

2024 After Fair Memories



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Award winning photo submitted by Olivia Kerns.

After hearing her big brother, Lincoln, build up the excitement of riding the Ferris wheel at the Great Darke County Fair, Willow was beyond ready for her first ride. Tickets in hand, the siblings wait for the wheel of wonder to take them high above the carnival lights and lemonade stands.



AWARD
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Award winning photo submitted by Mikayla Setser

His prize, a necklace. My prize, his smile.



The Gene Riegle Memorial Open winner Low Rider in the winner's circle.

Photos by Drew Terhall | The Daily Advocate

Harness racing ends with big money races at the fair

By Drew Terhall
Dailyadvocate.com

GREENVILLE — It was another exciting night of horse racing at The Great Darke County Fair. The Ohio Colt Racing Association held their annual horse harness racing throughout the fair with the Gene Riegle Memorial Open taking place on August 21.

On that Wednesday night, 16 races took place. Among those races was the Gene Riegle along with the Annie Oakley Shootout and the Arnie Almahurst Open.

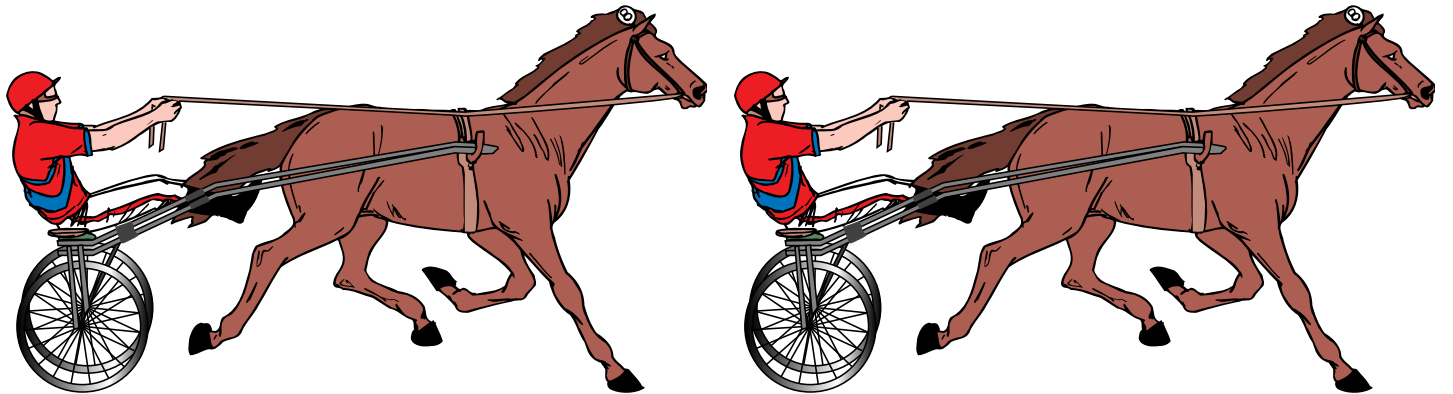
In the lady series Annie Oakley Shootout, Under The Desk driven by Christina Wyant took first with a time of 1:56.2. Sher's Speedysharp took a close second with a time of 1:56.4.

In the Arnie Almahurst Open, with a purse of \$20,000 on the line, Drink Up Drink Up took first with a time of 1:57.4. The horse was trained by Walter Haynes Jr and driven by Dan Noble. Sandis Commando L took second with a time of 1:58 and was driven and trained by Hank Le Van.

In the main event, the Gene Riegle Memorial Open for a purse of \$35,000, Low Rider took first place with a time of 1:51.2. The horse was trained by Walter Haynes Jr and driven by Ronnie Gillespie. Charlie May finished in a close second with a time of 1:51.3. Charlie May set a track record last year with a time of 1:50.



Drink Up Drink Up stands in the winner's circle after winning the Arnie Almahurst Open.



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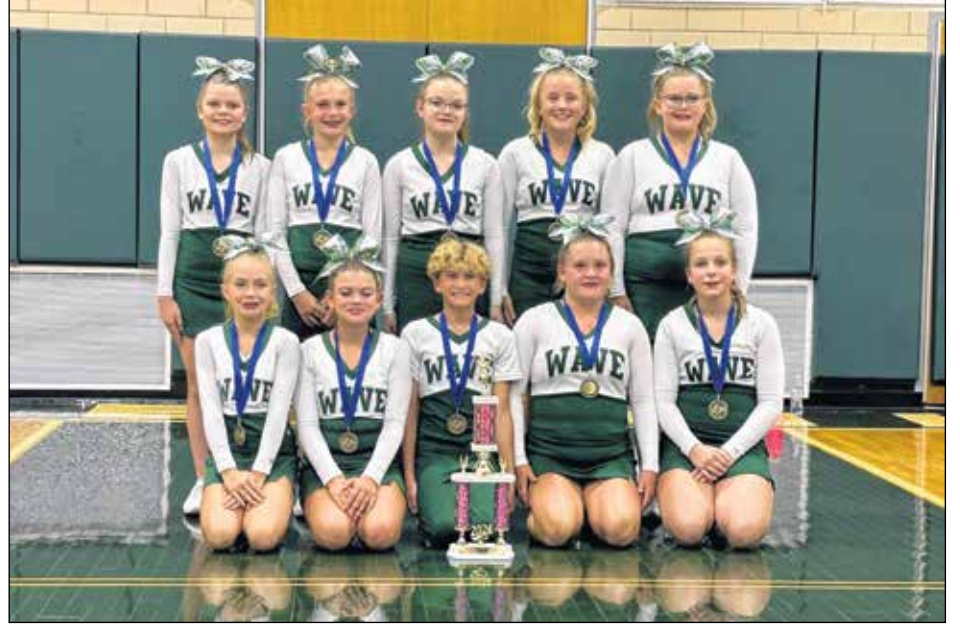
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Darke County Fair Cheer & Dance Competition



