

'Best in County' concludes first-ever event

By Aaron Pyle

apyle@morningsun.net

GIRARD, Kan. — A new event made its way to this year's Crawford County Fair, courtesy of area residents Rachelle Mengarelli and Susie Thom.

Held Aug. 1, residents congregated in the fairground's Open Class Buidling gathering for a friendly competition with the winners claiming bragging rights and a Rosette Ribbon to showcase.

Introduced this year was the "Best in the competition County" that featured four categories — foods (fruit pie), horticulture (garden display), floral (artistic), and photography

(people).

In the food category, businesses from across to be the only entry. the county submitted various pies that were judged by Pittsburg Mayor Stu Hite, Mulberry Mayor Pat Walden, Lessen.

Businesses with entries included Chicken Annie's Girard, Harry's Cafe, Bushel and a Peck, and The Blue Spoon. Upon judging, Bushel and a Peck claimed the first-place prize for their peach corn miso pie made with a sourdough crust where they the top title.

Within the horticulture category, local businesses put together a living garden dis-

play as Van Becelaere Greenhouse happened

The photography competition had entries from Blackbird Studios/In My Life Joyous Photography, and Arma Mayor Rob Photo, and True Image Studios, who aimed to "Faces of Crawford County."

The competition was judged by Morning Sun staff writer and photographer Aaron Pyle along with Hometown Girard owner and publisher Philip Stevens. Upon viewing the photos, the two judges received an apron for picked Joyous Photo for the single photo category and Blackbird Studios for "best set of three."

The final competition,



Arma Mayor Rob Lessen, Mulberry Mayor Pat Walden, and Pittsburg Mayor Stu Hite judge various pies during the first-ever "Best in County" competition held Aug. 1 at the Crawford County Fairgrounds. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN

bridal bouget as well as a wedding table centerpiece. Entries for the floral contest were

create an artificial Forever Flowers, and Prairie Flowers that was judged by Wayne and Christy Parish. Kurt and Amy Doubra-

floral. had contestants Jenny's Flower Shoppe, va, and Elizabeth Banks and Matt Bonner.

Upon inspection of the display, Forever Flowers claimed first place.



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Congratulations

to all Crawford County Fair participants



EMERY MENGARELLI

DAYTON MUTER

GRACE SHANHOLTZER

HANNA BAILEY

Photo Credit: Kim Kravitz

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4-H Grand & Reserve Champions List

Crawford County Fair — 2024

ARTS & CRAFTS

- Senior Grand Champion Hailev Smardo
- Senior Reserve Champion Sydney Jepson
- Intermediate Grand Champion Regan Oplotnik
- Intermediate Reserve Champion - Mavcee Sarlev
- Junior Grand Champion Gage
- Junior Reserve Champion **Grace Shanholtzer**

ARTS & CRAFTS MOST OUTSTANDING ENTRIES

- Senior Kendall Crager
- Intermediate Bella Burks
- Junior Camden Humble

FIBER ARTS

- Grand Champion Kara Pope
- Reserve Champion Tess Van-Leeuwen
- Outstanding Fiber Arts Emerson Forester

BOOTHS, BANNERS

- 4-H Club Booths
- Grand Champion Farlington **Best-Yet**
- Reserve Champion N/A **Banners**
- Grand Champion Bone Creek
- Reserve Champion Happy Hustlers

CLOTHING CONSTRUC-TION, FASHION REVUE AND

STYLE REVUE

Clothing Construction

- Senior Grand Champion Kendall Crager
- Senior Reserve Champion Kendall Crager
- Intermediate Grand Champion Allison Zagonel
- Intermediate Reserve Champi-
- on Madelyn Roozbahan • Junior Grand Champion — Ma-
- dalyn Wells
- Junior Reserve Champion Erin Huber
- **Recycle Construction**
- Grand Champion Caroline
- Reserve Champion NA

Fashion Revue

Boys Buymanship

- Senior Grand Champion N/A
- Reserve Champion N/A
- Intermediate Grand Champion
- Camden Humble
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Derrick Shoemaker
- Junior Grand Champion N/A
- Junior Reserve Champion N/A

Girls Buymanship

- Senior Grand Champion Harper Davis
- Senior Reserve Champion Kendall Crager
- Intermediate Grand Champion
- Macee Sarley



- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Allison Zagonel
- Junior Grand Champion Kate Swartz
- Junior Reserve Champion Kaja Huff

Style Revue

- Senior Grand Champion Kendall Crager
- Senior Reserve Champion Caroline Jagels
- Intermediate Grand Champion Ellie Murphy
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Allison Zagonel
- Junior Grand Champion Madalyn Wells
- Junior Reserve Champion -Erin Huber

ELECTRIC

- Grand Champion N/A
- Reserve Champion N/A

ENTOMOLOGY

- Senior Grand Champion N/A
- Senior Reserve Champion —
- Intermediate Grand Champion
- Madelyn Roozbahan • Intermediate Reserve Champi-
- on N/A
- Junior Grand Champion N/A

• Junior Reserve Champion — N/A

FIELD CROPS

- Overall Grand Champion **Brody Brunk**
- Overall Reserve Champion N/A

FLORAL

- Overall Grand Champion Haley Phillips
- Overall Reserve Champion Izabella Bacon

SEE CHAMPIONS, 3C





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CHAMPIONS

CONTINUED FROM 2C

BEST of SHOW

- Senior Best of Show Addison Brunk
- Intermediate Best of Show Becca Bradshaw
- Junior Best of Show Camden Humble

JUDGE'S CHOICE

- Junior Sydney Jepson
- Intermediate Allison Zagonel
- Senior Gage Jacobs

FOOD PRESERVATION

- Overall Grand Champion Sydney Jepson
- Overall Reserve Champion Valerie Jepson

RECIPE BOX

• Grand Champion — Allison Zagonel

GEOLOGY

- Overall Grand Champion **Ainsley Viets**
- Overall Reserve Champion N/A

HORTICULTURE

- Overall Grand Haley Phillips
- Overall Reserve Izabelle Ba-

con

HOME ENVIRONMENT

- Overall Grand Champion Kendyl Renn
- Overall Reserve Champion N/A

MISCELLANEOUS (posters, notebooks, etc.)

- Notebooks & Scrapbooks
- Overall Grand Champion Chance Gillard
- Overall Reserve Champion Noah Gillard

PHOTOGRAPHY

Color

- Senior Grand Champion Cali Hensley
- Senior Reserve Champion -Caleb Humble
- Intermediate Grand Champion
- Max Huff • Intermediate Reserve Champi-
- on Madelyn Roozbahan • Junior Grand Champion — Gage
- Jacobs • Junior Reserve Champion —
- Camden Humble • Overall Grand Champion Color
- Max Huff • Overall Reserve Grand Champi-
- on Color Cali Hensley

Black & White

- Senior Grand Champion Chance Gillard
- Senior Reserve Champion Harper Davis
- Intermediate Grand Champion - Carter Buzard
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Mack Koenig
- Junior Grand Champion Camden Humble
- Junior Reserve Champion —
- Madison Dronberger • Overall Grand Champion —
- Carter Buzard • Overall Reserve Grand Champi-
- on Mack Koenig

READING

- Senior Grand Champion Chance Gillard
- Senior Reserve Champion Caleb Humble
- Intermediate Grand Champion - John Walker
- Intermediate Reserve Champion - N/A
- Junior Grand Champion Kaja Huff
- Junior Reserve Champion N/A

ROCKETRY

- Senior Grand Champion N/A
- Senior Reserve Champion —

N/A

- Intermediate Grand Champion
- Caleb Humble
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — John Walker
- Junior Grand Champion Camden Humble
- Junior Reserve Champion -Andie Jackman

ROBOTICS

- Champion Overall Robotics Maddox Montee
- Reserve Champion Overall Robotics - N/A

SELF DETERMINED (notebook, poster or other)

- Grand Champion Kaden Ja-
- Reserve Champion N/A

WILDLIFE

- Overall Grand Champion Noah Gillard
- Overall Reserve Champion John Walker

WOODWORKING

- Senior Grand Champion Haley Phillips
- Senior Grand Champion Mason Crozier
- Intermediate Grand Champion SEE CHAMPIONS, 6C





