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Yankee Springs millage defeat leaves questions

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

The defeat of the half mill levy request in Yankee Springs Township Aug. 3 dismays Supervisor George London.

"What is so disturbing is that only 159 of 2800 registered voters made this decision."

So big decisions are being made by less than 6 percent of township residents.

London says he doesn't know what the township will do now about the new fire contract with Thornapple Township Emergency Services. Yankee Springs had begun working with Thornapple representatives on the new five-year contract.

The current fire millage only brings in about $36,000 a year while the current fire and emergency services contract costs more than $80,000 per year. The difference comes from the township's general fund.

The first year of the new contract, which will begin on May 1 of 2000 will cost approximately $96,000. If the additional levy had passed, the township would have raised enough to cover the cost of the service.

London says that what the township will do next will be discussed in the next board meeting Thursday evening, Aug. 12.

Some township residents have discussed the need to establish a Yankee Springs fire department separate from TTES, but estimates of the cost to establish a separate department are up to $1 million depending on the age and condition of equipment purchased.

London says that getting volunteers to serve in a local department would be difficult for the township. About one-third of residents are of retirement age and spend part of the year out of the township. Another third are in two income earning families, which spend most of the day out of the township.

So the pool of residents who work in the township and would be able to volunteer for a fire department and be available during the day is quite small.

"Residents who own expensive homes in the township feel that their taxes are

See millage defeat, pg. 2

Development in Middleville industrial park approved

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Members of the Middleville Village Planning Commission last week approved a request by David Dykstra for a light manufacturing building in the industrial park and a self service car wash.

The light industrial building will include a 100x60 machine shop and a 24x60 office. It will look very similar to Dykstra's own Dan Valley Excavating building.

Assistant Village Manager Bryan Gruesbeck told the commission that this was an "appropriate use." The commission approved this development contingent on Dykstra and the village completing an agreement, which includes repaving the portion of Grand Rapids Street from Eagle Drive to Crane Road.

The commission also approved special use and site plan for a laser self service car wash requested by Dykstra and Joe Baumgartner.

This car wash will be built in lots 5 and 6 of the industrial park. Baumgartner told the commission that with 800 new residents coming into the area with perhaps as many as 1,400 cars this seemed like an appropriate area for a car wash.

Baumgartner, who is employed by a car wash equipment manufacturer said, "this is a long term investment."

The only public comment came from Bob Green, the owner of the car wash on M-37.

Green believes this new one won't hurt his business. He told the commission that it does take time for a car wash to become profitable. In his experience, "Middleville cars need a car wash that can clean heavy dirt."

Baumgartner told the commission that this will be for cars only. Baumgartner and Dykstra agreed to change the entrance drive. This development was approved conditional on changes to the site plan being approved by Gruesbeck.

Future development of the site includes possible storage units. The developers will have to return with a site plan for the storage units. Only the car wash

See development, pg. 2

Junior fair queen finishes busy year

Emily Martinez, now age 11, was chosen to be Kent County Youth Fair Junior Queen last year.

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

What is it like to win a contest to be queen for a year? Caledonia's Emily Martinez, now age 11, found out last year when she was chosen to be Kent County Youth Fair Junior Queen.

It has been a very busy year. As junior queen, she attended a great many parades. Some of those were held in Belding, Lowell, Sparta, Caledonia, the Celebration on the Grand, Ionia and the last event on Saturday, July 31.

Even the parades can be interesting, and Martinez said the Celebration on the Grand was her favorite event, where there were many balloons, the event was televised, and they were interviewed while on the road. There were lots of people.

Pam Cavanaugh, her mother, said "Emily's arm developed a permanent wave."

At one parade it rained just a little, but right after they started out, the rain stopped and waited until it was over before it began to rain again.

The senior queen, the king, the junior king, and first and second runners-up all attended many community parades, celebrations and service events. Martinez also helped out at the fair last year.

She visited DeVos Children's Hospital, nursing homes, the Kent Special Riders Program Ride-a-thon, and will attend a "Bozo" taping yet before her work is complete.

She will be present at the opening ceremonies of the fair Monday, Aug. 16, at 6:30 p.m., when she will turn over her crown to this year's junior queen.

There is a lot involved in just getting to all of these events, and it requires a lot of family support. Martinez had help from many family members. But it was really worthwhile, both Martinez and her mother said.

Pam Cavanaugh said, "It taught her a lot, poise, speaking, responsibility... a lot a discipline."

Martinez said she had to answer questions from a lot of people.

"I had to learn how to relate to all kinds of people. There is a responsibility when you represent your county. It was a wonderful experience."

She said it helped her confidence in school in speaking to larger groups.

There were also lots of rules about how to dress... "no funky nail polish, no sunglasses, no sandals, and usually formal dress. And be sure to remember your crown and sash."

Then she said, thoughtfully, "You are really looked at as a big role model to younger kids." She said it was important to take that seriously. She added, "And meeting people was fun."

She said she would recommend it to anyone who is thinking about trying out for the role as junior queen.

Martinez attended Kettle Lake Elementary

See jr. fair queen, pg. 2

In This Issue...

- Volunteers clean old TK Middle School bricks
- Bowens Mills to dedicate original water wheel
- Cherry Valley 4-Hers focus on large and small animals
- Only two weeks left in summer vacation

Alto Active Achievers are in a variety of activities

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

A very popular 4-H club, the Alto Active Achievers is centered in the Alto area and has 75 members who participate in all kinds of activities, and learn about everything from chickens to international foods to insects.

Perhaps it is the scope of interests available which has attracted so many kids to be part of this club.

"We learn about everything, except for dogs and horses," Louanne Kaeb said. She is the key leader of the club and has three others who help.

One unusual project the club experienced last year was taking kids on field trips to learn about forestry and lumber. They visited a saw mill, a lumber yard and went to identify trees at Aquinas College, which has a very extensive tree collection on its grounds. Projects included leaf collections.

Learning about things at a well developed level is something kids can pursue if they choose, with the kind of leadership offered in this club because Kaeb seeks out special experiences for the kids. For instance, she organized a camp out with a group interested in entomology, and they were able to learn about insects out in a natural setting from an expert in that field.

A special experience in 4-H can lead to a youngster pursuing an interest until it becomes a career, as in the case of Kaeb's daughter, Melanie, who started her insect collection at age 9 and knew then she wanted to do that as her occupation one day. She stayed with it and received her master's degree in entomology a year ago in May.

Some of the kids like arts and crafts, so there are sessions during the year with that emphasis. Public speaking is another topic for ages 12 and up.

One session last spring dealt with botanical activities

The club also focuses on international and ethnic foods, in which kids are asked to learn about foods from their own heritage, and to have projects related to these foods. Kaeb said she also brought in an Indian woman to teach them about making food from India. They have been compiling a cookbook, which they hope to have available for the fair.

Some kids raise goats, some rabbits and some poultry.

Many took part in the Lowell Heritage Celebration in June. The club taught and played pioneer games and crafts for the public, dressed in pioneer or Native American costumes.

The Alto Achievers plan to have a booth at the fair next week.

Aaron Kaeb, also a member of Alto Active Achievers, will enter this Dutch doe rabbit in the fair. Aaron and Ben are twins, age 17.

Ben Kaeb, with his silver spangled Hamburg chicken. He bought this bird, but has raised a lot of other chickens in an incubator from eggs.

Engagements

Bowen-Kermeen

Debra A. Bowen and Donald J. Kermeen, along with their parents, Roger and Jill Bowen of Lowell and Donna Kermeen of Hastings, and Don and Carly Kermeen of Lowell announce their engagement.

Donald attended Middleville schools and Debra attended Lowell area schools.

A Sept. 25, 1999 wedding is planned.

Junior fair queen, continued from front page

last year and will start Caledonia Middle School this fall. While carrying out all her duties as junior queen, she also did well with her studies. She did well on her MEAP test, especially in writing. She received a special honor this year for her creative writing.

Martinez has already been active in 4-H for five years, three of those as a Young Explorer in the East Kent Beef Club. She showed a Hereford market steer last year and will show a heifer and a steer this year. She is also working on decorating a candle with beads for an arts and crafts project. When she sells her animals, her goal is to make money toward college.

Martinez is connected to this 4-H club through a family history. Grandfather Gary Cavanaugh is the club leader, and has been involved for more than two decades. He was superintendent until he stepped down to be leader in order to be able to work directly with five grandchildren in the club. Her stepfather, Chris Cavanaugh, was also a member of this club.

"It's a wonderful club to be in," her mother said.

Millage defeat, from front page

was approved on Aug. 3.

Gruesbeck told the commission that he has created a form to track ordinance enforcement. He and his assistant will be able to track complaints.

There was a discussion on whether a change to a civil infraction policy would be better for the village. This was referred to the ordinance committee for review.

If village ordinances were changed to allow the "civil infraction" system, tickets could be issued to homeowners who keep boats in their front yards, don't mow their lawns, or whose property is littered with "junk" cars.

The commission received an update from Gruesbeck on the possibility of the village's recreation plan. He will keep them informed during the process currently underway by the community wide committee looking into possible recreational developments.

The next Village of Middleville Planning Commission is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7 in Village Hall.

Developement, from front page

already too high. They want the same level of service they experienced where they lived before as well," London says.

"There is no free lunch," he continues. If fire and emergency service shortfall is funded through the township's general fund, we will have to cut something else."

Among the possible areas to be cut are roads.

It was only 85 residents who voted against the levy request, but the results make London feel that such a small number is dictating policies in the township. The township has a history of turning down levy requests.

"Whatever we do in response to this will affect the township." London concluded.

The next Yankee Springs Township Trustees' meeting is on Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Township Hall on Briggs Road.

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Working Paws members have gone to the dogs

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Working Paws is a 4-H club for young dog owners who are trying to polish their dog training and handling skills.

