

Royalty competition includes riding, interviews

By Tomi Miller

Colby Free Press
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Many Thomas County Rodeo Queen hopefuls from across Western Kansas will compete in this year's Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Pageant.

"The girls gain more rodeo knowledge and friendship from the competition," Shawna Kersenbrock, rodeo coordinator, said. "Everyone has a lot of fun and we give out great prizes."

The competition was on July 9 and crowning will follow on Monday, July 25. The new royalty is required to attend the fair parade on Tuesday, July 26. Other participants in the rodeo may ride in the parade if they wish, but are not required to.

There were no pre-requirements to enter the competition except that all contestants must follow the rules and guidelines. Contestants are held to a high standard. Proper attire and mannerisms are expected of all participants.

Contestants enter one of three age divisions. The groups are Junior Princess, for ages 8 to 11; Princess, for ages 12 to 15; and Queen, for ages 16 to 23.

The girls are judged on horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling. The speech and modeling events were held at the Colby Community Building. The rest of the competition was at the Thomas County Fair Grounds. All but the interview portion of the competition



The 2010 Thomas County rodeo royalty were crowned at the rodeo, the Monday of fair week. This year's fair will be Monday, July 25.

was open to the public.

During the horsemanship, contestants are judged on reigning pattern, the queen/princess ride and impromptu questions based on

general horse knowledge. Personality and appearance are also factors the judges take into consideration.

The interview is 10 to 15 minutes long. The

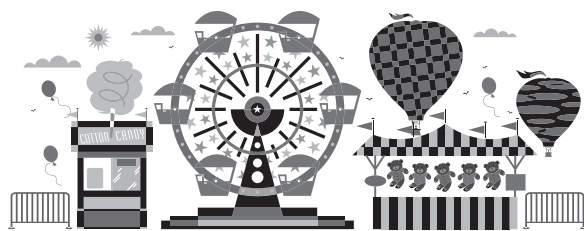
questions cover personality, rodeo information, current events and other important factors. The judges look for personality, communication skills and rodeo/horse information.

In the Queen division, contestants give a three to five minute speech pertaining to anything in the sport of rodeo or horse information. The Princesses give a one to three minute speech pertaining to rodeo, their horse or a humorous event. Contestants are judged on content and delivery of their speech.

The modeling competition of the contest is in the form of a fashion show. Contestants model a western outfit that will be judged on its fit and their posture and conduct.

Contestants are told this is not a clothing contest. Fancy leather outfits and sequins are not necessary. A clean and tailored suit is recommended.

The reigning Thomas County Rodeo Queen for 2011 is Katera Harter, the reigning Thomas County Rodeo Princess is MaKayla Hoffman and the reigning Thomas County Rodeo Junior Princess is Abby Schmeiser. Their responsibilities during their reign include handing out ribbons at the livestock events the week of the fair, attending all fair events after being crowned, carrying flags to assist the stock contractor during the rodeo, keeping a scrapbook of the year they represented the Thomas County Rodeo, sending thank you notes to all prize sponsors and other duties.



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