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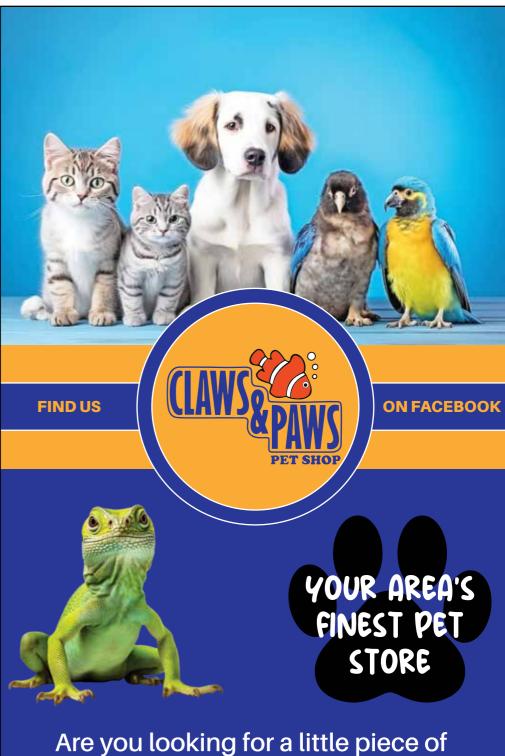
Fast forward exactly two weeks following the close of the 108th annual Crawford County Fair, a group of young kids helped the fairgrounds prepare for the 2025 year by spending the morning and afternoon of Aug. 17 freshening up the beef panels at the beef barn. COURTESY PHOTO



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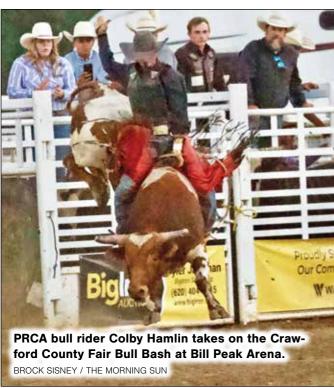
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United Rodeo Association bareback rider Maverick Griffin scored 76 points on the first night of competition in the Crawford County Fair Rodeo. He finished second behind Hepler resident Karson Harris, who scored 79.

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Car bashing, bull riding at Bill Peak Arena





Four compact cars get in a scrap during the Crawford County Fair Demolition Derby at Bill Peak Arena. BROCK SISNEY / THE MORNING SUN





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CONTINUED FROM 3C

- Clinton Koneig
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Carson Crozier
- Junior Grand Champion N/A
- Junior Reserve Champion N/A

LIVESTOCK PROJECTS BEEF:

Bucket Calf

- Overall Grand Champion Josie Herlocker
- Overall Reserve Champion Erin Huber

Market Steer

- Grand Champion Heidi Men-
- Reserve Champion Kole Harris

Breeding Beef

- Grand Champion Heidi Mengarelli
- Reserve Champion Kinsley Harris

Feeder Steer

- Grand Champion Kenley Johnson
- Reserve Champion Jeremiah Reagan

Beef Rate of Gain: Market Steer Rate of Gain

- Grand Champion Haley Phil-
- Reserve Champion Emily Worrell
- **Bucket Calf Rate of Gain**
- Grand Champion Erin Huber
- Reserve Champion Madison Dronberger

Feeder Steer Rate of Gain

 Grand Champion — Kenley Johnson

• Reserve Champion — Jeremiah Reagan

Beef Fitting & Showing

- Senior Grand Champion Kole
- Senior Reserve Champion Haley Phillips
- Intermediate Grand Champion Kinsley Harris
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Heidi Mengarelli
- Junior Grand Champion **Kelcie Johnson**
- Junior Reserve Champion Callie Cleland

Bucket Calf Fitting & Showing

- Grand Champion Gage Jacobs
- Reserve Champion Erin Hu-

(LIVESTOCK PROJECT, CONT)

Round Robin Showmanship **Contest**

- Senior Grand Champion Kole Harris
- Senior Reserve Champion Graci Murphy
- Intermediate Grand Champion Allison Huber
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Kinsley Harris
- Small Animal Round Robin Showmanship Contest
- Senior Grand Champion N/A •Senior Reserve Champion —
- Intermediate Grand Champion John Walker
- Intermediate Reserve Champion – Max Huff

