Country Nights
Carnival Lights

September 11-16, 2023

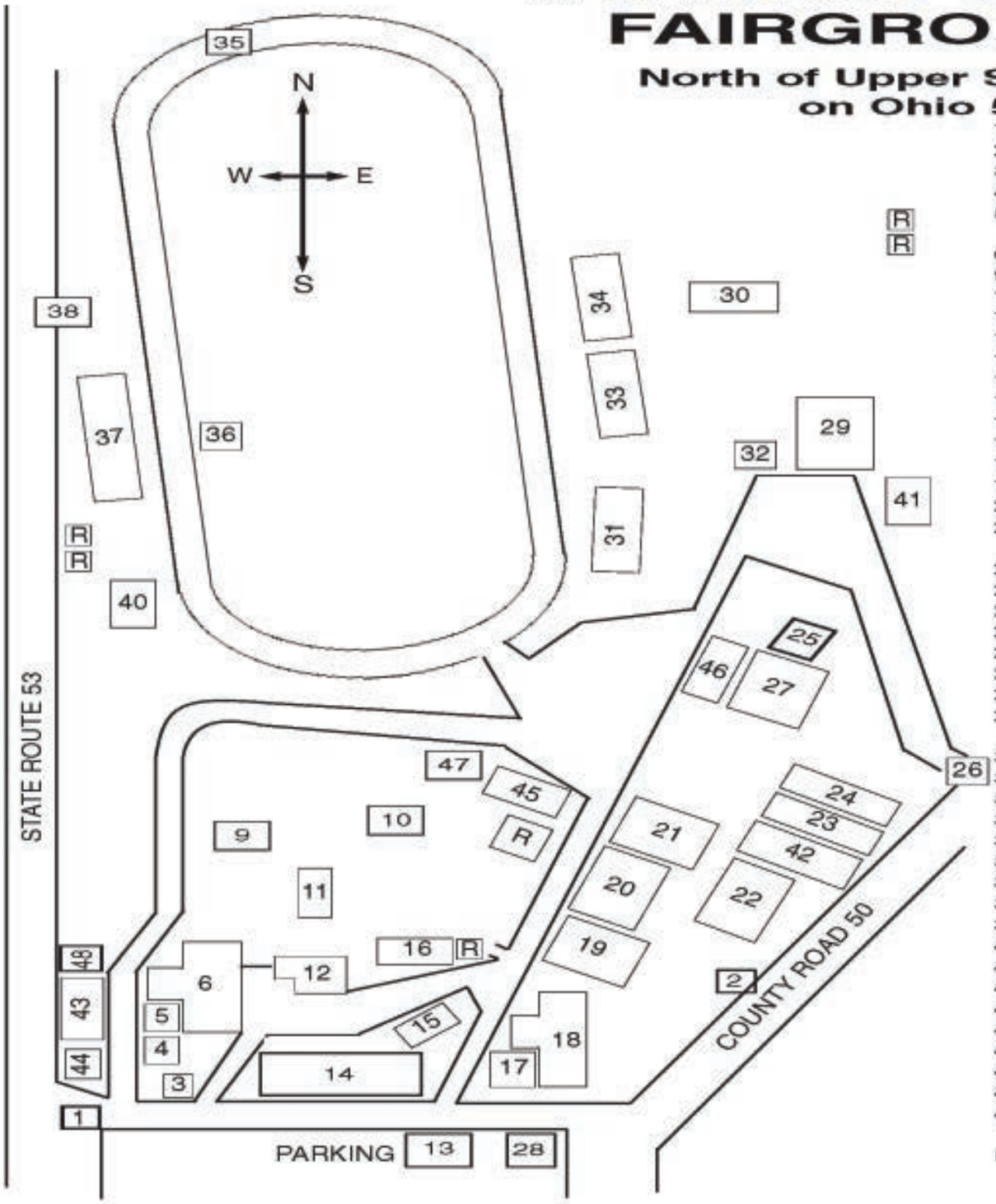
172ND WYANDOT COUNTY FAIR

The Daily Chief-Union

DailyChiefUnion.com

WYANDOT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

North of Upper Sandusky on Ohio 53



1. Main Gate
2. East Gate
3. Sheriff's Office
4. Arts Building
5. Culinary, flowers & vegetables
6. Merchants' Building
9. Midway
10. Implement Display
11. Merchants' Building
12. Dining Hall
13. McCleary Pavilion
14. Masters' Building
15. Jr. Fair Booth Building
16. Secretary's Office
17. Rabbit Building
18. Sheep and Poultry
19. Sheep and Swine
20. Jr. Fair Arena
21. Jr. Fair Dairy and Feeder Calves
22. Steer Barn
23. Feeder Calves
24. Beef and Dairy Cattle
25. Goat Arena
26. Northeast Gate
27. Goats
28. Fair Shop
29. 4-H Horses and Ponies
30. Speed Barn
31. Speed Barn
32. Speed Office
33. Speed Barn
34. Speed Barn
35. Race Track
36. Judges' Stand
37. Grandstand
38. North Gate
40. Scout Building
41. Horse Barn
42. Wash Rack
43. Log Cabin
44. Old Treasurer's Office
45. Fireman's Building
46. New Pony Barn
47. EMS
48. Conservation Building

R. Restrooms

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2023 Wyandot County Fair schedule

Saturday (Sept. 9)

Bring in open class exhibits, Art Hall . . . . . .8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Jr. Fair art exhibits, culinary building . . . . .8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Judging, open class Art Hall . . . . . .1 p.m.
Judging, Jr. Fair art exhibits . . . . . .1 p.m.

Sunday (Sept. 10)

Bring in Sr. Fair exhibits . . . . . .8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Bring in Jr. Fair exhibits . . . . . .8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Livestock scales open . . . . . .2-7 p.m.
Industrial arts to culinary building . . . . . .2-7 p.m.
4-H garden and crops to Jr Fair building . . . . .2-6 p.m.
Vo-ag garden and crops to FFA building . . . .2-6 p.m.
FFA gardening and crop judging . . . . . .6 p.m.
Church service, Masters' Building . . . . . .7 p.m.

Monday

Opening of 172nd Wyandot County Fair . . . . . .8 a.m.
Flag raising ceremony, Vets Association . . . . . .9 a.m.
Jr. Horse and pony judging, horse arena . . . . . 9 a.m.
Open culinary judging, Masters' . . . . . .9 a.m.
Open grain, vegetable judging, culinary bldg . .9 a.m.
Jr. poultry showmanship and poultry show - 9:30 a.m.
Jr. booth judging, jr. fair booth building . . .9:30 a.m.
Jr. dairy and open show, arena . . . . . .10 a.m.
Jr. goat judging, goat arena. . . . . 1 p.m.
Open class rabbit show, arena . . . . . .1 p.m.
Baked goods auction, Masters' Building . . . . . .4 p.m.
Open class swine show . . . . . .5 p.m.
Jr. Fair King and Queen Pageant, Masters' Building. . . . . .5:30 p.m.
Parade . . . . . .6:30 p.m.
HS Band Show, grandstand . . . . . .7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Veteran's Day

** All veterans admitted free with proof of service (today only)*

Jr. market hog judging and showmanship, arena arena . . . . . .8:30 a.m.
Jr. fair horse contesting, horse arena . . . . . .9 a.m.
Open flower judging, culinary building . . . . . .10 a.m.
Vets Day luncheon, Masters' Building . . . . .12-1 p.m.
Open market lamb show (open and jr. breeding sheep to follow) . . . . . .2 p.m..
Pari-mutuel Harness Racing (Super Stakes) at grandstand . . . . . .5 p.m.
Upper Galaxy Twirlers and No Limits Baton, outside Masters' Building . . . . . .5:30 p.m.
Wine judging, culinary building. . . . . 6 p.m.
Jr. fair market lamb judging and showmanship, arena . . . . . .6 p.m.
Wyandot County high school music show, Masters' Building . . . . . 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Senior Day

** Seniors (age 62 and up) admitted for $3 today only*

Jr. dairy feeders, arena . . . . . .8:30 a.m.
The Alans Magic Show, Masters' . . . . . .10:30 a.m.
Senior citizens luncheon, Masters' building. . . . . 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Live music from Todd Miller, Masters' . . . .12:30 p.m.
Gospel music, Masters' . . . . . .1-7 p.m.
Jr. rabbit judging, arena . . . . . .4 p.m.
Pari-mutuel harness racing (Super Stakes), grandstand . . . . . .5 p.m.
Calf scramble, horse arena . . . . . .6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Open horse judging, horse arena . . . . . .9 a.m.
Jr. beef breeding, arena . . . . . .1 p.m.
Jr. beef feeder calf show, arena . . . . . .3 p.m.
Venison chili, Wildlife Conservation Bldg. . . . . 4 p.m.
Jr. beef market steer/heifer, arena . . . . . .5 p.m.
BW Twirlers, outside Masters' . . . . . .6 p.m.
Concert- presenting Chad Brock, Ashley Barron and Jarrod Turner, grandstands (admission) . . . . . 7 p.m.

