

# The Goodland Star-News

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

## Northwest Kansas District Free Fair

**Saturday,  
Aug. 2  
through  
Saturday,  
Aug 9**





Grand Marshal for this year's fair parade are Butch and Karen Vandiver who have been involved with 4-H and volunteering at the fairgrounds for more than 35 years. The couple live on the historic Chatfield farm west of town on Road 65.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# Parade grand marshals

By Tom Betz

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Every fair parade needs a grand marshal, and the couple chosen for this year have a long history of involvement going back more than 35 years.

Alva (Butch) and Karen Vandiver will lead the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair parade at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2, and were chosen by the 4-H Ambassadors who are in charge of the parade.

Karen Vandiver have been involved in 4-H for most of her life and Butch Vandiver has volunteered at the fairgrounds for more than 30 years and with the home owned carnival for the past 10 years.

She was in 4-H when young and her son, Mike, has been in 4-H and the grandkids, Corbin, 16, Saige, 10 and Sierra, 7, are now in 4-H. She has been a project leader, fair superintendent and judge.

Karen has been a poultry and rabbits project leader and superintendent at the fair. She said Mike raised chickens and was always in poultry. She said she sort of inherited the rabbit part because they are in the same barn area at the fair.

"I judged a lot of rabbits," she said.

She said Mike did pretty well in chickens at the fair. She said he had a chance to take them to the state fair in Hutchison, but they decided it was too far and hot in the middle of the summer

to take them.

"We still go to the state fair about every year," she said, "and we have to go through the poultry barn.

"The granddaughters are why they like to go."

She said over the years she has seen a lot of changes in 4-H and that at times there is a lot of interest for awhile and then it dies down but then comes back again.

Butch has volunteered at the fairgrounds, and with the home owned carnival since it began more than 10 years ago.

He remembers when he first saw some of the rides when they arrived in early 1998.

"We had a pile of parts and we had to put it together," he said of the Lions ride, "and there was no book on it.

"It was made in the early 1920s, and was originally powered by steam.

"There was no book on the carousel, but we got it together."

He said the roller coaster that had a mechanical breakdown a few years ago has been hauled out to Harlan House's place and the group hopes to get it fixed so they can bring it back.

"We have been lucky to get enough people to help," he said. "The building has been a great help both for the fair board and the carnival. It

See VANDIVER, Page 3

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# longtime 4-H, fair, carnival volunteers

**VANDIVER, from Page 2**

makes it easier to hold events. We used to have to move things out of the way."

Butch was named for his father Alva, who was overseas working for the government when he was born, and was not back before his son was six months old.

"He didn't like the name Alva, and I was Butch from the start," Vandiver said.

Butch was originally from the Salina area where he went to high school and graduated from Salina Central in 1970.

Karen was raised in Goodland, and lives on the Chatfield family farm west of town just beyond the pavement on Road 65.

She graduated from Goodland High School in 1970 and went to Brown Mackie Business College in Salina for a year.

That is where she and Butch met.

"Her roommate was dating a friend of mine," he said.

He was working for a contractor and said the couple met on a double date the first time. She said it took about three months before he proposed. The couple were married April 19, 1971 in Salina.

Their son Mike was born in 1972, and today is married to Sonya Townsend.

They moved to Goodland in January 1973, and Butch went to work for the Sherman County

road and bridge department in March. He has been with the county for more than 35 years.

"I started out as a grader operator," he said, "about the time the county took over all the roads. We had 1,500 miles of road and at that time we had eight guys."

Karen worked at Great Western Sugar during the sugar beet harvest for two or three months a year, and was a stay at home mom while Mike was in school.

She worked at Fitzgibbon's, Blume's Lawn and Garden and has been a tutor at West Elementary for 11 years.

"I enjoy first and second graders," she said. "For them school is new and exciting and I try to make it fun for them so they don't hate school."

She said reading and math are her main focus because it is something they will need throughout their lives.

"I tell them to read something they are interested in," she said. "I tell them you have to be able to read and do math even if you are flipping burgers somewhere."

Butch said the advanced technology on the graders has changed that job.

"We have had farmers come in and try to work it," he said. "The new grader has hand levers and buttons rather than a steering wheel. We give them some training and then let them try to work it on a road. None have been able to do

it properly, on the other side I probably couldn't operate one of the modern combines.

