

Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Aug. 4-9



upcoming fair.

Photo by Shannon Davidson The Goodland Star-News

Fair features 'something for everyone'

"Something for everyone," sums up this year's Northwest Kansas District Free Fair from Monday, Aug. 4 to Saturday, Aug. 9 at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

Thrill seekers will find the adult and children rides at the fair in top shape said Merwin Jensen, home-owned carnival board chairman. The rides have helped boost attendance.

There is plenty to do all week.

"A lot of people worked hard to make sure everyone will find something they like when they come to the fair," said Steve Duell, fair board chairman.

Events this year include the home-owned carnival, a little kids' Howdy Rowdy Rodeo, 4-H and open class exhibits of food, crafts and livestock, a demolition derby and a tractor pull.

There's also the Catch-It-Pig contest, style review fashion show, ranch rodeo, dog show and a parade down Main Avenue.

There will be plenty of food and drinks, Duell said, and there is a big variety. Every year there are new booths and vendors set up in the

The week before the fair, features a hand-held pet contest on Monday, the 4-H style fashion show at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the Sherman Theatre and a clean-up day on Friday.

There are a couple of events on Saturday,

Events schedule for Fair Week

The Northwest Kansas District Free Fair starts Monday, Aug. 4, at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. Several events are held earlier.

This year's schedule:

Monday, July 28:

Pet judging

Thursday, July 31:

6 p.m. Style Revue, Sherman Theatre

Saturday, Aug. 2:

8 a.m. Dog show registration

8:30 a.m. Dog show

5 p.m. Parade line-up

6 p.m. Parade

Sunday, Aug. 3: 1 p.m. Set-up

8 a.m. Judging 4-H foods and crafts, Reigster 4-H and Open Horse Show 8:30 a.m. 4-H life skills judging

9 a.m. Horse show, favorite foods

Tuesday:

8 a.m. Check-in entried for all 4-H and Open classes and Sunflower Contest

11 a.m. Check-in ends

1 p.m. Juding all classes

except livestock

2 p.m. Llama show

3 p.m. Sheep lead, goat show

3:30 p.m. Sheep show

7 p.m. Howdy Rowdy Rodeo

Wednesday:

8 a.m. Swine show

7 p.m. Ranch rodeo

8 a.m. Beef show, check-in entries for Cookie Jar Contest

1 p.m. Round robin showmanship

3 p.m. Cookie jar judging, 4-H lifeskills Judgeing Contest

6 p.m. Family Fun night

Friday:

8 a.m. Livestock judging contest

4:30 p.m. 4-H appreciation barbecue

5:30 p.m. 4-H livestock sale

7 p.m. Demolition derby

Saturday:

8 a.m. Projects released

8:30 a.m. Registration for

Tri-State Roval

1 p.m. Tri-State Royal

7 p.m. Tractor pull

which precede the official start of the fair, the parade down Main and a dog show. Registration for the dog show starts at 8 a.m. and the

See SCHEDULE, Page 3

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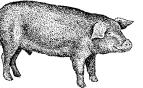


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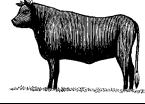
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Fair schedule has events for kids of all ages

SCHEDULE, from Page 2

show itself at 8:30 a.m. in the livestock arena at the fairgrounds.

Floats for the parade will start lining up at 17th Street at 5 p.m. and it will start at 6 p.m. The theme will be "Blast from the past." nominations have been taken for parade marshals to be chosen by the 4-H Ambassadors. Businesses groups and individuals are encouraged to enter floats.

Categories for this year's parade will be Individual, Float and Other with three places awarded in each category. Entries will be judged during the parade and the winners will be announced at the fairgrounds following the parade. The Ambassadors will be serving ice cream in the Bill Gray Memorial Park to all parade sponsors and participants.

Entry forms are available at the Extension Office, the Chamber of Commerce and at the four banks. For information contact the extension office or any of this year's 4-H Ambassados — Ashley Cook, Aaron Duell, Rebecca Gattshall, Michael Hall, Ana McClung, Alyssa Mason, Kali Reitcheck or the advisor Jan Lohr.

Sunday the fairground will be open at 1 p.m. for booth and exhibit set-up. The buildings will be closed at 5 p.m.

On Monday, starting at 8 a.m., 4-H members' foods and crafts will be judged at the fairgrounds' pavilion, and the food will be sold afat 8:30 a.m. Registration will be taken at 8 a.m. for the horse show which begins at 9 a.m.

Kids can start signing up Monday morning for the Catch-It-Pig contest, which will be held during Family Fun Night on Thursday. Kids are given a chance to catch a 45-to-50 pound pig. They don't get to keep it if they catch one, but they can choose a pig next spring, which they have to raise and exhibit at the fair next year.

'It's a fairly cheap way to get kids involved in the fair," Duell said.