Friday

Jr. fair showmanship beef feeder . . . . . 8:30 a.m.
Open class beef judging . . . . . .following jr. fair showmanship.
AgCredit Pee Wee Showmanship- rabbits- Master's pavillion . . . . . 9 a.m.
Pony show, horse arena . . . . . .9 a.m.
AgCredit Pee Wee Showmanship- poultry- Masters' Pavillion . . . . . 10 a.m.
AgCredit Pee Wee Showmanship- swine- main arena . . . . . 11 a.m.
AgCredit Pee Wee Showmanship - dairy feeders, main arena . . . . . 12 p.m.
AgCredit Pee Wee Showmanship - lambs, goat arena . . . . . .1 p.m.
Draft horse show . . . . . .1 p.m.
COSI, north stage . . . . . .1 p.m.
AgCredit Pee Wee Showmanship- goats- goat arena . . . . . 2 p.m.
National Kiddie Tractor Pullers Association tractor pull, arena . . . . . .4 p.m.
Fun with Farm Bureau, arena . . . . . .6 p.m.
Demolition derby, grandstands . . . . .7 p.m.

Saturday

Jr. Fair Livestock Sale, arena . . . . . .9 a.m.
S'mores, Conservstion bldg. . . . . 11 a.m.
Culinary carry in contests, Masters' . . . . . 1 p.m.
Horse Committee fun show . . . . . .1 p.m.
Voting for fair directors, Masters' . . . . . .12-4 p.m.
Heart of a Champion livestock show, goat arena . . . . . 3 p.m.
Jr. fair showman of showmen, arena . . . . . .5 p.m.
Tractor pull ($10 grandstands, $10 pits), grandstands . . . . . .6:30 p.m.
Strong Buck Hill concert, north stage . . 9 p.m. to midnight
Closing of 172nd Wyandot County Fair . . . . . .midnight

Sunday

Mass, Masters' Building . . . . . .10:30 a.m.
Back to farm sale - dairy and beef feeders . . . . . 1 p.m.

Release Times:

Champion trailer . . . . . .8 a.m.
Draft horses . . . . . .8 a.m.
Base bids . . . . . 9 a.m.
Horses . . . . . 10 a.m.
All other animals . . . . . 11 a.m.
Art exhibits/4-H/FFA/Scout booths, merchant bldgs.. . . . . 11 a.m.

Nick Derr

Welcome to the 2023 Wyandot County Fair

I invite you to come to the Wyandot County Fair Sept. 11-16.

The fair board has been busy this year with many improvemetns to the grounds, buildings and events at the fair.

New to the fair this year is the return of a concert Thursday night featuring country artists Chad Brock, Ashley Barron and Jarrod Turner. Harness racing and the demolition derby have been moved to new nights. Harness racing will be Tuesday and Wednesday nights and the demolition derby will be 7 p.m. Friday night. OSTPA tractor pulling will again be on Saturday night.

Enjoy the array of free entertainment that will be featured at the fair this year, including the kiddie tractor pull, calf scramble, fun with the Farm Bureau, COSI, many music and talent shows, the county parade, livestock shows and tons of exhibits throughout the fair to see.

While enjoying all the spectacular events and exhibits, please be sure to enjoy some delicious fair food by our vendors or have some fun at the amusement rides and games.

There is something for everyone of every age to enjoy at the Wyandot County Fair.

Hope to see everyone at the fair!
Nick Derr
Wyandot County Fair Board President

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Denny Derr

Denny Derr joins senior fair board

Lifelong Wyandot County resident Denny Derr has taken the Crawford Township seat on the Wyandot County Senior Fair Board this year.

Originally from Wharton, Derr grew up on a farm and has been a farmer his whole life. Derr graduated from Riverdale High School where he participated in 4-H and FFA. He currently farms corn, soy beans, wheat, and bales hay and straw.

Derr is heavily involved in the community and serves as an EMT and firefighter for Wyandot County while working as the safety director at Kasai. Derr also is a Crawford Township trustee.

Derr has been married for 40 years with two daughters, Samantha and Angie. He moved to Carey after getting married. Derr also has grandchildren. After years of taking steers to the Wyandot County Fair himself, his daughters also showed steers.

Derr said his grandkids will be showing dairy feeders in Hancock County and Wyandot County this year. He said he grew up watching his uncle on the fair board and has always been heavily involved.

"I've been involved with the fair my entire life," Derr said.

Derr said he is often invloved with any safety aspects of the community. He said he is involved with the group in charge of safety for this year's fair. He has served as an EMT at the fair every year.

The opportunity arose for Derr to become part of the Senior Fair Board and after being heavily involved in the farming and fair community his whole life, it seemed natural.

"I thought, OK, I'll see if I can help," Derr said.

Derr said there has been quite a lot of work going on behind the scenes in preparation for the fair and everyone is working hard. He said the advising boards, junior boards and supporting groups have been putting in a lot of effort.

Derr said his aim is to help make improvements overall and to make the fair all about the children.

"It's all about the kids — the junior fair kids and making memories," Derr said. "That's where all the focus needs to be."

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Treasurer Tom Needs retires from senior fair board after serving for 47 years

All good things must come to an end, and that's the case for longtime Wyandot County Senior Fair Board member Tom Needs, who has represented Crane Township on the board for 47 years. Needs has announced he will step down after this year's fair.

"I'm getting older and I don't have the energy that I used to have," Needs said. "It's time to turn it over to somebody younger who maybe has some fresh ideas. We're switching over to a lot of computer things at the gates and thank goodness there's a guy on the board who knows about all that so I've been turning some of that responsibility over to him. Computers are a foreign language to me, so I feel like I'm getting out at the right time."

Being a member of the fair board came honestly for Needs.

"My grandfather was on the fair board growing up so I talked to the president in 1974 and said if there was ever an opening that comes up, I'd like to be considered," he said. "In August 1977, I got a call that they had a member representing Crane Township that was resigning and would I be interested in serving in that position. I said I'd be glad to."

Needs grew up in Wyandot County. He was an eight-year member of 4-H, then went on to get his teaching degree from Bluffton College, where he met his wife Janel. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2019. He taught in the Plymouth School District for four years before finishing his education career with 26 years at Upper Sandusky, where he said he's very proud to have started the special education program.

Needs said his first Wyandot County Fair as a member of the fair board was a memorable one.

"The first year I was on the fair board, it rained and rained and rained," he said. "Back then, we didn't have the tar and chipped walkways. It was all mud, and there were indentations in the ground in front of the food trailers, so it was all water and mud and no one wanted to stand in it to order or pick up food. We ended up bringing in truckloads and truckloads of sawdust to try to fill those in."

When he first started, Needs had some unique responsibilities with the fair board.

"I was put in charge of the camping," Needs said. "At that time, it was a real hassle, especially with the carnies, because you had to go to the trailer, knock on the door, and try to collect their rent money for the fair. That was before golf carts, so it was a long way to walk from the local people down on the south side, then local people in the horse area, then the carnies were on Ohio 53 and some of them would hide behind their booths at the fair. I used to get up on the Ferris wheel and look down to see what campers were kind of hidden. Then when you went to the door to knock, they wouldn't come to the door because they knew why you were there. You'd have to go back again and again until you got somebody. Now that all gets taken care of with the contract in the fair office.

On top of camping, Needs was in charge of rabbits and goats while also helping out with all general activities and events. He's also been in charge of the parade, maintaining the grandstands and even measuring lots and placing stakes for the camping area.

He's seen some wild weather over the years.

"One year in 1988, the year of the drought, we didn't have rain all summer, then the Monday before the fair when everybody was bringing their projects in, we had 9 inches of rain," Needs said. "All that powder turned to mud and even before the fair started, we had four-wheel drive pickups stuck in the parking lot and tore everything up. People were afraid to come to the fair because they didn't want to get stuck.

"We had windstorms and one year, then-Sheriff Mike Hetzel had to shut the fair down early on a Sunday for safety issues due to high winds. There was a time when the big beam in the grandstand broke and that got condemned. That was a real project tearing that down, then coming up with the money for the bleachers that are out there now."

For the past six years, Needs has served the fair board as its treasurer.

(Continued on page 9)

Tom Needs

"Connecting the Generations"

...while celebrating the 171st Wyandot County Fair!

Amy Smalley, Betty Smiley, Becca Kinley, Wendy T. Reid, & Dan Reid

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Six candidates in the running for Wyandot County Fair Queen

Bailey Fox

Malainy Boes

Emma Beamer

Mia Miller

QUEEN CANDIDATES

Bailey Fox

Bailey Fox is a daughter of Jeff and Wendy Fox. She is a senior at Upper Sandusky High School and is a member of the Stable Stompers 4-H club.

Fox is also a member of the Upper Sandusky FFA, where she has participated in county soils judging and county equine, with business management being her SAE project.

At USHS, Fox is active in Young Professionals, Spanish club, varsity softball and basketball.

After graduating high school, she wants to attend college and continue her softball career at the collegiate level.

To Fox, being the Wyandot County fair queen means teaching young kids how to show, work with their animals and that hard work pays off. She would like to be a role model for every young girl or boy as someone they can count on for good advice or just a helping hand.

Malainy Boes

Malainy Boes is a daughter of Kevin and Tina Boes and is a senior at Upper Sandusky High School, where she is active in National Honor Society, marching band, majorette and the Upper Sandusky FFA, currently serving as president.

During her time in 4-H and FFA, Boes has shown dairy cattle and served as the 2022 Wyandot County dairy queen. She has competed in numerous county, regional and state FFA competitions like public speaking, job interview, dairy cattle judging, parliamentary procedure, soil judging and farm business management. She also helps serve and coordinate the Klondike booth in the merchants building for the county fair.

For her community, Boes volunteers for Upper's Winer Fantasy of Lights, trash pick-up, nursing home activities, petting zoos for nursing homes and the library, and helps with vacation Bible school for Kirby St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Boes would like to be recognized as the 2023 Wyandot County junior fair queen to display the passion she possesses for agriculture and the junior fair organization.