Acanum High School was the Varsity Game Day cheer winner.

Photos by Meladi Brewer | Daily Advocate



Greenville Junior High won its division.



Tri-Village won the high school cheer competition.



The team from Tri-Village won the Youth Cheer division.



Tri-Village Junior High took the top spot in Junior High Dance.



The UC Stateliners were the top group in Youth Dance.



Mississinawa Valley's hip-hop group finished in first place.



Greenville High School cheer got to perform on their home court due to the weather on Friday morning.



Acanum cheer took the mat during the event held at Greenville High School.



There were plenty of dance routines from a wide-range of age groups to enjoy during the competition.



The Darke County Fair competition was moved to Greenville High School due to weather. The event featured cheer and dance competitions for youth through high school.



Ansonia's Tiger Cubs performed during the fair's cheer contest.

Darke County Fair Band Spectacular



Photos by Ethan Tutwiler




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Aultman and Addis are outstanding

GREENVILLE — Sophia Aultman and Blake Addis were named Outstanding 4-H Girl and Boy during the 2024 Great Darke County Fair.

Aultman, daughter of Matt and Morgan Aultman, is a senior at Ansonia High School. She is a 12-year member of the Darke County Holstein 4-H Club. She won both Scholarship and leadership awards. She is the 2024 Darke County Junior Fair Queen. She is a three-year camp counselor. She is the vice president of the Ansonia chapter and has received her State FFA degree. She loves to help the community and volunteer to do what the 4-H motto says, "make the best better."

Addis, son of Larry and Amy Addis, is a junior at IU East. He is a 14-year member of the Blue Angels 4-H Club and the Darke County 4-H Beef Club. He has completed 80 plus 4-H projects and received seven clock trophies and 20 Outstanding of the Day from the Ohio State Fair. He won Reserve Champion with his turkey at the Ohio State Fair. This year he won 4-H Poultry Outstanding Exhibitor for the Fancy show and the Market show. Addis is an Eagle Scout. He has received his State FFA degree and will receive his American FFA degree in November. He plans on staying involved in 4-H. Addis wants to thank all his 4-H advisors and everyone that helped in his 4-H journey.

Kyle Homan from Homan Insurance was the sponsor of this award.



Sophia Aultman and Blake Addis were named Outstanding 4-H Girl and Boy during the fair.

Submitted photo



THE GREAT DARKE COUNTY FAIR

THE DARKE COUNTY FAIR BOARD WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR MAKING THE 2024 GREAT DARKE COUNTY FAIR A SUCCESS.

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Little Miss & Mister Darke County Fair



Photos by Ryan Berry | Daily Advocate



Sutter and Swank are fair royalty

By Ryan Berry
DailyAdvocate.com

GREENVILLE — It was a patriotic evening at the Great Darke County Fair as the Little Miss and Mister candidates strutted across the stage in the Youth Building on Monday evening wearing red, white and blue in a salute to the Armed Forces. Twenty-five girls and eight boys were vying for the title.

Madison Werner served as emcee for the evening and asked each of the kids the same questions which included what is your name, and what is your favorite thing to do at the fair? The children then got to pick a random question from a hat. Those questions ranged from what is your favorite color to what is your favorite season?

All of the children had great poise on stage and were incredible with their answers, which made it difficult for the judges to decide. Once the scores were tallied, Ray Sutter, son of Matthew and Sarah Sutter, was crowned Little Mister Darke County Fair and Zoe Swank, daughter of Katie and Travis Swank, wore the tiara as Little Miss Darke County Fair.

The duo received great prizes, which included electric cars that can either be driven by them or by remote control. They also each received a trophy that was taller than each of them. Upon receiving the trophy, Sutter was amazed



Shown with Ray Sutter and Zoe Swank (seated in their cars) are third runner-up Noah Lefeld, second runner-up Bennet Robison, first runner-up Naomi Perry, second runner-up Juniper Hill, and third runner-up Sawyer Mikesell.



