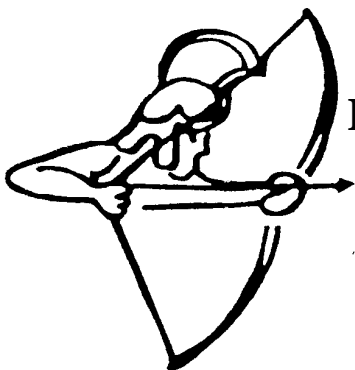




Megan Leonard said she enjoys spending time outdoors during the summertime with the animals on her farm. Sometimes she takes the family dog, Pepper, out to the field with her on their all terrain vehicle as she delivers water to her brother and father.

Photos by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland-Star News

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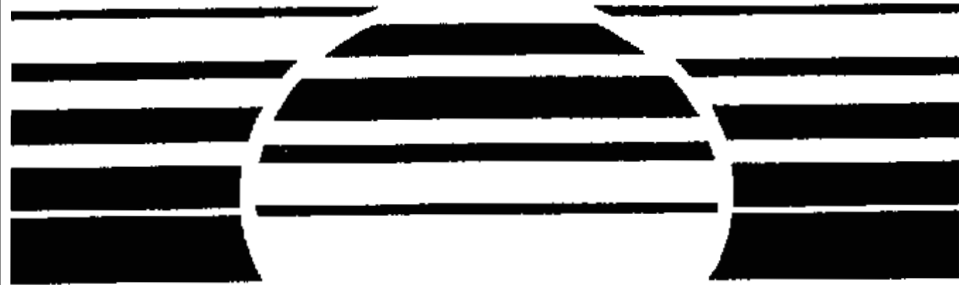


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Megan Leonard will spend her days leading up to the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair cleaning the wheat she raised as one of her 4-H projects. She uses the pans to remove all of the extra pieces leaving just the kernels of wheat. Her mother, Lori, said the family usually gathers around to help her as the fair draws closer. Her clean wheat will be displayed in 2 1/2 gallon containers at her booth at the fair.

LEONARD, from Page 8

She continued taking pictures as hobby and has entered them for the past two years.

Leonard has been participating in a ceramics project for several years. She started with painting pre-made ceramics and later learned to use the pottery wheel in high school. Her entries for this year's ceramics include a part hand and part wheel thrown bowl and a few smaller bowls.

She also will enter an art project into the fair that she completed in her high school art class.

"I did it as an art project, then I can turn around and use it in the summer for the fair," she said.

For her crop project, Leonard participates in the Sherman County Wheat tour by planting a test plot.

"I really don't mind doing it," she said. "The beginning and the ending are the hard parts."

She separates out the varieties into rows when she plants them. She also irrigates the test plot and cares for it throughout the growing season. When the wheat is ripe, she cuts the wheat at seven rows at a time and weights it.

"I had to go out and calculate how much was there," she said.

After she calculates the amount of wheat in the field she uses the scales

at her family farm to determine the yield. Leonard then cleans each sample of wheat by hand and places them in 2 1/2 gallon containers to display at the fair.

She said she does the project because her family raises seed wheat on their farm. She said the project gives them a picture of how well different varieties do on their farm.

"It gives us some different varieties," she said.

She said the wheat has been through rust, freeze, hail, wind and sprout damage.

"I've had anything and everything happen to it," she said.

With all of the projects Leonard participates in, she said this year she will have 6 entries into the fair.

Last year she won Grand Champion at the fair in crochet, ceramics and for her wheat booth. She won Reserve Class Champion in photography and in crops.

Entries that win a purple or better in the district can go on to compete in the state fair.

Leonard said she has been involved in several special 4-H activities. She is the president of the 4-H Junior Leaders, she helps out with the club's Day Camp and she has attended the county camp at Rock Springs. She also helps with the fishing clinic and officer training. She said the Junior Leaders help to serve banquets in-

cluding the John Deere, Farm City and Pheasant Forever banquets. Her group serves a meal to participants after the wheat tour.

