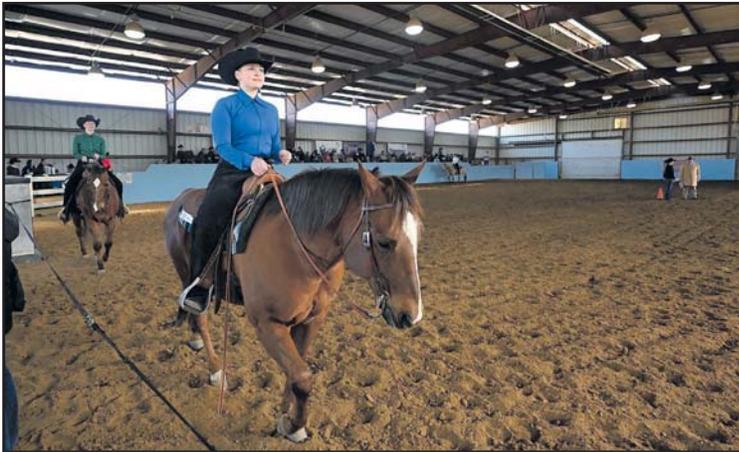


EQUINE FACILITY CELEBRATES EXPANSION



At top, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College sophomore Claire Coryell, center, accepts her first-place award for showmanship during the regional of the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association on Saturday in SMWC's Equine Facility. The completion of the facility's recent expansion was celebrated on Saturday and was completed in part by \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The completed project features a 30,800-square-foot indoor arena event space with stalls, concessions, restrooms, meeting rooms, and office space, along with expanded trailer parking, campsites, and surrounding pastures across 90 acres adjacent to campus. **Above left**, Riders compete in the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association regional on Saturday at SMWC. **Above right**, Edward Ferguson, chair of the SMWC Equine Studies Department, talks about the benefits that the recently renovated facility will provide to the community during a news conference on Saturday at the school.

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Photos by Joseph C. Garza/Tribune-Star