**BLACK YELLOW MAGENTA CYAN** 



# ADIIIAAUULAA COUNTRY FAIR JEFFERSON, OHIO

KEITH ANDERSON GRANDSTAND SATURDAY AUG. 15 8:00 P.M.

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Sunday, August 9, 2009





SUNNY DRY weather brings a larger crowd to the Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

# Roaring with fun Ashtabula County Fair to feature tigers, horses, cows, turkeys and more

#### **By SHELLEY TERRY** Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The Ashtabula County Fairgrounds will open with a playful growl Tuesday of tigers.

This year's fair includes a show featuring the large animals that are becoming extremely rare in the wild.

They will appear in three free shows daily during the six-day fair, which is at the fairgrounds off South Poplar Street.

The fair officially starts at 9 a.m. with two flagraising ceremonies — one at the grandstand, and another at the saddle horse complex.

With a week full of activities, shows and competitions, there is always something for the whole family to enjoy. Last year's fair ended on a soggy note, but fair board member Everett Helfer said he hopes Mother Nature will shine brightly this year. Members of the Ashtabula County Holstein Club are working hard to get their booth ready to serve up the club's signature milkshakes and ice cream.

The club shook things up a bit last year when they added two, new, faster milkshake machines. Many improvements have been made to the fairgrounds and its buildings

throughout the past year or two and thousands of patrons are expected to flock to the fair.

Opening Day, Tuesday, is senior citizen day at the fair. Patrons age 62 and older are admitted to the fairgrounds for \$1 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The 2009 Ashtabula County Fair King and Queen will be crowned in the grandstand following the youth parade at 5:30 p.m. Other activities for the day include bicycle decorating, the frog jumping contest and 4-H style

review, to name just a few. Wednesday is Kid's Day, with a long list of activities planned for children, including a watermelon eating contest, a water balloon toss and bubble gum blowing contest. Kids are admitted free. Ride passes are \$4.

Thursday is Veterans Appreciation Day and veterans are admitted to the fair for \$1 all day with their I.D. One of the day's highlights is always the

rooster crowing contest held at 2 p.m. in the Bob Barnhard Entertainment Center.

Harness racing has been scaled back to two days, beginning at noon Thursday, and noon Friday. The market animal sale also is Friday, where hundreds of market turkeys, hogs, steers and lambs raised by 4-H'ers will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. and the Ashtabula County Fair will sponsor country artist Keith Anderson's 8 p.m. performance Saturday in front of the grandstand.

Anderson will delight fans by singing his hits, "I Still Miss You," and "Every Time I Hear Your Name.' Tickets are on sale for \$8 at the fair office under the grandstand. The fair will close Sunday at 10 p.m., but not before the modified tractor/super stock 4x4 and semi pulls at the grandstand. Single gate admission to the fair is \$7. Children under the age of 4 are admitted free. And, don't forget to sample all the delicious "fair food," including sausage sandwiches, steak on a stick, French fries, cotton candy, fresh lemonade, candy apples and (of course) homemade pies at the Plymouth Grange building and roast beef sandwiches at the Jefferson Grange.

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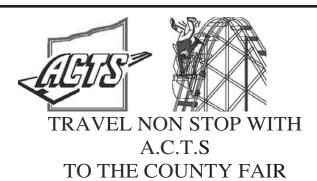
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**DATES:** August 11<sup>TH</sup> through August 15th 2009

TIMES: Every Hour Beginning at Noon to 6:00 p.m. (Last pick up at the fair at 5:30 p.m.)

Where: Municipal Parking Lot on Park Ave, Ashtabula

COST: Special Fair Rate of \$1.00 Each Way (Exact change required)

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Pie and Baking Contest

# **2009 ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

THREE SHOWS DAILY Wambold's Amazing Animals, Grandpa Cratchet Show and John Measner Magic "Swifty the Clown" (strolling the midway) Rides by Lisko Amusements open: 1-5 p.m. and 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Aug. 11 & 13, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Aug. 12 "Kid's Day," 1-5 p.m. and 6 p.m.- midnight Aug. 14 & 15 1-5 p.m. and 6 p.m-10 p.m. Aug. 16 

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11** Sponsor of the Dav Carington Park "Senior Citizens Day" (62 years and up) \$1 admission to grounds 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# 9 a.m.

Flag raising Jr. Fair Saddle Horse flag ceremony

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 and

Races 12:30 p.m.

Draft Horse Driving Competition

1 p.m.

Jr. Fair Dairy Clipping

Contest Jr. Fair Saddle Horse -

jumping, dressage Frog Jumping Contest

1:30 p.m.

Jr. Fair Sheep Show 5:30 p.m.

Ashtabula County Youth

Parade & Royal Court Contest

7 p.m.

Jr. Fair Miniature Horse Judging Jr. Fair Horseless Horse

Show for Cloverbuds Motocross

7:30 p.m.

Food, Nutrition and General Projects Awards

4-H Style Review 8 p.m. Band: "More Than A Show"

Jr. Fair Square Dance WEDNESDAY,

# AUG. 15 AT 8 P.M. **KEITH ANDERSON**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

pick up a guitar until well into his

Anderson played baseball while

pursuing a bachelor's degree in engi-

■ He played baseball well enough to

catch the attention of scouts from the

Kansas City Royals. A shoulder injury

quickly put an end to a possible career

mitment to fitness, even coming in sec-

Anderson stayed focused on his com-

ond in the Mr. Oklahoma body-build-

girls, 'cause Keith Anderson is going

to party and sing all his hits, includ-

ing, "XXL" (Double Extra Large), at

sponsored by FirstEnergy Solutions

the Jefferson fairgrounds. The show is

Corp. and the Ashtabula County Fair.

So, hang on to your cowboy hats,

neering from Oklahoma State. He

excelled in sports and academics.

with Major League Baseball, but

COUNTRY SINGER/SONG writer Keith Anderson will delight Ashtabula County fair-goers at 8 p.m. Saturday in front of the grandstand. Tickets: \$8. Get them while they last at the fair secretary's office under the grandstand.

teen years.

ing competition.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

■ Keith Anderson quickly earned the reputation of being an adept writer of award nominated hits, not just for his own projects but for other artists as well?

His shows are known for their high energy, let's-get-this-party-started flare?

Anderson is an Oklahoma native? He grew up in Miami, OK, near the Arkansas border.

■ The album's current single, "I Still Miss You," was written by Anderson, Tim Nichols and Jason Sellers?

■ Although Anderson has co-written hits for other artists, most notably, "Lost In This Moment," — the No. 1 smash for Big & Rich, Anderson does not write with other artists in mind.

Anderson's father was a mechanic?

■ Always athletic, Anderson didn't

**Open Class Beef Show** 

**Rooster Crowing Contest** 

Harness Racing

noon

2 p.m.

