

# New 'Miss' to be named

Six young horsewomen vying for California Rodeo Salinas title; winner to be chosen Thursday

By CINDY SANTOS  
The Salinas Californian

The time is here again to name a new Miss California Rodeo Salinas.

Current title holder Kadee Coffman and California Rodeo Association President Jim Slaten will crown the next title holder Thursday.

Six contestants are vying for the honor, including: Anna Bavor, Miss Rowell Ranch Rodeo; Caili Marie Beebe, Miss San Benito Rodeo; Ashley Hoffmann, Miss Carmel Valley Ranchers Days; Sarah Lomanto, Miss Hollister Elks; Kari Ann Moreno, Miss Clovis Kiwanis; and Shannon Lee Walker, Miss Alameda County Cattlemen's Association.

Coffman said she felt privileged to have represented the Rodeo.

She now plans to spend the next two years competing at the state and national levels.

The big state contest is the Miss Rodeo California pageant, not to be confused with Salinas' Miss California Rodeo contest.

Coffman said she hopes to win the state title and move on to national competition.

The Miss California Rodeo contest is open to women ages 18 to 21. Eligible contestants must be sponsored by an equestrian organization or a nonprofit community group.

Contestants are judged in four areas, including equestrian skills, which count for 40 percent of their overall score. They also are judged on personality, appearance and scholarship. The maximum score is 100 percent, and the title goes to the contestant with the highest score.

On Wednesday, the contestants will be interviewed and appear before an audience, which will grade them on personality and appearance. The personality and appearance portion of the contest are worth 30 percent and 20 percent, respectively. They will also take an examination to gauge their scholarly abilities, 10 percent of their score.

The main event is their equestrian abilities, which will be judged on the track at 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

"You have to be able to ride," said Rodeo spokeswoman Sally Hamana.

Not only do contestants have to be adept at riding their own horses, but they have to ride their competitors' horses as well, Hamana said.

"It's not a pageant," she said. It's (The Miss California Rodeo competition) about horsemanship and scholarship, and love of the West," she said.

The contest winner gets a \$2,500 scholarship for college, a silver and



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

Kadee Coffman, Miss Clovis Kiwanis, reacts after being named Miss California Rodeo in July 2005. She will help crown the new Miss California Rodeo.

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— Sally Hamana,  
California Rodeo Salinas spokeswoman

diamond-studded belt buckle and a tiara.

The title winner continues a proud tradition and represents the Rodeo at other rodeos and special events across the country.

"She acts as an ambassador for the California Rodeo," Hamana said.



Anna Bavor



Caili Marie Beebe



Sarah Lomanto



Ashlee Hoffmann



Kari Ann Moreno



Shannon Lee Walker