

# Lincoln County Fair

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# Volunteer enjoys the lessons and friendships of 4-H

By Rebecca Nelson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

**B**lanche Flanagan has volunteered for 4-H for three decades, 25 of those years as a secretary of the 4-H council. “Basically wherever I’m needed, I try to help out,” she says.

A couple years ago, she took on a

new role. Flanagan and her daughter, Cathy Kuchera, are now co-leaders of the Wild and Rowdies 4-H club.

“My job as a leader is to guide them. 4-H is a teaching organization. It teaches the kids responsibility. It teaches them and helps them to learn life skills, so when they get out into the real world, you know, they know a little bit about this stuff

that some of these kids don’t,” Flanagan says.

One key is to not throw too much at the kids all at once. The club abides by the rule that kids may only take on one market animal the first time they do a project or change to a different breed. “People don’t realize how much work goes into raising an animal. It’s a lot of work,” she says.

The second year, they may raise more than one animal, getting them used to that next level of responsibility.

Some kids are at first attracted by the money they can make, Flanagan says, but kids who are only in it for that reason don’t usually continue. “They might start out doing it for the money, but they don’t end up that way,” she says. “They fall in love with the animal, or they get tickled with the antics the animal does. They become invested in it.”

Part of the process can be tough. “It’s pretty hard, especially for those first year kids, to watch that animal get on the trailer for the butcher shop. Some kids don’t take another project because of that, but most of them do,” she says. Often kids stay with 4-H for many years.

Flanagan grew up in Colorado, and as a kid only spent one year in 4-H, which back then was less organized and more of a social thing, she said.

Her family didn’t have farm animals or livestock. “All we had was dogs growing up. I was a city girl. I do know a little bit more now,” she says.

Flanagan met her husband in Utah. The two moved to Montana and have called the Tobacco Valley home for the past 38 years. “I can’t think of any other place I’d rather be,” she says. She’s learned about animals and the ranching life over years of helping on the ranch, and through helping kids in 4-H.

All her grown kids are still involved



Fair board members and secretary Svea Jorgensen help participants register for the Friday Night Games at the fairgrounds arena.

**See Volunteer, next page**



# Volunteer

Continued from previous page

somehow, too, whether they have kids enrolled or not. “We have a great bunch of people in this community,” she says.

“You make friends for life,” Flanagan says. She has a friend east of the mountains who she met 20 years ago through 4-H. “We still correspond, we’re still friends.”

Flanagan believes 4-H sets kids up for a great future. “They learn to stand up and speak in front of people, they learn to keep books... it’s a fun way to teach the kids how to do things.”

Whether they decide to go to college or not, “they have the knowledge to become successful,” she says. “It’s a great organization. I just can’t say enough about it.”



Children swarm the fairgrounds arena chasing madly dashing chickens at the Friday Night Games.

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# Teen learns life skills and responsibility in 4-H club

By Rebecca Nelson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

This will be Mielyn Bozarth's fifth year participating in 4-H, and she's stacking up life skills.

For teaching her some of those skills, Bozarth appreciates her leaders in the Wild and Rowdies 4-H club, Blanche Flanagan and Cathy Kuchera.

"I like how the leaders help us, and help us to become better people," she says. "When you're raising animals, you have to learn responsibility, so your animals don't die. You have to be respectful or else buyers won't want to buy your animals."

Bozarth lives in the West Kootenai. Headed for her freshman year, she has raised and worked with different animals, but pigs have been a constant. "My pig's name is Izze, like the drink," she says. She tried chickens her second year with the club, and for the past three years has also trained horses.

But pigs are fun. "They're funny. They can be crazy. Sometimes if they're like coughing, they'll start farting too." And they aren't too high

maintenance. "I walk my pig twice a day. It doesn't take too long," she says.

A few years ago, her younger brother, Kage, joined 4-H too. Bozarth says Kage may have learned a little from her, "Maybe how to walk a pig," but like little brothers everywhere, "He does not listen to me."