2:30 p.m. Jr. Fair Alpaca & Llama Show 4 p.m. Jr. Fair Beef Feeder

Showmanship & Weight Class 5 p.m. Flyover - Salute to Veterans

Jr. Fair Steer Show Jr. Fair Saddle Horse team penning & breakaway roping Jr. Fair Rabbit Showmanship - rabbit meat pen, doe & litter judging 7 p.m. Parent/Adviser Horse Show Band: "Southern Express Band," pavilion 7:30 p.m. Demolition Derby - \$4 admission to grandstand FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 Sponsor of the Day -Ashtabula County Medical Center "Senior Citizens Day" (62 years and up) \$1 admission to grounds 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 8:30 a.m. Draft Horse Hitch Classes 1-10 9 a.m. Jr. Fair Saddle Horse Pleasure Show 10 a.m. Jr. Fair Dairy Showmanship noon Harness Racing 12:30 p.m. Dairy Pee Wee Show 2 p.m. Pizza Eating Contest 3 p.m. Market Livestock Sale 7:30 p.m. Demolition Derby - \$4 admission to grandstand 8 p.m. Band: "Train Wreck" SATURDAY, **AUGUST 15** Sponsor of the Day -Seeds Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine 7:45 a.m. 5K race sponsored by Jr. Fair Board 9 a.m. Dairy - All Breeds Open Class Show 10 a.m. **Open Class Goat Show** Draft Horse Pull

6 p.m.

(entries) 10:30 a.m. **Basketball Free Throw** Contest 10:45 a.m. Jr. Fair Rabbit Skillathon 11 a.m. Little Miss/Mister Ashtabula County Jr. Fair Saddle Horse - versatility 1 p.m. Jr. Fair Saddle Horse gaming, walk/trot, draft 2 p.m. Pie & Baking Contest Auction Small Animal Costume Show 3 p.m. Draft Horse Hitch Classes 11-19, West Horse Ring 4 p.m. Jr. Fair Dog Obedience Show & Agility Contest 8 p.m. Keith Anderson - \$8 admission to grandstand; sponsors are FirstEnergy Solutions Corp. and Ashtabula County Fair Band: "Full House" SUNDAY. AUGUST 16 Sponsor of the Day -Jefferson Healthcare Center 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Truck Show 11 a.m. Stock Tractor/Stock 4x4 Pull MAC Awards Noon Jr. Fair Saddle Horse Awards Ceremony 1 p.m. Jr. Fair Saddle Horse Gaming Show 2 p.m. Garden Tractor Pull Kiddie Tractor Pull 2:30 p.m. Jr. Fair Super Showman Contest 6 p.m. Modified Tractors/Super Stock 4x4 & Semi Pulls 10 p.m. Fair closes

The Ashtabula Clinic

AUGUST 12 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 9 a.m.

Jr. Fair Saddle Horse -Showmanship & Riding Class Jr. Fair Market Poultry Show & Showmanship Draft Horse Halter Classes 10 a.m. Jr. Fair All Dairy Judging by Breed Find Pennies in Sawdust **Kids Drawing Contest** (entries) 11 a.m. Ronald McDonald Noon Water Balloon Toss 1 p.m. Kids Drawing Contest (awards) 2 p.m. **Bubble Gum Contest** 4 p.m. Jr. Fair Beef Showmanship Watermelon Eating Contest 6 p.m. Drawing for six bicycles Jr. Fair Swine Showmanship & Show 7 p.m. Jr. Fair Beef Breeding Show **Rough Truck Contest** 7:30 p.m. Band: "Fort Huntsburg" THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 Sponsor of the Day -Gazette Newspapers "Veterans Appreciation

Day" - veterans pay \$1 admission to grounds all day with identification (discharge papers DD2-14 or veteran's organization membership card)

#### 9 a.m.

Jr. Fair Saddle Horse gaming, trail, extra classes Draft Horse Farm Team Hitch Class & Log Pull 10 a.m. Jr. Fair Goat Show - harness & pack goat 11 a.m.

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WESSELL



# All hail the king and queen

# Royal hopefuls compete for fair king and queen, prince and princess

By MARGIE TRAX PAGE Staff Writer

mtrax@starbeacon.com JEFFERSON — Fortyfive lovely ladies and

compete for the coveted roles of Ashtabula County Fair king and queen this year. The royal court is made

handsome gentlemen will



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

along with 2008 king Evan Gruskiewicz. Moseley is a student of medicine at Hiram University, while Gruskiewicz will attend Ohio University for video production.

club; Eddie Mook, 15, of Jefferson, of the Milkshakes club; Scott Ruck, 18, of Geneva, of the Prime Bovine club and the junior fair board; and Braxton Wessell, 17, of Geneva, with the South

Happy Hoppers club and the junior fair board; Brandi Clay, 17, of Ashtabula, of the Beef-ateers club; Dawnelle Carron, 15, of Jefferson, with the Trail Blazers club; Kerrington Craft, 18,

Sunday, August 9, 2009







ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR

DUNNE





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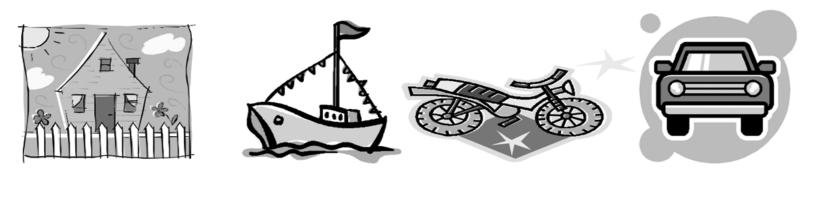


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STAR BEACON -5



**THE JUNIOR** Fair



Board includes Wendell Bliss, Ashley Meaney, Braxton Wessell, Evan Gruskiewicz, Evan Schwarz, Elaine Schwarz, Tom Peeve, Joe Hartley, Olivia Ray, Scott Ruck, Courtney Painter, Levi Humes, Courtney Fox and Katherine Huskey. Nola Bliss, Ben Betteridge, Cassandra Baker, Miranda Spellman, Traci Davis, Sarah Moesley, Heather Lamson, Ashley Beckwith, Richelle Baker, Gidget Marrison, Shelby Fertig, Kayla Beckwith, Greg Howard, Jenna March, Becca Moesley, Becky Betteridge, Matt Bouge, Joe Kalas, Kerington Craft and Megan Spellman.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Ashtabula County Junior Fair Board Selects 'A Red Carpet A-Fair' as theme for 2009

#### By MARGIE TRAX PAGE Staff Writer

mtrax@starbeacon.com

Cassie Baker is getting ready to hit the red carpet.

The Ashtabula County Junior Fair Board has selected "A Red Carpet A-Fair" as the theme of the 2009 fair, and as president of the junior fair board, Baker is excited to see the Hollywood magic happen. "I am very excited about our theme this year," she said. "I think it is really creative and I can't wait to see how the other kids express the theme."

The Junior Fair Board is organized with representation for junior fair youth group participants and is responsible for planning, conducting and evaluating various activities of the Junior Fair.

The Junior Fair Board assists with kid's games,

conducts the 5K race, flower box contest, Cloverbud stick horse contest, youth parade and chooses a junior fair theme.

The fair's 5K race benefits the junior fair board. Registration for the race begins at 7 a.m. Aug. 15 with start at 7:45 a.m. at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds grandstand. Registration is \$10. Mail-in registration

must be received by Aug.

10. The race is "a scenic, flat and fast loop starting and ending on the race track at the fairgrounds through the streets of Jefferson."

All traffic will be controlled for the race by the Jefferson Police

Department. Water stations will also be provided. The first 50 registered racers receive a free Tshirt.

Trophies will be awarded for best overall female and best overall male. Race information and results will be posted at

www.achillesrunning.com. Baker said this is her third year on the junior fair board and her ninth year as a 4-H member. She became the junior fair board president with the goal of hearing everyone's ideas for the fair.

"I think a lot of people

# Hail

don't know what the junior fair board does," Baker said. :We plan a lot of the larger activities and we volunteer our time to help with the shows, to pass out awards or do whatevor the fair paeda."

er the fair needs." This year is the first ever Ashtabula County Fair talent show. Open to all 4-H members, the talent show is a fun way to kick off the fair festivities, Baker said.

