



ASHTABULA COUNTY August 5-10

Ashtabula County Fairgrounds, Jefferson

FAIR

A Special Supplement To The Star Beacon - August 1, 2014



FREE

EVERY DAY

FUN HOUSE on back midway

WAMBOLD'S AMAZING ANIMALS by Floral Building

SWIFTY THE CLOWN on the midway and JUNGLE TERRY in the Barnard Entertainment Center.

168th Annual

Ashtabula County Fair to begin six day run of fun

By **SHELLEY TERRY**

Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

One of the highlights of summer in Ashtabula County is attending the fair in Jefferson. Though somewhat smaller than neighboring counties, the local fair is fun, affordable and shows off the best of our agricultural roots.

The 168th annual Ashtabula County Fair will be held Aug. 5-10 this year, featuring the Swon Brothers from NBC's hit show, "The Voice," as the headline entertainment.

An American country music duo from Muskogee, Okla., brothers Zach and Colton Swon finished third in the show's fourth season's finale last June.

Fair organizers said they are fortunate to get this act which will perform at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9. Seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tickets are \$10, plus the \$7 cost of admission.

Since their appearance on "The Voice" the Swon Brothers have signed a record deal with Arista, which is part of the Sony group, and they have released their first single hit, "Later On," according to the Swon Brothers web site.

Other fair favorites like fair food, 4-H livestock events, agricultural displays, veterans' events, children's contests, horse shows, harness racing, 4-H exhibits, demolition derbies, motocross racing and a tractor pull are expected to draw big crowds.

Members of the Ashtabula County Holstein Club run one of the more popular booths, where they serve up the club's sig-

nature milkshakes, ice cream and cheese sandwiches.

Many improvements have been made to the fairgrounds, including two barn quilts. Dedication will be held Thursday afternoon at the conclusion of the Ashtabula County commissioners meeting by the Floral building.

Lisko Amusements always brings lots of carnival rides, which will be open 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 11 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 to 11 p.m. Wednesday (Kids Day); 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. Sunday.

On top of it all, fair board members hope Mother Nature will cooperate with warm, sunny skies throughout the week.

Admission is \$7, but children, senior citizens and veterans all have their own special day at the fair, allowing free or discounted admission. Fair booklets are available at the Secretary's Office under the grandstand.

Three shows are free with general admission every day: a new Fun House, Jungle Terry, Swiftly the Clown and Wambold's Amazing Animals.

If you're looking for old-fashioned thrills, go to Rooster Crowing Contest at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center on the back midway. It always draws a fowl crowd.

The excitement of harness racing is at noon Thursday in front of the grandstand.

Don't forget to go by the Plymouth Grange for homemade pies and the Jefferson Grange for a delicious roast beef dinner.

DID YOU KNOW?

■ Two barn quilts will be dedicated at the fair? Barn quilts are quilt patterns painted on wooden 4x4-foot or 8x8-foot squares in a starburst, log cabin or other pattern.

■ A free Fun House is new to the fair this year on the back midway.

■ Tractors and truck shows are slated for all day Sunday.

■ Chriss March is president of the Ashtabula County Fairboard Auxiliary.

■ Ohio-made American Traditions

maple baskets are available for a \$45 donation to the auxiliary. Every basket boasts an engraved brass plate that reads, "Ashtabula County Fair - Jefferson, Ohio -2014."

■ The Fairboard gives away six bicycles in a drawing held on Wednesday. It's part of the fun of Kids Day. Sign up at a tent on midway in front of Racehorse Barn No. 14.

■ The Junior Fair theme this year is "Celebrating Agriculture at the Fair."

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Local trade, Auto, Alloys,
Power Options, CD

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Auto, Power Seat, alloys

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Moonroof, Alloys

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Auto, Alloys

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06 HONDA ODYSSEY EXL
Local Trade, Alloys, Leather,
Moonroof, Power Seat

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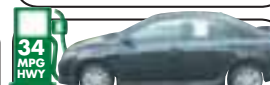
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09 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
Local Trade, Auto, Spoiler,
Power Seat, CD

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One Owner, Local Trade,
Moonroof, Alloys

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13 KIA SOUL +
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Power Options, low Miles

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07 HONDA CRV LX
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Power Options, Low Miles

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05 CHEVY SILVERADO CREWCAB
4x4 Local Trade, Auto, V8, Tow
Package, Remote Start

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08 CHEVY IMPALA SS
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Moonroof, Leather, Low Miles

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Moonroof, Alloys, Remote Start

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2014 ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY AUGUST 5

Sponsor of the Day
Carington Park
SENIOR CITIZENS
DAY
for ages 62 and over
\$1 admission to
grounds all day

9 a.m.

Flag raising
Jr. Fair
Saddle Horse/
Jumping & Dressage
Fancy Poultry Show
Dairy Steer Show
Dairy Beef
Feeder Show

11 a.m.

Bicycle Decorating
& Races
Jr. Fair Saddle
Horse Flag
Ceremony &
Crowning of
Equine Royalty

Noon

Jr. Fair Saddle
Horse Project
Judging/-
Showmanship
1 p.m.
Jr. Fair Dairy
Clipping Contest
Frog Jumping
Contest

2 p.m.

Jr. Fair Sheep Show
2:30 p.m.
Jr. Fair Alpaca
& Llama Show
4 p.m.
Draft Horse
Driving Competition
5:30 p.m.
Royal Court Contest
& Youth Parade
7 p.m.
Jr. Fair Miniature
Horse Judging
Food, Nutrition
and General
Projects Awards
MOTOCROSS
7:30 p.m.
4-H Style Review

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6

Sponsor of the Day
The Star Beacon

KID'S DAY

Kids 14 and under
admitted free to
grounds all day.
All day ride pass:
\$4.
Kids may register for
bike drawing
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
at the tent by
Racehorse Barn
No. 14

9 a.m.

