

# Youngsters tramp around for zoo

By JUDITH BERNE

What do a backyard trampoline and a love for animals add up to?

In one case, a Jump-A-Thon to benefit the Detroit Zoo.

West Bloomfield sisters, Kris, 13, and Kerry Mullin, 12, and their friend Patti Yearn of Bloomfield Hills organized a recent Jump-A-Thon for which

they recruited about 10 of their livelier friends.

The group put in 50 hours steady jumping on the Mullin's trampoline from 9 a.m. last Monday until 11 a.m. last Wednesday.

They reaped \$350 in pledges for their efforts. They hope it will be used toward purchasing animals to replace those recently killed through vandalism or to deter the vandals themselves.

Friends and neighbors pledged as little as a penny for each hour on the trampoline to a high of 30 cents for the cause.

"I'M SO PROUD of these kids. It's something they did all on their own," Patti's mother, Arlene Yearn said.

"I tried to put it off," Jane Mullin admitted. She reports "the kids did the whole thing" — from getting the pledges, and organizing the shifts to scheduling meals.

"No one realizes how hard it is to do it," 13-year-old Patti said. "All they jump in the night in cold, wet weather."

Although neighbors and friends helped keep the trampoline going during the day, the nighttime crew dwindled to seven or eight stalwarts — including Alicia Davis, 12, her sister Kim, 9, Kiki Smith, 11, and Sherri Langwald, 14, all of West Bloomfield.

They divided the time between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. into three-hour shifts to be manned by four jumpers. Each person would jump 15 minutes each hour while their relief foursome slept in a nearby pup tent.

A pastel ribbon was hung from an overhead canvas to mark each hour. On a bonafide howl marked the 25th hour of jumping: a periwinkle blue yarn tassel signified the 50th.

The only crisis occurred when Patti stepped off the trampoline following her turn and landed directly on a bee which proceeded to get caught between her toes.

THE THREE instigators all confess a fondness for the zoo which many youngsters their age have outgrown.

"I like it better than when I was young because I know more about the animals," Kris said.

"I like going early in the morning when no people are there," Patti said. "I love the zoo," Kerry chimed in.

The aviary, gorilla house and bears are favorites of all three who also enjoy watching the growth of the zoo's baby animals.

"When we don't have anything better to do on a Sunday — winter or summer — we go to the zoo," Mrs. Yearn said.

The 30-hour Jump-A-Thon was actually the second time the girls jumped to help the zoo.

Last September they raised \$220 for 42 hours on the trampoline. Their contribution was presented to James P. Harrop, superintendent of public service at the zoo.

They are planning another rendezvous with Harrop when their current pledges have been collected.

"Next year we'll do another one," Patti promised.

Meantime, "I don't think we'll jump for at least a month," Kris laughed.

## Schools set to open doors

As summer draws to a close, the Farmington School District has prepared calendars for the 1979-80 school year.

Senior high school students will be able to pick up registration packets at their high schools Aug. 20-24, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

Sept. 4 will be a teacher workday. Registration will begin on Sept. 5. Students will report to school at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 6. Sept. 7 will be the first full day of school.

Junior high school students will pick up schedules on Aug. 27, 28 and 29, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.

Students will report on Sept. 6 for classes at which time seventh graders will have orientation in the morning. All the rest of the students will report in the afternoon.

Sept. 7 will be the first full day of school.

Elementary students will report on Sept. 5 for a half day session and will be excused at noon. The first full day of school will be on Sept. 6.

Parents who are new to the community should register their children in their local school building as soon as possible.

Parents who have children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 1979, may register them for kindergarten classes.

Bus routes for the school year will be posted in the Observer on Aug. 30 and also during the first week of September.

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How would you like to build such a machine?

The Livonia Mall Merchants Association is sponsoring such a contest with cash prizes being awarded for the five machines that are judged best on the basis of activity, originality and craftsmanship.

To become an "Incredible Machine" contestant see rules of eligibility on reverse side and fill out the accompanying entrance form.

The "INCREDIBLE MACHINE" Contest

The rules for entry follow:

1. Persons of any age are eligible.
2. Your machine must run by self-contained power such as water, gravity, or batteries. No open flames, flammable fuels or animal power will be permitted. No electrical outlets will be available for any machine.
3. Overall dimensions may not exceed 6'x6'x6'.
4. All entries requiring attendants must provide them or become ineligible for judging.
5. A moisture-proof covering must be provided beneath the machine to protect the mall floor from oil, water or other possible damage. Entries not in compliance will be ineligible.
6. Deadline for entries is September 1, 1979. An entry fee of \$5.00 (Five Dollars) \* is required to guarantee display space for your entry. Your entry fee will be refunded if available display space is filled.
7. Contestants should enter the Livonia Mall at the "E" entrance, 9:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 17, 1979. Contestants will remove their "Incredible Machines" after 5:30 p.m., Sunday, October 21. Entries not picked up Sunday will be discarded.
8. Judging will be conducted at 3 p.m., Sunday, October 21, 1979. Prizes will be awarded on the basis of originality, craftsmanship and safety.
9. The following prizes will be awarded:  
1st Prize - \$500.00  
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10. To become an "Incredible Machine" contestant fill out the accompanying entrance form and mail to:  
Livonia Mall Merchants Association, Inc.  
29514 W. Seven Mile Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152

\*ALL STUDENTS EXEMPT FROM ENTRY FEE

The "INCREDIBLE MACHINE" Contest

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Approx. Size of Entry \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Entry fee of \$5.00 (Five Dollars) is enclosed.  
Deadline for receiving entrance form is September 15, 1979.  
Mail form to:  
Livonia Mall Merchants Association, Inc.,  
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