"I'm sure we will have a lot of creative acts and a lot of comedy," she said.

The talent show ill be held Monday night. The junior fair board also coordinates the annual 4-H square dance, which will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

"The square dance is a great way for everyone to get together and have fun," Baker said. "I'm not saying we do every dance

Andover, with the

just right, but we have a lot of fun and everyone gets involved, even the advisors and the little kids."

The junior Fair Board includes Wendell Bliss, Ashley Meaney, Braxton Wessell, Evan Gruskiewicz, Evan Schwarz, Elaine Schwarz, Tom Peeve, Joe Hartley, Olivia Ray, Scott Ruck, Courtney Painter, Levi Humes, Courtney Fox and Katherine Huskey. Nola Bliss, Ben Betteridge, Cassandra Baker, Miranda Spellman, Traci Davis, Sarah Moesley, Heather Lamson, Ashley Beckwith, Richelle Baker, Gidget Marrison, Shelby Fertig, Kayla Beckwith, Greg Howard, Jenna March, Becca Moesley, Becky Betteridge, Matt Bouge, Joe Kalas, Kerrington Craft and Megan Spellman.

Eighteen young girls will



#### Ian

### From Page 4

Jaclyn Myers, 17, of Jefferson, who is a member of the Barnyard Buddies club; Ashley Parnaby, 17, f Jefferson, of the Denmark Pioneers and the Rhythm Riders clubs; Megan Todd, 18, of Conneaut, with the Freedom Riders club and Girl Scout troop 671; and Courtney Tye, 16, f

Pymatuning Valley FFA. Ashtabula County Fair prince candidates include Craig Butler, 14, of Jefferson, who is a member of the Denmark Pioneers club; Jason Krulic, 14, of Dorset, with the Prime Bovine club and the Pymatuning Valley FFA; Sean Nagle, 14, of Ashtabula, with the Saybrook Riders and the Creative Cottontails clubs; and Logan Platt, 13, of Jefferson, of the Peanut Gallery club.

Geneva

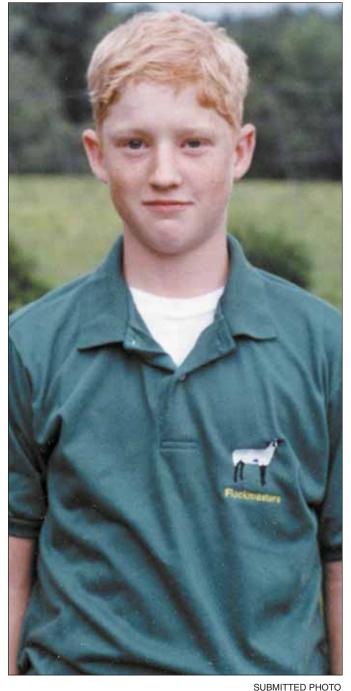
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Other princess hopefuls include Bailee Mazzaro, 12, of Williamsfield Township, with the Williamsfield Dairy-Aiders club; Alice Nagle, 13, of Ashtabula, who is a member of the Saybrook Raiders and the Creative Cottontails clubs; Annie Pierce, 13, of Orwell, of the Hoppin' Hoofers club; Hannah Robinson, 13, of Jefferson, who is a member of the Golden Thimbles club; Lacey Tolla, 12, of Orwell, with the Minds on the Go club; Nichole Visnosky, 14, of Ashtabula, with the Power Porkers club; Brandi Vokurka, 14, of Geneva, who is a member of the Saybrook Raiders; Mary Wessell, 12, of Geneva, of the South Central Livestock club; and Jordyn Willis, 14, with the Vaqueros club.



# What 4-H means to me



PAUL O'REILLY

### **BY PAUL O'REILLY OF CHARDON**

My 11 years in 4-H began when I was 8 years old. My older brothers and sister were already members of 4-H clubs. We lived on a farm in Hambden Township, near Chardon. My parents wanted to raise wellrounded, responsible children with good work ethics and thought the 4-H program would be helpful in reaching that goal. And it surely did! I am now 27 years old, married and still very involved as a 4-H advisor in Geauga County for the

Junior Leader 4-H Club. Once I was too old to be a 4-H member, I thought it would be fun to give back to the program for that it had given to me.

I am a partner in O'Reilly Equipment in Newbury with my brother, Jeff, who started the business. He let me join him after college. Jeff is also a 4-H member and our business has donated equipment, pulled floats in parades and we help the 4-H program when we are needed.

Because of my involvement in 4-H, I learned to



have confidence in myself and learned to work with other people. I also learned responsibility, follow through and compassion for other people. I am so very thankful for my 4-H experience

and would recommend this program to any parent who wants the best for his or her child. **NOTE:** It's "fair" to note Paul O'Reilly was too mod-

est to say the O'Reilly clan

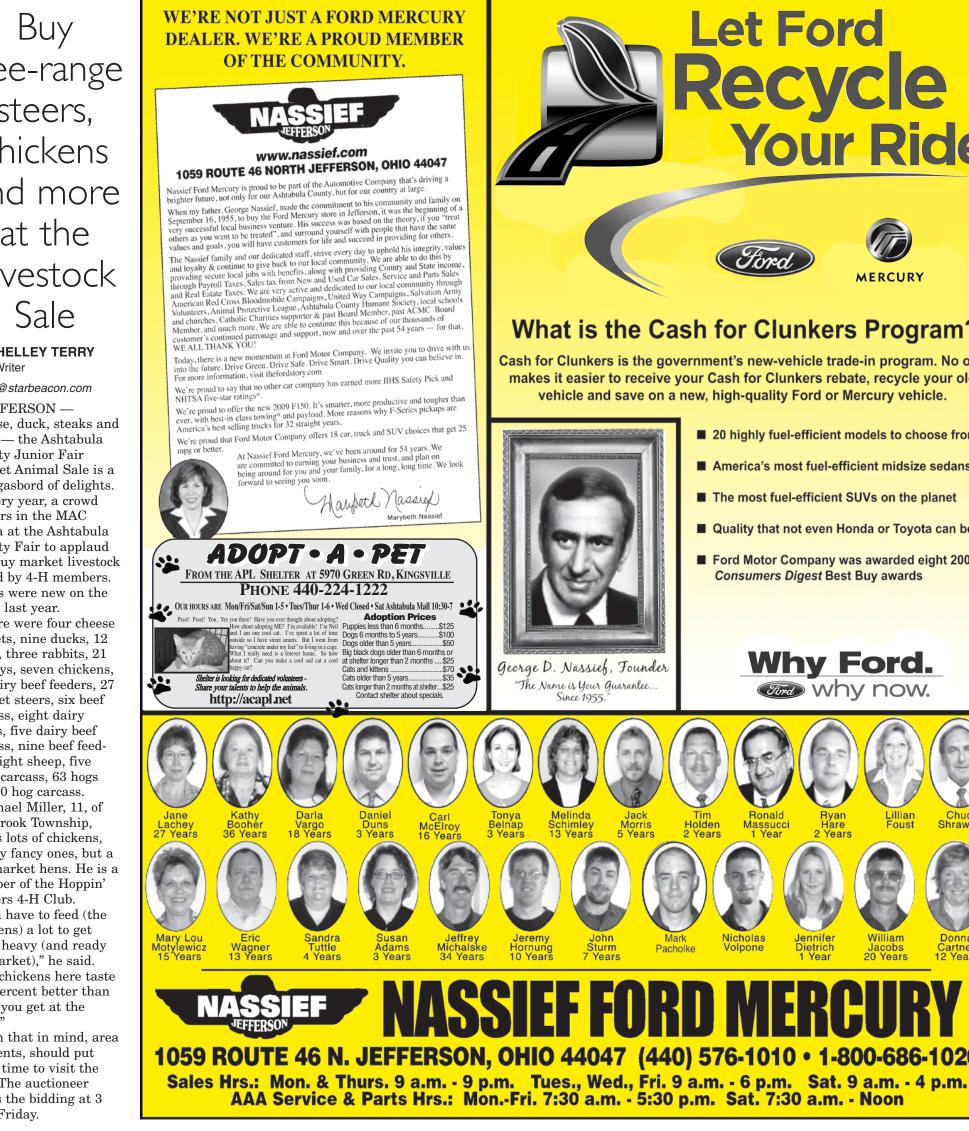
was honored at the 175th Geauga County Fair for their endless devotion to the county's youth. His parents, Kevin and Nancy, as well as his siblings Kevin, Lisa, Jim Jeff and Dan.

