



Teen members of the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council are always promoting the cause - in many ways they are our best tool in keeping a pulse on the youth population.



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Showcase 2013

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Campers at the 2013 Camp 4 - H.O summer camp worked with Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff to build and deploy ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles).

Youth Explore Water Quality Issues at 4-H Camp

To close out the month of June, 19 Alcona County youth recently attended a four-day, three-night summer camp held at the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center in Millersburg, MI. The camp, one in a series of four, was designed by local 4-H staff to acquaint youth ages 9-12 with water quality issues and environmental stewardship as well as help them explore careers related to natural resources and conservation. The other three camp themes - Fur, Fins and Feathers, Science-Engineering and Technology (SET) and Go GREEN - are held in succession so campers can attend for four years and not repeat major themed content.

The camp, coordinated by MSU Extension staff covering Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Montmorency, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties, offers youth an opportunity to learn and grow in an environmental setting that inspires independence, builds resilience and offers youth a recreational

break from electronic games and television. In addition to the eight hands-on sessions, youth were treated to a presentation by Harriet Smith from the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary on remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). The 45 minute presentation touched on the practical applications of ROV technology as well as career opportunities related to the engineering field. Campers also participated in a scavenger hunt, swimming, fishing, and team building games led by a group of 13 volunteer teen counselors. The counselors, including three from Alcona County, helped campers get to sessions on time, prevent homesickness, solved problems as well as worked one-on-one with campers that had special needs.

"They really are our biggest asset," mentions Otsego and Antrim 4-H Coordinator Michelle Pietrzak. "Despite some bumps in the road, our camp goes very smoothly thanks to volunteers- especially the teen counselors."

Camp sessions were led by agency professionals as well as volunteers from across northern Michigan. Each session was

90 minutes and included both hands-on learning and instructional games that helped campers understand the intended lesson. Sessions included- Invasive Species, ROV Build, Ground Water/Water Quality, Macro Invertebrate Study, Archery, Canoeing, Conflict Resolution and Nutrition Education. Part of the camps' success rests in the fact that it is a very low cost option for families- mostly due to the efforts of the numerous volunteers involved. Camp volunteers this year included archery instructors Tom Keerl and Chad Kamischke, water quality instructor and kitchen assistant Meggie Spens, canoeing instructors Vicki and Dennis Habitz, Lifeguard Michelle Davis, and Camp Health Officer Chris Mutchler.

Partners for this year's camp included MSU Extension's Greening Michigan and Health and Nutrition Institutes, Huron Pines Resources-Conservation and Development, NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary as well as AmeriCorps members assigned to the aforementioned organizations. Two of the major partners involved again this year were the County of Presque Isle and the Friends of Ocqueoc group. Presque Isle County owns the facility which was at one time a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. The groups' responsibility is to keep the grounds and

building in good shape and make capital improvements as resources are available. The group only charges a very small amount to use the grounds which also helps keep the cost to families low. Additional support for Alcona campers was given through the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council providing scholarships totaling more than \$600 for the event.

Pietrzak went on to say, "Eleven of the 13 counselors this year had attended 4-H camp at least once as a camper, and a few counselors as many as four times! This demonstrates that we are also helping to develop leaders... That's very exciting."



Campers Ben, Joey and Patrick pose with their ROV design.



Teach a kid to fish and they'll have a great time. Help them experience success and they'll be hooked forever.

The macro invertebrate study offered youth a chance to collect, sort and identify numerous aquatic macro invertebrates (water critters) using a dichotomist key, which sorts the invertebrates by visible features. Helen-Ann Prince, an AmeriCorps member sponsored by Michigan SeaGrant and currently housed at the MSU Extension Office in Harrisville, helps youth collect samples to take back to their outdoor classroom.



AmeriCorps members and camp instructor Helen-Ann Prince works with Hailey to identify an aquatic macro invertebrate using a dichotomist key.



Campers learned about the importance of groundwater from local youth instructor Meggie Spens. Meggie led an activity where campers made their own filter that showed how groundwater works.



Scott Koproksi, a Project Leader with the US Fish and Wildlife, talks to Alcona High School Environmental Science students about the various instruments in the Alpena based lab.



