

Norris Teacher Wins Winter Racing Series, Looks Forward To Summer Competition

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Voice News

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Justy Hagan is president of the 4-H Horse VIPS Committee and horse superintendent for this year's Lancaster County Fair.

One Norris Middle School teacher is leading multiple lives. She's a wife, a mother, a teacher, a 4-H leader and just in case that wasn't enough, she's a barrel racer, too.

This winter, Justy Hagan won the MidWest Barrel Association's barrel racing series. Justy said, "The organization boasts about 60 members, and their competitions are held in Columbus or Fremont from October to May." A membership fee is required as well as an entry fee each time you run.

The winner is chosen on the most money won for the season. This isn't the first competition for Justy, and she has worked hard to get to this level.

Justy has been competing in rodeos for a long time. She grew up on a farm north of North Platte. Her mom, Carroll Hill, still lives in North Platte, but her dad, Melvin, passed away three years ago.

"I have always worked with horses and rodeoed. I always wanted a horse of Asher's quality, and I have waited a long time for this." Justy participated in high school rodeos where she went to the National High School Finals representing Nebraska. She and her sister were the first all-girl team in the state to rope



Justy Hagan and her horse Asher, enjoy the saddle she won as the MidWest Barrel Association's winter barrel racing series' champion.

together. They ended up fifth in the state and just missed nationals by a few points. At Kearney State College, Justy said she "had a lot of fun and made a lot of friends" while participating in rodeos.

She learned a lot about rodeos by learning from her mistakes and reading books on barrel racing by Martha Josey and Sharon Camarillo. She also said she has a lot of friends who are always willing to help her and give her advice.

Four years ago, Justy finally connected with a horse she thinks will give her some good races. Asher Magbars Moon is a Quarter horse that stands 16 hands, one inch tall.

"I have spent a lot of time with Asher the last four years," Justy reflected. "He has been one of my major projects. We trust and respect each other and

rely on each other."

Justy bought Asher as a five year old and has done all of his training. "During the training process we usually ride or practice barrels at least three times a week along with extensive traveling to get him conditioned."

Justy said when she won the winter series competition, she was very proud of her horse. "We have been working long and hard to get this far," she said. "I think we will have a good summer this year because he is running so well."

Justy said she competes in rodeos all summer. She belongs to the Midstates Rodeo Association, the Nebraska Rodeo Association, the Iowa Rodeo Association and the National Barrel Horse Association.

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4-H'ERS IN THE NEWS

4-H'ers Among Winners of Mayor's Poster Contest, Arbor Day Poster Contest

4-H member Carmen Claesson (age 11) won this year's poster contest sponsored by the Mayor's Water Conservation Task Force with her entry "Native Plants Need Less Water." Her artwork will be displayed on a StarTran busboard



(L-R) City of Lincoln Mayor Coleen Seng, Shalom Parker and Carmen Claesson.

for one to two months and on a Lamar Outdoor Advertising billboard for one year. She also won a bicycle and bicycle helmet. Carmen says she got her love of flowers from 4-H. Shalom Parker (age 11), also a 4-H'er, tied for 7th place with her entry "Save a Drop, Don't let it Drip!" All winners will have their artwork on bookmarks distributed at city and school libraries.

Carmen is also the 2004 state winner in the Arbor Day poster contest. She won a \$100 savings bond and planted a tree with the governor on the state capitol grounds on Arbor Day. She attributes her interest in trees to the 4-H Forestry project. She is also the district winner in the Nebraska Dental Association's poster contest and won \$25.

