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County fair begins last-day activities

Despite heavy rains in the Chillicothe area this morning, the scheduled harness races at 4 p.m. and the demolition derby at 8 p.m. are "go" at the Boss County Fairgrounds. J. Kenneth Rudell, fair board treasurer, said the harness races were still on as of 10:30 a.m., three fourths of an hour after the rain began at 9:15 a.m. on this, the final day of the fair. Rudell noted an afternoon rainstorm developed on the last day of the fair a year ago, canceling out a part of the harness racing program. Two races, however, had been completed before the rains hit. Rudell also recalled the demolition derby was held in a "sea of mud" after the rains last year, but, he said, those events apparently "go on rain or shine."

Noting the horseshoe tournament playoffs are scheduled at 4 p.m., Rudell said the courts are in good condition, having been covered with canvass. Only additional rain during actual tournament play would cancel out that activity, Rudell indicated.

He pointed out fair attendance has been running about 1,000 persons ahead of last year's figures. Attendance Friday was 3,594, a dropoff of about 100 from the comparative day a year ago. Since the closing day this year is a rainy day like last year, Rudell looks for a normal attendance this year.

Other features tonight at the fair include a 4-H Awards presentation, at 6 p.m., a concert by the Adelphi Band at the grandstand at 7:30 p.m., and a fire baton exhibition and junior fair dance at 8:30 p.m. Livestock will be released at 4 p.m. and other exhibits will be released to owners at 8 p.m.

Apollo crew nearing finish of isolation

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Doctors plan today to take final blood samples from the Apollo 11 astronauts to determine whether the spacemen are free to leave their quarantine quarters.

If astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins are as healthy as they look, they'll be released from isolation late Sunday or early Monday.

The 21-day quarantine period, which began the day Armstrong and Aldrin closed the hatch of the lunar landing vehicle on the moon, normally would end at 2 a.m. EDT Monday.

The decision on early departure will be up to the International Agency for Back Contamination, the group which set the quarantine period. Dr. Charles A. Berry, the astronauts' chief physician, will report to the committee members Sunday.

Dr. Charles Fischer, space agency doctor isolated with the astronauts, reported: "We're highly encouraged with what we've seen so far. Everyone appears in excellent health."

Two previous blood samples taken from the astronauts showed nothing unusual.

After their release, they will spend a day with their families. On Tuesday, they will hold a news conference here and then will start a whirlwind round of festivities honoring their feat.

They have a full day Wednesday, with ticker tape parades in New York and Chicago and a state dinner in Los Angeles hosted by President Nixon.

Local state employees to get pay raise

State employees in Ross County will begin next week with a pay raise, although some persons involved are not too happy about it.

State Rep. Myrl Shoemaker has criticized the bill, passed Wednesday by the Ohio House as seeming to be "too little and too late to maintain a good job of recruiting state personnel."

He said the bill "is only a stopgap measure. The problem will be greater in two years than it is now since inflation will negate the raises."

"I would have been pleased if we would have been able to put more into the salary bill," Shoemaker pointed out the Ohio house minority offered amendments that would have added eight cents to the pay raise bill and moved the effective date back to July 1, 1969. But these amendments were rejected by party line votes, Shoemaker said.

The bill provides a 12-cent per hour or \$330 annual increase this year for all state employees whose salary range is between \$3,328 and \$8,300 annually. It also provides for an additional 13 cents per hour beginning October, 1970, in the same pay range.

The bill also provides lesser raises this year and next to persons higher on the state salary scale who earn less than \$12,022 per year.

Among those eligible for the 12-cent per hour increase are the correctional officers and maintenance men at Chillicothe Correctional Institute. The present starting salary for CCI correctional officers and maintenance men is \$2.40 per hour or \$4,992 annually. The top rate is \$3.23 per hour or \$6,722 annually for correctional officers.

Although possible at this time, an increase of more than 12 cents would be well as to the State House.

When considered, the bill passed the House last week, Sept. 10. CCI said he had no official details. However, he said the raise for out-

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