Bozarth also enjoys her 14-year-old horse, Kimber, and is preparing to show in both 4-H and open classes.

"Since I just I got her, she's never been used for showing before, so I've been working with her three days a week, whether it's just going on a ride with her or working on ground work and stuff. I'll also be going to the fairgrounds to get her used to that area too."

Outside of 4-H, Bozarth likes the heat of summer, lake days, and hiking, but is ready to return to school. She has a goal of continuing her streak of straight A's. She has played volleyball, basketball and track.

Though it's far off, she thinks she wants to go to college. "It would be cool to be a veterinarian," she says.



Mielynn Bozarth and horse Kimber are preparing for the Lincoln County Fair. Courtesy photo



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Wyatt Laughlin enjoys a moment before The Kraken sends him flying.



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Bidders sit in the shade at the 2021 4-H livestock auction.



4-H members watch the livestock auction from the barn while waiting their turn.

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Mom Svetlana Harper helps Nick Harper, 12, and Mirta the dog prepare for the dog agility course.



A youngster enjoys an ice cream cone in the fairway.

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Saxophonist Stacy Hart plays a tune on the free stage. Bull fighter Tyler Norton makes a vaulting tumble as a fighting bull charges.

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Jason Quintanilla of Libby watches two bantam chickens in the open class judging.





Junior Patrick Souza of Sonora, Brazil prepares in the chute for a ride at the Bull Thing.

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Donna Watson and Robbie McAboy take a break from their respective booths to peruse the photography division.



Autumn Fisher of Troy shows off lavender bantam chicken "Chuck," left, and buff bantam chicken "Boots" outside the poultry and rabbit barn.



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Children laugh as they speed down a giant slide at Kidsville.



A ticket taker counts out change for Kidsville.

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Gardener Catherine Kahle of Trego admires the vegetables on display at the fair and contemplates her potential future entries.



# Fairgrounds fish pond repaired, refilled and stocked

By Chris Wilson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

The Lincoln County Fair Pond and Park provides an easy to access fishing resource for

local anglers.

After sitting dry for years, the pond was fixed up and re-filled this spring.

Eureka Commissioner Josh Letcher initially was opposed to res-

urrecting the pond project when he considered all the available lakes and fishing resources in the area.

He had a change of heart when he saw how valuable the pond was to the community.

The administrator of Mountain View Manor told Letcher the story of the time he took an elderly resident down to the pond to catch one last fish.

“They’re there for a while and pretty soon he hooks up one of them big old rainbow trout and gets it right up to shore. He starts pulling it out and it comes off the hook and the administrator actually dove in the water after it,” Letcher said. They took a picture of that fish and the memory of that moment was a source of pride for the old man, his family, and the administrator who helped bring in the fish.

Letcher also saw that children with working parents and no one to take them fishing could use the pond. “These kids didn’t have anybody else to take them fishing and rather send

them down to the river which could be quite a bit more dangerous they were able just to go over the pond and catch a fish,” Letcher said.

“We found out we could apply for the grant again, got a grant for the liner, and then through Covid and whatnot, everything really slowed down. I think it took us about two years to get it all finalized. And so now we have a pond again,” Letcher said.

The Murray Springs Fish Hatchery stocks the pond on the behalf of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, using brood stock that have outlasted their spawning expectancy. Once a year, they pour approximately 4,000 fish into the pond.

The park also has a pavilion to host social gatherings. The pond is open from April 1 to Nov. 1. Montana state fishing license requirements apply. Anglers 15 and over are required to catch and release. All others are limited to two fish each.



Auctioneer Gideon Yutzy celebrates a bid at the 2020 4-H livestock auction.