The first dog show will be held at the Lowell Fairgrounds at 9 a.m. Aug. 14.

From several areas in the Kent County area, some of the members live in Caledonia and some in Alto. The 18 members of the club range from 5 to 18 years of age. This 4-H club is led by Ann Newell.

Age and length of time in 4-H does not determine success, however, as shown by two very high achieving members from Caledonia. Heather Van Kalker, at age 13, has earned twelve grand champion trophies (most in 4-H) for her golden retriever "Sabre." This is her fifth year in 4-H.

Katie Strauss, age 16, in her seventh year in 4-H, works with two Shelties, Molly and Libby. Dog competition requires a number of qualifying runs to qualify for "patches," which name a level of achievement by the handler and the dog. Strauss has won her beginner and interim agility patches for completing three qualifying runs. She has finished the requirements for pre-novice, novice and graduate novice patches.

She has completed five first place wins in showmanship to qualify for her open showmanship patch.

Competing in American Kennel Club competition (AKC), Strauss has won awards in AKC as well as in 4-H. She won the obedience title on 7-year-old Molly, novice agility title with Molly and expects to achieve that soon with Libby as well. Libby is a 2-year-old. Strauss was working in the Junior handling class. She has three wins in showmanship and is moving to the senior open in AKC.

She also won an agility title with Molly through the North American Dog Agility Club (NADAC).

Things don't always go well, in spite of the most dedicated training. Molly doesn't like rain. Strauss recalled once it was raining when they were going through their paces. Molly went to a tunnel to stay out of the rain. Then she left and went to visit people in the crowd, who were sheltered.

Gwen Strauss, Katie's mother said "She wanted nothing to do with it all."

Katie says that has changed. "She loves it now. She gets jealous, cause Libby does it all."

VanKalker said she lost out once when "Sabre hugged the judge." That is not the way to win points.

Both VanKalker and Katie Strauss said their main interest is in dogs, though VanKalker rides horses and Strauss once took part in the sweepstakes at the fair, entering a lot of different animals, for which winning points are assigned to each. She didn't win. Now she focuses on working her dogs.

A lot of the other members in Working Paws show other types of animals through 4-H as well, but the focus of this club is centered on learning how to raise and handle dogs.

Katie Strauss and her Shelties, Libby and Molly, hold attention on cue. Strauss competes in AKC events and has qualified for the 4-H Senior open showmanship category of competition.

Heather Van Kalker commands Sabre to hold a position she identifies as "stacking." VanKalker holds 12 grand champion trophies.

Emmons Lake Elementary dedication ceremony set

Caledonia school officials will formally dedicate the new Emmons Lake Elementary School at a ceremony scheduled for 1 to 3:30 p.m. Wednsday, Aug. 18. The public is invited to attend.

The agenda will include speakers, the dedication of the building, introduction of the school song and the school flag. Tours of the building will be offered and refreshments will be served.

Questions about the event may be directed to Gordon Nickels or Jo VanderLaan at 528-8100.

Alumni basketball game set for August 21

The varsity female cagers from Thornapple Kellogg High School will battle the Trojan alumni players in the second annual such event Saturday, Aug. 21.

To tip off the night of action, the freshmen and junior varsity cagers will scrimmage beginning at 6 p.m.

Last year, some 10-12 alumni players showed up for the first annual contest including one athlete who played on the school's first female basketball squad.

Additional contests and a meal will also be included in the Aug. 21 event.

If interested in gaining more knowledge on the alumni game, contact Mariam Taylor at 795-5400, Ext. 4488 or Marcy Uyl at 795-7599.

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Heritage Days shirts available before Sept. 11

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

The best dressed Middleville Heritage Days goers will be wearing the new T-shirts for the 1999 festival.

The shirts can be purchased in advance by calling Expressive Shirts and More at 795-0222.

It is just about one month before he aroma of apple pie will waft across the Middleville Heritage Days site at the high school Sept. 11, when the second annual pie baking contest will be held.

Michelle Ploski decided this year to have the baking contest focus on apples.

"I want to have enough entries so that the judges have a real choice this year. Apple seemed like a good one since the fall is apple season," she said.

Ploski said she has planned an "awesome first prize" for this year's winner. The winning recipe will be printed in the Sun & News following the festival.

Ploski encourages area residents to scour their recipe files or invent a new apple pie recipe before Sept. 11. Entry forms are available by calling her at 795-4846.

Members of the Middleville Heritage Festival Committee have planned a two-day, two-site event Sept. 10 and 11.

Friday evening activities all will be downtown with the Rotary Duck Race, horseshoe competition, dancing in the streets and a community bonfire.

The committee is planning a parade, and music for Saturday the 11th. Other events that day will take place on the high school grounds. There will be lots of food, games, arts and crafts, and more.

Anyone who can volunteer time during the festival can call Roberta Meeker at 795-2042.

ALASKA 2000 SALE
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Caledonia Travel
(Full Service Travel Agency)
Caledonia Village Centre
Phone: 891-0090

Gaines Historical Society sale set for August 14

A second hand sale will be conducted by the Gaines Township Historical Society Saturday, Aug. 14, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 4011-100th St. SE, Detray School. Visitors can see the old one-room school and buy some items. Money will be used for upkeep of Detray School and other society business.

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Evening Praise ..... 6:00 p.m.
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Pastor, Rev. Brian F. Harrison
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Youth Group Sunday Evenings ..... 7:00 p.m.
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Chrissey Dykstra, Worship Leader
Donny Bouma, Director of Student Ministries
Church Office 616-891-0287
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Ted W. Stewart, Music
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service ..... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer ..... 6:45 p.m.
Word of Life Clubs ..... 6:45 p.m.

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CHRISTIAN REFORMED
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Sunday School for All Ages ..... 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.
Pastor Roger Bultman
Office: 868-0391

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9:45 a.m. ..... Educational Hour
11:00 a.m. ..... Worship Service
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Wednesday Prayer Meeting...7:00 p.m.
Rev. Royle Ballard, Pastor
Phone 868-6437

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Middleville Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.
Middleville Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Lee Zuckman
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Church Office: 616-891-8669
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Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Midweek Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.
Rev. Thomas Sluys
Rev. Karl Bakker, Assoc. Pastor/Youth Ministries

Focus of Galloping Riders is horses- what else?

Jamie Cox (a Galloping Riders 4-H Club member) on her Arabian, "Roseyn Royal." She is looking forward to competing at the fair and holds a ribbon won in another event in the past.

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Jamie Cox, age 15, is interested in improving her skills with horsemanship, which is the focus of the Galloping Riders.

She has been in 4-H for eight years, one year as an Explorer. It is one more place where she can help improve her ability and work with her horse.

Some Caledonia kids like Cox join a 4-H club based some distance away, like the Galloping Riders 4-H club, where many members are in Allegan County. Stephanie Sacha from Caledonia is also in this club, but could not be reached for this feature.

"I learned all about horses in 4-H," Cox said. "That's where I learned all about the basic care of the horse." She said it took her three years to get her first horse.

She has always liked 4-H, and once she became a part, never wanted to stop. She is herself a teen leader, and likes to be helpful to others younger than herself.

Cox shows a Class A Arabian, not always in connection with 4-H. In May she competed in Mason, and was third out of 25. She said this was her best experience this year.

The horse she shows is an Arabian named "Roseyn Royal." This horse does anything, in any event, she said. He is age 14 now. He's been so good that if she gets another, she says will "keep him as a retirement horse."

She is looking into getting a new horse, a 4-year-old, but it is very expensive, and she has to support her interest on her own.

Disappointment comes along with success, sometimes, and this year she wanted to attend the Oklahoma Youth Nationals, but her horse developed a fever, and she couldn't show.

She is involved in more activities than horsemanship, however. In October of 1998, she received first place in a demonstration for public speaking, over contestants from all counties in Michigan. She will be competing in Kentucky this year, working toward a possible scholarship at Michigan State University.

She hopes to study horses, and to pursue a career in training horses. She would like to approach training horses using less conventional methods, using rewards instead of deterrents.

Pastoor's to sponsor Heritage art contest

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Pastoor's Family Supermarket again will sponsor the picture competition for Heritage Day.

All second- and third-graders in the Thornapple Kellogg school district are eligible to enter.

Children should use 8 1/2 by 11 paper. On the back they should list their name, age and grade, address and telephone number. The picture should reflect the history of the Middleville area.

Pictures will be judged on use of color, originality, closeness to theme and neatness. Prize winners ride in the Heritage Day Parade on Sept. 11. Pastoor's also will have other prizes.

Pictures should be dropped off at Pastoor's by Sept. 1.

For information about this contest, call 795-7019.

Heritage Days this year will include Friday evening activities downtown, a parade on Saturday from the old middle school to the new one and lots of activities on the high school grounds on Saturday.

NOTEWORTHY DISCOUNTS
End of Summer Back to School
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Charlotte's Web auditions are Aug. 16 & 17

The Caledonia Community Players have announced that auditions for Charlotte's Web will be Aug. 16 and 17, at 7 p.m. in the Community Education Building.

Adult men and women are needed. Call 891-8117 for more information.

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Volunteers clean old TK Middle School bricks

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Middleville area residents gathered July 31 to clean bricks from the demolished middle school to be used for a sculpture, "Reclaimed Spirit," a physical memorial to what the school has meant to so many people for so many years.

The project was led by a committee of many citizen volunteers. Nancy Goodin, chairwoman, first became involved as a school board member. A "Save the School Committee" which had tried to preserve the old building, was asked to be part of the project as soon as it was learned the old building was not going to be saved, Goodin said.

Many people in the community had an attachment to the historic building, and felt a sense of loss when it was to be torn down to make way for a new middle school. The old building, constructed in 1931, not only was a school more than one generation had attended, but it also had played a large role in the community.

"It was an excellent committee," Goodin said.