It's also interesting to the children all served as junior fair kings and queen at the fair, too!

Star Beacon staff writer Shelley Terry









8 – STAR BEACON

# ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR





BILL WEST / Star Beacon

**JOSIE FOSTER,** 11, of Saybrook Township will be entering Aro, a male angora goat, in the 4-H goat competition in the Ashtabula County Fair. Foster will be also entering a female angora goat named Bella.

BILL WEST / Star Beacon

# Saybrook 4-H'er says Angora goats are great

# By SHELLEY TERRY Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

SAYBROOK TOWN-SHIP — Josie Foster doesn't let Aro and Bella get her goat. She enjoys playing with the 6-month-old angora goats on her family's farm

on Munson Hill Road. "I think they are adorable," she said. "They have no odor, they are small and manageable." Josie, 11, also likes the sound the goats make.

"It sounds like my 2year-old sister," she said. A member of Barnyard Buddies 4-H Club, this is Josie's first year in 4-H. Her advisors are Deena Kelly and Martha Hills. Josie won one of the goats by writing an essay about why she was participating in 4-H and why she chose angora goats. She chose that particular type of goat because their mohair is used to make sweaters and afghans. "I didn't want to sell my goats for meat," she said. "I saw the angora goats two years ago at the fair and I really liked them."

To the untrained eye, the angora goats look like sheep, but they are, indeed, goats.

After winning one goat, Austinburg veterinarian Becky Salinger sold a second goat to the Fosters. That meant two goats for Josie — a male and a female. The male has been neutered.

The family has been happy with the decision, said Josie's mother, Linda. "Next year, she can use the same goats," Linda Foster said. "We can sell their mohair, too. We have yet to learn how to do that, but we can do it." Josie and her sister like to watch the goats play in their large outdoor pen on the family's 4-acre farm. The goats' "home" is a small barn nearby. Josie said she has to clean their pen at least every two weeks and give them fresh straw bedding. Surprisingly, the goats' mohair require little maintenance.

"You just shake and pick the straw and debris out," Josie said.

Their feed is a special blend made at the local feed mill.

So far, the project is a success — Josie scored a 92 percent three weeks ago at the 4-H Skill-A-Thon.

Now, she's excited to show Bella and Aro at the fair.

The junior fair goat show starts at 10 a.m. Thursday in the MAC Arena.

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**TERRY** the 6-mor



# Prime Bovine 4-H Club's community service project this year is Norman

# **By SHELLEY TERRY** Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The Prime Bovine 4-H Club's community project this year is a dairy beef feeder. Club members named him "Norman," and he will be sold at the Ashtabula County Junior Fair Market Livestock Auction, set for 3 p.m. Friday in the MAC Arena.

The money will be donated to the Community Care Committee, formed in June 1992 when a family was struck by lightning at Pymatuning Lake. At that time, a benefit dinner was

held to raise money for medical expenses. Afterwards, a committee was formed to continue to raise money to help people in need in the community.

The Prime Bovine 4-H Club is a beef club, consisting market steers, beef feeders, dairy steers, beef breeding projects, carcass animals and Cloverbud projects.

"Our projects start in September after the fair and continue on, getting read for the next year's fair," said Jayne Bodnar, advisor. "Our goal is to help the people in Ashtabula County."

PRIME BOVINE 4-H Club will be selling "Norman" the dairy beef feeder at Friday's Market Livestock Sale. Norman is the club's community service project. Jayne Bodnar is the club advisor.

# **DID YOU KNOW? FUN ANIMAL FACTS** ABOUT THE FAIR

■ You can see dairy cows at the fair and a milking machine in action over by the MAC Arena. Believe it or not, a cow gives nearly 200,00 glasses of milk in her lifetime.

■ A Holstein cow's spots are like a fingerprint. No two cows have exactly the same pattern of spots.

■ The Jr. Fair Poultry show starts at 9 a.m. Tuesday in the MAC Arena. (Don't be afraid domesticated turkeys can't fly).

■ Between 260 and 300 million turkeys are slaughtered annually in the U.S., according to USDA statistics. Of these, about 45 million are killed for Thanksgiving.

■ By feeding hens certain dyes they can be made to lay eggs with varicolored yolks. There are a variety of chickens to see in the Poultry Barn.

■ There's a honey and bee display in the Commercial Building.

■ In its entire lifetime, the average worker bee produces 1/12 teaspoon of honey.

■ The Jr. Fair swine show is at 6 p.m. Wednesday. On average, pigs live for about 15 years.

■ If you see a pig on the midway, you should slap some sunscreen on its back. Pigs can get sunburned.

■ The largest pig was a Poland-China hog named Big Bill, who tipped the scales at 2,552 pounds.

■ The Jr. Fair dog obedience show begins at 4 p.m. Saturday in the Dr. Kaszar Show Barn.

■ The expression "three dog night" came from the Eskimos and means a very cold night, so cold you have to sleep with three dogs to keep

# **INSTANT CASH REBATE** With The Purchase Of Seaway's



■ The Grinch's dog is named Max. ■ The frog-jumping contest at 1 p.m. Tuesday in front of the grandstand. Bring your own frog in a bucket.

■ The*world* record frog jump is 33 feet 5.5 inches over the course of three consecutive leaps. The jump was made in May 1977 by a South African sharp-nosed frog called Santjie.

The underside of a horse's hoof is called a frog

■ The Jr. Fair Saddle Horse Pleasure Show is at 9 a.m. Friday in the Show Ring.

■ When a female horse and male donkey mate, the offspring is called a mule, but when a male horse and a female donkey mate, the offspring is called a hinny.

■ Worldwide, goats provide people with more meat and milk than any other domesticated animal.

■ The open class goat show is at 10 a.m. Saturday in the MAC Arena.

■ While strolling past the harness racing horse barns at the fairgrounds, you might make note of a thought-provoking scene. A heap of manure.

Fair board member Bob Jones says they pay someone to haul it away.

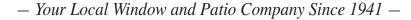
"Where do they take it?" I asked. Jones said, "We don't ask."

Compiled by Shelley Terry



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10 - STAR BEACON

# ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR

Sunday, August 9, 2009



Sunday, August 9, 2009

# ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR



JONATHAN HUBBARD, 10, of Saybrook, and Shawna Dye, 8, of Williamsfield, are exhausted nearing the end of the watermellon eating contest at the 2007 Ashtabula County Fair.

