

HARWINTON FAIR

Skillet skills add to fair fun

BY ALEXA GORMAN
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

The fairgrounds are clear. The schedule is set. The animals arrive Friday.

Harwinton's 157th annual fair is this weekend, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$7 for adults; children 12 and under are free.

The preview booklet boasts the fair as the "best in family entertainment." In years past, the fair has proved its quality with everything from pig races to tractor pulls, bluegrass bands to wood chopping contests, quilt making to cookie contests, and every fried food and carnival ride in-between.

One competition gaining momentum is the women's skillet throw. The frying pans will fly across the field on both days of the fair.

Christine Terlecky, superintendent of concessions, said this year the ax throwing and wood chopping station had to be moved to the other side of the grounds to give more room for the skillets.

"Those things really fly," she said.

Competitors are judged by distance based on the best of two throws. The throws must be straight and skillets must be released before the foul line.

Women can register for the skillet throw both mornings until 10:20 a.m. in the wood chopping area. Practice throws will run from 9:30 a.m. until the competition begins at 10:30.

Contests and judging will take place each day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On both days, displays of Civil War and pioneer traditions will show fair-



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Crew members from Tufano Amusements set up the merry-go-round for the Harwinton Fair. Rides will be open Saturday and Sunday all day.

goers how to blacksmith and churn butter like it's 1875.

Terlecky and her husband, Nick, have worked on the fair for the past 20 years. Her favorite part is not seeing it come together, though. It's the very beginning.

"The rides come right from the Durham Fair," she said. "So when I see the caravan coming down the road — it's dark, so the lights are all still lit up — that's what gives me but-

terflies."

Setup begins each spring. The fairgrounds are maintained by members of the Harwinton Agricultural Society.

"You don't just come the week before," Terlecky said. "As long as the weather's nice, we're here."

This is the first time in seven years that good weather is predicted for both days, she said.

"I've got my umbrella with me and

we just put new hard tops on all the golf carts," she said. "But so far, we're looking good."

The fair schedule with more details on competition times and locations can be found online at harwinton-fair.com.

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CONTRIBUTED

German shepherds will come together this weekend for the 2013 North American Sieger Show in Bridgeport.

Best of German shepherds in show

The 2013 North American Sieger Show is Friday through Sunday at Beardsley Park in Bridgeport.

More than 200 world-class German shepherds from all over the U.S. and many foreign countries will compete in a European-style ring show from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day.

Admission is \$5 per day or \$10 for all three days. The

event will be held rain or shine at the park, at 1875 Noble Ave.

The event is hosted by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America — Working Dog Association. Event organizers expect 3,000 spectators over the three-day event.

"The German shepherd dog is of great value to military, search and rescue, law enforcement and disaster re-

covery missions and to handicapped individuals and those with post-traumatic stress disorder," explains John Henkel, the event's local coordinator and a competitor. "This wonderful breed also is, of course, a very popular family pet."

For details, visit www.nasswda.org/nass2013/home/home.html or call 203-730-1930.