Discovery Days at Kansas State University in Manhattan is one of the activities that has greatly impacted Leonard's life. One year, while on the tour she learned about the milling and feed science department during a demonstration.

The demonstration led her to look into the bakery science and management, the degree program she plans to start next fall at K-State. She will be working on a chemical level testing the minerals in flour and other foods.

"I can pretty much say that through 4-H I got interested in the program," she said. "My ag background helped me."

After graduating with honors from Goodland High School Leonard won a few local scholarships, the Rumsey Scholarship for going into the bakery program at K-State, the Larry Morgan 4-H Scholarship and the 4-H Junior Leaders Scholarship.

For her future in the 4-H club, Leonard said the program ends at college, but she hopes to become an active as an adult after college. She said she would also like to get more young kids involved in the club.

"I'd like to come back and help with it," she said. "Wherever I go, I will try to be involved in the 4-H."

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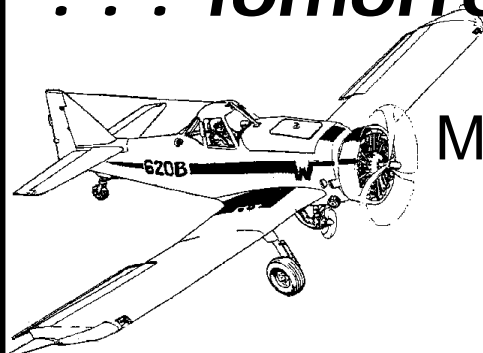
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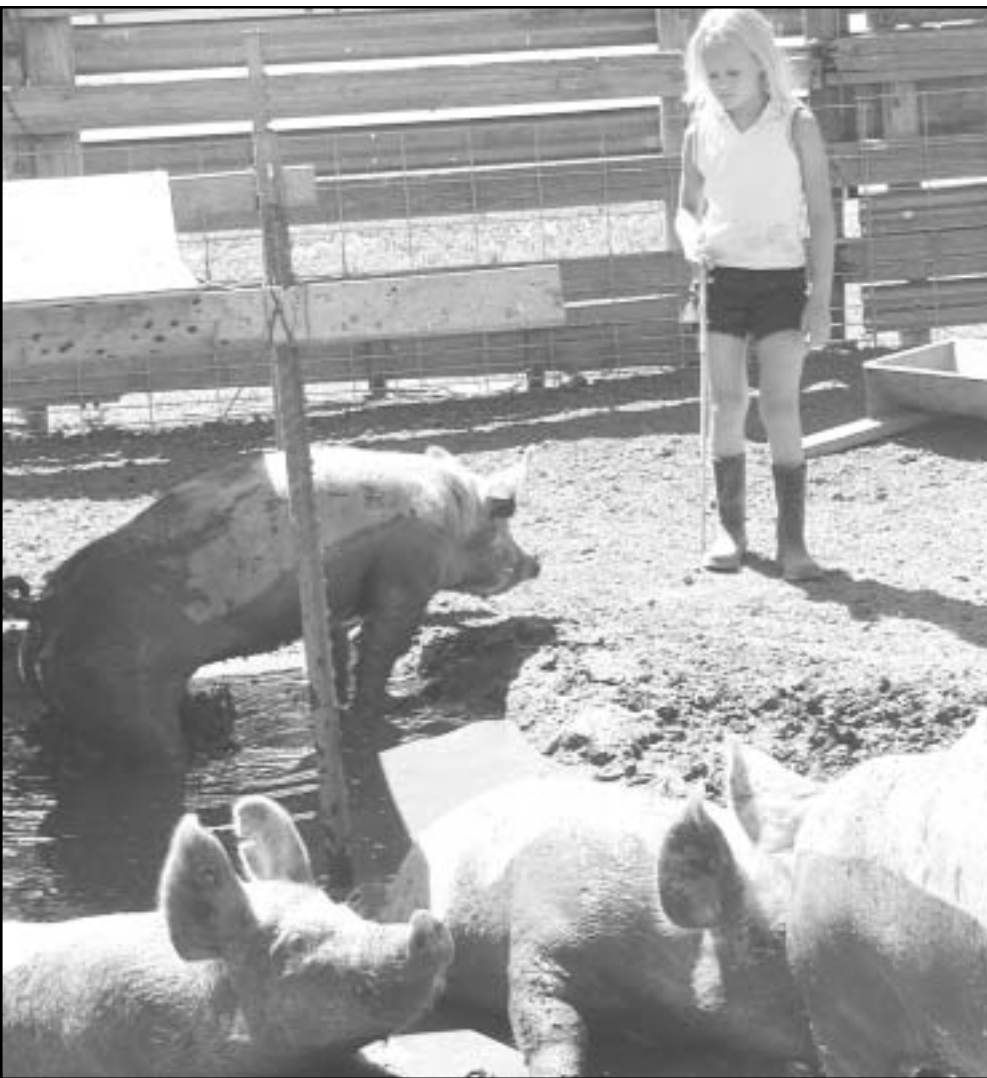
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City-dwellers raise lambs, hogs, heifer

