

Talk of the Town

City of Victoria

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HERZOGFEST VICTORIA, KS

Herzogfest 2023 is approaching! The festival will kick off Friday, August 11, with the food vendors opening at 11:00 a.m. and the keg tapping at noon. Defiance Brewing Company will debut "The Zog", a German Pilsner beer specially brewed in collaboration with the festival. Be sure to give it a try in our 40th year commemorative beer mugs for sale at the festival grounds. Other special merchandise will also be available for purchase at the Herzogfest Committee booth.

Grab a partner for the drinking game Olympics starting at 1:00 p.m. Friday or the horseshoe tournament at 4:00 p.m. Musical entertainment Friday evening will be Austin Dixon at 7:00 p.m. and Lowdown Drifters at 9:00 p.m. They will put on a great show!

Registration for the annual 5k race is open! This is the first event of the day on Saturday, August 12, at 7:30 a.m. The parade will start from the St Fidelis Parking lot at 9:00 a.m. No entry fees or preregistration is needed for the parade.

The Heritage Market will open at the festival grounds at 9:00 a.m., and the car show will start at 10:00 a.m. along with the Kinderfest and Cornhole Tournament. Valve Cover car races will be back at noon! Bingo will also begin at noon at the VFW hall.

The polka mass will begin at 4:00 p.m. with the dance to follow. Steinhoist competition starts at 6:30 p.m. Wes Cossman will take the stage at 7:00 p.m. followed by The Huser Brother band at 9:00 p.m.

Event details, rules, and registrations are all available on our website at herzogfest.com or our social media accounts. We are excited for this 40th year celebration and hope that you can make plans to attend both days.

DOLLAR GENERAL Dollar General is coming to Victoria! Hopefully, the store will be open by January 1, but no firm date has been set as of now. The store will be located east of Pfeifer, Inc. with an entrance off of Old Highway 40. The process for annexing the land into the City was a multi-layered process involving steps by the City Council, the Ellis County Commission, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and many other people and agencies. The Victoria Planning Commission also had to agree to certain aspects of this project before it could proceed.

The biggest hurdle from the City's point of view will be making the sewer and water line connections. That project should be completed by November 1, but the store's construction will be able to begin before the sewer and water lines are complete. The process of completing permits and getting all of the ducks in a row is well underway. If all goes according to plan, the store will be open before you know it.

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Police Chief: Cole Dinkel

Patrol Officer: Ryan Mauch

Fire Chief: John Weber

Assistant Fire Chief: Scott Wellbrock

Parish sponsors summer lunch

Their chefs' aprons appropriately say "The Summer Guys" and brothers Leroy and Jerry Schmidtberger have spent a considerable amount of their summer in the kitchen at the St. Fidelis Parish Activity Center cooking and serving lunch for whoever shows up. While the lunch program has been in existence for several years, Jerry has been part of it for the last three and this is Leroy's first. Taking on the project as partners, they say things have gone 'really well' on all fronts.

The program runs for eight weeks, all of June and July. Their menus are planned for a month at a time and because they take pride in being organized, almost all of the needed ingredients for the meals were ordered at one time from Sysco with help from representative Erika Schmidtberger. They only purchase small items and bread and eggs locally. One of the things they believe has improved the program is having the menus posted in the church bulletin; that way parents as well as their kids know if there are days when the menu items are not to their liking - cutting down on waste.

This year their numbers have run between 55-60 on a daily basis with maybe 10-15 of those being carry outs. Their patrons range in age from toddlers to senior citizens depending on the day. The program is funded mostly by proceeds from the parish thrift store and then local donations. "Everyone is welcome," Leroy commented. He says he sees the program as a real "community builder."

Jerry added, "It's definitely a kids' gathering place and a help to working parents. We're feeding the hungry just as the Gospel says."

While all the meals are healthy and feature a variety of entrees, the favorites seem to be burgers and mac and cheese as well as the breakfast items of biscuits and gravy and scrambled eggs and sausage links.

