



# CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR

★ July 31 through August 3, 2024 ★

## BACK IN THE SADDLE



PYLE'S PERSPECTIVE

# Small town charm, big time fun

*Crawford County Fair approaches*

By Aaron Pyle  
apyle@morningsun.net

GIRARD, Kan. — There's so much to be excited about at the 108th annual Crawford County Fair, which is conveniently located just a few miles east of my hometown, which holds a special place in

my heart. From restoration projects to new events, you can feel the growth happening at the fairgrounds. The Crawford County Fair Board Association is working towards building a new facility in place of the longstanding Marvin

Green Building, new events are being offered throughout the four days of the fair, while Susie Thom and the "Restore the Four" crew continues to renovate and remodel the Works Progress Administration buildings that house the judged items from photography to clothing to animals.

Also important to mention, the fair board is bringing back a carnival to the fair, giving children and their families the chance to check out rides from Fun Time Shows Carnival, the same carnival that showcased its rides at Frontenac Mining Days in July. I mean, what's better

as a kid than spending the evening with your friends hitting up the Ferris Wheel or the Tilt-A-Whirl? On top of that, what's better than grabbing a funnel cake or a hay bale or any other types of fair foods along with a cold refreshment? I know, I've probably talked about this in a

previous article regarding my experience at the fair, but the memories never fade away. Cherish those memories with your friends and loved ones. Growing up during the summer, when my parents were working, I spent the warm days at my grandparents

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# 108TH CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Saturday, July 27

- 4-H Clothing Construction Judging: Beulah Community Church Activity Building, K-7 south of Girard (8:30 to 11 a.m.).
- 4-H Buymanship: Beulah Community Church Activity Building, K-7 south of Girard (9 to 10:30 a.m.).
- 4-H Style Revue: Beulah Community Church Activity Building, K-7 south of Girard (11:30 a.m.).

## Sunday, July 28

- Crawford County Open Horse Show: Bill Peak Arena (9:30 a.m.).
- 4-H Arts and Crafts Judging: Marvin Green Building (1 to 4 p.m.).
- 4-H Fiber Arts Judging: Marvin Green Building (1 to 4 p.m.).
- 4-H Photography Judging: Marvin Green Building (1 to 4 p.m.).
- 4-H Dog Show: L. Murphy Arena (5 p.m.).
- Pre-Fair BBQ: Marvin Green Building (5:30 to 7 p.m.).

## Tuesday, July 30

- All Animal Health Checked by Veterinarian: 4-H Horse Arena (3 to 8 p.m.).
- Livestock weigh-in: 4-H Horse Arena (3 to 8 p.m.).
- Alleyway set up for swine: 4-H Horse Arena (8 to 9 p.m.).

## Wednesday, July 31

- 4-H Rabbit Judging: Rabbit Barn (9 a.m.).
- Followed Open Rabbit: Rabbit Barn (9 a.m.).
- Exhibit Open Class and 4-H Check-In (9 to 11 a.m.).
- 4-H Geology Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Entomology Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Rocketry/Spacetech/Robotics Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Forestry Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Self-Determined Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Notebook/Poster Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).

- 4-H Shooting Sports Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Wildlife Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Home Environment Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Reading Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Horticulture Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Field Crops Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Open Booth and Banner Judging: Marvin Green Building (11 a.m.).
- Open Floral Judging: Open Class Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Floral Judging: 4-H Building (11 a.m.).
- 4-H Woodwork Judging: Marvin Green Building (11:30 a.m.).
- 4-H Energy Management Judging: Marvin Green Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Ag Mechanics Judging: Marvin Green Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Open Clothing Judging: Marvin Green Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Open Textiles Judging: Marvin Green Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Open Arts & Crafts Judging: Open Class Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Open Photography Judging: Open Class Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Open Food/Preservation Judging: Open Class Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Open Field Crops Judging: Open Class Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Open Horticulture and Crops Judging: Open Class Building (11:30 a.m.).
- Livestock Fitting Demonstration: L. Murphy Arena (1:30 p.m.).
- BarnYard Olympics: L. Murphy Arena (3 p.m.).
- Farlington Best Yet Cornhole Tournament: L. Murphy Arena (3 p.m.).
- Carnival: On the Midway (6 to 10 p.m.).
- Mutton Busting Sign Up Open: Ticket Booth (6:30 p.m.).
- Mutton Busting: Bill Peak Arena (7 p.m.).
- Music on the Midway: Bandstand (7 p.m.).