Ray Sutter and Zoe Swank were named the 2024 Darke County Fair Little Mister and Miss.

by the size of the award and stepped back and marveled at it for a moment. Swank was all smiles as she posed for pictures and stepped

into her new ride. The first runners-up were Naomi Perry, daughter of Zachary and Sierra Perry, and Dalton Stover, son of

Rebecca Harsh and Andrew Stover. Second runners-up were Juniper Hill, daughter of Savanna Hill and Brian Bane, and Bennet Robison,

son of Courtney and Derick Robison. Third runners-up were Sawyer Mikesell, daughter of Derrick and Addie Mikesell, and Noah Lefeld, son of Andy and Stacy Lefeld.

Additional Little Miss contestants were Elyse Coons, Emery Pettit, Lillian Kindell, Tayla Reeser, Ivy Lynn Simpson, Shaylee Spencer, Baylor Strikeleather, Emery Young, Autumn Moler, Alaina Pitsenbarger, Kennedy Moneysmith, Eliza Powell, Penelope Grant, Monroe Bourne, Sadie Mae Bourne, Layne Lephart, Lucy Kremer, Lyrah Dohme, Vivian Post, Rowan Reier, and Baelyn Robison.

Additional Little Mister contestants were Leo Duke, Gabriel Lefeld, Wrett Spencer, and Saeyer Moneysmith.

Sponsors for the Darke County Fair Little Miss and Mister pageant are Spirit Medical Transport, Daily Advocate/The Early Bird, Miller Flowers, Courageous Creations, Carl Dearweister, Coles Treats – Cole Kennedy, Ramsey Food Service, Dennis Kolp, Carol Seitz – Putt Putt Golf, PrimeTime Carnival Co., Fiske Fry, Topsy Turvy Toys and Vinyls By Celeste.

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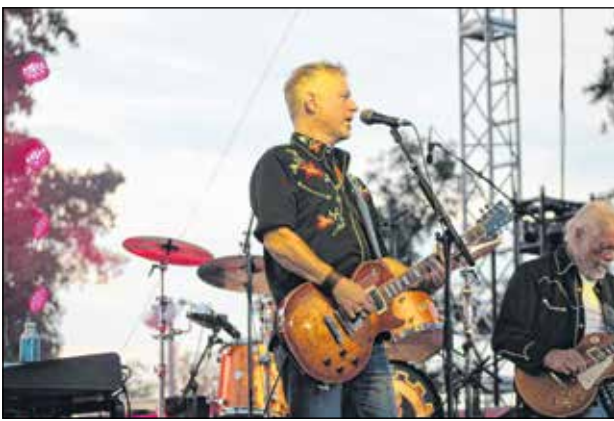
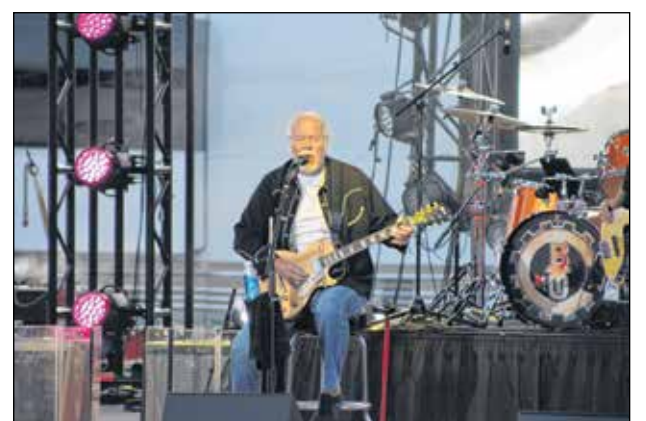
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Bachman Turner Overdrive Concert