There were a variety of people, experience and interests represented. Some of the people working on the project were Alice Jansma, Don Williamson, Lori Buchanan, Mike Bremer, Patricia Johns and many more.

"There has been so much support," Goodin said. "The whole school board came to attend the groundbreaking. In many cases there are several generations of family members here to chip bricks for the sculpture."

Lori Buchanan was one of those with three generations present to reclaim the bricks. Dawn Meyering was chipping away with her son, Gunnar. Meyering also regularly volunteers to help in the classroom.

Brick cleaning brought a large number of Middleville volunteers who wanted to be a part of the memorial to the old Thornapple Middle School.

Dawn Meyering and her son Gunnar both came to take part in the project.

Nancy Goodin has been involved in the sculpture project from start to finish.

Sculptor Don Williamson, who teaches at Kendall College of Design in Grand Rapids, graduated from Thornapple Kellogg High School and lives in the community, designed the sculpture. He volunteered his services and attempted to accommodate the many faceted vision of many citizens.

Incorporating several concepts into the design, the sculpture will include a curved wall of old bricks, about 24 feet long by six feet high. Approximately 1,100 of the original TKMS bricks will be used in the wall.

A cement replica of the old building will be represented in intaglio relief above the wall. At the base of the wall will be a "river" of new bricks, which will include engraved names of citizens who contribute $25 or more toward the project to help raise money to pay for the sculpture. Contributions and engraved brick purchases are expected to fund the entire project.

Williamson wanted the Thornapple River recognized in the concept, and it will flow from the base of the sculpture. The river is a meaningful part of the community and is included in the name of the school. The sculpture will be built into a hillside location at the front east corner of the middle school site.

"There have been so many volunteers in the community," Williamson said, explaining there have been many local contractors who have donated work and businesses that have made contributions as well.

The committee is trying to update names and addresses of all the Thornapple Kellogg alumni from all previous years, so they may be involved if they desire. This information also would update class reunion lists.

Anyone in the area with information about any of these graduates from TK is asked to call the number below with that information.

Meanwhile, also on Saturday, at the east end of the school campus, furniture and fixtures from the old school were being auctioned off by auctioneer Jim Lumbert. The assortment of old chairs, desks, tables, book shelves, and equipment was too worn for use in the new school, and was ready for replacement. Proceeds from the auction will go toward the general school fund.

People interested in contributing to the sculpture project or in buying a brick may call 795-5400, extension 6355.

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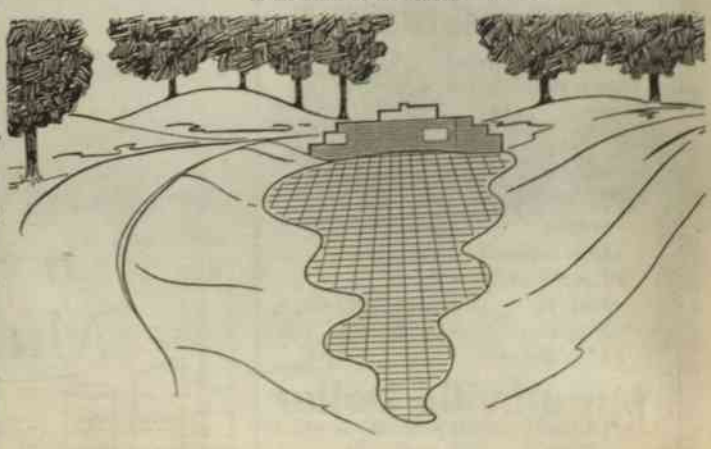
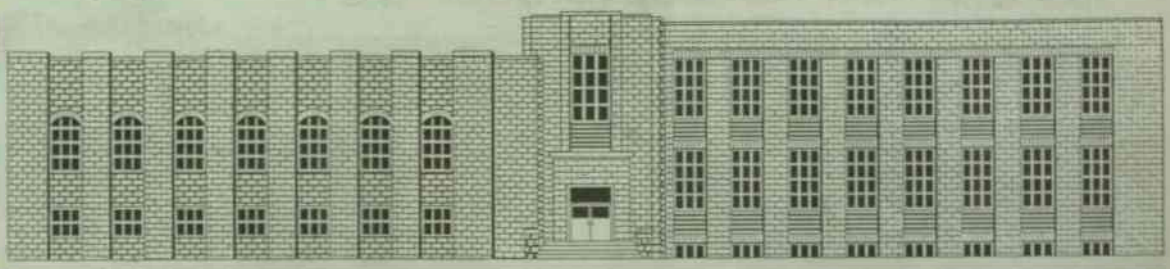


Drawing of the proposed sculpture, "Reclaimed Spirit."

Vintage Village adds 7th building to collection



The Village Players of Middleville will present the seventh addition to their Vintage Village collection on Heritage Day, Sept. 11, artist Gary Bowerman's drawing of the Thornapple W.K. Kellogg School which was built in 1931. Wood that was reclaimed from the building prior to its destruction will be used to complete the piece with the screening of the building being done by Progressive Graphics in Hastings. Cost of the piece is $15.

Production will be limited and pre-orders should be placed by calling 795-7868 or sending your request to Village Players, P.O. Box 388, Middleville, MI 49333.

Other pieces in the Vintage Village collection include the White Lily Flour Mill, the Middleville Train Depot, the St. James Hotel, the Keeler Homestead and the Prairie School.

The Prairie School was built in Thornapple Township in 1871 and was destroyed by fire 53 years later. The school was the first piece in the Vintage Village collection and was selected by Village Players because of their "roots" with the Prairie Literary Club. A few of the Prairie School pieces are still available.

Future additions to the Vintage Village collection may include the Union School which was built in 1871 on what is now known as Calvin Hill Park, with the first graduating class being in 1881, historic Bowens Mill, and the Middleville United Methodist Church.

There have been numerous requests to reproduce buildings from the collection that are no longer available. Anyone interested in obtaining any of these pieces may send a request to Village Players. If there is enough demand, consideration will be given to filling these special orders.

Middleville student ends summer working in Ecuador

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Nathaniel Brady of Middleville traveled to Ecuador in July to study primary health care issues as part of his summer study abroad program through Michigan State University.

A 1997 graduate of Thornapple Kellogg High School, he is a junior physiology major in the Lyman Briggs School at MSU and plans to graduate in 2001. Future plans include medical school with an emphasis on family medicine or pediatrics.

This summer he worked with Caledonia Child Care and shadowed Dr. Thomas Hoffman in Hastings.

Brady has studied Spanish for 12 years, but is not fluent. The group will get some intensive instruction before traveling into the rural areas of Ecuador.

"I will be able to investigate what primary health care is in a developing nation," Brady says.

He hopes to be able to compare similarities and differences between the American health care system and that in Ecuador.

Nathanael Brady

The influence of culture on health care delivery is important. Brady says that he already knows that the culture is different in Ecuador. The group will be traveling to one village by dugout canoe.

Brady has won the William A. Sells Jr. scholarship and been on the dean's list at MSU. He has volunteered on mission trips with the Spartan Christian Fellowship and is a pediatrics volunteer during the school year at Ingham Regional Hospital.

Brady is looking forward to working with students from Michigan State and other colleges while he is in Ecuador. He will be in the capitol, along the rivers and in the mountains. Before returning to the United States Aug. 15 the students will spend two days exploring the Galapagos Islands.

Just a few days separate Brady's return from Ecuador and his return to MSU. He is a resident assistant and has to be back at school for training before the students arrive.

TK High School getting ready for new school year

There is much planning and many activities taking place at Thornapple Kellogg High School in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Plans are under way for a freshman orientation meeting Monday, Aug. 23, at 1 p.m. Freshmen will meet with administrators and receive information about the coming school year. Schedules will be handled out. They will also have their school pictures taken and have the opportunity to find their lockers and their classrooms.

Schedules for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students will be available Aug. 16 and 17 from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Students may wish to find their lockers and check out their classrooms at this time as well.

New enrollees should call the guidance office after Aug. 9 to schedule an appointment with a counselor to enroll. New enrollees need a birth certificate and up-to-date immunization records in order to enroll.

Students who need schedule changes should also call for an appointment. The guidance office number is 795-5428. Schedule changes should be made Aug. 16-19.

The community is reminded of the following phone numbers:

High school office, 795-3394; guidance office, 795-5428; library, 795-5434; athletics, 795-5432; attendance, 795-5431 and community ed, 795-3397.

Call the appropriate number for assistance.

TK PTO will meet next Tuesday

The Thornapple Kellogg Parent Teacher Organization will have its organizational meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17, at the picnic tables near McFall Elementary School.

In case of rain, the meeting will be held at Phil's Restaurant.

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Terry Muller

Floats encouraged for Heritage Days parade on September 11

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

The members of the Heritage Days Committee are deep in the planning for the Sept. 10 and 11 event.

Glen Raymond, parade chairman, has already heard from individuals and groups planning on being part of the parade which will begin in the parking lot next to McFall Elementary School and travel west on Main Street to the new middle school.

"We would like businesses and groups to create floats this year," committee member Doug Elam says. "Floats catch the attention and we hope local businesses participate too."

Anyone interested in more information about the parade can call Glen Raymond at 795-7236.

The Middleville Historical Society created this "apple butter" float for the 1998 Heritage Days Parade. Other organizations and local businesses are encouraged to call Glen Raymond at 795-7236 to register for the parade.

'Good Shepherd' has new pastor

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 908 West Main, Middleville will ordain and install Edward Anthony Sikora as pastor on Sunday, Aug. 15.

Rev. Sikora graduated earlier this year with a master of divinity degree from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. He graduated from Concordia College in Ann Arbor in 1994 with a major in Biblical languages and a minor in religious studies.

Pastor Sikora served Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Terryville and Shepherd of the Hills in Bantam while on vicarage in Connecticut.

