

Chicago Honey Bear dancers Cali, Lisa Michelle, Karah and Teah dance during a s

Chicago Honey Bear Dancers remember sock hops, malt shops

By ERIN GARDNER
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The Chicago Honey Bear Dancers performed their variety song and dance show at the Mercer County Fair Sunday evening.

"It's a fun show," Lisa Michelle, producer and line captain, said. "We've been around for so long. A really cool thing about our show is that it's entertainment for everyone. It's not just for kids, it's for grandma and grandpa. It's family entertainment for all ages."

Four performers sang and danced to 1950s-themed songs. The womens' costumes consisted of pink poodle skirts with

music notes and records on them, black shirts, white, thick belts and polka dot scarves. The show lasted 30 minutes and was jam-packed with dancing, singing and acting.

Halfway through the performance, the dancers picked John Otte from Burkettsville from the crowd to be Danny Zuko from "Grease." Otte wore a silly wig and sunglasses and danced with Lisa Michelle, acting as Sandy Olsson. The other performers danced around Otte and Lisa Michelle, did the hand jive and danced with props like silver hubcaps.

"It was a lot of fun. I didn't



Honey Bear dancer Cali is all smiles during a dan

know what I was supposed to be doing, but I guess I done alright. I liked it. I'd do it again," Otte said.

The performers also pulled the kids from the crowd onto the stage and danced with them. Connecting with kids is a big part of the show's mission.

"The people are super fun to perform for," Lisa Michelle said. "We love meeting the kids after (and) taking pictures with them on stage. The Kids Dance Workshop is another huge thing that we do at the fairs. It's an anti-bullying program. The kids get to learn easy, fun dance

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ers eagerly awaited
the census numbers in
hopes that they would
show population growth
that would translate into

companies understand
that they cannot survive
without immigrants.

"They know they need

Bears

(From front page)

moves but also (how to
be a) buddy, not a bully.
It's nice to bring that
message to all these
fairs because then those
kids take that home
and before you know it,
everyone's talking about
being a buddy, not a
bully."

The performers inter-
acted with the crowd
and fed off its energy.
Around 60 people gath-
ered for the show. The
crowd was energetic and
receptive throughout the
entire performance.

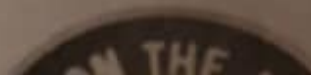
The dance group is an
all-female group and has
around 10 performers.

The show originated
from the Chicago Bears
cheerleading team.

"Way back in '85 when
they got rid of the cheer-
leaders, our producer
Greg Schwartz bought
the rights of the name,
trademarked it and
turned it into a traveling
song and dance show,"
Lisa Michelle said.

"We've been around
for over 35 years. We've
performed for over 180
military bases, corpo-
rate events, casinos,
resorts, over 20 of the
national state fairs and
tons of comedy fairs."

This is the first year
the Chicago Honey
Bears performed at the
fair.

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Live

Bowler Darren Tang wins Coldwater event. Page 12

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Dancing Bears at Mercer Fair



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Honey Bear dancer Cali is all smiles during a dance at the Mercer County Fair.

Taliban takes Kabul

Westerners rush to leave, rescue Afghans

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The chop of U.S. military helicopters whisking American diplomats to Kabul's airport on Sunday punctuated a frantic rush by thousands of other foreigners and Afghans to flee to safety as well, as a stunningly swift Taliban takeover reached Afghanistan's capital.

U.S. reports of gunfire at the airport threatened to shut down one of the last avenues of escape in an ever-more chaotic and compressed evacuation.

NATO allies that had pulled out their forces ahead of the Biden administration intended Aug. 31 withdrawal deadline were rushing to get back in this weekend to lift their citizens, while Pentagon was sending in reinforcements.

Some complained it was failing to move fast to bring to safety the who fear retribution Taliban for past war Americans and other forces.

"This is murder," said U.S. veteran Sam Leung Sunday from Woodbridge, Va. "Way out for an actor who had... for a decade... old data analysis hundreds of A..."

U.S. population loss in C...

OMAHA America in the last... ing an... shortag... ing an... draw...

... I was supposed to be... done alright. I... said.