

120th Labor Day will be special

By KAREN LA PIERRE

I had never been to a Hoisington Labor Day celebration until my kids marched in the Great Bend band or dance line in the parade, starting about 2001, and I've never missed one since. We moved to Great Bend in 1990, and little did I realize I was missing out!

The celebration is definitely one of the best in the area! This year will definitely be special with the celebration of its 120th year with a promise of being bigger and better than ever. The theme of the event, "Celebrating a Dozen Decades" showcases how the event has grown and changed over the years.

The one thing missing from the early years, the fat men and ladies races might provide some comic relief, but in this day and age of the selfie and easy phone photos, might not be too popular. The winners of those races in the early years received prizes. The airship rides have been exchanged for helicopter rides. There

were no records or airship accidents, but it was most likely a highly risky proposition to take a ride in an early airplane. I am fascinated with history, and how things have changed and how people are still the same. As I researched the historical article for this special issue, I found myself lost in looking at the ads for

the sale of horses and mares, and the men's suits for sale for \$7.50. Those early twentieth century articles provide such a snap shot of life. Yet, people remain the same. Those papers show articles about crime and a large amount of accidents. In one issue, a 26-year-old man died in Wichita when the elevator he was riding in suddenly shot upwards and he was pitched out of the window onto the sidewalk below. The theme of this year's event promises lots of fun. Who wouldn't want to learn the twist, the watusi, or the monster mash? Those who lived through the 1970s will especially enjoy Friday night's barbecue. With a cut out for photos of a disco couple, who wouldn't want a selfie of

that? Those that danced or roller skated to the mirrored ball will enjoy reliving those memories. The Mike Love Band will entertain after the football game with genuine old-fashioned country music. The lyrics come with a message and don't make the cross over into adult contemporary music. For those who enjoy carnival rides, there will be twice the pleasure with 12 rides instead of six. There will be wrist bands available each day. Everybody loves the sounds of "Homebrew," the local Hoisington band. They will play for the street dance on Sunday. This year promises to be full of fun and activities. For those who claim there is nothing to do in central Kansas, this weekend will prove them wrong.

Hoisington Chamber of Commerce Welcomes You to Celebrate

Each year, the town of Hoisington puts on a fantastic Labor Day Celebration. It's everything you'd expect in small town America... Community barbecue, headliner concert, 5K Walk/Run, turtle races, sidewalk & garage sales, demolition derby, car show, street dance, flea market, carnival and one

of the largest parades in the state, to name a few of the events. As always the parade is an impressive display of beautiful floats, antique vehicles, waving politicians, commercial exhibits, bands and horses. For more information contact the Hoisington Chamber of Commerce, 620-653-4311 or

visit our website at www.hoisingtonkansas.com. The Labor Day Celebration has grown over the past 120 years from the railroad's town picnic to a 4-day celebration. Though somewhat changed from the humble beginnings of a town picnic, the children still participate in races, dances are still held and automobiles are still being shined. Most importantly, the volunteers work countless hours toward making the event a success each year. Although the volunteers are becoming noticeably older, many younger members of the community are stepping up. As this year's theme states we are "Celebrating a Dozen Decades".

is always interesting to watch as the big crowds of people get together. Everyone appears happy and they are always looking for a new or old acquaintance. Many people that have grown up in Hoisington feel this is the one time of year they can come home again and be with family and friends. The Labor Day Celebration typically serves as a community reminder of end points in the cycle of life - The end of the growing season and the end of summer. It also reminds us of the beginning of the school year and football season.

Now we must not forget the reason why we celebrate Labor Day, it is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership - the American Worker. Overall, the purpose of Labor Day boils down to two things: a celebration of the employment that brings us satisfaction and an occasion to appreciate life's little enjoyments.

