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2011 **Kia Rio** 

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Auto, AC, Power Options, Remainder Of Factory Warranty



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#### SIX BEST DAYS OF SUMMER RETURN Ashtabula County Fair opens Tuesday

#### By SHELLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The Ashtabula County Fairgrounds will open with a terrific trumpet Tuesday — of

This year's fair includes a show featuring two large land animals that are becoming rare in the wild. They will appear in two shows daily during the six-day fair, slated for Tuesday through Sunday at the fairgrounds off South Poplar Street.

The fair officially starts at 9 a.m. with the traditional flag raising ceremony at the grandstand.

With a week packed full of shows, animals, rides and competitions, there is always something going on for the

**COURTNEY FOX**, a 2011 graduate of Conneaut High School, has her crown adjusted by Ashley Meaney, the 2010 Ashtabula County Fair Queen after winning the 2011 Ashtabula County Fair Queen

competition

Jefferson.

last August in

entire family to enjoy.

Last year's fair was a big

hit with the addition of the



Robinson Family's show, said Everett Helfer, fair board member.

But Helfer believes this year's Friday night entertainment, Jake Owen, will pull in

#### **HISTORY OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

JEFFERSON — A group of pioneers met on Oct. 30, 1822, at the old brick courthouse to form the Ashtabula Agricultural Society. From that small group, a committee was appointed to draft a Constitution for the society, whose purpose it was to promote the interest of agriculture in the forest- covered land of Ashtabula County.

At the first meeting on Jan. 16, 1823, Nehemiah King was elected president; Eliphalet Austin, first vice president; Edward Fifield, second vice president; Matthew Hubbard, corresponding secretary; Jacob Austin, auditor, and Timothy R. Hawley, treasurer.

The First Annual Cattle Show and Fair was held in

See HISTORY, Page 5

just as big of crowd.

Owen, whose recent release, "Barefoot Blue Jean Night," hit No. 1 on the charts, is a well-known country music star. He opened for

Keith Urban on the Get Closer 2011 World Tour. He was also named Top New Male Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music in 2009.

See OPENS, Page 5

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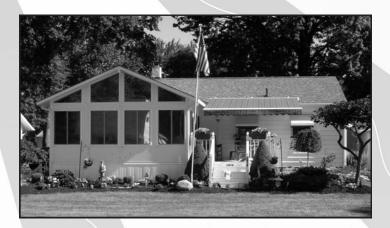


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#### **Opens**

From Page 3

Members of the Ashtabula County Holstein Club are working hard to get their booth ready to serve up the club's signature milkshakes, cheese sandwiches and ice cream.

Many improvements have been made to the fairgrounds and its buildings throughout the past year, but nothing as noticeable as the new small animal, rabbit and poultry exhibition barn.

Opening day, Tuesday, is senior citizen day at the fair. Patrons age 62 and older are admitted to the fairgrounds for \$1 all day.

The 2012 Ashtabula County Fair King and Queen will be crowned in front of the grandstand following the youth parade at 5:30 p.m. Other activities for the first day include bicycling decorating and racing, the frog jumping contest, junior fair alpaca show, motocross and a 4-H style review, to name just

Wednesday is Kid's Day, with a long list of activities planned for children, including a water balloon toss, bubble gum blowing contest, a watermelon eating contest, and a drawing for six bicycles. Children are admitted

free to fairgrounds all day. A ride pass is \$4.

Thursday is Veterans Appreciation Day and veterans pay \$1 admission all day with their I.D. The vets will be saluted with a flyover at 5 p.m.

One of the day's highlights is always harness racing at noon and the rooster crowing contest at 2 p.m. in the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center.

The demolition derby starts with a roar and a crash at 7:30 p.m. in front of the grandstand.

Come Friday, the talk of day will be Owen's performance at 8:30 p.m. in front of the grandstand. Tickets are on sale for \$10 at the fair office under the grandstand. Seating is first-come, first-serve, so expect a line to form outside of the grandstand well in advance of the concert start's time

Come Saturday, the market animal sale will take command of the MAC arena at 1 p.m. as hundreds of buys bid on the projects 4-H'ers worked so hard on.

Fairgoers also can enjoy a saddle horse show, a goat show, a gardening sale, a small animal costume show and a demolition derby.

The fair will close Sunday at 10 p.m., but not before the modified tractor and semi pulls at the grandstand.

Single gate admission is \$7 (a price that hasn't gone up in years, despite the recession). Children under age 4 are

admitted free.

And, don't forget to sample all the delicious "fair fare," including sausage sandwiches, French fries, burgers, cotton candy, fudge, funnel cakes, fresh lemonade, candy apples, steak on a stick, pizza, and (of course) homemade pies at the Plymouth Grange building and roast beef and mashed potato dinners at the Jefferson Grange.

#### **History**

From Page 3

Austinburg on the first Tuesday in October 1823, featuring a total of \$40 in premiums. The top prize of \$10 was awarded to Jonathan Warner for best -improved farm of 50 acres. Cybelia St. John won the first prize for the best grass bonnet in imitation leghorn.

The Cattle Show and Fair was held again the next year in Austinburg, and in 1825, moved to Ashtabula, in hopes of attracting greater interest, but it was not successful.

In 1826, the fair Fourth Annual Cattle Show and Fair was held in Jefferson.

Livestock displays were tied to the hitching posts in front of the courthouse. The people of Jefferson failed to support the project and the fifth fair was planned, but never held.

The Society's activities stopped for the next 15 years.

On March 7, 1842, the Ashtabula County Agricultural Society was reorganized under the leadership of R.W. Griswold.

The first-annual fair was held at the courthouse on Oct. 15, 1842. At his annual

report, Griswold said, "While public attention in our day is so divided and directed to so many objects, each claiming such a share of time, means and energies of individuals as to prevent any one being fully attending to this Society presents a common platform where the whole community can rally as a citizen of common course and as a friend."

A special meeting was called on June 25, 1846, and the Society, as formed in 1842, was dissolved for want of interest taken by the citizens of the county.

On Sept. 12, 1846, in answer to an appeal made by the Ashtabula Sentinel, a second organization was formed under the new regulations of the State Department of Agriculture.

The first Annual Fair of the reborn Society was held at the courthouse on Oct. 16, 1846.

The present fairgrounds, off of North Poplar Street, was bought in the early 1850's. The records show in 1854 the Society expended \$2,500 to erect an Agricultural Hall and other improvements to the fairgrounds. The fair of 1858 was a success, drawing 5,000 people.

In 1861, the fairgrounds was turned into an Army camp, known as Camp Giddings, where 1,500 men from northeast Ohio camped.

On Christmas Day, they marched from Jefferson to Ashtabula, where they took a train to Columbus and mustered into the Union Army. The 29th Ohio Volunteers were engaged in some of the toughest fighting in the Civil War.

