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**Chadrad Communications, Inc.**  
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337  
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601  
E-mail: [kcsr@chadrad.com](mailto:kcsr@chadrad.com)

**(Neb.) - Nick Allen band wins KCSR Texaco Country Showdown**



By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/29/2012 03:32 PM

CHADRON - The Nick Allen Band earned the top honor Saturday night at the KCSR Texaco Country Showdown hosted by Wrecker's Roadhouse.

The band, which is from Sturgis, S.D., was led by 18-year-old singer Nick Allen.

Justin Hanshew was the runner-up.

Eleven different acts, comprised of one band, one duet and nine soloists, competed to earn a trip to the state competition, which will be held at the Nebraska State Fair on August 25 in Grand Island.

Danielle Hency, Kim Meier and Dave Hockenbary were the other finalists.

Contestants performed two songs in the preliminary round before the finalists performed one more time for the crowd. After the announcement of the winner and runner-up the two performed a song together to wrap up the Texaco Country Showdown.

The winner receives \$100 to help get them to the Nebraska State Competition where they will compete for the Nebraska State title, \$1,000 prize and a chance to compete at one of five regional competitions in the Fall.

Nine-year-old Josh Fernau got the crowd to its feet with his rendition of "God Bless the U.S.A."

The other contestants included Mandi Klein, Rachel Arnett, Cathy Scherbarth, Cynthia O'Donnell and the duet of Amanda Glenn and Matt Johnson.