The guys are in agreement that the program couldn't run without a loyal crew of volunteers who come to help with whatever is needed. They wish to publicly thank the following individuals: Anita Braun, Kathy Kuhn, Jan Piesker, Nancy Piatt, Kac'Rae Patterson, Carol Pfeifer, Marci Heier, Darlene Braun, Louise Robben, Joan Wellbrock, Christie Sander and Marcie Pray, Connie Braun, Sandra Dreiling, Laura Prater and Rick Colmenero. The parish staff has also been helpful; the support of USD #432 is also appreciated.

One of their 'regular' customers is Cheyenne Scherrer, who usually comes with her brothers and sisters. Cheyenne says she especially likes that anyone can come and named biscuits and gravy as her favorite meal.

Recently when tornado sirens were set off repeatedly, some residents expressed confusion on what was the alert and what was the all-clear. According to Ellis County Emergency Manager Lyle Pantle, the county systems do **NOT** have an all-clear siren. If more than one siren is activated, it is because the radar system and other sources indicated the need for those alerts. Pantle advises everyone to have **TWO** forms of notification (weather radio, phone app, TV) to confirm storm conditions .



Schmidt Foundation

to match

VCC donations



The Victoria Community Coalition has received exciting news from the Schmidt Foundation in Hays. As of June 7, the foundation announced that it will match up to \$100,000 in donations from Victoria residents in support of the St. John's Place project. Phase I-A will include 12 senior residential apartments.

Gary Shorman, Schmidt Foundation President, working with VCC Board President Jeff Pfeifer outlined the conditions for the program as follows: maximum match for each qualified donation is \$20,000; qualified donations must come from Victoria zip code 67671 or have specific investment/property in Victoria; qualified donations must come from individuals rather than businesses; deadline for this opportunity is Nov. 30.

The VCC still needs to raise \$300,000 to complete its required match for the \$850,000 granted awarded from the state of Kansas earlier this year. The total grant match needed for the ABODE grant is dollar for dollar and \$500,000 has been secured with another \$50,000 being raised with donations to this point. The grant agreement spells out that construction must be finished by May 2025. The actual construction cannot be started until the match is met.

Speaking about the Schmidt Foundation proposed match, Pfeifer stated, "This is an incredible opportunity for Victoria and St. John's Place. For almost two years the community has supported this effort by attending meetings, supplying ideas and encouragement and participation in small fundraisers. Now we need significant financial help from Victoria. This includes everyone that lives here, everyone that cares about their future- including the schools, businesses, the quality of life. Everyone that loves Victoria has an opportunity to make a difference right now!"



Thank you to the following citizens who used their green thumbs to keep our city flower pots blooming! Chelsea Conrad, Kris Dinkel, Sheena Gagnon, Marci Heier, Sabina Hoffman, Kristin and Mya Mauch, Tammy Lichter, Katie Leikam, Andrea Ottley, Joel Mueller, Nancy Piatt, Linda O'Neal, Ilona Patterson, Misty Richardson, Carla Schmeidler, Jamie Sterling, Andrea Schmidtberger, Jerry Schmidtberger, Leroy and LeeAnn Schmidtberger, and Rhoda Urban.

People in our Neighborhood

Victoria resident Linda Richter came to Victoria in 2017 when her house on Squires Avenue was completed. She had been looking for a place in the area to be near her parents in Great Bend and real estate agent Jeri Willson helped her make the decision to build and settle here.

Richter grew up in Great Bend and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music from FHSU in 1978. The following year, she received a diploma in Band Instrument Repair from Western Iowa Tech in Sioux City, Iowa. A few years after working for a music store in Kansas City, she purchased the shop tools from the owner and started her own repair business. While in repair school, she met her husband and they "enjoyed working together" until his death in 1995. Richter is also mom to two adult children.

Speaking about her work, Linda commented: "For the actual repair, each instrument has a unique set of problems, some easy and some complicated. I go through each instrument mechanically, then play test to make sure I haven't missed anything."

Richter works out of her home and says her customers come from music stores, recommendations from both public and private music teachers and word of mouth. She now works part-time.