Photos by Ryan Berry | Daily Advocate



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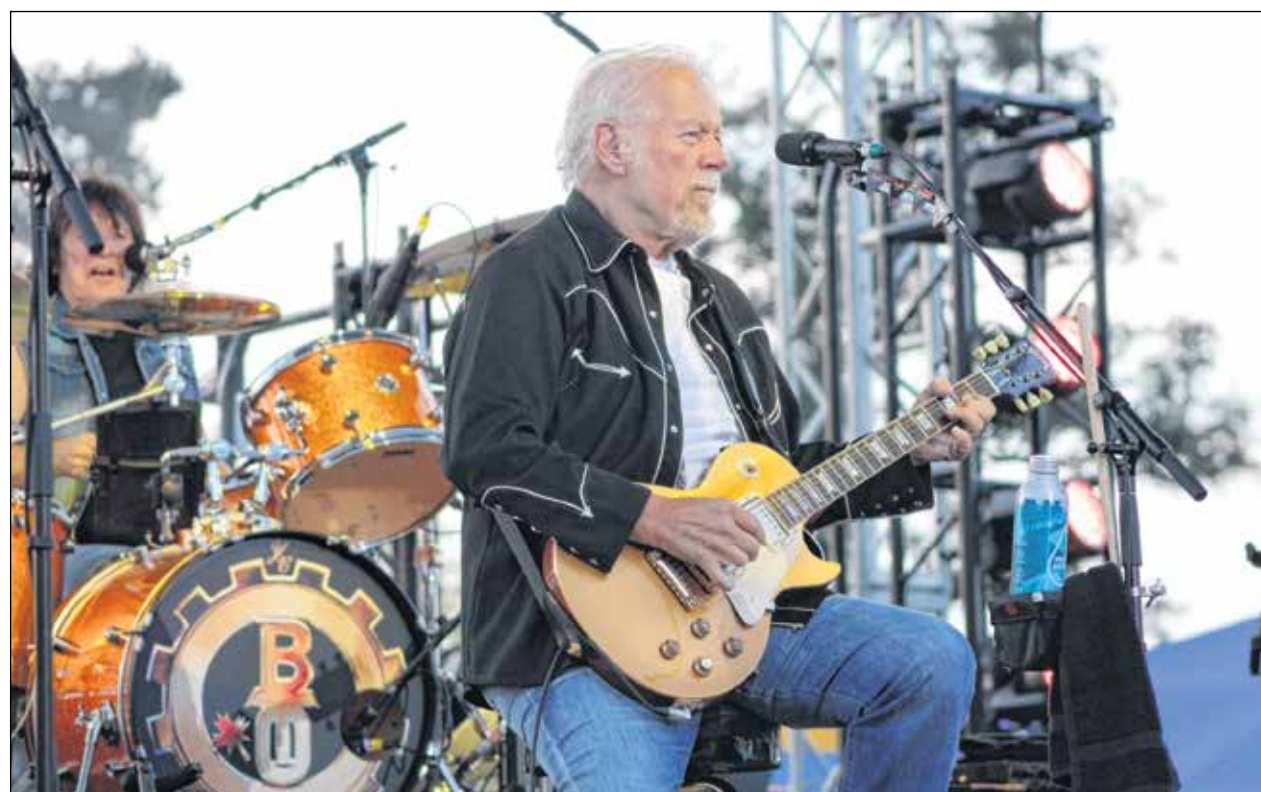
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Photos by Ryan Berry | Daily Advocate

Randy Bachman and his son Tai, led an all-star cast of bandmates as BTO took the state at the Great Darke County Fair.

Bachman Turner Overdrive wows fair goers



The legendary Randy Bachman on stage at the Darke County Fair.

By Ryan Berry
DailyAdvocate.com

GREENVILLE — Although attendance was down for the concert on Thursday evening, concert goers were not disappointed by Bachman Turner Overdrive (BTO). Even though there was no opening band, it was like two concerts wrapped into one. Music from the 60's through the 80's was featured as Bachman and his bandmates took attendees through the history of his original band, The Guess Who, BTO and his solo project.

Although the 80-year-old carefully navigated the stage to a chair waiting for him, his voice did not waver as the band began its set. From the opening note to the encore BTO had the audience clapping, singing and enjoying themselves for approximately an hour and a half.

Bachman gave a history lesson on both groups and how each was formed. Both Canadian groups were established with the band members coming from the Winnipeg, Manitoba area and seemed to be a way

of combining the forces of each of those regional bands that included names like Burton Cummings, Kurt Winter, Fred Turner, and Robbie Bachman. He explained one of the only singers he didn't team up with from that area during that time was Neil Young.

The Guess Who songs that thrilled audiences included No Time, No Sugar Tonight, These Eyes and American Woman, to name a few.

Moving to the BTO era, Bachman and his band played Roll on Down the Highway, You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet, and Let it Ride. After a brief break before the encore, BTO came back out and did a medley of songs from BTO and other bands before closing the evening with what is arguably their biggest hit, Takin' Care of Business.

Darke County Fair concert goers could be heard praising the band for an incredible concert as they exited the Grandstand.

To contact Daily Advocate Editor Ryan Berry, email rberry@aimmediamidwest.com.



Darke County Junior Fair King and Queen Collin Batten and Morgan Aultman tossed and shot out t-shirts prior to the concert.

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Photos by Ryan Berry | Daily Advocate

Veteran service units from across Darke County were represented during the annual Veterans Day Parade at the Darke County Fair.

Prevention of veteran suicide a priority

Fair celebrates veterans

By Ryan Berry
DailyAdvocate.com

GREENVILLE — Veterans coming to the fair on Wednesday were honored by the Darke County Agricultural Society with free admission and the annual Veteran's Parade in front of the Grandstand. This year's parade featured veteran groups from across the county. Darke County Veterans Services gave each veteran a special t-shirt to recognize their service.

Chris Evans, 3rd District State of Ohio American Legion Commander from Post 707 in Englewood, was the featured speaker. Evans spoke directly to veterans and their families and friends and addressed the issue of suicide amongst veterans. He said the

American Legion has strongly advocated for veterans and the prevention of suicide in this group of people for a century. "There is no feat or accomplishment more important to our organization than the prevention of veteran suicide," he said. He shared that the number of veterans that have taken their own lives since the 9-11 attack far surpasses the number of deaths in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and the Global War on Terror combined.