Emma Beamer

Emma Beamer is a daughter of Daniel Beamer. She is a senior at Upper Sandusky High School.

Beamer is a 4-H and FFA member and also has been active in Girl Scouts and Young Women of Excellence. During her time in Junior Fair organizations, Beamer has taken goats, poultry, and has participated in poultry judging, soil judging and sales.

She has worked at A&A and Fort 88, and is a member of the Upper Sandusky Rams band, Young Professionals and CCP, and attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

After graduating, Beamer plans to attend The University of Alabama in Huntsville to major in aerospace engineering.

Having faced adversity in her life, Beamer says the title of fair queen would not only prove that everything she has worked for has been worth it, but it might also inspire someone else to try something new that they weren't sure they could succeed in.

Mia Miller

Mia Miller is a daughter of Gina and Jason Zender and Eric Miller. She is a senior at Mohawk High School.

Miller is an eight-year member of the Mohawk Town and Country 4-H club, serves as a camp counselor and participates in the Mentorship Club at Mohawk. During her time in 4-H, Miller has taken goats and done cake decorating.

(Continued on page 7)

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Good Luck to all Fair Participants!

Candidates attend Upper Sandusky and Mohawk high schools

Enola Ramirez

Leah Herring

(Continued from page 6)

During her free time in the summer, Miller volunteers at Wyandot Memorial Hospital, does trash pick-up with her 4-H club and sometimes will umpire baseball and softball games.

At Mohawk, Miller is active in volleyball and basketball, choir, musical, all state choir and student council. Miller has attended Sentinel Career and Technology center in the nails and esthetics program. Miller works at A Cut Above in Upper Sandusky.

After graduating high school, she is planning on getting a degree in law or business management, while still continuing her nail and esthetics career through college to gain income while going to school.

Miller wants to be the 2023 fair queen to represent the county and show kids that hard work and determination can get you very far if you just put your mind to it.

Enola Ramirez

Enola is a daughter of Heidi and Anthony Ramirez. She is a senior at Mohawk High School and a member of the Mohawk Town and Country 4-H club.

During her time in 4-H, Ramirez took Your Thoughts Matter, Family Treasure Hunt, woodworking, horseless horse, photography, archery, rabbits, and My Favorite Things projects.

At Mohawk, Ramirez is active in band, choir, show choir, musicals, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, student council, Drug Free Clubs of America, NSHSS, National Technical Honor Society and Mentorship Club.

Upon graduating from high school, Ramirez will continue to work as a nail technician and esthetician.

Ramirez wants to be the fair queen so she can be a positive role model for the younger girls in the community to try to inspire them to become the Wyandot County queen.

Leah Herring

Leah Herring is a daughter of Jim and Julie Herring and is a senior at Upper Sandusky High School, where she is active in tennis, swimming, track, marching band, symphonic band, pep and jazz band, and she is an honor student.

Herring is a 12-year member of the River Roundup 4-H Club and a four-year member of the Upper Sandusky FFA. During her time in 4-H, FFA and Girl Scouts, Herring has engaged in many projects and activities such as photography, market lambs, scrapbooking, nutrition, sewing, financial success, cooking, corn and soybeans, Skillathon, CarTeens, soil judging, forestry, parliamentary procedure and more.

She has earned her state FFA degree and serves as the FFA treasurer. Herring has had the opportunity to represent Wyandot County with her 4-H and FFA projects and activities at the state and national level several times.

In the community, Herring participates in community band, Emanuel United Church of Christ member and its youth group, is a volunteer for a haunted corn maze, collected food for the food pantry, helped with activities at the nursing home, passed out flags before the Memorial Day parade, and planted flowers at the Harpster Community Center.

After graduation, Herring is considering attending The Ohio State University ATI, Wooster, and possibly majoring in agricultural business.

Herring believes the Wyandot County Fair brings the whole community together to celebrate agriculture and is excited about the opportunity to be able to represent Wyandot County and share her experiences with others outside her local community. She would like to be the Wyandot County fair queen because the Wyandot County Fair has a special place in her heart, and she wants to inspire the next generation of youth to keep advocating for agriculture.

Eli Kidwell

KING CANDIDATES
Eli Kidwell

Eli Kidwell is a son of Earl and Dawn Kidwell. He is a senior at Upper Sandusky High School, where he is active in soccer, golf, track and FFA.

As an eight-year 4-H member and four-year FFA member, Kidwell has taken projects in the following areas: swine, dairy and beef feeders, goats, welding, hay and pumpkin crops, camp counselor, woodworking, SAE poster, home improvement and work placement.

(Continued on page 8)

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Three candidates in the running for Wyandot County Fair King

Carson Dunn

Benjamin Ault

Continued from page 7)

He has served on the Junior Fair board, was the 2022 Wyandot County Fair swine king, is the current Upper Sandusky FFA student adviser, holds his state FFA degree, and has participated in many FFA judging events, most notably being a national FFA soil judging participant.

Kidwell attends acolyte for First Lutheran Church and serves as a Bible school helper.

Kidwell currently attends Sentinel Career Center for welding and plans to attend Terra State Community College for welding after he graduates high school.

Being the Wyandot county Fair king always has been a dream of Kidwell's, as many of his family has been on the court or king or queen. Kidwell says this opportunity would allow him to proudly represent his 4-H club, FFA chapter, family and the Wyandot County Fair.

Carson Dunn

Carson Dunn is a son of Wendy and Burt Perkins and a senior at Upper Sandusky High School, where he is active in FFA, band and industrial arts.

Dunn has also served on the Conservation Teen Advisory Council (ConTAC) for a year and has taken part in community service opportunities and his local church ministry.

His FFA projects have included making a welded flag hitch, wooden box and Stansbery Seed and Service SAE poster.

After graduating, Dunn plans to attend Hocking College for fisheries management and aquaculture sciences. He then wants to work for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for fisheries management.

Dunn wants to be the fair king because he believes it would be a wonderful learning experience for him and an opportunity to help, grow, and better himself as a person.

Benjamin Ault

Ben Ault is a son of Kevin and Jessica Ault. He is a senior at Upper Sandusky High School, where he is active in FFA, marching band, pep band, golf, tennis and swimming. He also has served on the Junior Fair board.

Within the community, Ault has been a part of Pheasants Forever, Reignite Ministry and Ducks Unlimited.

During his time in FFA, Ben has earned his state FFA degree, has participated in county soils, tractor troubleshooting, novice parli and job interview. FFA has given him the opportunity to travel to Belize and Colorado, and he has attended FFA state and national conventions.

Other projects have included highway cleanup through Adopt-a-Highway, working at a farm and at Romich's, building a wooden box, and creating a working floor lamp from recycled materials.

After graduation, Ben plans to attend Ohio State University to become an industrial arts and math teacher.

Ault says being the 2023 Junior Fair king would be another step in developing his leadership skills and will help him develop more friendships and work with people he would not normally have the chance to work with.

2022 Wyandot County Fair Queen Baylee Shriver is crowned

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FAIR PARTICIPANTS!

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Needs: It's been my privilege to serve the people of Wyandot County

(Continued on page 9)

"It's been a lot of work, especially when I had no idea what I was getting into when I first started," he said. "The ladies who counted all the money and all that, they retired the year I started, so my first year as treasurer was basically a nightmare. I didn't know what I was doing. We hired somebody who was recommended and they didn't know what they were doing either, but we needed a second lady to help count money and she turned out to be a godsend. She had worked at a credit union in Forest and dealt with money and paperwork and she saved my butt that first year."

Needs will have plenty left on his plate after retiring from the fair board. He's active with the Wyandot County Historical Society, at his church and is president of the WyandotCARES organization.

"I tell people I'm a professional volunteer now," he said. "That's my job. I have 11 grandkids that I try to follow in all their activities and endeavors."

Over the years, he's been involved in a variety of sports throughout the community. He coached fifth and sixth grade basketball, helped with the Upper Sandusky tennis program for decades, announced for the high school football games and most recently helped run the scoreboard clock at football games.

"Most important to me, I just enjoy seeing all the people enjoying themselves," he said. "I look at it as the only county-wide event of the year. There's other festivals here and there, but this is for the whole county. Now that we've got all those benches, people love that they can just sit and let the fair come by them and see people they may not have seen since last fair and catch up with their families. That's why I stayed on for so many years. I try to be community-minded."

Needs had a variety of unique experiences while serving on the fair board that he wouldn't have had otherwise.

"I got to participate in my first butchering through the fair," he said. "They used to do a big sausage fundraiser and I helped butcher pig carcasses, cutting meat off bones to get them ground into sausages and helped make pork cracklings out of pig skins, snouts and more. That was all new to me. I hated to see the sausage fundraiser go, because it was a community thing that people enjoyed, but now we've got the reverse raffle instead and they make 10 times more than we ever did selling sausage. They say the only person who likes change is a wet, dirty baby, but that was a good change."

Needs also met a lot of special people over the years while serving on the fair board and he's thankful to each and every one of them.

"It was wonderful getting to meet people over the years on the fair board," he said. "The board is made up from people in townships all over the county. I've had a chance to meet a lot of interesting people. It used to be almost entirely composed of farmers and their stay-at-home wives. It's a lot more diverse now."

And while many things have changed over the years, he's thankful that many of the Wyandot County Fair's traditions have stuck around.

"I'm glad Wyandot County Fair is still a fair and not a carnival," Needs said. "I also love how the buildings have been maintained so nicely with new ones added. It's been my privilege to serve the people of Wyandot County on the senior fair board."

