



**WHERE DO YOU
FIND YOUR FUN?**



*"We came to see chainsaw
demo and seeing the local
vendors"*

Josh and Andrea



*"It's worth your while. There's
so much to do!"*

Aaron Strain



*"He comes to get all of the free-
bies. I'm just a carnie at heart."*

**Sharon Wounkin and Ron
Smith**

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Holly Thomas uses students from the crowd during her demonstration at the Kansas Pride Building. Photo by Karla Cardenas Pasten

More Than Just Icing on a Cake *Decorator Holly Thomas gives demonstration at fair*

By Tate Miller

Life might not be a be piece of cake but cake decorating for Holly Thomas is.

Thomas, owner of Holly's Sweet Treats brought her skills to the Kansas State Fair grounds to give a demonstration of basic techniques every cake decorator should know. Thomas demonstrated how to frost the latest trends in the cake decorating world, such as the 'Naked cake' style which is a trend among wedding cakes. She also showed rustic frosting styles, and how to make a multi-colored flowers to top the masterpiece.

Thomas listed off the basic essentials every cake decorator should own. In either hand through out the demonstration, Thomas used her essentials for each cake to demonstrate different techniques and styles. A rubber icing spatula and a metal angled icing spatula to evenly distribute the frosting on the cake, and a cake turn table to make the process easier.

However, cake decorating is more than just a hobby to Thomas, "Baking and decorating is my therapy," she said.

Thomas has been cake decorating for 12 years. What started her passion for cake decorating was

the first cake she remembered decorating for display. Her junior year, she decorated a periodic table cake for chemistry.

"I really like to step out of my box and create edible art for people," Thomas said. In Thomas's demonstration, she walked the audience through basic frosting tips and the challenges she faced behind some of her most extravagant works of art. Her demonstration was 45 minutes long in the Pride of Kansas Building, decorating two cakes on the center floor.

"Cake decorating is an art, it can be science, it can be math, but it doesn't have to be perfect," said Thomas. From Birthday cakes to the Hutchinson Hospital, Thomas has decorated it all.

A Hobby turned into profession, Thomas has been working on moving her business from her home to a location in Downtown Wichita. Holly's Sweet Treats has been in the making for two years. The set opening date is October 1st in Downtown Wichita. "I'm excited to invite people into my creative space," said Thomas. The layout for Thomas' Sweet Treats will showcase her decorating cakes in front of the customers and allow her to answer questions.

Carving It Out

TJ Jenkins carving an eagle with a chainsaw.

Creating works of art

Photo by Montzerrath Reyes

By Montzerrath Reyes and Paola Cordero

TJ Jenkins, born in St. Joseph, Missouri, started carving seven years ago. Jenkins got the idea for carving after he went to spend time in the Appalachian Mountains.

He would see stuff he really enjoyed looking at and from there it went on to be a fun hobby for him so he stuck with it.

“Carving was a distraction from just the daily hassle, the fear of losing a job, a car catching on fire and family health problems,” Jenkins said.

After a while of doing it, people would notice his work and would ask for designs and different kinds of special carvings. To start off his carvings he likes to find any sort of 3D figure, pictures or an outline to study and decide where to start the outside of his project.

Jenkins always starts off with a big saw for bigger pieces. He uses chainsaws just for the fact that they’re fast and closest to lightsaber. He continues by using a smaller saw to carve out more details. In the end to finish off the smallest carving details he likes to use an angle grinder to smooth out the end result.

Jenkins also finishes off by painting his projects. He spends around 8-10 hours a day carving.

“I do it every day... I have a very big passion for it, it’s something I just enjoy doing.”

Final Carving. One of the many pieces Jenkins has carved.



Photo by Paola Cordero

Right: Inside The Butterfly Experience where butterflies roam. Below: A Monarch Butterfly rests on a flower provided by Domiano's Exhibit.



On the road to recovery

By Jennifer Anima

It took one article about butterflies for Joseph Damiano to create The Butterfly Experience .

His goal is to bring awareness to the decrease in butterfly population. With the help of his fiancé, Lacey, Damiano has traveled around the country raising, spreading, and showing off his butterflies. "They are very important, something had to be done," Damiano said.

On his way to the Kansas State Fair Damiano, who is from Long Island stopped at the St. Louis Zoo in Illinois as well as the butterfly garden in Missouri. "From fair to fair we'll stop and check out all the butterfly exhibits," Damiano said.

He can be spotted outside a colorful blowup tent informing guests on how to interact with the butterflies. He provides a sponge that is dipped in red Gatorade and water to attract the butterflies for a closer look. To make the experience more fun for kids, butterfly merchandise is sold such as masks, LED lights, and jewelry.

Since starting his business, Damiano estimated he has added 80,000 butterflies to the population. To keep the population going the exhibits are filled with milk weeds to insure butterflies lay eggs constantly.

After raising the butterflies some are kept to mate but others are let go into the wild. Along with raising butterflies, plants filled with hundreds of eggs are placed in the wild with milkweeds so they naturally mature in the wild.

The free exhibit mainly consists of Monarchs, Painted Ladies, Swallowtails, caterpillars, and even chrysalis. Since the exhibit is free it keeps going with the help of donations from the International Butterfly Breeders Association. These donations help support the migration of Monarch butterflies.

