

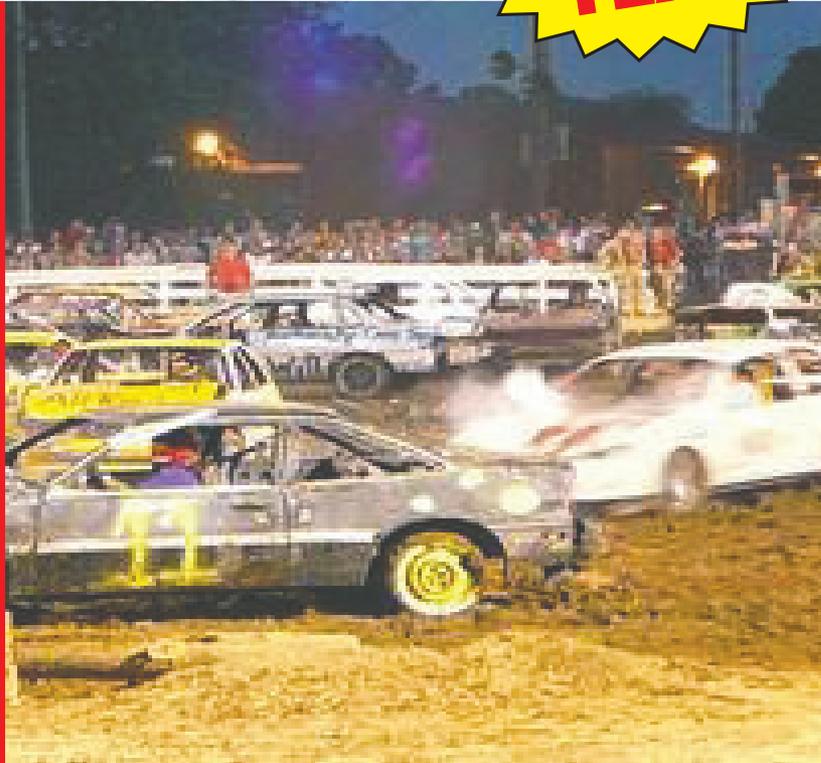
Ashtabula County Fair

August 10th-15th

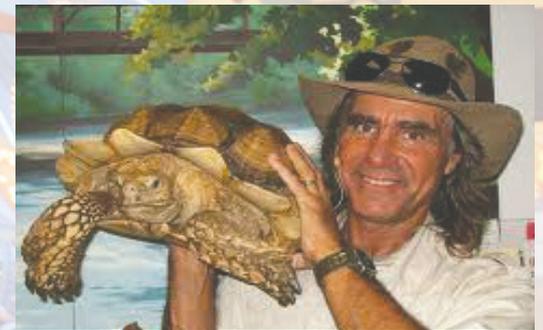
STAR BEACON

175th
YEAR

Demolition
Derby
Wednesday
&
Saturday
7:30 pm



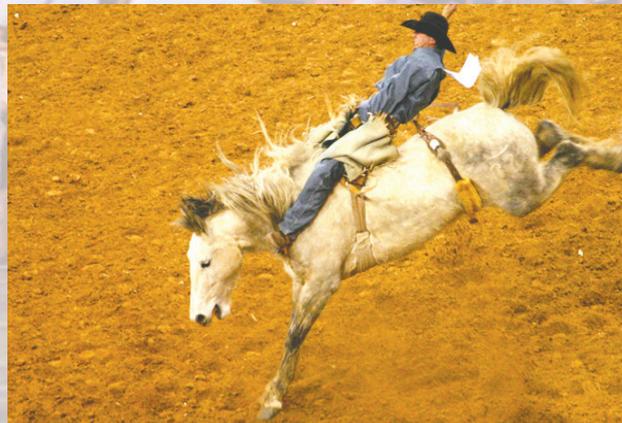
Harness Racing
Thurs. & Fri. 11:30 am



Jungle Terry
Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sun.
6:00 pm



Koi Drag Racing
Thursday 7:00 pm



Rodeo Bulls, Broncs, Barrels
Friday 7:30 pm



Truck & Tractor Pull
Sunday 6 pm

The full fair and then some

175th Ashtabula County event begins Tuesday

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — After a year when the fair was scaled back because of a pandemic, six days of fun will start Tuesday at the Ashtabula County fairgrounds.

It's the 175th Ashtabula County Fair and organizers promise it will be packed with more shows, food, music, exhibits, animals

and contests than ever before.

While the fair offers the agricultural community a chance to showcase its best animals, goods and talents, there also will be two demolition derbies, two days of harness racing, as well as a youth parade, a rodeo and modified tractor and truck pulls.

Fair-goers will find a newly refurbished grandstand, a renovated

Expo Center, a resurfaced midway and a new pole barn.

After successfully adding a second day of harness racing three years ago, the fair board decided to go with it again.

"We'll have harness racing Thursday and Friday, post time 11:30 a.m.," said Sue Stockwell, fair board member and race secretary. "There will be several



STAR BEACON FILE

Ashtabula County Fair will offer a variety of carnival rides during its six-day run, starting Tuesday, Aug. 10.

races a day, and pari-mutual wagering."

Other fair attractions will include a rooster crowing contest, a frog jump, a 4-H fashion show, contests for children, horse shows, barnyard Olympics, historical items on display in the log cabin and hundreds of 4-H animal projects — horses, miniature horses, rabbits, goats, chickens, ducks, pigs, steers, dairy cows and more.

A market livestock sale will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in front of the grandstands where hundreds of bidders are expected to

'We'll have harness racing Thursday and Friday, post time 11:30 a.m. There will be several races per day, and pari-mutual wagering.'

Sue Stockwell
Ashtabula County Fair Board member and race secretary

buy the market animal projects.

Free shows this year include Max Power — a 9-foot tall robotic entertainer, as well as the Ready Go Dog Show,

Cracker Jack the Clown and Company, Jungle Terry and the Rex and Dana Comedy and Magic show.

The Barnard Entertainment Pavilion Stage on the back midway will play host to local bands from 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Members of the Ashtabula County Holstein Club will serve the club's signature milkshakes, ice cream and cheese sandwiches.

