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State Fair

OCT 13-23, 2016

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N.C. STATE FAIR NEWS IN EDUCATION



The N.C. State Fair is a division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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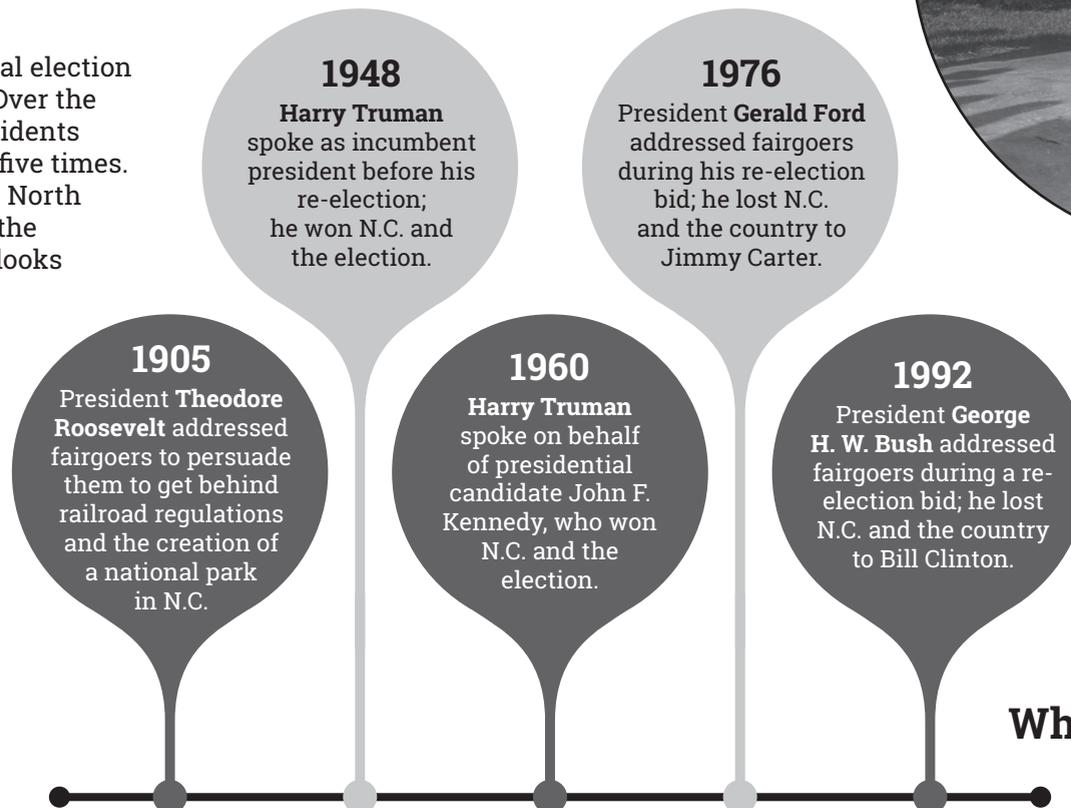
CONTENTS

- 02 Presidential Visits at the Fair
- 03 N.C. State Dairy Bar
- 04–05 Competition Heats Up for Kid Competitors
- 06–07 Bees Make Themselves at Home
- 08 Traveling Classroom
- 09 Landmark Building
- 10 New Chair Lift Debuts
- 11 Crossword Fun
- 12 The Great Pumpkin

PRESIDENTS AT THE FAIR

This year marks a presidential election year for the United States. Over the fair's 163-year history, four presidents have visited the N.C. State Fair five times. Most of them came to convince North Carolinians to re-elect them to the nation's highest office – and it looks like N.C. was a critical state for these presidents to win.

Here's a timeline of their visits:



Above: President Harry S. Truman, with Governor R. Gregg Cherry, visiting North Carolina State Fairgrounds.

Photo Credit:
NC State Archives

Who will visit next?

A TASTE OF THE FAIR

Designing new ice cream flavors could be considered a dream job, but at N.C. State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, it's all in a day's work.

The college's Dairy Enterprise System produces 20 flavors of ice cream made from milk it collects through agricultural programs. The ice cream is sold under the Howling Cow brand and is available on campus and at the N.C. State Fair.

This year, Howling Cow is partnering with the fair to create Caramel Apple Crisp, which will be sold exclusively at the fair. It's an apple pie-flavored ice cream with pie crust pieces and a caramel cinnamon swirl.

"It's just a natural fit," said Carl Hollifield, assistant director of the Dairy Enterprise System that oversees Howling Cow. "We've had an ice cream shop at the State Fair since the late '70s. We thought it was a great idea for the State Fair to have a flavor of its own."

The new flavor was selected through an online contest. Facebook users submitted their ideas for a State Fair flavor built from one base flavor, one inclusion (such as brownie bites or pecan pieces) and one swirl. The winner was announced on Aug. 26.

Once Caramel Apple Crisp was chosen, the team at Howling Cow took over and started developing the flavor. They use the same process whenever they create a new flavor, which they do about once a year.

