

Chagrin

VALLEY TIMES

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Photo by Ryan Grzybowski

Liberty Masher of Chardon holds her rooster, Pebbles, in the small arena after the Junior Fancy Poultry Show during the 198th Great Geauga County Fair last Friday. This year, county fairs statewide were restricted to a Junior Fair due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Geauga celebrates with new style of fair

By **DAVY VARGO**

“Com’ on Riley!” “Go Maddie!” Cheers and hoofbeats broke the morning air as riders in jeweled jeans and belts circled the red, white and blue barrels. Some riders zipped through the cloverleaf pattern, while others took a more methodical approach. Lively yells from friends and family encouraged the riders.

“I’m sorry, that’s a no time,” the announcer proclaimed to one rider,

Sights and sounds of Junior Fair. **A14**

who, though boisterously communicating with her horse, encountered some difficulty with the pattern. “That’s what I thought it would be,” she shouted in replied.

The 198th Great Geauga County Fair this past weekend was limited by the state to a Junior Fair due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Though much smaller, the fair still buzzed with activity on the fairgrounds in Burton. No midway section swarmed with people, stands and rides, but the animal barn area remained lively.

The fair began on Sept. 3 and ended Sunday with fireworks.

During the daytime hours, the food and animal smells mingled together, with lowing cattle and loud-speakers as familiar sounds. In

some ways the junior fair felt busier than normal with horse, chicken and swine competitions underway. The lemonade stand occupied the same corner spot, kids pulled at cotton candy and food stands lined the main animal barn road.

One little boy pulled three other small boys in a wagon down another road. Older boys hosed and scrubbed black and white cattle.

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Streets and creeks flood throughout Chagrin Valley

By **JULIE HULLETT**

Significant rainfall on Labor Day caused flooding in parts of the Chagrin Valley, which led to closed streets, basement flooding and car rescues by police officers.

Communities continue to recover from the heavy rains that swept across Northeast Ohio on Monday, turning streets into rivers in Pepper Pike and other neighboring areas including Bainbridge in Geauga County.

Pepper Pike police Sgt. Karl Dietz said that parts of Gates Mills Boulevard, Brainard Circle, Fairmount Boulevard, Lander Road, South Woodland Road and Pinetree

Road were closed on Monday due to high levels of water. All streets were reopened by early afternoon, according to Service Director Bob Girardi.

Although police officers put up high water signs throughout the city, Sgt. Dietz said that about six cars were stuck in flood waters. Some drivers could get out of the cars themselves while others waited to be rescued by the police, he said.

“Don’t drive through high water,” Mr. Girardi emphasized on Tuesday.

Pepper Pike has several rain gauges throughout the city and each one displayed between 4 inches and

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West G settles seniority dispute with former Newbury teachers

By **SAMANTHA COTTRILL**

Former Newbury teachers now working in the West Geauga Local School District will retain their seniority, potentially sparing them from being first to the chopping block in the event of a reduction in force, according to a newly minted agreement.

In less than five minutes, the West Geauga Local Board of Education approved two resolutions in a special meeting Saturday to settle an agreement with 23 former Newbury teachers. With the passage of the resolutions, the teachers were to dismiss pending litigation in the Geauga County Common Pleas Court.

On Aug. 3, the 23 teachers who transferred to the West Geauga district

filed a lawsuit against the West G BOE in the county court to recognize their seniority as teachers after finding out in July that they would be considered “new hires” with zero years of seniority with West Geauga schools.

The Newbury Local School District shut its doors and joined the West Geauga Local School District in a territory transfer that went into effect July 1. Many teachers originally with Newbury schools transferred to West Geauga.

With their seniority stripped, the Newbury teachers would be at greater risk for layoffs in instances of a reduction in force, according to the court complaint, which is the removal of

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