Tom Needs and his wife Janel

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Wyandot County Fairgrounds saw significant upgrades in recent months

The Wyandot County Senior Fair Board has been hard at work with a series of significant renovations and upgrades heading into the 2023 Wyandot County Fair.

"We've been very busy this year," Fair Board President Nick Derr said.

One of the biggest renovations was an upgrade to the fair's dining hall.

"We got a $45,000 grant from Upper's Winter Fantasy of Lights," Derr said. "It went into redoing the kitchen area of the dining hall. We have all new appliances, all new counters, all new lighting in the kitchen area. When you go in there now, it really brightened up the kitchen area. New fridge, freezers, all that."

After the fair, Derr said the senior fair board is going to finish up a different kind of ceiling and lighting in the dining room area.

"There's still more to come." he said.

Clear Cut Construction, Herbert Electric, Parsell Plumbing and AgCredit all helped with the dining hall upgrades.

The Upper Sandusky Lions Club repainted the entire outside of the dining hall. The old merchant's building, the culinary and the art hall also all got painted and the back side of the DeMolay building had metal siding added.

"It's amazing what a fresh coat of paint will do," Derr said.

Another big upgrade at the fair is a new sound system in the big show arena, which was made possible after a donation from the Wyandot Cattlemen's Association.

"We used the new sound system for the microwrestling weekend and it worked great," Derr said. "The sheep association had their show in June and it worked great. They could understand everything. Music was playing on it. It was a major improvement."

On the livestock side, the goat arena has new pens after a donation from the Buckle Bash Sheep and Goat Show.

"The goat projects have taken off the last few years and the original goat barn was not big enough," Derr said. "We added 24 new pens. From what I've been told, the goat barn plus the 24 new pens will be full this year. We're above and beyond capacity, which is great."

The goat arena wasn't the only building that saw some upgrades. A group of volunteers helped open up parts of the feeder barn to improve ventilation for the calves and other barns received regular maintenance and upkeep.

Fencing was added to the race track on the north side of the fairgrounds.

"We did halfway around the race track on the north end and hopefully next year we can go the rest of the way around, then the whole race track will be fenced in and there will be no more guard rail."

Another big addition is the expansion of the demolition derby area in front of the grandstands with the help of dirt delivered by Kirby's Sand and Gravel.

"We widened the demolition derby track and the pulling track so they're 10 feet wider," Derr said. "We're trying to give them a little more room to maneuver for the derby and the tractor pull."

An extremely visible new feature is the digital sign at the fair's entrance, which was installed just this week.

"The new LED sign was set up Tuesday at the fair entrance," Derr said. "We got money from the state for improvements and we used it for that. It was in the works for the past 4-5 years and we got it accomplished. We'll add some decoration a the bottom after the fair for sure."

The LED sign will be used year-round for events happening at the fair. Derr said the fair board is talking about doing advertising on the sign from area businesses.

The final building upgrade in the offseason was the log cabin, which was pressure washed, restained by Pat Kinley.

Something junior fair exhibitors can look forward to this year is free fair photography.

"Ella Orians is doing livestock for the junior fair and Jessica Karcher is doing the horses," Derr said. "The pictures will be available online in case anyone wants to print them off for free. The fair board paid for them to do it."

A new LED sign was installed Tuesday at the fairgrounds

The fair also continues to modernize by adding the ability to pay with credit cards for entrance at the main gate as well as entrance into the grandstands.

Looking ahead, the fair can expect to have its utilities upgraded for the 2024 fair.

"We got money from the commissioners for new transformers," Derr said. "They arrived (Wednesday). They won't be installed in time for the fair, but we'll be able to install them after the fair."

The transformers were made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act. According to Derr, the new transformers are much-needed.

"Last year, 15 minutes into the fair we blew transformers," he said. "They were a year out. They're on the ground now and they can be there in case anything goes south this year."

This past year marked some of the most significant renovations for the Wyandot County Fairgrounds in recent memory. Derr said he hopes all the work that was put into the fairgrounds will be appreciated by fairgoers.

"It's been a terrific year," he said. "We can't wait for everyone to come out and see what we've been working so hard to improve."

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Walton family celebrates 50th year at the Wyandot County Fair

This year will be the 50th consecutive year that descendants of the Walton family of Wyandot County will be participating in the Wyandot County Fair.

While the history of the Walton family participating in the county fair goes back further than 50 years, there was a small gap in the timeline.

Agnes and Daniel Walton lived in Upper Sandusky in the early 1900s and were 4-H advisers. They had a son named Philip, who was born in 1941. Philip Walton showed hogs at the Wyandot County Fair in the 1950s and sat on the fair court. Philip would go on to marry Michele, and the pair acted as 4-H advisers. The Waltons continued to live in Upper Sandusky and were involved with the fair and agriculture at large while raising their children.

Philip and Michele Walton went on to have three daughters who also participated in the fair, Elaine Tschanen, Melissa Zimmerman and Dawn Kidwell. The three girls lived in Upper Sandusky and graduated from Upper Sandusky High School.

Tschanen was active on the fair scene from 1973-1983. During that time she was a member of 4-H, where she showed swine and participated in sewing, cooking and gardening. She even showed goats one year for a friend.

Tschanen also was a 4-H adviser in the past and she currently is on staff at the Wyandot County 4-H Camp.

From 1974-1985, Zimmerman was actively involved in agriculture and fair events. She was a part of 4-H clubs and showed swine. She also was a 4-H adviser. Zimmerman was crowned the Wyandot County Swine Queen in 1984.

Between 1984-1995, Kidwell was involved in both 4-H and FFA. Kidwell has a history of showing swine, dairy feeders, dairy steers and chickens. She was also involved with gardening, cooking, sewing, fishing and archery in 4-H.

Kidwell was a member of the Wyandot County Junior Fair Board and was crowned as the Wyandot Country Junior Fair Queen in 1994. In addition to being on the fair board, she acted as a 4-H adviser and is currently part of the Wyandot County 4-H Camp adult staff. She also works for the OSU extension in charge of food, agricultural and environmental sciences.

Continuing the tradition of being involved in the fair and farming, Tschanen, Zimmerman and Kidwell all have two children of their own.

Melissa Zimmerman's oldest son, Jason Zimmerman, was involved in the fair from 1994-2005. Like his family, he was involved in 4-H and FFA, where he showed swine, dairy feeders and beef feeders. He also participated in photography, learning about ATVs, fishing and archery through 4-H. Jason was on the Wyandot County Junior Fair Board. He currently is a 4-H adviser in Paulding County.

Melissa Zimmerman's youngest son, Zach Zimmerman, participated in 4-H and FFA from 1997-2008. During that time he showed swine and dairy feeders. He also participate in fishing, learned about ATVs and archery during 4-H.

Tschanen had two sons as well, with the oldest being Seth and the youngest being Logan. From 1999-2009 Seth was involved with 4-H and FFA. He showed swine, beef feeders, steers and heifers.

Logan participated in 4-H and FFA from the years 2005-2015. He showed swine, rabbits and beef feeders. He also was interested in art during 4-H.

Dawn Kidwell's two children are her daughter MacKenzie and her son Eli. MacKenzie participated in 4-H and FFA from 2010-2019. She showed swine and dairy feeders. She also was involved in cooking, gardening and photography through 4-H. She was a 4-H camp counselor as well. MacKenzie sat on the fair court and was crowned the Wyandot County Fair Queen in 2019.

Eli has been a part of 4-H and FFA since 2015 and currently is still involved. He has a history of showing swine, dairy feeders, beef feeders and goats.

(Continued on page 12).

Eli Kidwell

Dawn Kidwell

Jason Zimmerman

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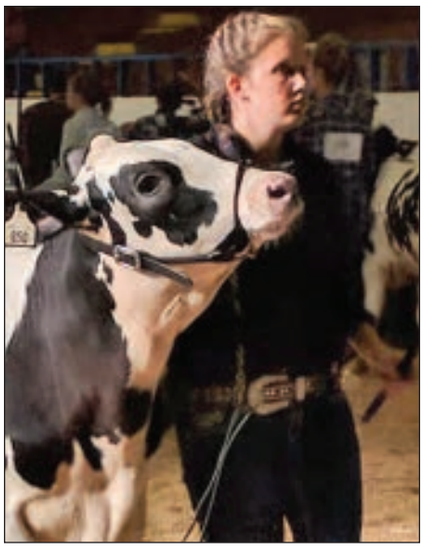
Zach Zimmerman

Seth Tschanen

Stephanie (Koehler) Lamp (left) and Dawn Kidwell



MacKenzie Kidwell

Jason and Zach Zimmerman

Dawn Kidwell

MacKenzie and Eli Kidwell

Walton family still farming today

(Continued from page 11)

Through 4-H he also was involved with welding and being a camp counselor.

Eli has sat on the Wyandot County Junior Fair Board and was crowned Wyandot County Swine King in 2022. He is a Wyandot County Junior Fair King candidate for this year.

Jason Zimmerman also has two children who will be carrying on the family traditions. Ella Zimmerman, Jason's oldest daughter, has been involved in 4-H activities for a few years and will be showing chickens in Paulding County. Jason Zimmerman's youngest daughter, Ilah is currently a Cloverbud in 4-H.

Kidwell said there will likely be even more involvement from her family as the younger children grow older. She said Wyandot County is built on deep roots and traditions.

"A lot of kids that are showing come from family backgrounds like ours and they keep passing down the wisdom, knowledge, showmanship and respect," Kidwell said.