# Kids Day more than a fair day, it's a great day

### **By SHELLEY TERRY** Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON -Wednesday will be more than a fair day, it will be Kids Day at the Ashtabula County Fair, sponsored by the Star Beacon.

Scores of young fairgoers always flock to the fairgrounds, waiting to ride the rides, eat fair food, play the games and enter the bicycle draw-

ing. "We ordered 500 balloons and lots of other items for Kids Day," said Pam Harper, one of several Star Beacon employees who will be manning the newspaper's tent on the west side of the main midway. Children ages 14 and younger are admitted free to the fairgrounds. An all-day ride pass to Lisko Amusements is \$4.

included. Last year, Ashtabula resident Hannah

for the UFO spinning ride. She also likes to see the rabbits at the fair.

Samie Allega, 12, of Jefferson, likes the bubble gum blowing contest. That's no surprise because she won the contest in her age group two years ago, and placed third last year. Nine-year-old Allie Dietz of Jefferson enjoys riding down the big slide and winning games of chance, she said.

As always, Junior Fair

board members will organize a Kids Drawing Contest, Pennies in the Sawdust Contest, a Water Balloon Toss, the **Bubble Gum Blowing** Contest and a Watermelon Eating Contest. Check the schedule for times and locations.

Children should register to win one of six bicycles as they enter the fairgrounds. A drawing will be held at 6 p.m., sponsored by the



CATE CREIGHTON, 2, of Canfield, rests her head on her mother Stephanie Creighton's knee as dad completes his work for the Austintown Dairy at the Ashtabula

Hakala, now 13, headed

Pony rides are not

fairboard auxiliary.

County Fairgrounds in Jefferson.





BILL WEST / Star Beacon

HANNAH CAUDILL, 6 (above), of Ashtabula, blows a bubble large enough to be measured during the bubble gum blowing contest at the 2007 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson. Jonathan Archer, 12 (left), of Salem, participates in the 2007 Ashtabula County Fair pizza eating contest.

WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon

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# Battered Oreos and cheesecake? Fair food for every palate

#### **By SHELLEY TERRY** Staff Writer

#### sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON - Yum, yum! One of the things everyone looks forward to at the Ashtabula County Fair is fair food.

Fairs offer a taste of local agriculture and remind us of how the food we eat makes it to our kitchen tables. A day at the fair also allows us to get close to livestock, listen to a hen cluck and pet an angora goat. Competition for raising a pig, preserving pickles and sewing a dress challenges children to better themselves, and blue, red and white ribbons abound. The smells of the fair lure us in. from the barns

to the bacon. Kettle corn is an old fair favorite and fills the air with a sweet aroma. (See recipe below).

Unfortunately, a lot of fair food consists of large portions of fat and sugar calories. But the fair wouldn't be as much fun without the food.

Food on a stick seems to be especially popular at the fairground. Corn dogs, steak, caramel apples and cotton candy are included

\$\$\$**\$**\$\$\$

on the impaled-food menu. Last year, fair vendors

offered deep-fried Oreos. Five Oreo cookies, dipped in pancake batter and deep-fat fried, and topped with a generous dusting of powdered sugar, sold for

If that isn't enough to send most folks into a diabetic coma, there is a food stand toting deep fried cheesecake. That's right - cheesecake!

So how many times will you have to walk the midway to burn off those calories? On average, you

mile to burn 100 calories. That's about 12 city blocks or 2,000 steps.

APPROXIMATE **DISTANCES TO BURN OFF POPULAR** FAIR FOODS ARE: ■ CORN DOG: 4.5 miles ■ COTTON CANDY: 1.5 miles

**FUNNEL CAKE:** 3 miles

- SOFT DRINK, 32 OZ.: 2.5 miles
- SNO-CONE: 2.5 miles **SOFT PRETZEL:** 3 miles

This doesn't mean you need to take carrot and

you can do to reduce the calories. Take a bottle of water so you can save your fat calories for something else — like a sausage sandwich, fries with vinegar and salt, chocolate milkshake, doughnut... — need I go on? **FAIR-TIME CINNAMON** 

but there are something

# SUGAR KETTLE CORN

2 T. granulated sugar 1/4 t. cinnamon 1/4 c. vegetable oil 1/2 c. popcorn kernels 1/2 c. confectioner's sugar 1/2 t. salt

cinnamon together in a small bowl and set aside.

In a large pot with a lid, heat oil over medium heat until hot, but not smoking. Add kernels and cover. When kernels start popping, carefully lift lid and sprinkle confectioner's sugar.

Replace lid and continue cooking, shaking pot frequently, until popping begins to slow. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar mixture. Replace lid and continue shaking pot until popping almost stops. Sprinkle with salt and serve.

#### need to walk about one Mix granulated sugar and celery sticks to the fair, saluted at the fair Veterans JEFFERSON — Military grounds for only \$1 with veterans will enjoy special proper identification, attention and discounts at which can include dis-

the Ashtabula County Fair on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Veterans Appreciation Day, an annual fair event for the past several years, includes a tribute to exmilitary personnel at the grandstand.

charge papers or proof of membership in a veterans' organization.

Also planned are a variety of veterans-related activities, including a 5 p.m. program at the grandstand that features a

A veterans' booth will be created in the commercial building, where information on programs and activities of interest to vets can be found. Representatives from veteran-friendly organizations will also be present to answer questions. In the past, local

Veterans of Foreign Wars posts have been invited to set up displays on a rotating basis during the fair. The Veterans

I hursday

Administration hospital has also been represented at past fairs.

Appreciation Day began in 2000 and has been wellreceived by veterans, organizers have said.

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# Vets can enter the fairfly-over of vintage aircraft. American Legion and Demolition Derby offers a smashing time at fair

JEFFERSON — There's nothing like to sound of grinding, colliding metal to produce cheers from a grandstand full of crashcrazed people.

We're talking demolition derby, and the Ashtabula County Fair is serving up

One entry per child

two evenings of controlled mayhem on Thursday and Friday. The rock 'em-sock 'em action begins at 7:30 p.m. both nights. Admission is \$4.

The derby has been a tradition at the fair for many years and guaranteed to

# Ashtabula County

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pack the grandstand, said Larry Kotnik, president of the Ashtabula County Fair Board.

"It's a crowd-pleaser," he said. "It's been a real good draw for us."

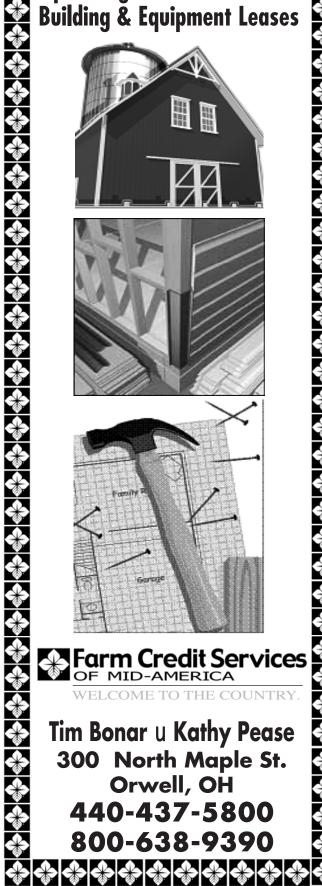
Last year, more than 60 cars competed in a number

