

Fairfield

Cont. from p1-a

1,500 contestants from 41 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia, and is the world's largest rodeo.

In addition to competing for more than \$200,000 in prizes, NHSFR contestants will also be vying for more than \$325,000 in college scholarships and the chance to be named a national champion.

Contestants also have the opportunity to represent their state teams in a volleyball tournament, take in nightly dances, participate in a talent contest, compete in a National Rifle Association shooting tournament, test their skills in a Knowledge Bowl competition and visit historical attractions in New Mexico.

Vandiver learned to rope from his father, Steve, and started competing in rodeos when he was about six years old.

"I rode my first horse by myself when I was three," the cowboy says, and notes that his parents have a picture of him when he was a week old sitting in a saddle with his father.

The junior student is the son of Steve and Teresa Vandiver of Fairfield.

At FHS he plays basketball and baseball, but gave up football because it interfered with rodeo.

This summer he is working with grandfather James Whatley baling hay and working cattle.

He also is helping his father start some horses, noting: "We are training them for ourselves."

Vandiver plans on attending Sam Houston State University after graduating FHS in 2011, partly because roping partner Hudson starts classes there this fall and they would be able to team

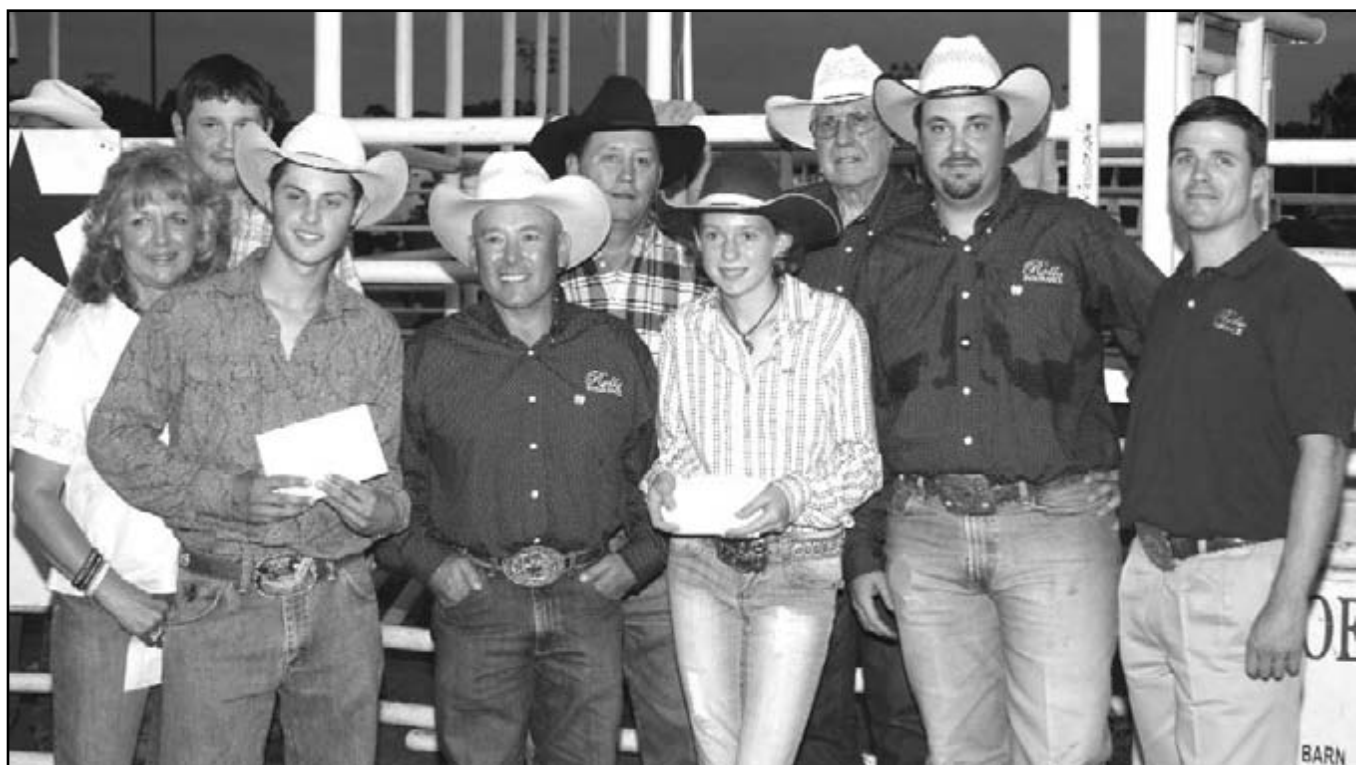
up for college competition.