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

For city-dwellers, raising livestock presents its challenges, but the Cooper family has worked to overcome them and is happy to finally have a place to keep the animals together.

Cassie, 14; Colton, 8; and Carlee, 7, children of Rod and Michelle Cooper of Goodland, are raising lambs and pigs as 4-H projects to show at the fair, and Cassie will show a breeding heifer. The animals, aside from the heifer, are in pens at Seventh and Eustis, on the outskirts of Goodland.

"This is the first year we've had all the animals together," Michelle said. "It makes it hard being city folk. . . to keep livestock."

Before, she said, the lambs were with friends in the country, and the pigs were with other friends at Ruleton. Now just the heifer, a first-time project for Cassie, is at Ruleton.

The animal projects started with a "catch-it"

pig Cassie won, Michelle said, and expanded when friends offered her a bottle lamb to show. Dee and Jim Weeter got her started on that, Michelle said; their kids had shown lambs for years.

Now, the Coopers buy animals each year to show, and Colton has his own "catch-it" pig.

Each kid has two each of lambs and pigs, Michelle said, in case one gets sick or something and can't make it to the fair. After the fair, she said, they can each sell one of each species at the Appreciation Barbecue and then sell the others at market value.

They have found it a tricky balance to feed the animals what they need to bring them to the right weight. Some of the pigs had to be babied at first to start growing, Michelle said, but Colton's "catch-it" pig, appropriately named Chunky, gets oats to fill his belly with little weight gain.

"We're learning all kinds of tricks of the trade," she said.

The pigs have to weigh between 220 and 280 pounds to show, she said, so they aren't so big

Carlee Cooper watched the hogs as they enjoyed a mud bath at the families animal pen on the edge of Goodland.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

See COOPERS, Page 12



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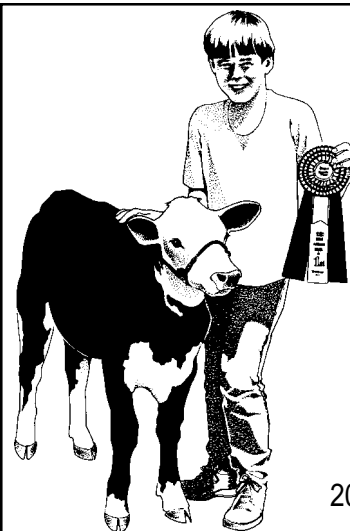
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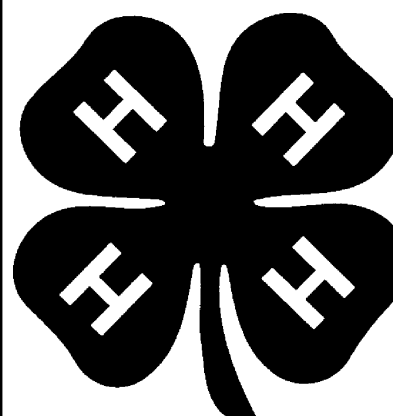
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4-H projects began with 'Chunky' the pig

COOPER, from Page 11

they're all fat or so skinny there's no meat.

