

# Kanorado catches break in rain for day

## Car show, cake walk entertain

By Tom Betz

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Kanorado took advantage of a break in the rain storms Saturday morning for the annual Kanorado Day celebration including a car show, ham and bean feed, cake walk and horseshoe tournament.

Sally Pettibone, one of the organizers, said the timing was almost perfect for the celebration with the sun coming out in the morning for the 4th annual Car Show and cake walk. She said the committee decided to set up the pool and slide, and had a few hardy kids enjoy a cool dip.

The car show started at 10 a.m. and across the street was the annual cake walk with plenty of chances to win delicious baked goods.

At noon a small crowd lined up for the ham and bean feed served by the Kanorado Day committee.

About 15 cars were entered in the car show with Collin Koop of Burlington winning the best of show.

Citizens Choice award went to LeRoy Kraft of Goodland.

Other winners in the car show included Kraft, Gary Koop of Burlington, Pete Jensen, Jr., of St. Francis, Tammy Koop of Burlington, Rich Smith of Burlington, Jeff Challis of Burlington, Rick Windell of Kanorado and Lee Roy Neitzel of St. Francis.

The horseshoe tournament was held in the early afternoon with defending champions Ed Zuege and Dave Cooper of Haigler, Neb. winning again.

Second went to Rich and Kenny Hillmer of Goodland and third was Mike Murray and Sally Pettibone of Kanorado.

Members of the Kanorado Day committee included Susan Adams, Peggy Witzel, Sherry Wilkerson and Cody and Sally Pettibone.



Elizabeth Mueller, 8, (above) slid down the water slide at the Kanorado Day celebration held Saturday under partly cloudy skies. Ed Zuege (above right) of Haigler, Neb., got in some practice before defending his championship in the Kanorado horseshoe tournament on Saturday.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



# August ties for third wettest with 5.59 inches rain

By Tom Betz

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Skies were mostly cloudy on Sunday evening with spots of blue peeking through as the rains began to diminish on what the National Weather Service office in Goodland said could be the third wettest August on record.

Christina Henderson, meteorologist, said Sunday the 5.59 inches of rain so far this month has tied the third wettest on record from 1992.

She said the record for August was set in 1993 with 9.29 inches and the second wettest was in 1933 with 6.07.

The forecast is for the skies to clear most of this week with temperatures expected to be in the mid 80s, but Henderson said Friday's forecast does include a chance for more rain showers.

She said the precipitation total for the year is 12.7, and is ahead of the 10.47 on Aug. 17, last year. The average for precipitation through the middle of August is 15.43 inches with an annual average of 19.76 inches she said.

"The yearly precipitation amount of 15.10 inches for last year was nearly 5 inches below normal, and nearly 10 inches below what fell in 2006," said a report on the National Weather Service web site for Goodland climatic conditions. "In many respects last year was similar to the dry years experienced in the early part of the 2000s. In fact, seven out of the past 10 years have seen below normal precipitation."

Rains on Friday dropped .57 inches and Saturday added another inch. Sunday added another half inch to bring the total for the month to 5.59.

Henderson said the normal average for the first part of August is 1.55 inches.

The rains of August have helped ease the dry conditions in the tri-state area as indicated in the weather service drought watch notice for July, but even with the rains the year to date for Goodland is 16 percent below the total for last year and 18 percent below the normal average for the middle of August.

Goodland recorded 2.88 inches in July, which is below the normal average of 3.54 inches.

July had 23 days of 90 or higher temperatures with a streak of 10 days in the high 90s from July 19 to July 28 with three of the days at 100 or above.

August started out hot with the first two days at 105 degrees and on Monday, Aug. 4 reaching 100 before the rains began.

That night 1.03 inches fell in Goodland breaking the hot streak. The rains held off on Tuesday and on Wednesday until late in the evening when .08 fell before midnight.

Early Thursday morning, Aug. 7, the winds and rain whipped around tearing up the games tent at the Sherman County Fairgrounds and dropping 2.2 inches before clearing off in the afternoon. The rain for the day beat the old record of 1.07 set in 1966.

Friday and Saturday saw light rain showers, but not enough to stop any fair events.

Goodland received .05 of rain on Monday, Aug. 11 and a trace on Wednesday and Thursday before the big cold front settled in bringing .57 on Friday, which forced the relocation of the Relay for Life from the high school track to inside at the Memorial Union at Northwest Kansas Technical

College.

More rain fell early Saturday morning, but the skies cleared by mid-morning to allow Kanorado Days to go on, and the sun lasted until the horseshoe contest was over in the early afternoon said Sally Pettibone. She said they did a second horseshoe tournament later in the afternoon and had to finish in the rain.

A total of 1 inch fell on Saturday. Rains continued Sunday morning with more than .5 being recorded during the day.

Henderson said the forecast is for highs in the mid 80s through the week, but is not sure if the 90s are gone.

Weather Service records for the last week of August show the highs have been over 100 degrees for six of seven days with a record high of 104.

# Couple's son plans program to buy soccer balls for kids

The son of a Goodland couple on a year's assignment in Afghanistan hopes to start a program to buy soccer balls for kids in the mountainous nation.

Air Force Capt. Andrew Stewart, son of Carol and Tom Stewart of Goodland, left last month for his third tour in Afghanistan, attached to an Army unit in Gardez, in the province of Paktika.

Capt. Stewart says he wants to do a soccer-ball drive for the children

of Afghanistan. He said a simple soccer ball is a prized possession to kids in the war-torn country.

You see small child clutching a flat soccer ball, full of holes, standing along the roadside saluting a NATO vehicle as it passes, he said, and that has touched the soldiers serving there.

In an e-mail from overseas, he said he feels that part of winning these wars and the "war on terror" overall will

depend on winning the hearts of these children.

"I am at Forward Operating Base Lightning, located at the base of the mountains near the Pakistani border," he said. "It is smaller than a camp, about 400 NATO personnel.

"The living quarters aren't too bad. They are just plywood buildings they call B-Huts and are split into six cubicles so everyone gets their own private plywood box. My job right now is to mentor the Afghan logistic personnel, which is very interesting but challenging job

due to the language barriers.

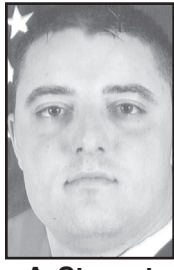
"Thanks to my wonderful Afghan translator, Mirwais, I am able to communicate in the Dari dialect. The Afghan people are very hospitable and appreciative of our endeavors. They always shake our hands, offer tea (which they call Chai), nuts and candy.

"These families are extremely poor with an average annual income of \$300 per family. They like to be around us and are eager to learn. It is a wonderful feeling to know we are helping them. Things are pretty hot in this area,

though, and people are starting to realize we are fighting here, too."

Capt. Stewart graduated from Smith Center High School in 1998 and from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 2002. His wife Jami and children, Wrigley and Kearny, live in Lake-wood, Wash., near McChord Air Force Base.

Anyone interested in doing a service project or making a donation to buy soccer balls can call his mother at (785) 890-3150 or e-mail tstewart@st-tel.net.



A. Stewart

## corrections

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