



# Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

## Rural development

*As we drove into the parking lot at North Shelby to watch our nephew play baseball, my husband was pleasantly surprised.*

*"Is the whole county here?" Todd asked, noting the turnout for the fifth-grade baseball game.*

### Turnout of support

It's not that way everywhere. The difference in attendance at a high school varsity basketball game here in Saint Joseph compared to that fifth-grade baseball game was striking. The school that graduated nearly 400 students a year was drawing less of a crowd for one of its premier sporting events than our rural school graduating fewer than 40 a year could draw for a grade-school event.

Other students, parents, grandparents, friends, the competition, their fans — it truly was a large turnout. What a show of support. It's one of the blessings of coming from a rural community.

Yes, the nearest McDonald's is 45 miles away, as is the nearest mall. The movie theater 20 miles away only shows one movie three nights a week. That does help move a fifth-grade baseball game to the top of the list for Friday night entertainment. There's truly nothing better to do than to support our youth.

Fast-forward a few years to when that Saint Joseph high school fields a team on its way to the state tournament. The stands are full for a winning team. What does that say?

### Risk factors

Watching the news, the increasing levels of violence and tragedy involving our nation's youth is frightening.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists risk factors for youth violence at [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html). Among the risk factors are low parental involvement, low emotional attachment to parents or caregivers, poor monitoring of children, lack of involvement in conventional activities, low commitment to school, school failure, low levels of community participation and socially disorganized neighborhoods.

CDC also lists protective factors, or factors that help reduce the chances of youth violence. Among them are highly developed

### Executive search update

The American Angus Association announced Aug. 10 further information regarding the search for its CEO position, including a letter to members from President Steve Olson and a link to more details and application procedures from Witt/Kieffer, the professional firm conducting the search. Visit the About section at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org), and click on Angus Careers to learn more.

social skills and competencies, highly developed skills for realistic planning, connectedness to family or adults outside the family, perceived high parental expectations about school performance, frequent shared activities with parents, presence of parents, involvement in social activities, commitment to school and membership in peer groups that don't condone antisocial behavior.

### Adult responsibility

When we encourage (even push) our youth to participate — whether it be in baseball, football, chess, debate or the National Junior Angus Association — we foster that positive development. When we attend those events, we give our youth confidence by assuring them that we care and will be there for them — win or lose.

It says a lot about our organization that we can attract nearly 800 youth competitors *and their families* to attend a weeklong National Junior Angus Show.

Even if the mall is only minutes away, there's still truly nothing better to do on any night than to show support of our youth — whether at a baseball game or in the barn.



## Angus Journal

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