Jr. Fair Saddle
Horse Project
Judging, Riding
Class
Market Poultry Show
& Showmanship
Draft Horse
Halter Classes
All Dairy
Judging by Breed
10 a.m.
Find Pennies
in Sawdust
Kids Drawing
Contest (entries)
Noon

Water Balloon Toss

1 p.m.

Kids Drawing
Contest (awards)

2 p.m.

Bubble Gum Contest

4 p.m.

Watermelon Eating
Contest

4 p.m.

Jr. Fair
Swine Showmanship
Swine Show

Continued on next page

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2014 ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5 p.m.
Jr. Fair
Rabbit Project
Judging and
Showmanship
6 p.m.
Drawing for
six bicycles
Barnard
Entertainment
Center
7:30 p.m.
Bull riding &
Barrel Racing*
*\$4 admission to
grandstand

THURSDAY
AUGUST 7

Sponsor of the Day
**Gazette
Newspapers**

**VETERANS
APPRECIATION
DAY**
Veterans free
admission to
grounds all day
with identification
discharge papers
DD2-14,
veteran's
organization
membership card or
Veteran's
Administration
ID card

9 a.m.
Jr. Fair
Saddle Horse/-
Gaming, Trail,
Extra Classes
10 a.m.
Draft Horse Farm
Team Hitch Class
& Log Pull

10 a.m.
Jr. Fair
Goat Show/Harness
& Pack Goat
Open Class
Beef Show
Noon
Water Balloon toss,
outside MAC Arena
Harness racing
1 p.m.
Junior Fair
Beef Breeding Show
Ashtabula County
Commissioners
Meeting in Expo
Building
2 p.m.
Rooster
Crowing Contest
2 p.m.
Jr. Fair
Beef Feeder
Showmanship &
Weight Class
4 p.m.
Jr. Fair
Beef Showmanship
5 p.m.
Flyover/Salute
to Veterans
6 p.m.
Jr. Fair
Steer Show
Rabbit
Showmanship,
Rabbit Meat Pen,
Doe & Litter Judging
7 p.m.
Parent/Advisor
Horse Show
7:30 p.m.
DEMOLITION
DERBY*
*\$4 admission
to grandstand

FRIDAY
AUGUST 8

Sponsor of the Day
**Big Oats Oilfield
Supply Co.**

**SENIOR CITIZENS
DAY**
for ages 62 and over
\$1 admission to
grounds all day
9 a.m.
Jr. Fair
Saddle Horse
Pleasure Show
9:30 a.m.
Dairy Pee Wee
Show
10 a.m.
Dairy All Breeds
Open Class Show
2 p.m.
Small Animal
Costume Contest
4:30 p.m.
Draft Horse Hitch
Classes
7:30 p.m.
Demolition Derby*
*\$4 admission to
grandstand

SATURDAY
AUGUST 9

Sponsor of the Day
**French
Chiropractic**

9 a.m.
Jr. Fair
Saddle Horse
Pleasure Show
10 a.m.
Open Class
Goat Show
1 p.m.
Market Livestock
Sale

2 p.m.
Basketball Free
Throw Contest
Small Animal
Costume Show
4 p.m.
Jr. Fair Dog Awards
4:30 p.m.
Draft Horse
Hitch Classes
8:30 p.m.
SWON BROTHERS
CONCERT*
*\$10 admission
to grandstand

SUNDAY
AUGUST 10

Sponsor of the Day
**Ashtabula County
Nursing & Rehab
Center**

10-11 a.m.
Pie and Baking
contest entries
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Truck Show
11 a.m.
Stock Tractor/Stock
4x4 Pull
11 a.m.
MAC Awards
Noon
Jr. Fair
Saddle Horse
Awards Ceremony
Pie and Baking

Contest Auction
2 p.m.
Garden Tractor Pull
Kiddie Tractor Pull
2:30 p.m.
Jr. Fair Super
Showman Contest
Horseless Horse
Show
4 p.m.
Hog Pee Wee Show
6 p.m.
MODIFIED
TRACTOR/4X4'
& SEMI PULLS*
*\$2 admission to
grandstand, race
track and pit area
10 p.m.
Fair closes



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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ASHTABULA RESIDENT Marge Kubichek searched through photos from her father's estate and found lots of snapshots of the fair. This photo goes back to 1992.



TALK ABOUT AN OLDIE! This photo — going back to 1989's fair — is just one of many Marge Kubichek of Ashtabula saved from her father's estate.

Let's Make Some MEMORIES ★ AT THE ★ FAIR

Star Beacon readers share fair memories

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

Creating memories with your family is what the Ashtabula County Fair is all about. That means livestock shows, entering the best produce from your garden, riding the rides, watching the Demolition Derby or betting on the excitement of harness racing.

Marge Kubichek of Ashtabula searched through photos from her father's

estate and found lots of snapshots of the fair, going back to 1946.

Her father, Ladimir Kubichek Sr. of Sheffield Township, took lots and lots of photos throughout his life, Kubichek said.

"He loved the fair, he loved animals and he loved taking pictures," she said. "He belonged to camera clubs, the Farm Bureau, the Sheffield Grange and church."

**See MEMORIES,
Page 25**

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WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

SOPHIA MCELROY, 10, of Orwell holds her frog Belcher. The pair are planning to enter the frog jumping contest at the Ashtabula County Fair.

Serious frog jumping at the Ashtabula County Fair

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

JEFFERSON — Most children jump at the chance to enter the world of competitive frog jumping.

The Ashtabula County Fair's celebrated Frog Jumping Contest is the perfect opportunity for youngsters to catch a frog, train a frog and enter it in the contest, set for 1 p.m. Tuesday in front of the grandstand.

Last year, 10-year-old Sophie McElroy caught a Big Daddy of a frog in a neighboring farmer's pond. She's already nabbed this year's frog, Belcher. She's hoping for a record-breaking leap, she said.

"We caught quite a few frogs and eliminated the smaller ones," she said. "I chose the frog I named Belcher because he's a really big bullfrog."

Sophie said she can always count on her grandmother to be there to cheer Belcher on.

Her grandmother, Jeanette McElroy, of Orwell, said, "She's loves catching the big

frogs."

