

COMMUNITY

More than \$3K to food pantries from 3rd annual Grocery Grab



CAITLIN YAMADA | TIMES HERALD

Ashley Ricke with the Carroll Lions Club announces this year's Grocery Grab winners as the Availa Bank team.

By CAITLIN YAMADA
c.yamada@carrollspaper.com

Diapers, cereal, chocolate and alcohol.

These are a few of the items participants in this year's Carroll Lions Club "Grocery Grab" used to fill their cart with \$250 in grocery items.

Representatives from 12 area business raced through the aisles of Hy-Vee on June 27 to fill carts and donate to Carroll Community of Concern and New Opportunities food pantries.

The competition, organized by the Carroll Lions Club, has businesses create teams of

three. The teams are given five minutes to fill their carts with items totaling, but not exceeding, \$250. To add to the challenge, each team is given a "shopping list" card with four items they have to include in their cart, items regularly needed at the food pantries.

The other rules are:

- Teammates must shop together at all times.
- Do not exceed \$250.
- All items in the cart, regardless of the total amount, are the responsibility of the team to purchase and donate.

GRAB, PAGE 5

GRAB

FROM PAGE 1

- No calculators.
- No swooping, swiping or pushing items off shelves into the cart. Items must be placed in the cart individually.
- Penalties will be assessed in monetary form for any team that knocks over a shopper or intentionally hinders another team.

In three different heats, teams raced through the aisles with their decorated carts, tracking down required items and trying to total items' amounts on the fly. Some teams opted to find

expensive items to reach the total, grabbing bottles of alcohol and meats. Other teams opted to go with easy-to-grab items, filling their carts to the brim.

Once the teams were done, they went to the checkout isles to purchase their items and find out how close they were to \$250 goal.

Seven of the groups went over the \$250 limit. In the end, Availa Bank won the competition, with a total of \$246.48.

The winning company's name is engraved onto a trophy and is on display at the business. The Lions Club was second, with \$243.91, and

the American Home Shield group No. 1 was third with \$238.19.

The final total donated to the pantries was \$3,175.82.

Roxanne Reinart with Carroll Community of Concern said this event is extremely important for the summer months, when the pantry sees an influx of visitors with kids being out of school.

"We give our clients, milk, eggs, produce and things that are nonperishable, so it helps us do that," Reinart said.

Throughout the year, Community of Concern only sends out one main letter soliciting donations, so any donation helps, she said.



Team members from Availa Bank double check the total of their cart's items before grabbing more.