Members of the Plymouth Grange will offer burgers, hot dogs and pie, while the Jefferson Grange will serve up its famous roast beef, gravy and mashed potatoes dinners, plus hamburgers, fish sandwiches, hot dogs, pies and more. Both granges will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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EVENT SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, AUG. 10
Sponsor of the Day
Ashtabula County Nursing and Rehab Center
SENIOR CITIZENS DAY — ages 62 and over
 \$1 admission to grounds all day
9 a.m.
 • Flag raising at grandstand
 • Jr. Fair Saddle Horse/Jumping - Saddle Horse Arena

• Jr. Fair Poultry Show & Showmanship - Kaszar Show Barn
 • Jr. Fair Dairy Steer Show - Kaszar Show Barn
 • Dairy Beef Feeder Show - Kaszar Show Barn
10 a.m.
 • Jr. Fair Sheep Show - MAC Arena

11 a.m.
 • Bicycle Decorating & Races & Sack Races - grandstand
Noon
 • Jr. Fair Equine Flag Ceremony & Crowning of Equine Royalty - Saddle Horse Arena
 • Following ceremony Jr. Fair Equine Project Judging/Showmanship

1 p.m.
 • Ashtabula County Commissioners meeting - Expo Center
 • Frog Jumping Contest - Grandstand
 • Jr. Fair Market Goat Show - MAC Arena

2:30 p.m.
 • Jr. Fair Alpaca & Llama Show - Draft Horse Ring
4 p.m.
 • Draft Horse Driving Competition - Saddle Horse Complex

5:30 p.m.
 • Royal Court Crowning & Youth Parade - grandstand
6 p.m.
 • Thunder Creek Band performs in Barnard Pavilion
7 p.m.
 • 4-H Sewing, Food, Nutrition and General Projects Awards - Expo Center

7:30 p.m.
 • 4-H Style Review- Expo Center Stage
8:30 p.m.
 • Jr. Fair Barnyard Olympics, free grandstand show

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11
Sponsor of the Day
Trumbull Ashtabula Plant
FAMILY DAY
Kids 14 and under admitted free to grounds all day.
All day ride pass: \$5

9 a.m.
 • Jr. Fair Horse Project Judging - Saddle Horse Arena
 • Market Poultry Show & Showmanship - Kaszar Show Barn
 • Jr. Fair Dairy Judging By Breed, Jr. Fair Dairy Showmanship -Kaszar Show Barn

10 a.m.
 • Draft Horse Halter Classes - Draft Horse Ring
 • Find Pennies in Sawdust - Grandstand

11 a.m. to noon
 • Kids Drawing Contest (entries) - Expo Center
1 p.m.

• Kids Drawing awards - Expo Center
 • Egg and Spoon Race - Grandstand

2 p.m.
 • Water Balloon Toss - Grandstand

3 p.m.
 • Jr. Fair Swine Weight Classes & Showmanship - MAC Arena

6 p.m.
 • Jr. Fair Rabbit and Cavy Showmanship - Kaszar Show Barn
 • ZZO Band performs in Barnard Pavilion
 • Drawing for six bicycles - Registration Tent Race Horse Barns

6:30 p.m.
 • Poultry Awards - Expo Center
 • Power Wheels - Grandstand
7:30 p.m.
 • DEMOLITION DERBY, \$5 admission to grandstand, \$10 for pit area
 • Lowe's Crafts for Kids — Times to be announced

THURSDAY, AUG. 12
Sponsor of the Day Gazette Newspapers
VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY
Veterans free admission to grounds all day with identification

9 a.m.
 • Jr. Fair Horse Judging/ Gaming, Trail, Extreme Cowboy & Extra Classes - Saddle Horse Arena

10 a.m.
 • Draft Horse Farm Team Hitch Class & Log Pull - Draft Horse Ring
 • Jr. Fair Goat Show/Harness & Pack Goat Show - MAC Arena
 • Rooster Crowing Contest - Barnard Pavilion
 • Open Class Beef Show - Kaszar Show Barn

11:30 a.m.
 • Harness Racing & Pari-Mutuel Wagering - Grandstand
1 p.m.

• Junior Fair Beef Breeding Show - Kaszar Show Barn
2 p.m.
 • Jr. Fair Beef Feeder Show Showmanship & Weight Class - Kaszar Show Barn
4 p.m.
 • Jr. Fair Beef Showmanship - Kaszar Show Barn
5 p.m.
 • Flyover/Salute to Veterans over the grandstand
6 p.m.

• Jr. Fair Steer Show - Kaszar Show Barn
 • Jr. Fair Rabbit and Cavy Show - MAC Arena
 • High Horse Band performs in Barnard Pavilion
7 p.m.
 • KOI DRAG RACING, free grandstand show
 \$10 pit area

FRIDAY, AUG. 13
Sponsor of the Day University Hospitals Geneva & Conneaut
SENIOR CITIZENS DAY for ages 62 and over
\$1 admission to grounds all day

9 a.m.
 • Jr. Fair Horse Pleasure Show - Saddle Horse Arena
9:30 a.m.
 • Dairy Pee Wee Show - Kaszar Show Barn

10 a.m.
 • Dairy All Breeds Open Class Show - Kaszar Show Barn
11:30 a.m.

• Harness Racing & Pari-Mutuel Wagering - Grandstand
1 p.m.
 • Small Animal Costume Contest - MAC Arena
4:30 p.m.
 • Draft Horse Hitch Classes - Saddle Horse Arena
7 p.m.
 • Plan B performs in Barnard Pavilion

7:30 p.m.
 • RODEO, BULLS, BRONCS & BARRELS — \$5 admission to grandstand
8 p.m.
 • Canter Gaming — Saddle Horse Arena

SATURDAY, AUG. 14
Sponsor of the Day Berkshire Hathaway/The Rick Furmage Team

9 a.m.
 • Jr. Fair Horse Versatility - Saddle Horse Arena
10 a.m.
 • Open Class Goat Show - Kaszar Show Barn
10 a.m.
 • Market Livestock Sale - Grandstand
11 a.m.
 • Jr. Fair Horse Walk Trot Gaming - Saddle Horse Arena
4 p.m.
 • Jr. Fair Dog Awards - Expo Center

4:30 p.m.
 • Draft Horse Hitch Classes - Saddle Horse Arena

6:30 p.m.
 • Power Wheels - Grandstand
7 p.m.
 • Rough Cut Band performs at Barnard Pavilion
7:30 p.m.
 • DEMOLITION DERBY, \$5 admission to grandstand
9 p.m.
 • Jr. Fair Fun Horse Show - Saddle Horse Arena

SUNDAY, AUG. 15
Sponsor of the Day Robinson Equipment

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Truck Show - Racetrack
11 a.m.
 • Stock Tractor / Stock 4x4 Pull - Grandstand
 • MAC Awards - MAC Arena

• Jr. Fair Equine Awards Ceremony - Horse Pavilion & Arena
Noon to 5 p.m.
 • Agriculture Adventure Scavenger Hunt - Jr. Fair Board Office

1 p.m.
 • NKTPA Kiddie Tractor Pull Registration - by Grange Building
 • 4-H Cloverbud Graduation - MAC Arena

2 p.m.
 • Kiddie Tractor Pull - by Grange Building
 • Jr. Fair Super Showman Contest

6 p.m.
 • MODIFIED TRACTOR/4x4 & SEMI PULLS - \$5 admission to grandstand, \$10 to track and pit area

10 p.m.
 • Fair closes

GENERAL INFORMATION
 • Regular admission is \$8, children ages 4 and younger get in free every day.
 • Rides by Lisko Amusements are free with the daily \$8 admission ticket. Live pony rides cost extra.
 • With any passes or special admissions, a wristband is needed to ride the rides and are \$5.
 • The rides by Lisko Amusements will be open 1-5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6-11 p.m. Wednesday; 1-5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. Sunday.
 • For more information, visit ashtabulafair.com or call 440-576-7626.