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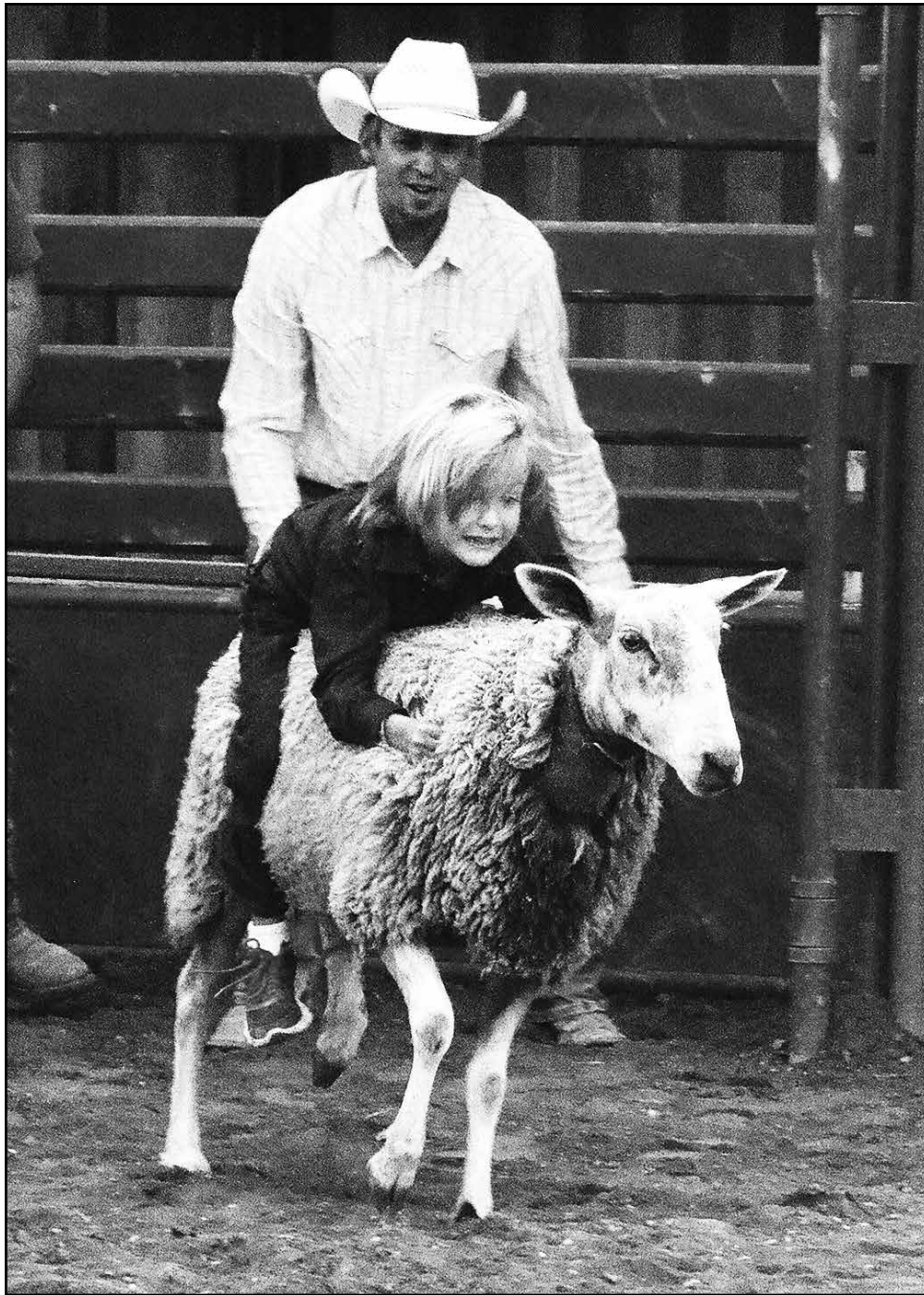
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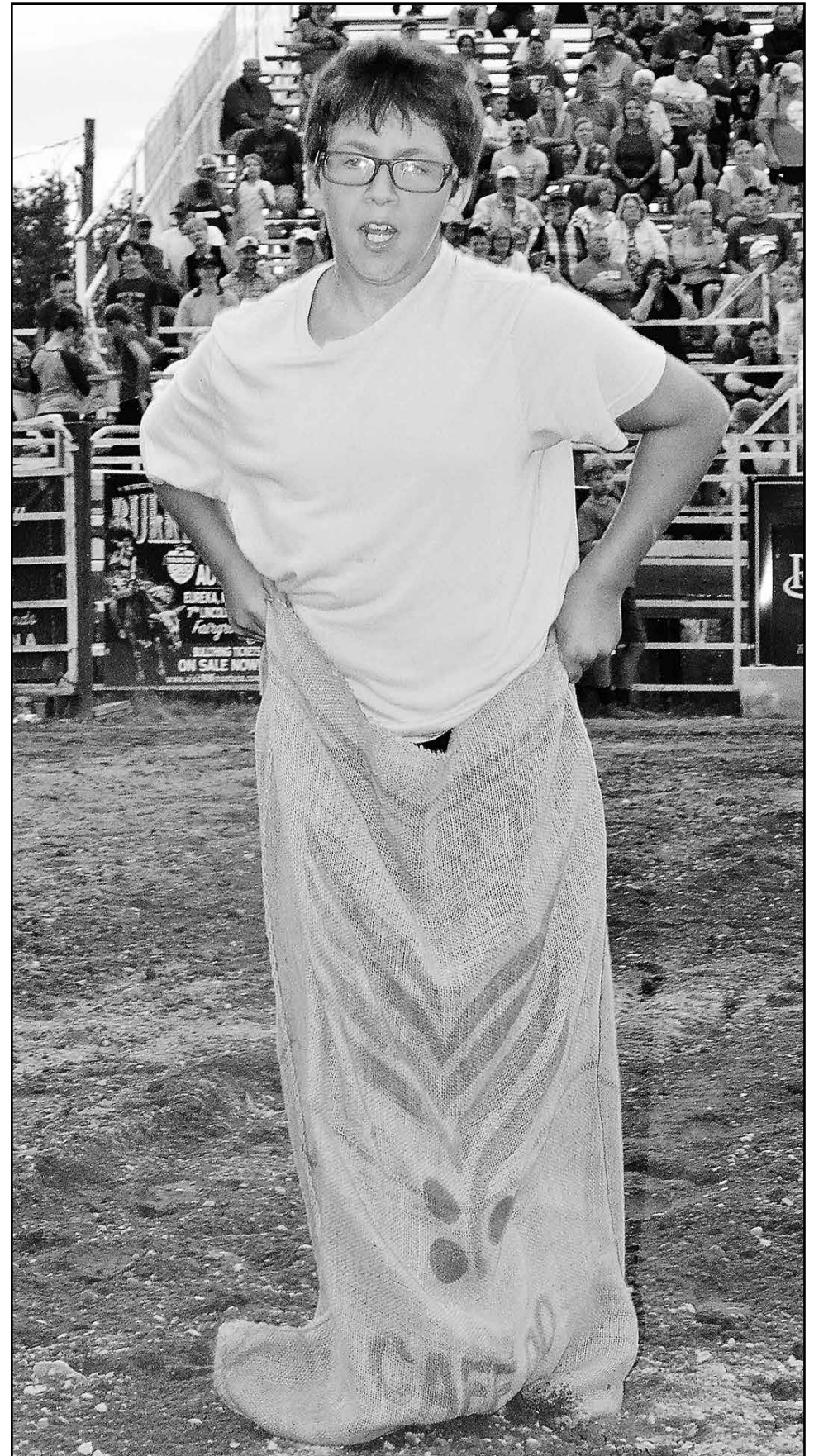
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Rider Soloman Schaeffer clings to a sheep during mutton busting while Ben White and Marion Eash look on.



