

Junior Open Division Bringing New Opportunities To Clay County Fair

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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The Clay County Fair Association has a question for you.

Are you crafty?

For children in grades kindergarten through eighth grade, a special junior division in the open class will be offered for the second year, and board member Sharron Jensen said she hopes everyone gets involved.

“Open class is for anyone that is not in 4-H to enter,” she said. “This is the other side of the fair. It has its own special book. You go to Claycountyfair.net to see all the different things going on at the fair.”

Jensen said that the Open Class book was revamped last year.

“My personal goal was to highlight that age group – kindergarten through 8th grade,” she said. “It is crafts and things that this age group would do in school. In particular, I talked to the art teachers about what types of things this age group would do. The rubber band stuff. Stuff for boys, like tying fishing lures, or stuff they might do in Scouts like box derby cars. This is what they do in some of their painting classes in school. Legos are big, but be sure to read the rules on it. When you go to the other part of the book, even kids can do this. I really want to see projects from school. Anything they have created in the last year.”

The rest of the events

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SHARRON JENSEN

are open to any age group.

“If you help your child make cookies, you can enter them in the open class, that way the child has an investment,” Jensen said. “That is what I love about open class is that it is open to anyone. There has always been an open class with the fair, but the junior division started last year.”

Jensen said that she was surprised that entries were so up last year, while 4-H was down, but that was because they were building a new building at the state fairgrounds which limited the entries to two per person.

“To me this is what makes the fair open to everyone – they can come down and participate,” she said. “Please note that Tuesday night, August 4 is when the open class is being registered. That is a change from last year. We used to do 4-H and Open Class on the same night and that got very confusing, so we are going back to its own night.”

Jensen said there are two special events that she would like to see more entrants in.

“The first is the table setting contest,” she said. “Eve-

ryone sets a table. There are all of these people that can do this. These are registered on Thursday night from 7-8 p.m., that way the rest of the room is set up and there is no chance that anything can get broken. I would really like to see this event grow. It is so much fun. The room is watched, so they are supervised. I would really like to see this grow. It is a real up and down thing, but I love this event.

“The other I would really like to see a lot of participation in is the pie baking contest, the decorated cake contest and the homemade cookie contest. All of the entrants will be auctioned off on the last night of the fair for the benefit of the Clay County Youth Trust Fund Scholarship, which benefit Clay County youth. This will come in at noon on Saturday so they are fresh when they are judged and go right to the auction.”

No matter what area your talent lies in Jensen said just get involved.

“I think people will be surprised how much they enjoy doing this,” she said. “Get involved, bring the whole family down and have a great time.”



PLAIN TALK FILE PHOTO
The Clay County Fair is set to begin next week and as families make their way to the grounds, many look forward to the sweet treats found at the 4-H food booth.

Getting Involved In 4-H

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE

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According to Emily Rolfes, age 15, getting involved with the Clay County Fair and 4-H is something she would recommend to anyone.

“It is just really fun,” she said. “It is something fun to be in and it teaches you a lot of useful stuff for life.”

Rolfes is in the local 4-H shooting club and has been involved for more than 7 years.

“I think going to the fair and seeing all the projects is what got me involved with 4-H,” she said. “I love arts and crafts and I also have a rabbit that I show. It just seems like something fun to do. I really enjoy archery and bb guns, but mainly archery.”

She said other projects she will enter this year will include showing her rabbit, several crafts and a few photography entries.

“I have been working with my rabbit, to

prepare. I have been working with my craft tags, telling what I did and the background of the project,” Rolfes said. “I will be entering a project that I did at a camp I attended this summer where we did 3D engraving. I am entering a pen I made.”

She noted that while it isn't hard to get to go on to the state fair, the Clay County Fair helps prepare you.

“When you first start it is really nerve wracking, but as you go along you get more comfortable,” Rolfes explained. “The judges are all nice people and you get more used to it.”