The first race track, a third-of-a-mile oval, was built in the early 1870's.

In 1914, a balloon ascension was the highlight of the fair.

In 1915, the newly built log cabin was dedicated. Expansion and improvements continued and sometime in the 1920s, the county took title of the fairgrounds, but left the Agriculture Society still controlled the grounds.

Years have passed and there have been a lot of changes and additions at the fairgrounds, but for the Ashtabula County Agricultural Society, the goals have remained constant: "To promote the encouragement of agriculture, horticulture, and the rearing of better livestock, improvement of domestic science and art, promote general community betterment, together with all other commercial and educational interests of the coun-

This history includes information from articles written by Arlie Keel and Catherine Ellsworth.



## American Red Cross Blood Drive

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1-5 p.m. and 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Aug. 7 & 9,
11 a.m.-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Aug. 8 "Kid's Day"
1-5 p.m. 6 p.m.-midnight Aug. 10 & 11
1-5 p.m. 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Aug. 12

#### 2012 ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 7**

Sponsor of the Day Carington Park & Jefferson Healthcare "Senior Citizens Day" (62 years and up) \$1 admission to grounds (all day) 8 A.M.

Jr. Fair Saddle Horse/Jumping & Dressage 9 A.M.

Flag raising
Jr. Fair Dairy Skill-a-thon
Jr. Fair Fancy Poultry Show
Jr. Fair Dairy Steer Show
Jr. Fair Dairy Beef Feeder Show
11 A.M.

Bicycle Decorating & Races Junior Fair Saddle Horse Flag Ceremony

NOON
Junior Fair Saddle Horse
Showmanship

1 P.M.
Jr. Fair Dairy Clipping Contest
Frog Jumping Contest
1:30 P.M.
Jr. Fair Sheep Show

2:30 P.M.
Jr. Fair Alpaca 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 MOTOCROSS 7:30 P.M.

Food, Nutrition and General Projects Awards 4-H Style Review

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8 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)
9 A.M.

Jr. Fair Saddle Horse/ Showmanship & Riding Class Jr. Fair Market Poultry Show & Showmanship

Draft Horse Halter Classes
Jr. Fair All Dairy
Judging by Breed

10 A.M.
Find Pennies in Sawdust

Kids Drawing Contest (entries)

NOON

Water Balloon Toss

Water Balloon Toss
1 P.M.
Kids Drawing Contest (awards)

Dairy Pee Wee Show 2 P.M.

Bubble Gum Contest
Jr. Fair Dairy Showmanship
4 P.M.

Watermelon Eating Contest Jr. Fair Horseless Show Jr. Fair Swine Showmanship Jr. Fair Swine Show 6 P.M.

Drawing for six bicycles
Jr. Fair Rabbit Project Judging
and Showmanship
7 P.M.

Lucas Oil Pro Pulling Series

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9
Sponsor of the Day

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veterans pay \$1 admission to
grounds all day with identification
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membership card or
Veteran's Administration
identification card)

**9 A.M.**Jr. Fair Saddle Horse/Gaming,

Trail, Extra Classes
Draft Horse Farm Team Hitch
Class & Log Pull
10 A.M.

10 A.M.

Jr. Fair Goat Show/Harness &
Pack Goat

Open Class Beef Show

NOON
Harness Racing

1 P.M.

Jr. Fair Beef Breeding Show

Ashtabula County
Commissioners Meeting
2 P.M.

Rooster Crowing Contest
Jr. Fair Beef Feeder
Showmanship & Weight Class

4 P.M.

Jr. Fair Beef Showmanship
5 P.M.

Flyover/Salute to Veterans

Flyover/Salute to Veterans 6 P.M.

Jr. Fair Steer Show Jr. Fair 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 10

Sponsor of the Day Big Oats Oilfield Supply Co. 8 A.M.

Jr. Fair Saddle Horse Pleasure Show 10 A.M. Dairy All Breeds Open Class Show 2 P.M

Pizza Eating Contest 4:30 P.M.

Draft Horse Hitch Classes 8:30 P.M.

Jake Owen concert

#### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 11**

Sponsor of the Day French Chiropractic 8 A.M.

Jr. Fair Saddle Horse/Versatility 9 A.M. Jr. Fair Saddle Horse/Gaming,

Show and Draft 10 A.M.

Open Class Goat Show
Pie and Baking Contest Entries
(until noon)

11 A.M.

Draft Horse Pull

Jr. Fair Market Gardening

Judging

1 P.M. Market Livestock Sale Pie & Baking Contest Auction Jr. Fair Market Gardening Sale

(until 4 p.m.) 4 P.M.

Jr. Fair Dog Awards & Demonstration 2 P.M.

Basketball Free Throw Contest Small Animal Costume Show

4 P.M.

Jr. Fair Dog Awards

& Demonstration

4:30 P.M.

Draft Horse Hitch Classes **7:30 P.M.** 

Demolition Derby

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

Sponsor of the Day Cross Country Mortgage & Asa Cox Homes 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

Truck Show

Stock Tractor/Stock 4x4 Pull MAC Awards

NOON

Jr. Fair Saddle Horse Awards Ceremony 1 P.M.

Jr. Fair Saddle Horse Gaming Walk/Trot

2 P.M. Garden Tractor Pull

Kiddie Tractor Pull 2:30 P.M.

Jr. Fair Super Showman Contest 4 P.M.

Hog Pee Wee Show 6 P.M.

Modified Tractor/Super Stock 4x4 & Semi Pulls 10 P.M. Fair closes





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## Jake Owen aims to please at fair show

#### By SHELLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — He's not only going to sing all his hit songs, he's going to entertain and delight you so much that you'll go home and tell all your friends about him.

"That's how you build your following and add people to your fan club," said country artist Jake Owen in a recent phone interview with the Star Beacon.

Owen, 30, will perform at 8:30 p.m. Friday the Ashtabula County Fair. The show is sponsored by FirstEnergy Solutions and the Ashtabula County Fair.

He's also touring with country music stars Kenny Chesney and Tim McGraw.

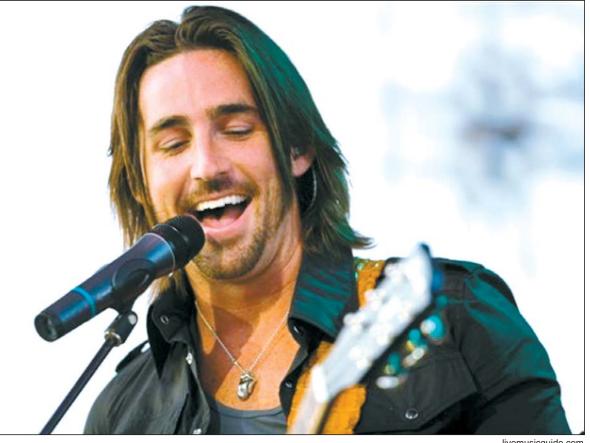
"It's going really good; it's priceless," Owen said. "I watch them every night and learn from them."