4-H'ers Among Youth Receiving President's Volunteer Service Award

The President's Volunteer Service Award, an initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, honors America's volunteers and encourages even more Americans to get involved. At the Ventures in Partnerships Spring Awards Celebration, 274 students were honored for providing valuable volunteer services to the Lincoln community. 4-H'ers receiving the President's Student Service Awards for 2003 were:

Bronze Pin (youth ages 4-14 who volunteered 50-74 hours and youth ages 15-18 who volunteered 100-174 hours) — Gideon Badeer, Ian Badeer, Noelle Badeer, Preston Badeer, Alyssa Fiala, Ashley Dreyer, Elizabeth Herrick, Kelsey Latshaw, Dalton Malcolm, Laura Olson, Claire Reichenbach

Silver Pin (youth ages 4-14 who volunteered 75-99 hours and youth ages 15-18 who volunteered 175-249 hours) — Laura Cassel, Taryn Overton

Gold Pin (youth ages 4-14 who volunteered 100 or more hours and youth ages 15-18 who volunteered 250 or more hours) — Francis Anderson, Natalie Anderson, Sean Badeer, Karen Clinch, Shannon Drake, Grace Farley, Cameron Freeman, Terra Garay, Stuart Kujath, Brad Morgan, Nicole Pedersen, Athena Rockwell, Hannah Spencer, Katy Steffen

4-H clubs, 4-H camps, Eastern NE 4-H Center, Kiwanis (Karnival), Clover College, Lancaster County Fair, State Fair and Super Shamrocks were among the organizations benefiting from youth volunteer services.

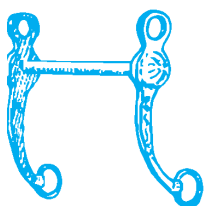
Gov. Johanns Honors 4-H'er as Points of Light Youth Award Recipient

In April, Gov. Mike Johanns presented the Governor's Points of Light Awards at a proclamation ceremony at the State Capitol. The awards are presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities. In the youth category, the Governor's Points of Light Award



(L-R) Gov. Mike Johanns and Grace Farley

recipient was Grace Farley (age 13) who is in her ninth year as a 4-H member. During the past year, Farley has given more than 100 volunteer hours to 4-H sponsored community service activities and other community service, including a newspaper recycling project, participation in the 4-H Can Fight Hunger food drive, staffing a food booth at the county fair, working with the Kiwanis Karnival, making scarves for the People's City Mission, making toys for donation to Toys for Tots and donating children books for the Tabitha day care program. Grace said, "What many see as community service, I see as more than that. It's fun! I would like to thank 4-H for the many opportunities to learn and serve. I know I am just one of many who gives their time to the community."



HORSE BITS

Pre-Districts May 22

The pre-district horse show will be held on Saturday, May 22 at the Capital City Arena. Rich and Katie Fortner have graciously agreed to judge and will also do a mini clinic on showmanship during the lunch break. There will be two age divisions, 11-14 and 15-18. Eleven year olds have been included this year so they will have a chance to see what it will be like for them next year! The show will start at 9 a.m. and should be over around 2 p.m. For the showbill and more information check the web at lancaster.unl.edu/4h/news.htm or call Marty at 441-7180. (MC)

Horse ID's Due June 1

Horse ID sheets are due in the 4-H office on June 1. Late ID sheets will not be accepted. Please take the time to fill them out completely and thoroughly. Be sure to draw your horse's markings on the picture as accurately as you can. Also, be sure and indicate the horse's color on the drawing. (MC)

Lancaster County 4-H Horse News

To keep current on 4-H Horse news, events and forms, go to lancaster.unl.edu/4h/news.htm and check under Lancaster County 4-H Horse News.

You can access incentive forms, county fair forms, horse show showbills, upcoming horse events and much more! (MC)

Cornhusker State Games Equestrian Events

June 23 is registration deadline for Equestrian events at the 20th Anniversary Cornhusker State Games July 10-18. New this year is team penning! Equestrian events will take place at the Youth Arena, State Fair Park, Lincoln.

Schedule is:

- Saturday, July 10 — Hunter/Jumper
- Sunday, July 11 — Dressage
- Saturday, July 17 — Team Penning
- Sunday, July 18 — Western

For detailed information and registration, go to www.cornhuskerstategames.com or call: 1-800-30-games. (MC)