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**(Neb.)-Little Britches Rodeo This Weekend At Fairgrounds**

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 09/29/2012 08:06 AM

After the Chadron State College rodeo with 489 entries took place at the Dawes County Fairgrounds in Chadron last weekend, another rodeo with lots of potential will be staged this weekend at the same location.

It is a Little Britches Rodeo, a first for Chadron in 22 years.

The organizers are Thorpe and Shelly Thompson of Whitney. They are receiving lots of help from other youth and rodeo supporters and hope to make it an annual affair. At least 100 cowboys and cowgirls from ages 5 through 18 are expected to participate.

The sessions will begin at 4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Twenty-nine events are scheduled.

The contestants will be divided into three age groups: Little Wranglers (5-8), Juniors (9-13) and Seniors (14-18).

Chadron hosted the Nebraska State Little Britches Rodeo each summer from 1961 through 1990. Those rodeos often drew scores of contestants from as far away as Kansas.

A cowboy church service that is open to the public will take place at 7:30 Sunday morning before the final competition. Mike Henderson of Hyannis, the senior all-around cowboy at the 1983 Little Britches Rodeo in Chadron, and his wife Tee Jay, will be in charge.