



**ON TOP OF RANGER**, wearing a safety helmet, Becca Reuther (above) Saturday. Jordan McHugh (below) sat on her horse Zoe while she talked with friends. laid on her tummy as she waited for her first event at the 4-H Horse Show

# Horse show opens Decatur County Fair

The Decatur County Fair kicked off on Saturday with the 4-H and open class horse show at the arena just south of the fairground.

Around 8 a.m., 17 horse enthusiasts checked in and signed up to compete in the day-long event. Roma Grafel said there were 38 classes for riders to enter.

Contestants are divided into four groups: juniors age 7-9, intermediate 10-12, seniors 13-18 and adults.

Each group gets a try at the 38 classes, which include western pleasure, horsemanship, reining, pole bending, barrel racing, trail, bare-

back horsemanship, flag race and showmanship.

For the younger riders, Mrs. Grafel said, they have pony leisure, lead line and walk/trot for the kids who don't fall into any of the classes and are just learning how to ride. Kids have to be at least 7 to be in 4-H.

This year, she said, two girls, Kira Meitl and Sabrina Dellere, passed to higher levels in 4-H horsemanship. Miss Meitl passed level 1 and Miss Dellere passed level 2.

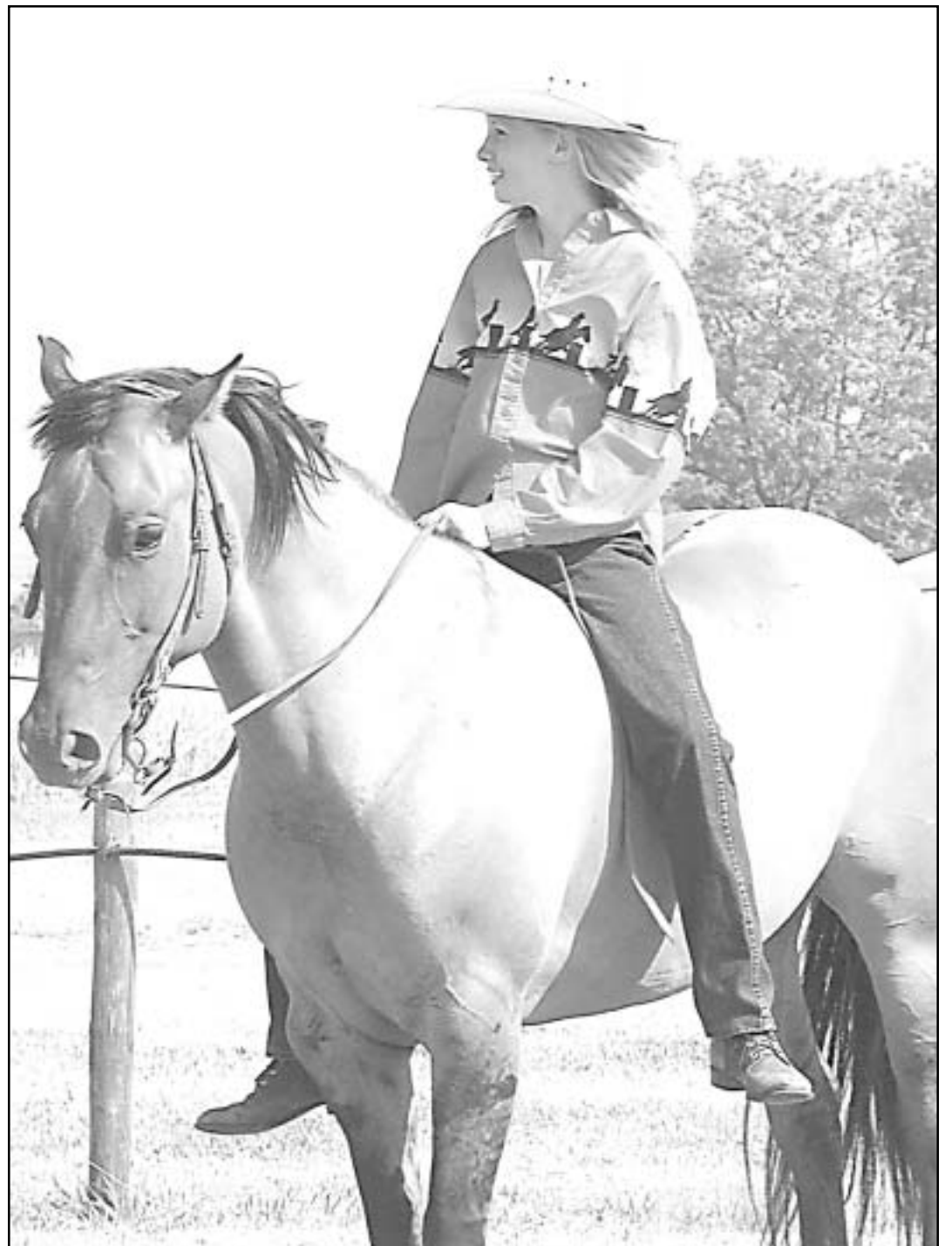
The girls had to answer questions about horses and rodeo and also be

able to perform on their mounts. Each girl received a runout blanket for their horse.

Mrs. Grafel said that the different levels mean that the girls are becoming more knowledgeable in their area. They still fall into one of the regular age classes.

Mrs. Grafel said that in each division, points were kept on how the rider performed in the events.

The ones with the most points in each received a halter and lead rope. The runner-up received a lounge line, used to exercise horses.



Story and photos by Kimberly Davis



**ON HER HORSE, PISTOL PETE**, Patience Carman was led by Kristin McHugh.