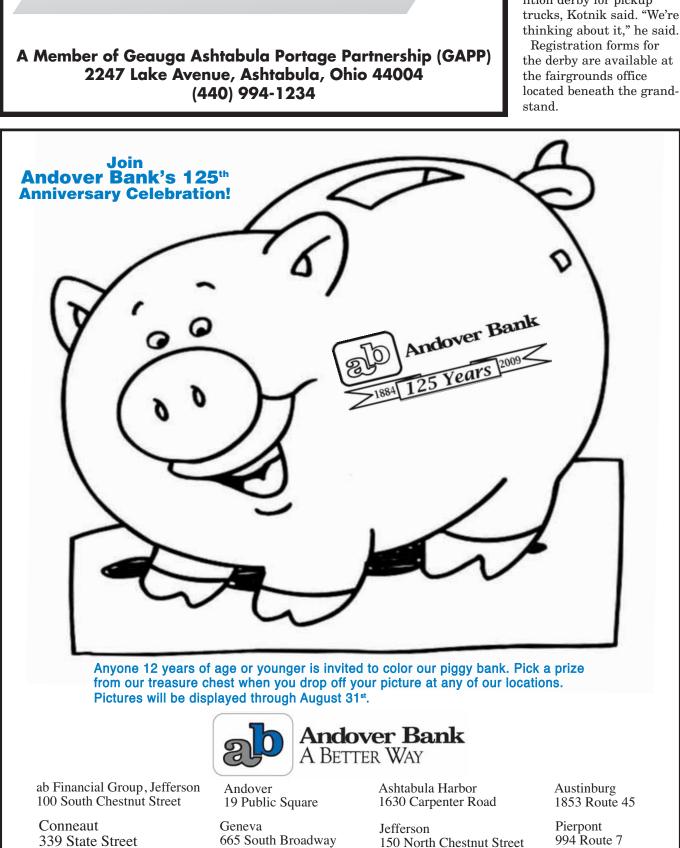
of different heats, Kotnik said. Drivers come from across the county, he said.

Drivers invest plenty of time and no shortage of money to turn a junker into a juggernaut in time for the derby. Many drivers compete year after year, Kotnik said.

Star Beacon articles last vear chronicled the devotion and attention driver lavish on vehicles they know will be get banged and badly bruised. In some cases, driving in the derby is a family tradition.

The event has proven so popular, the fair is thinking about staging a demolition derby for pickup





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## Sunday, August 9, 2009

# ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR

# Fair weather important to Ashtabula County Fair

#### **By SHELLEY TERRY**

Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com JEFFERSON — "Rain,

rain go away, come again another day." The old childhood nurs-

ery rhyme rings true to the Ashtabula County Fair Board.

Wet weather means low attendance at the fair and that's just what happened last year, despite top-notch entertainment. "We booked extra entertainment," said Darla Vargo, secretary of the fair board. "And, we offered as much free entertainment as we could."

Heavy rain muddied the first night of last year's Demolition Derby, and monsoon-like weather washed out Sunday's truck show.

When Vargo tallied last year's attendance numbers, it came to 26,376, even with a special appearance by West Coast Chopper's Jesse James. The attendance number does not count all of the 4-H'ers, 4-H advisers and exhibitors, she said.

However, 26,376 was lower than the past few years, which averaged about 29,500, according to paid-attendance records.

For example, the 2004 fair brought 30,618 paid attendance people to the fair, and 2002 drew 31,000, according to fair board records.

This year, the fair board hopes folks will come to opening day, Tuesday, to watch the frog jumping contest, horse shows, steer shows, bicycle races, motocross and more.



SUNNY DRY weather brings a larger crowd to the Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

BILL WEST / Star Beacon

Kids Day, Wednesday, is designed to bring crowds of children under the age of 14 to the fairgrounds. They get in free and there will be lots of games to play, including the always-popular bubble gum blowing contest and watermelon eating contest. All day ride pass is \$4.

The Demolition Derby, harness racing, a salute to veterans and the cocka-doodle-do of the roostercrowing contest is slated for Thursday. The market animal sale, more harness racing, dairy pee wee show and the second night of the Demolition Derby is planned for Friday. Country music star Keith Anderson's 8 p.m. concert should boost to attendance Saturday, as well as Sunday's tractor and truck shows.

Ashtabula County Fair youth parade the official kick-off of yearly fair



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### By MARGIE TRAX PAGE Staff Writer

#### mtrax@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The lights and glamour of Tinsel Town will come to the Ashtabula County Fair this year as the Junior Fair Board celebrates "A Red Carpet A-Fair" theme for the youth parade, junior fair board advisor Becky Holmes said.

"The youth parade is the kick off for the kids for the fair," Holmes said. "It is the official opening of the yearly fair festivities and exhibits."

Holmes said junior fair members dress up floats and get creative to follow the yearly theme in their parade exhibits.

Prizes are given for the best drill team, float, equestrian, walking, and band parade exhibits.

"Last year we had a dog drill team and it was very interesting," Holmes said. "The dogs performed agility maneuvers. It will be interesting to see the exhibits with the red carpet theme this year." "I am sure the floats and exhibits will resemble Hollywood," she said. Holmes said more than 60 exhibits are expected, especially because each contestant for the 2009 king and queen get to ride in their own car in the parade. The prince and princess contestants all ride together on a float.

"With 30 contestants for king and queen, plus the prince and princess exhibit, that is already a long parade," Holmes said.

The parade, which officially opens the 2009 Ashtabula County Fair, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The parade will begin at Jefferson High School, wind through town to the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds and circle the track in front of the grandstand, Holmes said.

"The kids put a lot of effort and creativity into the parade," she said. "For more than 10 years the youth parade has been the opening event at the fair."



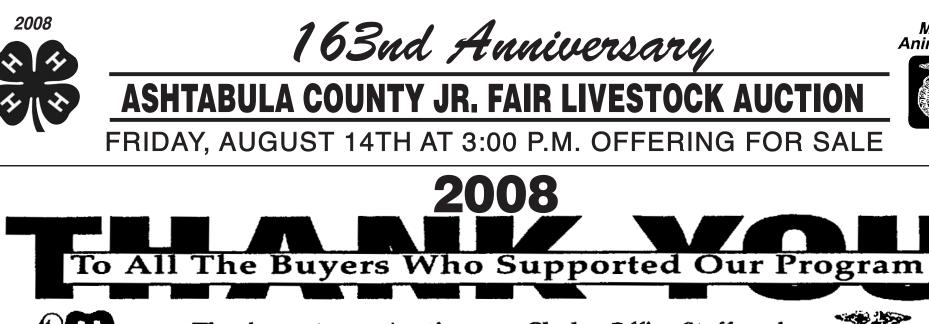
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Market Animal Sale





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## **GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR**



BEST OF SHOW Cheese Basket Calla Mazzaro Buyer-Countryside Vet Clinic

# **RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR**



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Turkeys Sarah Ritchie Buyer-Elmer Geil





**RESERVE BEST OF SHOW** 

BEST OF SHOW Market Turkeys Evan Walh Buyer-Remax Innovations

# CARCASS



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Chickens Cassandra Baker Buyer-Colucci's Fattaria



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Chickens Jennifer Hall Buyer-Mithra Training Stable



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW Market Goats Kayla Beckwith Buyer - REO TRUCKING



**GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & RESERVE** 

BEST OF SHOW

Market Turkeys

Buyer-Mr. Zeez Storage

Evan Gruskiew

BEST OF SHOW Market Chickens Michael Miller Buyer-John & Bonnie Miller



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Chickens Lorraine Miller Buyer-Ray Bros. Inc.



