

NORTHWEST KANSAS DISTRICT FREE FAIR

July 28th - August 4th
Sherman County
Fairgrounds



Miranda Hernandez



Erica Hernandez



Julica Bonsall



Sara Johnson



Jessica Johnson

The
Goodland Star-News

Friday,
July 27,
2007

Fair begins with parade, ice cream social

The Northwest Kansas District Free Fair kicks off Saturday with the dog show in the morning and the annual parade on Main Avenue at 5 p.m.

The 4-H Ambassadors, who organize the parade, are planning for the line up to begin at 4 p.m. at Broadway and 17th. The parade will head up Main and end at Gulick Park where the prizes and ice cream will be handed out.

The dog show at 8:30 a.m. starts the day of fair events at the fairgrounds on Saturday.

There will be a modified tractor pull at 6 p.m. at the grandstands, and the carnival rides will be open at 7 p.m. that evening.

The fairgrounds will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday for booth set-up.

Brad Schields, chairman of the home-owned carnival's board, said this will be the first time the new carnival building will be in use for prizes and tickets.

Schields said the carnival will be open Monday through Friday nights beginning at 7 p.m., and they will offer a wristband deal on Tuesday and Friday.

He said it will be \$5 for the kiddy rides and \$10 for all other rides for the night.

With the reopening of Caldwell Avenue, the large parking lot to the southeast of the fairgrounds and east of the new carnival building will be open.

New, larger paved entrances will make this



Rex Getz presents "The magic of Agriculture" in a free show at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday sponsored by Sherman County Farm Bureau.

a better place to park to enjoy the entire fair.

Monday, judging begins at 8 a.m. for 4-H foods, arts and crafts. The horse show will begin at 9 a.m.

Family Fun Night and the hot dog feed sponsored by KLOE Radio and Eagle Cable will begin at 5 p.m.

The Fishing Hole opens at 7 p.m., sponsored by Bankwest of Kansas.

Tuesday is Farm Bureau Day, with check in



Heather Shelley of Scott City, the Country Showdown National Winner will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in front of the grandstand.

for entries in all 4-H and open classes from 8 to 11 a.m. The goat show will begin at 2 p.m., the rabbit show at 3 p.m., and the sheep lead and show at 4:30 p.m.

The kids pedal tractor pull will begin at 5:30 p.m. The Fishing Hole will open at 7 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., in front of the arena, the Farm Bureau will present a free show featuring magician Rex Getz of Manhattan with "The Amazing Magic of Agriculture."

Wednesday, the swine show begins at 8 a.m., and the llama show will be at 1 p.m. A laser-shot hunting simulator will open at 8 a.m.

Heather Shelley of Scott City, the Colgate Country Showdown National Winner, will give a concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. in front of the grandstands. Admission will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

Thursday, the beef show starts at 9 a.m., and the round-robin showmanship will begin 30 minutes after the beef show ends.

The Howdy Rowdy kids rodeo begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a \$1 donation.

Friday is the 4-H appreciation barbecue at 4:30 p.m., followed at 5:30 p.m. by the 4-H livestock sale.

The annual Kiwanis demolition derby begins at 7 p.m. in the arena. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6 to 11, and children 5 and under are free. A pit pass is \$20.

All projects will be released from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday. The Tri-State Royal, which is a competition of regional livestock champions, will be at 1 p.m. that afternoon.

The Tri-State Royal has been held annually since 1962. Each county may nominate one 4-H or Future Farmers of America winner in sheep, swine and beef showmanship.

Tri-State Royal entries have to be made by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the Saturday show.

Good Luck, 4-H clubs!



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Sherman County Fairgrounds

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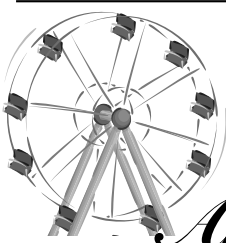
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Sisters have fun working on 4-H projects

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

Sometimes they duck; other times they open their mouths as marshmallows fly across the living room at the Hernandez house.

Sometimes it's sibling rivalry and other times working together as sisters Miranda and Erica Hernandez participate in the same 4-H projects throughout the year. Both girls loved putting tubes together to make blowguns that shoot marshmallows and really loved eating the "bullets."