Present Involvement

Kidwill said her whole family has been involved in farming and agriculture to varying degrees and her children have grown up around the family traditions. She said she got the idea to submit her family's history to the newspaper after a conversation with a family friend. Kidwell said she realized that their family has a long line of fair involvement and decided to compile their information.

Kidwell and her siblings made farm life and agriculture an integral part of raising their children.

"My kids grew up watching their animals being born and raising them until it was time to butcher," Kidwell said.

Kidwell said her sisters and their families still are very involved with farming. Elaine Tschanen raises cattle alongside her husband. Their son Logan also raises cattle with his wife.

Melissa Zimmerman raises cattle and hogs with her husband. Her son Zach manages confinement hog barns and his wife is a veterinarian.

Dawn Kidwell, her husband and her son Eli raise hay and Dawn said Eli sees a future in farming and agriculture. Dawn's daughter MacKenzie currently attends Ohio State University where she is in the pre-vet program for both large and small animals. MacKenzie has always had a love of animals.

"Her love of animals started in the barn with her grandpa and she wanted to continue," Dawn Kidwell said.

Fair time is still a family affair, with family members showing up to watch Dawn's son Eli show. This year he will show hogs, dairy feeders, beef feeders and goats, totaling six animals.

"So even after everything we are a very agriculture-bound family," Dawn Kidwell said.

Kidwell touched on the perseverance and dedication it takes to show animals and be a part of the fair, as well as involved in farm life overall. She said it can be difficult for kids and adults to part with their animals at the end of the season.

"There are years you get more attached to animals than other years," Kidwell said.

Kidwell also said children and teens who are involved in 4-H and FFA have to work very hard and balance their personal, school, work and home life carefully.

"A lot of these kids are playing sports or have a job and they really have a big responsibility of making sure animals are taken care of," she said.

Kidwell outlined the process of sitting on the fair court and it is a process where candidates have to fill out an application and get interviewed. Anyone applying for a position must have had at least three years of 4-H work completed or two years in any other junior fair organization.

The Wyandot County Jr. Fair King and Queen pageant will take place at 5:30 p.m. Sept 11. at the Masters' Building.

Kidwell and her family will be present among many other long-standing families in Wyandot County during this year's fair.

"It's the greatest show on earth that week," Kidwell said.

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Country concert coming to the fair

A country music concert featuring Chad Brock, Ashley Barron and Jarrod Turner will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday in the grandstands at the Wyandot County Fairgrounds.

Senior Fair Board member Pat Karcher said he became interested in having the country artists perform at the Wyandot County Fair while he and other board members attended a January fair manager convention.

"This group of bands caught our eye," Karcher said. "It was something different we hadn't had at the fair in a long time, so we were gonna give it a shot."

Chad Brock was born in Florida and was previously a professional wrestler before beginning his country music career in the '90s. Brock has three albums and has been nominated for Academy of Country Music awards in the past. He is currently working on another album, as well as hosting a television show, "The Chad Brock Show," on The Country Network. His discography includes songs such as, "Yes!," "Ordinary Life" and many more.

Ashley Barron has not been on the country music scene as long as Brock but has already had one of her songs, "Beer in a Bar," top the Billboard at No. 37. Barron is open about her diagnosis of linear scleroderma and celiac disease and is a celebrity ambassador for the National Scleroderma Foundation. Barron also produced the song "Let Me Go" and her newest single "The Wind."

Jarrod Turner is considered an up and coming country singer who is originally from Sturgeon, Missouri. Turner has a single titled "Love Ain't Got No Time to Waste." All three artists can be found on Spotify and other social media platforms.

Karcher explained the artists are individual acts but are all based out of Nashville. He said he and the other board members contacted the artists' promoter and worked through winter and spring to get the concert secured.

Tickets to the event can be purchased at thewyandotcountyfair.com. Grandstands seating is $20 per ticket and VIP seats in front of the grandstands are $30 per ticket.

Karcher said there has not been a major concert at the Wyandot County Fair since he has sat on the board. He said there have been numerous other shows and activities but not necessarily live music.

Karcher said in previous years there have been rodeos, monster trucks, Budweiser Clydesdales and more alongside the annual tractor pull and demolition derby. He mentioned the family camping weekend the board hosted in the spring.

"We try to change it up some so that we have a variety," Karcher said.

Jarrod Turner

Chad Brock

Ashley Barron

Karcher cares about the fair

Originally from Seneca County, Senior Fair Board Member Pat Karcher has lived in Wyandot County for about 10 years and has a lot of family in the area. He was in 4-H Club when he was younger and said his family always had some hand in farming.

"I've been around it almost all my life," Karcher said.

Karcher is a retired meat cutter who has 55 years of experience working with race horses. Since retiring 13 years ago, Karcher trains horses and used to ride a little in his youth.

Karcher is a member of the United States Trotting Organization and the Ohio Harness Horsemen Association while actively participating in fair events.

Karcher said in the past few years there have been improvement projects happening to maintain the fairgrounds for residents.

"General upkeep has been a big interest to me," Karcher said.

Karcher said a project was started last year in which people could donate $200 to purchase a tree in honor of a family member or themselves. The tree would have a plaque placed on it and would be planted around the fairgrounds. Karcher said 20 trees were planted last year and more are going to be planted this year.

Along with buildings being repainted and half of a chain link fence going up around the race track (with the rest potentially going up next year), the dining hall has been remodeled. Karcher said the remodel was courtesy of the Upper Sandusky Fantasy of Lights and private donations.

"I think everyone will be pleasantly surprised at how much brighter and nicer it is in there," Karcher said.

Karcher said there are many fair board members working on the projects in preparation for the fair and he tries to help where he can.

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A fair experience is like church

Rev. Jim Stauffer

Trinity Evangelical Church

This next week is the Wyandot County Fair — and it is something to crow about! When you go to the fair you experience a community effort to show our very best skills and animals, to celebrate the efforts and projects of our neighbors and friends, to see displays of our local businesses and groups, and to eat a smorgasbord of delicious foods.

I believe a great fair experience can be a great church experience!

In the Old Testament, God's people gathered together in the fall for special times of celebration, remembrance and sacrifice. Friday of the fair begins the celebration of Rosh Hashanah, or the Jewish New Year is concluded by Yom Kippur, which goes to sunset on Monday, Sept. 25. The Feast of Tabernacles will go from Sept. 29 to Oct. 6 this year. Each day was marked by special gatherings of the whole community, bringing their very best animals to God, and remembering the goodness the God had blessed them with in past generations. You can read Leviticus 23 for the full direction of the Old Testament feasts and festivals.

Jesus made special use of each of these gatherings to point people towards the larger, spiritual truth God had designed for us. The Jewish New Year was accompanied by trumpets (the band show is Monday night at 7:30 pm at the Fair) — and was a reminder of judgment for all of us. It was a time for celebrating together and eating apples dipped in honey. Yom Kippur was a time for repentance — and atonement by the sacrifice of an animal. The Feast of Tabernacles was a seven-day camping holiday to remind God's people of how they had lived when He delivered them in the wilderness. As God's people gathered, ate and celebrated — they were reminded of their greater purpose — to glorify the God who had made them, saved them and loved them.

When we are told about Jesus in the temple turning over tables — it probably looked a lot more like the Wyandot County Fair than a modern Sunday morning church service.

If we learn to be sensitive to God's presence and leading in us — the fair provides a multitude of ways to worship, fellowship and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to begin our county fair with a worship service — 7 p.m. Sunday at the Masters' Building! You are invited!.

Seeing friends and neighbors walking the midway or sitting on benches provide opportunity to deepen friendships and connections, and enjoying all the fair food and the efforts of others is a form of worship and thanksgiving.

I believe Jesus would be excited about going to our fair! It would a chance to connect and challenge as He did in His own time of gathering. We get that chance this week. I encourage you to go to the fair — and to use the time to honor God and share that love with others!

AgCredit putting on Pee Wee Showmanship event at the fair

Children 3 and up will have an opporunity to showcase their skills with the new Pee Wee Showmanship event happening Friday at the Wyandot County Fair.

Lending Manager at AgCredit in Upper Sandusky Ashley Snyder discussed AgCredit's involvement with supporting and funding the Pee Wee Showmanship event.

Friday is AgCredit day and Snyder, along with Melissa Miller and Austin Searfoss, have worked to change the amount of animals the Pee Wee division in showmanship are allowed to show. Snyder explained the showmanship process as being what the children do correctly while handling the animals. Participants have to show they can handle their chosen species, they have to dress appropriately and set up correctly.

In previous years, AgCredit has supported the showing of swine in the Pee Wee division. Snyder said most branches of AgCredit support the showing of swine across Ohio, but last year the Upper Sandusky branch broke out and added goats to the mix. It went over well, so Snyder, Miller and Searfoss decided to support all species.

"We're offering this to the younger kids to have the opportunity to try some different species before 4-H age, so they know what they want to take to the fair," Snyder said.

Snyder explained the children aged 3-9 will be allowed to handle rabbits, poultry, lambs, swine and goats. Children aged 5-9 also can choose to handle dairy feeders.

Snyder explained that all participants get a free T-shirt and AgCredit will be funding the shirts, trophies and ribbons. Almost all volunteer judges work for AgCredit.

Snyder said this year's event was a group effort between herself, Miller and Searfoss. All three have 4-H and FFA backgrounds.

"All three of us grew up showing at the fair," Snyder said.

Snyder said she wishes all participants good luck and hopes everyone has a good time.