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW Meat Rabbits Ben Betteridge Buyer-Moon Dreams Meadows



BEST OF SHOW Lamb Carcass Robert Meadows Buyer-Bowshot Cooper & O'Donnell Engineers



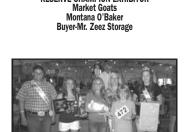
RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Meat Rabbits Mason Taylor Buyer-Marous Farm Ent. Inc.



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Lamb Carcass Ben Betteridge Buyer-RJ Nye Family Farms



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR & BEST OF SHOW Market Ducks James Anderson Buyer-Gabriel Loiczzy



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR

RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Ducks Amanda Zalar Buver-Gabriel Loiczzy



**RESERVE BEST OF SHOW** 

Kavla Stoltz

**Buyer-Roger Schilling** 

RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Ducks Craig Anderson Buyer-Papa Dogs



BEST OF SHOW Hog Carcass Brooke Lautanen Buyer- Bowshot Cooper - O'Donnell Engineers LLC



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Hog Carcass Danielle Lautanen Buyer-Smith & Miller Attorneys At Law



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RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Dairy Steer Carcass Mich Pauley Buyer-Jim & Seanna Butler



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Steers Scott Ruck Buyer-Geneva Giant Eagle



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Hogs Danielle Lautanen Buyer-Lautanen Trucking



BEST OF SHOW Market Steer Carcass Jessica Kokavec Buyer-Cherry Valley Processing

**RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR** 

Market Hogs

Ashley Meaney

**Buyer-Thorne's Bilo Supermarket** 



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Steer Carcass Kyle Jones Buyer-Midway Pontiac, Chevrolet & Buick, Inc.



BEST OF SHOW Market Hogs Nicholas Benton Buyer-BP Enterprises



BEST OF SHOW Dairy Steer Carcass Kyle Hass Buyer-Walter & Michal Barnes



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Hogs Ninchole Visnosky Buyer-Smolen Eng.



GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Lambs Samantha Benton Buyer-Thornes Bilo Supermarket



RESERVE CHAMPION EXHIBITOR Market Lambs Rebecca Betteridge Buyer-Greenside Up, Landscape & Construction



BEST OF SHOW Market Lambs Mathew Bogue Buyer-The Bird Feeder



RESERVE BEST OF SHOW Market Lambs Robert Meadows Buyer-Midway Pontiac, Chevrolet & Buick





16 - STAR BEACON

**ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR** 

Sunday, August 9, 2009

# **KIDS AND CRITTERS**



WARREN DILLAWAY / Star Beacon **ALICE NAGLE,** 12, of Ashtabula, dressed her rabbit Indigo in a witch costume during an animal costume contest at the Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.



BILL WEST / Star Beacon **SUMMER HULL**, 10, of the Milkshakes 4-H Club, poses with her alpine goat Daisy Monday as she prepares for the Ashtabula County Fair.



BILL WEST / Star Beacon **JUSTIN TUTTLE**, 10, of Pierpont Township, examines his white Japanese bantam with black tail chicken before judging at the 2007 Ashtabula County Fair.



**BRYAN JOHNSON,**6, of Conneaut, stays close to his brother Scotty's Simmental breed beef cow Sam at the 2007 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.



**KAYLA STOLTZ**, of Hartsgrove, and her Boer goat "Duck" earned Best of Show honors Boer goat at the Ashtabula County fair in Jefferson.

MANN, 6, of Ashtabula, and her Rooster, Little Jerry Sienfeld, were the

ABBIE





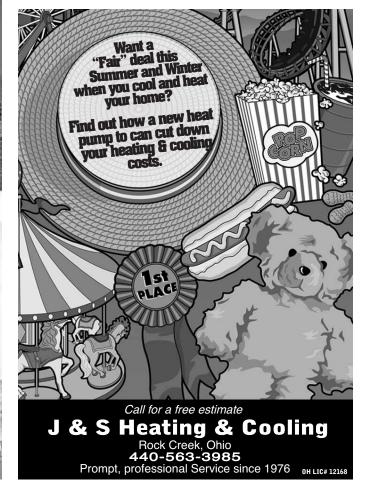
BAILEE MAZZARO, 11, and her fall heifer Mary earned first place honors Holstein Fall Heifer class at the 2007 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

of the crowing contest at the Ashtabula County Fair 2007.

STAR BEACON FILE PHOTO

BILL WEST / Star Beacon







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### BLACK CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW

Sunday, August 9, 2009

# ASHTABULA COUNTY FAIR

STAR BEACON -17



**DREW MORGAN,** 8, of Jefferson, won the frog-jumping contest at the 2008 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.



**SHELBY MORGAN**, 11, and Drew Morgan, 8, both of Jefferson will be competing in the frog-jumping contest at the 2009 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

# Ashtabula County Fair: Frog-jumping capital of the world (or close to it)

### By SHELLEY TERRY Staff Writer

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — It's that time of year again when frogs hop out of Ashtabula County's muddy ponds to compete at the fair.

It's the Frog Jumping Contest, slated for 1 p.m. Tuesday in front of the grandstand. That means some of the county's "world famous" frogs and their trainers, as well as Master of Ceremonies Everett Helfer, converge to put on a great show. Admission is free.

"We've got monster frogs this year," said Doug Morgan of Jefferson, father of Drew Morgan, 8, who last year garnered the blue ribbon in the 6 to 8-year-old class.

Drew entered a big, burly bullfrog from Pacholke Pond in Rock Creek. The frog didn't disappoint, jumping 12 feet, 5 inches.

"We're watching Pacholke Pond again this year," Drew said. "We've had good luck there."

happen."

Drew's sister, Shelby, 11, said she caught a "really big one" and it's practicing its jumps every day.

"Our dog, Buddy, nudges him with his nose to get him jumping," she said.

Shelby and Drew anxiously await "frog mania" Tuesday. Helfer said the frog jump is one of his favorite events during fair week because "you never know what's going to



# Readers share fond fair memories

#### **By SHELLEY TERRY** Staff Writer

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As he relives his fondest memories of a day at the Ashtabula County Fair, Rich L. Mack can almost smell the foot-long hot dogs his dad sold for many years from 1944 and on.

The Mack boys, from a family of 12 children, worked every year at the fair with their father, the late Herbert William Mack, said Mack, who now makes his home in Arizona.

"A foot-long hot dog was 15-cents and kids got them for 10-cents," he said. "We ran out of foot-long buns one year and we had to use regular buns. It was funny to see people eating with hot dogs hanging out of both ends of the bun."

But something interesting happened because of the bun shortage — it became a tradition!

"People liked it," he said. "Thanks for the memories and the good life of good old country fairs.'

Geneva resident Chris Harper's favorite memory is when his 1988 Oldsmobile Delta (No. 93) flipped another car in the Friday night, 2006 Demolition Derby.

"I'll be running again this year," he said. **Roaming Shore resident** Karen Rose said her first memory of the fair goes back to the early 1950's. Her family had a dairy farm so they could not go until after morning milking and they had to be home for

night milking. To save money, her mother packed a picnic lunch.

"I can remember my Mom's fried chicken which might have been a bit better than the fair food," Rose said. "But we always had a candy apple or cotton candy.'

Rose and her sister were in 4-H clubs so she has many memories of projects, judging, booths prepara-



SALLY (CASE) STOWE, recalled being a "horse crazy girl" in the mid-1960's at the fair.