As with any great contest, you must know the rules of the game. Here's what you need to know for the fair's frog jump:

Each contestant is allowed to enter one frog. Frogs are allowed three consecutive jumps, the length of which will be measured in a straight line from the center of the starting point. A false start by anxious frogs may be declared by the judges. All judges' decisions are final.

Disqualification will take place in the event of unsportsman-like conduct or evidence of frog drugging.

Prizes are as follows: Participants get 50-cents, and first-place award is \$5. Second-place award is \$3, and third place, \$2.

The frog jumping competition was modeled after Mark Twain's famous short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," making it a big hit with people of all ages. However, human contestants must be 18 years of age or younger.

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168th Anniversary

ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE

Market
Animal Sale



2013

THANK YOU

To All The Buyers Who Supported Our Program



For your support at the 2013 Market Livestock Auctions, from all the Ashtabula County Fair, 4-H, FFA, Auctioneers, Clerks, Office Staff, Trophy Sponsors & Medallion Sponsors. Thanks also to Ashtabula Cattleman's Association for refreshments.



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JH&P DBA Plank Road Tavern
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Scott Wilms
Winding Creek



168th Anniversary

ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE

Market
Animal Sale



ORDER OF SALE:

CHEESE, MARKET RABBITS, DUCKS,
MARKET GOATS, MARKET TURKEYS,
MARKET CHICKENS, DAIRY BEEF FEEDERS,
STEERS, DAIRY STEERS, BEEF FEEDERS,
LAMBS AND HOGS.

Support Area Youth By Attending And Purchasing Top Quality
Animals. Local Processors Available To Assist With Your Purchase.

***Thank You To The Following People &
Businesses Who Purchased The Animals
Donated Back At The 2013 Ashtabula Jr. Fair
Market Animal Sale:***

DAIRY BEEF FEEDERS: Donated by Jeff Meddock Memorial Scholarship Fund, bought by Harvey Homes & RV. TURKEYS: Donated by Ashtabula County Humane Society, bought by Frank Murton. Donated by Animal Protective League, bought by Commissioner Joe Moroski. Donated by Austin Inman Trust Fund, bought by Cherry Valley Processing. Donated by Hospice of the Western Reserve, bought by Carl R. Gruey. HOGS: Donated by Hospice of the Western Reserve, bought by Stackhouse Construction. Donated by MAC Facilities Hog Barn, bought by Cherry Valley Processing. MEAT RABBITS: Donated by Ashtabula County 4-H Foundation, bought by Beckwith Family and Carl R. Gruey. CHICKENS: Donated by County Neighbor, bought by County Recorder Barb Schaab. Donated by Ashtabula Dream Center, bought by David and Jamie Marrison and Daniel Hanson.



168th Anniversary

ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE

Market
Animal Sale**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR**

GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
& BEST OF SHOW
Beef Feeders
Kirsten Schwotzer
Buyer-Euclid Veterinary Clinic

RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR

RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR
Beef Feeders
Raquel Mook
Buyer-Tiffanee Seames

BEST OF SHOW

RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Beef Feeders
Mackenzie Kotnik
Buyer-Squibbs Trucking

RESERVE BEST OF SHOW

BEST OF SHOW
Beef Carcass
Jimmy Kunka
Buyer-J D's Pit Shop

CARCASS

RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Beef Carcass
Joshua Kearney
Buyer-George Smith



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Raeann Eldred
Buyer-Crooked Fence Farm



BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Beef Carcass
Emily Millard
Buyer-Edward A. Cigany



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Beef Carcass
Jessica Krulic
Buyer-Edelman Firewood Sales



BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Cow Cheese Basket
Elizabeth Coltman
Buyer-Kocab Auto Electric



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BEST OF SHOW
Dairy Steers
Felipe Pacheco
Buyer-North American EDM Supplies



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Dairy Steers
Devon Dean
Buyer-O & P Oil & Gas



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Market Steers
Tori Kaniki
Buyer-Great Lake Auto Group



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RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Market Steers
Bailee Mazzaro
Buyer-H & H Enterprises



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Market Steers
Ryan Johnson
Buyer-Mike Ellsworth Construction



BEST OF SHOW
Hog Carcass
Cassady Kingdom
Buyer-Jeff & Marsha Horne



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW
Hog Carcass
Calla Mozzaro
Buyer-Lisko Amusements



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BEST OF SHOW
Market Hog
Brandon Yauger
Buyer-Ray Bros. Inc.



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Laura Jackom
Buyer-Colebrook Elevator

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Buyer-Mike Ellsworth Construction

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Cora Riggleman
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Buyer-Farm Bureau



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Buyer-Stone Garlic Farm



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Buyer-Struna Holsteins



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Buyer-John Patterson



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Barn quilts to adorn Grange Building

By **LORI PINELLI**

For The Star Beacon

JEFFERSON — This past March, Ingrid Whitaker sent a letter to the Granges in Ashtabula County. The letter told of her idea to honor Grangers with barn quilts on the Grange Building at the county fairgrounds. A barn quilt is a wooden square with a quilt pattern painted on it. Whitaker's correspondence resulted in a beautification project; 16 2x2-inch barn quilts will adorn the outside of the Grange Building for fair-goers to enjoy.

"Grange members have worked to help the community for 120 years or more," Whitaker said. "They

deserve to be recognized and remembered by showing the barn quilts on the Grange Building at the fair. It also helps promote tourism."

Grangers throughout the county have joined together to help Whitaker see the project through. The Granges involved are Jefferson, East Plymouth, Hartsgrove, Richfield, Griggs, Saybrook and Sheffield Star.

Some members have donated funds to purchase supplies. Others are gathering regularly at the Whitaker home to paint designs on the squares. Whitaker has donated some of the paint and plywood. Her son,

See QUILTS, Page 24



LORI PINELLI/ For the Star Beacon

INGRID WHITAKER (left) and her daughter, Judi Neff, both of Ashtabula, move some of the barn quilts to put on the Grange Building at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in Jefferson.