CLASS REUNIONS

HHS Class of 1956 - Contact Name Max Tarlton Email TARLTON-MADMAX@aol.com Phone 352-259-2719

Hoisington High School Class of "1961", Saturday Sept. 3, "55"th Reunion. Visitors welcome after 8 p.m. at Saint John's Parish Center

HHS 1963 - Contact Person - Craig Jaynes or Jerry Morgenstern - Hoisington High School Class of 1963 will have a class reunion this year. Plans so far are for a meal Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus and a picnic Sunday afternoon at the West Side park.

HHS Class of 66 is celebrating their 50th (YIKES) Reunion at the Masonic Hall on Saturday night. 6 o'clock Happy Hour (BYOB & set-up) following with dinner at 7. Contact Keith, Mike, Ramona, George, Owen or Georgia with any questions. Georgia Carmichael McGonigle, email gmc-mcg@yahoo.com Phone 620-664-4548

HHS Class of 1971 will hold a reunion, Saturday, September 3rd at 1151 NE 20th Ave, Hoisington. Please bring your own beverages and snack or finger food. Also, bring a lawn chair if you want to sit down. The ladies will have a light in their porta-potty this reunion! LOL The Reunion starts at 7:00 pm. Visitors are welcome to stop by. For more information, Contact Ron Bailey 620.639.1366.

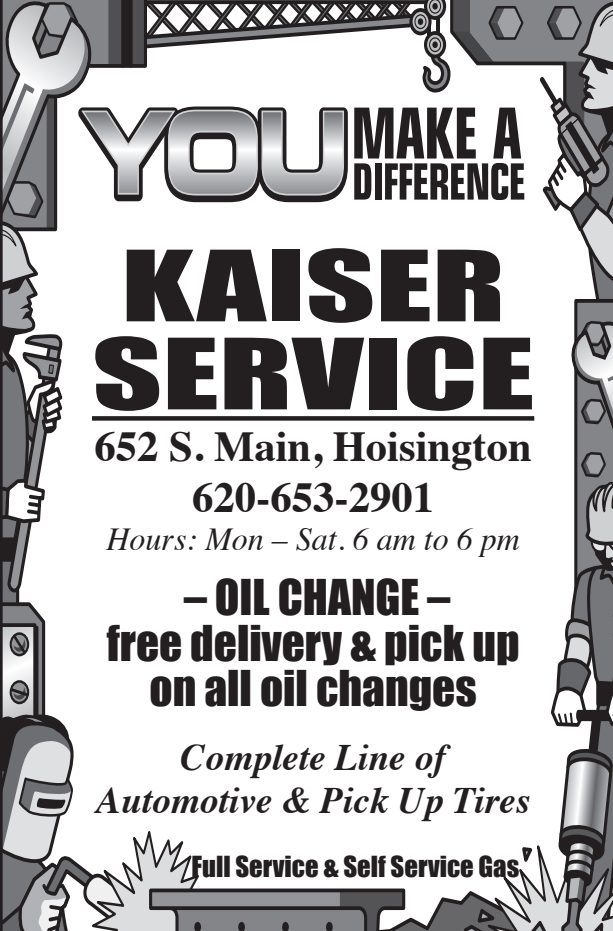
Class of 1976 40th Reunion The Hoisington Class of 1976 will have their 40th re-

union on Saturday, September 3. It will be held at Cardinal Lanes in Hoisington at 7 p.m. Cost will be \$10 per classmate to cover the cost of snacks and building rental. Classmates can call Mark Martin at 620-786-9751. Friends are welcome to stop by.

HHS Class of 1986 is having a reunion on Saturday, 9/3, at the Specklebelly Lodge, 163 S. Main. Please BYOB. The "locals" are planning on bringing some snacks/finger foods but everyone is welcome to bring something if they like. Visitors are welcome. For more info, call Tracey Petersen Swalley 620-786-0352.

HHS Class of 2001 is having a class reunion at the Tap Room South on Saturday Sept. 3, starting at 7 pm. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Contact person is Sara (Goetz) Westerhaus, 785-393-9149.

HHS of 2006 - Contact Person - Calie Doze - 620-617-4620



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