GOATS

Dairy Goats

- •Grand Champion Dairy Goat Kara Pope
- •Reserve Champion Dairy Goat Bethany Herlocker
- Showmanship •Senior Grand Champion — Kara
- Pope •Senior Reserve Champion —
- Bethany Herlocker
- •Intermediate Grand Champion
- Noah Gillard
- •Intermediate Reserve Champion - N/A
- •Junior Grand Champion N/A
- •Junior Reserve Champion N/A Reserve Champion Emerson

Market Goats

Showmanship

- Senior Grand Champion Bryce Simon
- Senior Reserve Champion Gavin Huber
- Intermediate Grand Champion
- Maleeya Montee • Intermediate Reserve Champi-
- on Allison Huber •J unior Grand Champion — Hei-
- di Mengarelli • Junior Reserve Champion - Av-

erv Mengarelli

Breeding Doe

- Grand Champion Emery Mengarelli
- Reserve Champion Kole Harris

Market Goat

- Grand Champion Emery Mengarelli
- Reserved Champion Avery Mengarelli

Rate of Gain

- Grand Champion Gavin Crag- Senior Grand Champion Pip-
- Reserve Champion Madison Dronberger

HORSE

Stock Type Mare

- Grand Champion Piper Zim-
- Reserve Champion Cali Hensley

Grade type Mare

- Overall Grand Champion Jordyn Oplotnik
- Overall Reserve Champion Chloe Kellogg

Stock Gelding

- Grand Champion Haleigh
- Forester

Grade Gelding

- Grand Champion Carlin Tar-
- Reserve Champion Brant Oplotnik
- **Pony Gelding**
- Grand Champion N/A

Ponv Mare

 Grand Champion — Kendyl Hribar

Showmanship

- Senior Champion Piper Zim-
- Senior Reserve Champion Jordyn Oplotnik
- Intermediate Grand Brant Oplotnik
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Carlin Tardif
- Junior Champion Kendyl Hribar
- Junior Reserve Champion **Emerson Forester**

Trail

- er Zimmerman
- Intermediate Grand Champion SEE CHAMPION, 7C







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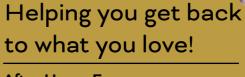


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CHAMPIONS

CONTINUED FROM 6C

- Chloe Kellogg
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Carlin Tardif
- Junior Champion Emerson Forester

Pony Trail

• Grand Champion — Kendyl Hribar

Extreme Trail

- Champion Senior Extreme Trail Piper Zimmerman
- Champion Intermediate Ex-
- treme Trail Chloe Kellogg
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Extreme Trail — Brant Oplotinik
- Champion Junior Extreme Trail Emerson Forester
- Reserve Champion Extreme Trail — Kendyl Hribar

Ranch Horse Trail

- Champion Senior Ranch Horse Trail — Piper Zimmerman
- Champion Inter. Ranch Horse Trail — Chloe Kellogg
- Reserve Inter. Ranch Horse Trail — Brant Oplotnik
- Champion Jr. Ranch Horse Trail Emerson Forester
- Reserve Champion Jr. Ranch Horse Trail — Kendyl Hribar

Ranch Horse Rail

- Champion Sr. Ranch Horse Rail Piper Zimmerman
- Reserve Champion Sr. Ranch Horse Rail — Jordyn Oplotnik
- Champion Inter. Ranch Horse Rail — Chloe Kellogg
- Reserve Champion Inter. Ranch Horse Rail — Carlin Tardif
- Champion Jr. Ranch Horse Rail
- Emerson Forester
- Reserve Champion Jr. Ranch Horse Rail — Kendyl Hribar

Ranch Horse Pattern

- Champion Sr. Ranch Horse Pattern - Piper Zimmerman
- Reserve Champion Sr. Ranch Horse Pattern — Jordyn Oplotnik
- Champion Inter. Ranch Horse
- Pattern Chloe Kellogg • Reserve Champ Inter. Ranch
- Horse Pattern Brant Oplotnik
- Champion Jr. Ranch Horse Pat-
- Reserve Champion Jr. Ranch
- tern Emerson Forester

- Horse Pattern Kendyl Hribar **Pony Pleasure**
- Grand Champion Pony Pleasure Kendyl Hribar

Western Pleasure

- Senior Grand Champion Piper Zimmerman
- Senior Reserve Champion Jordyn Oplotnik
- Intermediate Champion N/A
- Intermediate Reserve Champion - N/A
- Junior Champion Emerson Forester
- Junior Reserve Champion N/A