Miranda, 11, and Erica, 8, are daughters of Mario Hernandez, head custodian at North Elementary, and his wife Crystal, a medical assistant and Emergency Medical Technician at Goodland Regional Medical Center. Miranda has been in 4-H three years and Erica two, and they work in mostly the same project categories.

The sisters are in sewing, Miranda in Level II and Erica in Level I; Legos; drawing; cooking; crafts; modeling; talent show; and buymanship. Miranda is working with aquarium pets (fish) for the first time this year, and both girls may raise pigs next year. It depends on finding a place to keep them, their mother said, adding they can't keep pigs in their backyard on Broadway.

The fattest one gets the most money, Miranda said.

"I think it would be good for their college



Sisters Miranda, 11 (left) and Erica, 8, Hernandez clowned a bit for the camera. The two sisters have fun working on their 4-H projects to be entered in the fair.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

See **SISTERS**, Page 4

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Miranda tries on the apron she has made for her 4-H clothing project this year.

Sisters have fun with 4-H

SISTERS, from Page 3

fund,” Crystal Hernandez said.

Both girls qualified for regional competition in the talent show, Miranda for singing a duet and Erica for dancing.

They are members of the Beaver Valley 4-H Club and enjoy working on floats and usually lend a hand when help is needed with community projects. They stay busy, with Erica competing in swim meets and Miranda in softball.

Miranda will be in sixth grade at North Elementary this fall, and Erica will be in third grade at Central.

Erica said the marshmallow blowguns were her favorite crafts project, and Miranda said she enjoyed making snowman heads by painting wood buckets and putting painted scarves around them.

Erica has made a poncho of two shades of pink fuzzy fabric, a short skirt, a denim purse with ribbon handles and faux jewels, a striped apron and a pillow of fuzzy leopard-print fabric for her sewing projects this year. Miranda has made a pillow of fuzzy fabric in rainbow pastels; a denim purse with ribbon handles, jewels and butterfly and flower appliques; a long skirt; and a striped apron.

Miranda says she is enjoying her first year with fish.

“I like it a lot,” she said.

She bought the fish and their water-filled

home and amenities at the pet store, and says she has had it pretty easy taking care of them. She changes the water once a month and the filter once a week and has trained the fish to know when it’s dinner time.

“They know when I feed them,” she said. “I turn on the light, and they go to the top to eat.”

Miranda has six fish, an upside-down catfish named Uppy, a yellowfish named Cory, an angelfish named Angel, a big blue one named Killer, a silver catfish named Catty and an algae fish that doesn’t have an official name.

It was kind of weird, so they didn’t really give it a name, Crystal Hernandez said.

“We called him Smally at first because he was small,” Miranda said, “but now we call him Biggy.”

She chose her fish based on which ones she thought would be fun to watch.

“I don’t want boring fish when my friends come over,” Miranda said. “Some of them play hide-and-seek.”

The Hernandez girls have enjoyed their cooking projects, and it seems their father has as well.

“When dad and I go in the car,” Miranda said, “we usually take the food with us and then there’s only two things left when we get back.”

Erica said she made a fruit salad with marshmallows and sugar, and Miranda said they baked candy cane-shaped cookies at Christmas

See SISTERS, Page 5

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Miranda has six fish in her aquarium project. This is the first year she has had a 4-H aquarium project.

Sisters have fun working on 4-H projects

SISTERS, from Page 4

time using white and red dough and have made breakfast burritos. Taste testing is fun, they said, and "Mom" agreed.