- Rodeo: Bill Peak Arena (8 p.m.).

## Thursday, August 1

- 4-H Swine Show: L. Murphy Arena (8 a.m.).
- 4-H Horse Show: 4-H Horse Arena (8 a.m.).
- 4-H Poultry Judging: Poultry Barn (9 a.m.).
- 4-H Sheep Show: L. Murphy Arena (2 p.m.).
- 4-H Meat Goat Show: L. Murphy Arena (5 p.m.).
- Crawford County Champions of Business: Open Class Building (5:30 p.m.).
- Carnival: On the Midway (6 to 10 p.m.).
- Mutton Busting Sign Up Open: Ticket Booth (6:30 p.m.).
- Mutton Busting: Bill Peak Arena (7 p.m.).
- Music on the Midway: Bandstand (7 p.m.).
- Rodeo: Bill Peak Arena (8 p.m.).

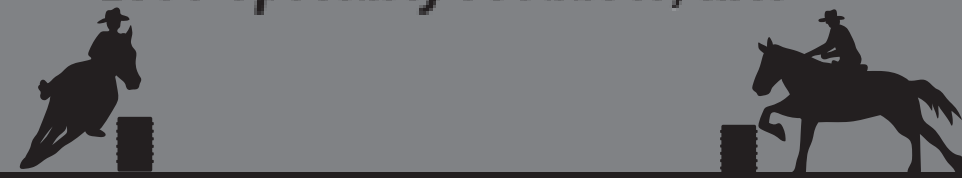
## Friday, August 2

- 4-H Beef Show: L. Murphy Arena (8 a.m.).
- 4-H Livestock Destination Papers Due: Fair Office (12 p.m.).
- 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (1:30 p.m.).
- County Fair Market Days: Commercial Building (2 to 7 p.m.).
- Kids Tractor Pull: Farm Bureau Shelter (3 p.m.).
- Bucket Calf Show 4-H/Open Class: L. Murphy Arena (5 p.m.).
- Livestock Costume Contest: L. Murphy Arena (5 p.m.).
- Music on the Midway: Bandstand (5 to 7 p.m.).
- Carnival: On the Midway (6 to 10 p.m.).
- Mutton Busting Sign Up Open: Ticket Booth (7 p.m.).
- Mutton Busting: Bill Peak Arena (7:30 p.m.).
- Crawford County Bull Bash: Bill Peak Arena (8 p.m.).
- Saturday, August 3
- 4-H Round Robin Show: L. Murphy Arena (8 a.m.).
- 4-H Livestock Sale Buyer check-in: L. Murphy Arena (1 p.m.).
- 4-H Livestock Sale: L. Murphy Arena (2 p.m.).
- County Fair Market Days: Commercial Building (2 to 7 p.m.).
- Music on the Midway: Bandstand (5:30 to 7 p.m.).
- Demolition Derby: Bill Peak Arena (7 p.m.).
- Carnival: On the Midway (1 to 5 p.m./6 to 10 p.m.).



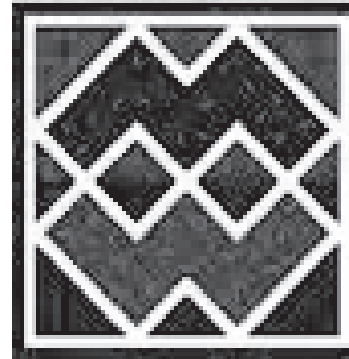
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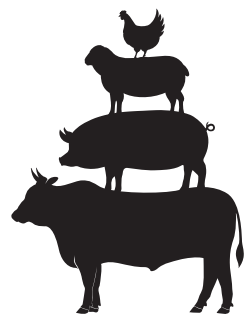
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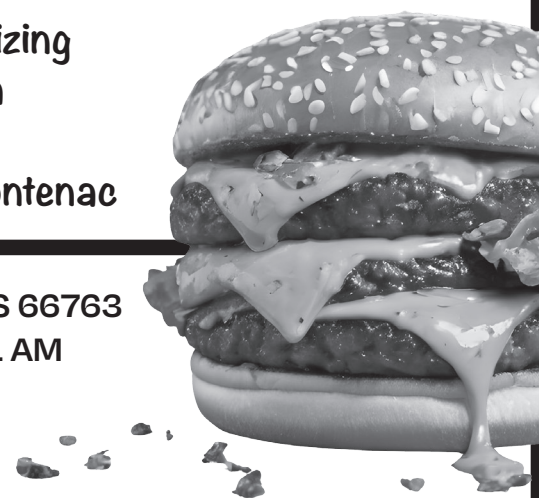
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# Bull Bash, demo returns to CC Fair