First, the food scientists brainstorm the flavor idea and what ingredients they could mix together to achieve the taste they want. Then they take those ingredients and mix them together in different combinations and concentrations until the

ice cream is perfect. Sometimes the team makes 10 batches of ice cream before they get it right.

"I can't think of one flavor we tried and got right on the very first batch," Hollifield said. "The hardest flavor to perfect was banana pudding. We can't put standard vanilla wafers in the ice cream because they get too soggy. It's trial and error."

Howling Cow ice cream is special because it controls every step of its production, from cow to cone.

"It's all from N.C. State – our cows, our milk, our creamery," Hollifield said.

The process results in such top-quality ice cream that each year around 25,000 fairgoers wait in line an average of 30 minutes just to buy it. Howling Cow plans on making 180 gallons of Southern Apple Pie for the 2016 State Fair.



Photo Credit:
© NC State University

Did you know?

- Howling Cow served its first ice cream cone at the fair in 1978. Back then, it was known as the N.C. State University Food Science Club.
- When the Howling Cow team is developing a new flavor, they make two-gallon batches for each combination of ingredients. Each batch is equal to 64 half-cup servings of ice cream!
- Howling Cow sells about 4,000 gallons of ice cream each year to about 25,000 fairgoers.
- Howling Cow has 20 flavors total, including Cherry Brick Road, Wolf Tracks and Campfire Delight.

MEET THE FAIR'S KID COMPETITORS

► Laura LeGlue: Breaking Through the Livestock Learning Curve

Fourteen-year-old Laura LeGlue of Randolph County has a passion for raising and showing livestock. She took an agriculture class at school in sixth grade and became so fascinated that she and her brother, Avery, joined a local 4-H club, the Country Kids Livestock Club. Laura had never raised livestock before, but four years later, she's a 10th-grader, secretary of her 4-H club and cares for two cows, Starburst and Sirius.

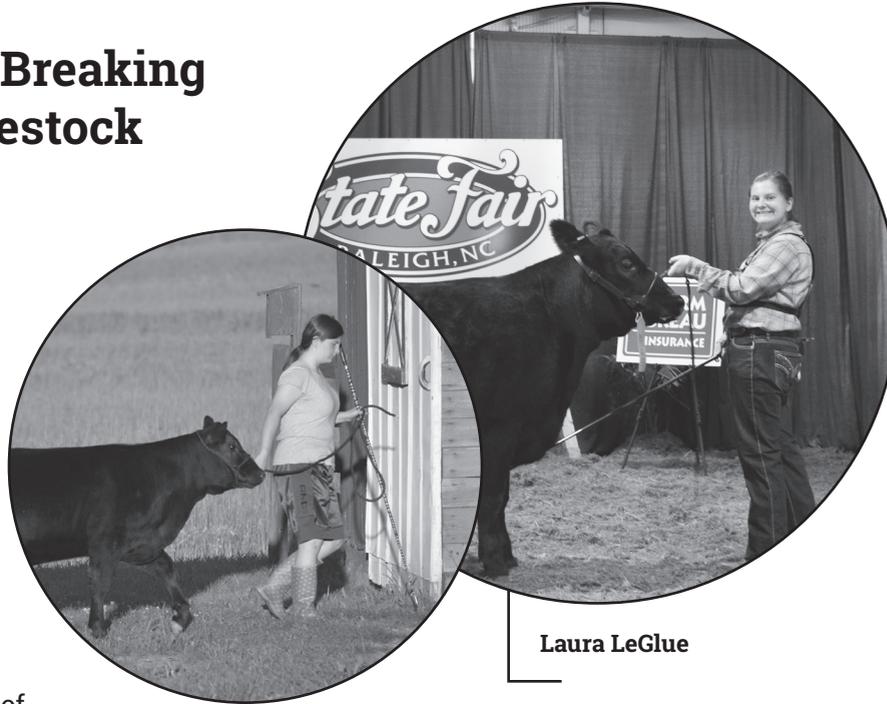
Tammy LeGlue witnessed Laura and Avery mature greatly by working with their animals.

"They know they have to go out and feed them no matter how they feel," she said. "I see them putting their animals first."

While showing turkeys and dairy cows at the N.C. State Fair in 2013, Laura watched the steer competition and realized she wanted to show beef cattle. She liked that the handlers used sticks to guide and position the animals, allowing for better control of them. But she didn't have a cow to show.

So Laura and her mom called Jonathan Black, the director for the Randolph County Cooperative Extension office. He put them in touch with a farmer who agreed to let Laura show Jet, a Black Angus heifer. That's when the work began.

"It takes a lot more time than one would think to break a cow," said Laura, who had just one month to train Jet before the 2014 show season began. Laura relied on positive reinforcement to teach Jet. First, Laura halter broke the cow by tying her to a post.



Laura LeGlue

"She kicked for two hours straight the first time," she said.

Laura repeatedly petted and brushed Jet while she was tied, and soon the cow was accustomed to wearing a halter and standing still. Next, Laura trained her to walk obediently in a ring.

"Cows usually act up and jump or buck the first time, but then they learn to follow you around," Laura said.