Alcona MSU Extension staff Les Thomas works with a student to identify aquatic invertebrates using a dichotomist key- a scientific tool that helps with identification using physical features such as number of legs, wings and tails.



Sixteen campers and three teen counselors attended the four-day, three-night camp, held on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center in Millersburg, MI. Attending this year were (back row, from left) Counselors Eric Hampton and Schuyler Bates, Campers Matt MacMaster, Billy Jones, Kelsey Karas, Hunter Clark, Danny Jones, Patrick Bates, Mason Clark, 4-H Staff Les Thomas, Camper Isabella Bates and Counselor Tori Keerl. Front row, from left: Campers Ben Thomas, Darien Panich, Haley Spalding, Janae Kierzek-Harte, Chloe Schram, Jimmy Bolanowski and Keegan Gilmore. Missing from the photo is Savannah Servia.



Campers get ready to head out during their canoeing session and get a briefing from Vicki and Dennis Habitz.



Americorps member Daniel Moffat talks to students aboard the Lady Michigan about the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species by cleaning boat hull and motors before getting to the next lake.



Alcona campers Isabella, Haley and Billy look on as a lamprey attempts to attach to 4-H Program Coordinator Les Thomas' head.



Students look on as a sample of benthos (top layer of the lake bed) is sifted through in order to look for macro invertebrates.



Members of the Hubbard Lake Extension Ladies Club present 4-H Program Instructor with a check for \$2000 in support of local 4-H programming. The donation, proceeds from the club's annual fashion show, will help support local scholarships, training and leadership opportunities for Alcona youth and volunteers.



Recognizing the efforts of youth and adult volunteers is the primary focus of the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The evening is highlighted by a wonderful dinner catered by Lost Lake Woods and includes pins and certificates for volunteers.

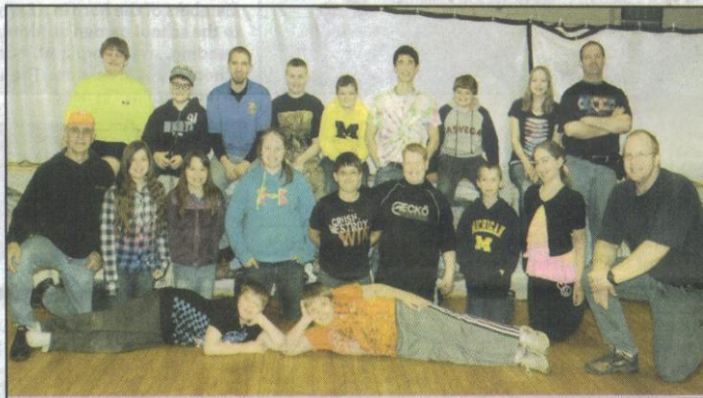


Members of the Apple Hill Variety club competed and placed in the Rabbit and Cavy Skillathon on the campus of MSU in 2012.

Alcona 4-Her's place in 2012 Rabbit and Cavy Expo

Five local 4-H'ers from the Apple Hill Variety club recently competed and placed in the 2012 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Expo in East Lansing. The annual competition is open to all 4-H youth and is held on the campus of Michigan State University. The 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Expo is designed for young people who are interested in live animal evaluation and in testing their knowledge of the rabbit and cavy fancy in a fun and educational manner. This event includes contests in judging, quiz bowl, skill-a-thon, showmanship and live animal evaluation.

This year, 135 youth representing 20 Michigan Counties participated and the team from Alcona County made up of (l-r) Hannah Riggs, Rebekah Maturen, Morgan Stewart, Maire MacMaster and Cheyenne Appleton placed 5th in the Skill-A-Thon contest. Coaching this year's team were Club leader Jaci Fitzgerald and Alpena 4-H volunteers Lynn and Mallory Beaudoin. The trip was partially sponsored by the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council. If you would like more information about getting involved with Alcona 4-H, please contact Program Instructor Les Thomas at 724-6478.



Members of the Alcona 4-H Archery Club get together with their leaders at the 2013 end of year banquet. The 14 week program will run next year at the Alcona Senior Center on Thursdays, starting on January 9.



The Rolling Hills Variety Club poses after winning the Community Service Award at the 2012 Alcona County Fair.



