



**2023 CHEESE EATING CHAMPIONS.** Reigning champion Brian Cordes of Tuscola pictured on the left once again won the adult division of the Cheese Eating Nationals eating a pound of cheese in 3 minutes and 26 seconds which was just over his personal record by 9 seconds. In the youth division, eating a 1/2 pound of cheese in a time of 4 minutes, was Emily Keagle of Arthur pictured on the right. Over 30 participants competed Saturday afternoon at the 50th Annual Cheese Festival.



**TWO-PEAT CHEESE CURLING CHAMPIONS.** In a "roll-off" between the Chz Champz and The Manchego's for the title of 2023 Cheese Curling Champions, it was the Chz Champz for the back-to-back win at the 50th Annual Amish Country Cheese Festival held over the weekend. Twelve highly competitive teams of four competed as a huge crowd looked and cheered on their favorite team. Pictured are 2023 Miss ALAH Regann Bowles, Ray Golembiewski from Dayton, Ohio, Abby Alderton from Dayton Ohio, Brian Cordes from Tuscola, Andrew Blakemore from Detroit, Mich., Curling Commissioner/Judge Danny Powell, and 2023 Jr. Miss ALAH Emeline Greathouse. Not pictured was 2023 Little Miss ALAH Harper Hale.

# 4-H youth raise money through county fair auction

By Doris Elmore

Summer is winding down, the kids are back in school, the crops are beginning to turn, the weather is doing its thing (whatever that is), meaning fall is just around the corner. While it has been a while since the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair, it is never too late to brag about our 4-H Youth and the amazing items for the auction on July 7, sponsored by the Moultrie-Douglas Extension Foundation with Ellen Mathias, chairman. She is assisted by Erica Lehman, Sarah Reedy

and Ashley Seegmiller. The 4-H members work hard all year to present a quality product. This is shown by what they bring to the auction. It is amazing the amount of the bidding prices. Such as \$125 for a watermelon or \$650 for iced cinnamon twists. The bidding keeps going up and up, but it's all for the 4-Hers

A highlight of the auction was the presentation of the Michael Gutheridge Award to Maddox Reedy. This award is voted on by the 4-H members to a member who has gone above and beyond to help other 4-H members. The award was established in memory of Michael Gutheridge, a long-time 4-H member who was killed in an auto accident in 1993 at the age of 15½. Any 4-H member would be proud to receive this prestigious award.

In addition to 4-H members showing their work, Moultrie-Douglas royalty assisted in showing a few items. Royalty included Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Queen Reggan Smith, Jr. Miss Adyson Cusick, and Little Miss Lydia Cummings.

Auction items were as follows: Watermelon, shown by queens, proceeds benefit the Extension Foundation. Donat-



**ELIAS GADOMSKI** shows the crowd his Floating Heart picture of chalk and watercolor.



**KENT LEHMAN** with his beautiful flower planter box made of cedar wood and filled with flowers.



**MOULTRIE-DOUGLAS QUEEN** Regann Smith tried her hand at being an auctioneer.



**MADDOX REEDY** proudly shows his Michael Gutheridge Award given to him at the 4-H Auction on July 7. He is pictured with, left to right, Katie McConnel, Karen Gutheridge and Ellen Mathias, mother and sisters of Michael.

ed by State Bank of Arthur Meat Bundle, donated by Heritage Family Farms, proceeds to Extension Foundation Charcuterie Board, donated by disABLED Creations, proceeds benefit Extension Foundation Mallory Batman, Duroc Barrow Beau Green, Barrow Kimberly McConnell, Purebred Champagne D'Argent Junior Buck Emilye Gavis, Pygmy Goat Wether Jackson Dueker, Self-made First Aid Kit; won best in class Grace Walker, Cookies Thomas Linstead, 8 x 10 photo of police, fire, and American flags Aaliyah Osborn, Clay Flowers Caden Kerner, Launch Model Rocket with launch pad, ignition system and engines. Grand champion, class champion, State Fair. Ellie Lehman, Platter of

baked goods, included a lot of treats, and a loaf of homemade white bread Maddox Reedy, Photography Trinity Linstead, Dozen decorated cupcakes Julia Moody, Wooden Bench made for a woodworking project with a bonus plate of fresh chocolate chip cookies Carson Kappes, Iced Cinnamon Twists Kent Lehman, Flower Planter Box made of cedar wood with linseed oil finish, filled with flowers. Elias Gadomski, "Floating Heart" chalk and watercolor on paper, visual art project. This piece received Class & Grand Champion, selected to go to state. Maxwell Paddock, Woodworking-ottoman Christy Kerner, Coffee cake and cookie basket Rhett Lehman, Dog House that will fit up to an extra-large sized dog. It has a shingled roof as well as an exterior with paint and trim. The dog door is large enough for any canine. Received Champion Woodworking Plaque Carmen Ladage, Photo and canning Lacey Rahn, Picture of a car

Keegan Ladage, Sofa table Sami Walker, Basket with zucchini bread, banana bread and cornbread Olivia Gadomski, Handmade Throw Blanket. This piece was Class Champion Each year, the auction not only brings in a lot of money for the extension and 4-H members, it is very entertaining watching people try to outbid each other to bring a higher premium. I imagine moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas have a hand in higher bidding. What a fun evening for all!



**EMILYE GAVIS** shows her Pygmy Goat Wether.



**RHETT LEHMAN** with his extra-large dog house. He received the Champion Woodworking Plaque. The dog house brought \$400.