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Clowns, dogs, magic, Jungle Terry and a giant robot

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Mr. Cracker Jack and Company plan to bring the 175th Ashtabula County Fair to life with a magic show and balloon creations. Fair Board members guaran-

tee Cracker Jack will be the talk of the fair, providing glitter tattoos, face painting and costumed characters for kids of all ages.

Fairgoers also will find the following free shows at the fair:

· **MAX POWER & NITRO** — Power up with Max Power, a 9-foot tall robot

with LED lighting. Max walks, talks and dances to music from his very own sound system while interacting with people. Max is available for photos. Look for Max on the midway in his custom-made mini monster truck.

· **READY GO DOG SHOW** — America's favorite Frisbee dogs will delight

fairgoers with their tricks and dives. · **REX AND DANA** — Get set for a little magic and a lot of family fun with these two guys.

· **JUNGLE TERRY** — The local animal show is slated for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday at the entertainment tent.

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FAIR: 175th event begins Tuesday

FROM PAGE 2

Fresh made lemonade, doughnuts, steak on a stick, French Fries, pizza, peanuts, popcorn, homemade fudge, candy apples, waffles, barbecue chicken and lots more will be on sale from vendors.

Regular admission is \$8, children ages 4 and younger get in free every day. Rides by Lisko Amusements are free with the daily \$8 admission ticket. Live pony rides cost extra.

Grandstand shows cost \$5, paid at the grandstand, except the Barnyard Olympics and KOI Drag Racing are free.

With any passes or special admissions, a wristband is needed to

ride the rides and are \$5.

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

Senior citizens, ages 62 and older, get in for \$1 on Tuesday and Friday.

Veterans get in free on Thursday with proper identification.

On Family Day (Wednesday) children ages 14 and younger get in free all day, but must buy an all-day ride pass for \$5 to ride any rides.

For more information, visit ashtabulafair.com or call 440-576-7626.

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STAR BEACON FILE PHOTO

All of folks' favorite fair food returns with the Ashtabula County Fair, slated for Aug. 10-15 in Jefferson.

All your fair food favorites are back

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — If you longed for deep-fried Oreos, elephant ears and steak on a stick last summer, you are not alone. A scarcity of concessions during the pandemic meant a year without cotton candy, snow cones, homemade fudge and candy apples for most folks who love to go to the fair.

County fairs were not spared from the COVID-19 pandemic, and fair food vendors saw their business squelched in the process. But not this year.

The Ashtabula County Fair, slated for Tuesday through Sunday, will provide pure unadulterated joy that comes with devouring a fried bite of something under the hot August sun.

"I'm looking forward to sampling many of the fair foods," Ashtabula County Commissioner Casey Kozlowski said. "Some of my favorites include fair

fries, gyros and some fried vegetables."

Kozlowski hopes to see many of his constituents at the fair.

Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV said he always takes home a bag of french waffles.

"My mom never misses cheese on a stick from Father Miller," he said.

Here's a list of some

of the culinary delights to be found at the fair: Tacos in a bag of Doritos, nachos, funnel cake, ice cream, waffles topped with powdered sugar, burgers, hot dogs, popcorn, pizza, doughnuts, milkshakes, fried cheese, deep fried cheesecake, barbecue chicken, Italian sausage sandwiches, fresh lemonade and more.



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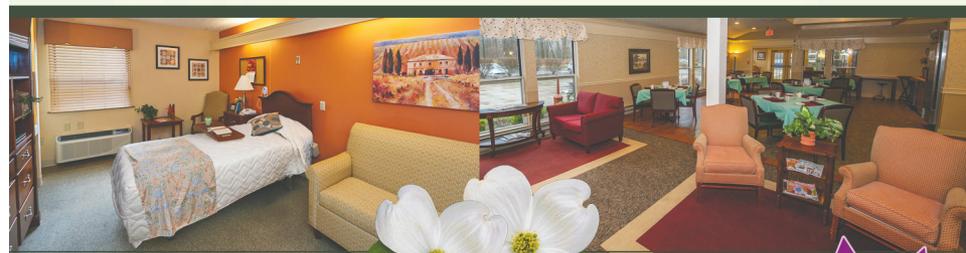
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Historic log cabin a must-see stop at the fair

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Many folks yearn for the good old days of the Ashtabula County Fair.

In a village known for being the county seat with its historic courthouse, century homes and train depot, the memories aren't far off.

This year, the log cabin, the oldest building on the fairgrounds, will pay tribute to the Jefferson Depot, said Debbie Platt, Ashtabula County Fair Board member.

"We will have toys, an old iron, egg beater, posters, maybe an old



SHELLEY TERRY | STAR BEACON

The historic log cabin, the oldest building on the Ashtabula County fairgrounds, is a must-see stop at the fair, which begins Tuesday and runs through Sunday, Aug. 15.

hymnal — odds and ends from each building at the depot," said

Lori Brown, a member of the Jefferson Depot. "I ant to have some

sorts of interaction with kids." Built in 1915, the log

cabin was built in memory of early pioneers, starting a tradition

of showing antiques and fair memorabilia inside.

"Stop in to the log cabin at the county fair this year to see some exceptional examples of Ashtabula County history," Brown said.

The fair starts Tuesday and runs through Sunday, Aug. 15 at the fairgrounds in Jefferson.

Daily single admission is \$8 for ages 5 and older, and includes a wrist band for free rides (except pony rides).

Admission for children ages 4 and younger is free every day. Ride bands are \$5.



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History comes alive at Grange and Floral buildings

BY SHELLEY TERRY

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The Grange and Floral buildings at the Ashtabula County fairgrounds have seen a lot of visitors in the past 100 years.

The history of the Grange Building and the octagon Floral Building will be celebrated Aug. 10-15 at the 175th Ashtabula County Fair.

Jefferson Historical Society members Norma Waters and Barbara Hamilton have spent many hours searching through century-old documents to authenticate the age of the buildings.

“The grounds were used for a Civil War camp. We know the office was the infirmary and the fences were used as firewood,” Hamilton said. “But we could

not authenticate the buildings through documentation.”

Waters and her late husband, Dr. Richard Waters, read boxes and boxes of old documents. They found an 1897 supplement on sites in Jefferson, and the two buildings were on a map.

“Here we have our written evidence that these two buildings are at least 124 years old,” Hamilton said.

The Grange and Floral buildings have been a showplace and a place of pride for county residents since the earliest fair days.

“There is a sense of pride and accomplishment in seeing your flowers, flora arrangements, canned goods, garden goods and more on display at the county fair,” Waters said. “They are a treasure.”