That doesn't mean Owen isn't looking forward to his solo stop in Jefferson Friday. He's been to northeast Ohio before and is excited about returning.

"I've been all over Ohio," said the Vero Beach, Fla. native. "I look forward to it."

Growing up on the east coast of the Sunshine State, Owen spent his childhood at the beach and outside, playing baseball, golf and water-skiing, he said.

He graduated from Vero Beach



livemusicguide.com

#### **JAKE OWEN**

High School in 2000, and went to Florida State University in Tallahassee to pursue a degree in music.

An injury sidelined him for awhile in college, so he took up guitar playing.

"It's crazy how life worked out,"

he said.

When his father told him he had to get a job to help support himself while away at college, Owen got a gig playing guitar at a bar named Pot Belly's.

"It was the easiest way I could think of to make money," he said. He laughs about it now.

From there his musical career took off and before he knew it, his song, "Yee Haw," was playing on the radio. Then, he found himself making a music video (his song, "Eight Second Ride") in Orlando, where he met a girl named Lacey.

#### **JAKE OWEN** 8:30 P.M. AUG. 10, **ASHTABULA COUNTY** FAIR

Want to see him? Tickets are \$10 and available at the Secretary's Office. under the grandstand. Hurry! Before they sell out. Tickets do not include the \$7 price of admission to the

**Seating?** First-come, first-serve, so get there early.

What will you hear? Owen singing his hits "Barefoot Blue Jean Night," "Alone With You," "Eight Second Ride," "Startin With Me," "Don't Think I Can't Love You," and more.

He fell in love with her "happiness and a beautiful smile," he said.

"I like happy people," he said. Today they are married and expecting their first baby.

If you follow the country music scene, you probably heard how he proposed at a concert in Vero Beach, she accepted and how his fans cheered. They got married on the beach.

It seems like everyone is excited about the Owens and their happy future, including his many, many fans in Ashtabula County.

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## Frog-jumping contest a hopping good time

#### By SHELLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — If ever there is a call for professional frog wranglers, call Kyre and Delaney Martinez.

Last year, Kyre grabbed a bullfrog in the pond behind his house for himself and then got one for his baby sister, Delaney Rose, as well.

"There is fishies and a big bullfrog in there," said Kyre, now 4 years old.

Delaney, 3, said she's going to kiss her frog.

"I think he's going to be my prince, if I kiss him," she said. "Nah! I'm not going to kiss him."

Needless to say, Kyre and Delaney are pretty excited about Tuesday's frog-jumping contest at the Ashtabula County Fair. The contest begins at 1 p.m. in front of the grandstand. Frogs will be

#### **FAST FROG FACTS**

- Not all frogs can leap, or even hop. The desert rain frog has legs that are too short to hop. Instead, it walks.
- Male frogs of the genus Pipa are known to defend their territory by jumping at and then wrestling other males.
- The New Guinea bush frog takes jump attacks one step further: before it jumps at a strange frog, it inflates itself and shows off its blue tongue.
- The Fuji tree frog may be the leaping stuntman of the frog world. Each time it leaps, it twists in the air—sometimes even 180 degrees—to throw predators off its trail.
- The Larut torrent frog gets its name from a nifty leaping trick: it can jump into a fast-moving stream

and back to its usual perch, the underside of a rock, without being affected by the current.

- Similarly, the parachuting red-eyed leaf frog gets its name because it speeds to mating opportunities by jumping from trees with finger-and toewebbing spread wide.
- The record for longest jump by an American bullfrog recorded in a scientific paper is a little over 4 feet. But scientists who went to the Calaveras County Fair, which Mark Twain's short story made famous for frog jumping, found that more than half the competitors bested that record—and one jumped more than 7 feet in one leap.

www.frogsaregreen.com

allowed three consecutive leaps and the one whose leaps total the farthest distance wins.

The children's maternal grandmother, Lynn Morrow, said catching frogs is genetic.

"Ricky, Carolyn and Whit-

ney (the children's mother) all caught frogs and entered them in every contest possible," she

Last year, 33 children signed up their frogs at the fair. When it came time for Kyre's frog to jump, the

youngster looked the frog in the eye, pointed straight ahead and yelled, "Go!"

People laughed, but it worked. The frog's leaps totaled 13 feet, 10 inches.

Delanev's frog did well, too. It jumped 10 feet total, but at

the end of the day, Lindsey Jackson, 1, went home with the top price, pocketing \$5. Her frog jumped a total of 14

Fair board member Everett Helfer, who serves as the master of ceremonies, said anything can happen at the frog jumping contest.

"The frogs jump into the crowd, and the kids chase them," he said. "Frogs jump away and some people scream."

Most children put their frogs in buckets with some water with a net or a lid with holes in it to keep the frogs cool before the jump. Sometimes there are frog fatalities

MARGIE NETZEL / Star Beacon KYRE AND Delaney Martinex are pretty excited about Tuesday's frog-

> (because of the heat) and there have been times frogs have hopped off, never to be seen again.

jumping contest at the

Ashtabula County Fair.

Morrow said, "Let's hope this year that all frogs make it back to their pond homes safe and sound."



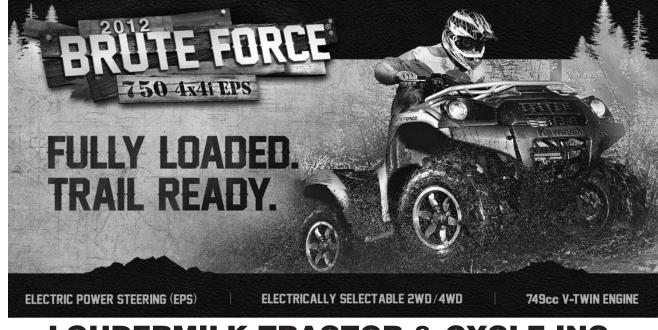
#### Lisko Amusement bringing tip-top rides

JEFFERSON — Lisko Family Midway Amusements has provided family fun for more than 50 years and to the Ashtabula County Fair for many.

Based in Lowellville, Ohio, they will bring several rides to the Ashtabula County, including the Zipper, UFO, Wave Runner, Kiddy Whales, Tip-Top, Sea Ray, Slide, Dragon Roller Coaster and Sky Diver.

Rides are free with a sinale-admission ticket and \$4 with any of the passes or special admissions, such as for children 4 years old and younger, who get in free.

The rides will be open 1-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Wednesday; 1-5 p.m. and 6-midnight Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. Sunday.