For anyone who might be considering entering in either the open class or getting involved in 4-H for next year she had a few words of advice.

“I would tell someone who hasn't been involved it is really fun and they definitely should do it,” she said.

Korte Joins Weston Noble Alumni Choir For Final Reunion Concert

DECORAH, Iowa—Solveig Korte of Vermillion, South Dakota, will join the Weston Noble Alumni Choir in Decorah for its ninth and final reunion concert in Decorah. The choir, representing Luther classes from 1949 to 2013, will meet for five days of intense rehearsals starting July 26 and culminating in the final reunion concert that features a performance by award winning tenor Eric Cutler, Luther class of 1999.

The performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, in the Center for Faith and Life Main Hall on the Luther College campus in Decorah.

Weston Noble, Johnson Professor Emeritus of Music at Luther, had a 57-year tenure in conducting and teaching at Luther. Noble, along with Luther Assistant Professor of Music Andrew Last, will conduct the final reunion concert, which is open to the public with no charge for admission.

Music and family walk in lockstep throughout Luther's history. Alumni Choir member Marilyn Fritz Shardlow, Luther class of 1972, notes that her grandfather Charles Fritz was the college's valedictorian in 1911. Fritz, a religion major, was an active participant in music at Luther and went on to become a lifelong singer, instrumentalist and composer. Shardlow joins her sister Anne Woelfler, Luther class of 1964, in this year's Alumni Choir.

Shardlow's father, Eliel Fritz, sang in Schola Cantorum, the predecessor to Nordic Choir. “My dad sang at Luther and he taught us a love of singing,” Noble was a freshman when Eliel Fritz was a senior, and Shardlow recalls being deeply touched when, during an Alumni Choir rehearsal more than 50 years later, Noble made special note of Eliel's kindness to him as a student.

“I've gone through the Alumni Choir enough times that I've made friends from all different years,” says Shardlow. “[It's] a new iteration of the same experience I had in Nordic, being part of an experience so much greater than myself.”

The extended family that was to become The Weston Noble Alumni Choir formed in the summer of 2006. Myron Heaton, a 1968 Luther graduate and director of the Myron

Heaton Chorale of Las Vegas, invited Noble to serve as guest conductor for his group's concert tour of Europe. To augment Heaton's ensemble, the two conductors invited Luther College Nordic Choir alumni to join the tour. The Luther singers returned with a pledge to organize a larger alumni event, which has taken place each summer since 2007, including a return to Europe in 2010 and a California tour in 2012.

The 2015 concert features an entr'acte appearance by Eric Cutler, whose singing career has taken him across the United States and Europe, from the Metropolitan Opera to London, Rome and Australia. After a short solo program, Cutler will be joined by Aaron Gentes, Luther class of 1998, also a Nordic alum, now working in the Chicago area in the fields of music and information technology. The duo will reprise their 1998 Concerto Competition award-winning performance of “Au fond du temple saint” (“At the back of the holy temple”), from the opera “The Pearl Fishers” by Georges Bizet.

The program will conclude with Noble's signature closing pieces, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” by Lowell Mason, arranged by Gilbert Martin; and “O Lord God” by Paul Tschesnokoff.

For more information about the Weston Noble Alumni choir visit <http://www.westonnoblealumni choir.org>.

Fair

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Storytime with the Vermillion Public Library on the main stage,” she added. “There will be free craft sessions for children ages 3-7 starting at 1 p.m. Then the Fair Princess contest will be held from 2-4 p.m. on the main stage.”

The pedal pull sign up will begin at 3 p.m. with the event starting at 4 p.m. Doors for the demolition derby will open at 6 p.m.

“The demolition derby is really our money maker for the event,” Jensen said. “We do get support from the County and City, but the demolition derby is where the majority of our funding for the event come from. People really look forward to this event each year.”

Saturday will feature more events for the family, Jensen added.

