

Wild rides, large crowds

The 43rd annual Luzerne County Fair attracted thousands of people



Shannon Gallagher, Hunlock Creek, sold Tupperware in a vendor's booth.



Harold Miller, Trucksville, and Samantha Stafford enjoy their ride on the Cliff Hanger.

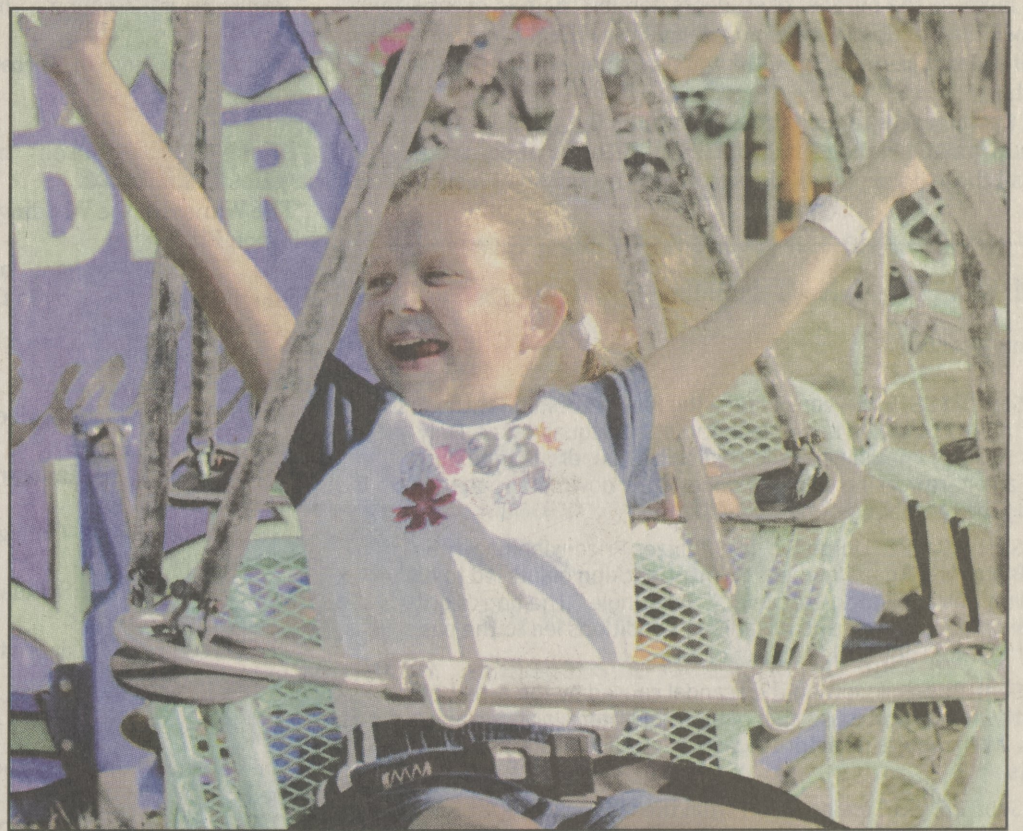
PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

The 43rd annual Luzerne County Fair came to an end last weekend, but not before thousands of people paid a visit to the Back Mountain as part of an end-of-summer ritual.

This year's fair included some of the old favorites, including arts and crafts, amusement rides, games, livestock judging, and plenty of entertainment.

But there were also some newer attractions, including a Banyard Olympics, where youngsters were invited to test their skills in old-fashioned competitions such as a three-legged race, a feed-sack race and a cookie-stacking contest. There was also a fiddle contest, with \$500 in prize money.

The fair is held each year to support charitable organizations in Luzerne County, with a special emphasis on Back Mountain civic organizations. Last year, direct donations to nonprofit organizations were \$16,000 and another \$8,000 of free exhibit space. This year's total was not available at press time.



Cassie Kizis, of Lehman Township, enjoys a ride at the fair.

Hunlock Creek resident Molly Rupert has her hands full feeding the goats she raises for Udder Kids 4-H.



Riding buddies Breanna Covert, Shavertown, and Alysha Emelet, Hunlock Creek, warm up Jazz and Wylie in the corral.



Morgan Luksic shares a funnel cake with her mom, Michele Mattie, at the Luzerne County Fair.