By Aaron Pyle  
apyle@morningsun.net

GIRARD, Kan. — For its third year, the Crawford County Bull Bash returns to the 107th annual Crawford County Fair on Friday, Aug. 2.

Held in Bill Peak Arena, the event is hosted by Rockin CF Productions. The ticket booth opens at 6:30 p.m. and the gates will open at 7 p.m. According to Rockin CF Productions, this year's Bull Bash features Shawn Stutzman, a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Barrel man and Specialty Act.

Prior to the start of the Bull Bash, mutton busting will take place, starting at 7:30 p.m. The sign-ups for mutton busting will be held from 7 to 7:15 p.m. at the south entrance for up to 20 kids ages six and under. The cost of participating in mutton busting is \$10 per rider plus the purchase of an arm band for gate entry.

The cost of the Bull Bash is free for children 3 and under, \$10 for kids ages 4 to 12, and \$15 for all those above the age of 13. The Crawford County Fair also noted that credit and debit card payments are accepted this year with a convenience fee applied.

One day following the Bull Bash, Top Tech Promotions is scheduled to host the fair's annual demolition derby at Bill Peak Arena. Hundreds of area residents are expected to pack the venue for a night of bashing and crashing.

The ticket booth for the derby opens at 4 p.m. with gates opening at 5 p.m. followed by the start of the derby at 6 p.m. The cost of the event is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3 to 12, and free for those 2 years or younger.

For more information, visit [crawfordcountyfair.org](http://crawfordcountyfair.org) or email [info@crawfordcountyfair.org](mailto:info@crawfordcountyfair.org).



2024 CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR

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Residents begin to fill up the midway at the Crawford County Fairgrounds on the first day of last year's fair, which begins on Wednesday, July 31. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN

## Extension Spotlight: The history of 4-H and county fairs

By Teresa Middleton  
For The News-review

August in Douglas County is almost synonymous with fair time. Here in Douglas County, our fair is woven into our local tradition, but have you wondered how fairs like ours began? County fairs are part of our country's history, dating back to the 1700s.

America's first and oldest fair is said to be the York Fair that was held in the town of York in 1725, now the state of Pennsylvania. It was a two-day fair, which acted as an agricultural market. As the years passed, the fair had its ups and downs and began to offer more of a variety of attractions to appeal to a larger and changing population



FILE PHOTO / AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN

base. What began as an agricultural event a few hundred years ago has grown to be a large, 10-day event that is held in September.

The majority of fairs across the nation were

spearheaded by agriculture and agricultural societies. It was a place where rural families could come and see the latest advancements in livestock, crops, farming techniques and

equipment. Agricultural fairs focused on science and education, along with technological progress and the "farming ideal."

Fairs started to become a social event,

especially for farm families; they would take a day or two off to come into the fair to see exhibits and talk with other farmers. They also served another purpose; many people would be seeing modern inventions for the first time at a fair. Inventions like electric lights, airplanes, sewing and washing machines were displayed, allowing people to see for the first time what progress was being made.

As years passed, fairs began to add more competitive, educational, recreational and social activities to their repertoire to attract a wider audience. In no time, fairs became an anticipated event for rural families and soon became an American

tradition. It is estimated 3,200 or more fairs are held in North America every year.

For hundreds of county 4-H members, the tradition continues, where the fair is a place they can showcase their projects that they have worked hard on. What many people do not realize is 4-H is a year-round educational program for children in kindergarten to 12th-grade. What you see at a fair is a result of skills that are worked on all year long and include projects ranging from raising pigs to public speaking, horticulture to horses, foods to fiber arts; they compete in contests, such as public speaking and table setting.