English Pleasure

Senior Grand Champion — N/A

Horsemanship

- Senior Grand Champion Piper Zimmerman
- Senior Reserve Champion Jordyn Oplotnik
- Intermediate Grand Champion Chloe Kellogg
- Intermediate Reserve Champion — Brant Oplotnik
- Junior Grand Champion Emerson Forester
- Junior Reserve Champion Kendyl Hribar

Reining

- Jr. Grand Champion N/A
- Intermediate Grand Champion Reining — Carlin Tardif
- Intermediate Reserve Champion Reining — Chloe Kellogg
- Sr. Grand Champion Reining Piper Zimmerman

HORSE TIMED EVENTS: (Poles, Barrels, and Flags)

- •Overall Senior Grand Champion
- Piper Zimmerman •Overall Senior Reserve Champi-
- on Haleigh Parcel
- Overall Intermediate Grand
- Champion Chloe Kellogg •Overall Intermediate Reserve
- Champion Carlin Tardif •Overall Junior Grand Champion
- Emerson Forester •Overall Junior Reserve Champi-

on - N/A**Pony Timed Events**

•Overall Champion Pony — Kendyl Hribar

POULTRY

Showmanship

- •Senior Grand Champion N/A
- •Reserve Champion N/A •Intermediate Grand Champion
- Max Huff
- •Intermediate Reserve Champion — John Walker
- •Junior Grand Champion Kaja
- Junior Reserve Grand Champion Annalynn Coffman

Standard Poultry

- •Grand Champion Zarrah Wood
- •Reserve Champion John Walker

All Other Poultry

•Grand Champion — John Walker •Reserve Champion — Brenden Knisley

Meat Pen

- •Grand Champion Robert
- •Reserve Champion Zarrah Wood

Water Fowl

- •Grand Champion John Walker
- •Reserve Champion N/A

Bantam Breed Chickens

•Grand Champion — John Walker •Reserve Champion — Annalynn Coffman

RABBITS

Showmanship

- Senior Grand Champion N/A •Senior Reserve Champion — N/A
- •Intermediate Grand Champion Izabelle Bacon
- •Intermediate Reserve Champion — Riley Smardo
- •Junior Grand Champion Annalynn Coffman
- •Junior Reserve Champion N/A

Meat Pen

- •Grand Champion Madalyn
- •Reserve Champion Liberty Wells
- Overall Rabbit
- •Grand Champion Erin Huber
- •Reserve Champion Annalynn Coffman

SHEEP

- Market Lambs
- •Grand Champion Kole Harris
- •Reserve Champion Maleeya

Montee

Breeding Sheep

- •Grand Champion Royce Koe-
- •Reserve Champion Maleeya Montee

Sheep Fitting & Showing Contest Showmanship

- •Senior Grand Champion Kole Harris
- •Senior Reserve Champion Weston Koenig
- •Intermediate Grand Champion
- Maleeya Montee
- •Intermediate Reserve Champion — Allison Huber
- •Junior Grand Champion Mateo Montee
- Junior Reserve Champion —
- Royce Koenig Rate of Gain Contest — Sheep
- •Grand Champion Micah Bean •Reserve Champion — Allison Huber

SWINE

Showmanship

- •Senior Grand Champion Reece Merrell
- •Senior Reserve Champion Haley Phillips
- •Intermediate Grand Champion
- Kinsley Harris •Intermediate Reserve Champi-
- on Breelee Merrell •Junior Grand Champion — Aubrey Zagonel
- Junior Reserve Champion Jacoby Schossow
- Market Hog
- •Overall Grand Champion —
- Kinsley Harris •Overall Reserve Champion —
- Brayden Reece Rate of Gain Contest — Swine
- •Grand Champion Seth Law-
- •Reserve Champion Jade Peak

BREEDING GILT

- •Grand Champion —Reece Merrell
- •Reserve Champion Maleeva Montee





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A calm, beautiful horse patiently waits in the stall of the Horse Barn while fair participants gather in L. Murphy Arena for the Crawford County Fair's annual open goat show. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN



Antique tractors were on full display for fair attendees to view throughout its four days featuring all sorts of tractor brands from John Deere to International Harvester to Farmall. AARON PYLE / THE MORNING SUN





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