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The Crites siblings will have horses, poultry and archery at the county fair

By **LORI PINELLI**
For the Star Beacon

The Crites siblings, Emily, Brendon and Christi, are members of The Vaqueros 4-H club.

The word “Vaqueros” refers to hard-working Spanish cowboys who brought a style of natural horsemanship to the United States. The three youth exemplify this spirit of commitment with their 4-H work. Each of them has an animal project at the county fair.

This is the first year 9-year old Emily is showing a horse in 4-H. She has participated in work sessions with her horse at the county fairgrounds throughout the summer, aided by her advisors and other club members.

“My horse's name is Floyd,” Emily said. “He is a

bay thoroughbred — that’s dark brown with a black mane and tail. I brush him every day, but he loves to roll in the dirt and mud. Sometimes it takes a long time to get him clean.

Sometimes, I even have to give him a bath because he is so dirty. I ride him just about every day that it isn’t raining or unsafe weather.”

Emily said that she likes her friends in 4-H, and especially her advisors, Val and Larry, because they make her feel good about herself. She is excited about taking Floyd to fair this year.

Her brother, Brendon, 12, has a fancy poultry project for the fair. He is showing two white, non-bearded, silky bantams. The tame hens follow Brendon around the family farm and

See CRITES, Page 25



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

THE CRITES family of Trumbull Township prepares for the Ashtabula County Fair. (From left) Christi, 15, with her horse Major; Brendon, 12, with his poultry project Poof and Emily, 9, with her horse Floyd.



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AMANDA BARNUM
Age: 17 Kingsville
Dusty Riders 4-H Club
Parents:
Kyle and Elaine Barnum



ALEXANDRA DALTON
Age: 15 Andover
Milkshakes
Parents:
Russell and
Jennifer Dalton



MICHAELA DARBY
Age: 17 Jefferson
Barns and Buttons 4-H Club
Parents:
John and
Ann Marie Darby



REBECCA DILLON
Age: 16 Williamsfield
Happy Hoppers 4-H
Club, P.V. FFA
Parents:
Steve and Lynne Dillon



REBECCA HACKATHORN
Age: 16 Dorset
Cherry Lyme Tailenders
P.V. FFA
Parents: Tina Hackathorn
and the late Bobby Walker



JESSICA KRULIC
Age: 18 Dorset
Prime Bovine
4-H Club, P.V. FFA
Parents:
Tony and Karle Krulic



ALESIA LAMBERT
Age: 16 Jefferson
Vaqueros
Parents:
Tony and Traci Lambert



TRACEY LUTE
Age: 18 Kingsville
Happy Hoppers 4-H Club
Parents:
Mike and Jennie Lute



NICOLE MANN
Age: 16 Pierpont
Pierpont Mix N Match
PACS, P.V. FFA
Parents: Sharon Millard
and Tim Mann



NATASHA SOBIE
Age: 15 Hartsgrove
Mustang Wranglers
4-H Club
Parents:
Frank and Nancy Sobie



KORTNEY SQUIBBS
Age: 17 Orwell
Hoppin' Hoofers
4-H Club
Parents: Barbara
and Duane Squibbs



ALEXIS STEIN
Age: 15 Ashtabula
Barns and Buttons,
Sheffield Target Masters
Parents: Daniel
and Kimberly Stein



COURTNEY TAYLOR
Age: 16 Jefferson
Peanut Gallery, Jelly
Beans and Jumpers
Parents: Kathleen
and Michael Taylor



CODY KANICKI
Age: 16 Pierpont
Pierpont Mix-n-Match
PACS 4-H Club
Parents:
Bart and Kelly Kanicki



BRAD KOBERNIK
Age: 16 Jefferson
Barney Buddies and
Amped for Camp
Parents: Roberta and
Claude Kobernik



MACKENZIE SEMAI
Age: 18 Andover
Milkshakes and FFA
Parents:
John and Patty Semai



SAMUEL SEMAI
Age: 16 Andover
Bits - N - Tales,
Milkshakes, FFA
Parents:
John and Patty Sema



MASON TAYLOR
Age: 18 Jefferson
Hoppin' Hoofers
4-H Club
Parents: Stephanie
Marous and Matt Taylor

KING



2014 JR. FAIR ROYAL COURT CANDIDATES

PRINCESS



BELLA AUSTIN
Age: 12 Jefferson
Silver Stirrups
Parents:
Tim and Valarie Austin



ERIN BRENNAN
Age: 12 Rock Creek
Barns and Buttons
Parents: Jane Brewster
and Michael Brennan



RACHEL BRENNAN
Age: 14 Rock Creek
Barns and Buttons
Parents: Jane Brewster
and Michael Brennan



KASSIDY BRINKER
Age: 12 Rock Creek
All American Animals
Parents:
Jodi and Jason Brinker



**SUSAN ADELE
BOGARDUS**
Age: 14 Andover
Pierpont Mix N Match PACS
Parents: David and
Sarah Bogardus



COLLEEN DARBY
Age: 12 Jefferson
Barns and Buttons
Parents: John and
Ann Marie Darby



**GWENDALYN
FUENTES**
Age: 12 Jefferson
Zoo Crew
Parents: Chris
and Lindsay Fuentes



**HANNAH
HOLLINGSHEAD**
Age: 12 Geneva
Runnin' Free 4-H Club
Parents: Pam Bradek
and Bill Hollingshead



JESSECA HOUSEL
Age: 13 Pierpont
Milkshakes 4-H Club
Parents:
Larry Housel
and Jenna Stoffel



ABRIANNA JONES
Age: 13 Ashtabula
Zoo Crew 4-H Club
Parents: Douglas and
Sharon Jones



ASHLEY LIMESTOLL
Age: 12 Andover
Denmark Pioneers
Parents: Mark and
Alicen Limestoll



ANALESE MARRISON
Age: 14 Jefferson
J-Town Crew
Parents: Jamie and
David Marrison



ALEXIS MEANEY
Age: 14 Jefferson
Runnin' Free
4-H Club
Parents: Bradley
and Angela Meaney



SHARON MILLARD
Age: 12 Pierpont
Country Bumpkin
4-H Club
Parents: Robert and
Annette Millard



STACIE RITCHIE
Age: 14 Orwell
Hoppin Hoofers
Parent:
Joyce Ritchie



SYDNEY SPENCER
Age: 12 Rome
Denmark Pioneers
Parents:
Natalie Deura
and Chris Smile



JAKE BUTLER
Age: 13 Jefferson
Denmark Pioneers
Parents:
Jim and
Seanna Butler



ZACHARY CONOBOY
Age: 13 Jefferson
Minds on The Go
4-H Club
Parents: Martin and
Melissa Conoboy



ANTONY ENOS
Age: 13 Ashtabula
Saybrook Raiders Peanut
Gallery 4-H Clubs
Parents: Princess
and Richard Taft Jr.