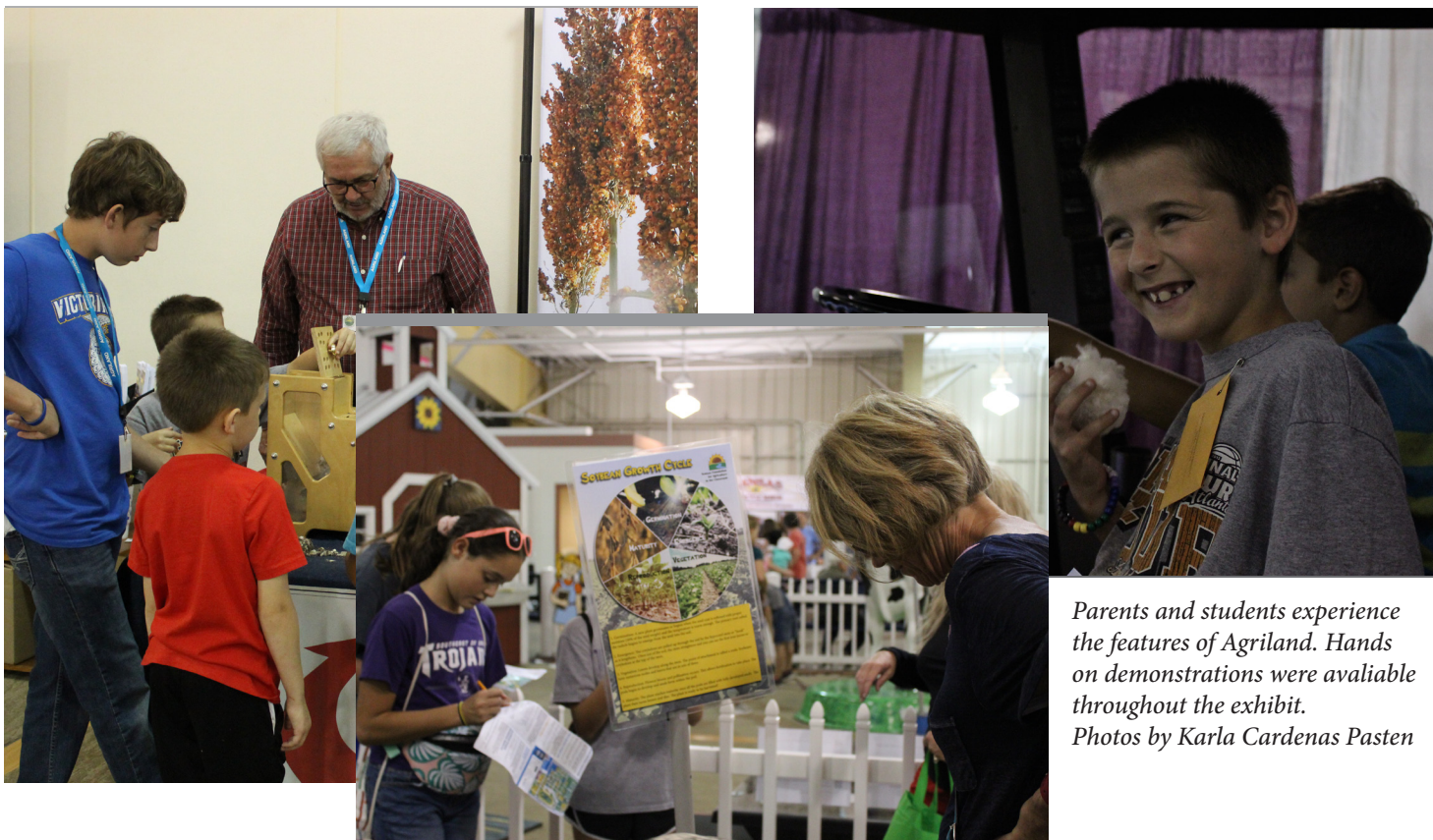


Photos by Jennifer Anima

Joseph Domiano demonstrating how to take a closer look at a Monarch. Domiano has been creating exhibits for three years and has traveled across the country showing them off.

Hands on Learning

Agriland offers the opportunity to learn through hands on experiences



*Parents and students experience the features of Agriland. Hands on demonstrations were available throughout the exhibit.
Photos by Karla Cardenas Pasten*

By Karla Cardenas Pasten

Watching seeds separate from cotton through a cotton gin, getting the opportunity to ride a virtual combine, and being able to milk a mechanical dairy cow, is something children don't typically think about on their way to the state fair.

However, it's a memory that'll make them have pride in Kansas agriculture.

Agriland, located in the Pride of Kansas building, doesn't just expose children to agriculture, but the role it plays in everyday life.

The attraction which is made up of a group of commodities that have come together to teach kids, provides a hands on experience for children based on Kansas Agriculture. Not only does it walk them

through the different aspects of it, but it gives them the opportunity to grasp an image of what it's like.

Agriland, which has been around for a number of years, has displays on beef, dairy, sunflowers, corn, and cotton. As the years go by, new attractions are added such as soil nutrition, a soil tunnel, and a nutrition table.

"Agriland works to create and provide a larger picture on education opportunities for kids. Every year we try to make our section a little better. Agriculture is not only important but it's interesting. Children need to be aware of where food comes from and what's involved in it," Rex Friessen, a volunteer who has been a crop consultant for seven years said.

When asked about their experience in Agriland, children didn't hold back their opinions.

"I've had a lot of fun. I really like how you can press all these buttons on the combine. I think in the future I want to become a farmer," Carson Veller said.

Although Agriland is especially for children, parents such as Jayme Riedel have learned as well.

"We didn't have this back when I was growing up, and I love how children can learn a lot about what Kansas has to offer. I'm learning as my kids are learning. There's so much to learn in such little time," she said.