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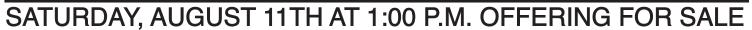
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## 166th Anniversary

#### **ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION**





Market



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## 166th Anniversary



## ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE



Animal Sale

#### ORDER OF SALE:

CHEESE BASKETS, MARKET GOATS, GOAT CARCASS (whole), MARKET TURKEY, MARKET CHICKENS, MARKET RABBITS, MARKET DUCKS, DAIRY STEERS, DAIRY STEER CARCASS (half), BEEF FEEDERS, MARKET LAMB, LAMB CARCASS (whole), MARKET HOGS, HOG CARCASS (whole), DAIRY BEEF FEEDERS, MARKET STEERS, STEER CARCASS (half), UNDERWEIGHTS AND OVERWEIGHTS OF ALL SPECIES.

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

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Thank you to the following people & businesses who purchased the animals donated back at the 2011 Ashtabula Jr. Fair Market Animal Sale: DAIRY BEEF FEEDERS: Donated by Prime Bovine 4-H Club & PVFFA & bought by Marous Farms Ent. Inc. & Holden Hay. MARKET DUCKS: Bought by Skyview Farms & Kristen Brown, donated by Hoppin Hoofers 4-H Club, bought by State Rep. Casey Koslowski, donated back bought by PVFFA, donated back & bought by Elmer & Iris Geil. Donated by Golden Clovers 4-H Club, bought by Jamie & David Marrison. Donated by Minds on the Go, bought by State Rep. Casey Koslowski, donated back & bought by Carl Lewis. MARKET GOAT: Donated by Happy Hoppers & bought by Keith Camp, Sr. MARKET HOGS: Donated by Farm Credit Service & bought by Austinburg Vet Clinic. Bought by Stackhouse Construction, donated back, bought by Randy Deering, donated back, bought by Midway Pontiac Chevrolet & Buick Inc. MARKET TURKEY: Bought by Aloterra Energy, donated back & bought by Hoovers Tree Service. MEAT RABBIT: Bought by Hartsgrove Lumber, donated back & bought by Midway Pontiac Chevrolet Buick Inc.



Market Animal Sale

## 166th Auniversary ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE



**BEST OF SHOW** Hog Carcass Nick Edelman **Buyer-Ray Chiropractic Clinic** 



**RESERVE BEST OF SHOW** Hog Carcass Taylor Edelman Buyer-Ray Bros. Inc.



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &** RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Lambs Stacey Lute **Buyer-Walter & Michael Barnes** 



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR **Market Lambs** Johnathon Squibbs **Buyer-Mike Ellsworth Construction** 



**BEST OF SHOW Market Lambs** Megan Christo Buyer-Richard L. Sizemore



**Lamb Carcass** Cora Riggelman Buyer-Reiter Ins. & Financial Services



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW **Lamb Carcass** Mikayla Lingo Buyer-Ashtabula County Farm Bureau



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &** RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Goats Richelle Baker Buver-Carl R. Gruev



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW **Market Goats** Briana Cole Buver-Mother Maiden's Market



BEST OF SHOW **Goat Carcass** Buyer-Marous Farm Ent. Inc.



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW **Goat Carcass** Wayne Ritchie Buyer-Elmer & Iris Geil



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR** Market Turkeys Gidget Marrison **Buyer-Seeds Orthopedic** 



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR **Market Turkeys** Casey Hall Buyer-Aloterra Energy LLC



**BEST OF SHOW Market Turkeys** Stacie Ritchie Buyer-Elmer & Iris Geil



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Cheyenne Kase Buyer-Lorraine Golembioski



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Chickens** Lorraine Miller Buyer-Ray Bros. Inc.



**RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW** Market Chickens Chris Pellegrino **Buyer-Bill & Donna Stone** 



**RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Chickens** Michael Miller **Buyer-Concord Masonry** 



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW Market Ducks** Rebecca Dillon Buyer-Lynn Gruber



**RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &** RESERVE BEST OF SHOW **Market Ducks** Craig Anderson Buyer-Betty Ann Peterson



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &** BEST OF SHOW Meat Rabbits Tyler Priem
Buyer-Maple Leaf & Lockwood Rabbitries



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Meat Rabbits **Buyer-Hartsgrove Lumber** 



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &** BEST OF SHOW Market Hog Taylor Edelman **Buyer-Thorne's Bilo Supermarket** 



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Hog Tyler Ellsworth Buyer-Randy Dearing



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Hog Madison Gabriel **Buyer-Cooking and Country Cowboy Cafe** 



## 166th Auniversary ASHTABULA COUNTY JR. FAIR LIVESTOCK AUCTION SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH AT 1:00 P.M. OFFERING FOR SALE

Market Animal Sale



#### **GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR**

#### **RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR**

#### **BEST OF SHOW**

#### **RESERVE BEST OF SHOW**

**CARCASS** 



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR &** BEST OF SHOW **Dairy Steer** Josh Butler **Buyer-North American EDM Supplies** 



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR **Dairy Steer** Courtney Fox **Buyer-Edelman Firewood Sales** 



**RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Dairy Steer** Felipe Pacheco **Buyer-Harvey Homes and RV** 



BEST OF SHOW Dairy Beef Carcass **Sydney Millard** Buyer-Rock Creek Pizza



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW **Dairy Beef Carcass** Felipe Pacheco Buyer-Edward A. Cigany



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Dairy Beef Feeder** Deanna Comp **Buyer-Law Office of Katherine Riedel** 



**RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW** Dairy Beef Feeder Jessica Krulic **Buyer-Cortland Tractor** 



**RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Dairy Beef Feeder** Andrew Holden **Buyer-Holden Dairy Farm** 



**BEST OF SHOW Beef Carcass** Jason Krulic **Buyer-Crystal Clear Water** 



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Beef Carcass **David Nye** Buyer-B.P. Enterprise



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Beef Feeder** Jason Fink **Buyer-Phil Dietrich** 



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR **Beef Feeder Natalie Thomas Buyer-Holden Hay** 



**BEST OF SHOW Beef Feeder Tyler Brown** Buyer-Bart & Kelly Kanicki



**RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Beef Feeder Destinie Hill Buyer-March Farms** 



**BEST OF SHOW CHEESE BASKET** Dairy Cow Calla Mazzaro **Buver-Mar Haven Jersevs** 



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Steer Avery March Buyer-Newbold Farms** 



**RESERVE CHAMP EXHIBITOR Market Steer** Ryan Johnson Buver-Lisko Amusement



**BEST OF SHOW Market Steer** Tricia Lautanen **Buver-Bob Lautanen** 



**RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Steer Brittany Clay Buver- Hardy Animal Nutrition** 



**BEST OF SHOW CHEESE BASKET Dairy Goat** Michaela Darby Buyer-You Got the Look

#### JUNIOR FAIR BOARD members work hard to prepare for the Ashtabula County Fair. (From left) Dawnelle Corron, Ellen Darby, Claire Dodrill, Cody Fetters, Courtney Fox, Ashley Meaney, Emily Nye, Holly Nye, Emily O'Dell, AJ Semai, Mason Taylor, Natalie Thomas, Brandi Vokurka, Samantha Adams, Michaela Darby, Samuel Semai and Mary Wessell. Advisors: Jenny Beals, Josh Woodard, Jenna Hoyt, Kim

Howard, and Abbey Averill.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Junior Fair Board works hard to honor heroes

#### By MARGIE NETZEL

Staff Writer

mnetzel@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The Junior Fair Board will honor the "Heroes Among Us" at the 2012 Ashtabula County Fair.

