

Burdett EMS: First-rate volunteer service

Western Pawnee County residents are very fortunate to have a first-rate volunteer ambulance service. The Burdett EMS is a volunteer service established in 1975, presently staffed by 9 capable EMTs from Burdett and Rozel.

The Burdett ambulance is well stocked with modern equipment required for an ambulance in the state of Kansas, including an AED and an automatic blood pressure and pulse monitor.

The Burdett City Council is the governing body for the EMS. Most of the funding comes from memorials, billing and donations.

Burdett and Rozel residents give thanks to all volunteers from the surrounding area that donate numerous hours to make the Burdett EMS a success and thanks to all who have made contributions in support of the ambulance service.

Barton Community College and LCMHF open Vocational Building

BY BRANDON STEINERT
Director of public relations, Barton Community College

Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility (LCMHF) has been home to Xavier Rodriguez for more than two years. Like more than 90 percent of offenders, Rodriguez will eventually be released back into society. Questions then remain, "Is he changed? Can he 'make it' without resorting to criminal activity?" According to Justice.gov, he would have a 30 percent chance of landing back in prison within six months. That's the cycle the Kansas Department of Corrections and Barton Community College are breaking, one student-offender at a time.

LCMHF and Barton cut the ribbon on a new vocational education building on the prison grounds Oct. 1, 2015. Barton provided the building kit while LCMHF provided labor and furnishings.

The new facility expands the educational programming already available at LCMHF to include the ability for offenders to attain national craft skills

certification, training in manufacturing skills, carpentry training and more. These programs are intended to reduce the rate at which offenders return to prison after release. There is great value to public safety and reduction of recidivism in providing educational and vocational programs to offenders. According to a RAND Corporation report in 2013, offenders who receive general education and vocational training are significantly less likely to return to prison after release and are more likely to find employment than peers who do not receive such opportunities. Employment after release was 13 percent higher among offenders who participated in either academic or vocational education programs than those who did not. Those who participated in vocational training were 28 percent more likely to be employed after release from prison than those who did not receive such training.

Rodriguez, who helped with the construction of the building from the very beginning, and is taking

classes Barton already has in place at LCMHF, said the efforts to provide educational programming will not be in vain.

"I plan on being able to say I did all this while in prison to help me get a job when I get out," he said. "I don't want to sit dormant. I don't want to be asked what I did and have to say I just sat around. I want to say I tried to better myself while I was here."

Many of the offenders who helped construct the facility attended the ribbon cutting and witnessed first-hand the genuine helpful intent of the individuals working behind the scenes to make it happen, of which there are many.

"This is what it's all about, helping one an-

other," Barton President Dr. Carl Heilman said during the ribbon cutting ceremony. "We will work as cooperatively as we can with corrections to be here, at Ellsworth or other facilities because we believe strongly that everybody should be given the opportunity to reach their pinnacle in life."

LCMHF Warden Doug Waddington echoed Dr. Heilman's comments, explaining that the new facility is the result of a long term vision and goal to have vocational training options available to offenders.

Kansas Secretary of Corrections Ray Roberts also offered a few comments, highlighting education as the key to helping offenders find success

after release. He said statistics show having a job, a place to live and control over any addictions or criminal thinking are the three key ingredients to a successful re-introduction to society, and education is the foundation to accomplish all three.

"Barton Community College is very focused on helping people improve their lot in life, and I certainly appreciate that," Roberts said.

Now stands the vocational education building, a functional monument to the collaborative efforts to improve the state's corrections efforts and, in turn, society.

"I'm proud to be a part of this," Rodriguez added. "We've built something that will last."



DEDICATION CEREMONY – Barton Community College president Dr. Carl Heilman was among the dignitaries providing remarks at Thursday's dedication of the Barton Community College Vocational Education Building on the Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility campus Thursday. Also providing remarks were Kansas Department of Corrections Secretary Ray Roberts; LCMHF Warden Doug Waddington and Larned Chamber/PCEDC Executive Director Sydney Blanton. Following the ribbon-cutting, the gathering of local and state officials and community members were invited inside the building for Coffee Hour refreshments provided by the Chamber. (photo by Mike Gilmore) (photo reprinted from Oct. 2, 2015 Tiller & Toiler)

Trail

continued from page 2
historic Johnson Street Escue Chapel is available for church services and weddings.

Admission to the museum is \$6 for adults, \$3 for ages 12 - 18, \$2 for ages 6 - 11, and free for children age 5 and under. Docents are available to give tours to school groups, pro-

vided they are booked in advance. Admission for organized school tours is half-price. Historical society members are free.

The Santa Fe Trail Center Museum is located two miles west of Larned on Kansas Highway 156. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information on the museum, upcoming events or a facility rental please call 620/285-2054, email museum@santafetrailcenter.org or check our website at www.santafetrailcenter.org. Follow us on Facebook.

Find Your Career
Opportunity at the

Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility



Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility is a 150-bed maximum-security prison housing the most severely and persistently mentally ill inmates

within the Kansas Department of Corrections. In addition, the LCMHF West Unit houses up to 288 minimum-custody inmates, placed here to attend substance abuse treatment or to provide support services to LCMHF and other agencies in the State Complex.

If you're looking for a stimulating and rewarding position with excellent pay, substantial benefits, and great potential for career advancement, then come join the field of Corrections at the Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility! Check the State of Kansas website for openings. Job Requisition # 177010. <http://www.jobs.ks.gov>

To apply, submit a State of Kansas Employment Application to LCMHF HR, 1318 KS Highway 264, Larned, KS 67550; or Email lcmhfjobs@doc.ks.gov; or Call 620-285-8008; or Apply online at www.jobs.ks.gov.

Corrections Officer positions NOW OPEN!

- Starting Pay: **\$13.61/hr.** Pay increases to \$14.30/hr. after 1st year.
- Shift Differential
- Health Benefits
- Retirement Plan
- Promotional Opportunities!

To apply, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have a high school diploma/GED
- Be felony-free
- Possess a valid Driver's License
- Have no DUI convictions in past 24 months

Successful Candidates must pass a Corrections test, background investigation, employment check, drug screen, and physical.