

local

Ag club has animal display

By KATHLEEN HARTNEY
City Reporter

Children squealed with delight as they scurried around looking at the different farm and wildlife animal displays Friday and Saturday at Manor East Mall in Bryan.

Stephen F. Austin Junior High School's Greenhand Chapter of the Future Farmers of America began ceremonies for the Eighth Annual Bryan Greenhand FFA Children's Barnyard at 10 a.m. Friday with the sounds of country-western music played by the Bryan FFA Talent Team.

Texas Sen. Bill Moore opened the ceremonies as about 300 grade-school students viewed the exhibits consisting of animals and non-animal displays.

Moore expressed his appreciation to the FFA organization for displaying outstanding exhibits at the Barnyard.

Also, in order to keep on feeding the people in this country and other countries, Moore said, we are going to have further our interest in agriculture.

"We are sitting here in the Brazos Valley, the best farmland in the world, it's been said, outside of the Nile — and they don't have much land — with the greatest educational institution in the United States that does agricultural research and I think we should appreciate what we

have," he said.

Anna Beth Neason, vocational-agriculture instructor at the school, said the 50-member chapter set up the Barnyard as a way of celebrating National FFA Week, Feb. 16-23.

With agriculture still the number one industry in Texas, Neason said, the barnyard gives vocational agriculture students a chance to educate the public about agriculture, as well as giving them a lesson on how to work with the public.

Neason said 20 committees built and set up booths, led tours and cleaned up the mall area.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 visitors roamed the mall area viewing the 15 different exhibits during the two days.

Each display gave information on the different types of Texas animals, crops and agricultural products.

One of the children's favorite exhibits was the rodeo events display which featured a simulated "bucking bronco," which the children took turns riding.

Rabbits, pigs, sheep, goats, cows and a horse were in the farm animal exhibit while a skunk was featured in the wildlife exhibits.

Animals on display are owned by the members or were donated by various people in the community.

Neason said the funds to support the Barnyard came from chapter monies and donations from local



Gerald Kainard, 16, a member of the Bryan Future Farmers of America talent team, fiddles at the Eighth Annual Bryan Greenhand FFA Children's Barnyard Friday morning at the Manor East Mall.

Staff photo by Lynn Blanco

businessmen. Area feedstores donated much of the hay, feed and panels used in the display.

B-CS softball now forming

Even though the chill of winter is still in the air, Bryan and College Station parks and recreation departments are forming softball leagues now.

Bryan is offering 15 different leagues. Organizational meetings for the leagues will be held from 5 to 8:45 p.m. Tuesday at the Bryan Parks and Recreation office, 203 E. 29th St.

Entry fees, registration deadlines, beginning playing dates and eligibility rules will be discussed at the meetings.

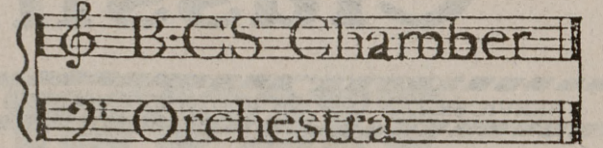
College Station is holding an organizational meeting for the co-rec league Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Center, at the corner of Holleman Drive and Eleanor Streets.

Women and men's leagues are also being formed, and an organizational meeting for them will be held April 7 in City Hall at 7 p.m.

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McElroy wins pageant

By JON HEIDTKE
Campus Reporter

Kelly McElroy, a 19-year-old sophomore from Humble, took her first step toward Atlantic City Saturday night in Rudder Theater, when she became the first Miss Texas A&M University.

McElroy topped a field of 20 contestants in the first Miss Texas A&M University Scholarship Pageant, and will compete in the Miss Texas Pageant in Fort Worth July 12.

Rounding out the top five finishers were Holly Dietert, first runner-up, a senior from San Antonio; second runner-up, Terry Vaughn, a senior from Arlington; third runner-up, Linda Martin, a freshman from Allen; and fourth runner-up, Melinda May, a junior from Crosby.

Prizes for the 5-foot-3-inch, brown-haired, green-eyed McElroy are a \$1,000 scholarship and a \$1,000 wardrobe allowance for the Miss Texas Pageant.

McElroy, who was Miss Humble in 1978 and used the scholarship money she won to enroll at Texas A&M, said she was "happy and surprised" at being selected, adding

"who would not want to be Miss Texas A&M?"

McElroy graduated from Humble High School in 1978 and is majoring in education at Texas A&M.

Steve Noack, the executive director of the pageant, said he was quite pleased with the results of the school's first pageant.

"After the people got a taste of this year's pageant," he said, "we should have a lot more response for next year's."

Noack said about 2,000 people attended the two-day pageant, which showcased guest entertainers, along with talent, swimsuit and evening gown competition among the contestants.

Lex Ann Haughey, Miss Texas 1979, performed on Saturday, and the Singing Cadets provided musical entertainment on Friday.

Robert Reynolds, one of the five judges, said McElroy will make a fine showing for Texas A&M at the Miss Texas Pageant.

Reynolds also said judging beauty pageants is a tough job.

"Some girls stand out more than others in some events, but you have

to look at all the phases and find a winner," he said.

Two non-finalist awards were also given. Sharon Freydenfeldt, an Austin sophomore, won the talent competition award for her gymnastics routine, and Karen Johnson, a senior from Houston, received the swimsuit award.

The runner-ups received scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$400. The scholarships awarded exceeded \$3,000.



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