Pastor Sikora, his wife Becky and daughter will reside in Middleville.

Rev. Edward Anthony Sikora

Obituaries

Herman A. Slawson

MIDDLEVILLE - Mr. Herman A. Slawson, age 68, of Middleville, took one more step on his way home to be with his Lord on Wednesday, August 4, 1999.

Mr. Slawson is survived by his wife, Kathryn; his children, Donna (Rick) Peterman, Dawn (Gregory) Niles, Darrell (Merrilee) Slawson, David (Peggy) Slawson, Debra Slawson, and Dean Slawson; 13 grandchildren; three great grandchildren; his brothers and sisters, George Slawson, Lillian Willoughby, Betty Rief, Helen (Bill) Bremmer, Pat Cole, Emogene Lillie, Julia Brown, and Nyla Myers; his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, who were also his dear friends, Ruth and Andrew Rios, several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services for Mr. Slawson were held on Saturday, August 7, 1999 at Stroo Funeral Home, Cutlerville Chapel. Reverend Lee Zachman officiated.

Interment was in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of Greater Grand Rapids.

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Bowens Mills to dedicate original water wheel

Second generation Bowens Mills owners Owen & Carleen Sabin have set the date for the dedication ceremony of the "Neal's Dream" water wheel being named in memory of their late father, Neal Cook.

It will take place at the "It's Cider Time Festival" weekend of Oct. 2-3, on Sunday at 3 p.m. That also will be the weekend of the Fork River Free Trappers Mountain Men Encampment. The trappers will be honored for the hours and hours of time spent in helping with the completion of this project.

When Neal Cook and his wife, Marion, bought Bowens Mills in 1978 they spent much time researching the history of the old grist mill. They found that originally it had a water wheel. Even before there was a grist mill, there was a saw mill at Bowens Mills, powered by a water wheel, where lumber was sawed for the construction of the mill in 1864. The saw mill and the wooden water wheel later were destroyed when the dam went out in 1901.

It was Neal's dream to see a water wheel reconstructed on the grounds. Five years before his death in 1989, he had done drawings and sketches and a great deal of planning. Parts of an old water wheel were purchased and were brought to the mill. The year after his death, the stone work for the pylons was done and huge shaft was set into place.

Much planning and many projects have been taking place over the past 10 years to make his dream a reality.

As money has become available, different stages of the construction have taken place. This summer, thanks to many volunteers, neighbors and the Fork River Free Trappers, Historic Bowens Mills has been alive with activity, the last bucket is now in place and the final stages of the reconstruction of the water wheel are now being completed.

Historic Bowens Mills is a Michigan State Historic Site. Its mission is to preserve the history of days gone by for future generations to learn from and enjoy. The antiquated four-story building's main floor houses a working water powered cider and grist mill and a museum plus a gift and antique shop. There is a blacksmith shop, a water powered machine shop, and a cooper's shop in its lower level. The third floor has been transformed into a quaint and cozy living quarters. The top floor has an old cobbler's shop and a museum area for special displays, a lot of old machinery, gears, and pulleys are still in that area.

Visitors to the mill can watch cider being freshly pressed on a huge, antique, water powered cider press and hear the rumble of the old mill stones turning as they watch the corn grinding demonstrations.

The Historic Bowens Mills upcoming calendar of events:

• Sept. 11 and 12 — George Washington Fiber & Quilt Festival: cherry tree planting ceremony Saturday at 2 p.m. The first cider pressing of the season. Sheep shearing demonstrations, spinning demonstrations and free felting classes both days. Quilts will be displayed both days. Judging is Sunday at 2. There will be a display commemorating George Washington's grist mill.

• Sept. 18 and 19 — Farm Days Weekend: Horse power demos, horse drawn wagon and pony rides, old fashioned barn yard horse pull at 2 p.m. both days. Old fashioned country fair atmosphere, crafts. Old fashioned farm machinery display. A salute to George Washington's role as president of the Constitution Convention with a special exhibit in the mill museum.

• Sept. 25 and 26 — Steam & Gasoline Engine Show, co-sponsored by the Barry County Steam, Gas and Antique Machinery Association. Kids pedal pull 2 p.m., thrashing demos at 3, tractor parade 4:30, crafts and flea market both days.

• October 2 and 3 Mountain Men Encampment & Blacksmith Hammer-in: Fork River Trappers living history encampment.

Blacksmith and horse shoeing demonstrations Saturday and Sunday. Special events include the dedication of the water wheel.

Sunday at 3 p.m. Special photo exhibit of the construction of the water wheel in the museum.

• Oct. 9 and 10 — Civil War Days, co-sponsored by Michigan Soldiers Aid Society & Michigan 3rd Volunteer Infantry Co. K, featuring a living history encampment. Museum displays include a Civil War and Lincoln exhibit by Mike Hook. Special guests will include President and Mrs. Lincoln, General and Mrs. George A. Custer, and General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant. There also will be a Barry County Historical Society Civil War flag adoption ceremony Sunday at 4 p.m.

• Oct. 16 and 17 — Harvest Festival Weekend, with old time harvest fun and apple and cherry pie contest judging Saturday at 2 p.m.

Free admission to all ladies with pies. A special exhibit to salute to George Washington's Mt. Vernon Home in the museum.

• Oct. 23 and 24 — Historic Bowens Mills Photo Show: Categories Include: mill reflections, costumed craftsmen, Civil War re-enactors, mountain men, horses, kids with animals and open. Judging of Mill Photos from season of 1999, 2 p.m. Sunday in the museum. Special George Washington photo display in the museum showcases.

• Oct. 30 — Bowens Mills Children's Day: All kids free - free pony rides. Saturday costume contest, judging at 1 p.m., puppet show Saturday at 3.

All festivals include live old-time music, petting zoo with farm animals, horse drawn wagon rides, cider pressing, corn grinding demonstrations and other activities.

Historic Bowens Mills is second generation, family owned and operated state historic site with no state funding. The restorations and upkeep depend on "It's Cider Time" festival gate fees and donations.

The "It's Cider Time Festival" gate fee for adults is $5, Children 5 to 15 years old is $2.

School and group tours are available. Private parties, weddings and company picnics are welcome. Group leaders, teachers and clubs may call for special "choose your adventure" tour appointments.

The mill also is open through the summer months by appointment or chance.

Historic Bowens Mills will celebrate the holiday season this year with "It's Christmas at the Mill." The grand reopening will be the day after Thanksgiving, and it will be open Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas, with fresh cut Christmas trees and family horse drawn rides.

The old mill is located in the heart of Yankee Springs Township, just two miles north of Yankee Springs (Gun Lake) State Park. Watch for the huge grindstone marker on Briggs Road.

For more information, call 795-7530.

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Time: 1:00 pm-5:00pm
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Kent County Youth Fair

"Our Youth Shine in '99"

Friday, August 13

7:00 p.m. – NBHA Speed Horse Show ..... Horse Arena
Free Admission - Free Parking

Sunday, August 15

5:00-7:00 p.m. – Pork Dinner ..... Community Tent
6:00-7:30 p.m. – Barbara Follis, Gospel Entertainer ..... Stage Tent
Free Admission

Monday, August 16

Sponsored by I-96 WVTI FM Radio

2:00 p.m. – I-96 WVTI Field Day ..... Livestock Arena
Live Remote: Michelle McKormick
4:00-6:00 p.m. – Kid's Creation Station - FREE ..... Community Tent
Kent District Library
5:00-10:00 p.m. – Carnival Rides Open - Unlimited $6.00
6:30 p.m. – **Opening Ceremonies** ..... Stage Tent
Followed by: Royal Court Coronation
7:00 p.m. – Antique Tractor Pull - Open Class ..... Track Area
Admission $3 per Person or $8 per Family
7:30 p.m. – Youth Fashion Extravaganza ..... Stage Tent

Tuesday, August 17

SENIOR CITIZEN DAY
Sponsored by King Milling Company

10:00-11:00 a.m. – Free Senior Citizens Coffee ..... Community Tent
11:00 a.m.-1 p.m. – Whitecap's Autographs ..... Community Tent
Noon-10:00 p.m. – Carnival Rides Unlimited $12
Noon-4:00 p.m. – Blood Pressure Check ..... Community Tent
Courtesy of St. Mary's Critical Care Nurses
1:00-3:00 p.m. – Kid's Creation Stations - FREE ..... Community Tent
John Ball Zoo - Traveling Petting Zoo!
2:00-3:00 p.m. – Free Senior Citizens Coffee ..... Community Tent
Courtesy of Lowell Family Fare
5:30 p.m. – Life's A Stage 4-H Club ..... Stage Tent
Theater Exhibition
7:00 p.m. – Youth Talent Contest: ..... Stage Tent
9-19 years Open Class – Sponsored by Harold Ziegler Ford of Lowell
7:00 p.m. Mule Pull - Open Class ..... Track Area
Sponsored by Quality Farm & Fleet
Admission $3 per person or $8 per family

Wednesday, August 18

YOUTH CLUB DAY (NON 4-H)
Sponsored by Caledonia Auto Parts & Ed's Body Shop

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Small Animal Showmanship ..... Rabbit Tent
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Grand Rapids Hoop's ..... Community Tent
"Hoopie" Autograph Signing
Noon-5:00 p.m. – Youth Club Ride Special - $6
Uniform must be worn! Excludes 4-H Clubs.
2:00-4:00 p.m. – Kids' Creation Station - FREE ..... Community Tent
Van Andel Museum Center presents Make It! Take It! Spider Crafts!
5:00-10:00 p.m. – Carnival Rides Unlimited - $10
7:30 p.m. – Judy Harrison ..... Stage Tent
Country Music Recording Arts - FREE Admission

