.75

Go-2 - 16. Caleb Clark, Thedford, 3.15; 45. Riley

Anson, Atkinson, 4.25
Final - 14. Caleb Clark, Thedford, 12.11

Boy's Goat Tying
Go-1 - 7. Hudson Redman, Burwell, 10.39; 23. Hudson Ebmeier, Whitney, 11.45; 26. Trey Blackmore, Chambers, 11.61; 124. Dawson Cole, Norfolk, 23.59

Go-2 - 17. Hudson Redman, Burwell, 11.01; 59. Dawson Cole, Norfolk, 13.67; 71. Hudson Ebmeier, Whitney, 14.4
Final - 20. Hudson Redman, Burwell, 16.56

Bull Riding
Go-2 - 26. Tucker Marx, Wisner, 60.5

Chute Dogging
Go-1 - 28. Kaleb Allen, Sutherland, 4.65; 52. Cotter Johnston, Stapleton, 7.39; 102. Colter Austin, Valentine, 24.15; 104.