

Central Sandhills 4-H'ers Do Well At State Fair

The Nebraska State Fair finished its successful 11-day run in Grand Island on Labor Day Monday with reason to celebrate. The State Fair had a 7.9% increase in attendance, finishing with an estimated 11-day total of 287,367 guests.

Almost perfect weather greeted Fair guests over the 11 days, with only a single significant rain event. Talent and concerts were also a major attendance driver.

"This was one of the most diverse lineups of entertainment I have seen," said Bill Ogg, State Fair Executive Director. "Our genres included country, Christian, rap, Latino, oldies, and comedy which gave our guests the chance to see just about everything they might want. Plus, our free grounds entertainment and animal attractions had large, happy crowds throughout the run of the Fair."

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3 and 4, saw the largest crowds at the Fair. Increases in sales were posted by Wade Shows Carnival, concessionaires and the Fair's beverage department.

"The Fair went very well from my perspective," said Bob Haag, Nebraska State Fair Board Chairman. "I'm pleased to see the growth, but more pleased to see how much fun people were having at this year's fair."

Planning for the 2023 Nebraska State Fair is already underway. Next year's Fair will be August 25 through September 4.

Local 4-H'ers also competed at the fair and following are the results of

their exhibits

Blaine Co.

Etta Schneidereit
• Red- 4H Communications & Expressive Arts - 4H Photography Unit II - Creative Composition Display or Print

• Blue- 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H STEAM Clothing: Beyond The Needle - Beginning Fashion Accessory
• Blue- 4H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4H Cooking 201 - Loaf Quick Bread

• Purple- 4H Plants - 4H Floriculture - Marigold

Zane Schneidereit
• Red- 4H Visual Arts - 4H Portfolio Pathways - Original Acrylic Painting

• Purple- 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H STEAM Clothing: Beyond The Needle - Advanced Fashion Accessory

• Purple- 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H Fashion Show - Constructed STEAM Clothing 3 Garment

• Purple- 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H STEAM Clothing 3- A Stitch Further - Textile Clothing Accessory

• SPECIAL RECOGNITION- 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H Consumer & Family Science Special Awards - 4H Fashion Show Award Winners Gussie Schneidereit
• Red- 4H Plants - 4H Horticulture - Eggplant

• Red- 4H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4H Cooking 201 - Healthy Baked Product

• Red- 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H STEAM Clothing: Beyond The Needle - Color Wheel
• Red- 4H Communications & Expressive Arts - 4H Photography Unit II -

Creative Composition Display or Print

• Blue- 4H Communications & Expressive Arts - 4H Photography Unit II - Expression Through Color Display or Print

Thomas Co.

Piper Hanson
• Red- 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H Quilt Quest - Barn Quilt Created Less than 4x4

• Blue - SPECIAL RECOGNITION- 4H Visual Arts - 4H Portfolio Pathways - Original Mixed Media Art

Emerson Pettit
• Red- 4H Visual Arts - 4H Portfolio Pathways - Original Watercolor Painting

• Purple- 4H Environmental & Earth Sciences - 4H Entomology - Macrophotography

Chandler Pettit
• Red- 4H Visual Arts - 4H Portfolio Pathways - Original Acrylic Painting
• Blue- 4H Consumer & Family Science - 4H STEAM Clothing: Beyond The Needle - Beginning Fashion Accessory

• Purple- 4H Environmental & Earth Sciences - 4H Entomology - Macrophotography

Dominic Rows-Smith
• Purple- 4H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4H Cooking 201 - Coffee Cake

Lola Rows-Smith
• Blue- 4H Healthy Lifestyle Education - 4H Cooking 201 - Loaf Quick Bread

Braden Ladwig
• Blue- 4H Beef - 4H Beef: General Classes - Intermediate Beef Showmanship

• Blue- 4H Beef - 4H Beef: Market Beef - Registered Steers - All Other Breeds



LINDA TEAHON

A display at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island in the 4-H Exhibit Hall. The display featured top entries from all over the state and welcomed fairgoers to the many wonderful things that the 4-H youth had entered in the 2022 Nebraska State Fair.