PRINCE

Junior Fair Board busy preparing for the Fair

By **STACY MILLBERG**

Staff Writer

JEFFERSON — The Junior Fair Board is busy getting ready for the 2014 Ashtabula County Fair which is set to kick off Aug. 5.

This year's Junior Fair Board theme is "Celebrating Agriculture at the Fair," said Jenna Hoyt, Ashtabula County OSU Extension Office 4-H educator.

Hoyt said the Junior Fair Board members vote on a theme each year. With this being the centennial of extension, members of the Junior Fair Board wanted to incorporate that into their theme, she said.

The Junior Fair Board begins its year in September and works prior to the fair as well as during and after it, she said.

Each year, Junior Fair Board members complete two community service projects, one to benefit the fair such as painting at the fairgrounds and another to benefit a different local nonprofit organization. This year members held a car wash for the Ashtabula County Animal Protective League, Hoyt said.

In the weeks prior to the fair, Junior Fair Board members are hard at work painting and getting things ready at the fairgrounds,

she said.

During the week of the fair, Junior Fair Board members spend time assisting the Senior Fair Board members as needed. Hoyt said they are responsible for making sure the shows are organized, distributing ribbons and narrating shows.

They also help run Kid's Day, which takes place Wednesday of the fair. On Monday, before the fair, they organize a talent show.

Members also work on sub-committees such as entertainment and super showman, she said.

In addition to all this, the Junior Fair Board members still have to meet their obligations to their 4-H club or FFA group, Hoyt said. "They have to be in good standing in order to participate," she said.

This year, there are 24 members in the Junior Fair Board. Members include Samantha Adams, Emma Brennan, Kimberly Brumagin, Michaela Darby, Rebecca Dillon, Aaron Good, Tracey Lute, Kevin Maurer, Samuel Semai, Mackenzie Semai, Kortney Squibbs, Mason Taylor, Natalie Thomas, Mary Wessell, Emma Cigany, Laura Jackam, Savannah Lewis, Stacey Lute, Michael Miller, and, Lexi Stein.

Junior Fair Board advisors include Jennifer Beals, Kim Howard, Greg Good and Hoyt.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

THE 2014 Junior Fair Board members include: (back row from left) Mack Semai, Michaela Darby, Lexi Stein, Aaron Good, Kevin Maurer, Emma Cigany and Samuel Semai. (Front row from left) Michael Miller, Tracey Lute, Savannah Lewis, Mason Taylor and Stacey Lute.

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Harness racing tradition to continue at fair

By **WARREN DILLAWAY**
Staff Writer

JEFFERSON — The decades old tradition of harness racing at the Ashtabula County Fair is scheduled to continue at noon Thursday at the grandstand, said Susan Stockwell, speed superintendent.

Stockwell is hoping for good crowds at the harness racing and believes next year the fair may be able to have two days of racing,

instead of just one.

“I just (would) like to see the grandstand full,” Stockwell said. She said the tradition of harness racing goes back decades to the time when it was the only place gambling was a possibility.

Harness racing fans are able to bet on the races through a company hired to handle the parimutal betting.

“He figures out the odds,” she said.

Stockwell is in charge of coordinating the racing experience including securing officials, getting the starter car and making sure the track is ready for race day.

“We should have 11 races,” Stockwell said of the fair’s harness racing event.

She said two-to -three year old horses are eligible to race at the fair.

Stockwell said many area harness racers work on older horses that race at larger tracks throughout surrounding states.

She said most of the competitors come from north-

eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

Stockwell said she loves the whole process of harness racing.

She said the business involves a lot of hours with early morning care of horses and late night racing.

“The eight to five doesn’t exist,” she said with a laugh.

Harness race horses are broken into two categories with trotters running on opposite leg patterns and pacers running on front back movements.

Stockwell said the different horses are bred for each style.



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

ED THOMAS runs a training run at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in Jefferson.

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JEFFERSON — The “Harvest Basket” is the official collector’s basket for the 2014 Ashtabula County Fair.

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This basket has a swing handle, star tack covers, plastic protector and cloth liner, as well as an engraved brass plate with Ashtabula County Fair - Jefferson, Ohio - 2014. Cost: \$45. Call 440-228-8414 to order.

Money received from the sale of the baskets help beautify the fairgrounds, repair and replace items, support education, 4-H and scholarships.

The Auxiliary sells flowers and hosts a pie and cookie auction in the Expo building to raise additional funds.

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PRIME BOVINE 4-H CLUB REMEMBER ADVISOR JOE BODNAR



SUBMITTED PHOTO

THE PRIME BOVINE 4-H Club and families are remembering and will dearly miss Advisor Joe Bodnar, who passed away this year. Bodnar not only dedicated his time with the 4H club but also countless hours as an active fair board member. This year the Club’s Community Project will be auctioning a turkey at the MAC Livestock Sale on Saturday. The proceeds from the auction will go to Compassionate Friends of Ashtabula County. Compassionate Friends help families in the area who are suffering with the loss of a child. Please come out and support this worthy cause.

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Swon Brothers excited to be headline act

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

The Swon Brothers are living the dream and the best part is they are doing it with family.

