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Democrat-Herald/George Petroccione

Leah Klamkin, 2½, blows bubbles Saturday during da Vinci Days in Central Park, Corvallis.

Creators abound at da Vinci Days

By CATHY MADDUX
Albany Democrat-Herald

CORVALLIS — Barbara Feijoo scooped up several handfuls of cornmeal from a tub and patted the grainy meal down on a yellow plastic plate.

"I'm making a cornmeal cake, the 8-year-old from Brazil announced to the children nearby.

The recipe calls for "a half-pound of cornmeal, three eggs, one pound of milk and lots of chocolate," she said. The cake would have to bake in a hot oven for three hours.

Barbara was one of hundreds of children this weekend who had plaster casts made of their hands, blew bubbles through aluminum cans with the ends removed, and stacked spray-painted foam pieces into houses and skyscrapers at the da Vinci Days summer festival in Corvallis.

Organizers billed the festival as a living tribute to art, science and technology. Sponsors arranged for lectures, musical performances and art and science exhibits to honor the 15th-century genius who is admired as a painter, sculptor, architect, engineer and scientist.

A few steps from Barbara, Leah Klamkin, 2½, did her best to blow bubbles. She dipped two plastic straws held together by string to form a rectangle into a vat of water and detergent. She lifted the dripping bubble maker to her lips and blew. Her large bubble was caught by a breeze and carried toward a large tree.

"We're down here to have fun and learn something," said Leah's father, Alon. "We wanted to introduce Leah to a variety of experiences and allow her to interact with different kids. This is almost a cross-cultural event."

Steve Polinsky portrays Renaissance genius Leonardo da Vinci.

Another group of children surrounded artist Lee Hunt of Portland, who was making plaster casts of their hands.

"Hands are the center of our being," she said. "We reach out and receive and give with them." Hunt dipped small strips of plaster gauze into plaster and laid them carefully over the children's hands and fingers.

"My hand feels numb," said Celia Reynolds, 10, of Portland. "It feels heavy and slimy."

Hunt helped the children remove the casts once they were dry and hung them from a nearby tree branch that had no leaves.

"By putting the hands on the tree, everyone here can feel that they belong," Hunt said.

Across the street from Central Park, where many of the children's activities took place, festivalgoers browsed through the Corvallis Art Center.

Linda Smith of Albany and her daughter, Jodi of Corvallis, admired colorful handmade Japanese paper boxes.

"We're here because we're trying to beat the heat and take advantage of the art," Jodi said. "We're also going to listen to music and eat, of course."

Keith Mobley of Junction City, the chairman of this year's da Vinci Days, rated the festival a success.

"The only complaints we get is that there are more things to do than there is time for, and that's by design," he said.

Recall leader offers commissioners a deal

By BOB LOTHIAN
Albany Democrat-Herald

The leader of a recall campaign aimed at the Linn County commissioners says he will drop the recall if the commissioners give up their raises and convene a new pay board.

"Why recall the commissioners if they can be convinced of the right attitude expected of them by the people?," Jim Collister said.

The Committee for Recall filed petitions May 24 to recall the three commissioners: Richard Stach, Dave Schmidt and Larry Johnson.

Recall organizers have until Aug. 22 to gather 5,024 valid signatures on the petition for each commissioner. A recall election would be held within 35 days after the signatures are verified, according to the county elections department.

Collister would not say how many signatures have been collected. "I don't want to verify the exact figure. It's getting close, I'll put it that way. It could happen."

Collister said his main reason for wanting to remove the commissioners from office was their 9.1 percent raise effective June 1.

Following a Linn County Compensation Board recommendation, the county Budget Committee in May approved these salaries for seven elected officials: commissioners, $45,000, up 9.1 percent from $41,244; assessor, $43,200, up 9.96 percent from $39,288; sheriff, $50,400, up 12.45 percent from $44,820; surveyor, $40,800, up 3.85 percent from $39,288; treasurer, $42,000, up 6.9 percent from $39,288; clerk, no change, $39,288.

Collister said that if the commissioners set aside their raise, convene a new pay board to review salaries, and make sure all pay board meetings and records are open to the public, the committee will drop the recall.

Findings of the new pay board would be accepted by the recall committee, "good or bad," he said.

Commissioner Dave Schmidt said the commissioners received a letter from Collister containing a proposal last week. But the letter didn't say anything about giving up the raises, Schmidt said.