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# 'Future of the fairgrounds'

## CCFA proposes new facility

Staff Reports  
news@morningsun.net

GIRARD, Kan. — In late April, representatives of the Crawford County Fair Association (CCFA) and Wildcat Extension approached the Girard City Council, requesting permission to pursue a Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to potentially offer a larger indoor facility for fairgoers and community members.

"As everybody knows, we have flooding issues out there and what is currently called the Marvin Green Building is not really a usable piece of property for the community," said Crawford County Fair Board President Amy Brown at the meeting. "So the funds would be to build a new building. We have tentative plans but deal with current construction costs, we would need to get it rebid but to really potentially hold some community information gathering sessions, meet with some business owners, people throughout the community to figure out how

we build a structure that really actually serves the community and (can) be used far more days out of the year.

"Again, I've got lots of different ideas, the board has lots of different ideas on how we start to build the fairgrounds out a little more in the future and this would kind of be this next step of getting a building that's very usable and big enough to serve the community here."

Since the meeting and approval, the CCFA has been working tirelessly to get the wheels in motion regarding funding for the project, which provides handicap-accessible restrooms, climate-controlled rooms, and a kitchenette for events hosting 250 to 300 people.

According to a recent release presented at the Pittsburg Noon Rotary Club, the CCFA has accomplished:

- Approval from the Girard City Council to pursue the CDBG grant;
- Regional Planning Commission as a certified grant administrator, working with the fair board to develop



Local 4-H members and volunteers prepare meals for dine-in and takeout at the 18th annual Pre-Fair BBQ, held last year inside the Marvin Green Building. This year's BBQ is scheduled to take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 28, at the Marvin Green Building as tickets can be purchased at the event from a 4-H member or at the county extension office located at 120 E. Buffalo St. in Girard. FILE PHOTO / AARON PYLE

the proposal and will serve as the grant administrator if awarded;

- Selected BG Consultants of Emporia through an open bid process to complete the Preliminary Architecture Report, which is scheduled to be completed by July 31;
- A minimum of 25 percent matching funds (\$162,500) that has been committed by donors;
- Applying for two

additional foundation grants worth approximately \$70,000 that will be announced in Fall of 2024.

The release also stated that its fundraising goal is \$500,000 with just over \$300,000 remaining to be raised.

"Secure a total of \$500,000 in committed donations by September 30, 2024, of which \$337,500 is remaining to be raised," said the

release. "This will maximize the probability of a grant award and provide a \$1.1 million project budget. Early engineering estimates are \$1.1 million to ensure facility is out of the flood plain and handicap accessible."

The timeline entails a grant submission by Sept. 30, awards announced March 2025, committed donations will be collected and

placed in an escrow account upon award, grant required an environmental survey (six-month process), and construction begins Sept. 2025 with an anticipated construction completion date of July 2026.

For more information or donation opportunities, contact CCFA President Amy M. Brown at 405-714-0137 or email ccfairassociation@gmail.com.



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**PYLE**

CONTINUED FROM 1C

playing doctor, going to the pool, picking out of the garden, or just relaxing on the porch swing. However, it was always a treat when my grandpa, and sometimes my grandma, would take me out to the fairgrounds.

Early in the days of fair time, in the morning and early afternoon, the midway is open to drive through and I didn't realize that growing up. So my grandpa and I went on a trip together to get some food. He was driving through the midway as people were walking alongside and I was so stressed out that "Oh my gosh, we're not supposed to be driving here right now!"

But he assured me that everything was fine, and we weren't in trouble or in danger.

We made our way over to the Angel Cafe for their popular fried

chicken, which Angels Among Us volunteer Jan Allai once told me "Is made once a year." No disrespect or anything to the chicken places around the area, there's a reason why we are considered the "chicken capital of Kansas," but that chicken made by the Angels Among Us volunteers is some of the best I ever had. It was just mouth-watering.

When you purchase a meal from the Angel Cafe, funds from the sale help local cancer patients with their medical expenses. Stop by the bunny barn, the local vendors, the American Legion station, venture around the fairgrounds and find out what makes Crawford County's annual fair unlike any other.

As always, the temperatures are expected to reach the lower 90s for this year's fair, so stay hydrated and stay responsible.