Zach and Colton Swon became famous last summer after placing third on NBC's hit show, "The Voice," under the direction of country star Blake Shelton. Soon after, the brothers released a single, "Later On."

Zach Swon, 29, and Colton Swon, 25, grew up traveling and singing with their family's gospel band, igniting the desire to perform.

"We wanted to be the next Brooks and Dunn," Zach Swon said.

Even so, the brothers said they had no intention of auditioning for "The Voice." It happened that their keyboard player said he was going to Memphis to try out for the show and asked if they wanted to go.

"Every thing we wanted and ever dreamed of doing is happening now," Colton Swon said. "It's been great. We signed a record deal and we have been touring all over the country."

Their song, "Later On," is doing great on the music charts and they just finished



recording an album.

Zach Swon said their Voice coach, Blake Shelton, who performed at the Ashtabula County Fair nine years ago, is one of the best people he has ever met.

"Blake is 100 percent what you see on TV," he said. "When the cameras are off, he's more."

The Swon Brothers recently moved from Oklahoma to

Nashville to advance their career.

"It seems like home," Colton Swon said.

They have one tour bus and 10 people who ride in it.

That includes the back-up band and instruments.

"We're one big happy family," Zach Swon said.

The Swon Brothers are playing at 70 fairs this sum-

mer and that means a lot of funnel cakes and corn dogs, they joked.

"We really enjoy working together," Zach Swon said. "People ask us if we get along, and we do."

As for their Ashtabula County Fair show, Colton Swon said they will give it 110 percent.

"We promise it will be the best 'Swoncert' yet," he

said. "We like to get the crowd involved."

Fair organizers said they are fortunate to get the Swon Brothers, who will perform in front of the grandstand at 8 p.m. Saturday. Seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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JOSH DICKSON of Doset Township (left) gets the checkered flag at the 2012 Demolition Derby at Ashtabula County Fair as **Dean Clark Jr.** (right) of Pierpont Township sits in his smoking car.

WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

It's a wild ride to the top of the Demolition Derby

By **DAVE DELUCA**
Staff writer

JEFFERSON — It's a muddy, grueling, violent ride to the top of the Demolition Derby heap.

Some cars — and drivers — don't even make it around the track. Some drivers try it for the thrill of it once, then never do it again.

Not so for Demolition Derby driver Josh Dickson of Dorset, who loves the smell of oil, gas and burning rubber and doesn't mind seeing his car being ripped to shreds. The 2012 winner of the Ashtabula County Fair will be back again this year, simply because he can't get enough motorized destruction. At age 30, he still can survive the race in one piece, if he's careful.

"I usually take a couple

days off to recuperate after a race," Dickson said. "I also have to take off a few days to get ready before hand."

Dickson said one time he went to work the day before the race, but he's not likely to do that again. It takes mental preparation, and a lot of time to get the car ready. He's raced in the Ashtabula County Fair demolition derby since 2001.

"I've felt the post-race hurt for weeks after," he said. "That's why you have to take special care with getting the car ready. It has to be able to take the hits."

You wouldn't think that if you saw Dickson's car before the race. It's stripped down to bare bones, and doesn't look like it could withstand much impact.

"There's a lot of welding to do," he said. "I have to make sure the engine is tuned up, and everything is strapped down and the bumpers are welded tight."

Dickson said he wears a full-face helmet because getting hit in the face with rocks is a genuine concern. There are no doors, panels or windows left on the car.

"There's pretty much nothing left but the steering wheel, gas pedal, brake and seat," he said.

Even after all the strip-ping, Dickson's station wagon still weighs a ton and a half. He uses tow motor or tractor tires, and must lash down the gas tank behind the seat. He uses a bulldozer battery that weighs 100 pounds.

"The strategy in Demolition Derby is to take out

your opponent's radiator or pop their tires hard enough to snap the axle," he said.

Dickson said when he started in Demolition Derbies he had a mentor.

"I was just out of high school and the person I was working for, Larry Ralston of Ralston Roofing in Plymouth, and he said I should try it," he said.

Dickson's winning race in 2012 had many of his high school friends competing with him.

"The guys from Dorset I grew up with were all there," he said. "The prize was \$600 plus a trophy. It was more fun than you could imagine."

Dickson said his wife and two kids support him and even help prepare his car.

"They have almost as much fun as I do," he said.

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4-H is a family affair at the Feuntes house

By **MARISSA MORGAN**
For The Star Beacon

JEFFERSON — Summer is an especially busy time at the Fuentes' house, where children are hard at work preparing their 4-H projects for fair.

Gwen, David, Ian, and Cody Fuentes, along with their parents, Chris and Lindsay Fuentes, are all part of the 4-H club Zoo Crew.

The Fuentes are two of the four leaders of the club.

"4-H enables the kids to learn life skills, make life-long friendships, teaching them to become leaders, and allows the kids to become active in community service," Lindsay Fuentes said.

Gwen, the oldest, is very active this summer in her group. Her projects include market and fancy chickens, show rabbits, doe and litter, insect collector, photography, and a self-determined

project where she organizes an art class for special needs children.

"Taking care of my animals takes a lot of time," she said. "It's great once it's fair time, when my projects are judged and I can show that my hard work has paid off."

This is Gwen's third year in 4-H. She has been to the state fair for her achievements in photography, Ohio birds, planting 100 trees, and exploring the outdoors. Every club must have a community service project, so Gwen has been raising meat chickens to be auctioned off this year, giving the funds from the auction to charity.

This year is David's second year in 4-H.

"My favorite part is the animals. I love taking care of them, playing with them, and then showing them in the fair. It's so much fun," he said.



4-H CLUB MEMBERS (left to right): Ian, Gwen, David and Cody Fuentes are getting their animal projects ready for the fair.

MARISSA MORGAN the Star Beacon

His projects are market hogs, show rabbits, fancy chickens, and the carcass show.

"I spend hours every day taking care of my animals, especially the hogs," he said.

David is also the vice

president in the Zoo Crew.