Ethan Netzloff of Eureka hops off to a great start in the sack race during Friday Night Games.

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# Trailer will spread info on how to stop noxious weeds

By Chris Wilson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

A classroom on wheels will roll to the Lincoln County Fair this year.

An educational trailer shared by a group of western Montana counties will offer information on noxious weeds in the area.

The Lincoln County Weed Department was scheduled to bring the trailer to the fair in 2020 before Covid delayed those plans.

The department staff at the trailer this year will answer questions about the prevention of invasive plant species that are a particular problem in the county. Videos and educational materials will be available.

Four major weeds in the area are rush skeletonweed, ransy ragwort, leafy spurge and ventenata dubia grass.

The Montana Weed Control Association provides the following information on these noxious plants.

Rush skeletonweed has nearly leaf-



An educational trailer shared by a group of western Montana counties will share information on weeds at the fair. **Courtesy photo**

less stems and branches, downward facing hairs on the lower stem, and yellow flowers. It can take over fields and reduce the forage quality for wildlife and livestock.

Tansy ragwort can grow up to four feet tall and has ruffled leaves. The top half of the plant branches into many smaller stems that have clusters of small yellow flowers. The plant is toxic to all livestock.

Leafy spurge is two to four feet tall, yellow green in appearance and has a milky latex sap that is toxic to horses, cattle and humans.

Ventenata dubia is an invasive grass six to 27 inches in height with leaves that fold or roll lengthwise. It is highly invasive in pasture and range, unpalatable, and can clog harvesting equipment.

Additional information on weeds

can be found online at the Lincoln County Weed Department and the Montana Weed Control Association websites.

The counties of Ravalli, Granite, Missoula, Lake, Sanders, Flathead and Lincoln make up the Western Area of the Montana Weed Control Association and share the weed education trailer.



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Bull Fist City busts out of the chute with rider Nick Tetz on board. Fist City scored a 42.5 for his efforts, but Tetz lasted just two seconds.



4-H members await judging.



Alyssa Utter shows her steer in the auction ring.



# 2021 Fair Schedule

## Wednesday, Aug. 25

Register and weigh in livestock .....2-7 p.m.  
 Weigh-in livestock interview .....2-7 p.m.  
 Barn meetings immediately after weigh-in.....7 p.m.

## Thursday, Aug. 26

Livestock judging.....8 a.m.  
 Register 4-H poultry, rabbits, pocket pets.....3-7 p.m.  
 Register horses .....3-7 p.m.  
 Dog agility .....5:30 p.m.  
 Open Class & 4-H dog show.....6 p.m.  
 Oldies but Goodies with Holly VanBemmel, food court .....6:30-8 p.m.  
 Divisions A through H registration .....Noon-8 p.m.  
 Division K - Youth registration .....Noon-8 p.m.

## Friday, Aug. 27

General exhibit barn hours .....10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Judging, Divisions ABC, D, E, F, G and H .....8 a.m.  
 4-H horse show.....9 a.m.  
 Kidsville .....10-7 p.m.  
 Food Court free stage with Holly VanBemmel .....As scheduled  
 Community garden opens.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 Judging rabbits and poultry .....11:30-3:30 p.m.  
     4-H rabbits.....11:30-Noon  
     Open class rabbits.....Noon-12:30p.m.  
     4-H pocket pets.....12:30-1 p.m.  
     Open pocket pets.....1-1:30 p.m.  
     4-H poultry.....1:30-2 p.m.  
     Open class poultry.....2-2:30 p.m.  
 Required Round Robin instruction .....6:00 p.m.  
 Friday Night at the Games, Arena.....7-9 p.m.  
 Family dance at fish pond pavilion .....After games

## Saturday, Aug. 28

Exhibit barns .....10-7 p.m.  
 Round Robin, all-around showmanship .....8 a.m.  
 Kidsville .....9-7 p.m.  
 Community Gardens open.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 Open class horse show .....10 a.m.  
 Open class horse trail/obstacle course.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 14th annual Karaoke Challenge.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 Food Court free stage.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 4-H Livestock Auction.....3 p.m.  
 The Bull Thing.....7 p.m.

## Sunday, Aug. 29

General exhibit barn hours .....10-4 p.m.  
 Food Court stage .....until 3 p.m.  
 Community Gardens open.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 Kidsville .....1-4 p.m.  
 Closing ceremonies .....3 p.m.  
 General removal of livestock and exhibits .....4-6 p.m.





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