Thursday, August 19

AGRICULTURAL DAY
Sponsored by Kent County Farm Bureau

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Grand Rapids Griffin's "Griff" ..... Community Tent
Autograph Signing
Noon-10:00 p.m. – Carnival Rides Unlimited $12
2:00 p.m. – LIVESTOCK SALE ..... HEATH BARN
Sale Order - Small Animals, Swine, Sheep,
Feeder Calves, Gallon of Milk, Beef
2:00-4:00 p.m. – Kid's Creation Station - FREE ..... Community Tent
Frederick Meijer Garden presents:
Pride in Place Exhibit featuring Kid's Planting Project
5:30-6:30 p.m. – Youth Variety Show ..... Stage Tent
6:30-7:30 p.m. – Allicus Summer and the Cottonwood Cloggers ..... Stage Tent
7:00 & 8:00 p.m. – Dee Jay the Clown ..... Stage Tent
7:30 p.m. – Ice Cream Social ..... Park Area
Sponsored by: Kent County Farm Bureau & Dairy Farmers of Kent County

Friday, August 20

HANDI-CAPABLE DAY
Sponsored by Spartan Stores

10:00 a.m.-Noon – Carnival Activities for Special Needs Individuals
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Grand Rapid's Rampage "Blitz" ..... Stage Tent
Autograph Signing
Noon-5:00 p.m. – Carnival Rides Unlimited – $10
2:00-4:00 p.m. – Kids Creation Station - FREE ..... Community Tent
Blandford Nature Center presents: Live Owl Exhibit Featuring: Owl Pellet Dissection
6:00-10:00 p.m. – Country Karaoke ..... Stage Tent
Sponsored by 101.3 WCUZ, Farrows Music & Millbrook Equine
Western Fashion Show by Millbrook Equine
7:00 p.m. – Michigan State Championship ..... Track Area
Light Weight Horse Pull-Open Class
Sponsored by Midema Auctioneering, Inc. Admission $3 per person or $8 per family

Saturday, August 21

KID'S DAY
Sponsored by Country Fresh

10:00 a.m. – Team Penning/Horse Event ..... Horse Arena
Sponsored by: Tom West & 101.3 WCUZ Admission $3 per person or $8 per family
10:00 a.m.-Noon – Kid's Creation Station - FREE ..... Community Tent
Grand Rapid's Children Museum presents: Traveling Fishing, Magnets, and Bubble
Exhibits featuring Bubble Wand Making for Kids

Cherry Valley 4-Hers focus on large and small animals

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Cherry Valley Livestock 4-H Club is one of the largest in the area, with 70 members, and though its focus is livestock animals, many of the members also will be showing some small animals.

The leaders are Dawn and John Hawkins.

Brothers Brady Fischer, age 10, and and Austin Fischer, 6, are both enjoying raising beef and swine. This is Austin's first year and Brady's second.

Brady will be showing a registered Hereford steer named "Mort." He took second reserve champion in showmanship last year, but has learned already that "It's about how you win and how you lose, rather than just winning."

This year, he showed Mort at the Sparta Days Michigan Hereford Association and won grand champion steer in Sparta, and second place for steer in Ada, in Egypt Valley. He also got second place in showmanship and in a junior judging contest for youth categories.

Brady and Austin also are learning about caring for the animals. Brady is learning about money management,responsibility and cleaning up after the animals. He has to wash and walk the animals every day.

"I like showing the animals," he said.

His mother, Michelle Fischer, said he likes going to the meetings and seeing his friends.

"They do painting and stuff," Brady explained.

Both boys also may do some paintings and drawings to show in their club's booth.

Amanda Trutsch, a 14-year-old, is planning to show a Netherland Dwarf rabbit this year with her rabbit named "Pequena." She also has two sheep.

Trutsch has taken a few awards in the past. She has received fourth or fifth in sheep showmanship, and her lamb got first in the lightweight class. She raised two sheep last year too, but one got sick just before the fair. But for the one she was able to sell, she got $10.50 a pound for her, and the top ever price was $10.60. Money she earns from sale of animals goes toward a fund for college.

Trutsch last year was considering a career as a vet, but after taking part in a job shadowing experience with a vet last year in school, she decided she didn't like it, and is now planning some kind of career in zoology, instead.

She says she has learned responsibility, teamwork and developed leadership skills by being in 4-H. Trutsch has learned a lot about animals, about animal diseases, and had to learn to give shots.

She said she loves 4-H. She has been secretary of her club, and has become a teen leader, helping a younger 4-H member "Joey," who is showing a dog. She has never worked with dogs before, so she will learn something new by helping.

Allison Smith, age 18, has been a member of the Cherry Valley club for eight years. Graduating from high school, this is her last year in 4-H. She has shown Herefords in the past, but will be showing a Simmental year-old steer named "Opie," this year, the fourth year she has shown cattle. This will be her eighth year of showing swine, mixed breed Yorkshire crosses. She will also be entering her quilt in one of the craft categories.

She said she had taken some awards, including first in her class in the past. She has had some disappointing experiences as well. One year she had a hog die before fair, and never knew the reason. Another hog never made the weight minimum and she couldn't sell it.

She says 4-H is an incredible amount of responsibility. She has taken on a leadership role in connection with her club.

Smith was also in FFA, serving as president last year. "It helps develop character," she said. "It helped develop who I am today."

She says she learned a lot about animals through 4-H. She learned about the purchase, the grooming, the feeding and selling of an animal, and about making a profit.

Smith recommends 4-H to other young people.

"The highlight of the entire year is the fair," she said. "You get to meet with people who love the same thing as you do."

She said everybody feels that way.

Brady and Austin Fischer walk and hose down their pigs every day. The pigs love the hose in the hot weather.

Amanda Trutsch sold a lamb last year at a high price, and hopes to do well this year on her two lambs. She is saving for college.

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NEWEST CITIZENS

GIRL, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scutch of Plantation, Fla., are announcing the birth of their daughter, Abby Katherine, on June 28, 1999. The little lady weighed 7 lbs. 10 ozs. and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Her mother, Stacy Shumway, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Shumway of Middleville.

Four area students earn Calvin awards

Five area students have received special scholarships for the 1999-2000 academic year at Calvin College.

The students, their parents and hometowns, high school alma maters, types of scholarships and award amounts are as follows:

• Brooke D. Wierenga, daughter of Patricia L. Wedner of Alto, Caledonia High School, Calvin Faculty Honors Scholarship, $2,500.

• Krista L. DeMaagd, daughter of Ross and Darlene DeMaagd of Middleville, Thornapple Kellogg High School, Calvin Honors Scholarship, $1,500.

• Nicholas J. In't Hout, son of Nicholas and Johanna In't Hout of Caledonia, South Christian High School, Calvin Honors Scholarship, $1,500.

• Peter J. Oubdier, son of Donald and Jane Oubdier of Caledonia, South Christian High School, Calvin Faculty Honors Scholarship, $2,500.

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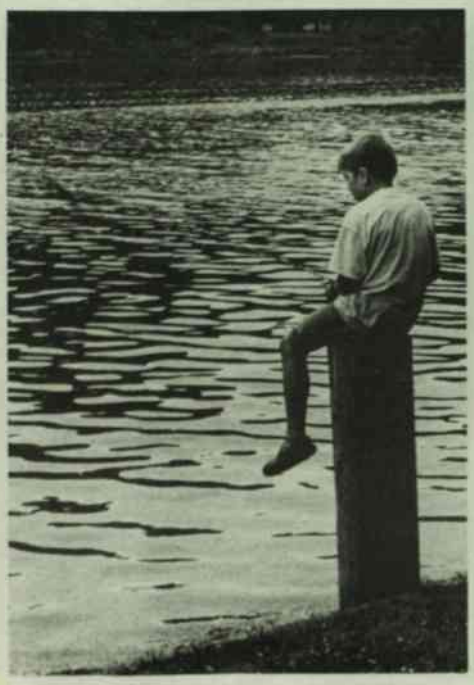
Only two weeks left in summer vacation



Take time for a last trip to your favorite fishing hole...

Or like Matt and Andrea Penfield and Megan Steffen at The Scoop in Middleville, make a point to enjoy ice cream. Since opening in its new location, The Scoop has sold a lot of ice cream, including new flavor "cinnamon crumcake."

...before school begins. This first and second grade student will bring their skill in math to their new second and third grade class.

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

Starting today, Aug. 10, there are exactly two weeks left before the first day of school in the Thornapple Kellogg School District.

Many families are scrambling to complete the list of activities they hoped to do this summer. For some it is that trip to Lake Michigan, to an amusement park, for a really big ice cream sundae or even a quiet morning fishing.

Whether it is a trip to a movie theater or to a lake, to the library or shopping, take time during these two weeks to create memories students can recall as they ride the school bus that first day.

Before parents make the trip to the school to check the class lists or to the mall for "back to school" supplies, explore the possibilities for summer fun.

The Adventure Ranger at the Yankee Springs recreation area has planned a last two weeks of workshops and programs. Before Aug. 27 visit the park for a swim and a program.

The Paul Henry Thornapple Trail is open. Mountain bikes are needed for riding but many are discovering that it is a great place to walk.

Take time to look at the stars on the next clear night. Wake up early and listen to the world around you wake up.

Celebrate summer before the alarm clock and the yellow school bus take over.

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Unexpected electrical hazard

The bald faced hornet nest on this transformer caused an unexpected hazard for a Great Lakes Energy crew during the week of Aug. 2. An Irving Township homeowner lost power. The cause turned out to be a dead raccoon which was electrocuted when it investigated this large hornet's nest on the transformer. Electric crews restored power and later removed the nest.

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Joshua VanLaan, age 14 will take "Big Red," a Maine Anjou steer to the fair and his sister Melissa VanLaan, age 13 will take "Big Guy," her Hereford steer. Both are in the Byron Center Busy Workers 4-H club, following a 3 generation family tradition.

