

A LIVING INFOMERICAL

Jacob Clanton
Editor-in-Chief



J.D. Cook airbrushes a tattoo onto a customer's arm. "My wife and I have been coming here as vendors at the Kansas State Fair for the last thirteen years," Cook said. "We do custom airbrush services for skin providing temporary tattoos."

Photo by Aaron Hemby



Photo by Aaron Hemby

A customer at the Kansas State Fair browses the yard art at Shane Vernan's North Star Metal Works company booth.

STATE FAIR VENDORS MEET PEOPLE, CREATE RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH LONG DAYS

Like a Kansas sunflower, a Kansas State Fair vendor doesn't just appear. Many vendors at the fair have been here for many years.

"It's just something our company does every year," Steve Purdum said, "so we just continue on. We've kind of changed the way we do it, and kind of showcase different product that's new and changing to show the customers what's going on."

Purdum sells shoes for Brown Shoe Fit Co., and has been at the fair for 11 years. Likewise, Buzz Harris has sold Travalum Trailers for over 20 years. Both have a lot of repeat customers, giving the opportunity to create cus-

tomers-vender relationships.

"[The customers have] had our product for a lot of years and [have] used it," Harris said. "They've been using them practically in their operations, so they'll come up with an idea that might benefit everybody, and if you hear [the idea] from enough people, then you know to look into it, design it out and handle that need that they have."

These relationships can also be created in the absence of selling items. Colleges look to the fair as an opportunity to reach people who can't come to their campus.

"It's a chance to talk to students, give them information," Aaron Neely, admissions rep at Kansas State said, "[be-

cause] if a student couldn't make it up for a campus visit, this is a good chance to come down and talk to them."

Many customers find that willingness to talk appealing.

"People willing to actually talk to you and show you their product is by far the most intriguing way [to draw people in] I think," Ryan Kohr said.

Through their interactions with people, vendors get the opportunity to help others with their products.

"[We] had a lady in the other day that we got set up in some new shoes," Purdum said. "She came back two days later and gave us a hug, because she could walk. She was walking, she was not in pain, she was happy. Things like that make you glad you came."

With 682 vendors at the fair, a special type of atmosphere is created.

"It's just an awesome atmosphere," Neely said. "Sometimes it feels like a giant infomercial with everything around, with like colleges and fried food mixed in with it too, but I really enjoy it down here."





NATURE'S FINEST POLLINATORS

John Ostermann
Staff Writer

Butterfiles are revered for their beauty; bees are feared for their sting. What people don't realize is how important these insects are as pollinators. For the first time in the Kansas State Fair's 144 years of existence, the agricultural team has set up the Pollinator Garden. This garden has various flowers and plants that are meant to attract local pollinators.

"The Pollinator Garden, it brings together a lot of different crops that are grown in Kansas," Max Harman, a volunteer and FFA member said. "It also can show people what type of insects and pollinators come there."

The Pollinator Garden combines beauty and education as it teaches the public about the many things pollinators do for the earth, and it shows off the beauty that these plants and animals illustrates.

"Just looking here at the flowers you can see all the butterflies and a couple bees here and there," Harman said. "It's really pretty because it's a direct example of pollination and if you plant flowers then you can hopefully support and keep those pollinator populations up and going."

The Pollinator Gardens biggest goal is to help educate the public on how

pollination works and how important it is to society. Pollinators help to bring the world one out of every three bites of food, including foods such as grapes, apples, tomatoes and even chocolate.

This garden is a great visual example of the ways

pollinators such as bees, butterflies and moths help to spread pollen from flower to flower.

"If you can get close enough, the people can actually see the butterflies sucking nectar out of [the flower]," Harman said. "They see that the butterflies go from flower to flower and by visiting all those different flowers that, if they know stuff about pollination or read some of the science, they are spreading that pollen and allowing those flowers to reproduce and make more flowers."

Top: A Cynthia, or more commonly known as a painted lady, pollinates a flower at the Kansas State Fair's Pollinator Garden.

