

Pep band



Members of the Goodland High School pep band entertained fans at the basketball games against Rawlins County Tuesday night at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The group is directed by Deann Langness. The pep band plays at most home games during the basketball season. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Conditions not favorable for new, mature trees

With water as the single most important resource for tree survival and growth, the Kansas drought conditions the past couple years have been less than favorable for both young and mature trees throughout the state.

"More than 80 percent of variation in tree growth is related to water supply," said Bob Atchison with the

Kansas Forest Service.

He said the most common signs of drought last summer appeared in foliage and included leaf drop, curling, wilting, discoloration and dead branches. Symptoms usually appear first in the top center portion of canopies, making it difficult to identify drought stress in tall, more mature trees.

Atchison recommended several practices to limit tree damage during drought, even in the winter months.

"Even though we have entered the winter season, it is still helpful to supply water when weather allows and the soil can absorb moisture," he said.

While newly planted trees should

be watered regularly for the first three years, established, mature trees should be watered every two to four weeks by soaking the top 12 inches of soil under the tree's canopy. Atchison recommended using a soaker hose, drip irrigation or slow drip bucket to spread water over the entire root area. As a general rule, he recommended two gallons of water

be applied for every one inch of tree diameter.

He also warned against over watering. "Too much water can kill a tree by eliminating the air from the soil and suffocating the roots, he said. "The soil should not stay saturated, but have time to dry out between waterings."

Atchison said pruning and fertil-

izing often have negative effects during drought as well. Both cause the tree to expend energy that could otherwise be spent on growth.

For questions contact the Kansas Forest Service at (785) 532-3300 or visit www.KansasForests.org.

People work to keep a safe food supply for Americans

Often during the holiday season, we take time to reconnect with family and friends over a meal. We're able to do so because hardworking folks in rural America deliver the most abundant and affordable food supply on earth.

It's also the safest food supply - an achievement made possible by a wide range of skilled, dedicated people.

It all starts with our growers and processors, who are always asking how they can produce a safer product. They have the support of USDA staff at more than 6,000 plants around the country and at U.S. ports of entry. These experts inspect a wide range of food products before they're sent to the grocery store.

The Obama Administration has worked hard to strengthen our food safety efforts. Four years ago we created the President's Food Safety Working Group - which has brought together experts from across government and industry to improve food safety.

Since then, we've expanded testing of raw beef products to prevent dangerous pathogens from entering the food supply; in fact, new enforcement measures to detect additional strains of *E. Coli* began in March 2012.

USDA expects to prevent 25,000

more foodborne illnesses annually thanks to tougher standards we set for *Salmonella* and new standards for *Campylobacter* which will reduce the occurrence of these pathogens in poultry.

We've invested tens of millions of dollars on cutting-edge food safety research. And we're better coordinated than ever, thanks to a new Public Health Information System. This system allows us to track emerging trends, keeping us ahead of food safety threats and allowing us to take proactive steps to

solve problems.

Finally, we are helping share information with consumers. Raw meat and poultry now include nutrition labels so Americans can make better-informed choices at the grocery store. Through our expanded "Ask Karen" web page, folks have a chance to get advice directly from a food safety expert. Consumers can visit www.fsis.usda.gov to use this tool and to learn more about preventing foodborne illness.

By preventing food contamination, we can save businesses and

taxpayers from the costs of food recalls. We can help maintain the good name of American agriculture around the world. And most important of all, we can keep families safe from foodborne illnesses.

This holiday season, I encourage

Americans to stay informed about food safety as they enjoy time with family and friends. I also hope everyone will join me in thanking the farmers who grow our food, and the dedicated Federal employees who help keep it safe.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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www.goodlandnet.com/movies

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January 4, 2013; February 1, 2013;
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congratulations!

Congratulations to Steve Duell, the winner of the Gator Giveaway, sponsored by American Implement. Pictured is Steve Duell (right), with John Harkins (left) from the Parts Department.

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