When she came back to the area, Richter reconnected with college friends and associates, and that included Kathy Amrein, then teacher at TMP and current choir director at St. Fidelis. That led to Amrein encouraging her to join the choir and to "dust off her trumpet" and start practicing. Before long, Amrein was finding music with trumpet parts for her to perform.

For the past two years, Richter has been volunteering to work with music instructor Max Befort and his band students grades 6-12.

Richter commented: "I know that Victoria has a long history of strong music programs. I've heard the stories and seen the pictures. I want to live in a place where music education is valued."

Gorham Bank changes hands



Officially on July 15, the former Gorham State Bank has a new name and affiliation. Now known as The Bank, President Brandon Oiem of the Oberlin branch, says they are "excited to be in the community." And while the name is new, the same "friendly faces will be on duty" to welcome and assist customers with their banking needs. The Gorham and Victoria branches are now part of 10 others in north central Kansas.

While many of the aspects of the bank will remain as before including hours, new features will be added including a mobile app, debit cards that will earn customer rewards and a Tap & Go feature on the debit cards.

While no date has been set, Oiem stated that they intend to hold a ribbon cutting or open house sometime in the near future to mark the new bank official changeover.



At this year's Taps Across America, Richter teamed up with Police Chief Cole Dinkel to perform an echo rendition of "Taps".



District hires new staff

While USD 432 ended school year with a number of teaching vacancies, that is no longer the case. All teaching positions have been filled and students will find their instructors ready for them on day one of the new year.

Cory Bradley from Kismet, Kansas, who just received his bachelor's degree in Animal Science from FHSU, will be the new ag teacher and FFA sponsor.

Dago Cano from Hays will be the elementary PE teacher, having just received his bachelor of science degree in Education/Health and Human Performance from FHSU.

Merritt Hammeke from Hays will be teaching high school language arts. He holds both a bachelor and master's in English from FHSU.

Dalton Kraus holds a degree in Technology Education from FHSU and will be teaching sixth grade. He is from Hays.

Erin Perrigo from St. Francis will be coming with nine years elementary education experience. She holds a bachelor of science degree in elementary education.

Devin Ryan from Claflin will be teaching high school math. He also received a bachelor of science degree from FHSU.

Brooks Wach will teach junior high/high school special education.



Tennis News

The Victoria tennis program coached by **Kaylene Gabel** will have a new dynamic when practices begin in August. With the official approval of KSHSAA, the girls from Victoria will be joined by Russell girls who want to play. With a cooperative agreement between the two districts approved, the team will be the third to have this arrangement, beginning with boys' baseball and then girls' softball.

Gabel commented, "I'm eager for my players to have more girls to practice with. Russell has been so gracious taking our kids in for baseball and softball, I am happy to be able to return the favor."

Gabel, with the assistance of her high school team members **Aurora and Piper Nowlin, Jameson Toon, Saige Moos, and Lindsey Cole** (from Russell) as well as graduates **Brooklynn Kuhn and MaKenna Wellbrock**, recently conducted a camp for 31 young players.



Victoria Rec sponsors Jackie Stiles camp

The Victoria Rec Commission scored big this summer getting former Claflin native and WNBA star Jackie Stiles to bring her basketball camp to Victoria on July 20. Rec member Sean Rodger was the 'connecting link' to help pull it off.

The one-day visit was divided into two three-hour sessions: session one for boys and girls grades third through sixth; session two for boys and girls seventh through twelfth grade.

Stiles comes with her own staff of six helping her with the hands-on part of the event. Meanwhile, Rodger was the behind-the-scene guy handling registration, coordination and anything else needed to make it go smoothly."

Enrollment was limited to 90 participants at a cost of \$55 per camper.

Stiles is one of the most renowned basketball players in the history of the women's game. During her years at Southwest Missouri State, she 'rewrote the NCAA women's basketball record books, leading her team to the 2001 Final Four. She then moved on to a career in the WNBA, retiring in 2006.

Talking about the camp, Rodger remarked: "This is an opportunity to receive instruction from one of the best female players to ever play the game! I am so excited for this to happen right here in Victoria and hope we are able to have a great turnout of kids!"

Be sure to check out the Bookmobile during your time at Herzogfest!