STAR BEACON FILE PHOTO

The historical Floral Building at the Ashtabula County fairgrounds has been a source of pride for more than 124 years.

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Roosters give fair-goers a lot to crow about

BY SHELLEY TERRY

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Most people don't wake up to the crowing of a rooster. For those folks who wish they could, there's still time to get a ring-side seat to the

Ashtabula County Fair's Rooster Crowing Contest, where roosters usually have no trouble mustering a song.

The fun begins at 10 a.m. Thursday in the Barnard Pavilion. The contest draws quite a crowd year after year and goes something like this:

For 30 minutes, about a dozen of the county's best roosters crow in an attempt to earn their human counter-

part a prize ranging from 50-cents to \$5. Only one rooster is permitted in each cage. A judge is assigned to each rooster to tally the number of times the bird crows in 30 minutes after the cages are uncovered. Roosters may be any breed, any age.

In the past, the fair has produced many great crowers, including the record-setting rooster, "General Lee,"

'You never know who is going to do all the talking when we have more than a dozen roosters competing.

This has gotten to be an interesting part of the fair.'

The late Everett Helfer

Served as master of ceremonies

entered by James Matthews. The General crowed 130 times in 2004 — a fair record.

In 2007, Little Jerry Seinfeld, a banti-cross rooster owned by Abigail Mann of Jefferson, stretched his neck and

crowed 82 times in 30 minutes. A comedian of sorts, Little Jerry kept the crowd chuckling with his loud, zany crows, but couldn't quite pull off 130 crows to unseat the General.

Strategies to win the

competition include covering the roosters until just before the contest, tricking the roosters into thinking it's morning when the

cover is lifted. Contestants aren't allowed to touch the roosters or its cage, but they can verbally cheer them on.

"You never know who is going to do all the talking when we have more than a dozen roosters competing," said the late Everett Helfer, who served as the master of ceremonies that year. "This has gotten to be an interesting part of the fair."



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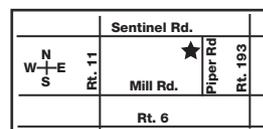
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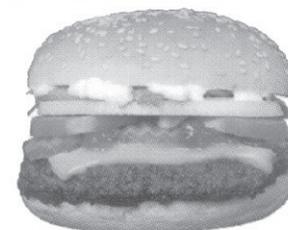
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STAR BEACON FILE PHOTO

Erica Elliott, of Plymouth Township, has fond memories of the demolition derby at the Ashtabula County Fair.

Readers share Ashtabula County Fair memories

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

Summertime brings with it the Ashtabula County Fair. From livestock shows to the thrill of carnival rides, many childhood memories are made at the fairgrounds.

As you read the following stories, imagine your own county fair experiences.

Erica Elliott, 58, of Plymouth Township did not go to the fair until she was an adult but she always enjoys eating elephant ears and watching the demolition

derby. For years, she dreamed of building a derby car and going up against male competitors.

“My father, husband and myself all worked on a car for months to make it safe for me

SEE READERS, 11

READERS: Folks share Ashtabula County Fair memories

FROM PAGE 10

to take to the derby," she said. "Although I was out of the race quick, I would never change that night. My father told me he was proud of me for going up against the guys. To this day I have my car number, flag and ID tag I need to wear while in the infield. My husband even got me a little Hot Wheel car he painted to match my derby car to have as a memorial for my first ride."

When Derby day arrived, Elliott said she was scared to death but didn't tell her father.

"Such good memories," she said. "When I found my flag and band, tears filled my eyes of the good times I had with my dad, who I lost to cancer in 2004. This memory is the most precious of them all and he's always with me."

County Auditor David Thomas said he loved being in 4-H when he

was a kid.

"Playing cards in the animal barn, having potlucks and being with friends and family while taking care of animals," he said.

Karlee Stainfield, 19, of Jefferson, said, "My best fair memory is getting food and lemonade and then pigging out in the air conditioning after the walk home. That was heaven."

Stainfield also fondly recalls her rooster winning second place in the

rooster crowing contest a few years ago.

Connie Smith, 65, of Jefferson, likes watching her granddaughters having fun on all the rides.

"Looking at the Future Farmers of America students made or rebuilt back in the day," said Tim Gran, 66, of Jefferson.

Jefferson resident, Michelle Mills, likes winning a blue ribbon for her artwork.

"Winning is always the best," she said.

Rock Creek native Dennis Mead, 64, said, "Back in the day, it was fun just walking around and looking at stuff and trying to meet girls."

Jefferson native, Teresa Herman, 64, liked working in the dunking booth for the fire department.

"I enjoyed seeing the farm animals as a kid," said Alex Kolman, 30, of Geneva.

Jesse Sharp, 64, of Jefferson, shared a memory — not a fa-

vorite memory, but a memory, he said.

"In junior high I spent my whole day's worth of money trying to win a fabulous prize by tossing metal washers in polished ash trays," he said. "I was convinced the next washer would stay in the tray, even the guy running the booth tried to get me to give up but I knew better. Just as well. I learned early I wasn't cut out to be a professional washer tosser."

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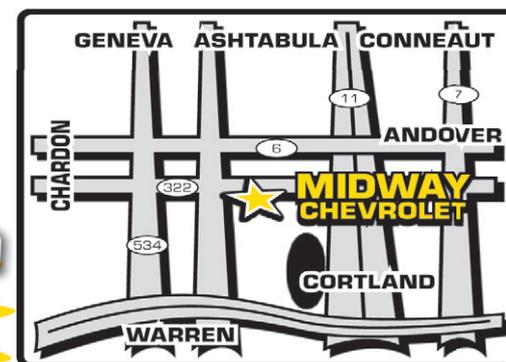
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Tons of fun

Look for Rettinger's Percheron horses

BY SHELLEY TERRY

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The Ashtabula County Fair will feature competitions of the biggest horses you'll see at the fair. Each Percheron, Clydesdale and Belgian horse weighs about one ton and can stand more than 6 feet high.

Throughout the week, draft horse competitions will be held at the Saddle Horse Complex and Draft Horse Ring on the west side of the fairgrounds. On Friday and Saturday, at 4:30 p.m., fair-goers will be treated to draft horse hitch classes. The teams will march into the ring with the sounds of

pounding hooves and clanging harnesses.

The Rettingers, owners of Whispery Pines Percherons in Kingsville, are looking forward to bringing their famous Percherons to compete. The eight horses are all Percheron geldings and named Samson, Tony, Colt, Boomer, Candyman, Ace, Octane and Flash. The tallest horses, Boomer and Flash, are 19.1 hands and a hand is 4 inches.

Sam Rettinger grew up with draft horses and his wife, Kellie, spent her childhood riding and showing American Quarter Horses.

"We met at the Ashtabula County Fair

as children ages ago," she said. "We both loved horses."

The Rettingers have been together for 18 years and married for eight years.

