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- [Education](#)
- [Engagements](#)
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- [Outdoors](#)
- [Prairie Profile](#)
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- [Society](#)
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- [Marriages](#)

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**State Fair to hold its first Marketplace for Kids**

By ANDREA JOHNSON Staff Writer [ajohnson@minotdailynews.com](mailto:ajohnson@minotdailynews.com)

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Children from all over the state will have a chance to enter their brilliant inventions in the first-ever Bright Ideas Marketplace for Kids Showcase and Contest being held this year at the North Dakota State Fair, said Wendy Altendorf, the regional chair of Marketplace for Kids.

Eleven-year-old Riley Held of Minot, who participated in the spring regional Marketplace for Kids event, is one of the kids who plans to enter the summer contest.

Riley's dad was mighty grateful for her "Shovel Shaker" invention this last winter when he was shoveling snow off the driveway. Riley invented a device that can be attached to a shovel's handle that shakes rock salt out at the same time snow is being shoveled, saving the shovel's operator from slipping on the pavement. She said her dad gave her the idea when the area was dealing with all the snow this winter.

The summer event, planned for 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. July 29 at the State Fair, is for children who were in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade during the 2008-09 school year. Children need to enter their projects by July 15 to compete.

According to the brochure, the overall theme of the invention/business idea must be practical and be humane. A free-standing project board is required. The cost of new materials shouldn't be more than \$15, including the free-standing display.

An "inventor's journal" must accompany the invention explaining the process the student used to create his or her invention. A business idea project display needs to include a commercial or display ad. Projects may be entered by an individual or a team of up to three members. Mixed grade teams must register in the grade division of the oldest member. Students can enter in different categories, which include:

**Working model:** Projects where students have produced a scaled model or sample of the invention that really works, in addition to accomplishing the stated goal.

**Non-working model:** Inventions that would be too large, expensive or technical to build. Entries in this category must be more than just a drawing: each entry must include a model or sample.

**Crazy contraption (adaptation):** An invention which takes an idea already in existence and improves upon it. A sample or model is required.

**Game:** This may include an original computer game designed and programmed by the student, a board game of the student's own creation, or a sport/athletic activity originated by the student. An example of the computer/board game, as well as thoroughly explained rules, are necessary. If a computer game is designed, the inventor will need to provide a computer for judging.

**Jules Verne!** Encompasses projects that would fit into another category but are too wild and crazy or fanciful and far out to be judged against more practical inventions. This is a fantasy category and will be judged solely on imagination. Rube-Goldberg entries and future space ideas are examples of projects for this category.

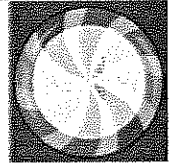
**Business idea:** Projects where students have produced/designed a business idea (retail, service or product.)

**Article Photos**



Andrea Johnson/MDN -- Riley Held, who will be starting school at Erik Ramstad Middle School this fall, shows off her shovel-shaker invention. She will be entering her Marketplace for Kids invention in the first ever Bright Ideas Marketplace for Kids Showcase and Contest at the North Dakota State Fair.

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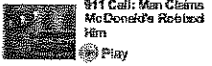
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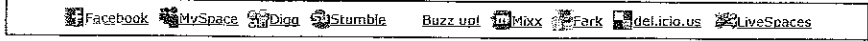
Prizes will be awarded at each grade level and in each invention category and in special categories such as innovation in energy, in agriculture and in technology. First prize in each of the categories is a \$75 savings account; second prize is a \$50 savings account; and third prize is a \$25 savings account. Special awards will be \$25 cash.

An entrant and his or her chaperone will get free admission to the fair. They will have breakfast in the KX/Co-op tent, participate in a pizza party, as well as participate in the competition. The closing ceremony will be held that day at 2 p.m. The event is being held in conjunction with KX/Co-op day at the fair.

For more information about how to enter the contest, call 663-0150 or toll-free at (888) 384-8410, or send e-mail to [marketplace@bfnet.net](mailto:marketplace@bfnet.net). More information about the contest can also be found on the Web site at ([www.MarketplaceForKids.org](http://www.MarketplaceForKids.org)).

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