

DENTAL IMPLANT
ONLY \$890 One Time Use.
 Does not include abutment & crown
 Present coupon at the appointment. Expires 4/30/17
 Cannot combine offers. Good for 1st implant only.
 Grant D. Ringler, DDS,
 Justin Barnhart, DDS & Melissa Barnhart, DDS
 3008 Garden Grove Pkwy, Hutchinson
 620.669.0835 • 1.888.676.9433
 www.opnwide.com



CENTRAL PLAINS MAKES IT 4 STRAIGHT

Oilers down Wabaunsee to claim 2A title once again **SPORTS**

COVERING THE BETTER PART OF KANSAS
THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017 \$2.00 newsstand

“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

See **GARDINER / A6**

INSIDE

- 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.

INSIDE

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

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

See **WILDFIRE / A5**

“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.
 Yours, Hutch



OUTDOOR	D6
CROSSWORD	E2
LOTTERIES	A2
OBITUARIES	A9
SPORTS	D1
TV LISTINGS	B5
OPINION	C8

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 ex-wife’s claims **A3**

NEW-STYLE SONIC COMING

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

JIM BELUSHI and the **BOARD of COMEDY**
An Evening of Improvisation

HUTCHINSON’S HISTORIC FOX THEATRE
 (877) FOX-SHOW
 hutchinsonfox.com

FOX THEATRE

7:30 PM
Saturday, March 25

FOX Supporting Sponsors
CITY BEVERAGE **FIRST BANK KANSAS**