LINDA TEAHON

Thomas County 4-H'ers Lola and Dominic Rowse-Smith with their blue and purple ribbon entries in the cooking section at the Nebraska State Fair.

Enrollment stands at 138 at TPS

Thedford Public Schools has an enrollment of 138 students for the 2022-23 school term. There are 82 Pre-Kindergarten through sixth graders and 56 in grades 7th through 12th.

A breakdown of the numbers by class:
Pre-K (3-year-olds)7
Pre-K (4-year-olds)8
Kindergarten7
First Grade7

Second Grade9
Third Grade13
Fourth Grade11
Fifth Grade11
Sixth Grade9
Seventh Grade7
Eighth Grade14
Freshmen8
Sophomores9
Juniors11
Seniors7
Total Students138

Voter ID, minimum wage petitions qualify for general election ballots

Questions over raising Nebraska's minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2026 and requiring photo identification to vote will be put to voters in the general election in November.

Nebraska's Secretary of State Bob Evnen said that both petitions qualified under state law.

State law requires petitioners gather at least 7% of the state's registered voters - or 86,776 signatures - and 5% of registered voters in 38 counties.

The minimum wage petition received 97,245 signatures and qualified in 44 counties.

The voter ID change is an amendment to the state constitution and it requires a higher threshold. In order to qualify, an amendment must garner 10% of voters - or 123,966 signatures - and also 5% in 38 counties. That petition received 136,458 signatures and qualified in 76 counties.

If voters pass it, Nebraska's minimum wage would increase from \$9.00 to \$10.50 per hour by 2023, \$12.00 by 2024, \$13.50 by 2025 and \$15.00 by 2026, followed by yearly cost of living adjustments.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses said some businesses can't afford to add on extra pay given inflation.

"You're on the heels of the severe impact of the pandemic and now you're going into inflation, so certainly the costs of

doing business are going to adversely affect employers," Bob Hallstrom said.

Hallstrom said small businesses may have to cut jobs or hours of operation to balance the increasing pay. None of which would benefit employees.

Some business owners interviewed across the state said it would be a real benefit for their businesses to pay employees a decent wage to have them stay with them. They also see it as a benefit in helping the local economy as employees will have more money to spend.

Public hearings will be held in each of Nebraska's three congressional districts about the initiatives. These will be announced at a later date.

See Ballots
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Sasse To Hold Mobile Office In Thedford

U.S. Senator Ben Sasse announced a member of his staff will be holding mobile office hours in Thomas County on September 30th, 2022.

Constituent services representatives from Senator Sasse's office offer guidance and aid to Nebraskans who require help navigating Washington's federal bureaucracy.

The Mobile office will be held at the Thomas County Courthouse on Friday, September 30 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. CT.

Upper Loup NRD Welcomes Two New Employees



Justin Sprague

Think you've seen some new faces sporting NRD attire? You're not imagining things - two new members have joined the staff at the Upper Loup NRD.

Justin Sprague

The Upper Loup NRD is pleased to welcome Justin Sprague as a new Resources Technician. He began his duties on August 1, 2022. Justin graduated from Wilcox Public Schools in 1999, and went on to further his education at Colby Community College, majoring in Business Ag. Justin has ranched in the Sandhills since 2004, and currently lives on a ranch north of Thedford. He trains horses in his free time, and enjoys all things rodeo!



COURTESY PHOTOS

Shaylee Scranton

Shaylee Scranton

The Upper Loup NRD is happy to welcome Shaylee Scranton as a new Resources Technician/Information & Education Coordinator. She began her duties on August 9, 2022. Shaylee graduated from Thedford High School in 2017. She then went on to further her education at Doane University, where she graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts major in Film & Media Production and a Bachelor of Science minor in Environmental Studies. Shaylee lives south of Thedford on the Scranton Ranch. She enjoys too many hobbies to list, but some favorites include raising chickens, gardening, creating art, sewing, clay making, and playing video games.