Nine years ago — again at the fair — the Rettingers met Dylan Loomis, also of Kingsville, who now plays a major role at Whispery Pines Percherons.

In January, Rettinger's Percheron horses appeared in the Percheron Horse Association's 2021 calendar. In 2019, they were pictured on the cover the Ashtabula County Fair booklet. That picture was taken at the 2019 Equine Affaire in Columbus during the Fantasia



PHOTO COURTESY OF RETTINGER'S WHISPERY PINES

The Rettingers, owners of Whispery Pines Percherons in Kingsville, are looking forward to bringing their famous Percherons to compete.

show which is the musical celebration of the horse.

"Our horses are our pride and joy," Kellie Rettinger said.

The Rettingers show their horses in hitch and riding classes at the Ashtabula County Fair and other events each

year, such as the Equine Affaire. They also provide carriage rides for a variety of events.

It's quite an operation and the Rettingers depend on a crew of six to eight people who travel with them.

"It is truly a family affair," she said.

Sam Rettinger's favorite event is the six-horse hitch, which took place in front of the grandstand at the 2019 fair.

"I love every aspect of hitching," he said. "But there is something special about the six-horse hitch."

ASHTABULA COUNTY 4-H HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

- **1978:** Matilda Sevon
- **1979:** Edythe Dillon
- **1979:** Pauline Leonard
- **1980:** Ina Bloom
- **1980:** Margaret Ticknor
- **1981:** Clare Chapman
- **1981:** Eudora Spellman
- **1982:** Charles Ticknor
- **1983:** Clarence Cole
- **1984:** Geraldine Jerome
- **1985:** Dorothy Allen
- **1986:** Dorthy Norton

- **1986:** George Arnold
- **1987:** Fred Sommers
- **1988:** Shirley Case
- **1988:** Frank Wilson
- **1988:** Jim Hill
- **1989:** Tom Cole
- **1989:** Robert Burnett
- **1989:** Virginia Seifert
- **1990:** Cathy Gress
- **1991:** Jack Evans
- **1992:** Joyce Stokes
- **1993:** Robert Baskey

- **1994:** Al and Barb Craine
- **1995:** Tom Murray
- **1996:** Gordon Housel
- **1997:** Michal Barnes
- **1998:** Duane Cole
- **1999:** Bernie Kranauer
- **2001:** Ann Marrison
- **2002:** Arthur and Mildred Betts
- **2003:** Kathy Murray
- **2004:** Dee Carlson

- **2005:** Joe Bodnar
- **2006:** Margie Berkey
- **2007:** Jim and Seanna Butler
- **2008:** Esther Benich
- **2009:** Lauri Lautanen
- **2009:** Dorothy Lautanen
- **2009:** David Silva
- **2010:** Sara Meredith
- **2010:** Rick and Marcella Piper
- **2011:** Wynn Wessell

- **2012:** Linda Fee
- **2013:** Debi Hurst
- **2014:** Valerie Dunne
- **2015:** Virginia March
- **2016:** Brandy Hanusosky
- **2017:** Kanda O'Dell
- **2018:** Debbie Boggs
- **2019:** Rob Jackam
- **2020:** Bart Kanicki

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- **53 YEARS:** Ann Marrison
- **51 YEARS:** Margie Berkey
- **51 YEARS:** Ginny Seifert
- **50 YEARS:** Sarah Hammers
- **45 YEARS:** Michal Barnes
- **40 YEARS:** Bernice Comp

2021 Ashtabula County Fair Youth Parade, Royal Court set for Tuesday night

The Royal Court will be crowned on Tuesday evening after the Youth Parade in front of the grandstand.

Rules for the 2021 Ashtabula County Junior Fair Royal Court:

- Each contestant must be a resident of Ohio and a member of a specified Ashtabula County youth organization; 4-H, FFA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, FHA, Farm Bureau Youth, or Grange Youth.

- King and Queen contestants must be between the ages of 15-18

years of age as of Jan. 1 of the current fair year.

- Prince and Princess contestants must be between the ages of 12-14 years of age as of Jan. 1 of the current fair year.

- Contestants may not be married, nor be the parent of a child.

- If between the ages of 16-19 the Junior Fair Queen must enter the Ohio Fairs Queen Contest at the Ohio Fair Manager's Association Convention after being crowned.



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Long



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Babb



Baldwin

THE CANDIDATES AT A GLANCE

QUEEN

FAITH BLANKENSHIP

- **AGE:** 18
- **PARENTS:** Stephanie Marous and Dennis Headley
- **HOMETOWN:** Jefferson
- **4-H CLUB:** Saybrook Raiders
- **SCHOOL:** Youngstown State University

MIKENZIE BROWN

- **AGE:** 15
- **PARENTS:** Carrie Brown
- **HOMETOWN:** Jefferson
- **4-H CLUB:** Denmark Pioneers
- **SCHOOL:** Jefferson Area High School

AUDREY CAMPBELL

- **AGE:** 15
- **PARENTS:** Michael Campbell and Chris Babb
- **HOMETOWN:** Andover
- **4-H CLUB:** Beef-A-Teers
- **SCHOOL:** Pymatuning Valley

BRIDGET DARBY

- **PARENTS:** John and Ann Marie Darby

- **HOMETOWN:** Jefferson
- **4-H CLUB:** Barns and Buttons and Venture Crew 2223
- **SCHOOL:** Home school

RACHEL JONES

- **AGE:** 17
- **PARENTS:** Cliff and Shannon Jones
- **HOMETOWN:** Jefferson
- **4-H CLUB:** Dusty Riders
- **SCHOOL:** Home school

SOPHIA MCELROY

- **AGE:** 17
- **PARENTS:** Adam McElroy
- **HOMETOWN:** Orwell
- **4-H CLUB:** Happy Hoppers
- **SCHOOL:** Trumbull County Technical Career Center

BROOKE MOTTLEY

- **AGE:** 18
- **PARENTS:** Shannon DeLaat
- **HOMETOWN:** Austinburg
- **4-H CLUB:** City Slickers
- **SCHOOL:** Thiel College

BROOKE MYERS

- **AGE:** 16

- **PARENTS:** Keith and Cheri Myers
- **HOMETOWN:** Conneaut
- **4-H CLUB:** The Cutting Edge
- **SCHOOL:** Home school

KAYCEE SAARI

- **AGE:** 15
- **PARENTS:** Jamie Cottle and Carl Saari
- **HOMETOWN:** Dorset
- **4-H CLUB:** Denmark Pioneers
- **SCHOOL:** Jefferson Area High School

HANNAH TALLBACKA

- **AGE:** 16
- **PARENTS:** Karla Kirkbride and Tim Tallbacka
- **HOMETOWN:** Ashtabula
- **4-H CLUB:** Zoo Crew
- **SCHOOL:** Edgewood High School