Tuesday is the big day for checking in livestock, both 4-H and open class. Registration runs from 8 to 11 a.m.

The sunflower product bake-off will be in its second year at the fair. Registration for entries is between 9 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday. The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event.

The llama show begins at 2 p.m. Tuesday, the sheep lead and goat show at 3 p.m., and the sheep show at 3:30 p.m.

Pigs will be shown at 8 a.m. Wednesday. The ranch rodeo, which draws in cowboys from all over the area, will start at 7 p.m.

On Thursday, cows, bulls and steers will be shown at 8 a.m. The Round Robin Showmanship will be held at 1 p.m. The 4-H lifeskills judging contest will be held at 3:30 p.m.

Check-in will be open for the Cookie Jar Con-

judged at 3 p.m. There will be separate judges for the jar and the cookies. The jars will be sold at auction after the judging.

Family Fun Night starts at 5 p.m. with a hot dog feed. All the same events will be held, including the hot dog feed, turtle and stick-horse races, and the kids pedal-tractor pull.

The livestock judging contest will start at 8 a.m. Friday, and a 4-H appreciation barbecue

ter the judging. The 4-H life skills judging starts test at 8 a.m. The cookie jar contest will be will be held at 4:30 p.m. The 4-H livestock auction, where the kids can see the benefits of all their hard work, will start at 5:30 p.m.

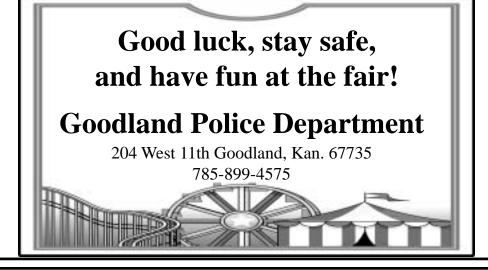
> The demolition derby starts at 7 p.m. at the Sherman County Speedway. The derby is always a big draw, Duell said.

> The Tri-State Royal, which features the winners of area livestock shows, starts at 1 p.m. Saturday. Registration for the show starts at 8:30 a.m. The tractor pull starts at 7 p.m.



A clown at the Kids' Rodeo last year teased a girl who had just fallen off a sheep during the mutton bustin' contest. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Star-News





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Girl passes down life lessons to kids

By Shannon Davidson

The Goodland Star-News

Rebecca Gattshall is now passing on the life lessons of respect and responsibility learned from 4-H, she so gracefully displays, to the younger generation.

This year she is an ambassador to the cooking and craft programs after deciding not to compete. An ambassador is hand selected from a committee after applying and interview.

"I would rather help younger kids learn what I have over the years and not compete," said Gattshall. "It is encouraging to see their enthusiasm and excitement to keep progressing in the program." Gatshall's compassion for the young and old is easy to see the minute you meet her. From the eloquent way she speaks to the enthusiasm for life that shines in her eyes this program and her family have taught Rebecca a lot.

She enjoys being a role model and takes a lot of pride in being a positive one, "I like being put into check with the younger kids and always doing

See GATTSHALL, Page 5



that she has received during her twelve year span in the 4-H program. college in the fall.

Rebecca Gattshall showed just a few of her many projects and awards This is Rebecca's last year as a 4-H member and will be going off to Photo by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News





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Winning fair ribbons makes her role model

GATTSHALL, from Page 4

my best to be a mentor and role model, it is great the way younger kids look up to you."

In her twelve year history Gattshall has earned every pin the organization has to offer along with a wall full of plaques that have now been packed away. To a top honor with the key award last year. The key award is given to the top 10 percent of the members in the state. Requirements for the key award include being over sixteen years old and have been a member for at least four years, and have four or more years as a leader. She keeps the key safely in a case and then it is tucked away into her hope

Rebecca Gattshall brought out one of her chickens that she has raised as a project for the 4-H program. This is Rebecca's last year as a 4-H member and will be going off to college in the fall.

Photo by Shannon Davidson /The Goodland Star-News

chest along with most of the projects and crafts she has done.

That leadership quality has been a part of her life for quite awhile.

When she was three, her older brothers, Travis and Matthew, gave her a look into the 4-H program and what it takes to live up to the motto to make the best better.

"My mom says the house will be

bare after all of us take our awards, paintings and projects with us when we move," said Rebecca.

"A 4-H member is a responsible

person and people know what to expect when you say I'm a 4-H'er," said Gattshall.

Her favorite aspect of the program was getting the chance to travel to Manhattan for Discovery Days.

All of the 4-H members have a mutual understanding of what it takes to be in the program and gain friendships easily among themselves.

The acceptance committee of

See GATTSHALL, Page 5



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College is her next step; will always be a 4-Her

GATTSHALL, from Page 5

Oklahoma Panhandle State noticed all the friends over the state.' agreed to attend next year as an art major. With all of the learned from

She mentions that the leaders do not want to see me leave, they keep telling me "we won't let you go" and she

responded proudly with "I will always be a 4-H'er. I will take with me all the friends I have made from all over the state."

