



MARIAN BALLARD
and SAM DIETER
Colby Free Press

The 2012 rodeo royalty rode in the fair parade (center) following their coronation on the first night of the fair, where they received their sashes (right).

County Rodeo Pageant showcases riding

By Heather Alwin

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Five contestants will compete this year to become the Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess for 2013.

The winning contestants, who will be crowned during Monday night's rodeo, reign until next year's royalty are crowned. They are charged with promoting Thomas County and the sport of rodeo at rodeos and community events around the region.

Each contestant was asked to sell rodeo tickets to this year's performances before the pageant began.

The pageant, scheduled for today, offers the contestants a chance to showcase their riding skills with a horsemanship competition at the fairgrounds. The winning contestants will ride in the Thomas County Fair Parade Tuesday and in rodeos and parades throughout their reigns.

Contestants must also compete in the categories of speech and modeling and must interview individually with the judges.

The contestant who wins the queen competition will receive a new saddle.

This year's contestants for queen are Chelsie Calliham and Ariel Severson. Princess contestants are Madisyn Haggard, Abby Schmeiser and Peyton Welch.

Last year's winners were MaKayla Hoffman, Faith Edwards and Emeline Hutton.

The pageant's sponsors include the Thomas County Fair Board, Vanderbilts, Donelan Jewelry, Sally's Unique Boutique, Tim Adrian, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Someplace Special Floral and Gifts, Fotogirl Photography, Ferma Garrett, American Family Insurance and Linda Vanhorn.



**See you at the
Thomas County
Free Fair!**

OPEN AT 6 A.M. AND
CLOSE AT MIDNIGHT

1835 S. Range • Colby • 462-7138

Meadow Lake Golf Course

Come join us at our fair!

Our kitchen is OPEN
Monday - Saturday
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**Open to the Public
Everyone is Welcome!**

SATURDAY NIGHT IS PRIME RIB



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1085 E Golf Club Rd., Colby

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and enjoy it!*




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