"The board really wanted to honor the people around them, the everyday heroes among us," said Ohio State Extension 4-H educator Jenna Hoyt. "Honoring those local heroes means more than just service members. They are honoring everyone because everyone is a hero to someone."

Hoyt said the board is focused on the people who aren't often recognized.

"It could be a mentor, a parent, a 4-H instructor," she said. "The Junior Fair Board is very focused on saying thank you to those people who make a difference in the lives of others."

Hoyt said the board has 18 members this year.

"They are a very small group this year, but they are all very level-headed and devoted to the fair. They have taken on a lot of responsibilities."

Hoyt said the teens made new signs for the fairgrounds — a need long unfulfilled. "There was no adequate signage at the fairgrounds, so they designed and made the signs and are installing them now," she said.

The Junior Fair Board is made up of Junior Fair youth participants, including those from 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Grange, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The board is responsible for planning, conducting and evalu-

ating activities at the Junior Fair and is accountable to the senior fair board.

Junior Fair Board members include Dawnelle Corron, Ellen Darby, Claire Dodrill, Cody Fetters, Courtney Fox, Ashley Meaney, Emily Nye, Holly Nye, Emily O'Dell, AJ Semai, Mason Taylor, Natalie Thomas, Brandi Vokurka, Samantha Adams, Michaela Darby, Samuel Semai and

Mary Wessell.

Hoyt said the group has worked hard and is excited for the big week.

"I'm just really proud of them and the work they do," she said

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# Free-range chickens, turkeys and more at Livestock Sale

JEFFERSON — Chicken, goat and turkey — the Ashtabula County Junior Fair Market Livestock Sale is a smorgasbord of delicious delights.

Every year, a crowd gathers in the MAC Arena at the Ashtabula County Fair to applaud and buy market livestock raised by 4-H and Future Farmers of America members.

There are cheese baskets, ducks, goats, rabbits, turkeys, chickens, dairy beef feeders, market steers, beef carcass, dairy steers, dairy beef carcass, beef feeders, sheep, lamb carcass and hogs to be sold.

With this in mind, area residents should put time aside to visit the sale, set for a new day and time this year because of the Jake Owen concert.

Owen performs at 8:30 p.m. Friday, and the auctioneer starts the bidding for the Market Livestock 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 all the wonderful fair fare on the midway.

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## Plenty for the kids at the county fair

#### By MARK TODD

Staff Writer

mtodd@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Kids will be treated like royalty at this year's Ashtabula County Fair, with plenty on the agenda.

In fact, Wednesday has been designated Kid's Day, when children 14 years and under receive free admission and all-day ride passes are just \$4.

Here's a sample of the many games and events that are geared to — or at least include — the small set:

#### **RIDES**

Lisko Amusements is providing the fair's big rides. The hours of operation: Tuesday and Thursday (1-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m.), Wednesday (11 a.m.-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m.), Friday and Saturday (1-5 p.m. and 6 p.m.-midnight) and Sunday (1-5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.)

#### **CONTESTS**

Tuesday

#### ■ Bicycle races and bike-decorating contests

— 11 a.m. at the grandstand. Registration between 10:15-10:45 a.m.; several age groups available from 3 to 18 years



STAR BEACON FILE PHOTO

MIRANDA REXROAD, 10, of Jefferson tries to flip her slice of watermelon during the watermelon-eating contestlast August at the Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

#### **■** Frog-jumping contest

— 1 p.m. at the grandstand; no one older than 18 years can compete

#### Wednesday ■ Drawing contest —

Registration 10-11 a.m. at the Expo Center, with drawing to commence immediately after. Theme of this year's competition is "Fun at the Ashtabula County Fair." Competition is in three age groups and winners will be announced at 1 p.m.

#### **■** Pennies in the sawdust

10 a.m. at a location to

be announced. Children ages 3-5 and 6-7 will scramble to find as many pennies as possible within a four-minute span

## ■ Bubble-gum contest — 2 p.m. at the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center. Kids ages 4-9 and 10-15 will try

to produce the biggest gum bubble

#### ■ Water balloon toss — Noon at the MAC Arena. Two-person teams will compete to see who can toss and catch a water balloon at the greatest distance

■ Watermelon-eating — 4 p.m. at the grandstand. Kids (age 6 and up) as well as adults will vie to see who is the quickest to devour a hunk of watermelon.

■ Bicycle giveaway — Six bikes for girls and boys 14 years and under will be handed out at 6 p.m., at the sign-up tent by Racehorse Barn 14. Registration at the same location between 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

#### Thursday

■ Rooster crowing — 2 p.m. at the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center. Bring your loudest poultry and try to top the 2004 record of 130 crows in a 30-minute span.

#### **Friday**

■ Pizza-eating contest — 2 p.m. at the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center. Same idea as the watermelon contest, only with sauce, dough and cheese.

#### Saturday

#### **■** Basketball free-throw

- 2 p.m. at a location to be

announced on the day of the event. Children from third-to 12th-grade, can test their accuracy in 10 different age categories.

#### Sunday

■ Kiddie tractor pull — 2 p.m. at the 4-H Building. Kids ages 4-6 will compete in three classes.

#### **MOTOCROSS**

Children can compete in some classes of the popular motocross competition, set to begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Gates open at 1:30 p.m., registration is 2:30-4:30 p.m. and practice is 3:30-5 p.m. Enter the fairgrounds through the West Walnut Street entrance.

#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

The fair offers fun at every turn, but kids may get a special kick from these specialty performers:

■ Granpa Cratchet
Show — Three shows daily on the back midway

■ Swifty the Clown — Find this balloon artist mingling with guests along the midway

■ Bobby "Circus Boy"
Hunt — A stuntman and prop comic, Hunt will perform three shows a day at the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center





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#### JUPITER,

A show goat, is coaxed through an agility course by her owner, Katarina Darby.



CARL E. FEATHER / Star Beacon



**ELLEN DARBY** displays some of the chain mail jewelry she produced for her 4-H project.

#### 4-H fun in the family Keeping

By MANDY WHITE

Staff Writer

mwhite@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP - Ann Marie Darby thinks

it's going to take quite a few trips to get everyone to the fair this year.