Participants at the 2012 4-H Camp GO GREEN enjoyed four days and three nights of environmental education served up by industry professionals, MSU Extension staff and volunteers. Alcona youth in 2012 included (back row from left) Emily Dennett, Noah Hutchison, Counselors Eric Hampton, Tori Keerl and Schuyler Bates, Alcona 4-H Staff Les Thomas, and Counselor Alex Keerl. Middle row from left- Darien Panich, Hailee Gordy, Chole Schram, Hunter Clark, Harmony Travis, Connor McCoy, Isabella Bates, and Patrick Bates. Front row from left: Luke Hutchison, Ben Thomas, Sarah Sweet and Kevin Panich.



Members of the Born in a Barn 4-H club are a great partner to the school garden at Alcona Elementary. They help by weeding, watering and harvesting the garden while school is not in session. The vegetables are then donated to local families in need.

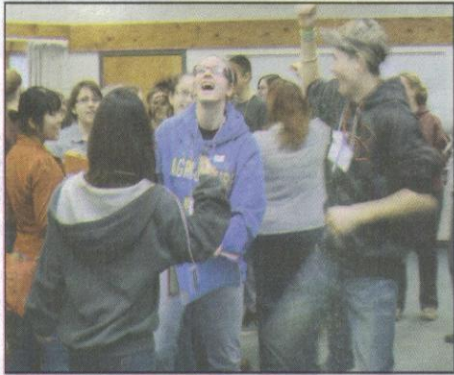


Members of the Apple Hill Variety Club and the Prime Cuts Beef Club often come together for meetings studying beef, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits.

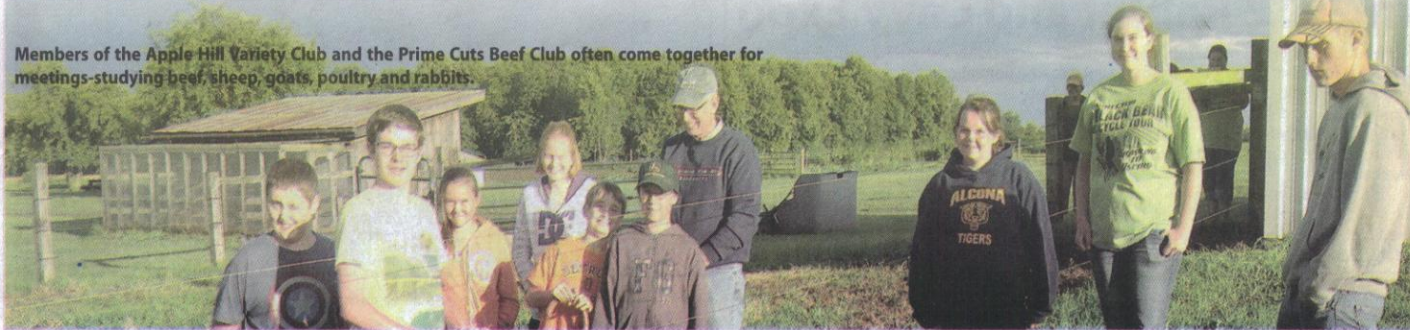


4-H Council members and their families participated in the 2012 retreat at the Headlands in Emmet County. The retreat offered council members to think about the upcoming 5 years as well as set goals and relax.

Alcona 4-H members Morgan Stewart and Schuyler Bates enjoy the warm up activity at the 2013 Teen Leadership and Community Change program at the Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI.



Members of the Apple Hill Variety Club and the Prime Cuts Beef Club often come together for meetings studying beef, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits.



Volunteer teen counselors from four counties helped make camp a positive experience for the 57 campers from six northern Michigan counties. Back row from left: Josh Cumper, Lead Counselors Schuyler Bates and Caroline Davis, Eric Hampton. Middle row from left: Alyssa Axel, Olivia Skrine, Miah Courtier, Jake Ross, Katie Deming, Blake Fessler. Front row from left: Tori Keerl, Rebecca Bannasch and Colton Fessler.



Apple Hill Variety club members learned about goat showmanship in 2012 from veteran showman Mallory Beadoin.



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Campers and Counselors gather around the campfire with Counselor Josh on the guitar.



Campers and counselors work together to find and identify macro invertebrates that they collected out of Lake Ocuqueoc.



Campers look on as the survival instructor demonstrates the best way to start a fire with minimal materials. Campers practiced creating emergency fires using tinder and one match.