A 2022 fair pig

Thirsty rabbit at the 2022 fair

Sheep showmanship at 2022 Wyandot County Fair

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Harness racing moves to new nights

Back again for another year for the community are the Pari-mutuel harness races at the grandstands, although they will be moving to new nights. The races will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday at the grandstands area of the fair.

Unlike in previous years, fairgoers will not have the option to bet on races this year at the fairgrounds.

Enjoying the races will continue to be free for spectators. Organizer Ted Williams said it can be fun for spectators to compete against family and friends they're watching with by picking out which horse they think will win for friendly, free competition.

"My grandkids do that," said Williams, who has been involved with harness racing at the fair since 1976. "We get probably over 100 [spectators a night]. We'd like to fill that grandstand."

Williams has previously said he believed the races have been taking place for over a century at the Wyandot County Fair. It's a well-known place to race that draws competitors from Michigan, Indiana, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and, of course, Ohio.

"Usually, the people that race the fair circuits, they've got certain fairs they like to race," Williams said. "Luckily, we're one of them. We'll have anywhere from 12 to 15 races a night. We've got one of the best tracks in the state and one good thing about our fair is it's a week before the Delaware (Ohio) County Fair where the Little Brown Jug runs — so therefore there's people that bring their horse to race in ours to get them ready for the race next week at the Little Brown Jug."

The Little Brown Jug is the standard bred horse's answer to the thoroughbred's Kentucky Derby.

Horses must be entered three days before the race and competitors then arrive the day of the race. There are around 75 stalls for competitors to use for their horses on a first come, first served basis and the rest are kept in trailers until it's their time to race.

Horses are entered as pacers or trotters — which are two different gates the horse may use while running the race. When a horse crosses the finish line it must be in the gate that was indicated when entered in the race, Williams explained, and cannot be running across the finish line. The style of gate depends on how the horse is bred.

The race pays out five places to competitors which is covered by the fair, the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association and race sponsors. Each race is sponsored by a local business which can send representatives to have photos taken with the winners of the race with the sponsor's name on a blanket.

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Mum fundraiser benefiting courthouse returns to fair for second year

A new tradition has been started at the Wyandot County Fair with a mum fundraiser near the fair's entrance.

The fundraiser benefits the Wyandot County Courthouse Beautification and Flower Fund, which is run by Janice and Irv Woods.

Janice Woods will be set up along most of the west side of the Masters' Building and on the north side of the building up to the north entrance. A donation from Dan Reid pays for the spot. She plans to have a variety of different-colored mums for sale in three different sizes ranging from regular, hanging pots and "huge," as she describes them.

The mums are delivered by Jeff Trautwein from Lovena's Greenhouse in rural Upper Sandusky.

"Jeff generously donates one-third of all mum sales to the beautification and flower fund," Janice Woods said. "Last year, almost all of the spring and fall flowers we placed downtown and at Bicentennial Park were paid for from the fair fundraiser."

This year, Woods expanded flowers to the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office and the Safety Building, which houses the Upper Sandusky Police Department and Upper Sandusky Fire Department.

Woods and a variety of volunteers comprised of friends, community members and public officials will be available from 10 a.m. to the time the fair closes each day selling mums. She said current and former Wyandot County commissioners, Upper Sandusky Mayor Kyle McColly and the police and fire chief all have agreed to help at least one shift of selling mums at the fair this year.

"They say it takes a village and I've had more than a village help me out this year," Woods said. "I don't know why people are so good to me. I have great help and support from the community."

Janice Woods and JoAnne Adams-Moll with the new fundraiser banner

Woods and Jean Moon

Woods said she hopes another tradition can continue this year after a successful "buy a mum, give a mum" challenge last year in which many people paid it forward with donations of mums to be delivered to others in the community.

"I'll never forget delivering those mums," Woods said. "I hope we bring it back. It was heartwrenching."

Depending on how many mums are sold, Trautwein will deliver fresh mums to replace them either every day or every other day. Woods said volunteers from Upper Sandusky's FFA have agreed to help unload and set up the mums at 6:30 a.m. each day they are needed.

Anyone who purchases mums and doesn't want to take them directly to their vehicle can have them placed on hold with a name tag. Woods also said her husband Irv will have a golf cart available to help deliver mums to a parked car. The sheriff's auxiliary also has a station nearby and has helped with mum delivery.

"We try to deliver service with a smile," Woods said.

New this year will be a giant 3-foot by 8-foot banner created by A-1 Printing that will highlight the Wyandot County Courthouse Beautification and Flower Fund, which is the beneficiary of the fundraiser.

Also available for viewing will be a scrap book photo album with multiple photos and newspaper articles showing progress made by the beautification and flower fund with the courthouse corner projects, hanging baskets and more placed in downtown Upper Sandusky, Bicentennial Park, the sheriff's office and the safety building.

The scrapbook was compiled by the man who designed both courthouse corner projects, Gary Richards, plus Richards' mother, sister, sister-in-law and Janice Woods.

"We really wanted people to see where their donations are going," Woods said.

Several shutters featuring additional photos of flowers at the courthouse will be used as decoration at the mum sale.

Woods said she donated several mums to the Wyandot County Fair Board for use during photos of all livestock championship winners for all the animals last year and she's planning to do it this year. If there's room, she also plans to donate some mums at the ticket booth of the fair entrance.

While Woods will be manning the fundraiser at the fair, her store, Woods Antiques 'N More, will remain open thanks to the help of JoAnne Adams-Moll, Irv Woods and some friends.

"I appreciate everyone's support," Woods said. "It wouldn't be possible without the help from anyone. I'm looking forward to everyone stopping by and chatting at the fair, even if you don't buy a mum."

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Veterans celebrated with free admission and meal Tuesday at the fair

Former military service members will be celebrated Tuesday at the Wyandot County Fair.

Tuesday will serve as Veterans' Day for the fair. All military veterans will be granted free admission with proof of military service.

Wyandot County Veterans Service Officer Theresa Miller said she is always happy to thank local veterans each year at the fair.

Veterans' day festivities kick off with free doughnuts and coffee for veterans from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday at the Masters' Building.

A free lunch will be served from 12-1 p.m. in the Masters' Building.

Miller said area organizations and businesses stepped up this year to handle the meal for veterans.

Veterans will have a choice of Upper Sandusky Lions Club beef or pork sandwiches, which are funded by local veteran organizations. Upper Sandusky VFW and American Legion Auxiliary are handling macaroni salad. The Wyandot County Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is providing a bean dish and local caterer Barb Shumaker the cookies. Hempy Water is providing bottled water.

Door prizes also will be awarded to veterans in the Masters' Building the day of the luncheon.

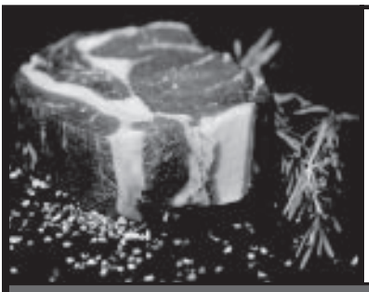
Volunteers will provide table service to deliver meals to seated veterans. Miller said Wyandot Memorial Hospital, the Wyandot Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center have agreed to assist both with serving, setting up and cleaning up after the event. Beth Braun with the veterans service office said approximately 21 members of the Upper Sandusky National Honor Society also have agreed to volunteer for the event.

Miller said more volunteers are always welcome and anyone interested in helping out during the Veterans' Day event can call the Veterans Service Office at 419-294-2045.

"The table service has really made a difference for veterans at the fair," Miller said. "Serving veterans at the table has been amazing, because before, we had veterans standing and waiting in line to get their lunch, and we just want to make it easier for them."

Veterans are encouraged to visit the veterans services booth inside the merchants building all week for the latest information on benefits among other opportunities. Military photos of Wyandot County veterans will be on full display on the wall of the Veterans Service Office booth and Miller said she'd love the opportunity to display photos from military families with generations of different military service.

The Masters' Building was packed with vets at the 2022 fair



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Seniors get half admission and free luncheon Wednesday at the fair

Senior Day at the Wyandot County Fair is Wednesday this year. Those ages 62 and older will be admitted to the fair for $3.

The Senior Day luncheon returned last year following the COVID-19 pandemic and everything is back to normal for the typical senior day at the fair, according to Wyandot County Council on Aging Activities Director Amy Gardner.

"We're completely back to our pre-COVID itineray," Wyandot County Council on Aging Activities Director Amy Gardner said. "We hope people can feel normal at senior day this year."

Seniors can come to the Masters' Building for doughnuts and coffee as early as 9 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., The Alans Magic Show, will perform.

"They have performed for us several times in the past" Gardner said. "It's a husband and wife act. The husband is a magician and his wife is a mentalist. They're amazing."

From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., seniors can go to the lunch counter at the Masters' Building, take their tickets and exchange them for a free lunch. Tickets have been available for free at the Wyandot County Council on Aging all week, but additional tickets will be available at the door for free. Gardner said 550 lunches have been made available for attendees.

While the fair offers half price tickets to anyone age 62 and over, the Wyandot County Council on Aging will provide a free lunch to anyone age 60 and above. If anyone under 60 would like to have lunch, the COA asks they pay $5.

"We all know how well Vicki Charlton and her team prepare a meal, so it will be worth every penny (for those under 60)," Gardner said.

The Wyandot County Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will provide the lunch. Bringman Clark Funeral Home has donated cookies. Stombaugh Batton Funeral Home and Freedom Caregivers have donated water. Wyandot Memorial Hospital donated the food containers. Bob Evans is sponsoring the coffee and doughnuts are provided by Vancrest of Upper Sandusky. Belltone and First National Bank of Sycamore also are key sponsors for the event.