"Well, we'll have to take the steer in one trip," she calculates. "Then, the

alpacas. Then, the 13 goats and the rabbits and ducks. Then the feed for a week that's 300 lbs."

"Then there are the kids, of course," she added.

The Darby family has five children participating in 4-H this year, each with multiple projects of both an animal and general sort.

Ellen, 17, Michaela, 16, AJ, 12, Colleen, 11, Katarina, 9, and Bridget, 6, will be spending a busy week at the fair showing off their various animals and general

Randy & Kathy Thompson

Ellen, who is on the junior fair board, has entries in the dog, dairy goat, steer and alpaca animal categories, as well as a veterinary science project. She also is entering chainmail jewelry of her own design, she said, holding up a pair of intricately interwoven jump rings, a

modernized version of the medieval chainmail used by knights. Ellen said being on the board and doing projects equals a busy week.

"Between showing projects and animals, I'm moving around all week," she said.

Michaela is also on the junior fair board, and she is bringing goats of the dairy, pack and harness variety. She is also designing a cheese basket with the theme "milk and honey." Unsurprisingly, goat cheese will feature prominently in the arrangement.

Michaela will also show off her cake-decorating skills, which she took to state July 26. When asked which of her projects takes the most time, she immediately answered, "Training the goats!" She said Bobby the pack goat is her favorite project — last year he was a champion and she has high hopes for this year,

AJ is entering rabbits, and has entered projects in the small engine and woodworking categories.

Colleen has chosen to participate in the cake dec-

See FAMILY, Page 21

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CARL E. FEATHER/Star Beacon

MICHAELA DARBY shows off her pack goat, Bobby, all decked out for the Ashtabula County Fair.

#### **Family**

From Page 20

orating, pack goats and the pet goat categories. She entered Sky into the pet goat category because "she would get lonely at home alone" while the other 12 goats were at the fair. Sky can bow, walk on her hind legs and shake hands, among other tricks.

Katarina is entering two Black East Indies ducks into the fancy ducks competition. She is worried because they were molting because of the heat, but said all the other ducks at the fair were probably molting

Bridget, a Cloverbud, will present a poster on alpacas, and has gathered fleece from the family's three alpacas, Stewey, Griffin and Gonzo, to add to the pictures on the poster.

Ann Marie said she and her husband, John, are proud of all the work the family puts into their 4-H projects, but the final weeks before the fair can get a little intense for all concerned.

"I say it every year: No more general projects!" she said with a smile.



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CARL E. FEATHER / Star Beacon KATARINA DARBY holds her duck Jupiter, an entry for the Ashtabula County Fair.



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#### Circus Boy to be at fair

By SHELLEY TERRY Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — He's bringing his tiny act to the greatest show in Ashtabula County.

Bobby Hunt, Circus Boy, will perform his action-packed comedic, juggling variety show on the stage of the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center three times a day at the fair.

Hunt says his show includes live tricks he performed on the 'Tonight Show' with Jay Leno.

"My show provides good, clean, silly fun for the whole family," he

Growing up in a circus, Hunt performed with Ringling Bros. Circus and he's recorded in Ripley's Believe It or Not for doing wheelies on a titanium unicycle, balancing on a ladder and juggling with his mouth.

Circus Boy isn't the only "extra" show fairgoers get



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**BOBBY HUNT.** Circus Boy, will perform his action-packed comedic, juggling variety show on the stage of the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center three times a day at the fair.

with their paid \$7 admission to the fairgrounds.

The Granpa Cratchet Show (on the back midway) and the Elephant Encounter (next to the Floral Building) are back this year, along with Swifty the Clown, who mingles with guests on the main midway.

Swifty's slogan: "Experience the power of the balloon."

Ashtabula County

## Roosters are ready to crow

#### By SHELLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — With only three days until the competition, roosters from across Ashtabula County will vie to be the cockledoodliest rooster to crow.

Amongst them will be a rooster named Turtle, owned by 16-year-old Kingsville resident, Zach Laugen. Turtle won last year's competition and Zach is confident his pet rooster will do it again.

"We talk to him every night," Zach said. "Every time a rooster crows, he crows."

It's that type of behavior that Zach is counting on.

The Rooster Crowing Contest, which grows every year in popularity, with a small crowd cheering on a variety of breeds while they are timed for the number of crows, begins at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center.

Fair Board member Everett Helfer serves as the master of ceremonies in the 30minute contest where participants count the number of times each rooster crows.

Owners often encourage their birds to belt out a crow.



CARL E. FEATHER / Star Beacon

ZACH LAUGEN (left) will return to the Ashtabula County Fair with his first-place rooster. Turtle, this year. Noah Swiger (right), is a newcomer to the contest with his bantam rooster, Peanut. Both youth are from Kingsville Township.

The crows are counted by volunteers who tally every rooster's cock-o-doodle-do.

After the half-hour, cards are turned in, crows are counted, and Helfer

announces the winner. The cock with the most crows wins and a small amount of money is distributed to the

Owners are not allowed to physically touch the birds, but they can coax it with sounds, such as clucking.

Sometimes it works, most of the time, it doesn't. A rooster does what a rooster wants to do. Sometimes frustrated owners have been known to mutter, "fried chicken," or "chicken and dumplings," under their breath.

This year, the Laugens have gone all out to cheer on Tur-

"We will be wearing 'Team Turtle' T-shirts," he said.

In the end, Helfer reminds everyone it isn't whether you crow or cluck, it's how you play the game.





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## Dairy camp prepares youth for fair

#### By WARREN DILLAWAY

Staff Writer

JEFFERSON — A small group of 4-H club members gathered a round a mechanical milking machine learning the technique needed to milk a cow in the healthiest way possible.

Each child had the opportunity to try their new found skill and learn ways to watch for infection or other problems related to milking.

The camp was held in June and prepares the children for the challenges they will meet as they prepare to show their animals at the Ashtabula County Fair.

"Years ago we had a dairy clinic every other year," said Jim Butler who is chairman of the Ashtabula County Dairy Committee. He said the interest waned and there no clinics or camps were held.

Butler said a group of area women decided it would be nice to have a dairy camp in the summer of 2010 with great success.

"They put on a real nice event," he said of the 2010 camp that was followed this year with a June camp that involved 50 to 60 participants.

"We had some come from Geauga and Trumbull counties," Butler said.

"The goal of the committee is to have an annual event. We'll have to wait and see what the interest (will be)," he said.

"It (the clinic/camp) was one of those thing that we (the women that brought the program back) wanted to bring back from when we were kids," said Rosmarie Eldred, secretary of the ACDC.

"We won the Ohio 4-H volunteer innovator award (for 2010)," Eldred said.



