

Wednesday, July 21, 2021



Top: The 2021 Miss Moultrie Douglas County Fair queen royalty from the pageant held Monday evening July 12 in Arthur. Hadley Laster (left) of Arcola, sponsored by the Miss Arcola Pageant, was named People's Choice winner; Kali Pierce (center) of Tuscola was named the 2021 Miss Moultrie Douglas County Fair Queen and Logan Streible (right) of Atwood, sponsored by Heritage Family Farms won the Miss Congeniality award voted on by the contestants. Pierce was also the 2009 Little Miss Moultrie-Douglas and the 2015 Jr. Miss Moultrie-Douglas, making her only the second queen to win all three titles along with Kayce Patton.

Left: The 2021 Little Miss Moultrie-Douglas County fair queen royalty. Congratulations to second runner up, Kinsley Eads (left) Little Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Quinn Chapman (center) and Chloe Monts (right).

Right: The 2021 Moultrie-Douglas Junior Miss Pageant was held on Monday, July 12 at the fairgrounds with fourteen young ladies vying for the title. Pictured is 2019 Miss Moultrie-Douglas Makenna Green; 2019 Junior Miss Moultrie-Douglas Reggan Smith; 2019 Little Miss Moultrie-Douglas Reagan McCumber; Jorja Lebeter (Arcola) 1st Runner-Up; newly crowned 2021 Junior Miss Moultrie-Douglas Molly Appleby; Kelsey Moore (Arcola), 2nd Runner-Up; and Jade Garza (Arcola) Junior Miss Congeniality. Appleby is the daughter of Misty and Andy Appleby from Atwood and she was sponsored by the Arthur Area Association of Commerce and the Atwood Chamber of Commerce.



Tribute to Veterans and Snip planned at the 2021 Arthur Fireworks

The Rural Patriot will pay tribute to his fallen horse Snip and all those who have served during the Arthur Fireworks on July 31.

Proudly brandishing an American flag, Marty Miller, the Rural Patriot, gallantly rode Snip the horse in front of the Niagara Falls for many years at the fireworks. Snip unfortunately won't make that ride this year as he was recently diagnosed with respiratory pneumonia and had to be euthanized.

Miller is understandably upset over the death of his friend and trusted companion. Instead of moving forward with a new horse this year or not participating in the fireworks, Miller will use the time normally reserved for him and Snip's ride to honor Snip and to celebrate the freedoms Americans enjoy.

When the Niagara Falls begins during the fireworks, Miller and his brother Doug will carry Snip's saddle, place it down onto the field, place an American flag into the saddle and then walk away. "This tribute is not just for Snip; this is for all those who have fought and died

for this country and given us the freedom to be able enjoy these fireworks," said Miller. "Thanks to those who serve, we enjoy many freedoms including freedom of religion and we can pray and attend church. It doesn't matter what religion you are."

Miller and Snip had developed a trust, said Miller who enjoys training horses. And when a rider and a horse are riding in front of bright fireworks and a massive crowd who are loudly cheering and clapping, trust between the rider and horse is paramount.

"It's amazing how a human and an animal can connect," said Miller who could tell when Snip was listening because Snip remained calm and responded to Miller's gentle commands.

Snip was 15-years-old and Miller said this would have been his final ride at the Arthur Fireworks. "Whenever Snip and I rode, we rode for freedom," said Miller. "We rode for all those who have served."

Miller will return with a new horse in 2022 for his annual freedom ride.



Craig Pessman PHOTOGRAPHY

Submitted Photo

Marty Miller on his horse, Snip, performing at an Arthur fireworks display.



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