"A veteran is 50 percent more likely to take their own life than a person who has never served in the military. This must stop," said Evans. He said that although the statistics on veteran suicide fluctuate, there is really only one number that is important



Chris Evans, 3rd District Commander Sate of Ohio American Legion, shared the Legion's efforts to prevent veteran suicide.

to the American Legion and that is the number one. "Be the one to stop the veteran from taking his or her life. If we save one, collectively we will all save thousands," emphasized Evans.

He shared that Be the One is a mission of the American Legion. "We can accomplish this mission by destigmatiz-

ing the issue of mental health. Veterans value courage and it takes courage to ask for help. Through our Buddy Checkout Program, the American Legion does not sit back and wait to be asked. We take a proactive approach and ask veterans if they are okay," he said. He told family and

friends to listen and pay attention to the response the veteran gives and if they are struggling or in crisis, encourage them to call or text the 988 crisis line. He said for a better outcome, watch the veteran make the call and follow up with the veteran to make sure they connect with the needed resources.

"Everyone here can Be the One," he added.

Bruce Shaw, outgoing American Legion commander for Darke County, shared that 56 years ago he landed in Vietnam and 55 years ago he came home. "I wasn't a little farmer from Darke County anymore. I wasn't the same person. We weren't well thought of. There weren't any parades. There were no thanks. It was tough. About seven years ago, a young man walked up to me, I didn't know the man, shook my hand and said thank you sir for serving your country. It changed my life. I became a better father, better friend, a better person," said Shaw. He encouraged those in attendance when they see a veteran to thank him or her.

To contact Daily Advocate Editor Ryan Berry, email rberry@aimmediamidwest.com.

Canine Capers advisor leaves after 33 years

By Ryan Berry
DailyAdvocate.com

GREENVILLE — Becky Baker, a longtime advisor for the Canine Caper 4-H Club, has announced the 2024 Great Darke County Fair will be her last as an advisor.

Baker started working with the 4-H Club over three decades ago and admitted she didn't know much about showing dogs or even training dogs when she first got involved. She said she got involved because her daughter was in the club.

Before she became an advisor, Baker said she was a volunteer. "Sue Detling was the advisor, and I came to help her as a volunteer. She said you better learn how to train. I said, 'why?' She said you're taking this club over next year." She quickly realized that she could not teach the kids how to show a dog if she didn't know how to show a dog.

Baker said before she started working with Canine Capers, she had

a family dog, but did not train dogs. "I had no idea until I came back from living in Indiana for seven years and I got into it," she said.

There was a point where Baker took a two-year break, but it remained in the family, and she was never very far away from the 4-Hers. Her daughter became the advisor. "She would come to my house to do showmanship (training) because she didn't like to do showmanship," said Baker. "So, I did it for her for those two years."

When Baker's daughter passed away, the club didn't have an advisor that knew how to train dogs, which meant Baker was back with the club.

Since learning more about dog training and shows, Baker has gone on to show in AKC shows and has taught at 4-H and was president and taught at Greenville Area Dog Club (GADC). "I enjoy it, and I raised Golden Retrievers for several years." She pointed to her dog, Murphy, a Golden Retriever



Ryan Berry | Daily Advocate

The 2024 Great Darke County Fair is the final fair for Becky Baker as an advisor. She is shown with her dog, Murphy.

that was part of her last litter from nine years ago.

Baker said she kept doing it for her daughter and grandkids, but she also kept doing it for the kids in the 4-H club. She had mentioned leaving several

years prior and said many times that it would be her final year, but the kids kept bringing her back. Each time she would announce it was her last year, one or two of the 4-H kids would say I've only got one more

year and ask her to stay for that year. Baker would relent and would come back.

"I enjoyed it and I enjoyed the kids. They are my kids. I'm like momma bear when it comes to my 4-H kids," said Baker. Over the years, Baker believes she has worked with nearly 500 kids since becoming an advisor 33 years ago. She said she still has kids that come and see her every year in the dog barn. "They know I'm here," she said. It's that relationship she has had with kids that has been the most rewarding for her. "It's rewarding when they do well and it's rewarding even when they're crying, and I have to support them when they're crying. But they know I'm always there and I'm always in their corner," she said.

Baker said she began her time as an advisor in the old dog building between the cattle and sheep barns. She admitted part of the reason for staying until this year was because she wanted to end her time as

a 4-H advisor in the new building. "When I started, I said I wanted to see the new building go up. I thought it would have been up long before now, but 30 plus years later we've got a building," she said.

They haven't asked the fair board yet, but when the building isn't rented, they are hoping they will be able to use it during the winter for training. "We're hoping that they don't leave it sit empty, if they're not using it let us use it," she said.