With all of the life lessons she has learned from being a 4-H member along with the luck of their four leaf clover emblem, this remarkable young woman's future is sure to be a success.





Rebecca Gattshall (left) was the Style Revue Grand Champion at last years fair. Gattshall (above) brought hay to one of her calfs that she has raised as a project for the 4-H program. This is Rebecca's last year as a 4-H member.

Photo by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

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Winning pickle recipe not a closely held secret

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

It may seem a contradiction, but the winning pickle recipe is no secret. Last year's reserve champion in foods, Barb Winston, said she is a simple person who has no secret recipes. In fact, she borrows recipes from friends and freely gives out her own.

Winston, whose dill pickles won the ribbon for reserved champion, is a new 4-H leader for the Ruleton Eager Beavers and is working on a parade float based on this year's theme, "A Blast From the Past." And that is a good theme for someone who is concerned about preserving the fair's past by keeping past activities alive in the future.

Winston said she got the pickle recipe from a friend and freely gives the recipe to anyone who asks for it. Winston said Roxanne Kling gave her the recipe and said it would be good with jalapeños if she likes her pickles hot.

"We do," she said.

And a great pickle was born. Besides the pickles, Winston said she enters pressure canned green beans and sauerkraut, among other things, in the open class at the fair. Besides recipes from friends, Winston said she uses recipes from the 'Ball Canning Blue Book' and from *Capper's Weekly*.

Winston said she won her blue book and has won ribbons but that's not the only reason to participate in the fair. People can learn new skills working on projects, she said, and can improve them.

Many skills that were important in the past, she said, have become a lost art. It used to be, she said, women got together on Sunday to sew and to teach the children to sew. Quilting was the big thing at the fair, she said, and people canned a lot of food, including meat.

A woman's job was at home then, she said, but now people are too busy

to do things that used to be regular activities. Because of that, she said, there will someday be no one to teach children to can meat, to sew or to quilt.

Unless someone stops that trend.

In one sense, Winston said, Sherman County has some of the best teachers, but in some areas there is no one to teach. And parents don't have the skills to teach their own children, she said.

"There are older ones out there with those skills," she said, "and I want to nab them."

That's what the "Blast From the Past" is all about, Winston said, the ones who got us where we are. Besides wanting to tap the skills of an older generation, Winston wants to encourage families to get involved in 4-H and others to enter the open class exhibits.

The fair isn't just for people in 4-H, she said. Indeed, Winston has en-

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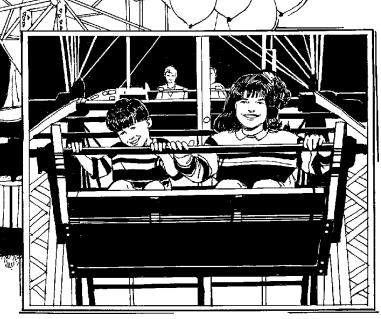
Barb Winston showed off one of her cucumbers in her garden. Last year, her cucumbers and a friend's recipe combined to make her the reserved champion in foods. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/Goodland Star-News

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Open reserve champ says fair not just 4-H

WINSTON, from Page 7

tered open class exhibits for the past seven years.

But having her daughter Sydney in 4-H has motivated Winston to learn a new skill, embroidery, and to take on a big project, a historical float.

Winston said her mother Lucille Nemechek recently taught her and Sydney to embroider. Sydney wanted to learn, and Barb couldn't be left behind.

"I can't have my daughter learning something I don't know," she said.

And this isn't the first time she has learned from her mother.

"She taught me everything I know," Barb said.

And now Winston has a chance to teach others. Winston said Colleen Duell, a long-time 4-H leader, asked her to be a leader with her.

Winston said she asked Duell if she was sure she wanted that responsibility. Winston said she is a dummy about many things but has been working on that, learning new things constantly as a leader.

She said people are sometimes afraid to help out because they don't know if they'll do the best job or don't enter exhibits because they think the exhibits need to be perfect.

But you just do the best you can, she said.

And she's putting that ethic to work with her float project. Winston has three boxes of information, dating from 1937-66, to sort through for float inspiration. The boxes came from LaDonna Frerichs at the Sherman County Extension office, Winston said, and contain information about people who are still in the community who used to be in 4-H.

Winston said she has some ideas already for the float, such as using some older pictures and possibly having former 4-H members ride on the float.

But the important thing is keeping the past alive, and Winston may continue to have a share in that even after the float is long gone. Winston said she, Duell and Frerichs went to Stock-

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Barb Winston looked through some of the books in the boxes of 4-H files to find pictures and ideas for the "Blast From the Past Float" for the Ruleton Eager Beavers. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

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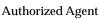


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