

Wynnewood is Home to World Champion Cowgirl

LaRae Luis came home from the National High School Finals Rodeo, known as the NHSFR World Championships with some shiny new hardware and a new title, World Championship Reserve All Around Cowgirl!

To secure the All Around Title she placed 3rd in the world in the Cutting and placed 4th in the World in the Reined Cow Horse.

LaRae says she is “thankful for her horses, ‘Buddy’ who is her cutting horse, and ‘Pepper’ who handles the Cow Horse duties.”

She battled it out in Rock Springs, Wyoming against 1,650 competitors and won \$2550 in scholarship money, 5 buckles and much more.

LaRae called it a stressful week, but also a “week to remember.” She told us she was ready to compete against the best kids in the world because of the support she has always received from her parents.

LaRae is the daughter of Mark and Shari Luis, owners of ML Training Stables LLC, located on Joy Road between Wynnewood and Davis.

Both of her parents have played a key role in LaRae’s success, with Mark’s experience as a trainer, and Shari’s role as both Mom and life coach, LaRae has been a standout in rodeo arenas across the country.

LaRae spoke about her father, Mark, and said “He is the reason I am the rider I am.”

“I have been riding since I was two years old, on the front of my Dad’s saddle.”

LaRae credits her Mom, Shari, as playing a huge role in preparing her mentally for her competitions, saying “she always has me ready for my mental game.”

The National High School Finals Rodeo is the world’s largest rodeo, with over 1,650 participants from 43 states, five Canadian Provinces, Mexico and as far away as Australia.

Claude Mullins legacy of support for youth, and his love of rodeo, continues to have a dramatic difference in the lives of over 10,500 students in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

And what was once a national finals that featured 121 entries has now grown into a National High School Finals Rodeo that features over 1,500 students on a regular basis and has become



known as the “World’s Largest Rodeo.”

The National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA) annually awards well over one-half million dollars in scholarships through achievements in the arenas at the National High School Finals Rodeo (NHSFR) and the National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR), as well as through various scholarship competitions, funded through the generosity of national sponsors and NHSRA budgeting and fundraising.

Added to that total are over one-quarter of a million dollars in Merit Scholarships funded through NHSRA and awarded by the state and provincial associations with numbers of scholarships based on membership.

The NHSRA just voted to add more scholarship money next year, \$100,000 to the NHSRA finals and \$50,000 to the Jr. High NHSRA finals. The National High School Rodeo Foundation awards over \$150,000 annually in scholarships through fundraising and the generosity of private donors. Current data totals \$812,000 in scholarships awarded to NHSRA members in 2017.

Through fundraising and donations of named and memorial scholarships, the Foundation awards scholarships, at a minimum of \$500 each, to all graduating NHSFR qualifiers who complete an application and written essay and who participate in a face-to-face interview.

LaRae stressed more than once how thankful she is to the Lord for giving her this opportunity to ride, saying the event last week “still seems surreal, it hasn’t sunk in yet.”

LaRae also wanted to thank her sponsors; Cactus Saddlery, Cactus Gear, Cactus Ropes, Rodeo Quincy, Resistol Hats, Bex Sunglasses, the National High School Rodeo Foundation, American Hats, and Cinch Jeans.

The All-Around Cowgirl is making room in her trophy case for five more shiny buckles, to go along with the others, including the first buckle she won when she was only about six years old. ■



Top Photo: Some of our Wynnewood FFA students recently participated in the “OSU Big Three Field Day.” This livestock judging contest included evaluation of cattle, sheep, swine, and goats. There were over 1,500 4H and FFA members that attended. The students who participated from Wynnewood were Kaleb Patchell, Bryce Dixon, Dylan Cope, Brayden Alexander, Matthew Cruz, Joseph Green, and T.J. Cope. [Courtesy Photo]

Bottom Photo: Wynnewood FFA students participated in a leadership training seminar on Friday, July 27 at the Chickasaw Resort. They attended along with the Mill Creek FFA and Milburn FFA students. This event enabled students to focus on their style of leadership and how to impact their Chapter with new leadership ideas. Students who attended were Brock Dixon, Braxton Travis, Reese Thompson, Matthew Cruz, Ruger Perry, and Jaycee Caldwell. [Courtesy Photo]



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