Byron Center Busy Workers have family tradition

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Joshua and Melissa Van Laan of Caledonia are following in the footsteps of their dad and grandfather, who both have been members of the Byron Center Busy Workers.

Family tradition ties three generations of VanLaans, including father Harry Van Laan and grandfather Harold VanLaan, to this club.

Though a lot of the kids in the club show livestock, all kinds of projects flourish under the guidance in this club. In addition to beef, sheep and pigs, interests range from flower gardening, gardening, arts and crafts, clothing, rabbits, chickens, performance, clowning, tractor driving contests, beef judging, participating in open ceremonies, and public service, like Adopt-a-Highway.

"It's a well rounded club," mother Barb VanLaan said.

It is also a family centered activity in which she and her husband put in a lot of time. She said Harry has been involved in a lot of the effort to make 4-H as good as possible for the kids. He supervises the group of kids raising swine.

Last week, he volunteered to help at the fairgrounds with cement work for the wash rack, where cattle and pigs are washed once on the grounds.

Joshua, age 14, has been involved for nine years, beginning as an Explorer at age 6. Melissa, age 13, also started at age 6 and was Junior Queen two years ago. Both kids have attended Dutton Christian School, although Joshua will start at South Christian High School this year.

Josh VanLaan has taken second with his pig in junior showmanship in the past.

Melissa VanLaan has won first with pigs and took second for a steer in the intermediate class, which relates to her age group.

Both will be showing steers and pigs this year.

Martin tough to beat on the dirt

Amanda Martin shows off her first place trophy from the Pine Cone Enduro (photo provided).

Amanda Martin is used to winning.

But beating a field of 50 that included a bunch of boys was a real thrill for the Alto dirt bike rider.

Martin, 15, recently took first place honors overall at the 22nd annual Pine Cone Enduro held in Moorestown, near Cadillac.

She was the grand champion in the dirt bike competition, a familiar position for the soon-to-be sophomore at Caledonia High School. Martin has won "a majority" of her races and certainly has the hardware (trophies and plaques) to show for it.

"I did the best out of everyone that raced there," Martin said. "It was 37 ground miles and I was only the second girl to win there overall."

Amanda and her father, Mike Martin, often compete together at the same dirt biking functions. Mike Martin was racing well before his daughter took up the sport five years ago. He helped to turn her on to the fast, grueling and often muddy, athletic activity.

"I like the challenge," Amanda Martin said. "It's a lot of fun; the racing atmosphere is really cool."

Martin is already racing in the adult enduros. Martin recently won the Jack Pine women's class title and in a couple of weeks will take part in the National held in Harrison.

Mike and Amanda Martin find time to share as family at the dirt bike competitions they attend. (Photo provided)

On the dirt bike trails, Martin not only fares well in her class, but often beats the top m ale competitors as well. (Photo provided)

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Superintendent's Corner

By Midge Pippel
Asst. Superintendent

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In addition to what parents are providing at home, in Thornapple Kellogg School teaches are busy fine tuning our reading program to ensure that virtually every child will read well, at least by the end of third grade.

Many Thornapple Kellogg students start their reading instruction in one of our pre-school (Kiddie Kampus or T.K. Cooperative) programs. There, students learn letter sounds, names, shapes, and develop their vocabulary.

So what's new?

Our pre-school, kindergarten and first grade teachers are putting greater emphasis on what is called phonemic awareness, which is the understanding that spoken words are sequences of sounds. This understanding is essential for learning to read because it is these sounds or phonemes that letter represents. Without phonemic awareness, phonics can make no sense.

Research has shown repeatedly that phonemic awareness is a strong predictor of success in learning to read. Lack of phonemic awareness is the most powerful determinant of the likelihood of failure to learn to read. If children cannot hear the sounds in spoken words, they have an extremely difficult time learning how to decode words.

During the last two years we have had reading "experts" Bill Blocker and Lois DeVilla consulting with our teachers. They have learned new methods to teach pre-reading and reading skills. Students engage in detecting and generating rhymes, clapping syllables, listening for words that begin with a specific initial/middle/final sound and blend phonemes (change the /h/ in hot to /p/).

After students are familiar with the letters of the alphabet, teachers begin systemic phonics instruction. Letter-sounds and letter clusters are directly taught; blended; practiced in words, word lists and word families.

To become skillful readers, children must learn how to decode words quickly and easily. Sometimes a reader will use clues in the reading selection to decode words. Context clues enable us to know the two pronunications of the word READ.

At this point it is extremely important that phonemic awareness and phonics be reinforced with frequent reading and writing opportunities. Thornapple Kellogg students are doing more reading and writing than ever before.

Our teachers have increased the amount of time spent on reading and writing by dedicating larger blocks of time (approximately 90 minutes) each day for reading instruction. to further strengthen our reading program and motivate pupils, teachers reach to students daily and students do self-selected reading 15-20 minutes each day.

Good spelling is important to children's writing. Although it is appropriate for beginners to use invented spelling to express their thoughts, instruction in correct spelling begins in first grade. This year we modified our spelling lists (mastery tests) by reducing the number of words to 20 and including the most frequently used words in writing. In addition, six to eight vocabulary words (keywords) are learned and then written in meaningful sentences.

Teachers also have increased the opportunities for students to practice and reinforce the learning of the new spelling words by using them in many writing activities. We continue to select the majority of the spelling words from students' reading and writing.

From middle school grades on, students' reading comprehension is closely related to their vocabulary. Research reports that of the 3,000 new roads the average student learns each year, the majority are learned from reading text. Thus, in the interest of building vocabulary, children should read as much as possible. A fifth-grader reader in the 90 percentile reads approximately 200 times more than a 10th percentile reader does. The single best activity for developing children's vocabulary and comprehension is reading.

Bill Rich and Sharon Kalee, elementary principals, agree that in the early elementary our job is to teach them to learn to read and in the upper grades we teach them to read to learn. Reading allows children to reinforce the area they just mastered and apply it.

Our goal in Thornapple Kellogg is to provide a balanced and comprehensive reading program. To monitor our progress we have identified specific language skills that we want all students to accomplish as they progress in our reading program.

Finally, we have added additional testing to help us monitor students' progress and track the success of our initiative.

Accountability will make our program even more powerful, we have added a variety of assessments and designed record keeping forms that will be used this school year.

A balanced literacy program includes using a variety of reading materials. These include lots of print in the classroom, as well as textbooks, student journals, trade books (literature books that are not part of the basic textbook), chapter books, magazines, and posters.

The goal of all reading instruction is to provide with the ability to become successful independent readers. Thus far, grade levels expectations and learning activities have been established for all language arts teachers K-5. We are working hard to make sure instruction aligns with children's skill levels.

Over time, our district's MEAP reading scores show strong on going improvements. For example, in school year 1992/1993 our seventh graders scored 30.5 on the MEAP reading tests and fourth graders 29.5 this year our seventh graders scored 56.2 and fourth graders 58.2.

We are pleased that our efforts are paying off. There is still work that needs to be done and we are dedicated to making those improvements in the curriculum and our instructional practices.

Our focus has been and will continue to be on making all Thornapple Kellogg students successful readers!

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Yankee Springs Township Zoning Board of Appeals
NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MI AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1999, COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM AT THE YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL, 1284 N. BRIGGS RD., CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

1. ZBA 99-07-10, PARCEL ID. NO. 045-019-00; A REQUEST BY STEVE PITSCH, 911 BARLOW LAKE DR., FOR A VARIANCE FROM THE SIDE YARD AND ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY SETBACK REQUIREMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW HIM TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITION TO HIS GARAGE LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE FEET FROM THE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY AND FIVE FEET FROM THE SIDE YARD LOT LINE.
2. ZBA 99-07-11, PARCEL ID. NO. 140-005-00; A REQUEST BY DAVID AND MARY ANN LE BOEUF, 12455 OAKWOOD SHORES DR., FOR A VARIANCE FROM THE SIDE YARD SETBACK REQUIREMENTS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THEM TO RECONSTRUCT A PORTION OF THEIR HOUSE WITHIN SEVEN FEET OF THE PROPERTY SIDE YARD PROPERTY LINE.
3. SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE TOWNSHIP, 284 N. BRIGGS RD., DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF THE PUBLIC HEARING. WRITTEN LETTERS OF COMMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THE START OF THE MEETING.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE TOWNSHIP WILL PROVIDE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES NECESSARY, REASONABLE AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES AS MAY BE REQUESTED, UPON 5 DAYS NOTICE TO THE TOWNSHIP CLERK OF THE NEED FOR THE SAME.

ALL PERSONS ARE INVITED TO BE PRESENT AT THE AFORESAID TIME AND PLACE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE ABOVE PROPOSAL(S).

CHARLES BIGGS
SECRETARY
YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (304)

Caledonia woman on list at St. Mary's College

Amanda Spica of Caledonia, a Saint Mary's College (Ind.) first-year student, has been named to the academic honors list for the spring 1998-1999 semester.

To be selected, a student must achieve a grade point average of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale.

Spica is the daughter of Robert and Beth Spica of Caledonia.

Saint Mary's College, the nation's premier Catholic women's college, offers four-year degrees in humanities, sciences, fine arts, and pre-professional programs. Sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the college was founded in 1844 and now enrolls 1500 students. The college is located in Notre Dame, Ind., along with Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame.

TK library is closed until August 16

The Thornapple Kellogg School and Community Library will be closed from now to Monday, Aug. 16, for cleaning.

Regular Friday hours will not be in effect until September 10.

