



Alayna Gilbert with Magik, and Isabel Fisher with Freedom are members of the Horse 'N' Around Riders 4-H Club.



Justin Tanis from Montague, **Cameron DeVries**, a former 4-H member also from Montague, and **Corey Reagan** of Holton enjoyed their time selling refreshments at this year's 4-H fair. (Photo by Marilee Beck)

Irrigation wells

(Submitted by Public Health Muskegon County)

Have you been looking at your yard and wondering if you should put in an irrigation well? It seems like taking the water under the ground to water the grass should be uncomplicated. But before you part with your hard-earned cash, or commit to hard labor, here are some things you should know.

A permit to install any well, including an irrigation well, is required from Public Health Muskegon County prior to installation. The permit requirement was adopted due to the number of irrigation wells found in areas of contamination. Spraying methyl-ethyl-nasty on the lawn is not good for the grass, or you!

All wells must be installed according to the State of Michigan Well Construction Code. Poor well design can cause groundwater contamination by allowing rain or snowmelt to reach the water table. Surface water can carry bacteria, pesticides, and oil products into the water supply. Proper well design reduces the risk of pollution by sealing the well from anything that might enter it from the surface, and protects you and your family from disease-causing organisms and chemicals.

If you hire someone to put in a well, they must be licensed in the state of Michigan. The groundwater is a valuable resource. Well drillers have the skill and specialized equipment to protect both the water and you, the consumer. If a handyman gives you a quote to install a well, ask for his credentials. Licensed well drillers can be found in the yellow pages under "Water Well Drilling."

Do it yourselfers, beware!

- Well installation is grueling work. Weekend warriors, be prepared to strain, sprain or otherwise hurt yourself. Tetanus shots should be up to date!

- Most of the equipment for jetting, driving or sand sucking a well available at the local building supply store does not meet the legal well installation requirements.

- Grout, a sealant placed around the casing during installation, is required by law. Grout is tricky to use, and not readily available at the local building supply store.

- Wells installed by hand will often have low yield or stop working after a few years because of poor technique during installation causing smearing, screen plugging or pump damage.

- Only the homeowner can install the well for their home! Any well installed on a commercial property, including rental housing, must be installed by a licensed well driller.

- Very important! Just because the water floods your crawl space and there's a pond in the front yard doesn't mean there is enough to run irrigation. While ground water is readily available over most of the county, there are many areas where the water close to the ground surface doesn't flow very fast. You can get water, but not enough to water the yard or run several sprinkler heads at once, and putting a bigger pump on it will just cause the pump to burn up that much faster.

So, do a little research. It will save money, time, aggravation and probably your back in the long run! If you have specific questions, please call Public Health Muskegon County Environmental Health at (231) 724-6208. •20

PLAY N TRADE
 We're not just playing games
VIDEO GAMES
 5506 Harvey St. Muskegon, MI • (231) 799-3200
 • We Fix Broken Consoles • We Repair Damaged Discs
 Save with FAN Money
 Mention this ad for **30% Off** any one used game

MUSKEGON ANTIQUE MALL
 5905 Grand Haven Rd.
 Norton Shores, MI
OPEN EVERY DAY!
 Monday - Saturday 11 am - 6 pm
 Sunday 1-6 pm

SERVICE TECH'S DIRECT
 • Heating • Cooling • Commercial Refrigeration
 Up to \$500 in Federal Tax Credits available • Utility rebates available

Call now for Tune-up Special

"INSTALLATION & REPAIR EXPERTS"

Save with FAN Money & Coupons

24 HR EMERGENCY SERVICE

• We Service All Makes & Models
 • Free Estimates on New Installations
 • Forced Air & Geothermal
 • Financing Available

231-865-6324

VISA, MasterCard, TRANE, BBB

It's Hard To Stop A Trane.
 We install Trane Heating & Air Conditioning

Save with FAN Money & Coupon

Spruce Up Your Home!

Call for Your FREE Estimate Today!

Special on Replacement Windows, Roofing & Siding
 See Coupon on the Coupon Page for \$250 to \$350 OFF!

552 W. Southern • Muskegon
 phone: 231-726-2020 - fax: 231-726-5695
 Grand Haven: 616-847-0577
 www.schmidroofing.net

SCHMIDT ROOFING & SIDING
 FREE ESTIMATES
726-2020

Scott MEATS

CATERING TO THE CARNIVORE SINCE 1983

FRESH CUT BEEF & PORK
 POULTRY - LUNCH MEAT - SMOKED BACON
 HOME-MADE SMOKED & FRESH SAUSAGE
 MEAT SNACK STICKS & BEEF JERKY

MUSKEGON COUNTY'S LARGEST FULL SERVICE MEAT COUNTER

~ PRICES AS CLOSE TO WHOLESALE AS YOU CAN GET! ~

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5:30PM
 SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM

Save with FAN Money & Coupon

VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER, BRIDGE

309 W. BROADWAY - MUSKEGON HEIGHTS