Once Jet learned to follow her, Laura began carrying a stick. Soon she progressed to arranging Jet's feet with the stick. Positioning the animal with its front legs even and back legs closer to the handler helps showcase its structure better, giving judges the best look possible. A livestock handler uses a long pole similar to an extended selfie stick to position their animals' feet and rub them to keep them calm, not to beat them.

At the end of the month, Jet was ready for the ring. Although Jet wasn't

the best-looking contender, Laura was grateful for her calm demeanor, which translated into showmanship points.

"The judges just want you to show you have control of the animal," she said.

Since that initial show, Laura has won several awards, and her heifer Cammie was the Grand Champion at the Stanly County Fair in 2015.

Her goal is to show her cows outside of North Carolina one day.

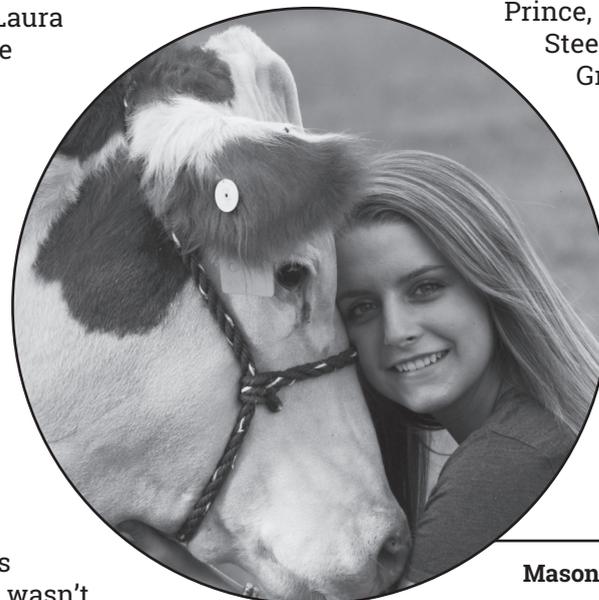
"I'd really like to attend national and regional shows," she said. "I like to talk to people from different places and learn how other people manage their animals."

► Mason Blinson: A Tradition of Competition

Showing livestock is in Mason Blinson's blood. Like her father and sister before her, the Buies Creek native started young and showed her first sheep at age 3. Now 18, Mason has won more awards than she can count, and her senior year in high school was more successful than she could have imagined.

In 2015, Mason's Hereford steer, Prince, won Junior Market Steer N.C. Born and Bred Grand Champion. In early 2016, she also found out she was one of 27 livestock competitors who had won a \$2,000 N.C. State Fair Youth Livestock Scholarship.

Mason is a third-generation cattle farmer. Knowing



Mason Blinson

Mason Blinson



her cows' family history and having years to build trust with them is what she believes set her apart in the ring.

"Winning grand champion at the State Fair was one of my proudest moments with my animals," she said, "I raised Prince and his mom and grandmom. The fact that my steer was successful meant a lot to me and my family."

Prince was auctioned off after the fair and processed, but Mason's parents arranged for her to have a special reminder of her "shy goofball" of a steer by turning his red-and-white hide into a rug. Mason keeps it in her room.

"That's my favorite Christmas present I've ever gotten," she said.

Working with her animals every day contributed to her success as well, Mason added. She always feeds them first before eating breakfast herself. Then she washes, brushes and walks them.

"It's a whole day's work, but it pays off in the long run," Mason said, "It definitely impacts how you grow up. You learn responsibility."

Mason is using the scholarship money plus proceeds from the sale of her steer to attend Oklahoma State University, where she plans on majoring in agronomy and minoring in animal science. Mason knew what she wanted to study after participating in the N.C. State University Amazing Grazing Program and learning from Dr. Matthew Poore, a professor and ruminant nutrition specialist (that means he studies what cows should eat).

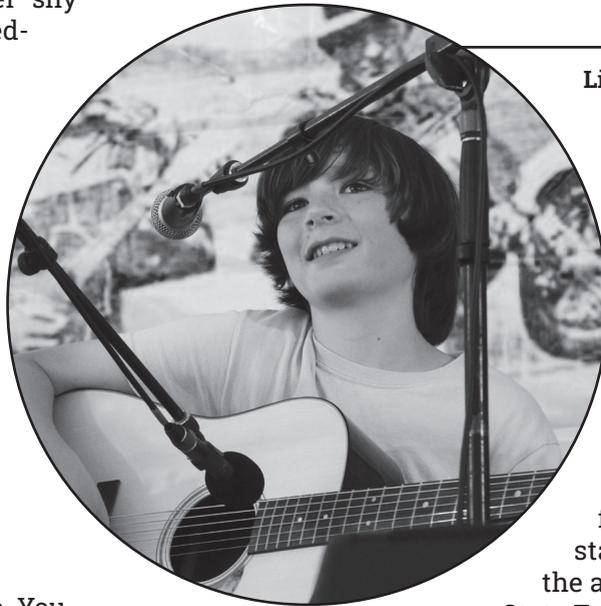
"He influenced me to want to be a professor like him," she said, "He's got such an abundance of knowledge."