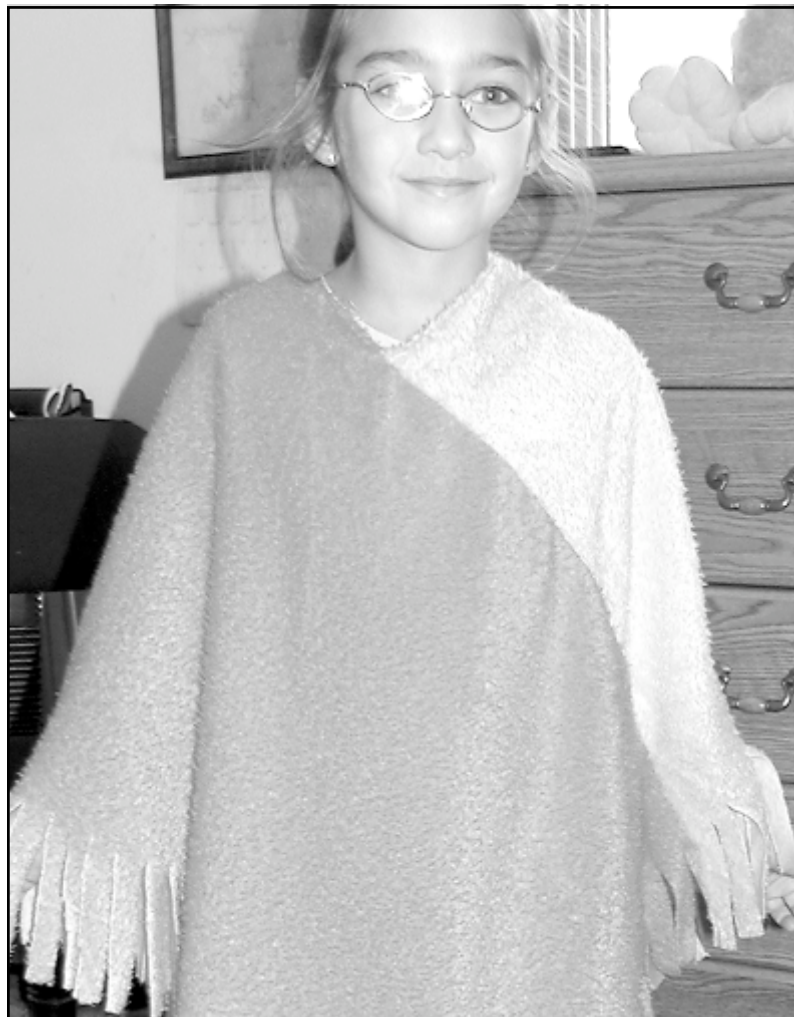
As for whether any of their projects

have given them ideas on what they want to be when they grow up, both girls were enthusiastic about the idea of being pet store owners. Erica said she may want to be a chef, but Miranda may follow in her mother's footsteps in a medical career.

"I want to be a nurse here first," she said, "and then in the Army."

Miranda said her favorite thing she has learned in 4-H is how to take care of fish, and Erica said her favorite is the talent show.

"I love to dance," she said.



Erica has made a poncho of two shades of pink fuzzy fabric for her clothing project she is entering this year.

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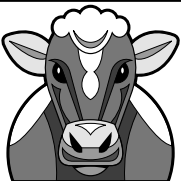
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One sister likes bugs, the other butterflies

By Pat Schiefen
pjschiefen@nwkansas.com

If you want to know how to collect bugs, mount them and display them in a case Jessica Johnson can tell you how. Jessica and her sister Sara are very involved in their 4-H projects and activities.

Jessica Johnson, fifth grader at North Elementary School, is in her second year in entomology. She also has projects in photography and cooking and is the treasurer for the Sunflower 4-H Club.

First she catches the bugs by hand, puts them in a jar and puts that in the freezer so the insects can freeze dry. She uses mounting pins to put them on a piece of foam. Jessica and her advisor, Dana Belshe, have an insect book where they can look up the specimens she has caught and frozen. For display, each bug needs to be so high off the mounting board and so far from the top of the pin.

Jessica had 58 different insects last year and has collected at least 70 this year. She is able to add to the collection she had last year.

"I collect around here and in the garage," Jessica said.

"I only like cute bugs like butterflies," said Jessica's sister, Sara.

Sara will be in the fourth grade at Central Elementary School.

Jessica uses a Sony digital camera for her

photographs. She takes the disc to Wal-Mart and they have a machine that downloads the disc and puts the pictures on a compact disc.

For the fair, Jessica is planning on entering pictures she took of Seven Falls and Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs and a close up of a flower. Her picture of Seven Falls has all seven falls in it. In her picture of the Garden of the Gods, in a space between two rocks is a view of the mountains. A person can see the throat of the flower in her picture.