All of the animals also have to be walked, Michelle said, for muscle tone. Walking the lambs led to a name for one. Colton said one of his lambs would stiffen up while walking, and when he tried to get it to loosen up, it jumped. Now its name is Jumper.

Carlee said when she scratches her pig Babe's tummy, he rolls over and wants his tummy rubbed.

"That's something we try to discourage," Michelle said; "we don't want it to be a habit."

Though keeping the animals nearby is easier for feeding and walking them, it presents another challenge. Michelle said they have to clean the pens pretty often since they are so close to town.

"Of course there's some smell," she said, "but we don't want the neighbors to complain it stinks."

The pigs have to have mud to roll in, Colton said, because they don't have sweat glands. And it keeps them

from getting sunburned, Michelle added.

Cassie and Colton each had a grand champion lamb last year. Cassie's hoping genealogy will be on her lamb's side this year. She said she's showing last year's grand champion's baby this year.

Michelle said when they sold the champion, they asked the new owners if they were going to breed her and if they could have a shot at showing her baby.

Besides livestock, the Coopers have projects ranging from arts and crafts to aquarium pets. Colton has a peacock eel, African frogs and fish and has rocketry and arts and crafts projects.


Cassie has a cat, and Carlee is doing "Exploring 4-H," a program for first-year 4-Hers that allows them to try several different things, including cooking and crafts.

And the Coopers have hand-pets, hermit crabs, a project inspired by school.


See COOPER, Page 13



Colton Cooper petted one of the hogs that had been wallowing in the mud. The hog will look a lot cleaner when shown at the fair next week.



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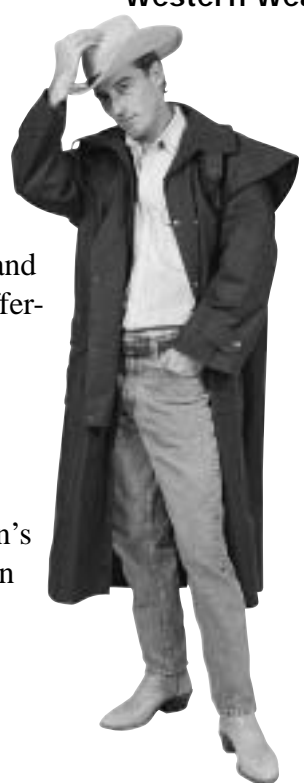


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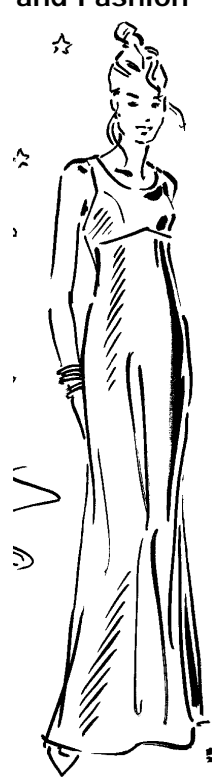
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Cooper family

COOPER, from Page 12

“The school teachers had them in the classroom,” Michelle said, “then we got some.”

Cassie said her favorite projects are the lambs and cats. Colton’s favorites are the aquarium pets. They’re easy, he said. Carlee hasn’t decided on a favorite yet.

As a junior leader, Cassie has expanded her 4-H experiences. She helped with the day camp and the fishing clinic, helped with banquets and has gone on a ski trip. She said she enjoys being active with the other kids.

During the day camp, Cassie said she took a group from station to station, where they made bottle rockets, decorated a pair of flip flops, made homemade ice cream in a bag and had a petting zoo.

Michelle said she has been learning new things now that she’s a leader of the Glendale Livewires. She said there have been all kinds of events she didn’t know about before.

