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### Red, White and Blue Are Easy to Find at Fair

August 23, 2002

By Jennifer Jacobs and Jim Reilly

#### Patriotism abounds

Patriotism is everywhere at the fair this year - in flags stuck in hats, stars-and-stripes clothing, red-white-and-blue booth tablecloths, and 9/11-related handiwork at the Art & Home Center.

The prime space always reserved for blue-ribbon winners in the arts and crafts room is instead filled with patriotic weaving, needlework, mantelpieces, dolls and a 9/11 quilt.

There is no category specifically for red-white-and-blue pieces, and in most cases, the patriotic theme didn't catapult the entries to a ribbon higher than an honorable mention.

"They're still judged according to the workmanship, not according to the feelings of the country," said superintendent Jodelle Fletcher.

#### A small, small world

It's mini, but mighty detailed.

There's a tiny, realistic version of the Strates Shows rides and fair midway in the model circus exhibit in the Art & Home Center, complete with a Titanic inflatable slide and a Himalaya ride, as well as such blasts from the past as the Break Dancer ride and the Trabant.

Model builder Bill Pfeiffer of Rochester checks out Strates' setup and tries to line up his models in the same pattern.

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## **I could've bought a ...**

Take a wild guess how much the Topspin ride cost to buy. Answer: \$2.4 million. And the newest ride, the Evolution? \$1.2 million.

Strates Shows co-owner James E. "Jimmy" Strates doesn't like to think about how much his family has sunk into all its equipment.

"It'd probably depress me to know how much we've put into something that doesn't make that much money," he said. "I would just think, 'Boy, we should've bought three or four McDonald's franchises.'"

## **If it rains again**

You might not notice unless you were flying over the fairgrounds in a helicopter, so we'll tell you. There is a new \$634,000 roof on the Horticulture Building. The Poultry Building has a new roof, too, for \$593,000, and a fresh paint job, said Bill Fredericks, grounds manager.

So if it's rains again this week, you can be assured of a dry haven near the flowers or the chicks.

## **For tree lovers**

People can learn to make paper, create a park or find out what's causing their trees' leaves to wither before their time at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry's booth at the fair.

The college will be at the fair with different activities and exhibits 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday, and Wednesday through Labor Day. Its booth is in front of the Horticulture Building. Activities are geared for people of all ages.

## **Overheard at the fair**

"I am not wearing one of those."

Nicole Roberts of Salina about the white plastic "I Love NY" rain ponchos that became the fashion during Thursday's rain showers. Roberts did end up wearing one after her cousin, Maria Mulpagano of Salina, talked her into it. The state Division of Tourism handed out all 3,500 of its ponchos in one hour, between 1 and 2 p.m.

"It's a rather expensive Foolsie Wootsie if you look at it like that."

Kay Prucha, who flew in from Livorno, Italy. She schedules her visits to her sister in DeWitt during the fair. Time Prucha and Carol Evans entered the fair: 9:20 a.m. Time they needed a 25-cent Foolsie Wootsie foot massage: 1:45 p.m.

"I weigh 115 pounds."

Jessica Gaige, 20, of Schoharie, as she sat next to her family's cow Tamara, a 6-year-old grand champion Holstein who weighs 2,000 pounds, and produces 100 pounds of milk a day.

"We eat our way through the fair - Belgian waffles with strawberries for breakfast, sausage sandwiches for lunch, prime rib and blooming onions for supper, a few glasses of beer. And probably an ice cream in the middle."

Jan Hardman of Cicero. She and her close friend Joe Miles come only on the

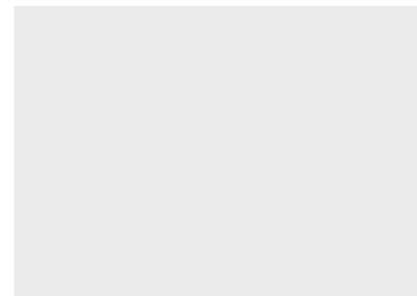
first day of the fair because the grounds are cleanest and the food is freshest, they said.

To share state fair news with reporters Jennifer Jacobs and Jim Reilly, or to share an anecdote about an unusual or funny fair event, please call Jennifer at 470-2246 or Jim at 470-3105.

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