



ENTRAL **MAKES IT 4**

Oilers down Wabaunsee to claim 2A title once again SPORTS

COVERING THE BETTER PART OF KANSAS THE HUTCHING THE BETTER PART OF KANSAS NEWS **SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017** \$2.00 newsstand

66 I never thought I'd see this ranch burn – totally burn – from one end to the other. All the grass, all the fences, are gone."

Greg Gardiner, Clark County rancher



Lindsey Bauman/Staff photographer

Greg Gardiner walks back to his pickup from what remains of the home of Mark and Eva Gardiner on Gardiner Angus Ranch on Thursday in Ashland. The home was destroyed in Monday's wildfire.

Walking in disaster's wake

Gardiner family survives catastrophic blaze and best-friend brothers will go on.

BY AMY BICKEL

Kansas Agland

The last thing Greg Gardiner saw before everything went black was his brother Mark heading to the horse barn.

Fire and smoke was spreading through Clark County from the southwest Monday afternoon. By 3 p.m., the ranch was in the war zone. An orange firewall

was heading toward his brother's home as Greg pulled up with a truck and trailer to help save three horses.

"I knew it was too late," Greg said. As he rolled in with his truck, he could feel the intense heat inside the cab as the head fire approached – winds reaching 60 to 80 mph. Mark's wife, Eva, headed to the house for the family's two dogs while Mark started for the horse barn.

Then Greg lost them in the darkness from the smoke and dirt. His own vision was clouded by it. The seriousness of the

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 Map of burn area A5 • Latest fire statistics A8 •Crop duster aided local blaze fight A8 Images from a week on fire Ad Astra, B1

Clark County devastated by biggest wildfire ever, but residents aren't giving up.

BY AMY BICKEL

Kansas Agland

You can hear the emotion in Ashland Mayor Kendal Kay's voice as he tells about the worn-out rancher who showed up Tuesday – his home destroyed and almost all his cattle dead.

Information on how to help people affected by the wildfire in Reno County A5

INSIDE

But he wanted to know, as wildfires still burned across Clark County, where he could help.

'They lose their home, their ranch burns, and they will still try to figure out a

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The fire is pretty cleansing and it reveals a lot. It reveals not only the land but your raw emotions. It also reveals the goodness of people and mankind."

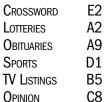
INTERCEPTED LETTER

Clark County residents

Dear friends,

You survived wildfires from hell and give credit that God was with you.





SMALLVILLE'S **FUNDRAISING**

Organizer of event just had to help out with aftermath of wildfires **A3**

ACQUITAL IN DOG STABBING

Jury finds accused man innocent of exwife's claims A3

NEW-STYLE SONIC COMING

Kingman will be site of franchise's dine-in restaurants C1