#### JEFF FENTON'S mother, Janet Volk of Kingsville,

submitted this photo of him showing his prize sheep when he was 14.

tions and demonstrations. "I was selected to go to the Ohio State Fair with my demonstration, 'How to Make Freezer Jam," she said. "The things I learned (in 4-H) and experiences helped me in my career by building confidence in my abilities.'

Last year, Rose and her grandson, Sebastian, entered items in the cooking, art and quilt departments.

"Our baked goods did not win any prize but we both won Blue Ribbons with our other entries," she said. "So I hope he will have some good memories of the Ashtabula County Fair." Jim Steward remembers



SUBMITTED PHOTO

when he was 7- or 8-yearsold back in the mid-1950's. His Mom and Dad gave each child \$1 to last the day at the fair.

"I was holding that buck in my hand, just gazing at the monkey in front of the side-show, when that longtailed little thief, grabbed my money and ran off," Steward said. "My Dad said I had learned a great lesson that day.'

That was the last time I ever came within eyesight of a monkey.

For Ashtabula resident, Amy Housel, 1980 was one of the most "en-lightening" years at the Ashtabula County Fair.

Fair-goers know it always







**GENEVA RESIDENT** Chris Harper's favorite memory is smashing and crashing his 1988 Oldsmobile Delta (No. 93) in the 2006 Demolition Derby.

storms fair week and 1980 was no exception.

"The fair had been a big part of my life since the age of 10, when my Dad formed the Shepherd's 4-H Club," she said. "I continued my participation long after I could no longer show sheep in 4-H."

So on Tuesday night of opening day, I was in my usual spot — standing in sawdust in the concreteblock show barn, wearing my polished tennis shoes and announcing the pig show. That may have been the last time I thought, "It's just thunder, it can't hurt me.'

A bolt of lightning entered the show barn through the window behind the officials stand, hit my microphone, surged through my body, whipping me around 180degrees and knocking me backwards into the heavy

weight class of pigs. My last thought before I blacked out was, "They're going to step on my face!" When she regained consciousness, Housel was stretched out in sawdust outside the show ring. "I saw the red flashing light of the ambulance at my feet," she said. "After exams by EMT's, I was able to stand and the entire show barn applauded farmers understand and respect the power of lightening.'

manent damage though she admits to cowering to this day whenever lightening strikes too close for comfort.

"This long-ago fair memory re-surfaces every year when I eye the weather forecast just prior to the fair, of which I am still an ardent fan," she said. "It reminds me that we are a sum total of our experiences. As a result of the county fair nearly 30 years ago, I may just have a little extra spark."

Janet Volk of Kingsville wrote she has three boys, who were involved in 4-H. Her son, Jeff Fenton,

showed a prize sheep when he was 14.

"He is still involved today with his beautiful Halflinger horses," Volk said.

Another son, Donnie Fenton, showed a prize rabbit, she said.

"These boys stayed all week at the fair bunking in the barns with their animals," she said. "The weath

SEBASTIAN year, Stowe said, "The fair was the highlight of my summer vacation.'

In 1967, the clubs became 4-H horse clubs. That year, a dozen members sat in the home of George and Ina Bloom and decided to become the Rhythm Riders 4-H Club.

Amy Toukonen was elected president; Kenneth Stevenson, vice-president; Sally Case, secretary; Marjorie Schray, treasurer; Mary Ann Peaspanen, news reporter; Debbie Chiaramonte, health chairman; Shelly McKay, safety chairman; and Robert Harvey, recreation chairman. Dee Carlson volunteer served as assistant advisor.

"My goal was to be a winner at the fair and I succeeded in so much that I made the cut in both my showmanship and horsemanship classes," Stowe said.

Paula Harnist and Miss Becky Knaus went to the Ohio State Fair, with Dennis Ruck and Ron Ensell serving as alternates.

In 1968, Stowe scored high enough in showmanship and horsemanship classes, along with her project book and barn judging, to win the Ashtabula County Junior Fair Saddle Horses-Best Total Score, ages 14-15 Years, Trophy.

"Even after all these years I still have that trophy," she said. "That year, Lucky Boyd and Terri Bloom were state fair winners." Stowe was named an alternate, along with Jill Conklin.

Since that time, Stowe has won a Reserve Championship in 4-H horsemanship at the state fair. She's also shown the Appaloosa circuit and won in the Northern Ohio Quarter Horse Association as High Point Amateur.

In 1974, she and her husband, Tom Stowe, became 4-H advisors for Tumbleweeds 4-H Club, along with Joe and Judy Evon.

"I've been involved in horses all my life because of 1966 and my determination to be a winner," she said. "I also make it a point to go every year to the fair. I still enjoy watching the kids

compete ... the sights and

good memories ... I hope 4-

H in Ashtabula County will

always be here for our chil-

Ashtabula resident Judy

Perkins and her family go

"In 2003, country singer

to the fair every year.

sounds bring back such

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Housel, being a tad independent and stubborn (and no doubt in shock), she insisted she was fine and finished announcing the five-hour show.

"With the loving support of family and friends, I met all my obligations that week, but remember feeling like I was sleepwalking." she said. "I was home, but the lights inside were flickering.'

Housel suffered no per-

er was always very warm ... I bought them a week's meal ticket so they were always guaranteed one good meal a day at the Jefferson Grange, where the food was excellent as it is today.'

Sally (Case) Stowe shared wonderful memories of the fair. She went so far as to call herself a "horse crazy girl" back then.

In 1966, Stowe joined a horse club called Flying Hoofs Club with advisors of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bloom and Mr. and Mrs. James W. Bloom.

"I was a real 'greenhorn' and this was the year I decided to not be just another horse and rider at the fair," she said. "I watched the kids win awards and decided I was going to be one of them next year." Even though she didn't

garner any top awards that

Joe Nichols was the main attraction at the fair." she said. "We purchased frontrow seats to see him." Her mother, Donna Olson, had the pleasure of shaking

dren."

Nichols' hand and speaking to him. She also got an autograph.

Nichols sang three or four older Merle Haggard songs.

"We were impressed Mom remembered all the words to these songs," Olson said. "Mom died this past April and that was a very memorable evening for our familv."

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**EVAN GRUSKIEWICZ**, of Jefferson, holds Bill after winning the Class 5 Single Comb, Clean Legged (other than Game bantam) at the 2007 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

# Rooster crowing contest one of fair's best-kept secrets

### By SHELLEY TERRY Staff Writer

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JEFFERSON — People near the Ashtabula County Fair on Thursday afternoon will hear a mix of roosters crowing intermingled with people attempting to keep them crowing.

The annual Rooster Crowing Contest is one of the best-kept secrets of the fair.

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

The Rooster Crowing Contest has grown in popularity every year, with a small crowd cheering on a variety of breeds while they are timed for 30 minutes beginning at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Bob Barnard Entertainment Center.

Owners often stand behind cages encouraging the birds to belt it out. The crows are counted by volunteers who tally each rooster's cock-a-doodle-do on an index card.

After the half hour lapses, cards are turned in, crows are counted, and Helfer announces the results. The cock with the most crows wins.

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

"C'mon, crow!" shouted one contestant last year to her bantam-sized rooster.

Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. A stubborn rooster can just clam up, frustrating his owner. Sometimes, the words "fried chicken legs" or "chicken dinner" are muttered under one's breath as they cajole the roosters.

After 30 minutes, owners and roosters all seem to have had enough crowing and ribbons and a small amount of money are distributed to the winners.

The crowd applauds, the owners relax and the rooster go back to scratching in the sawdust. After all, it isn't whether you crow or lose, it's how you play the game.

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