PRINCESS

KALENA KELNER

- **AGE:** 13
- **PARENTS:** Andrew and Kourtney Kelner

- **HOMETOWN:** Jefferson
- **4-H CLUB:** Barns and Buttons and Sheffield Target Masters
- **SCHOOL:** Saint John School

LILLY LUCE

- **AGE:** 14
- **PARENTS:** William and Melissa Luce
- **HOMETOWN:** Andover
- **4-H CLUB:** Country Bumpkins
- **SCHOOL:** Pymatuning Valley High School

VIOLET LUCE

- **AGE:** 12
- **PARENTS:** William and Melissa Luce
- **HOMETOWN:** Andover
- **4-H CLUB:** Country Bumpkins
- **SCHOOL:** Pymatuning Valley Middle School

ALYSSA LONG

- **AGE:** 12
- **PARENTS:** Julie Crossley and Randy Long
- **HOMETOWN:** Dorset
- **4-H CLUB:** Vaqueros 4-H Club
- **SCHOOL:** Braden Middle

School

BAYLEE OSKIN

- **AGE:** 12
- **PARENTS:** Brandi Foster
- **HOMETOWN:** Jefferson
- **4-H CLUB:** Dusty Riders
- **SCHOOL:** Jefferson Junior High School

PRINCE

GREGORY BABB

- **AGE:** 13
- **PARENTS:** Chris Babb and Michael Campbell
- **HOMETOWN:** Andover
- **4-H CLUB:** Beef-A-Teers
- **SCHOOL:** Pymatuning Valley Middle School

CODY BALDWIN

- **AGE:** 12
- **PARENTS:** Harry and Deborah Baldwin II
- **HOMETOWN:** Ashtabula
- **4-H CLUB:** Barns and Buttons and Amboy Sharp Shooters
- **SCHOOL:** Lakeside Junior High School

Tractors and cattle and pigs, oh my!

Last Saturday, while standing in line at the fairgrounds to enter my vegetables and flowers in the fair, I struck up a conversation with two young girls donning 4-H t-shirts ahead of me in line.

“Do you girls have animals in 4-H?” I asked.

They said they did — rabbits.

“When I was in 4-H, I showed pigs and steers,” I said, making a funny face.

They chuckled.

“Did you ever try to ‘walk’ a pig or lead a steer on a leash?” I said. “It’s not easy, but they told us it builds character.”



TERRY CLOTH
SHELLEY TERRY

Back in those days, and even today, the county fair is one of the highlights of my summer.

When I was 12, I joined the Beef-A-Teers 4-H Club with a Hereford steer I named Sancho after a Disney movie featuring a steer of the same name. Sancho was a good steer. He was manageable — that is until the steer parade.

Back in the 1960s,

somebody got the bright idea of having 4-H’ers parade their steers in a line in front of the grandstand. Just as Sancho and I approached the grandstand, the spectators started to applaud, scaring Sancho and he took off!

I don’t know why I didn’t let go of the leash, but I didn’t and Sancho dragged me on my stomach as we passed the grandstand. I finally let go and he ran off towards the west end exit of the fairgrounds.

Luckily, a friend was working the gate and grabbed Sancho as he loped by.

Despite the dragging incident, I loved Sancho and cried when I sold him at the market livestock sale. I refused to eat beef for a few weeks in protest.

The next year, I vowed not to get attached to my steers, Wilbur and Orville. Wilbur, a Hereford, was docile, but Orville, a Santa Gertrudis, was wide-eyed and wild. Trying to tame him to lead was impossible. During our first run on the farm he dragged me over the manure spreader filled with manure.

Again, you ask, why didn’t I let go off the leash? I don’t know.

The next year, I

switched to raising pigs for the fair.

Again, I ask, “Did you ever try to walk a pig?”

The 4-H leaders taught us to use canes and try to keep the pig walking in a line between ourselves and the judge. Yeah, right.

Other than being called, “Pig Woman,” by some of my smart-aleck classmates, it wasn’t so bad. The first year, my Hampshire pig, Francis, won reserve champion.

In 1973, when I was 16, I did my part for women’s lib and entered the tractor pull. I was the first female to ever enter the pull and I won my division! What fun. From then on, my

smart-aleck classmates, including Hubby, called me “Tractor Girl,” which I liked better than “Pig Woman.”

These days, I look at the county fair as a reunion of old friends and an opportunity to make memories with Delightful Granddaughter. You don’t need to walk a pig, lead a wild steer or enter the tractor pull to go. Just enjoy the fair!

STAFF WRITER SHELLEY TERRY has gone from Pig Woman to Tractor Girl to Mom and Grandmaw. Faithful readers know which she likes best. Look for Terry at the fair and stop and say hello.

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Tree planted in Everett Helfer's name will be rooted in his memory



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The late Everett Helfer, who served on the Ashtabula County Fair Board for many years, will be honored for his service with a special tree planting at the fair-ground's historic log cabin during the fair, slated for Aug. 10-15.

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

ASHTABULA — The Ashtabula County Fair Board will express their condolences to the Helfer family with a tree planting in honor of longtime Fair Board member, Everett E. Helfer.

Helfer, 80, died Dec. 10, 2020 at Carington Park Care Center, where he resided for the past two years.

The tree will be planted at the historic log cabin during the fair (date and time yet to be determined) as a living tribute to Helfer's dedication to the fair, said Fair Board member Herb Waters.

Helfer served 18 years on the Fair Board and as an honorary trustee after retire-

'He was on the Fair Board for a long, long time. Before the Fair Board, he was chairman of the Covered Bridge Festival Committee. He was also president for Sheffield Volunteer Fire Department and served as an umpire for Jefferson Area Girls Softball games.'

Roberta Kobernik
Daughter of the late Everett Helfer

ment. He really enjoyed serving as master of ceremonies/ announcer at events at the fair, including the rooster crowing contest, frog jump, water balloon toss and bubble gum blowing contest. He was enthusiastic about keeping up the historic log cabin and filling it with interesting artifacts for the fair. He also planned special events and helped construct a memorial for veterans outside the commercial building at

the fairgrounds.

Daughter Roberta Kobernik said her father was always committed to community service.

"He was on the fair board for a long, long time," she said. "Before the Fair Board, he was chairman of the Covered Bridge Festival Committee. He was also president for Sheffield Volunteer Fire Department and served as an umpire

for Jefferson Area Girls Softball games."

Helfer was born May 20, 1940 in Conneaut, and lived in Andover or Jefferson for most of his life. A 1958 graduate of Andover High School, Helfer was a veteran of the U. S. Air Force serving from 1959-1963. Everett was married to Betty L. Vines on Sept. 4, 1965 in Conneaut. She died Jan. 14, 2017.

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It's derby time at the Ashtabula County Fair!

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The Ashtabula County Fair will once again feature two nights of demolition derby action. The derbies will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, and Saturday.

“The derby has been great,” said Brian Edelman, fair board president. “For several years, it's been a great draw. People always show up.”