Canoeing is always one of the highlights of camp



Kitchen duty is one of the best parts of camp (just kidding) but does teach valuable lessons that campers can immediately put to use at home. (You're welcome)



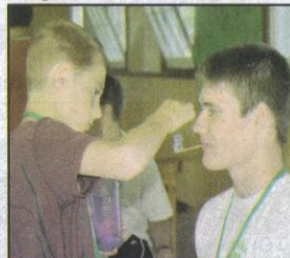
Sarah Sweet works on her tie dye design



Camper and counselors show off their tie dye skills



Tori Keer, kneeling at right, works with her group to build a propeller design for the Wired ForWind challenge. Campers built and tested their propeller designs with an electronic multi-meter to see which would create the most energy.



Garrett, an Otsego county camper with a steady hand, balances dice on a popsicle stick held in the mouth of his counselor Josh, as part of the "Minute To Win It" games. Campers opened camp with games like this in order to help them work together and get to know each other.



Challenge instructor Theresa Whitenight demonstrated how to create a shelter with just a garbage bag and 4-5 feet of paracord. Campers worked in teams of two to create their own shelters.

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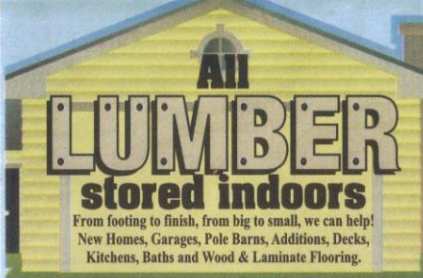
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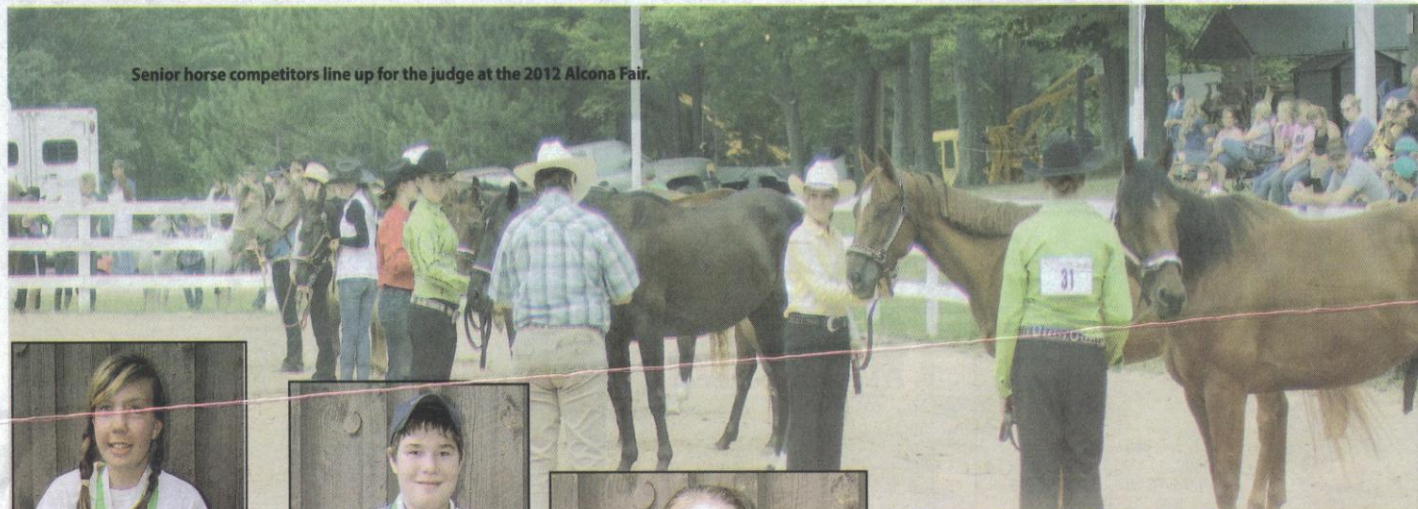
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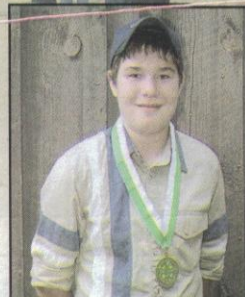
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Senior horse competitors line up for the judge at the 2012 Alcona Fair.



