



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Colby girl named state's Miss Rodeo

By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press

Colby's Amy Wilson finally got to see what she has been missing. Wilson was crowned the 2007 Miss Rodeo Kansas at Roundup Arena Thursday in Dodge City.

Wilson, 19, who attends Colby Community College, said she has missed the event in past years because the Thomas County Fair was happening at the same time.

But this year, the fair was not a problem, the challengers were.

"I was nervous because of the competition," she said.

Contestants competed in horsemanship, rodeo skills, speech and modeling.

"I love to ride," she said.

Wilson is on the Colby Community College rodeo team and competes in barrel racing and breakaway roping. Wilson will be a sophomore this year and is majoring in agriculture communications. She was a news anchor during the spring semester for the college student television broadcast which airs on cable channel 118 in Colby.

Wilson said she could not completely rely on her skills in speech and modeling as she did for horsemanship.

"I asked around for advice from other girls," she said.

With the honor, Wilson will travel the United States promoting rodeo and Kansas.

Wilson said the sport of rodeo separates itself from the other professional sports because it is held year-round, unlike other sports that take months off during the year.

"Rodeo is very popular," she said.

Capturing the Miss Rodeo Kansas title, Wilson won the photogenic, speech and horsemanship competitions. She is the daughter of Lonnie and Lori Wilson of Colby.

Wilson was elected president of the Colby Community College's Collegiate Farm Bureau organization and was active in other campus activities.

According to www.miskansasrodeo.com, "the first Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant was held during the 1963 Flint Hills Rodeo.

Contestants were judged on the



Amy Wilson

same criteria as today; horsemanship, appearance and personality. In 1981 the pageant was moved to Wichita for the Prairie Circuit Rodeo. In 1984 the competition was held in Colby in conjunction with the Thomas County Fair.

Miss Rodeo Kansas is now held in Dodge City and the franchise is held by Dodge City Roundup, Inc. In 1987 the scholarship award was added. This gives the contestants a chance to further their education with the help of Kansas sponsors.

The Dodge City pageant committee added the princess contest in 1992 to help young ladies gather interest in the sport of rodeo and the Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant. This offers younger girls more experience in the pageant competition.

The princess pageant name changed to the Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas Pageant in 2006.

The pageant is held annually to select a young lady who has the desire and enthusiasm to serve as a goodwill ambassador for the Sport of Rodeo and the state of Kansas. Miss Rodeo Kansas will represent the state at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant held in conjunction with the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nev."

Miss Rodeo Kansas 2006 was also a student at Colby Community College. Shaunna Chartier, of Coats, won the title last year.

She was a May 2005 graduate of the veterinary technician program.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Protecting the Heartland

ABOVE: Sunflower Bank of Colby had a horse-drawn wagon as its parade entry Saturday, which was the last day of the Thomas County Free Fair. RIGHT: Members of Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6882 rode on a float during the Thomas County Free Fair parade Saturday. The theme of the event was "Keepers of the Heartland," with members of the Kansas Army National Guard serving as grand marshal.



71 sell at fair auction

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Another Thomas County Free Fair, another successful 4-H livestock auction, according to Thomas County extension agent Joe Leibbrandt.

"I was very pleased with it," he said, "The community support helped make it a success. That's the most important thing."

Seventy-one 4-H member sold their market steers, hogs, lambs and goats at the auction Friday. Total amount raised during the auction has not yet been completed.

Leibbrandt said the number of animals increased this year, including goats.

"We only sold about two goats last year," he said. "We had quite a few this year."

Eleven goats were sold at the auction.

The grand champion and re-



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Tava Musick of Colby took her market lamb into the sale ring. Extension agent Joe Leibbrandt said the numbers in all of the 4-H livestock areas were up this year, including goats and hogs.

serve champion animals have been announced.

In beef, the champion breeding heifer belonged to Chase Reitcheck; reserve grand champion was Brady Rundel.

Champion market steer went to Case Rundel. Brady Rundel had the reserve grand champion steer.

Bucket calf grand champion was Jay Ziegelmeier.

In round robin, which is the best showman of all the species, senior grand champion was Josh Mazanec. Leibbrandt said there was a tie for reserve grand champion between Case and Brady Rundel.

Intermediate grand champion was Shelby Terrell; reserve grand champion was Seth Bredemeier.

In the junior category, champion was Tatum Rundel and reserve

grand champion was Hannah Strange. Winners in other categories were not available by press time.

Leibbrandt said he was happy with how the 4-H portion of the fair went. "Overall, the 4-H numbers are up, along with the number of entries headed to the state fair in Hutchinson next month," he said.

Accidents injure two

Two wrecks over the weekend sent two people to the hospital.

The first accident happened at 6:15 a.m. Saturday on U.S. Highway 24, 10 miles east of Colby.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, Donny Joe Spresser, 22, of Colby, was driving west on U.S. Highway 24. His 1983 Chevrolet Celebrity went left of center and struck a second vehicle head-on.

The second vehicle was a 2006 Freightliner semi tractor driven by Thomas Lee Karlin, 48, of Colby. Karlin was driving west on U.S. Highway 24.

Spresser was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby with inju-

ries and airlifted to St. Anthony Hospital in Denver, Colo. He was not wearing a seatbelt.

Karlin was not injured and was wearing a seatbelt.

The second accident happened at 11:12 p.m. Sunday on Interstate 70 nine miles west of Colby.

Greg W. Tribby, 55, of Cottonwood, Ariz., was driving east in a 1976 Pontiac Grand Prix.

The car entered the south ditch and rolled twice, coming to rest on its wheels in the south ditch. Tribby was transported to Citizens Medical Center with possible injuries. Tribby was wearing a seatbelt.

Spresser and Tribby's conditions were not available at press time.

Winona woman wins

The winner in the Colby Free Press Trivia contest was Judy Gfeller of Winona.

Although nobody guessed all the answers correctly, Gfeller had three correct answers out of the five possible.

Gfeller receives a four-month subscription to the Free Press and our thanks for participating in the trivia game.

The following are the five questions and answers in the contest.

1) What year was the first Thomas County Fair? 1927

2) From 1911 to 1926 an event similar to the county fair was held in Thomas County, what was it called and where was it held? Farmers Institute, held at the Experiment Station

3) How many youth participate in 4-H programs in the state of Kansas? 95,000

4) What is the number one project, based on enrollment, in Thomas County 4-H? Swine

5) How many 4-H Clubs are in Thomas County? Five.