When David and his brothers and sister aren't taking care of their animals, they are filling out their project books in order to be prepared for the fair and Super Saturdays.

At Super Saturday, the

kids are quizzed on their knowledge about their projects. Some of the other bonuses of being a 4-H member involve going on field trips to learn more about their projects and guest speakers who teach services to them such as

first aid and CPR.

Ian takes part in many projects with cake decorating, acting, show and market rabbits, doe and litter, and show chickens. This is also Ian's second year in 4-

See FEUNTES,
Page 24

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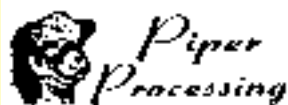
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Fuentes

From Page 22

H and he's been busy preparing for it.

At a previous Super Saturday, he brought a cake he made to be judged. For his project on acting, he takes pictures of the skits he performs and makes a poster about it. "My favorite part of 4-H is meeting new friends from different clubs," Ian said.

The youngest of the four children, Cody, is a second year Cloverbud. He takes gymnastics lessons and has pictures taken while he is performing, then makes a poster about it.

"I'm great at gymnastics and that's why I wanted to make a poster about it," he said.

All of the Fuentes children said they are very excited for fair and eager to show the projects they've all been working so hard on.

Quilts

From Page 12

David Whitaker, will put the blocks up on the building with the help of Rick Piper, of the Saybrook Grange.

Those who are familiar with traditional cloth quilts will recognize some of the barn quilt patterns by name, including Ohio Star, Square Dance, Hen and Chickens and Brave World.

Whitaker, a member of the Ashtabula Friendly Quilt Guild, chose the Brave World design.

"I chose a Brave World barn quilt because our guild once made a traditional one that was raffled off," she said. "We donated the money to charities, including Samaritan

House, Habitat for Humanity, Birth-Care and Home-Safe."

Whitaker said that she's been quilting for decades. She has fond memories of being taught quilting by her husband's aunt. When the beloved aunt passed away, Whitaker inherited beautiful vintage material and other quilting supplies from her. Photos of the quilts made from these materials are preserved in a cherished album.

Whitaker and her helpers are primarily focused on the Grange Building project at this time. Star Beacon reporter, Shelley Terry, recently wrote that other local groups are beautifying the county with barn quilts. Visitors headed for the county fair may enjoy seeing them on other buildings as well.

FAVORITE FAIR MEMORY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CONGRESSMAN DAVE Joyce's favorite fair memory is buying a cow from Luke Steen at the 2013 Ashtabula County Fair. Joyce and Luke are pictured here in the cow barn last August at the fairgrounds.

Wednesday is Kids Day

JEFFERSON — Thousands of people are expected to come for Kids Day on Wednesday at the Ashtabula County Fair.

The fair opens Tuesday and runs through Sunday, but on Wednesday, children ages 14 and younger are admitted free to the grounds all day. An all-day ride pass costs \$4 per child. Adults pay \$7 to enter the fair.

The rides by Lisko Amusements will tilt and twirl from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 to 11 p.m., along with games and contests.

Special events for children start with finding pennies in the sawdust at 10 a.m. and a drawing contest, also at 10 a.m., in the Expo Center. The wet and wild balloon toss begins at noon outside the MAC Arena.

A pizza eating contest starts at 12:30 p.m. in the Expo Center, a bubble gum blowing contest will take place at 2 p.m. at the Barnard Entertainment Center, and a watermelon eating contest begins at 4 p.m. in front of the grandstand.

A drawing for children's bicycles will be held at 6 p.m. in a tent by race horse barn No. 14, but parents must enter their children beforehand.

Between carnival rides and contests, check out the animal shows of the day: poultry at 9 a.m., swine at 4 p.m. and rabbits at 5 p.m. Judging takes place in the MAC Arena.

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Memories

From Page 6

Kubicheck’s photos range from carnival rides, the parade, old cars and tractors to grange exhibits.

Deanna Blough of Lenox Township recalls the year her mother raised Scotty dogs.

“She made me a Scottish lass outfit and I walked in the parade with the mama dog and her five puppies,” she said. “I think she sold all of the pups after that great exposure. They were adorable.”

Blough’s fair memories don’t end there.

“My dad and I used to sit in the grandstand and watch the trotters,” she said. “We made bets on who would win; my mom and brothers enjoyed the rest of the fair.”

Jefferson native Teresa Herman Burton said she has fond memories of working in the dunking booth for the Jefferson Fire Department and eating at the Jefferson Grange building.

Jefferson native Susan Case Fabrizi worked at the fair, selling birch beer and soft pretzels.

“I can still remember sitting in that small booth in front of a 500-degree oven in August!” she said. “I was baking right along with the pretzels.”

Fabrizi believes Joanne Shore of Jefferson worked in the fried Swiss cheese booth.

“And, no fair was complete without hearing Jim Case over the speakers, and seeing him ride around on his horse, Sam, and in later years, Leo,” she said. “Lots of good memories!”

Suzanne Gibbs Wludyga said her parents, Arland and Winifred Gibbs of Jefferson, saved many treasures



SHIRLEY WELSER LINDBERG, who now lives in Austinburg, is pictured atop her fancy-attired Palomino during a riding exhibition at the Ashtabula County Fair, circa 1964.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

of the past, including a poster advertising the Ashtabula County Fair. She doesn’t know the year of the poster.

Shirley Welser Lindberg, who now lives in Austinburg, sent in a 50-year-old photo of herself atop her fancy-attired Palomino during a riding exhibition in front of the grandstand.

She lived in Jefferson at the time and her horse was one of many participating in the show.

She also rode her horse to bring in the trotters for the exciting harness races.

Penni Nottingham of Ashtabula said she remembers seeing Mohammad Ali at the fair in the 1970s, but way back then, he used his real name, Cassius M. Clay Jr.

Congressman Dave Joyce (Ohio’s 14th District) shared a more recent memory — buying a cow for the past two years.