MARGIE NETZEL / Star Beacon

Charity Moreno, who majored in dairy science at Ohio State University, married a dairy farm and works for a veterinarian in addition to her work with 4-H. "We put on a state level event," she said

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## Eclectic interests explored at Raiders 4-H Club

#### By CARL E. FEATHER

Staff Writer

cfeather@starbeacon.com

ASHTABULA — The only things you won't find at a Saybrook Raiders 4-H Club meeting are steers and hors-

The eclectic club, led by Marcella Piper, is like a university of the 4-H world. The club's motto, "We have it all," is not an idle boast.

From rabbits to rockets.

from dogs to hogs, the 27year-old club provides members with an opportunity to explore whatever interests

"As long as they got someone to help them, they can do whatever they want," Piper

The club has 39 members and six Cloverbuds. The topics studied this year are rabbits, rockets, goats, gardening, electricity, clothing/sewing, woodwork-

ing, photography, dogs, fishing, food and nutrition, turkeys, scrap booking, collectibles. Ohio birds, first aid, hogs, poultry, quilting and creative writing.

Seven Raiders will be going to the state fair with their projects; an alternate also was chosen from the

Piper said parents like the club because there is a good chance all of the children's interests will be satisfied by the Raiders, thus reducing travel, inconvenience and stress for the parents.

Further, if there is a subject area a child would like to explore but the 4-H project does not have a formal program for, the youngster can do a self-determined project.

Abrianna Jones, 11, is a pro at that. She developed a recycling program last year and expanded upon it for this year's 4-H project. Partnering with Ashtabula Recycling, Abrianna was able to raise \$3,500 that helped send youngsters to 4-H camp this year. Additionally, she conducted a recycling contest between the three buildings on the Lakeside Elementary Campus. Students in the winning building, Michigan, received a frozen treat for their effort, and the principal's fund was enriched by



LENA HANUSOSKY, 7 months, is the youngest "Clover Bud" in the Saybrook Raiders. Her mother, Brandy, has been an advisor with the club for 19 years. She attended the club's July 23 meeting with her mother and grandmother, Marcella.

\$65 from the cans that were cashed in.

"I wanted to do something that interested me," Abrianna said when asked why she chose recycling.

She also followed the book and did a first-aid project. Abrianna assembled several different kits and learned when and how to use each item. One kit would be appropriate for having around the house for general emergencies. Another is designed for hiking emergen-

Abrianna also tackled sewing this year, making a pair of pants. As for her thoughts on that project, Abrianna simply said "I'm not doing sewing next year."

Another Raider, Faith Blankenship, 9, is more positive about her sewing experience. She made a top that was a finalist in the competition and will be modeled by Faith at the fair's fashion show. Faith also plans to wear her project on the first day of school.

Her mother, Stephanie Marous, said Faith spent about 15 hours on the project. Faith had to first assemble a basic sewing kit, including making her own pin cushion, then demonstrate how to sew on a button. She had to learn a variety of hand stitches, the nomenclature of a sewing machine and how to cut out

the pieces of a garment from the fabric before she started the actual "sewing."

"The important thing about cutting it is to cut out the notches and follow the lines," Faith said.

The most difficult part was pulling the elastic around the sleeves and neck so it looked "nice and bunchy," Faith

Because the youngsters model their projects, they also have to learn how to strike a good pose and move and turn gracefully on the runway.

Faith said she likes being in 4-H and doing projects because she loves to learn.

"You get to learn outside school during the summer," she said. "My third-grade teacher said it was good to be in 4-H and do projects you can learn from."

Faith also has a dairy goat project and attended the small animal clinic in June, where she learned how to prepare her animal for the

Marcella Piper said the club meets once a month from September until summer, when the meetings become weekly as the fair draws near. The basement of Bethany Lutheran Church is home base for these Monday meetings.

For more information about the club and program options, call Piper at 812-0986. A Labor Day pot luck dinner is a club tradition and good way to become acquainted with the options.



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# Junior Fair Royal Court is ready to take the stage

#### By MARGIE NETZEL Staff Writer

mnetzel@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Make way for the royal court.

Fifty lovely ladies and handsome gentlemen will compete for the coveted roles of Ashtabula County Fair king and queen this year.

The royal court is made up of a junior fair king, queen, prince and princess. The royal court is crowned during the fair's opening parade in the fairground grandstands.

Each contestant must be a youth member of 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts, the Ashtabula Farm Bureau youth or Ohio Grange youth. Each contestant must have a complete project or display exhibited at the fair.

The royal court competition and parade is organized by Seanna and Jim Butler of Denmark Township.

Seanna Butler said many contestants for royal court are deserving of titles.

"There are some general things we look for, but overall we need the judges to pick the person who best represents themselves as the best person to represent the fair," she said. "There are always a bunch of kids who deserve the title that don't get it because there are just so many of them."

The royal court will be crowned on the evening of the fair opening ceremonies. For the opening fair ceremony, queen and princess contestants will wear formal

gowns and king and prince contestants will wear suits. The queen will be presented a trophy, tiara, sash and flowers. The king will receive a trophy and name badge.

Members of the chosen royal court will spend the week of the fair giving out ribbons and awards. The Youth Parade will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Courtney Fox wore the 2011 queen's crown, along with 2011 king Cody Fetters.

Fox is a student of veterinary medicine at the University of Findlay, while Fetters is a 2012 Jefferson High School graduate who will attend college in the fall to earn a degree in education.

The 2012 royal court candidates for king include:
Ben Betteridge, 18, of Conneaut with the Happy Hoppers and the Boys Scouts;
Craig Butler, 17, of Jefferson with the Denmark Pioneers; Dacota Craft, 17, of Geneva with the South Central Livestock club; and Tyler Ellsworth, 15, of the Denmark Pioneers.

Candidates for queen include: Shelby Arnett, 18, of Kingsville with the Tiny Trotters: Amanda Barnum. 15, of Kingsville with the Barnyard Buddies; Harley Buckley, 16, of Geneva with the Trail Blazers; Dawnelle Corron, 18, of Jefferson with the Silver Stir-Ups; Ellen Darby, 17, of Jefferson with the Pierpont Mixn-Match PACS; Michaela Darby, 15, of Jefferson with the Pierpont Mix-n-Match PACS; Jacqueline Delewski, 15, of Ashtabula with the Prime Bovine club; Claire Dodrill, 17, Geneva with the Prime Bovine club; Sarah Herrmann, 17, of Conneaut with 4-H; Morgan Holloman, 15, of Ashtabula with the Milkshakes club; and Breanna Irwin, 16, of Rock Creek with the Trail Blazers.