"The changes are something you are not going to get around. I find it takes me a little longer getting the new grader to work the way I want. I can get in last year's machine and do anything with it."

He said the younger kids pick it up so quickly and it is easier for them to learn.

Karen said her grandfather Ed Chatfield was on the fair board for 48 years and would be proud that Mike is on the board now. She said her mother Virginia worked in the fair office for years and was a grand marshal.

Karen and Butch moved to the family farm in 1974. She had lived out there in a basement house for five years before her father Eddie, Jr., got a job with the city and they moved to town.

Her father started out in public works and finished his 35-year career as interim city manager.

Today the grandkids are the ones in 4-H, and Butch said the girls both have goats, and feels it is a good project because they can handle them.

Corbin has a steer and a pig he said.

He said with the price of feed and the price of the calf it is hard for those projects to come out ahead.

"They are supposed to be a fun learning experience," Karen said, "regardless of what project you take."

"We have fair projects all over the place, painting, sewing and crafting. We have cooking coming up."

## Northwest Kansas District Free Fair parade 5 p.m. Saturday



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# Girl has tried about everything in 4-H

By Sharon Corcoran

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With nearly 14 years in 4-H and ribbons from county fairs in two states and the Kansas State Fair, Dusti Chadwick has tried nearly everything and earned many awards, but she may not be done.

Chadwick, who just turned 18, started 4-H in Cheyenne Wells, Colo., when she was 4 years old and earned Grand Champion at the Cheyenne County Fair two years later. They have the Clover Buds there for 5-year-olds, she said, adding her birthday was close enough to the deadline, they let her start at 4. In Kansas, kids can start 4-H at age 7, she said, but they have pre-4-H for 5-year-olds.

Chadwick has earned a lot of ribbons over the years, but her best year to date was last year, when she won grand champion in photography and grand champion for her notebook for the home environment project, reserve grand champion for her room in the home environment project and on foods and had 18 blue ribbons at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

She had two big awards in photography with class grand champion in black and white and said it was the first year all of her ribbons on the county level were blue or better.

She got blue ribbons on home environment and foods and red on photography at the State



Dusti Chadwick used painted and decorated light bulbs to represent her parents, her brother and herself as snow people in a scene at the North Pole. She got the idea from *Country Woman*

magazine and used it as a craft project for Sunflower 4-H Club, in which she is the craft leader.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

See CHADWICK, Page 5

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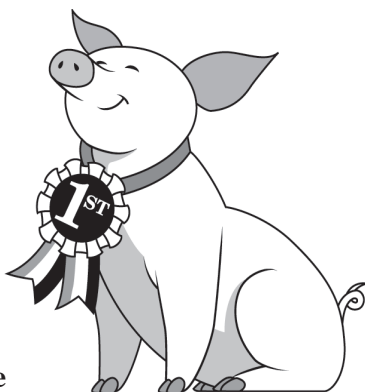
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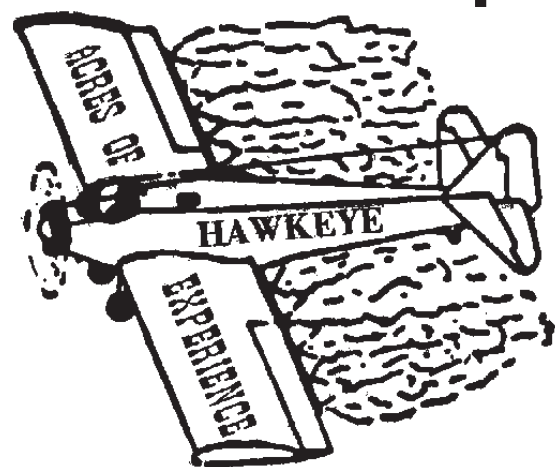
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**CHADWICK, from Page 4**

Fair in Hutchison, but said she would have had a blue ribbon on photography if her photo hadn't been 1/8 of an inch too far from the border of the poster board it was mounted on.

The top of the photo is required to be 1/2 inch from the top of the board, Chadwick said, and even though no one measured at the county fair, they did at the state fair.

She had four photos that qualified for state, but was only allowed to take one. There were still a ton of entries, though, she said. Before the deduction for the 1/8 of an inch, she was one point away from the purple ribbon.

