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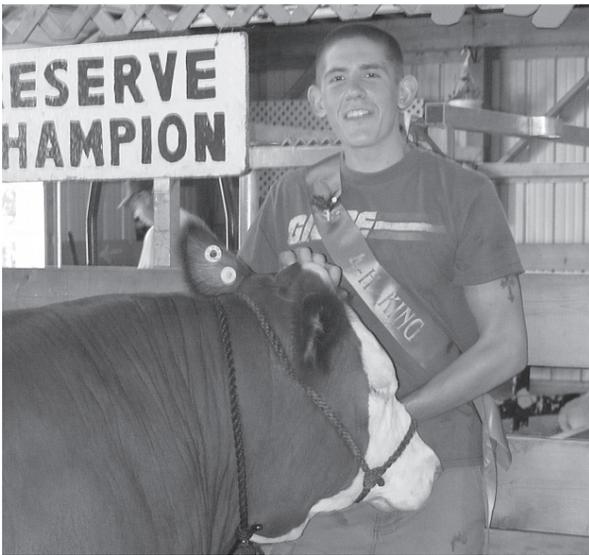
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**Kyle Brown** of Moorland Achievers took third place. (Photo by Lorrie West)



**Carlos**, a Michigan State University freshman with his steer, "Diesel" was named 4-H King. (Photo by Lorrie West)



**Angela Follett** of Thunderhooves 4-H Club with her horse, Yo Yo. (Photo by Lorrie West)



**Storytime** with Rick Bleich. (Photo by Lorrie West)



## Ten tenets of freedom

By Jacob G. Hornberger

(Excerpted from *Freedom Daily*, published by the Future Freedom Foundation, Volume 20, September, 2009, Number 9)

"This essay discusses ten tenets of freedom toward which we must continue to strive in our efforts to restore freedom to our land." Following is tenet number 8:

### "The drug war

"The drug war perfectly encapsulates the loss of freedom that the American people have suffered under the paternalistic regulatory state. What could be a more perfect assault on the freedom of the individuals than for the state to have the power to arrest someone and punish him for doing nothing more than selling, purchasing, possessing, or ingesting some substance that government officials don't approve of?

*("Asset-forfeiture laws have provided a means by which public officials have become financially dependent on the drug war.*

"Everyone would agree that some substances can be harmful if ingested, especially in excess. Alcohol, tobacco, sugar, and fatty foods are examples. That's not the point. The point is whether freedom entails the right to ingest whatever a person wishes to ingest and, if so, whether the state should be permitted to infringe that important aspect of freedom.

"Imagine a person sitting within the privacy of his own home. He's drinking booze, smoking cigarettes, ingesting marijuana, snorting cocaine, swallowing prescription drugs, and injecting heroin. We can all agree that such conduct is unwise and detrimental to good health. But under what moral authority does a government official punish another adult for doing bad things to himself? How can such power possibly be reconciled with basic principles of individual liberty?

"Not only has the war on drugs constituted one of the most direct assaults on individual liberty in U.S. history, it has also spawned an enormous array of other infringements on liberty. It is impossible to measure, for example, the extent to which the American people are subjected to searches and seizures at the hands of government officials because of the war on drugs.

"There are also the tremendous assaults on financial privacy that the drug war has generated. Asset-forfeiture laws have provided a means by which public officials have become financially dependent on the drug war, not to mention the direct stealing of money from citizens that voracious cops commit under the guise of asset-forfeiture laws. Bribery, payoffs, and other forms of corruption have spread through the ranks of law enforcement and the judiciary, thanks to the drug war.

"After more than three decades of drug warfare and the ruination of countless people with drug problems, what do drug-war proponents have to show for their efforts? Nothing, except death, destruction, corruption, violence, and the ruination of countless lives. Nonetheless, the war just keeps going on and on and on, with no end in sight. All that matters is that more arrests and punishments continue taking place and that more money keeps flowing into the hands of the people who are benefiting from the war, including government officials.

"There is one — and only one — solution to this craziness: the legalization of drugs. The restoration of liberty in America necessitates an immediate end to drug-war prohibition."

(For more information on The Future Freedom Foundation, phone 703-934-6101; email fff@fff.org; or visit the website, www.fff.org.)

## Research and education center needs funds

(Submitted by the Muskegon Environmental Research and Education Society)

The Muskegon Environmental Research and Education Society (MERES) has developed and operated the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve in the northeast corner of Muskegon Lake for over 13 years. With thousands of people using the preserve each year, MERES is raising funds to buy the land directly in front of the preserve — land that is presently used as a parking lot.

While parking takes place there, MERES does not own the land and parking is allowed with the good graces of the owner.

MERES is embarking on a fund raising campaign to not only buy the land, but to build an education center there as well. Steve Coverly, MERES president, says, "The Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve services area schools as their own environmental laboratory. The addition of an educational center will dramatically enhance that experience."

The educational program is coordinated by Alyssa Merten of the Muskegon Conservation District. Classes are held each spring and fall for hundreds of students.

Donations can be sent to the MERES Building Fund, the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, 425 Western Avenue, Suite 200, Muskegon, MI 49440.