Jessica's sister Sara has projects in sewing and cooking. In clothing, she made a pillow, shrug, skirt and poncho. A shrug is a short jacket worn over a shirt. Sara decorated her shrug with glued-on jewels.

Sara had to have all of her sewing projects done early because the style show is the week before the fair.

When asked what Jessica's favorite food to cook is she said pizza with pepperoni and olives.

"I make my own pizza dough with flour and yeast," Jessica said.

"Jessica and Sara once a week chose a meal, cook it and serve it," said Connie Jo. "Both help their grandmother cook."


"My favorite food is anything with chocolate," said Sara.

The girls both have their chores at home, said



Jessica Johnson relaxed after spending time getting her 4-H entomology project updated and ready for the fair.

See JOHNSON, Page 8



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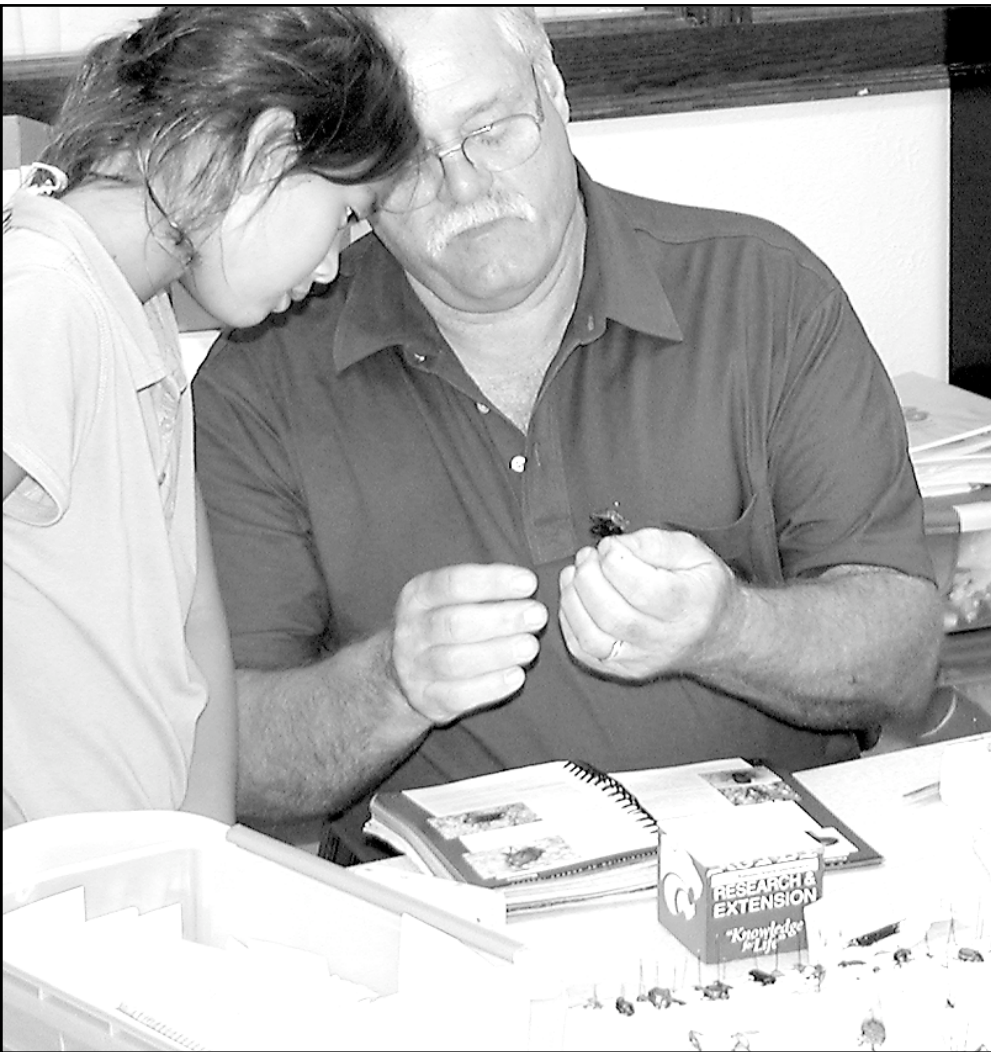
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Jessica Johnson likes collecting bugs, and Dana Belshe helped her (left photo) prepare a beetle for her 4-H entomology project. Johnson and Belshe consulted an insect book (above) to identify the beetle that Johnson had caught and frozen to be added to her bug collection.