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO THE RESIDENTS OF YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Yankee Springs Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 19, 1999, commencing at 7:30 pm at the Township Hall, located at 284 N. Briggs Rd., to conduct the following business:

1. ZOC 99-06-06, Parcel ID. NO. 033-025-00; A request by Edward TenHaff, 3510 Elmwood Beach Rd., to rezone a parcel of land located on the Northwest corner of Elmwood Beach Rd. and Hastings Point Rd., from the "Agriculture" to the "Rural Residential" Zoning District.
2. ZOC 99-07-07; A request by the Yankee Springs Township Planning Commission to replace Article III Section 15.3.7, "Mobile Home Park" Zoning District, in its entirety with the following language:

15.3.7 "MHP, Manufactured Home Park District"

Section 1 - Purpose of the District: To allow Manufactured Home Parks within the Township.
Section 2 - Definitions pertaining to the Manufactured Home Park District.
Section 3 - Permitted uses within the District.
Section 4 - Location of Manufactured Home Parks within the Township. Also required minimum size of Parcel A Manufactured Home Park may be placed on.
Section 5 - Development Standards required of each proposed Manufactured Home Park including.
A. Site Plan Review for each proposed Manufactured Home Park.
B. Minimum standards.
C. General authority and codes.
D. Lot sizes and setback requirements.
E. Building height.
F. Roads and streets, parking and storage areas.
G. Landscaping and screening of the interior and exterior of the Manufactured Home Park.
H. Sidewalks and open space.
I. Park drainage and public utilities.
J. Accessory buildings and household pets.

A copy of the complete text of the proposed amendment may be obtained from the Township Hall during regular business hours.

3. Such other business as may property come before the Township Planning Commission.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Zoning Ordinance will be available for inspection at the Office of the Township Clerk, 284 N. Briggs Rd., during regular business hours and will also be available at the time of the public hearing. Written letters of comment will be accepted until the start of the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Planning Commission reserves the right, at or after the public hearing, to make changes in the proposed amendments to the ordinance.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township will provide to individuals with disabilities, necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services as may be required, upon five days notice to the Township Clerk of the need for the same.

All persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place to participate in the discussion of the above proposal(s).

Al Schwennesen, Secretary
Yankee Springs Township
Planning Commission

302

South Kent 4-H Club has agricultural roots

Some of the members of the South Kent Livestock Club gather for a meeting. Their 4-H club has an agricultural focus.

Eric Van Sledright and Robert Becker try to round up some Hampshire pigs.

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by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

A large number of the 21 members of the South Kent Livestock 4-H Club have agricultural roots, according to Bonnie Canfield, leader of the club.

Many of the families have farms, with actively involved parents and children in the club and the focus of the club naturally centers on livestock.

Members will show pigs, cattle, sheep, chickens, turkeys and rabbits. Some of the kids also raise field crops for projects, including hay, corn, beans and a few others. Many also will enter craft projects in the fair.

Another club activity during the year is cleaning up a section of road in the Adopt-a-Highway program. They also have held several fund-raisers to bring in money for the club.

There will be nine youngsters showing nine steers this year. Nine more members will be showing a total of 18 pigs.

Heather Becker will show chickens and Rachelle Becker will be showing turkeys.

Ages of members range from 5 to 17.

Heather Canfield, 16, has been in the club for 11 years. She is planning to try out for Kent County Fair Queen this year. She says she wants to work with people, and thinks being queen offers a lot of opportunities and fun.

Some of the members of the South Kent Livestock Club gather for a meeting. Their 4-H club has an agricultural focus.

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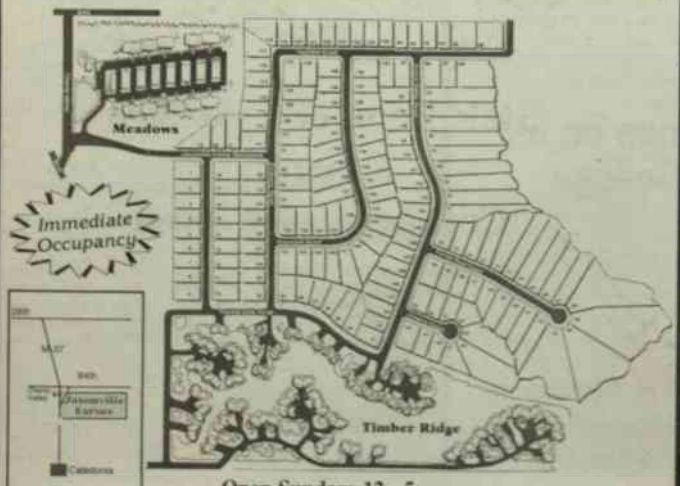

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Ben Canfield plans to enter the fair with a very active Angus steer.

Allison Smith has acted as president of the Caledonia FFA chapter and is also active in the Cherry Valley 4-H. Club. She will enter this hand quilted spread in the fair.

Caledonia FFA to show hogs, lambs at Kent fair

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

The Caledonia FFA will be represented at the Kent County Youth Fair with a pen of market lambs and hogs. The sale will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at the Reath Barn.

Money from the sale goes into the chapter fund, which helps pay for attendance of members at the State and National Leadership Convention.

People who buy the lambs and hogs at the sale often are alumni supporters of the FFA, who want to help the kids. Some of the animals are purchased for resale and some for meat. When designated for market sale, they are expected to be used for meat.

This year the national convention will be during the last week of October, earlier than usual. It will be held in Louisville, Ky., less of a distance than in the past, making it easier to attend.

Caledonia FFA Vice President Maygan Post will be showing market hogs for the first time this year. Chapter Secretary Kelly Goodwin will be showing market lambs for her second time. Some students, like Allison Smith, last year's president of the FFA, are more involved, entering competitive events in both 4-H and in FFA.

FFA teaches students not only about agriculture, but a lot about developing leadership and public speaking skills. It allows them an opportunity for exposure to the many areas connected with business evolving from agriculture.

Though the organization lost 19 seniors this year, the kids coming along in the future show great promise, said Jackie Steeby, who helps coordinate the group. The challenge will be for younger kids to learn to fill the roles vacated by seniors.

There are lots of volunteers, mostly parents, whom advisor Steeby said provide support for the kids and their activities, without which, many of the trips and competitions and fair participation would be impossible. She mentioned Ed and Kelly Mahrenholz who have used their motor home for transporting a group of students to the national convention.

Library summer reading program ends with prizes

by Patricia Johns
Staff Writer

More than 400 children and adults participated in the summer "G'Day for Reading" program at the Thornapple Kellogg School and Community Library.

Beginning June 8, children explored Australia, learned about bats, made Aussie crafts and even learned to juggle.

Last Tuesday, Aug. 3, students picked up their bags of prizes and entered drawings.

The winners in the parent category were Susan Lenartz who received the book "Chicken Soup for the Soul," and Jane Steel, who received a gardening book. Receiving ceramic bears were Lynn Lautenschleger, Deb Ulrich, Sara Scholtens, Jayne Daining, Janel Brooker, Julie Gillig and Diana Henderson.

Children receiving prizes included Laura Traverse, whose name was entered tin the "Go to Disney" contest.

Jillian Fasick will take a trip to the VanAndel museum, Andy Sweeny won a soccer ball, Eric Buchanan won an art book, Keith Winchester won a balloon beasts kit. Ben Delger won an art set, Jonathon Delger won a Tamagotchi Angel, Carter Funk won the bug catcher and Katy Tobin and Allyson Winchester won Barbie dolls.

There were 18 Beanie animals prizes, many of which had an Australian theme. Winning the platypus was Zach Bergsma, Katie Bell won the Monkey, and Garrett Dammen, Bradley Hubbert, Rebekah Daining and Steven Crawford won iguana or chameleon beanies.

Ryan Brew received a skunk beanie and Koala beanies went to Becca Denney, Casey Mickelson, Greg Schmidt, Amanda Nicholas and Ashley Nieder.

Kevin Heynig won the skunk beanie and Kasey

See library, page 17

New librarian Deb Jones joined in the smiles as four of the 36 winners in this year's summer reading club received their prizes. Pictured (from left) are Garrett Dammen, Greg Schmidt, Keith Winchester and Amy Coon.

La Leche League to meet Aug. 10

The La Leche League will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at 1546 Payne Lake Road, Yankee Springs Township.

La Leche League offers support, information, and encouragement for breastfeeding mothers. It has a lending library with books on childbirth, breastfeeding, child development and nutrition. Those who are breastfeeding or pregnant and are thinking of breastfeeding are welcome to come to the informal meetings.

This month's topic will be "The Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties."

For directions, call 795-7021. For information on breastfeeding, call Kathy Othmer at (517) 726-1264.

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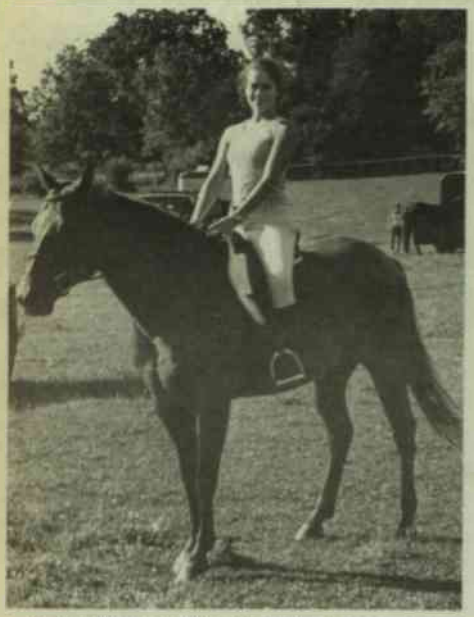
Showcase Riders Club has history of success



Becky Haywood will be riding "Roanie" a horse from Oklahoma instead of her horse "Billy," which developed a bowed tendon.

Julie Maier on her Arabian gelding "Magnus." She bought him as a 3-year-old, and the two of them have learned together.

Karin Hollingshead will ride her 3-year-old Missouri Fox Trotter "China," at the fair events.

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Perhaps no 4-H club has seen any more success than that achieved by many members of the Showcase Riders Club.