Layla Carriveau with two wins at the 2012 Alcona Fair- one for the Rabbit project and the other for Achievement.



2012 Poultry project medal winner Alex Stephenson



Abigail Lobaugh, daughter of Walt and Missy Lobaugh of Spruce is the 2012 Junior 4-H Member of the Year. Abby is an active member of the Born in a Barn and Rolling Hills Variety 4-H Clubs where she is involved with the horse, poultry, rabbit and swine projects. Abby won this gold medallion as well as a \$25 cash award, both courtesy of the Alcona 4-H Advisory Council.



2012 Beef project medal winner Maire MacMaster



Victoria LaBeau with the 2012 Leadership Medal.



Seasoned horse showman Jaime Adams talks to youth at the 2013 Showmanship clinic about what the judge is looking for as well as grooming and fitting for the horse.



Junior competitors stay relaxed prior to the rabbit show.



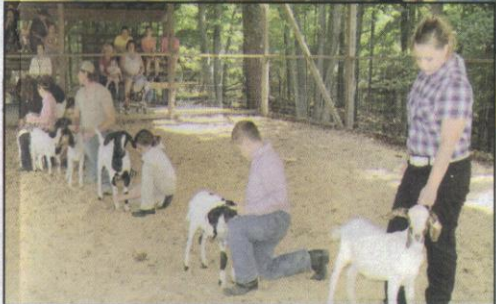
The poultry judge at the 2012 Alcona Fair talks to exhibitors about the procedure for the days' show.



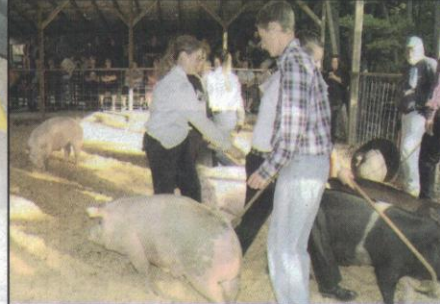
The Advisory Council sponsored showmanship clinic was intended for all species, but due to low enrollment was limited to horse showmanship. For horse enthusiasts, it was still a success!



Madison Lane, a member of the All Around Horses Are Us was the Grand Champion Showman for Horse at the 2012 Alcona County Fair.



Goat showmanship has really grown in the last few years- it's always exciting to see 4-H youth take on new projects!



One of the most fun shows for spectators every year is the swine show.



Alex, Matt and Matt practice poultry showmanship as other members of the Apple Hill Variety Club look on.



Members of the Dairy-Heirs 4-H club Sarah, Kiersten and Matthew run a promotional booth at Neiman's Market in Alpena. The new dairy club is hoping to learn and grow in the dairy project under new leader Katie Dellar.



Youth at the 2012 Alcona fair await the beef judge's decision.



Members of the Dairy-Heirs 4-H club participated in the Mikado Days parade in order to help promote the dairy industry as well as their new club. If you are interested in joining the fun, contact the MSU Extension Office at 724-6478.



Chloe takes a moment to check under the wings of her bird during her showmanship class at the 2012 Alcona Fair.



Youth work with members of the Glennie Sportsmen's Club while on the firing line.



Alcona Sheriff Doug Atchison explains the differences in traps during the Hunters' Education Weekend at the Harrisville State Park in 2012.



Michigan DNR Conservation Officer Warren MacNeill explains safety procedure with youth prior to their live fire exercise.



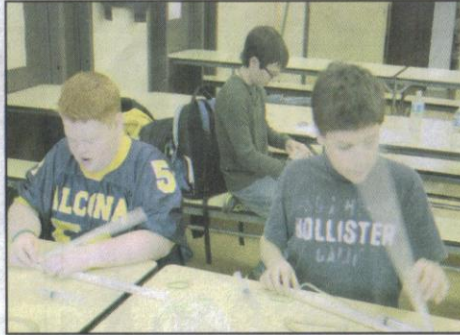
Youth at the 2012 Hunters' Education weekend at the Harrisville State Park learn about many things related to firearm and archery hunting, but the number one lesson is safety. Youth practice safely crossing a fence with a firearm.