Spending the summer days as a middle schooler out at the fairgrounds eating \$1 homemade ice cream and hay bales pictured alongside classmate and friend Tucker Johnston. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN

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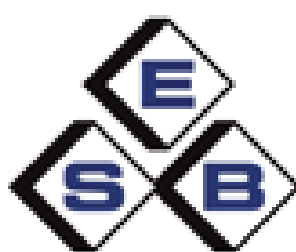
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# Take me to the fair

Crawford County Fair begins July 31



Prior to the start of the annual rodeo at the Crawford County Fair, during the National Anthem, a young cowgirl displayed the American flag alongside her horse. This year's rodeo takes place on July 31 and Aug. 1, starting at 8 p.m. within Bill Peak Arena. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN



Mike Crocker and Ron Brown bread the ever-popular fried chicken at Angel Café during lunch last year as area volunteers assist Angels Among Us for its annual fair fundraiser that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout the Crawford County Fair. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN



The temperature reached as high as the upper 90s during last year's livestock weigh-in, but that did not stop local 4-H members from participating at the 4-H Horse Arena, located at the Crawford County Fairgrounds. This year's livestock weigh-in is scheduled to take place from 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN

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# Sami's Legacy Youth Rodeo moves to Fort Scott

By Aaron Pyle  
apyle@morningsun.net

FORT SCOTT, Kan. — Sami's Legacy Youth Rodeo once again returned for its fifth year running just under two weeks prior to this year's Crawford County Fair.

In previous years, the annual memorial rodeo has been held in the Bill Peak Arena at the Crawford County Fairgrounds. However, this year, on July 20, the event moved to the Bourbon County Fairgrounds, featuring rodeo participants from across the Four-State area.

The rodeo, which is going into its fifth year, commemorates Arcadia native Samantha Jean "Sami" Milburn. As a passionate barrel racer, Milburn cherished the rodeo lifestyle. In addition to teaching 4-H members about riding and coaching at Cross Trails Rodeo Bible Camp for three years, she assisted at the



Kids competed in the Pee-Wee Mutton Busting competition during Sami's Legacy Memorial Barrel Race in 2022, held at the Crawford County Fairgrounds. FILE PHOTO / AARON PYLE

Crawford County Fair by serving on the fair board with her mother, Deborah Russell, from 2016 to 2017.

In addition, Milburn had memberships in the American Cowboy's Rodeo Association, Women's Professional

Rodeo Association, and National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. In addition, Milburn belonged to the Fort Scott High School FFA, the Lucky Riders 4-H Club, and the Christian Youth Rodeo Association when she was younger.

Milburn died in December 2019 from Ewing's Sarcoma. Her last wish was to hold a youth and open rodeo.

The annual event helps support scholarships for FFA students following vocational or agricultural degrees.

It also supports other events for those who are battling cancer as well as the rodeo bible camp and the county fair.

The rodeo featured a multitude of events for rodeo participants ages 3 to 18 years old such as bareback riding, barrel racing, goat tying, saddle bronc, steer riding, dummy roping, mutton busting, and mounted dummy roping.

Champions listed in year's rodeo are Mayley Decker (junior girls breakaway, junior pole bending, junior barrel racing, and all-around junior cowgirl), Dally Umphenour (junior girls goat tying, and junior team roping), Sheldon Thatcher (senior saddle bronc, senior boys bull riding, and second all-around senior cowboy), Ralin Rapp (senior girls goat tying, peewee goat tail untying, and all-around peewee cowboy), Tara Forester (senior girls goat tying, senior barrel racing, and sec-

ond all-around senior cowgirl), Madi Nelson (third all-around peewee cowgirl), and Emerson Forester (peewee barrel racing, and second all-around peewee cowgirl).

Additional results are Tate Duft (junior team roping, junior team roping header, and junior second all-around cowboy), Zakary Rapp (peewee goat tying), Kami Luedke (senior girls breakaway roping, and all-around senior cowgirl), Tuf Shanholtzer (junior boys breakaway, and all-around junior cowboy), Kendyl Hribar (mounted dummy roping, peewee pole bending, and third overall peewee cowgirl), Landon Shanholtzer (junior boys goat tying, and third all-around junior cowboy), April Forester (senior pole bending), Reed Hash (peewee dummy roping), JW Berry (senior team roping, calf roping, and all-around senior cowboy), and Colt Carriger (steer riding).

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