2023 Senior Citizen of the Year Marilyn Baughman will be honored at the event. Care Access out of Ada will be on hand during the Senior Day luncheon. The company is performing Alzheimer's research and seniors will be welcome to interact with representatives at the company's table.

Following lunch, country music artist Todd Miller will perform.

"Todd Miller sounds just like Garth Brooks," Gardner said. "I heard him and wasn't looking at him and thought Garth was putting on a show."

Tables will be set up at the event-featuring local organizations like the Area Agency on Aging, the Upper Sandusky Community Library, the West Ohio Food Bank and the Alzheimer's Association.

Door prizes also will be given out and Wyandot County Council on Aging employees Ron Boose and Trey Miller will be master of ceremonies for the event. Seniors also will receive goodie bags willed with promotional items, an itinerary of the day's eents and the Council on Aging's monthly newsletter.

Once all festivities at the Masters' Building are over, seniors are invited to visit the Wyandot County Council on Aging booth at the merchants building.

"We are back in our new booth, the former Wyandot Memorial Hospital Guild booth," Gardner said.

At the Council on Aging booth, they will be offering door prizes, scratchers, and will be selling cook books and some Christmas cactus and aloe plants that were donated by Jim Gatchell.

Also throughout the week, visitors including Belltone and UIS Investments among others will be on hand at the Council on Aging booth to share information with seniors.

Gardner said she loves hearing old fair stories from seniors.

"I appreciate hearing stories from seniors about when they were little attending the fair," she said.

Tim Griffin, 2022 Senior Citizen of the Year Ruth Reierand Amy Gardner

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Demo derby makes move to Friday

The event that often draws the largest crowd, the demolition derby, will now be a featured primetime showcase on a new day and new time.

The car-crashing action moves to 7 p.m. Friday at the Wyandot County Fair on the derby track in front of the grandstands.

The derby previously was held on Sunday, but with the fair technically ending late Saturday night, it made sense to move the action to another day.

"Everybody is moving out on Sunday," fair committee member Ryan Vent said. "There wasn't much else going on besides the derby."

The derby could be harder hitting than ever after some recent renovations to the derby area at that fair, which added 10 feet of space for improved maneuverability.

The demolition derby is hosted by Twisted Metal Demo Crew from Tiffin.

The entry fee into the demolition derby is $15 for grandstand seating and $15 into the pits.

To compete in the demolition derby, registration is $50 and vehicles will be accepted up until one hour before the start of the derby. The vehicles must be in the inspection line at that time. Vehicles that are late will require an additional $50 fee. Refunds will not be given to illegal entries.

In the demolition derby, there will be different heats, including compact cars, full-size trucks, mini trucks, semi-stock, pro-stock and Power Wheels for young children.

Like in other demolition derbies, the compact car division includes smaller cars with a wheelbase no more than 106 inches rear-wheel drive or more than 109 inches front-wheel drive.

The mini trucks include Dodge Durangos, Chevrolet S-10s and Ford Rangers.

The Power Wheels division is for children ages 4 to 10. Power Wheels that are too fast or heavy won't be permitted to participate. It is recommended that parents bring birth certificates in the event of an age challenge.

Like in previous years, the Upper Sandusky Fire Department and Wyandot County EMS will be standing by in the event of fire or injury.

Those who are driving vehicles that will be participating in the event (other than the windshield heat), are required to remove all glass, must have a standard safety belt, and drivers are required to wear Z-90 approved helmet and eye protection. Neck braces also are highly recommended.

All drivers who are participating in the demolition derby are required to fill out an entry form and each driver and pit crew member must sign a release form before entering the pit area. All drivers, with the exception of those in the Power Wheels division, must be at least 16 years old.

Women who are pregnant, or people with back, heart or health problems are not permitted to compete.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Good luck to all Jr. Fair participants!

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2023 Wyandot County Junior Fair Board members

Submitted photo

Meet the junior fair board

The 2023 Wyandot County Junior Fair Board is (front, from left) Audrey Kinley, Brook Montgomery, Kyla Conley, Abigail Boes, Danielle Searls; (middle row) Eli Kidwell, Leah Herring, Kyaia Crum, Azryelle Weaver, Kelsy Frey,Bryn Cundiff, Lydia Gery, Zoey Sammet, Tate Fredritz; (back row) Damon Ward, Lane Montgomery, Benjamin Ault, Carson Dunn, Jameson Reile, Trevin Redd, Lane Dukes and Tori Fredritz. Junior fair board officers this year are President Leah Herring, Vice President Eli Kidwell, Secretary Tate Fredritz and Treasurer Lydia Gery. The junior fair board coordinator is Lisa Stober. Advisory board members are Lisa Walter, junior fair board data entries; as well as senior fair board president Nick Derr and vice president Shawn Stober. For anyone interested in serving on the 2024 junior fair board, applications are online at thewyandotcountyfair.com and need to be turned into the junior fair office during fair week or by Feb. 1, 2024. The junior fair board oversees all fair projects including 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, livestock shows, and most importantly, particularly for hungry or thirsty fairgoers, the junior fair lunch stand inside the arena. The lunch stand offers lamb, barbecue pork and shredded chicken sandwiches, sloppy joes, hot dogs and their famous milkshakes, which are chocolate, strawberry and vanilla.

Tractor pull closes out fair Saturday

One of the most popular attractions at the Wyandot County Fair, the tractor pull, returns Saturday.

Event chairman Don Montgomery said lighting changes made for the 2021 monster truck show should also benefit the tractor pull. During the most recent offseason, the tractor pull and demolition derby areas were expanded by 10 feet, giving the high-powered vehicles a bit more space to do their thing.

The Wyandot County Fair's tractor pull is sanctioned by the Ohio State Tractor Pullers Association and is one of the final events of the organization's regular season. In fact, the association only performs at three more Ohio fairs after Wyandot County: Tuscarawas, Ashland and Coshocton counties.

"We're very blessed here to have 10,000 pound pro stock and some of the best tractors in the country are right here in Ohio," Montgomery said. "Having the event near the end of the season, that's good for us, because if it's a tight race, you've got to show up. You have to."

According to the OSTPA's website, the Wyandot County Fair is scheduled to feature light-limited pro stock trucks, a super-modified four-wheel drive trucks division and a pro stock division.

In the Mosier Industrial Services Limited Pro Diesel Truck Division, Soger Straley's "Razors Edge" sits in first place with 547 points, a full 66 points ahead of the second-place combination of Ethan Beard and Garrett Price with "Full Bore." Tristan Locke remains in contention in third place with "Udder Chaos" at 454 points and Jacob Widman's "Under Pressure" not far behind at 449 points.

In the SCS Gearbox Super Modified Division, Evan Pearce is currently in first place with 498 points overall with "Stormer," just 10 points ahead of second place Kenny Lucas' "Fantasy." Steve Barker is within striking distance 17 points back with 481 total points with "Live Wire."

Local competitor Jon Long, of Wharton, currently sits in eighth place with Studley Studebaker Reloaded.

Lastly, In the Riverside Engine Pro Stock Tractor Division, Jeremy Smith is running away with both first and second place, competing at the top against himself. Smith's "Spontaneous Combustion" is in first place with 517 points and his second tractor "Hystrung" is in second with 484 points, respectively. John Cespedes is in third place over 150 points back with his tractor, "Fools Gold."

Admission to the event is $10 for grandstand seating, portable bleachers and seating in the pits.

For more information on the OSTPA, visit its website at OSTPA.com.

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Heart of a Champion show is bigger, better in second year at the fair

Returning to the Wyandot County Fair for its second event this year is the Heart of a Champion livestock show. The event, which is 3 p.m. Saturday, allows individuals with developmental disabilities to pair up with junior fair exhibitors to show animals at the fair.

The event was brought to the fair in 2022 by Kaytlyn Graver, a lifelong 4-H member and current cloverbud adviser for the Town and Country 4-H club.

"Last year, it definitely went much better than I imagined," Graver said. "The community, they really came out and supported it. There was no sitting room, it was standing room only. Even then, there were just so many people there. It was truly incredible to see so much community support there."

The show pairs junior fair exhibitors (mentors) with an individual with developmental disabilities (mentee). Mentees will have the option of showing one of four animals, goats, lambs, rabbits and new this year, dairy beef feeders.

After getting some coaching, the mentee will show the mentor's animal together.

"We added dairy beef feeders this year," Graver said. "That was something I was hoping to do down the line but we had a lot of support this year so it was like, 'Alright, we're here for year two, let's do it.' I'm really excited for that."

Mentors and mentees posed for a group photo in the 2022 Heart of a Champion show

Also new this year is the location. The Heart of a Champion show will take place at the main arena instead of the goat arena.

"We're in the main arena and that was something that was a goal down the road, but here we are in year two and we're already there," she said. "It's really cool to see all those big goals that I had already being accomplished. We're hoping to start as close to 3 p.m. as we can. With the livestock sale happening right before, it'll depend on how that goes. So if people want to come out early, they can check out the sale where kids are selling their hard work, then stay for the Showman of Showmen competition afterwards at 5 p.m.. They also can enjoy one of the famous Wyandot County junior fair board milkshakes."

Graver lined up judge volunteers for each animal. They'll be asking some basic questions, checking to see how well the mentees know the animals.

"I've always had a love for people with developmental disabilities," Graver said. "I think they're so amazing and I just really wanted to highlight them and give them opportunities."