She has assured everyone that this will be her last year and will leave the club in the capable hands of Andrea Haworth. "I've wanted to leave many times in the past, but she didn't have anyone to help here. Now she has two new advisors that have come in to help and one of the 4-H kids is going to be an advisor. I'm very confident that I don't have to worry about it now," Baker concluded.

To contact Daily Advocate Editor Ryan Berry, email rberry@aimmediamidwest.com.

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Earlene Morris, 103, is 2024 oldest fairgoer



Meladi Brewer | Daily Advocate
 Earlene Morris celebrated her \$200 win with three of her 19 great great grandchildren, as she was the oldest fairgoer to attend the fair that day at 103 years young. She was born on Oct. 5, 1920 and is from Gordon. The award was sponsored by both the Darke County Agricultural Society and Greg Peck, The Voice of the Great Darke County Fair. "I can't see very well, I can't hear very well, and I can't walk, but other than that, I'm pretty good," said Morris.

DCTA announces fair winners

GREENVILLE — The Darke County Township Association (DCTA) wants to express its appreciation to those who helped with their tent at the Great Darke County Fair. Trustees and fiscal officers from all 20 townships were represented in the tent. They wish to thank the businesses and individuals who advertised on their display board for their continued support and thanks to all

those who stopped by to say hello. Their advertisers this year included: ACME Plmg, Htg & AC, C F Poepelman, Commercial Printing Company, County Commissioners Matt Aultman, Larry Holmes & Marshall Combs, DC Auditor Carol Guinn, DC Treasurer Scott Zumbrink, DC Recorder Hillary Holzapfel, Darke Co Economic Development, Darke Co Tile Company,

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ton - Greenville; Pam Mclain & Angel Pankratz - Arcanum; Bob Swallow - Union City; John Stahl - London; Alice Otte - St Henry; William Stonerock - Bradford; Joe Frey - Yorkshire. Hams are provided by & picked up at Winner's Meats, Greenville. The Darke County Township Association also provided many trophies for the Jr. Fair Exhibitors. They wish to

congratulate all participants for their sportsmanship and for being a very important part of the Great Darke County Fair. The DCTA looks forward to seeing everyone again at the fair next year. The next quarterly meeting for the Darke County Township Association will be on Thursday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., Birchwood Facility (formerly Wayne Industries).

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Ryan Berry | Daily Advocate



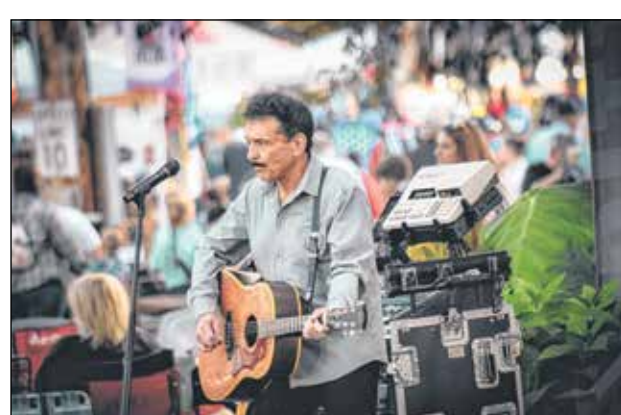
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Agricultural Department Fair Winners



Submitted photos

Class H Farm and Garden Adult: Alma May, Best Peppers; Ed Erisman, Best Tomatoes; and Larry Dickey, Best Squash.



Class G Grain and Seeds: Galen Wetzel - Best Corn Display, Small Grain and Seeds Display; Marilyn Wetzel - Perfect Ear of Corn, Best Soybeans; Vance Wetzel - Best Popcorn, Best Early Variety 2023 Ear Corn.



Class I Fruits Adult: Alma May, Best Grapes



Class K Culinary and Dairy: Marie Hutchinson, Best 2 Crust Pie; Lori Linebaugh, Best Candy and Best Cookie Display



Class K Culinary and Dairy Adult: Naomi Hathaway, Best Candy Display; Linda Riley, Best Cookie and Best Pastry; and Patty Hunt, Best Angel Food Cake.



Class G Youth Grain and Seeds: Enoch Evans, Best Sunflower Head; and Ryker Harrod, Tallest Corn Stalk.



Class G Youth Grain and Seeds - Don Hanes Memorial Award: Jim Hanes, Brody Hupman, and Titus Palmer.



Class G Youth Grain and Seeds - Hupman Award: John Hupman, Jason Hupman, Brody Hupman, Kathy Hupman, and Titus Palmer.



Sue Anne Edwards, Best Group Display, Class J-Canned Produce.



Class K Youth Culinary and Dairy - Palivec Special Award: Paisley Riffle, Shelby Fenning, and Harley Hanes.



Class K Youth Culinary and Dairy - Lumpkin Special Award: Emery Linebaugh, Ava Hummel, Cole Hanes, and Preston Cunningham.



Class H Youth Farm and Garden: Jace Shiverdecker, Best Squash.