Living on a college campus instead of a farm means that Mason's showing days are over, but she still plans to come to the N.C. State Fair like she has every year since she was born. She is excited to watch the new competitors and offers the following advice to them:

"Never give up and never stop working with your animals. Remember that everyone goes about things differently. Work with your animals every day, and it will pay off."

► Liam Purcell: Carrying on Bluegrass Tradition

Fourteen-year-old Liam Purcell plays six instruments – guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, dobro and bass. And, the ninth-grader from Deep Gap plays them pretty well.



Liam Purcell

Liam, an avid bluegrass musician, won the 2015 Bascom Lamar Lunsford Trophy at age 13. Every year, dancers and musicians from across the state compete for the award at the N.C. State Fair Folk Festival.

It's one of the festival's highest honors, given "to the individual or group that best exemplifies North Carolina's musical heritage," according to the Folk Festival Web page.

"That was a big surprise," Liam said. "It's an honor to get recognition for picking up these traditions."

At age 6, Liam started taking weekly guitar lessons through the Junior Appalachian Musicians afterschool program, sparking his interest in old-time bluegrass.

"I fell in love with it from the first moment," he said.

Liam lives and breathes music. He performs most weekends with his band Cane Mill Road, composed of fellow teen bluegrass lovers Trajan Wellington and Eliot Smith. They travel across the country playing festivals and competitions, but their most exciting experience was playing in Argentina at "Iguazú in Concert" in the spring of 2015. Cane Mill Road joined other young musical acts from countries such as France, Zimbabwe and Peru as the kids performed and learned about each other's culture and music.

Liam's latest project is crafting his own fiddle. Under the tutelage of master instrument maker Chris Testerman, he's been carefully carving the instrument.

"It's a very delicate thing," Liam said, "It's furthered my level of understanding of music."

Liam visits Testerman's workshop when he can, to learn about and use the machinery, then takes the in-progress fiddle home with him to work on it more.

"Right now, I'm graduating [thinning] the back and hollowing it out," Liam explained.

Liam won't be competing in the 2016 Folk Festival, but he'll still be there.

"This year I think I'll just come and watch and cheer everybody on," he said.

He doesn't want to do anything but music in the future.

"I want to make a living of it," Liam said.

"There are a lot of things to do in the music field... I've been fortunate to play with all kinds of people who've helped me and welcomed me into their circles."



Liam Purcell

WANT TO HELP POLLINATORS? GROW A GARDEN

The value of bees pollinating fruits, vegetables and legumes is 10 times the value of the honey they produce.



Pollinator gardens that are part of the landscape of the N.C. State Fairgrounds serve as a reminder that we can all do our part to help provide valuable pollinator habitats. Even small plots can help the pollinator population, which helps the farmers grow the food we enjoy.

The fairgrounds landscaping team has planted hundreds of butterfly bushes, black-eyed susans and other plants that attract pollinating creatures such as honeybees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Landscaping director Dudley Baggett has worked at the fairgrounds for 16 years and is leading this effort.

“Without bees, we don’t get food,” Baggett said. “We can’t afford to lose our bees.”

So what is a pollinator, and why are they important?

Pollinators help crops and other plants grow just by looking for a snack. They love the sweet nectar found in flowers, but the flowers don’t share their nectar without getting something in return. These plants need pollinators to spread pollen around to one another to fertilize their seeds so they can reproduce. While searching for the nectar inside a flower, pollinators become covered in pollen and transfer that pollen to every flower they visit. If those flowers are on a vegetable plant or a fruit tree, they become the food we eat. Thanks, pollinators!

The fairgrounds has turned its garden beds into a feast for honeybees

PROVIDE NATIVE PLANTS FOR POLLINATOR HABITAT

Consider these and other native plants for your landscape:

Annual Sunflower
Aster Species
Autumn Sneezeweed
Bidens Species
Black-Eyed Susan
Blanket Coneflower
Blue Vervain
Clasping Cornflower
Common Evening
Primrose
Hairy Beardtongue
Ironweed
Lance-Leaf Coreopsis

Liastris Species
Maximilian Sunflower
Milkweeds
Ohio Spiderwort
Ox-Eye Sunflower
Plains Coreopsis
Purple Coneflower
Spotted Beebalm
Swamp Sunflower
Solidago Species
VA Mountain Mint
Wild Senna

Honeybees are the most important pollinator for crops grown in North Carolina.



and their friends in three ways. You can use these tips to make a pollinator garden at home, even if it's just one pot.

First, Baggett's team filled the beds with plants that bloom at different times, ensuring the pollinators always have something to eat. In summer, the beds are filled with black-eyed susans and their golden petals. In fall, lantana bushes with clusters of tiny yellow-orange flowers will bloom in time for the fair.

Second, many of their plants are single flowers. This means that each flower only has one row of petals, making it easier for pollinators to access the nectar and pollen. For example, Baggett planted Casa Blanca lilies at the fairgrounds. A Casa Blanca lily's petals don't get in the way of pollinators; instead, they almost make a pathway for the bees and bugs to zip straight into the flower's center.

