



Palmerston pull - The 40th Annual Palmerston Agricultural Society Tractor Pull was held at the local arena grounds on July 27. LEFT: Rob Stanner of Palmerston competes in the 4,500 pound class. RIGHT: Ken Ellis of Clinton kicked up some dust on the way to placing second in the 4,500 pound class. Photos by Patrick Raftis

## Youth plans career as vet

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The elephants at the sanctuary come from a variety of places but Litzen said most are rescued from riding camps, circuses, entertainment shows and logging facilities. She said many can be released back into the wild but some will make the sanctuary their permanent home if they've been injured and are unable to live on their own.

Litzen said she wasn't intimidated by the pachyderms.

"We had guides with us at all times and most of the elephants were fairly used to people walking around and were very gentle," she said.

One of her most memorable experiences was participating in a diet study.

Participants spent the entire day with one elephant and tracked its eating habits. At that point Litzen had time to speak to her elephant's mahout (keeper).

"He was very interesting," she said.

While the group was in Thailand during the beginning of rainy season, Litzen said it didn't rain much and it was very hot and humid.

"Takes a lot out of a person when you're working all day in the heat," she said.

During her second week in Thailand, Litzen worked at a dog rescue clinic outside Chiang Mai.

"Many of the dogs have owners and are simply

brought in because they can't afford animal care," she explained. "Many are in very poor condition, but many are still well loved."

"The shelter also takes in animals off the streets and gives them a full veterinary workup to get them back to full health. Then they can be rehabilitated."

During her week at the clinic, Litzen was given the opportunity to help neuter and spay cats and dogs.

"I would probably say the hardest thing would be taking blood," she said. "It takes a lot of practice to spot out a little vein under a bunch of hair but I have been getting some more experience with that at my clinic."

The group worked with American veterinarians who provided a lecture in the morning to explain various topics before the hands-on experience in the afternoon.

While in the city Litzen said the group went to night markets, temples and zip lining on the weekends.

She said her biggest takeaway from the trip was, "getting to learn about what elephants have to go through and how unbelievably wise they are."

She also enjoyed "the chance to experience the calm and friendly nature of Thai people and their beautiful culture."

She added, "I hope to take some of their ways and apply them to my everyday life."

## Snobelen Farms planning to build new seed facility at Palmerston location

PALMERSTON - Construction of a world-class seed processing, treatment and packaging facility at Snobelen Farms Ltd.'s Palmerston area location will begin this summer, the company has announced.

The facility will produce high-quality seed, offer several seed treatment options and allow Snobelen Farms to better serve customers, the company states in a July 23 press release.

The Palmerston expansion is a result of recent growth in the company's seed and export soybean business. It will focus on processing soybeans, winter wheat and spring cereals seeds and receiving IP soybeans to complement the company's existing seed and export facility in Lucknow. "Adding this state-of-the-art facility to our Palmerston operation positions Snobelen Farms to continue to supply our customers with the highest possible quality product," said company president Sam Snobelen. "It also sets us up for future growth in our seed business unit."

The Palmerston expansion will incorporate a tower structure cleaning and treatment processing line, a new warehouse and separate IP soybean receiving facility. Completion of the project is expected in the fall of 2020.

Mike Snobelen established Snobelen Farms Ltd. in 1971 with the goal of build-

ing a sustainable agricultural business.

Troy Snobelen, Mike's son, continued this vision until his passing in February this year, company officials note. Troy's commitment to facilitate the growth in the seed business included the purchase of Bramhill Seeds in Palmerston in November 2018.

Sam Snobelen and Tanya Leppington, Troy's brother and sister, continue the family legacy of commitment to local farmers, employees and

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Seed facility - Construction of a state-of-the art seed processing, treatment and packaging facility at the Snobelen Farms Ltd. Palmerston area location will get underway this summer, the company announced last week. Photo by Patrick Raftis

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