Class H Youth Farm and Garden: Enoch Evans, Freak of Nature Vegetable.



Sue Anne Edwards, Best Group Display, Class J-Canned Produce.



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Hearts of Darke Show



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Junior Fair Poultry Winners



Submitted photos
Grand Champion Broilers- Hannah Kendig and Reserve Champion Broilers- Maverick Keller.



Submitted photos
Grand Champion Large Fowl- Blake Addis. Reserve Champion Large Fowl- Brooklyn Livingston



Champion Commercial Production - Jace Bohman



Poultry Coop Decorating Contest winners are 1st-Carolina Miller, 2nd-Mason Kendig, and 3rd-Judd Yohey.



Champion Bantam Duck- Blake Addis. Reserve Champion Duck- Ella Whitmer



Champion Waterfowl- Blake Addis



Fun night trivia winners.



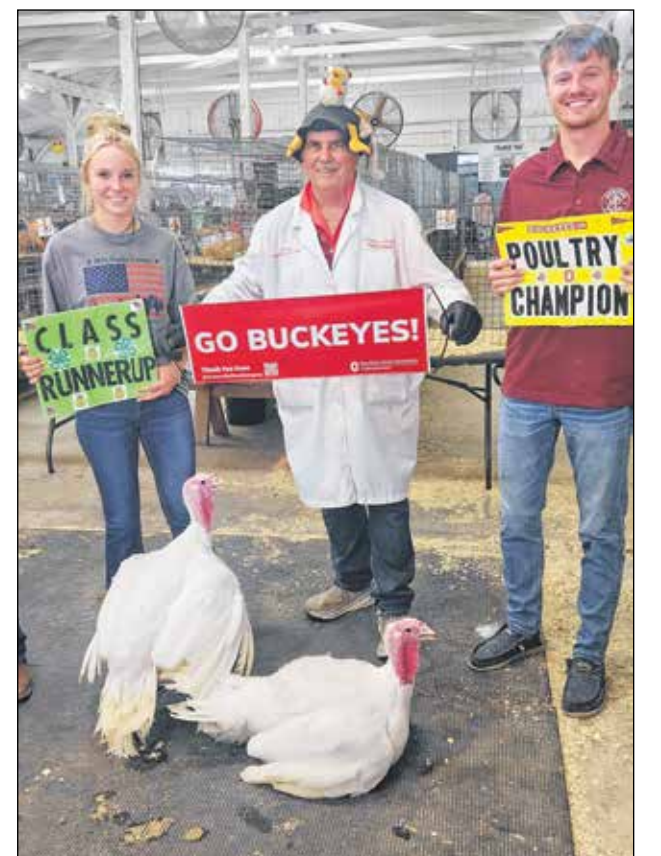
Grand Champion Commercial & Reserve Champion Commercial Grant Moore and Cade Seubert.



Senior 2024 Poultry Skillathon Winners - 1st- Cheyenne Swisher- not pictured, 2nd-Blake Addis, 3rd-Josie Pothast-not pictured, 4th-Hannah Kendig-Grant Moore accepting her award, and 5th-Patrick McGlinch.



Pee Wee Showmanship- Ages- 4-5- Dexter Shiverdecker; Pee Wee Showmanship-Ages 6-8-Jace Shiverdecker



Grand champion Hen- Blake Addis. Reserve champion Hen- Alivia Addis.



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Junior Fair Poultry Winners



Junior Showmanship Winners - 1st-William Shiverdecker; 2nd-Grant Subler; 3rd-Daisy Shiverdecker; 4th-Lilian Hawkins; and 5th-Carlonia Miller



Grand Champion Overall Fancy- Blake Addis. Reserve Champion Overall Fancy- Cheyenne Swisher.



Submitted photos
Intermediate Showmanship Winners - 1st-Cassidy Seubert; 2nd-Elliot Seubert; 3rd-Cash Bubeck; 4th-Kaitlyn Tollefson; and 5th-Gabe McGlinch.



Chicken Dress Up winners are Kip and Kade Krueger.



Participants in chicken dress up: DJ Shiverdecker, Daisy Shiverdecker, Jace Shiverdecker, Kip Krueger, and Kaitlyn Tollefson.



Grand Champion & Reserve Champion Market Ducks- Blake Shives.



The 4-H Poultry exhibitors would like to thank everyone who donated and purchased the baskets - Etah Subler, Grant Moore, Luxe Bubeck, Penn Bubeck, Brim Bubeck, and Blake Addis.



Overall Market Winner - Blake Addis



Market Intermediate Winners - 1st-Grant Moore, 2nd-Gabe McGlinch, and 3rd-Cassidy Seubert.



Market Senior Winners - 1st-Blake Addis, 2nd-Hannah Kendig (not pictured), Grant Moore, and 3rd-Jace Bohman.



Grand Champion Overall Market - Blake Addis. Reserve Champion Overall Market- Evan Addis.