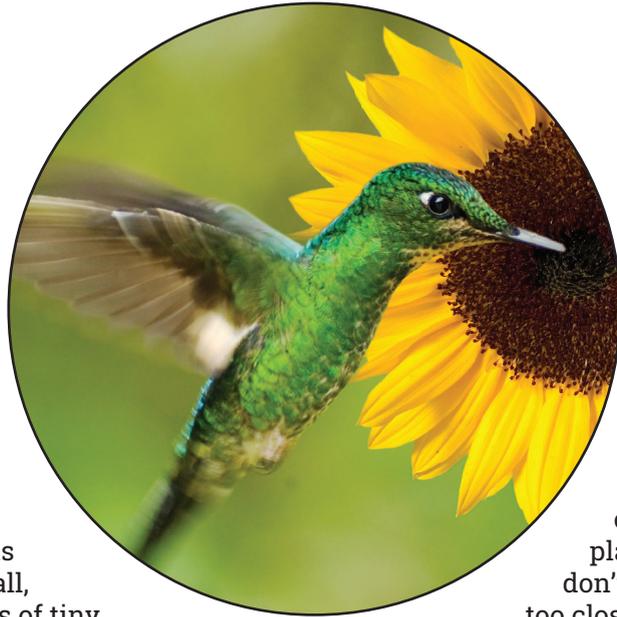
Third, Baggett's plants are hardy perennials, which means they last more than one season.

"A lot of these plants are super tough," he said. "You get them established, and they'll come back every year."

Vitex, cockscomb and butterfly bushes are three perennials that Baggett recommends.

Planting flowers that attract bees doesn't mean you need to be afraid of the insects, Baggett said.

"The bee that's after the pollen has only one thing on her mind, and that's food," he said. "As long as you don't get in between the bees and their food... they couldn't care less about a human being nearby."



Baggett's advice for new gardeners is to talk to experts, such as at their local garden store, and use trustworthy Internet resources.

"Pay attention to experts' advice about good planting techniques and choosing the right plants," he said. "You don't want to plant things too close together. Start off planting it right and in good soil, and you should be okay."

Follow his advice, and you might just have beautiful flowers to look at, and you'll be helping North Carolina's farmers and backyard gardeners by keeping the pollinator population strong.

Local food depends on pollinators. Pollination is crucial to the success of North Carolina's \$84 billion agricultural economy.

Honeybees account for \$186 million in total annual crop productivity to our state's economy.

In NC, honeybees directly account for about \$96 million in annual fruit and vegetable production.

Up to 1/3 of the food we eat can be directly attributed to the work of pollinators.



NCDA&CS is making a difference! Several divisions with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are making a difference in regards to protecting pollinator habitats through regulatory authority and developing new programs to support pollinators. NCDA&CS is working with university researchers and other state and local partners to make a difference.

For links to lots of great resources and more information about NCDA&CS programs, go to www.ncagr.gov/pollinators



HITTING THE BOOKS WHILE ON THE ROAD: THE TRAVELING CARNIVAL SCHOOL MAKES EVERY PLACE A CLASSROOM

For Matteo and Michael Simonian, school is wherever they happen to be that day.

The brothers travel seven months out of the year with Powers Great American Midway. PGAM is a company that provides rides, games and concessions at carnivals and fairs across the East Coast, including the N.C. State Fair. Their stepfather, Marc Janas, works for PGAM and is the nephew of its owner, Les “Corky” Powers. Matteo and Michael may be in Pennsylvania one day and North Carolina the next. But that doesn’t get in the way of learning.

Every school day, the children who travel with PGAM put on their blue polos and khakis and report to the Powers Learning Center. The PLC is a trailer with desks and computers for the 10 or so students. The 40-foot trailer expands to double its width so there’s plenty of room for the students. It even has a snack station and two televisions. A chaperone ensures the kids complete their online lessons.

To Matteo, 14, and Michael, 13, the best part of moving around is exploring the different parts of the country where they stop.

“We take field trips all the time,” Michael said. New York City and Washington, D.C., are the two places that wowed him most. He also loved doing a scavenger hunt at George Washington’s Virginia mansion, Mount Vernon.

The biggest challenge is focusing on school despite their responsibilities helping out at the family business and the excitement of being in a new place, the brothers said. But big challenges come with big rewards. They use the time they

save by studying independently to learn skills they otherwise couldn’t have, their stepfather said.

“Matteo is learning office management work including doing the weekly business payroll,” Janas said. “Michael is learning to weld and will become a certified welder very soon.”

While they’re traveling, they follow the public school calendar and curriculum and report to teachers located in Florida, the state they consider home.

“All of our teachers send a couple of notes to us every day, and then we have a monthly call with our homeroom teacher,” Michael said. “Any time we need their help, we have their phone numbers and their emails.”

Their mom, Tiffany Janas, answers their questions, too. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the PLC.

Matteo’s favorite subject is science because he can learn about anything from storms to atoms, while Michael likes math because it’s needed “for everything that you do, like money, science and measuring.” When they grow up, the brothers would like to work at PGAM and perhaps figure out a way to mix their interests with the family business.

