



**2016 Middletown Days Royalty**

**Queen Bailey DeBerry, Princess Jordan Sullivan,  
Royalty Court Kyleen Weertz & Lalia Brown**

This year the Middletown Days Queen and Princess contestants had varying levels of experience and skill. But, they all had one thing in common dedication.

The girls had to learn and demonstrate equine skills, their knowledge of horses, and even try their hand at public speaking. They spent countless hours working with their coaches on things like reining and showmanship. They competed in rodeos practicing what they'd learned. They worked at home writing and practicing their speeches. And, they practiced the little, but necessary things like keeping their shoulders back, their hands up, where to stand and how to get their horses to perform for the judges. They practiced until it became second nature.

During the evening portion of the competition, head coach and organizer of the event, Heather DeBerry praised the girls for their wonderful attitudes and huge improvements. She also thanked the parents for all their hard work and

dedication getting the girls to all the practices. "And, there were a ton of practices."

Last year was Princess 2nd Runner Up Lalia Brown's first competition ever. And, once again she was the youngest at 9 years old. While her favorite event was the barrel race, this year she also did very well at horse mastership and speech. She enjoys playing soccer and freeze tag. During her speech she thanked her Welsh pony named, Victor.

Princess First Runner Up, Kyleen Wertz, is 11. She is going into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Kyleen rode her 10 year old Buckskin Dun, Dallie, and says her best event is barrels. During the competition she excelled at reining and halter. She has been riding since she was 2 and likes cheer and volley ball.

Middletown Days Princess Jordan Sullivan has been riding since she was an infant. She competed on her 10 year old Anglo Arab, Smoke. Jordan also did well at barrels, and, she was the most relaxed during Sunday's speech event. She is going into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and is 13. She enjoys basketball, soccer and is raising a goat and two chickens for 4H.

Bailey DeBerry, this year's Middletown Day's Queen, is the veteran of the group having competed several times in the past. In 2014 she won the title of Princess. She is 14, going into the 10th grade and has also been riding her whole life. She enjoys barrel racing and raising pigs for 4H. This year she competed on Buggy her 8 year old quarter horse. Her best events were horse mastership and the Queen wave.

Many thanks go out to all the people that had a hand in this year's event: Assistant Mary Willis, Brianne Weatherwax Masterson for horse mastership; Johanna Snell for barrels; Tracy Donnoly for reining; and Jane Caullie for showmanship, horse mastership and overall general counsel. And, a special thanks to the judges: Donna Crowfoot, Debbie Wallace, and Molly Euken.

Don't forget to congratulate the girls should you see them, and while you're at it, buy a few beef raffle tickets from them.