“The 4-H Round Robin event, which is where the top winners in each event compete by showing all of the different animals, not just the ones they won in previously,” she said. “Then there will be a celebrity round robin featuring public figures from around Vermillion. It really is great fun to watch.”

There will also be a kids Power Wheels demolition derby held on Saturday, the awards ceremony for 4-H, and the Pie and Ranch Rodeo team auction where you bid on your favorite ranch rodeo team. If your team wins over all in the ranch rodeo, you will win 60 percent of the funds raised with the other 40 percent going to the Clay County Fair to help with grounds



upkeep expenses. “It is a lot of fun for everyone,” Jensen said. “I just encourage everyone to come out and see just what the fair is. You won't regret it.”

Tuesday, August 4
4-7 p.m. - Open Class
Entry Exhibits (4-H Center)

Wednesday, August 5
4-7 p.m. - Enter & Interview all non-livestock 4-H projects (4-H Center)

Thursday, August 6
8 a.m.-Noon - Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit - weighed & checked-in
1-8 p.m. - Inflatable's 4 p.m. - Open Class & 4-H Exhibit Buildings Opens
4 p.m. - Cat Show
4-5 p.m. - Robotics Demonstration
5-9 p.m. - Vendor Booths (Clover Hall)
5-7 p.m. - LIVE MUSIC (High Street)
5:30-6:30 p.m. - Community BBQ
5:30 p.m. - Barnyard Olympics Sign up (Vendor Building)
6 p.m. - 4-H Swine Show

(Covered Arena)
7 p.m. - 4-H Dog Obedience Demonstration (High Street)
7 p.m. - Barnyard Olympics (West of Derby Arena)
7 p.m. - Entry of Open Class Table Settings (4-H Center)
9 p.m. - Buildings Close

Friday, August 7
9 a.m. - Open Class & 4-H Exhibit Building Opens
9 a.m. - 4-H Rabbit Show (Rabbit/Poultry Barn)
10 a.m. - 4-H Sheep Show (Covered Arena)
11 a.m. - Storytime with the Vermillion Public Library (Main Street Stage)
1-8 p.m. - Inflatable's 1 p.m. - Goat Show (Covered Arena)
1-3 p.m. - FREE Craft Session Ages 3-7 (Clover Hall)
1-9 p.m. - Vendor Booths (Clover Hall)
2-4 p.m. - Fair Princess Contest (Main Stage)
3 p.m. - Pedal Pull Sign up (Vendor Building)
4 p.m. - Dakota Kids Pedal Pull (Street)
4-6 p.m. - LIVE MUSIC (High Street)
6 p.m. - Arena Gates & Beverage Garden Open
7 p.m. - Demolition Derby (Open Arena)
9 p.m. - Buildings Close

Saturday, August 8
9 a.m. - Open Class & 4-H Exhibits Building Opens
10 a.m. - 4-H Beef Show (Covered Arena)
Noon-1 p.m. - Open

Class Fruit Pie Contest (4-H Center)
1-8 p.m. - Inflatable's Noon-9 p.m. - Vendors Open (Commercial Building)
1 p.m. - 4-H Round Robin Contest (Covered Arena)
2 p.m. - Storytime with the Vermillion Public Library (Main Street Stage)
2 p.m. - Celebrity Round Robin Contest (Covered Arena)
2 p.m. - Kids Power Wheels Sign up (Covered Arena)
3 p.m. - Kids Power Wheels Demolition Derby (Covered Arena)
4 p.m. - 4-H Fashion Review and 4-H Livestock Awards (Main Stage)
4:45 p.m. - Pie and Ranch Rodeo Team Auction Visit Ranch Rodeo Page for more info. (Main Stage)
5:30 p.m. - Pie Eating Contest (Main Stage)
6 p.m. - Arena Gates & Beverage Garden Open
6 p.m. - 4-H Dog Obedience Demonstration (High Street)
6:30 p.m. - Ranch Rodeo and Mutton Busting (Open Arena)
9 p.m. - Buildings Close

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