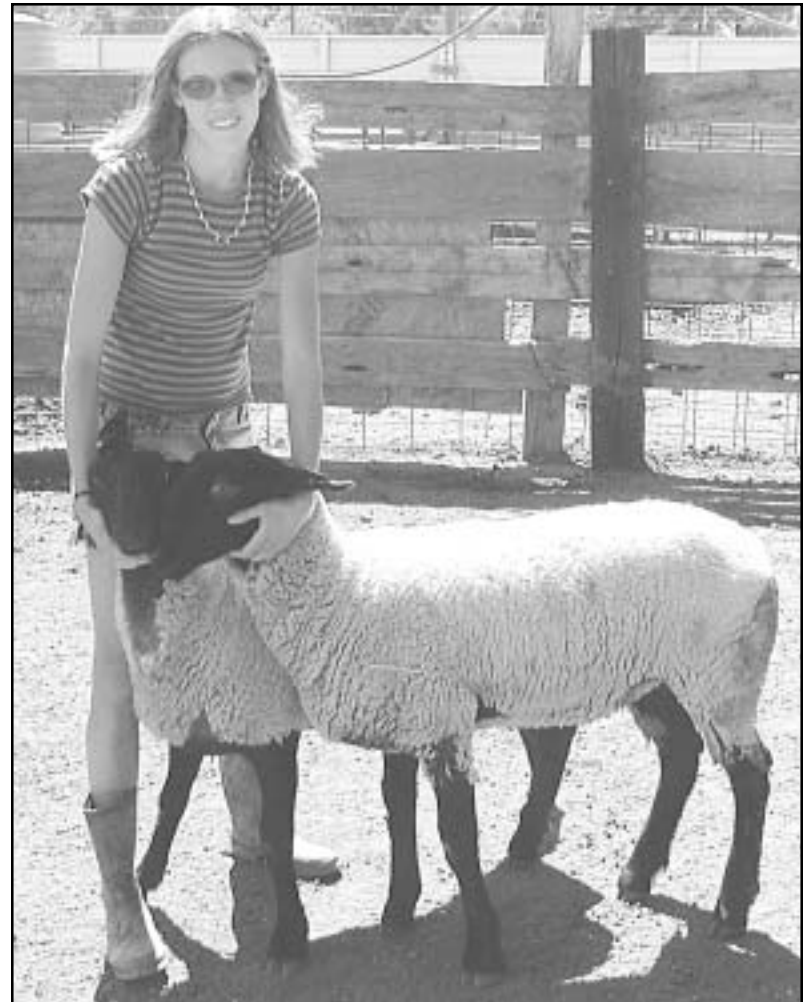
The kids are members of the Livewires, and Michelle said the family is learning together.

“It’s a family project,” she said.

Indeed, the Coopers get help with their livestock from their grandfather Duane Hanke.



Colton Cooper works his hog as he will when showing at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair next week.



Cassie Cooper held two lambs that she will be showing at the fair next week.



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Fair time brings to mind images of jams, jellies

JELLIES, from Page 7

Stir pectin mixture into the fruit and stir constantly until sugar is dissolved about 3 minutes. Fill all containers within 1/2 inch of the tops. Wipe off top edges of containers and quickly cover with lids. Let stand for 24 hours. Jam is ready to use. Will store for 3 weeks in the refrigerator or freeze up to 1 year. Unthaw in the refrigerator. Yields 6 (1 cup) containers.

Any of following can be added to the strawberries before the sugar: 1/2 cup slivered almonds, chopped pecans, pumpkin or sunflower kernels or pine nuts (may be toasted); 1/4 cup dry white vermouth or sherry; 2 tablespoons orange-flavored liqueur; 1 tablespoon finely chopped crystallized ginger; 2 teaspoons almond extract; 1 tablespoon grated lemon, lime or orange peel; 1/4 cup mashed ripe banana and 1 tablespoon lemon juice.

Blueberry freezer jam

2 1/2 pints fully ripe blueberries
5 1/4 cups sugar
3/4 cup water
1 package (1 3/4 ounces) powdered fruit pectin

Wash the plastic containers and sterilize the containers and lids in boiling water. Wash blueberries and remove stems. Crush blueberries thoroughly. In a large bowl exactly measure 3 cups of crushed blueberries. Stir in sugar and let stand 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. In a small saucepan bring to a boil water and pectin

mixed. Continue boiling and stirring for 1 minute. Stir pectin mixture into fruit mixture while stirring constantly until sugar is dissolved and not grainy about 3 minutes. Fill all containers within 1/2 inch from the tops. Wipe off edges of containers and cover quickly with lids. Let stand at room temperature for 24 hours. Jam is ready to eat. Stores in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks or freeze up to 1 year. Thaw in the refrigerator. Yields 7 (1 cup) containers.