Left: An adult honey bee pollinates a flower at the Pollinator Garden. "Honey bees are endangered and we hear about that in the news all the time," Harman said. "What people don't realize is how important a bee actually is."



Photo by Aaron Hemby

MANHATTAN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMS NUMBERS FOR STATE FAIR AUDIENCE

Even in sweltering Kansas heat, Manhattan High School Pop's Choir still finds pep in their step with their '80s dance routines.

Choir students from MHS combine their skills of song and dance to put on a show for their audience, putting their many practices and years of experience to the test in a public environment. Students go through years of classes in order to be deemed acceptable to join Pop's Choir. Combining the skill of song and dance takes ages to perfect, and these students stepped up to the plate. They do this simply for their love of the class and their friends.

"Because the Pop's group is smaller, I feel like we're closer as people," senior Wyatt Balman said. "Emotionally, we're more bound to the music together."

Most of the choir's performances

take place at MHS or in the Manhattan area, but coming to the Kansas State Fair is nothing new at MHS.

"I did it when I was in high school, and that was in ... fall of '93," choir teacher Chad Pape said, "so we've been doing it at least since then. They've been doing it a long, long time."

Despite the challenges students in the group face, such as performing in front of an audience and stepping out of their comfort zone, they all feel confident with the work they do in the end, striving for perfection when finding mistakes.

"I think [our choir] did great," Pape said. "By the time the school year is done, they will have done this tens of times, so it'll be automatic. The first time out though, I thought they sang well and they did a good job."



Seniors Lizzy Mummert and Wyatt Balman team up together in on of their '80s themed dance numbers. "I've been in choir for four years," Balman said. "It's had it's ups and it's downs."



Junior choir students Parker Wilson and Emily Knapp perform with smiling faces in front of their Kansas State Fair audience. During this performance, male leads carried their female counterparts and spun them around.

Photos and story by Elizabeth Alexander-
Staff Writer

HUTCHINSON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY K-9 UNIT PRESENTATION

Big dogs with big jobs. Officers from the Hutchinson Correctional Facility brought four members of their K-9 unit to present at the Kansas State Fair.

K-9 Master Sergeant Tom Canfield and Sergeant K-9 Handler Michael Kelly participated in a question and answer session with the audience, using the dogs to demonstrate commands and qualities of a good canine.

When selecting a dog, officers look for three main qualities: the ability to retrieve, hunt and a natural possessiveness. These qualities allow the dogs to effectively carry out their main duties of detecting narcotics and cell phones and deescalating dangerous situations.

"If anybody wants to act hostile or crazy we just bring the dog around and they usually quell that person," Kelly said.

Another serious consideration in the canine selection is price. The Hutchinson Correctional Facility was lucky enough to receive two of their seven dogs as donations.

"The newest ones we got were \$7200 each," Canfield said. "Had we bought dogs that were already trained, they would've been about \$15000 a piece."

To fund their K-9 unit the Hutchinson Correctional Facility receives donations from the community and different organizations. K-9 specific

PRISON PAW PATROL



Sergeant K-9 Handler Michael Kelly and his dog Malone demonstrate different commands for the public during the Hutchinson Correctional Facility's K-9 unit presentation at the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 14. "Finding large quantities of drugs or cell phones you know in a prison that's always memorable. That makes me feel good when my dog finds it because that shows that I'm not letting this guy down in my training and he's not letting me down," Kelly said.

Photo and story by MaKenna Eilert
Staff Writer

grants also exist to help fund new units across the country.

"I wish a lot more agencies had

them," Kelly said. "They're definitely a lot of fun and they help the community out."



Elizabeth Alexander
Staff Writer

Photos by Aaron Hemby



AAAAND THEY'RE OFF!

Left: Four pot belly pigs finish up their lap at the end of the race. The race brings in many people to watch the pigs race on another in a cruelty-free environment. This is one of the most popular events located at the State Fair.

Right: "James Hammerson", sporting his yellow and blue number four flag, ended up winning the race. The prize given to the winner was an Oreo on a silver platter.