“I enjoy being out here,” Matteo said. “It’s my family show.”



DORTON ARENA: A NATIONAL LANDMARK HERE AT HOME

Would you believe that one of the most important buildings in the country is located at the N.C. State Fairgrounds? With its groundbreaking design and recognition in 2002 as a National Historic Engineering Landmark, the J.S. Dorton Arena is more significant than many North Carolinians realize.

Dorton Arena was designed in 1948 by architect Matthew Nowicki, a Polish immigrant and professor at the N.C. State University School of Design. When he died in a plane crash in 1950, his architecture firm partner William Deitrick took over the project and translated Nowicki's sketches into reality. Their ideas were revolutionary, said Bill McClure, facilities engineer at the fairgrounds.

"Dorton's held up by cables, not columns or joists," he said. "It was the first building in the world built like that, under the same principle as the Golden Gate or Brooklyn Bridge."

The Web page about Dorton Arena explains the building this way:

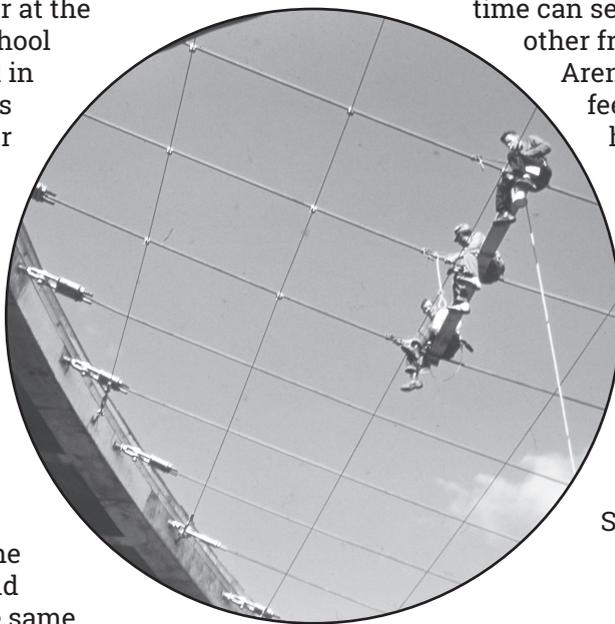
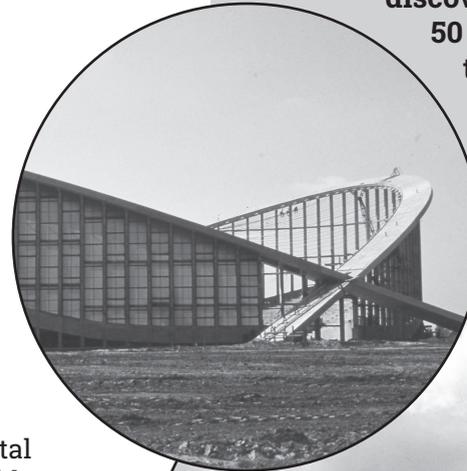
"[It] boasts the world's first cable supported roof system. Dorton Arena uses arches leaning away from each other to support its weight.

Cables strung between the arches hold the heavy metal roof... The metal roof, suspended on a network of cables, which extend crosswise from the 90-foot parabolic arches, is saddle-shaped."

The cables mean that Dorton Arena needs no support beams that would obstruct views inside. Instead, each of the 7,610 people who can fit into the arena at one time can see from one end to the other from any point. Dorton Arena is 300 feet long, 300 feet wide and 87 feet tall at its highest point.

The revolutionary design has inspired many architects over the years. Yale University's Ingalls Rink, Canada's Saddledome and Virginia's Dulles International Airport drew from Nowicki's design, according to Our State magazine.

Recently, a box of long-lost photos of Dorton's construction was discovered. They're over 50 years old and show the amazing feat of engineering that is Dorton Arena. Take a look!



Dorton Arena: By the Numbers

- 300 feet wide by 300 feet long
- Can hold a maximum of 7,610 people
- 87 feet tall at its highest point

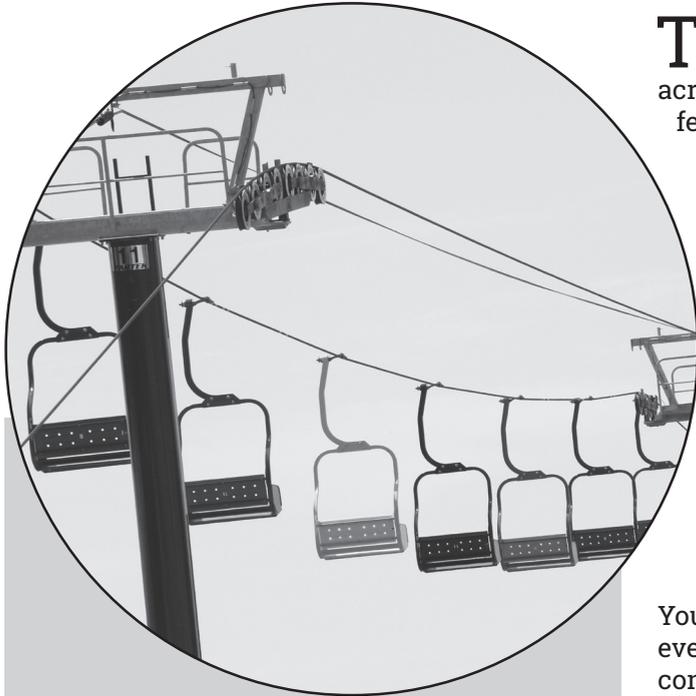
Dorton was designed for something a little bit different than the concerts and events it's known for today – it was intended as a livestock competition arena and was nicknamed the "Cow Palace" shortly after its construction.



