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County Fair offers super cross races

(Submitted by Muskegon County Fairgrounds)

On July 30 and September 17-18 super cross races will be held at the Muskegon County Fairgrounds, 6621 Heights Ravenna Road.

Admission is \$10 for adults; \$7 for youth ages 12 and under. Races begin at 7 p.m. each night. •

5K Family Fun Run at county fair

(Submitted by Muskegon County Fairgrounds)

This gorgeous nature trail run takes place at the Muskegon County Fairgrounds in Fruitport Township during the youth fair. Runners and walkers begin at the pavilion in the fairgrounds at 8 a.m. and travel through the beautiful wooded area off the Musketawa Trail. The Muskegon County Sheriff’s Posse will provide direction and route protection.

The cost is \$25 per person in advance. A special family rate for three persons or more from the same address is \$17 per person. Cost is \$30 per person on the day of the race. Pre-registration can be done online at www.snapreregistration.com/110124.

A Kids Fun in the Sun Run follows the 5K at the horse track. Registration is free and the race is open to kids 10 and younger. An optional tee shirt is available for \$10. Parents may walk or run with their children.

Refreshments and awards will be offered at the end of the races. Door prizes!

Bridge card tokens encourage fresh, local purchases

(Submitted by United Way of the Lakeshore)

Everyone should have access to fresh, healthy, locally-grown food regardless of their household income. Six area food pantries and providers will be distributing \$5 tokens to Bridge card holders to use as money toward the purchase of fresh food at the Muskegon Farmer’s Market.

Last year was the first year the farmer’s market accepted Bridge Cards as payment for produce. “We are pleased with the results of almost \$30,000 in revenue,” said Lori Gomez-Payne market master. “But we realize the potential to buy local is much greater.”

This incentive to buy local is funded by a grant through United Way of the Lakeshore and Voices for Action Poverty Reduction Initiative written by the Emergency Needs Food Sub-Committee. Suzanne Prell, director of income and operations at United Way, said the purpose of this grant has several benefits, including the promotion of self-sufficiency. “Our committee is encouraging less reliance on food pantries and mobile food trucks, and encouraging healthy eating habits, asset building and promoting the local economy and trade. It is a way to stretch food stamp dollars in a positive direction.”

The distributors of the tokens include the Salvation Army, the Rescue Mission, AgeWell Services, Mission for Area People, Catholic Charities and Love, Inc. Anyone interested should be enrolled as a client. •



Haley Reinecke helps to settle Gypsy’s jitters during a spring meeting.

Join Tip Top Riders at the fair

By Shelby Navarre

Our year’s worth of hard work is about to culminate at the Muskegon County Fair. The Tip Top Riders 4-H club has met every Thursday evening since September to learn anything equine-related ranging anywhere from health care and nutrition to riding techniques and safety around horses. Our club is led by Alice Hard, Sonja Sprague, and Cindy Rhine. We have a large variety of horses, including miniature horses, ponies, palominos and other large breeds. From large to small, plain to spots, we do it all. This year, our club consists of 11 members, all of whom are returning participants with the exception of Morgan Lockart. Morgan has been a wonderful addition to our club, and we are excited to have her.

Together, our club is hard at work with our usual tasks associated with the fast-approaching fair week, including practicing daily, cleaning tack, bathing horses, making costumes, and preparing stall decorations. We are finding that some of the duties are not as routine as they once were due to a variety of modifications which have been made to the layout of the fairgrounds. Our horses will now be stalled in the former racetrack barns rather than our usual barns at the south end of the fairgrounds. This allows for the inanimate entries to be displayed much closer to the rest of the fair. When you’re there, be sure to check out our booth with our quilting, scrapbooking, and photography projects.

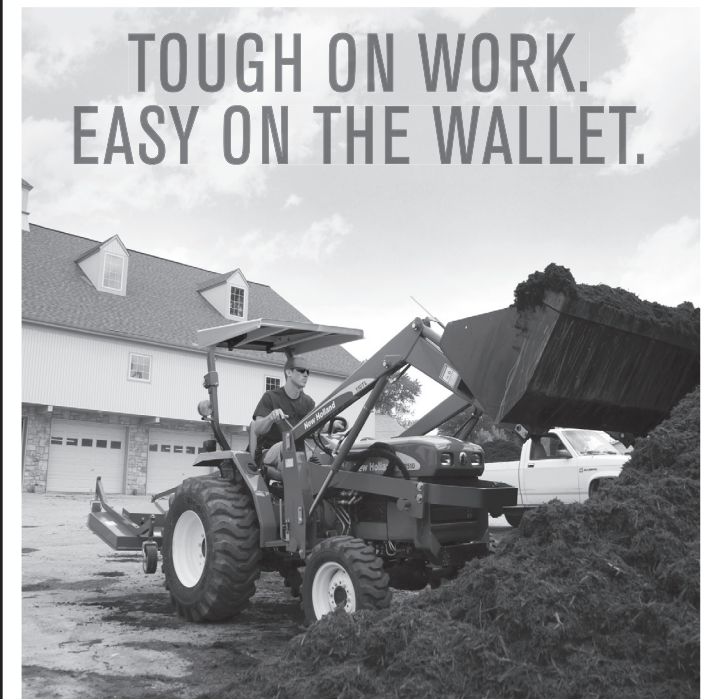
Although this change has posed a few challenges along the way, it is, overall, a learning experience and an exciting move. A neat path has been nicely laid which will make for a pleasant walk to the horse barns. Stop by and say “Hi” when you get there! We all look forward to seeing you, both at the arena and in our new barns. I can guarantee it will be worth the hike! •



Morgan Lockart riding Stormy is assisted by Grandmother and leader Cindy Rhine.



Clara Carr (left) on Maddie and Ashley Morrow on Skittles sharpen their riding skills.



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