“My wife Kelly and I had a great time at the 2013 Ashtabula County Fair,” he said. “We bought a cow from Luke Steen, whose mother, Kelly, works at UH Geauga Medical Center. It

was the second year in a row that we had bought a cow from the Steen family, and we already have the date circled on our calendar for this year.”

Hugh Ron VanWinkle said every time he goes to the fair, his first stop is to get a milkshake from the Holstein Club’s booth.

“Great milk shakes,” he said.

Sue Taylor of Ashtabula agreed.

“They sell the best milkshakes,” she said. “I love the fair and all the great fair food.”



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

EMILY CRITES, 9, of Trumbull Township, prepares Floyd for the Ashtabula County Fair.

Crites

From Page 13

allow him to carry and pet them. The fowl enjoy being bathed and dried with a hair dryer. The top of their heads resemble “poufy” hairdos, prompting Brendon to name them Poof and Floof. He put together a 4-H project book that details his care of the hens. The book cover displays a photo of Brendon holding Poof, who looks quite content.

“This is my first year having fancy poultry,” he said. “The bantams have silky feathers, mostly white, and small blue markings on the side of their faces. Working with them is awesome. Last year I had photography and the first two years of 4-H, I had llamas.”

Elder sister, 15-year-old Christi, qualified to show her 4-H horse at the Ohio State Fair. The horse, Major, is a chestnut Tennessee Walking horse. His hair is nearly the same color as his owners.

Together, Christi and Major received qualifying scores in the Performance

Against Standards (PAS) riding evaluation. They were judged on easy gate, pleasure and equitation.

These are among the classes used to evaluate how the rider handles the horse and the horse’s responsiveness to the rider.

“I got Major for my last birthday,” said Christi. “If I am by the fence, he comes up and is excited to see me. He lets me do whatever I want when I work with him. Nearly every day we practice. I also ride every chance I get, around the farm, the woods or the Metro Parks. It’s been a lot of fun.”

The young horsewoman said that she may take Major to the Nationals next year in Tennessee, where he would compete exclusively against other Tennessee Walking horses.

Christi is also busy with an archery project for 4-H this year, learning techniques for competitive shooting.

“Dad sets up a range for me. I use a compound bow because I hunt a lot,” she said. “I hunt deer, turkey, whatever is in season in Ohio.”

Rooster crowing contest is something to crow about

By **SHELLEY TERRY**
Staff Writer

JEFFERSON — Most people don't wake up to the crowing of a rooster. For those folks who wish they could, there's still time to get a ringside seat to the Ashtabula County Fair's Rooster Crowing Contest. The fun begins at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center. The contest draws quite a crowd year after year and goes something like this:

For 30 minutes, about a dozen of the county's best roosters crow in an attempt to earn their human counterpart a prize ranging from 50-cents to \$5. Only one rooster is permitted in each cage. A judge is assigned to each rooster to tally the number of times the bird crows in 30 minutes after the cages are uncovered. Roosters may be any breed, any age.

A newcomer rooster named "Bob" gave his owner, Deaunra Hope Severino of Ashtabula, something to crow about last year. Bob belted out 48 cock-a-doodle-do's for the top prize.

Second-place went to "Turtle," owned by Zach Laugen of Kingsville. Turtle garnered first place two years ago, but slacked off a bit last year.

Another new bird named, "Tom Sawyer," owned by Bill Tempesta of Ashtabula, placed third.

In the past, the fair has produced many great crows, including the record-setting rooster, "General Lee," entered by James Matthews. The General crowed 130 times in 2004 — a fair record.

Lot of horsing around at equine royalty event

By **MARK TODD**
Staff Writer

mtodd@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — A special Ashtabula County Fair event allows younger horse-lovers to learn accolades for their riding skills and animal knowledge.

The Equine Royalty event was begun just a couple of years ago by the Ashtabula County Saddle Horse group to showcase the area's young horse owners, said Audrey Felicijan, coordinator. There are five contestants this year, Felicijan said, and the winner will be "crowned" at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the saddle horse complex after the Junior Fair Saddle Horse ceremony. The winner receives a sash, rides in parades and represents the Saddle Horse organization at functions, Felicijan said.

The competition begins weeks before the fair. Finalists are invited to bring their horse to the fairgrounds where they are asked to put their steed through four different disciplines.

"They can ride English or Western," Felicijan said. "They show how they can handle a horse, then they do



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

CLAIRE DODRILL, 18, of Harpersfield Township, works on the Steeplechase with her horse Amazie Grace in preparation for the 2012 Ashtabula County Fairgrounds in Jefferson.

some precise patterns."

Contestants also take a 50-question written test to gauge their knowledge of horse care and health, write an essay and are also interviewed by three people in the horse industry. Scores in the categories are added up to determine the winner. All judges live outside the region to ensure impartiality.

The battery of tests are

designed to give every entry a fair chance, including kids not particularly adept in the saddle but who still love and can care for a horse, Felicijan said.

"It levels the playing field," she said. "(The different components) gives each child a chance to shine in a particular area."

Horse ownership is still strong among kids in Ashtabula County, although

the cost of owning an animal has been a deterrent for some, Felicijan said. The Saddle Horse club, like all youth-related fair activities, is affiliated with 4-H. Felicijan endorses 4-H as a wholesome, worthwhile activity for kids.

"Any child who is raising any kind of animal isn't hanging out at a mall and getting into trouble," she said.

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LORI PINELLI / For the Star Beacon

DENISE HODGES (left) and Grace Wood of the East Plymouth Grange prepare homemade pies for the Ashtabula County Fair. The grange, on the east side of the midway, is a popular spot for folks who love pie.

Livestock sale offers a lot of meaty choices

JEFFERSON — Beef, pork, lamb, turkey and chicken — the Ashtabula County Junior Fair Market Livestock Sale is a smorgasbord of delicious delights.

Every year, a crowd packs into the MAC Arena to applaud and buy market livestock raised by members of 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America.

Area residents and business owners should put time aside to visit the sale at 1 p.m. Saturday. Get there early for a good seat.

Programs and snacks will be available in the barn, as well as from a multitude of vendors on the midway.

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