But it isn't always easy, and unpredicted obstacles can arise just when least expected.

The fair, to be held Aug. 13-21 in Lowell, will feature events involving horses almost every day.

Showcase members have seen more than their share of challenges to hurdle this year, but they are still preparing with enthusiasm to do their best at the fair.

Becky Haywood's horse, "Billy," developed a bowed tendon, so she cannot compete with him. She instead will be riding on "Roanie," a horse her brother in law helped get for her from Oklahoma. He is a cow horse, and she is preparing him to compete in some English events. The horse is making great strides, she said. The change meant she cannot enter some of the events she was well prepared for on Billy.

Marilyn Guikema, one of the club leaders said she is asking a lot of this horse, teaching him to take long strides and keep his head down, more in English form. "She is a good, determined rider," Guikema said of Haywood.

Peter Newhof's horse also had a severe leg injury. He is now working with another horse, a registered 12-year-old paint named "Caesar."

Guikema said the club had lost some kids participating in the fair who have sports practices at school, due to the fair having a later date.

Conflicts in his school sports schedule will prevent Mike VanLaan from participation in the fair. This led him to loaning his horse, "Harah," an Arabian, to Katie Van Baal for the competition. She does not own her own horse. She will ride "Harah," thanks to the generous offer by Van Laan.

Guikema said this is fairly typical of the helpful attitude between members and families in this club.

A choice to own a horse and work with it is a serious commitment, requiring a lot of responsibility to work

See Showcase Riders, pg. 18

Peter Newhof's horse "Caesar," a registered 12-year-old paint replaces another horse with a severe leg injury.

Melissa VanLaan Berkenpas on her horse Prince. She has been in the club for ten years and is now training horses and giving lessons to students, herself.

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Caledonia Boots and Saddles expanding 4-H club's focus

Three 4-H leaders Jodi Rogers, Pat Werkema and Cindy VanderVennen are featuring projects centered on several family generations of 4-H memberships in their club.

Jodi Rogers counsels Boots and Saddles members in the proper handling of goats before showing them at the fair.

Justin VanderVennen, age 9, is one of eight members of Boots and Saddles who are riding horses this year.

Megan Deppe, age 13, prepares to ride her horse "Norman," officially named, "Mr. Ivy League."

by Ruth Zachary
Staff Writer

Four generations of Pat Werkema's family have been involved in the Boots and Saddles 4-H club, starting with her mother, Edna Selker in 1958.

Three generations of Jodi Rogers and Lisa Kachele's family have also been in 4-H.

That's why the club is doing projects related to generational history of their families in 4-H this year.

Pat Werkema has been the leader of Boots and Saddles for 21 years, and would like to retire soon and is planning for a smooth transition of leadership.

Boots and Saddles started with showing horses as its focus, but recently the club has been expanding to include all kinds of animals, and the club is also expanding its membership

Two other women are co-leaders, with each of their duties being centered around some of the animals. Cindy VanderVennen and Jodi Rogers are organizing the kids raising goats, with around a dozen young people involved in that activity this year. Jodi Rogers is in charge of kids raising rabbits, and when she was in 4-H, she showed her horses. She will help carry on the leadership for showing horses in the club when Pat Werkema retires.

Expanding to new areas requires effort to learn more about the animals to be raised. The club has taken field trips to visit different experts who have taught them how to show different animals in a variety of seminars. They went as far away as Rockford for one session.

Raising goats are Brandon Cox, Justin VanderVennen, Betsy Bykirk, Amanda Werkema, Meggan Werkema, Kristina McCleave, Savannah Bird, Hayley Erwin, Kayla Erwin, Nathan Rogers, Whitney Nelson and Sarah Caceres.

Lisa Kachele will be bringing sheep and swine to the fair this year.

Lisa Kachele, Amanda Werkema, Meggan Werkema, Kristina McCleave, Justin VanderVennen, Nathan Rogers, Megan Deppe and Savannah Bird are all learning to show, ride and handle horses.

Amanda Werkema, Justin VanderVennen and Nathan Rogers are also showing rabbits. Nathan is in Explorers, at age 7.

Library, continued from page 15

Adams the bat beanie. Kangaroo beanies now belong to David Gillig, Sam Bergsma, Amy Coon and Faith Gibbs.

The children also received coupons, rulers and pencil cases as part of the reward ceremony. Sara Acholtens, Wal-Mart and Pastoor's combined to help make the reward ceremony fun. The library also received $100 from Meijer to support this summer's activities.

Children who were not able to pick up their prizes by Aug. 5 will need to wait until the week of Aug. 16 since the library is closed for cleaning during the week of Aug. 9 - 15.

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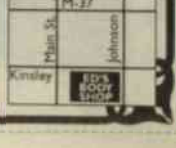

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Card Of Thanks

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK all of our family, friends and neighbors for their acts of kindness in the loss of our son Jeffery Fountain. A special thanks to Pastor Gerke, the Beeler Funeral Home. They were very much appreciated. God bless all of you. Jeff's Mom & Dad, Phyllis & Bruce. Children, Tiffany, Jeffery, Tabitha & Linda. Sister, Beth & Walter Gulch, and daughters, Nicole & Jessica.

THE FAMILY OF STEVEN LEE BECKER would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for all the love and support that was given to us at the time of Steven's death. Special thanks to Larry Kubiac and his staff, Pastor Stacy Minger for her kind words, and the ladies of the United Methodist Church for the Luncheon. Special thanks also to all of our friends and neighbors who were there with food and love to keep us going. A very special thank you to the Shady Lane neighbors who planted a tree in Steven's memory. He will be in our hearts forever. Vernon and Judy Becker, Deborah, James, Megan, Ryan and Kevin Fuller.

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Pride Club established at TK

The Trojan Pride Club has been established and should help to strengthen Thornapple Kellogg High School sports in the years to come.

TK coaches Marcy and Mark Uyl helped to form the club which purpose is to provide financial support for the athletic programs at the area high school. The Trojan Pride Club is separate from the boosters and the money raised from the club will go toward equipment and needs of the specific athletic programs.

Most of the money raised by the boosters will go toward a new concession stand, so the money gained by the Trojan Pride will be more for "the extra type stuff," according to Mark Uyl, such as a rebounding machine for a basketball team or a special type of equipment needed by the golf program.

The levels of contribution are Gold Medal ($50 donation), Silver Medal ($25 donation) and Bronze Medal ($10 donation).

Current Gold Medal members are Mark and Marcy Uyl.

The Arlen Bell family are Silver Medal members, while Jim, Jane, Marcy, Dave, Steve and Kristen Uyl are Bronze Medal members.

Alumni members are also encouraged. Names of members will appear in the fall sports program. Donations of members to be included in the fall program need to be in by Friday, Aug. 20.

You can join the Trojan Pride Club by dropping off a form and a donation to the TK High School office or by sending it to: Thornapple Kellogg High School; Attn. Trojan Pride Club; 3885 Bender Rd.; Middleville MI 49333. Checks should be made out to Thornapple Kellogg Schools.

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Showcase Riders, from page 16

and train with their horses. When a heartbreaking experience occasionally occurs, it is usually treated in a philosophical way.

"Life isn't always easy, and this experience prepares them for life," parent Carol VanLaan said.

"It's good to see them learn to handle adversity," Marilyn Guikema said, "because everything that can happen usually does happen."

Not all of the members have run into difficulties, however, and some are proceeding along their anticipated paths.

"No one wins without hard work," Van Laan said.

Julie Maier bought her Arabian, "Magnus" as a green three-year-old, with her own money, and continues to work with him. The two of them have become a skilled team, performing in a manner which is an inspiration to everyone in the club.

Melissa VanLaan Berkenpas, age 19, has been in 4-H for 10 years, and has been riding for 14 years. She has won many awards over the years. She placed in almost every event of the 23 events she entered last year. Saddle seat and trail trophy events stand out as the best for her. This is to be her last year in 4-H and she has signed up for 39 classes.

Guikema said Berkenpas had contributed a lot to the club over the years. "She is a very unselfish young lady... a great team player!"

Berkenpas has moved to a new level in her abilities. She works with nine kids, giving riding lessons full time, and is training two horses, a 1-year-old and a 2-year-old. She was recently married, and said her husband is beginning to be interested in horses as well.

Berkenpas is one of the members who has worked with her horse for many years, improving in skill and ability. Continuous work has resulted in continuous improvement.

Berkenpas said, "Prince does everything. He has been a wonderful horse." Prince is a Morgan.

The 23-member club is led by Greg and Patti Redner, and Marilyn Guikema. Kids range in age from 9 to 19. The group, could not do as well as it does without the volunteer efforts of a number of supportive parents.

"Its really a family activity," said Carol VanLaan.

Many parents agree, and have a long standing relationship with each other and with the young members. Parents and kids express the feeling that this riding club is a very special category of 4-H.

Mizuno Junior Golf closes out tournament season

LANSING — Steve Obreiter, Sean Moran and Lindsay Iding each won scholarships through Mizuno Junior Golf Junior Golf as the three received their awards last Thursday (July 29) at the tournament finale held at the Lansing Country Club.

Obreiter, of Hastings, will receive a $500 scholarship from Mizuno as will Moran, of Southfield, and Iding, of Lansing. Obreiter attends Hastings High School, Moran Southfield and Iding preps at Lansing Catholic Central.

Obreiter carded an 85 in Flight A at the Lansing Country Club event.

Other area linksters who took part in the tournament were Delton's Kyle Kwasny with a (78 in Flight A), Maple Valley's Chris Lentz (94 in Flight C), Maple Valley's Pat Chaffee (90 in Flight B) and Lakewood's Andy Elliott (103 in Flight B).

Top scores were turned in by Glenn Desgranges (71), Josh Valenic (71) and Scott Mateer (72).

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