The commissioners have not scheduled a discussion on the matter. "I'm certain we're not going to be reappointing a new compensation board," Schmidt said.

Commissioner Richard Stach said he thought Collister was trying to generate publicity. But in spite of the recall, he and Collister have talked several times and will have another discussion Tuesday, Stach said.

"Mr. Collister's entitled to his opinion," he said.

Collister, an Albany barber, ran unsuccessfully for commissioner against incumbent Richard Stach in 1988. He filed an unsuccessful recall petition against the commissioners last year.

Search for teen-ager again proves fruitless

Associated Press

Search and rescue experts on renewed their search for a missing 13-year-old girl but failed to find any sign of Rachanda Lea Pickle, a Linn County dispatcher said.

More than 20 people took part in Sunday's search in the mountainous Santiam Pass area, said dispatcher Cathy Bone. There were no plans for another full-scale search.

Meanwhile, the girl's stepfather said investigators had questioned him about Rachanda's disappearance. John Arthur Ackroyd, 41, also recalled to investigators that he found clues leading to the identification of a missing Eugene woman eleven years ago.

"I didn't want to hide nothing, because if you try to hide something, it looks funny," Ackroyd said.

He said he told authorities how he happened to find the jogging shorts and bone fragments that led to the identification of the remains of Kaye Jean Turner, who disappeared while jogging near Camp Sherman in December 1978.

Linn County Sheriff Art Martinak, whose department is in charge of the search for Pickle, declined comment on whether Ackroyd was a suspect in either case.

"We're aware of his involvement in the Kaye Turner case," Martinak said.

Ackroyd told investigators at the time that he was walking his dog when it led him into area where he saw what turned out to be Turner's running shorts. Turner was identified by a lower jawbone later uncovered by searchers in the area.

Police believe Turner was murdered, but no one has been charged or convicted in connection with her death.

In a separate interview Friday, Linda Ackroyd, Pickle's mother, said her husband had taken a polygraph test concerning the girl's disappearance.

"The police, they pulled John in and did a (polygraph exam) on him," she said.

John Ackroyd was questioned because he was the last one in the family to see Pickle alive, said Linda Ackroyd.

Linda Ackroyd said she doesn't believe her husband harmed her daughter.

"John ain't a violent man, he don't even beat the kids," she said. "He's never went out of hand or spanked my kids against my will. He's too much of a calm man.

The Ackroyds live in a trailer at the state Highway Division's maintenance complex at the Santiam Junction.

John Ackroyd, a mechanic, went to work in Bend the day of his stepdaughter's disappearance but said he decided to take the day off and returned home to see if parts he needed to do a repair job had arrived.

The Ackroyds said Pickle was at home watching cartoons on television when John Ackroyd returned home at about 9:45 a.m. on July 9. He left again, and the girl was gone when he returned at 12:30 p.m.

Linda Ackroyd said she feels "shaky and all torn up" about the disappearance of her daughter, whom calls by the nickname "Chandy."

"I feel like somebody came in and got her because we live so close to the highway," she said.

Annual 4-H/FFA Fair opens Tuesday

Seven hundred children and teenagers are expected to converge on the Linn County Fairgrounds this week for the annual Linn County 4-H/FFA Youth Fair.

The fair, which opens Tuesday, features members' animal, food, textile, forestry, craft, computer and other agriculture-related projects and classes. The event concludes Saturday with a barbecue and livestock auction.

The fair is open to the public daily, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the fairgrounds, 3051 Oakwood Ave. S.E. The exhibit hall is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. There is no admission charge.

TUESDAY

8 a.m. — Flag raising, presentation of colors and announcements, main arena.
9 a.m. — Scales open.
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Interview judging for all home economic and expressive arts.
9 a.m. — All 4-H natural resources and engineering displays and follow classes.
9:30 a.m. — Special Day Horses to show, main arena (championships to follow).
1 p.m. — 4-H forestry indentification contest.
2 p.m. — 4-H Natural Resource Contest.
5 to 8 p.m. — Novice and junior horses in place.
6 to 9 p.m. — Horse interviews, junior and novice in arena stands; intermediate and seniors in dining building.
9:30 p.m. — Scales close.
10 p.m. — All livestock and horses in place. Exceptions include horses entered other days, flowers and vegetables.