She and her mother Ginger Chadwick said they watched the photography judging and found it informative. It was funny to see how they would assign values to things, Ginger said; one judge would give better scores for people pictures while another would give the best scores to flowers.

It was like an assembly line, she said, where one person would take the picture out, another would put it on the easel, another would take it off and another would write the score on it. It was very interesting to watch, she added.

The three judges had 10 seconds to look at each picture and then would



Dusti Chadwick sat down to do some paperwork at the vanity she re-finished as part of last year's home environment project for 4-H. She redecorated her room last year and the family room this year.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

give it a score from 1 to 5, Dusti said, and the most points you could get were 15. She said her picture had 11 points

before the deduction.

Dusti said she will finish her senior year early, since she has been home

schooled, but she is eligible to continue in 4-H until she is 19, so she plans to participate next year. The age deadline is June 1 in Colorado, she said, but in Kansas, it is in September.

She hasn't chosen a college but knows exactly what she wants to do.

"I want to go into photography," Dusti said, "and have a studio like Brittany Redlin does, taking family pictures and senior pictures."

"I love to take pictures of kids." Since her mom has had a daycare since Dusti was 2 years old, she has always had plenty of subjects for her photos, and some have become close friends. Her photographs for 4-H this year are of Cade, Maggie and Josie McLean, children of Jon and Lynnette McLean who used to teach in Goodland before moving to Buhler.

Josie was in Mrs. Chadwick's daycare, and Dusti said they became so close that parting was tough.

They visited the McLean's last summer when they went to the State Fair and have taken them to the zoo in Buhler.

When Josie stayed here for two days, Dusti said, she didn't want to leave when it was time.

Dusti said she has done 4-H every year since she started, but only one project has been on her list each year — foods.

"I have changed projects from all the others," she said.

Her first year in Colorado, she was in foods, rabbits and child development, a project that involved a record book with child care scenarios, such as two children of certain ages fighting, and asking what she would do.

The family moved to Goodland in August of 2002, so her first fair here was in 2003. She has done projects for photography, home environment (decorating her bedroom last year and the family room this year), buymanship, dog, leadership, needle art and crafts.

This year, her Shitzu, Oreo, is entered in the dog project, and she is in home environment, buymanship, is working on a Precious Moments picture for needle art, photography, foods, crafts, and leadership.

She is the president of the Sunflower Club and leader for crafts, and has had to come up with projects for her club once a month from October through April.

Her dad Mike Chadwick is the parts manager and Witzel and Rheas Implement, and she has one brother, Richard Chadwick, 25, who lives in Nebraska and has a family. He was in college when the family moved to Goodland.

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Kinsey Volk in her second year of 4-H has been working on her sewing project, a purse made from denim jeans or shorts. The purse is made by sewing the legs closed. She added a belt for decoration and was planning on adding more.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Dynamic duo enjoy 4-H projects

By Pat Schiefen

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A dynamic brother and sister duo, Ryan Volk, 7, and Kinsey Volk, 9, are enthusiastic about their 4-H projects for the fair.

Kinsey is in her second year of 4-H and especially likes sewing. In her first year she made Chex Mix and Puppy mix in sewing, exploring through the library and making a quilt in sewing.

This year she is making a hot pad and purse in sewing, Rice Krispie treats in cooking and a poster about places she would like to visit in exploring.

"I would like to see the pretty sights in Rome," she said.

She said on her pot holder that it was sewn and then turned inside out making sure the corners were right. Her aunt, Laura Volk from Colby, has helped her with her sewing.

Her purse is made from shorts or pants. She said you have to sew up the legs for the bottom of the purse. She had put a knotted cord belt in a

contrasting color through the belt loops for decoration. She said she is planning to add more things for decoration.

Ryan's projects include entomology, reading and exploring.

Dana Belshe, agent with the Sunflower Extension Office, helps kids with their insect projects.

"I had to have 50 different bugs to enter in the fair," said Ryan. "I've got 75."

His favorite is a big moth. He said he has caught most of his bugs at the Smoky Gardens area south of town.

"Moths and butterflies have scales on their wings," he said. "If you touch them too much they lose their scales."

We put the bug net out of the window of the car when it was going, he said. None of the bugs had their legs so we super glued them back on.

"I have a few stink bugs," he said. "One we almost caught really did stink."

See Volk, Page 7



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