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Sara Johnson showed her mom, Connie Jo, (above) the shrug she made (right) to go with of her outfit for the fair this year . Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Foodland Star-News



Sisters enjoy diverse 4-H projects

JOHNSON, from Page 6

Connie Jo. Jessica helps with laundry, cleans her bedroom and helps cook. Sara cleans her bedroom, helps cook and takes the trash out. Both help take care of their three dogs, two tea cup poodles and a dachshund, and two fish.

Jessica said she had done dog training before with Misty, one of their tea-cup poodles. When the agility part had to be done without a leach Jessica said she didn't do it because Misty wouldn't work without a leach.

Next year, Jessica said she would like to take floriculture and Sara forestry. Their mom said they each have a small flower bed by the driveway. Jessica said her favorite flower was hibiscus.

Last year, Jessica said she was in sewing and made a pillow, apron, skirt and shirt. She wants to be a junior leader and continue taking entomology and photography.

Jessica and Sara went to Rock Springs 4-H camp at Junction City.

"I liked the fishing and canoeing," said Jessica.

"I liked the hiking and swimming," said Sara. Both girls went to the fishing clinic in the spring and like to fish, said Connie Jo. They throw the fish back in. We have gone to Scott Lake and Keller's Pond. Last weekend, they were going to Hale's Pond.

The girls have gotten to do things they wouldn't have such as fishing, canoeing and shooting.

When asked about school the girls said. "I don't like school," said Jessica.

"I didn't want to leave school," said Sara.

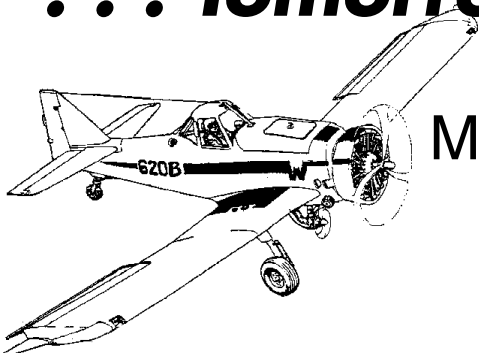
Jessica said she didn't know what she wanted to do as a profession, but her mother said she has talked about paleontology.

"I want to be a vet," said Sara.

"Both girls like history and science," said Connie Jo. Connie Jo works at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

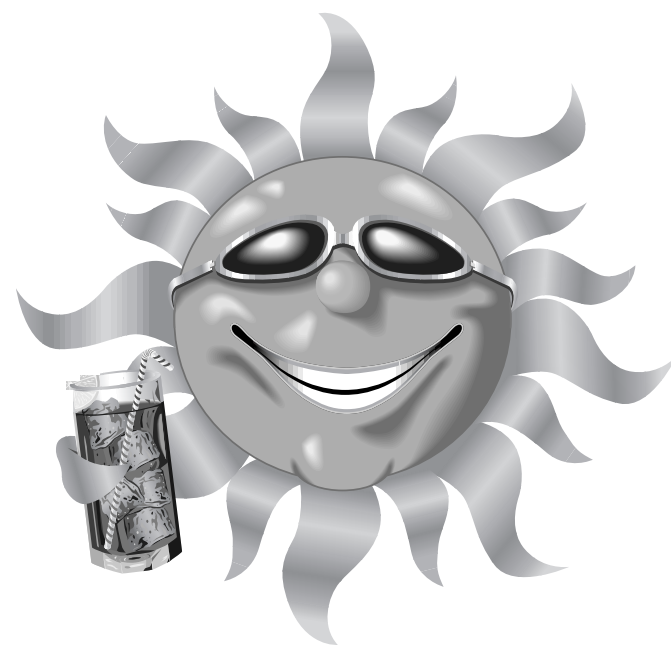
"4-H is really a family affair we are all involved," she said.

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