Be a State Fair Adventurer!

Print the N.C. State Fair Scavenger Hunt at
www.ncstatefair.org/2016/Education/Scavenger.htm

MEET THE STATE FAIR FLYER



State Fair Flyer Facts

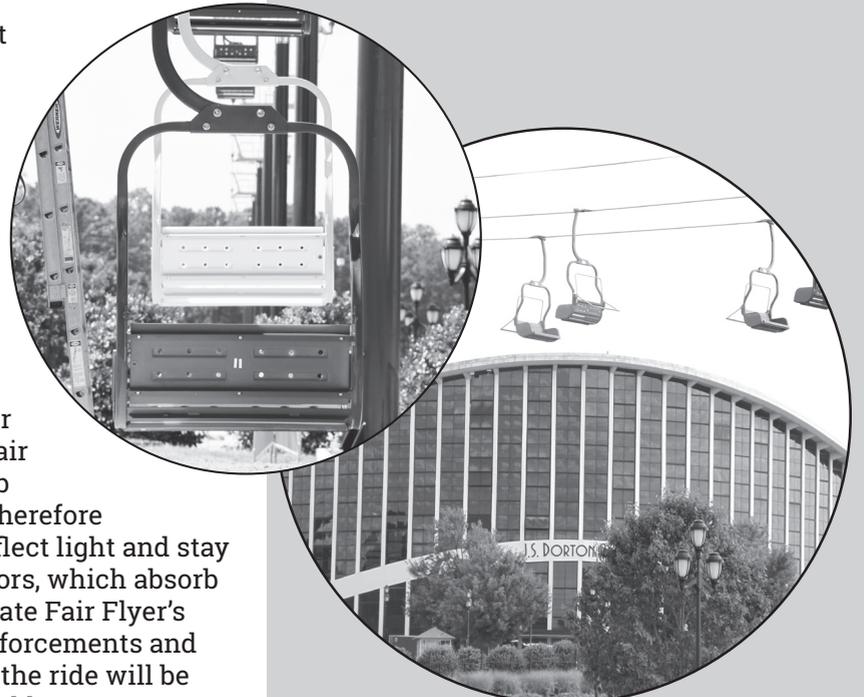
- Has a tensile strength of 1,502 pounds
- Takes 7 minutes to get from one end to the other
- Loading interval of 6.96 seconds
- Capacity is 1,034 passengers an hour
- 127 carriers with 2 seats each
- About 35 feet off of the ground

The brand-new State Fair Flyer lets fairgoers escape the crowds by gliding 1,400 feet across the fairgrounds. The ride is about 35 feet high and works like a ski lift to transport fairgoers over the Midway. A one-way trip takes seven minutes. Besides helping with congested areas, the ride provides “the opportunity to get a beautiful aerial view of the fair,” said Kent Yelverton, director of property and construction at the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The State Fair Flyer is a permanent fixture at the N.C. State Fairgrounds and available for use at events besides the fair.

Making the State Fair Flyer Safe

You can't see it, but the atoms that make up every substance you come in contact with are constantly moving. When the temperature around a substance rises, its atoms move more rapidly, and when the temperature falls, they move more slowly. Atoms take up more or less space depending on how quickly they're moving, and as a result, the substance they are a part of expands or contracts.

This is a basic physics concept that the engineers behind the State Fair Flyer had to take into account. In extreme heat and cold, the ride's size changes, so the engineers made its foundation extra firm, said Jonathan Brooks, president of the Wagner Consulting Group, which advises the N.C. State Fair about machinery safety. Engineers even had to consider what color to paint the State Fair Flyer, as different colors absorb varying amounts of light and therefore heat. White and light colors reflect light and stay cooler than black and dark colors, which absorb light and heat. However, the State Fair Flyer's engineers have used steel reinforcements and strong concrete to ensure that the ride will be able to take the heat – or the cold.



Do the Math

- The State Fair Flyer is 1,444 feet from end to end. How many feet would a roundtrip be?
- The haul rope that carries the passengers is 1 1/8 inch in diameter. What is the radius of the haul rope? (Hint: it's half the diameter.)
- The haul rope weighs 2.13 pounds per foot. How much does 10 feet of the rope weigh?
- The State Fair Flyer's carriers move at 200 feet per minute. How many feet can they move in an hour?

