

Farm Show Provides Opportunity

(Continued from Page B2)

enges," she said. "It is amazing and wonderful to see understanding and compassion develop."

In order for his classmates to understand autism, Justin invited his mother to visit his classroom and speak on autism at Garden Spot High School, where he is now a senior and member of the Grassland FFA. This is the fourth year for Justin to show pigs. Justin will show four FFA project pigs at the state Farm Show. Patrick will show in the 4-H division. The Goods purchase their hogs from Thames Bend in Canada. This past season, Justin showed the grand champion hog at the New Holland Fair and the reserve champion at the Ephrata Fair.

It's been difficult journey for the Good family, which, in addition to Justin, includes brothers Christopher, 10, and Jonathan, 7, who work together in helping Patrick

develop his potential.

The outlook for Patrick today is brighter than for many autistic children. He independently dresses himself, eats breakfast, and waits for the school bus.

He attends the Life Skills Support Program at Warwick High School through Intermediate Unit 13, where academics, speech, language, and personal care is taught to help mentally handicapped students become independent.

Patrick can use a calculator to add, but it is not certain that he understands the meaning of what he does, because he can't really express himself.

He wants to be independent and will sometimes insist, when family members attempt to help him, "No, do it myself."

For the most part, the behavior problems have subsided. Temper tantrums are rare. Some of these improvements are in part the result

of his parents' realization that Patrick responds best to a highly structured environment. Whenever change is imminent, Patrick needs an adjustment period.

Patrick likes to listen to Rock and Roll and Country music. Star Trek is his favorite television program. He does not like cartoons.

Generally Patrick doesn't want to try new foods. He seldom goes outside to play with neighborhood

children except in a structured environment.

Until Patrick began to show hogs, his relationships with other children was limited to those with special needs, such as playing on the Challenger Baseball Team and swimming at the Red Cross Swim Center.

Patricia is amazed at the heartwarming acceptance that Justin

has found in 4-H club members.

She said, "He has had no negative experiences. He enjoys going to 4-H meetings and showing. It has been a very positive experience."

To visitors, Patrick proudly shows off a framed picture of himself showing a hog in competition and says, "I'm going to the Farm Show. I'm going to show my pig."



Friends Of Tobacco To Rally

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Tobacco farmers throughout the United States will join forces to march on Washington in a "United Effort — Rally" coordinated by North Carolina members of Congress and the U.S. Senate.

The rally will take place on the west side of the U.S. Capitol building on January 26 to discuss the "unfair and punitive" tobacco tax that is being considered by the House Ways and Means Committee, according to a release from Friends of Tobacco.

The Clinton Health Plan calls for an increase of 75 cents a pack of cigarettes, plus increases on other tobacco products, to fund the universal health plan for all Americans.

Industry representatives indicate the tax may have a severe impact on tobacco farmers in Pennsylvania and other states. North Carolina representatives called Friends of Tobacco, based in Seven Springs, N.C., claim that a tax of this proportion will cause 12,500 North Carolina farmers to go out of business and force the loss of numerous manufacturing jobs related to the industry.

As of presstime, Georgia, Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina will be participating with other states in the rally.

Friends of Tobacco indicated assistance is available for those needing transportation arrangements. For more information, contact Dean Rouse, chairman, at (919) 569-7171.

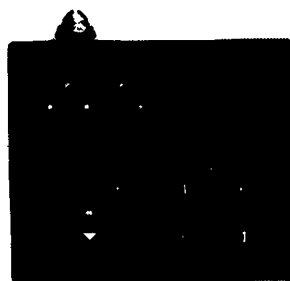
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