Josh and Hunter work on their rainwater collection methods with house models during the Rainwater Harvesting TechXcite afterschool program.



Traditional camp activities such as canoeing and archery are a big part of the fun during all four of the annual themed camps. Alcona archery instructors Chad Kamischke and Tom Keerl worked with campers to ensure their safety and help them become better archers.



A series of 6 afterschool programs were held at the Alcona elementary with 5th and 6th graders as part of the TechXcite curriculum through Duke University. The curriculum, currently being piloted in 5 states is a pre-engineering series for middle school and high school youth. Ben, Josh and Hunter are working on their bionic arm designs, using hydraulics.



Mason and Josh fuel up their wind-powered cars and measure their speed by using the formula- Distance/Time = Speed.



Kelsey works on her design during the Quest for Speed TechXcite afterschool program. She and fellow engineers designed and built simple car models using numerous propulsion methods.



TechXcite participants wired their bionic arm designs to send an audible signal when they came into contact with the target. Students learned about prosthetics as well as the difference between pneumatics and hydraulics.



Mason and Josh work on their electrical engineering skills as they make a buzzer circuit to be used with their bionic arm design.





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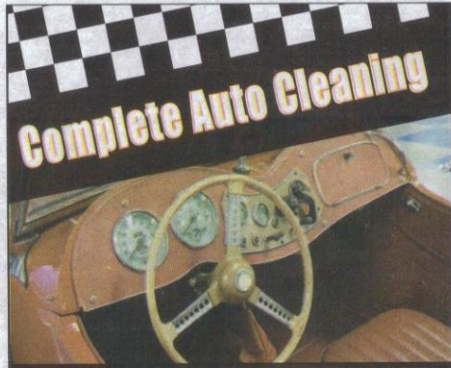
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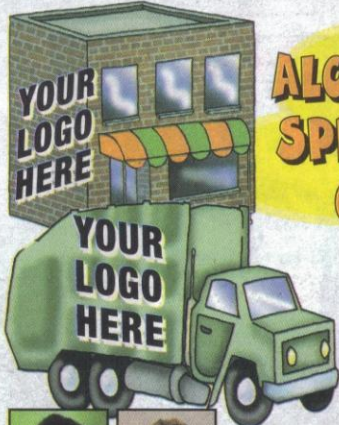


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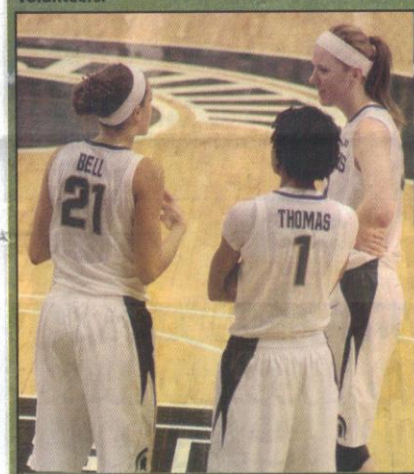



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THE ALPENA NEWS
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A large group of Alcona 4-H members attended the annual game in 2013, over 50 youth, adults and volunteers.



The 4-H at the Breslin program offers free admission tickets to an MSU women's home game for all 4-Hers, their families, as well as MSU Extension employees. This has been a great way to promote the 4-H program as displays are set up on the concourse before and after the game.



New Advisory Council members Alex and Zach Stephenson (left and right respectively) pose with Sparty during the 2013 4-H at the Breslin program.



Members of the Born in a Barn 4-H club (with guest Les Thomas) recited the 4-H Pledge at halftime of the 4-H at the Breslin program in March. Over 5,000 Michigan 4-H members and their families attended the game this year.



Members of the Born in a Barn 4-H club wait for the Lady Spartans in the tunnel before halftime at the Breslin program.

The Detroit Tigers were the second stop on the annual Detroit Daytrip in 2012 - Prince Fielder hits an RBI single against the Anaheim Angels. The tigers won 7-2.

Local 4-Her's attend Pre College program

17 youth and three adults from Alcona County recently attended the annual 4-H Exploration Days at Michigan State University; a precollege program designed for 11-19 year olds. The youth program, coordinated by State 4-H Youth Development staff and populated with local volunteers and county staff, offers youth a glimpse into college life at MSU including dormitory living and attending classes taught by University Professors, 4-H Volunteers and County staff across the East Lansing campus. Youth register in March and are able to select classes in various interest areas including applied sciences, recreation, leadership, physical fitness, communications, art and entrepreneurship. After a long day of classes and dorm food, participants are able to use their free time to explore the many sights on campus as well as take part in many of the scheduled tours, presentations and recreational activities.