Prior to going to the national finals in Farmington, the FHS junior is heading to Shawnee, Okla., to compete in the International Finals Youth Rodeo set July 13-18.

From Shawnee, he and his parents will head directly to Farmington to start the NHSRA finals.



MUTTON BUSTING CHAMPIONS at the Freestone County Fair, pictured with 1985 World Champion Bull Rider Ted Nuce, are, l-r, Dane Allman, Nicholas McKnight and Reagan Emmons.



CLAIMING THE ALL AROUND TITLES at the Yates Manahan Youth Rodeo during the Freestone County Fair were Dustin Duncan and Jake Hughes. Pictured are: front l-r, Duncan, 1985 World Champion Bull Rider Ted Nuce, Miss Hughes, Clark Fryer and Jason Rollo; back l-r, Debbie Manahan, Garrett Manahan, Cam Manahan and Jack Patterson.

City receives a clean audit

The city of Fairfield's finances got the all clear when certified public accountant Frank Campos delivered the 2007-08 audit results to council members last Tuesday.

Campos reported an overall increase in assets totaling \$1.4 million.

One of the largest revenue growth areas comes in the water and wastewater department with an increase of \$32,000.

The only department showing a decrease in income was sanitation.

In the future council members may consider raising customer rates to meet the increase in service fees being charged to the city.

At end of the year the books show \$5.6 million dollars in outstanding bonds with \$445,000 in

principal payments.

Council members also heard more good news as the city of Fairfield received excellent reports on its 2008 annual drinking water quality report as did the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Boyd Unit 1.

The report ensures that the drinking water meets or exceeds all federal drinking water requirements.

In other business, council members authorized Fairfield Industrial Development Corporation to proceed with awarding a construction bid in the amount of \$139,453 to Crockett Construction.

Work on Industrial Park Drive, an extension of Bayless Drive, will begin in the next few weeks.

Hoops Camp set next week

Young athletes can sign up for the Fairfield Boys and Girls Hoop Camp set for next week at Johnson Activity Center in Fairfield.

The camp is from 8:30 a.m. until noon July 6-9 and is directed by Fairfield high school boys' head basketball coach Joey Worley and girls' head basketball coach Steven Heers.

Cagers ages seven up to freshmen are eligible to participate.

Cost is \$50 if registered by July 5 and \$60 at the door.

Each camper receives a commemorative T-shirt and basketball, and is eligi-

ble for door prizes.

Young athletes will participate in fundamental dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding and defense drills, individually and as a group. There will be daily shooting competitions.

To register early, contact Worley at 903-389-5295 or 903-388-6464, or by e-mail at jworley3@yahoo.com.

When contacting the coach by e-mail, provide the camper's name, age, gender and T-shirt size, which will count as early registration which can be paid on the first day at the reduced rate.

Pro umpire has ties to Fairfield

The XM All-Star Futures Game to be played July 12 in St. Louis, Mo., includes an umpire with ties to Freestone county.

Working behind the plate for minor league all-star game is Matt Schaufert, son of Fairfield native Donna Tyus and her husband Richard Schaufert.

The umpire is 30 years old and currently lives in St. Louis.

He has been working as a minor league baseball official since 2004, starting in the Gulf Coast League, and now umpires in the Southern League.

Last year he was part of the officiating crew for the Southern League All-Star Game and Southern League Playoffs and Championship.

In addition to calling balls and strikes at the

Futures Game, Schaufert will join two other umpires for the Home Run Derby.

Now in its 11th year, the XM All-Star Futures Game features the top Minor League Baseball prospects competing in a 9-inning contest at Busch Stadium.

Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith is coaching the U.S. team in the Futures Game and St. Louis Cardinals third base coach Jose Oquendo is at the helm of the world team.

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