Market Junior Winners - 1st-William Shiverdecker, 2nd-Jonah Minnich, 3rd-Oliver McGlinch, Royalty- Cassidy Seubert, Aaliyah Biddlestone and Grant Moore.

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Junior Fair Poultry Winners



Submitted photos

The Poultry 4-H Exhibitors would like to thank North Star Plumbing and Heating for a new sink and faucet for the barn.



Senior Showmanship Winners - 1st-Hannah Kendig; 2nd-Blake Addis; 3rd-Brooklyn Seubert; 4th-Cheyenne Swisher; and 5th-Maggie McGlinch.



Intermediate 2024 Poultry Skillathon Winners - 1st- Grant Moore, 2nd-Brooklyn Livingston, 3rd-Ethan Subler & Cassidy Seubert, 4th-Eva Yohey, and 5th-Kaitilyn Tollefson



Junior 2024 Poultry Skillathon winners - 1st-Lillian Hawkins, 2nd-Luke Brewer, 3rd-Joah Minnich, 4th-Oliver McGlinch, and 5th-Carloina Miller-not pictured.



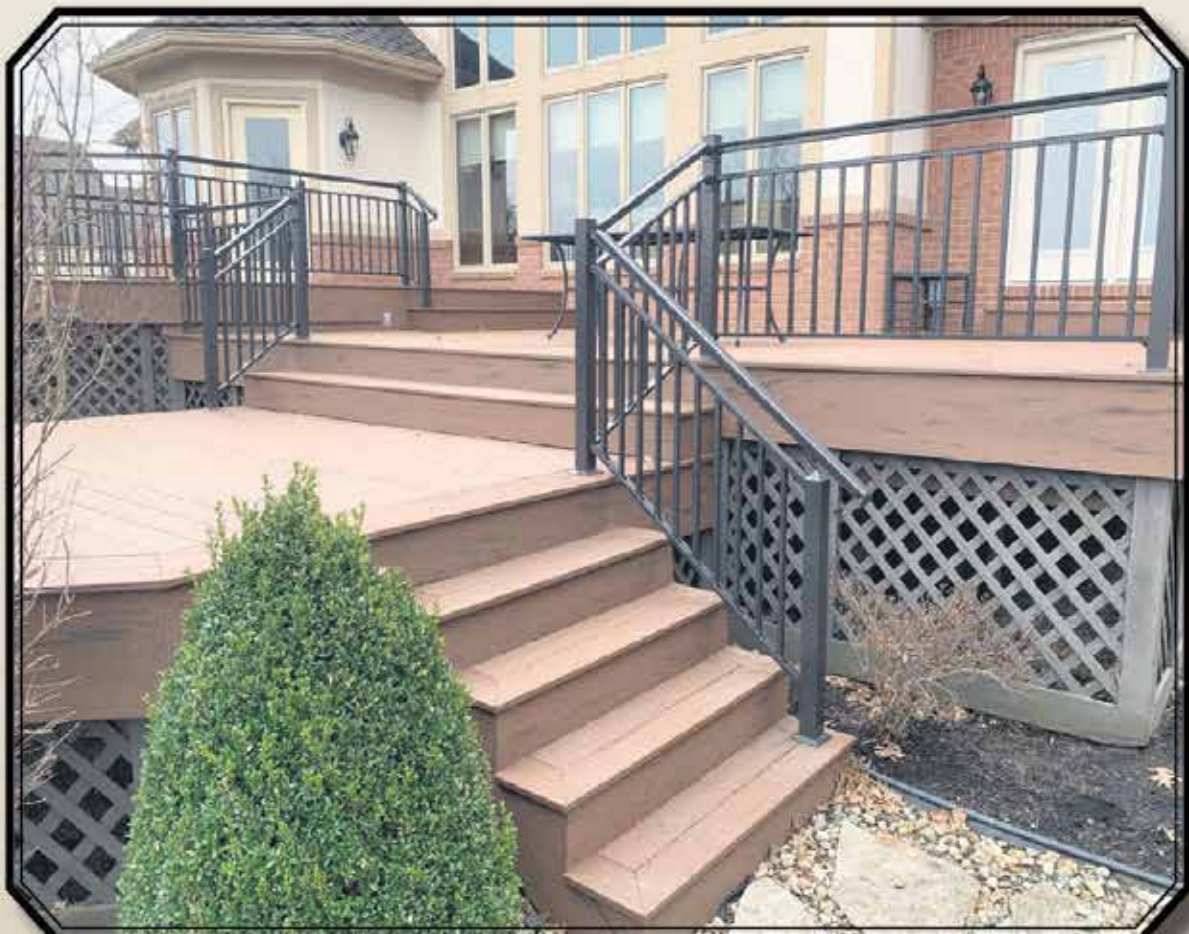
Poultry Herdsman Awards - Cheyenne Swisher-not pictured, Ivan Rausch, Grant Moore, and Penn Bubeck

CONGRATS WINNERS!



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