The show has 23 mentees and about 20 mentors, Graver said.

(Continued on page 26)

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Calf scramble gains some stability

After moving locations to the horse arena in 2021 and then moving to a new date and time in 2022, the calf scramble is sticking right where it is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday this year at the 2023 Wyandot County Fair.

Wyandot County Fair Board President Nick Derr said the area will be enclosed with some mobile bleachers and mobile lights added.

Just like in previous years, the calf scramble will feature three rounds of different age groups, all trying to corral chickens, lambs and calves, respectively.

Children ages 8 and under can participate in the chicken scramble, the lamb scramble is for ages 9 to 14 and the calf scramble is ages 15 and up.

Winners with the quickest times in the lamb and calf scramble will receive prizes like money and shirts, depending on sponsors for the event.

Participants are broken up into heats of 10 and they are tasked with getting a halter on the lamb or calf in the right showing position faster than their competition. In the chicken scramble, participants try to catch the chickens and set them up nicely for show.

Each animal comes with an unknown prize value and then the top times of all live heats compete once more with new animals to find the final champion.

Children scramnling to catch chickens at the 2022 Wyandot County Fair

Rotary brings kettle corn to fair

The Rotary Club of Upper Sandusky is readying its kettle corn operation for the 2023 Wyandot County Fair. The fresh kettle corn will be popped off-site, but still sold just inside the main fair entrance near the Masters' Building.

One can find the Rotary trailer open from 4-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 12-9 p.m. Saturday. Fairgoers can snag a bag of kettle corn for a $5 donation to the club. Kettle corn proceeds will go to fund Rotary's ongoing service to the community through club projects and charitable giving.

Help support the community and get the added benefit of enjoying a delicious bag of fresh kettle corn. Just in the past two months, the Rotary Club approved a $1,000 donation to Hannah's House and a $500 donation to the Star Theatre. These donations are made possible through the club's fundraising activities, of which kettle corn sales are a major part.

The Rotary Club of Upper Sandusky is committed to enhancing its community and the surrounding area. Anyone interested in bettering the Upper Sandusky community and who would be interested in joining Rotary or finding more information can find the Rotary Club on Facebook or visit www.UpperSanduskyRotary.org.

The Rotary Club kettle corn trailer

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Graver has helped other Ohio counties add their own disability shows

(Continued from page 24)

"It was really cool to see the mentors, some of them are younger 4-H members, seeing how excited they were to help," she said. "It was great to see the support from the youth in the community."

The show has expanded throughout the county fairs in the state of Ohio and even beyond.

"It's been really cool to see it blossom," Graver said. "I've been a part of helping some other counties get started and see some of the ideas that we had in Wyandot County expand out to other counties. I helped Darke County, got to actually come down and see their show in person this year. We've also had some people from Florida reach out and have some questions, so it's just crazy how this has taken off. It's really cool to see that people with developmental disabilities are getting this opportunity."

Graver also spoke about the success of the show at the Ohio 4-H conference

Due to local sponsorship, all participants in the event will get a special prize. The mentors will receive a gift and mentees also will get a ribbon and a medal. Everyone who participates in the show also will receive a T-shirt.

Sponsors for the event include the Wyandot County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Raelyn Wolf and family, Knox Vehrs memorial, Hempy Water, Wagler Badenhop, Wilson Farms, AgCredit, Ridge and Associates Inc., Tactical Agriculture, Balduf & Sons Show Cattle and EG Photography,

"I'm very thankful for all the support I've gotten," Graver said. "We had some amazing sponsors last year and a lot of them sponsored this year as long as some new ones. It was incredible all the support we got whether it was parents allowing their children to participate as mentors or mentees, financial support, everything has been great."

Graver also thanked the support she's received from her family and friends.

"I'm thankful they've come along with all this craziness, because it's wild trying to get everything in order, but it always works out in the end," she said.

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Historical Society showcasing new Poultry Association display at fair

The Wyandot County Historical Society is returning to the Wyandot County Fair this year in its typical location at the log cabin on the fairgrounds offering visitors a look back at what a 19th century cabin might have looked like in addition to the annual sales of Coon's Candy and a silent auction.

The original log cabin on the grounds was constructed in 1888 on the fairgrounds with beams and logs from the early families in the county on the fairgrounds.

According to Wyandot County Museum Curator Ronald Marvin Jr., the original log cabin was moved a few times around the grounds at the fair before it was finally moved to the location where the current log cabin sits. The original, Marvin said, was two smaller cabins with a dog trot in between that was used for displays of museum collections predating even the historical society displays in the courthouse, which since were moved over to the Wyandot County Museum in the Beery McConnell house.

"Some of the postcards showing that date to around 1910, 1916 and the museum wasn't even started in the courthouse until 1929," Marvin said. "So, some of the artifacts that you can actually see and that they highlight on some of the old postcards actually later were on display in the courthouse and they eventually moved [to the museum]."

The original log cabins were utilized up until around 2000, Marvin said, at which point the rough shape of the building made it unsafe for visitors to utilize.

"When they decided that it was no longer a viable building, they decided to tear it down," Marvin said. "At the same time, they decided to put a new one up, so they put a call out for donations and people actually brought a lot of the timbers again similar to how it was built originally. They would just take down older trees on their property and then bring them and donate those logs. So, they built [the new cabin] and dedicated it around 2001.

"The outside's supposed to be rustic and sort of recall those earlier days."

The log cabin at the fair received some mainenance in the offseason

On display will be items that will take visitors into the lives of a person living in a cabin in the 19th century with a rope bed, kitchen tables and chairs, cornhusking memorabilia and a dipshaw that would have been authentic at the time.

New this year will be a featured display of memorabilia over 100 years old from the Wyandot County Poultry Stock Association after a donation to the museum by John Krock, as well as some old premiums from the Wyandot County Fair.

Also returning to the cabin is the Wyandot County Geneaology Society for the first time in about five years after the organization took a break during the COVID pandemic. The society is gearing up for its 40th anniversary, is promoting its upcoming banquet and will help remind the community that it's back in business

The other end of the cabin will be the reception area where the community can get to know the Wyandot County Historical Society board members and museum staff.

"It's a great opportunity for people to interact with the board," Marvin said. "Let us know what we're doing right, what we're doing wrong, what exhibits they want to see in the future."

There will be a limited amount of gift shop offerings including the yearly Coon's Candy sales.

"Since fair calories don't count, people come in and get a bag and take it to munch on while they walk around," Marvin said.

(Continued on page 28)

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Books, candy and silent auction items will be available at the log cabin

(Continued from page 27)

There also will be a limited supply of Marvin's books, "A Brief History of Wyandot County, Ohio," and "Postcards of Hardin County" available for purchase,. Information about the historical society and free items such as postcards, brochures, promotional material from the Ohio History Connection and other information also will be on hand.

Some publications have been reprinted like Rev. Wheeler's diary, a feature on the red slipper murder and books written by Thelma Marsh.

Also available for the public to peruse will be silent auction items.

"The silent auction is one of our main fundraisers throughout the year," Marvin shared. "We have three or four smaller ones that each bring in, not a huge amount of money, but enough to help us keep going. [The auction] is all based on donations from individuals and businesses throughout Wyandot County."

Marvin said businesses and individuals came through again this year with donated auction items such as gift certificates and a variety of themed baskets, and other items.

"Usually we get between 60 and 75 items donated, but this year it was over 100," Marvin said. "The response from the community has been incredible."

The silent auction will be open throughout the fair week starting Monday morning for fairgoers to place their bids. Marvin said the event will run through Saturday when the fair closes. If the winners aren't present at the time the auction closes, they can be called to pick up their items. Items can be paid for with cash or check and the winners don't have to be present to win. Those who are unable to pick up items Saturday will be able to get their items from the museum in the few weeks after the fair as needed.

Ron Marvin (left) and John Krock review items Krock donated to the Wyandot County Historical Society in July. Many of the items are over 100 years old and will be in a featured display at the log cabin at the fair.

The Wyandot County Museum and the Overland Inn both will be closed the weekend of the fair Marvin noted. The Wyandot County Museum also will be closed the Sunday before the fair to facilitate set up ahead of the fair.

The museum also plan to have quilt blocks at the fair where people can sign their name or sponsor them. Marvin said he hopes to have a special quilt made with all the blocks in the spring.

"It's a modern take on the patch quilts that we had set up from the Artz Department Store display from a fair quilt made in the 1980s," Marvin said. "People were actually pointing out patches on the quilt and saying they were involved with them. We're looking to bring that nostalgia back."

The historical society also will be highlighting the upcoming events for the rest of the year, which include the final speakers for Thursday Evening at the Museum, the Veterans Day program, a new fashion show and the Christmas open house.

Anyone who visits the cabin during fair week can pick up a copy of that schedule as well.

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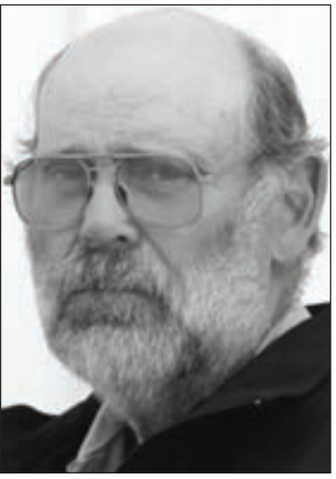

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Senior Fair Board Office staff includes:
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Ted Williams, groundskeeper

Not pictured are board members Kendra Myers, Dennis Karcher, Chad McKee, Kip Gerstenberger, Denny Derr and Frank Vent

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