WEDNESDAY

8 a.m. — Flag raising, presentation of colors and announcements, main arena.
9 a.m. — Junior rabbit demonstration, livestock barn.
9 a.m. — Sheep market classes, Ring 1.
9:30 a.m. — Novice and junior horse showmanship, main arena.
10 a.m. — Rabbit judging contest, livestock barn.
1 p.m. — Outdoor cookery contest, outside exhibit hall.
1 p.m. — Favorite foods contest, dining hall.
1 p.m. — Rabbit find my fault, livestock barn.
1 p.m. — Cavy find my fault, livestock barn.
1 p.m. — Trail Horse Class, main arena.
5 p.m. — Flower arranging and judging contest, Exhibit Hall.
5:30 p.m. — Grand entry, horses, main arena.
6 p.m. — Swine market and breeding classes, Ring 2.
6:30 p.m. — Pygmy goat showmanship, Ring 1.
7 p.m. — Beef market classes, Ring 3.
7 p.m. — Pattern racing, main arena.
9 p.m. — Exhibit Hall closes.

THURSDAY

8 a.m. — Flag raising, presentation of colors and announcements, main arena.
8:30 a.m. — Sheep breeding classes, Ring 3.
9 a.m. — Rabbit market and breeding classes, livestock barn.
9:30 a.m. — Novice and junior horse equitation classes, main arena.
10 a.m. — Dairy goat breeds, Ring 1.
1 p.m. — Dairy cattle showmanship and breeding classes, Ring 1.
2 p.m. — Cavy breed classes, livestock barn.
3:30 p.m. — Horse costume class.
4-6 p.m. — Novice and junior horses released.
5 p.m. — Beef showmanship classes, Ring 3.
5:30 p.m. — Horse championship equitation classes.
7 p.m. — Horse judging contest, main arena.
9 p.m. — Exhibit hall closes.

FRIDAY

8 a.m. — Flag raising, presentation of colors and announcements, main arena.
8:30 a.m. — Intermediate and senior written horse test, main arena.
9 a.m. — Poultry market, breeding and showmanship.
9 a.m. — Sheep showmanship, Ring 3.
9 a.m. — Cavy showmanship, livestock barn.
9 a.m. — Presentations, Exhibit Building.
9:30 a.m. — Horse showmanship, livestock barn.
9:30 a.m. — Pygmy goat breeding classes, Ring 1.
10:30 a.m. — Rabbit showmanship, livestock barn.
11 a.m. — Senior bareback equitation, main arena.
1 p.m. — Dairy goat showmanship, Ring 1.
2 p.m. — Intermediate and senior trail class, arena.
3 p.m. — Beef breeding classes, Ring 3.
3:30 p.m. — Grand Entry, horses, main arena.
6 p.m. — Swine showmanship, Ring 1.
6 p.m. Horse championship showmanship classes, main arena.
7 p.m. — Exhibit Hall awards ceremony, Exhibit Hall.
7:30 p.m. — Hunter Hack, main arena.
9 p.m. — Exhibit Hall closes.

SATURDAY

8 a.m. — Flag raising, presentation of colors and announcements, main arena.
9 a.m. — Livestock judging contest.
9:30 a.m. — Intermediate and senior equitation classes, main arena.
10 a.m. — Senior sheep fitting contest, Ring 3.
11:15 a.m. — Mini-4-H contest, Ring 2.
11:30 a.m. — Intermediate and junior sheep fitting contest, Ring 3.
11:30 a.m. — Pre 4-H horse showmanship for ages five years to third grade.
1 p.m. — 4-H and FFA large animal master showmanship for junior, intermediate and seniors, main arena.
1 p.m. — Branding for members selling animals.
2 p.m. — Small animal master showman, Ring 3.
4:30-6:30 p.m. — 4-H and FFA Fair Barbecue, public invited.
5 p.m. — Horse Western Equitation Championships.
5:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m. 4-H Alumni Showman.
5:30 p.m. — Livestock awards ceremony, Ring 1.
6 p.m. — Horse English Equitation Championships.
6:30 p.m. — 4-H Alumni Horse Equitation.
6:30 p.m. — 44th annual Kiwanis and 4-H Market Livestock Auction, Ring 1.
7 p.m. — Horse awards ceremony, all divisions, main arena.

Watch for a complete area-wide entertainment calendar every Friday in the Weekender section of the Democrat-Herald.

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