N.C. STATE FAIR CROSSWORD



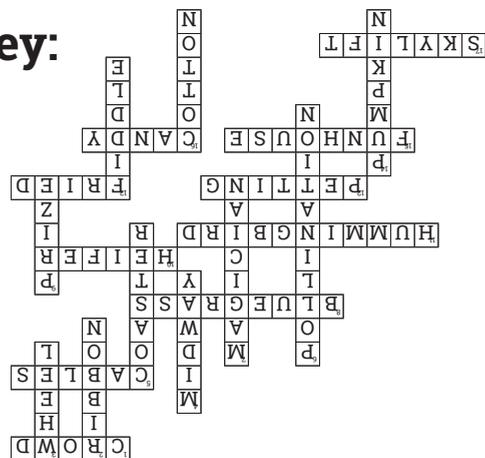
Across

1. A large gathering of people in one place
5. Long metal wires that support Dorton Arena's roof
8. Style of country music reliant on guitar and banjo and characterized by twangy vocals
10. A young female cow that has not given birth to a calf
11. A pollinator with a pointy beak and fast wings
12. At a _____ zoo, you can touch animals such as donkeys and rabbits
13. You can get a deep _____ Oreo or Twinkie at the fair
15. A building where you might find mirrors that make you look short and wavy or tall and skinny
16. _____ apples are a sweet fair treat
17. New ride that transports fairgoers over the Midway

Down

2. You get a blue _____ if you win 1st place in a fair contest
3. You can ride the Ferris _____ to get a bird's-eye view of the fair
4. Area of the fair known for having lots of rides and games
5. Roller _____
6. Process of fertilizing plants' seeds, usually through wind or animals
7. A person who performs magic tricks
9. Everyone wants to win a _____ playing Midway games
13. A stringed instrument used to play traditional tunes
14. A giant orange fruit grown for competition at the fair
16. _____ candy is a fluffy blue, white or pink treat

Answer Key:



LOVITT FAMILY SHARES UNIQUE HOBBY OF GROWING GIANT PUMPKINS

T.J. Lovitt



The Lovitt family of Edgecombe County began growing giant pumpkins after a routine trip to Walmart in 2009. Dad Gary Lovitt was shopping when he noticed a pack of giant pumpkin seeds with a picture of a boy sitting on a mammoth pumpkin.

“I thought it’d be pretty cool to grow one and get a picture like that with my kids,” Lovitt said.

So he bought the seeds, researched how to care for the plants and grew pumpkins big enough to take some photos with his kids. Then he decided to grow them again the next year.

Seven years later, Gary, his wife Emily and children T.J. and Marina are award-winning giant pumpkin growers. At the 2015 Great Pumpkin/Watermelon Weigh-off at the N.C. State Fairgrounds, T.J., 13, took second place with a 611-pound pumpkin, and Marina, 8, took eighth place with a 300-pounder.

The Lovitts were instrumental in bringing an official Great Pumpkin Commonwealth competition to North Carolina in 2014, said April Blazich, the fair’s horticulture superintendent. The GPC governs giant fruit and vegetable growing competitions worldwide.

Gary and Emily Lovitt were part of a group of growers that worked with the fair staff to host the weigh-off on the fairgrounds. The fair has had pumpkin and watermelon growing competitions for years, but the GPC offers large prizes and wider recognition to growers. Since their competitions are open to competitors from anywhere in the world and not just North Carolina, the GPC weigh-off takes place the day before the fair. Winning pumpkins and watermelons are displayed for the entirety of the fair,

and their growers, including the Lovitts, take turns tending the displays and answering fairgoers’ questions about growing them.

What T.J. and Marina love most about their family’s hobby is spending time with their parents during the intensive process.

The Lovitts start seeds in late April or early May and grow them inside for around a week before transplanting them to a plot in their side yard. In mid-June, T.J. and Marina prepare for their favorite part of growing pumpkins, pollinating.

In a process called “controlled pollination,” the Lovitts cut the male blossoms off of the vine and transfer their pollen to the female blossoms. Baby pumpkins grow under the female blossoms, helping growers identify the blossoms to pollinate. Once the fertilized pumpkins begin to develop, the Lovitts select the largest, healthiest one on each vine to nurture and cut off the rest. For the remainder of the summer, they water, fertilize and cover them to protect them from pests, disease and rot.

“It takes 150 days to grow giant pumpkins from seed to weigh-off,” Gary Lovitt said. “There are a lot of things that can go wrong in those 150 days.”

In late September or early October, the Lovitts harvest the surviving pumpkins and drive them to the fair. They hope to do even better at the weigh-off this year. T.J. wants to grow his largest pumpkin yet and take first place. Win or lose, the whole family has learned lessons about patience and hard work.

“This particular hobby is unique,” Gary Lovitt said. “You can’t go to Walmart and buy a giant pumpkin. It takes time and effort.”



Did you know?

The Great Pumpkin/Watermelon Weigh-off doesn’t have a youth category, so T.J. and Marina compete against adults.

Giant watermelons can be tasty, but you don’t want to eat giant pumpkins. They’re watery and it is not recommended to eat them because of the chemicals growers use to protect them.

Pumpkins are actually a fruit because their seeds are on the inside, just like watermelon, apples and peaches.