Raspberry-peach freezer jam

1 1/2 pints fully ripe red raspberries
1 1/4 pounds fully ripe peaches
7 cups sugar
3/4 cup water
1 package (1 3/4 ounces) powdered fruit pectin

Wash the plastic containers and sterilize the containers and lids in boiling water. Crush raspberries thoroughly. (Press half of pulp through a sieve if you want to remove some of the seeds.) In a large bowl measure exactly 2 cups prepared raspberries. Peel peaches and remove pits. Chop finely or grind peaches. Add 1 1/2 cup of prepared peaches into the large bowl containing raspberries. Stir in sugar and let stand for 10 minutes. Stir occasionally. In a small pan bring to a boil water and pectin, mixed well. Boil for 1 minute while stirring. Stir pectin mixture into fruit mixture until sugar is dissolved about 3 minutes. Fill containers quickly to 1/2 inch of the top. Wipe of edges of top and quickly cover with the lids. Let stand at room temperature for

24 hours. Jam is ready to eat. Store in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks or freeze up to 1 year. Thaw in refrigerator. Yields 7 (1 cup) containers.

Lemon orange freezer jelly

2 cups orange juice
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
4 1/2 cup sugar
3/4 cup water
1 package (1 3/4 ounces) powdered fruit pectin

Wash the plastic containers and sterilize the containers and lids in boiling water. Into a large bowl pour orange and lemon juices and stir in

the sugar. Let stand for 10 minutes. Stir occasionally. In a small pan bring water and pectin well mixed to a boil. Stir constantly. Continue boiling and stirring for 1 minute. Stir pectin mixture into juice mixture until sugar is dissolved about 3 minutes. Quickly fill all containers to 1/2 inch from the top. Wipe off top of containers and quickly cover with the lids. Let stand at room temperature for 24 hours. Jelly is ready to eat. Can be stored in the refrigerator up to 3 weeks. Freeze the extra. Thaw in the refrigerator before using. Yields 5 (1 cup) containers.

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2004 Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Schedule



Saturday, July 31

8:00 A.M. Dog Show Registration
8:30 A.M. Dog Show (Livestock Arena)
5:00 P.M. Parade Line Up
6:00 P.M. Parade

Monday, August 2

8:00 A.M. Judging 4-H Foods
Judging 4-H Arts & Crafts
Register 4-H and Open
Horse Show
8:30 A.M. 4-H Lifeskills Judging
9:00 AM. Horse Show and

Tuesday, August 3

8:00 A.M. Check-In All Entries
4-H & Open Classand
11:00 A.M. All Entries Close
Flower Judging
1:00 P.M. Judging All Classes
Except Livestock
2:00 P.M. Llama Show
3:00 P.M. Sheep Lead
Goat Show
3:30 P.M. Sheep Show
6:00 P.M. Llama Demonstration
7:00 P.M. Howdy Rowdy Rodeo



Wednesday, August 4

8:00 A.M. Swine Show
7:00 P.M. Ranch Rodeo

Thursday, August 5

8:00 A.M. Beef Show
Round Robin Showmanship -
30 minutes after beef show
6:00 P.M. Family Fun Night
Hot Dog Feed

Friday, August 6

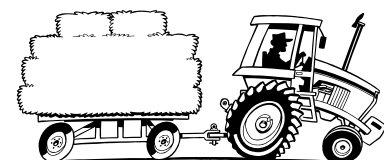
8:00 A.M. Livestock Judging Contest
4:30 P.M. 4-H Appreciation BBQ
5:30 P.M. 4-H Livestock Sale
7:00 P.M. Demolition Derby

Saturday, August 7

8:00 A.M. Enter Tri-State
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