Scheduled evening activities this year included *The Amazing Magic Stu* - a comedian/magician as well as a special appearance from former MSU mens' basketball player Anthony Innani, who spoke to youth about Autism. On the second night, the 4-H State Awards program showcased the hard work and dedication of many of the youth across the state and was followed by a dance in the big tent. The program, in its 43rd year, attracted over 2,500 youth and adults from almost every county in the state.

Alcona 4-H was excited to see a welcomed bump in enrollment to the three day, two night program going from 4 youth in 2012 to 17 this year. Of the group, the overwhelming majority had never attended the event before but are all looking forward to going again next year. Local youth fundraised in order to help with registration fees and raised over \$600 to help offset the total cost of \$165 per person. In

addition to this support, the group was given \$560 in scholarships from MSU and over \$1000 in local scholarships from the 4-H Advisory Council as well as a fund set up in memory of former MSU Extension County Extension Director George Byelich.

Youth entering 8th, 9th and 10th grades this fall may see an additional benefit as they have been asked to apply for a \$2000 Pre-college Scholarship based on their participation in Exploration Days. Successful applicants will be awarded the scholarship upon their first semester at MSU either as an incoming freshman or transfer student. If you would like more information about this or any other MSU Extension program or event, please call the Alcona MSU Extension Office at 989-724-6478.



Michigan Sea Grant Educator Brandon Schroeder explains the macro invertebrate life cycle to participants at the Jewel Lake youth fishing program sponsored by the Barton City Improvement Association.



Budding scientists like Emma were able to run the controls and watch the video monitor of the ROV at the youth ice fishing program at Jewell Lake in February.



Apple Hill Variety members Matt, Andrew and James attended the annual Barton City Improvement Associations (BCIA) Kids Fishing Tournament on Jewel Lake during Free Fishing weekend in February. They learned about invasive species from the Alcona MSU Extension staff.



A remotely operated vehicle (ROV) was a fun addition to the BCIA Kids Fishing program - youth were able to pilot it under the ice and check out the area using the camera mounted on the unit and a video monitor.

Youth at the Barton City Improvement Association's Kids Fishing Tournament enjoyed coming in to warm up with hot chocolate and digging through the portable ponds set up by Michigan Sea Grant Agent Brandon Schroeder.

A young lady proudly displays her prize-winning catch at youth ice fishing event on Jewell Lake.





Area students were able to get a "behind the scenes" view of a few of the ship wrecks in Thunder Bay aboard the Lady Michigan - a glass bottom boat designed to showcase the numerous wrecks within the boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The field trip, sponsored by a 4-H:O water quality grant provided by Toyota USA, offset the cost of the boat trip and a visit to the Marine Sanctuary museum for numerous area schools.



Michigan Seagrant Educator Brandon Schroeder talks to youth about Lake Huron fishing industry as well as the diversity of fish that Michigan's waters offer. Schroeder has been largely responsible for maintaining the 4-H:O grant as well as connecting it to numerous audiences throughout northeast Michigan.



One of the standards at camp, besides great food, campfires and mosquitoes, has been the Sea Lamprey. This invasive species comes to camp in an effort to educate youth on the negative impact of the numerous types of non-native invaders. Jimmy, a new Alcona camper, gets a kiss from one as AmeriCorps member and instructor Jess looks on.



4-H Program Instructor Les Thomas talks to Alcona Elementary Student aboard the Lady Michigan about macro invertebrates.



TBNMS intern and grad student Phil Hartmeyer looks on as students take samples of lake water at various depths using a water trap called a Van Dorn Sampler.

US Fish and Wildlife Biologist Heather Rawlings talks to Alcona High students about trapping fish for studies using various different net styles.



Finding diversity among invertebrates is one way to prove water quality in a body of water. Students also conducted chemical tests for dissolved oxygen, phosphorous and PH as a part of the BWET and 4-H:O grants.

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 And My Health to
 Better Living,
 For My Club,
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