



# 4-H HAPPENINGS

## Cumberland County Horse Show Winners

Cumberland County 4-H horse club members received 19 awards at the 41st annual State 4-H Horse Show, Oct. 27-29 at the State Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

County winners in 4-H performance classes were Levi Smith, Shippensburg, first in Reining; Janine Guido, Carlisle, placed first in hunter seat equitation (on the flat) and placed seventh in hunter hack horses, senior; Laura France, Lemoyne, placed fifth in western grooming and showmanship, junior; Meghan Michaud, Dillsburg, placed sixth in working hunter horses; Katie Barry, Carlisle, placed seventh in clover leaf barrel race horses; and Michelle Thomas, Carlisle, placed seventh in pleasure horse driving.

In 4-H Horse production classes, members breed and raise their own project animal. Local winners were Katie Barry, Carlisle, first in the yearling filly, quarter horse class; Kara Stum, Newville, placed first in the 2-year-old filly stock type horse; Mary Strasbaugh, Mechanicsburg, placed second in the yearling gelding/2-year-old gelding stock type horse; Kristi Monnett, Carlisle, placed second in the 2-year-old filly paint; Laura France, Lemoyne, placed second in the yearling gelding paint; Kathleen Gossert, Shippensburg, placed second in the 2-year-old gelding paint; Trevor Long, Carlisle, placed fourth in the year-

ling filly paint, fifth in the 4-year-old western pleasure futurity, sixth in the 2-year-old western pleasure futurity; Carrie McLaughlin, Newville, placed sixth in the yearling gelding quarter horse; and Heidi Evelhocher placed fifth in the 3-year-old western pleasure futurity.

Jeanne Potteiger, Enola, in the paint yearling filly class and Laura France, Lemoyne, in the quarter horse yearling colt class also received recognition.

## Bucks County 4-H Clover Award

Mark Smedberg, Chalfont, earned the Bucks County 4-H Clover Award at the 4-H Achievement Day event recently.

Smedberg, son of James and Genie Smedberg, is a member of Hilltown 4-H Club and Bucks County 4-H Shooting Sports Club. The Clover Award recognizes outstanding citizenship, leadership, and achievement.

Smedberg was a member of the first place winning Bucks County 4-H Junior Air Rifle Team in state competition. He participates in regional, state, and national 4-H events such as the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Ga.

He is active in his church youth group and plays the hand bells. He is a member of the Central Bucks West High School cross country and swim teams. He is home schooled, has a newspaper route, and is a member of the State 4-H Capitol Days Planning Committee.

## Childproof Holidays

Shopping. Baking. Decorating. Life gets hectic during the holidays.

But whatever else you have on that "to-do" list, put this first: Childproof the house!

Children, especially those under the age of five, see Christmas trees, Menorahs, ornaments and candles as mysterious and magical things. They want to touch, chew, and play with them. But if children get a hold of the wrong objects, they can be seriously injured. Don't spend your holidays in the emergency room. Take a few precautionary steps now to protect your children so they, too, can enjoy the season.

When your kids smell the aroma of baking cookies, fruit-cakes and Yule logs, they naturally want to be in the kitchen. But unless you can supervise them carefully, keep them out. The kitchen is one of the most dangerous rooms in your home.

But just in case your kids do sneak into the kitchen when you're not looking:

- Keep hot foods and beverages away from the edges of counters and tables and don't place them on top of tablecloths or place mats.
- Unplug the beater or other electrical appliances, wrap up the cords and put them away. Your children should not have access to any "live" electrical appliance cords. Also, place covers over all electrical outlets. Both cords and outlets are sources of electric shock.
- Use back burners and turn pot handles towards the back of the stove when cooking.
- Put guards on stove knobs so your children cannot turn them on when you're not looking. As you know, children can

get hurt in any room of the house, not just the kitchen. So for their protection...

- Don't let children under four have hard candies, nuts or similar seasonal foods. Hard, round foods such as candies, nuts, grapes, popcorn, raw carrots and even raisins can get lodged in children's throats and block the passage of air through their windpipes.
- Pick up after yourself once you've finished making holiday decorations. Small crafting items such as safety pins, buttons and tacks should not be left within your children's reach because they can swallow and choke on them.
- Don't display any decorations that can easily break or has sharp edges. Place glass ornaments, for example, far out of the reach of small children. They could grab, drop, break them and then cut themselves on the shattered pieces. Also, don't use decorations with tiny pieces that can be swallowed. And avoid trimmings that look like candy or food because a child might try to eat them. Put ornaments high up on the Christmas tree out of your children's reach.
- Place your Christmas tree in a sturdy stand and anchor it down so your children cannot knock it over.
- Keep children away from trees and other electrical decorations. These items can shock or electrocute curious kids. Lights are also a fire hazard. So keep them away from gifts, paper ornaments, curtains and drapes. If you have very small children, you might consider skipping the electrical lights on your Christmas tree.
- Keep Menorahs and other candle holders and candle decorations well out of the reach of children. Flickering flames fascinate young ones, and they can easily burn themselves or start fires.
- Choose toys for infants and small children with care. Make certain that what you give them doesn't have small pieces. Small parts and pieces can get caught in their throats, noses or ears. Also avoid toys with sharp points, sharp edges, strings and cords. And don't give older children toys that might be dangerous to their younger siblings.
- Keep holly and mistletoe out of the reach of children. They are poisonous and can be fatal to

a small child. Poinsettia leaves are not fatal if swallowed, but can cause a skin rash and severe upset stomachs. If a child ingests any of these holiday plants, call 911 immediately.


- Purchase tree tinsel or artificial icicles made from non-leaded material. Leaded materials are sometimes poisonous.
- Keep fire salts out of the reach of your children. These salts produce pretty colored flames when thrown on wood fires, but they contain heavy metals that can cause vomiting if ingested.
- Don't buy your kids electrical toys that are not UL/FM approved.
- Keep alcoholic beverages out of the reach of your children. A child does not have to drink much to get alcohol poisoning. Remember to clean-up half-empty glasses after a party.
- Learn CPR and First Aid.
- During the holidays, you should also take extra care to protect those "kids" who have four legs and a tail. Pets are susceptible to many of the same holiday dangers as children. Take the same precautions in the holiday season to protect your pet as you do to protect your children. Also...
- Refrain from using chemical sprays that extend the life of your Christmas tree. Some of them are poisonous and can be fatal to your pet.
- Don't feed your pet candy, especially chocolate, no matter how hard he begs. Chocolate is toxic to animals and can induce vomiting, restlessness, heart palpitations or death. And make sure you tell your children not to share candy with the family pet.
- Don't give your dog poultry bones, which can splinter and cause digestive problems or even death.
- Don't feed your pets too much "people food" which can upset their stomachs. Instead, give them some of their favorite dog or cat treats during special meals.
- Don't give your pets toys made of small parts or soft material that they can chew up and swallow.
- Don't up catnip or other edibles in hanging stockings, especially ones by a fireplace.
- Don't shut pets in a room away from parties and family gatherings. Left out, a pet may become stressed and escape through the front door as guests arrive and depart. Don't give your pets alcoholic beverages.

They don't have the body mass to adjust to alcohol's effects, and too much can be fatal.

Some of the safety tips on keeping your children safe at home were provided by the National Safe Kids Campaign. For more information on keeping your children safe, contact the National Safe Kids Campaign in Washington, D.C.

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