Admission to the grandstand will be \$5, \$10 to pit area.

The Demolition Derby, which takes place on the infield track in front of the grandstands, will feature full-size cars and six-cylinder cars.

One of the main rules for the event is drivers are required to continue to make contact with other cars for as long as they are able and the last car able to run is the winner.

All judges rulings



STAR BEACON FILE PHOTO

Dave Labonte, left, competes in the Derby Dog Productions demolition derby at the 2018 Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson.

are final. An important part of the derby is for drivers to stay off the

logs because once a tire or two gets over a log, it's nearly impossible to

escape.

The fair usually sees between 50 and 100

drivers each night, and the grandstands is usually packed full of derby fans for two hours of action-packed fun.

Most fans enjoy

seeing the crash-them, smash-them show and the occasional car fire.

Another attraction is to see how the drivers painted their cars. Some drivers even go as far as naming their vehicles. No profanity is allowed.

In 2019, Browns fans also got a treat in the event, courtesy of Ken Rhodes of Conneaut.

His eco stock compact was decked out in Browns orange, and had the team name and division written on it.

Rhodes won his heat, and climbed out of his car, revealing the Browns jersey he was wearing. The crowd cheered.

The best story-line of that derby was car No. 1326 with driver, Dean Clark Jr., and his son, Wesley, in No. 1326 Junior.

It was Dean Clark's 100th demolition derby, and Wesley's first.

The two competed in the street stock full size heat. Dean Clark finished fifth in the heat.

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*Congratulations to All of the 4-H Participants at this Years Fair
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Get a jump on competitive frogs

BY SHELLEY TERRY

sterry@starbeacon.com

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

The Ashtabula County Fair's celebrated Frog Jumping Contest is the perfect opportunity for youngsters to catch a frog, train a frog and enter it in the contest,

set for 1 p.m. Tuesday in front of the grandstand.

Not so long ago, 10-year-old Sophie McElroy caught a Belcher the Frog in a neighboring farmer's pond.

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

Sophie said she can

always count on her grandmother to be there to cheer Belcher on.

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

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

Each contestant is allowed to enter one frog. Frogs are allowed three

consecutive jumps, the length of which will be measured in a straight line from the center of the starting point. A false start by anxious frogs may be declared by the judges. All judges' decisions are final.

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

Prizes are as follows: Participants get

50-cents, and first-place award is \$5. Second-place award is \$3, and third place, \$2.

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

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Harnessing the thrill

Trotters and pacers are good bets to be popular county fair attractions

BY SHELLEY TERRY

sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — The decades old tradition of harness racing at the Ashtabula County Fair is scheduled to continue at 11:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday on the track in front of the grandstand, said Susan Stockwell, speed superintendent.

The decades-old tradition of harness racing garners good crowds for two days of racing and gambling.

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

“He figures out the

odds,” Stockwell said.

Last year due to COVID-19, almost all of Ohio’s county fairs were cancelled or modified due to the pandemic. By August, harness racing was allowed to resume but to empty grandstands.

Stockwell is in charge of coordinating the racing experience including securing officials, getting the starter car and making sure the track is ready for race day. She said two-to -three year old horses are eligible to race at the fair.

She said most of the competitors come from northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

Harness race horses

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

Stockwell said the different horses are bred for each style.

“I love the whole process of harness racing but the 8 to 5 doesn’t exist,” she said. “The business involves a lot of hours with early morning care of horses and late night racing.”

The first racetrack was built at the fairgrounds in 1870, bringing an old sport to county residents and marked the beginning of harness racing at the fair.

The racing of horses dates back to ancient times but the sport disappeared with the fall of the Roman Empire. The history of modern harness racing begins in America, where racing trotting horses over country roads became a popular pastime by the end of the 18th century.

The first tracks for harness racing were built in the first decade of the 19th Century, and by 1825, harness racing was an institution at hundreds of county fairs across the nation.

The sport’s popularity sharply declined after 1900, as the automobile replaced the horse and the United States be-

came more urbanized.

Bettors at the 175th Ashtabula County Fair can bet on individual

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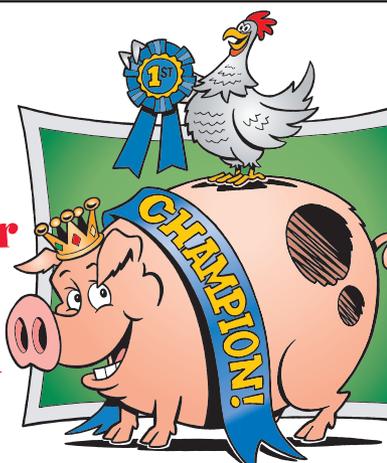
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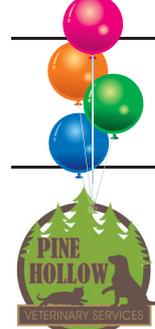
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Did you know? Fair facts and figures

· The rooster crowing contest, slated for 10 a.m. Thursday in the Barnard Pavilion, is one of the most popular competitions at the fair?

· Barn quilts are mounted on the barns and log cabin at the fairgrounds.

· A giant robot will be roaming the midway and interacting with children this year.

· Tractors and truck shows are scheduled for all day Sunday in front of the grandstand.

· Bethlynn Zaebs is president of the Ashtabula County Fair Board Auxiliary.

· The Fair Board

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

· The Junior Fair theme this year is "A Jurassic Fair."

· The grandstand seats about 2,200 people and is situated on an oval half-mile track.

· An antique tractor contest will be held at the fair. The tractors will be displayed all week.

· Bulls, broncs and barrels are in store for rodeo fans at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

· Jefferson native Clair Umholtz, who trains and races pacers at Northfield, always returns to his hometown to race at the fair.

· Thanks to Ed Zaszinski of Jefferson, the rose competition for floriculture is now more in line with the American Rose Society.

· Lisko Family Amusements, which has a long history with the county fair, plans to bring about 15 carnival rides this year.

· Kitty Tobie of Lenox Township manned the east-end gate for years from the late 1960s to 2003.

· The grandstand is dedicated to the late Jim Case, known as the

"Voice of the Ashtabula County Fair," Case announced draft horse shows, tractor pulls, harness racing and the market livestock sale. He was a western gentleman, a successful businessman and prominent fixture at the fair until his passing in April 2005. He was 82.

· Country artist and TV's "Voice" coach, Blake Shelton, performed at the 2005 fair.

· In addition to chickens, turkeys and pheasants also are shown at the fair.

· Josh Woodard of Pierpont showed a 235-plus pound black-and-white pig at the 2006 fair. Her name was Lucy.

· Horses of all sizes



SHELLEY TERRY | STAR BEACON

The rooster crowing contest, slated for 10 a.m. Thursday, is one of the most popular competitions at the Ashtabula County Fair. Pictured here: Roostie the rooster, owned by Drew Kister of Kingsville, won the 2019 Rooster Crowing Contest with 56 crows. In the background, Fair Queen First Attendant Rachel Myers cheers on Roostie.