Other queen contestants include: Tori Kanicki, 17, of Pierpont with the Pierpont Mix-n-Match PACS; Tracey Lute, 16, of Kingsville with the Happy Hoppers; Melanie March, 16, of Jefferson with the Jelly Beans and Jumpers; Gabriella Marrison, 18, Jefferson with the City Slickers; Randi McCallister, 16, of Rome with the PV Future Farmers: Julia Miller, 18, Rome with the Rhythm Riders; Emily Nye, 18, of Windsor with the Marble Masters; Montana O'Baker, 16, of Jefferson with the PV Future Farmers; Emily O'Dell, 17, of Austinburg with Chris Clover;

Hannah Propst, 18, of Rock Creek, with the Rhythm Ryders; Nichole Visnosky, 17, of Ashtabula with the South Central Livestock; Brandi Vokurka, 17, of Geneva with the Happy Hoppers; Taylor Wolf, 16, Jefferson with the Prime Bovine club; and Dani Zapp, 15, of Geneva with the Trail Blazers.

Ashtabula County Fair prince candidates include: Thomas Christo, 13, of Jefferson with the Denmark Pioneers; Cody Kanicki, 14, of Pierpont with the Pierpont Mix-n-Match PACS; and Jacob Stitt, 13, of Ashtabula with the Prime Boyine club.

Seventeen young girls will participate in the Ashtabula County Fair princess competition, including Brittany Aveni, 13, of Rock Creek with the Silver Stir-Ups; Chandler Candela, 14, of Ashtabula with the Silver Stir-Ups; Alison Crouch, 14, of Andover with the Valley

Stitchers and Stirrers; Rebecca Dillon, 14, of Williamsfield, with the Happy Hoppers; Emily Forman, 13, of Austinburg with the Trail Blazers; Brittany Hennessey, 14, of Geneva with the Chris Clover club and Girl Scout Troop 305; Savannah Lewis, 14, of Andover with the Minds on the Go club, the Sheffield Target Masters and Pierpont Mix-n-Match PACS; Nicole Mann 14, of Pierpont with the Pierpont Mix-n-Match PACS and the PV Future Farmers; Elysia McNutt, 14, of Rock Creek, with the Sil-

ver Stir-Ups; Hailey McNutt, 13, of Rock Creek with the Silver Stir-Ups; Amanda Santana, 14, of Jefferson with the Silver Stir-Ups; Katie Stokes, 13, of New Lyme, with the Sewing Hayseeds club and the Kids and Cows club; Amy Varckette, 12, of Geneva with the Vaquero's club: Taylor Ward, 13, of Geneva with the Prime Bovine club; Courtney Taylor, 14, of Jefferson with the Golden Thimbles, the Hoppin Hoofers and the Young Marines; and Camryn Zapp, 14, with the Trail Blazers.











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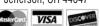
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## Readers share their stories of the Ashtabula County Fair

#### By SHELLEY TERRY

Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

Denise Hodges of Plymouth Township recalls the "fun times" in the District 1 Dairy 4-H Club when the boys would pour water bottles into bags of cotton candy. Then, they would throw the bags on their friends, making a wet, sticky mess.

That was in the late 1970's.

These days, you can find Hodges volunteering at the Plymouth Grange building during the fair.

Hodges is just one of many Star Beacon readers who shared their happy memories of the Ashtabula County Fair.

Jefferson resident Lois Burlingame's memories of the fair go back to the 1940's when there was a baseball diamond and a large tree in the infield of the race track.

The Burlingames, a family of eight children, would arrive at the fairgrounds around 1 p.m. and park the car under the tree.

"Mom would pack a picnic lunch," she said. "Then Mom would watch the ballgames and we kids would get a quarter each to spend on the midway."

Come about 6 p.m., the family would gather back at the car.

"Sadly, we would go home," Burlingame said. "It was a great experience."

Vivajean Ketola of Jefferson loved the midway rides, too.

"We would ride until we were sick," she said. "I just liked hanging out at the fair — oh, the good old days."

Kelly Graham Berger goes to the fair to see friends she hasn't seen all summer.

Jefferson natives Lori Graham Middendorf and Carla Taft Sires enjoy the Demolition Derby.

"I can't wait to bite into a Cunningham sausage sandwich," said Ann Thompson, who grew up in



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

**PREPARING ANIMALS** for the Ashtabula County Fair has become a family affair for the Tramte's in Geneva Township. (From left) Eve, 12, Bobbie and Ethan, 15, work with Dutch at their Geneva Township home.

Jefferson, who also likes to watch the harness racing.

Dave Devereaux of Jefferson said in his teen-age years, he liked to sit up in the grandstand with the girls and "make out."

On the flip side, Karen Foust liked "walking around and around checking out all the guys," she said.

Pamela Simon Burdick Griffiths said she checked out the animals.

"I loved all of the animals," she said.

Jefferson native Vicki Goff Blon, who grew up in a family of six girls, said they would stay at the fair until her father (Ralph Goff) won all six girls a stuffed animal.

"That's when the stuffed animals were as big as us," she said. "I still have an article in storage somewhere that was clipped out of the paper all those years ago."

As a young person Bobbie Tramte of Geneva was not involved in 4-H, but she does remember annual outings to the Great Geauga County Fair in Burton with her grandfather.

"We were those city kids wandering through in awe of the farm animals," she said. "My husband's family was very involved in 4-H and the fair. He had six siblings, with 18 years between the oldest and the youngest. They participated for many, many years, raising all different sorts of critters."

Tramte was not very surprised when her husband said he wanted to build a pen in the back yard and raise pigs with their son.

"I did not plan on getting involved; I really wanted nothing to do with it," she said. "Pigs don't smell very good."

Of course, that didn't deter the boys, she said.

They built an extraordinary pig pen, complete with a concrete floor, running water, electricity, a roof and walls — all painted John-Deere green. "As I watched it come up from the ground, I thought, 'Well, if pig farming doesn't work out, at least I'll have a nice spot for a Margarita Bar for me and the girls from work," Tramte said.

Despite her hopes for a new hangout, the family bought piglets and started their experience with 4-H.

They worked hard with their son, teaching him to take care of his animal. He also learned about keeping record of his expenses for feed and supplies. He wrote letters and approached local businesses, asking them to consider purchasing his animal at the Market Animal Auction.

"We've always tried to teach our kids the importance of giving back to the community you live in," she said. "When our local Giant Eagle grocery (in Geneva) purchased his market hog that first year, it drove home a lesson that we had stressed all along."

Today, the Tramtes have added chickens, ducks, goats and sheep to their list of critters. Their daughter is in 4-H, too, and Tramte enters her own photographs, art, baking, vegetables and flowers.

"I'm proud of this mini farm we have a mere two miles from the center of town," she said. "Sometimes a co-worker might tease me a little about seeing my yard birds out pecking at the grass, but they know who to ask when they want fresh bacon and eggs."

Some readers looked forward to the end of the fair, like Melissa Blough-Perigyi of Jefferson, who remembers when the fair board shot off fireworks Sunday night to end the week.

Roger Shumate got up on Monday after the carnival workers hauled off all the rides and looked for the money that fell out of people's pockets. He came out a little bit richer for his work.

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