— from draft to miniature — will be shown at the fair.

· Shelley (Keeler) Terry was the first female to enter the fair's tractor pull. She drove a Massey-Ferguson tractor at the 1973 pull. She was 16 years old.

· The late Eleanor (Dimer) Sidley of Geneva met her husband, Stewart, in the mid-1950s at the weekly 4-H dances

organized by George German at the Ohio State Extension Office and Eleanor Friedrich. Over the years, Stewart won many blue ribbons for his 4-H cattle.

· Here's a tip for children planning to go frog wild at Tuesday's frog jumping contest — Keep your frogs in a pail with cool water. If they get too hot, they won't jump.

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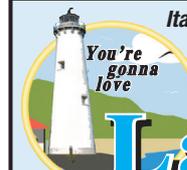
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Back in time: Fair boasts long history

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — On Oct. 30, 1822, a group of pioneer citizens met at the old brick courthouse in Jefferson to form the Ashtabula Agricultural Society.

From the small group assembled, a committee was appointed to draft a constitution for the Society, whose purpose it was to promote the interest of agriculture in the forest-covered land of Ashtabula County.

FIRST MEETING

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

FIRST CATTLE SHOW

The first annual cattle show and fair was held in Austinburg on the first Tuesday in October 1823 featur-

ing a total of \$40 in premiums.

The top prize of \$10 was awarded to Jonathan Warner for the best improved farm of 50 acres.

The cattle show and fair was repeated the next year in Austinburg and in 1825 moved to Ashtabula, in hopes of attracting greater interest; but the response was not successful and in 1826, the Fourth Annual Cattle Show and Fair was held in Jefferson on the town square in front of the courthouse. Participants tied their livestock to the hitching posts

out front.

The people of Jefferson failed to support the project and the fifth fair was planned, but never held. The Society's activities ceased for the next 15 years.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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

SEE HISTORY, 22

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HISTORY: Ashtabula County Fair dates all the way back to 1822

FROM PAGE 21

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

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

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

1ST FAIR/ STATE FAIR

The First Annual Fair of the re-born Society was held at the Ashtabula County Courthouse on Oct. 16, 1846.

After seeing the success of the district fairs, the first official Ohio State Fair was slated for September 1849, but it was canceled because of an outbreak of Asiatic Cholera.

Finally, in 1850, the first Ohio State Fair was held outside of Cincinnati. It was a two-day affair, with 20-cent ad-

mission. Close to 30,000 people attended.

The present fairgrounds off Poplar and Elm streets was acquired in the early 1850s.

The records show in 1854 the Society spent \$2,500 to erect an Agricultural Hall and other improvements to the fairgrounds. The fair of 1858 drew a total of 5,000 people.

ARMY CAMP

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

On Christmas Day they marched from Jefferson to Ashtabula where they were entrained for Columbus and were mustered into the Union Army.

The 29th Ohio Volunteers were engaged in some of the most severe fighting of the Civil War.

RACE TRACK

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

In 1914, a balloon ascension from the center of the race track was the highlight of the fair.

LOG CABIN

In 1915 the newly built log cabin was dedicated and became a display of historical relics. The logs for the structure were given by or in memory of local

pioneers who had been born in a log cabin.

Expansion and improvements proved impossible as a private concern, so sometime in the 1920s, the county took title to the property, but left it under the control of the Agricultural Society.

The 1945 Fair featured a display of 2,000 German and Japanese mementos in the Octagon Building, souvenirs of local servicemen returned from World War II. VJ Day in 1945 brought one of the largest single day attendance records when 14,000 people jammed the midway.

CENTENNIAL FAIR

The “Centennial Fair” in 1946 brought many improvements to the fairgrounds including the first paved midway.

The 100th Ashtabula County Fair featured a historical parade with every township represented and a pioneer exhibit in the Octagon Building displaying relics of early settlers and a photographic display of the county’s history presented by the His-

torical Society.

NEW GRANDSTAND

The Olewasnagi Dancers, “a thrilling show of authentic Indian dancers,” delighted fair-goers in 1955.

The following year, the new grandstand was completed by Southern Bleachers Construction Co. of Graham, Texas, and served fairgoers for more than six decades, providing a shady place to watch harness racing, tractor pulls, demolition derbies, parades and nationally famous entertainers, such as Bobby Vinton, Little Jimmy Dickens and Eddie Rabbitt.

In 1969, the Agricultural Society replaced the dirt midway with slag walkways.

BURST OF GROWTH

The late 1970s and 1980s saw a burst of growth at the fairgrounds with many new facilities added including the small animal building, Concession Office, Sheriff Patrol’s Office, 4-H Saddle Horse and Draft Horse Barns, Entertainment Pavilion and Market

Animal Barn.

A few years ago, the Ashtabula County Fair Board talked about refurbishing the grandstand, which was starting to show its age.

In 2018, Ashtabula County Commissioner Casey Kozlowski encouraged the fair board to apply for a state grant for the improvements, which required a \$60,000 local match.

“We were successful in securing a \$250,000 state capital grant and the grandstand was in dire need of improvements,” Kozlowski said. “I’m excited about all of the improvements.”

In 2019, workers gave the grandstand a new roof, new paint, new boards, aluminum decking and lights “to really make the county fair shine,” said Brian

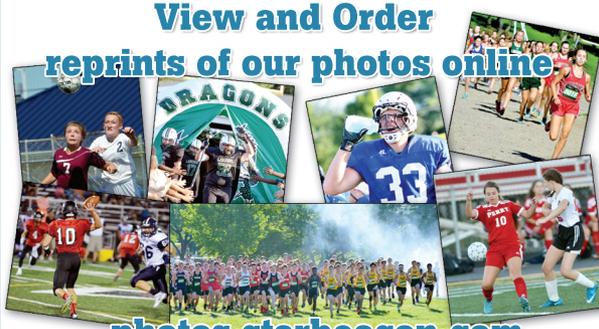
Edelman, Fair Board president.

The newly improved grandstand also offers disabled-accessible seating.

The years have seen a lot of changes for the Ashtabula County Agricultural Society, but the goals of the Society remain constant: “to promote the encouragement of agriculture, horticulture, and the rearing of better livestock, improvement of domestic science and art, promote general community betterment, together with all other commercial and educational interests of the county.”

This history includes information from articles by Arlie Keel, Catherine Ellsworth and the Jefferson Historical Society.

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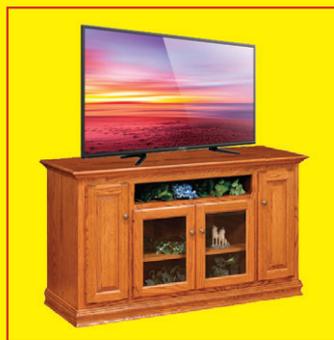
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