

Forgotten items happen

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

"Oh, darn, I forgot. There's one more thing I need." Have you ever had that experience - where you started on a project and found you had forgotten one essential item? It happens all too often when cooking in the kitchen or doing a project around the house. Today we'll meet a young woman who had that experience and turned it into a business opportunity for her family and her community.

Sherrie Conklin is the owner of Forgotten Item Market in Burden, Kan. Sherrie grew up at Burden, lived at Winfield and studied at Cowley College. When she met her husband Scotty, they decided they wanted to raise their child in a small town environment like the one they had grown up in, so they moved back to Burden - a community of 536 people. Now, that's rural.

Scotty worked for Morton Buildings. Inspired by watching barbecue on television, he wanted to open a barbecue restaurant in Burden. He and Sherrie bought an old building on Main Street which he remodeled for their barbecue place.

As customers came into the restaurant, they would ask, "Who did your remodeling work?" When they learned that Scotty had done it, they asked if he would do remodeling work for them. When the demand for his carpentry work exceeded the demand for barbecue, they closed the store and Scotty

formed his own business called Conklin Carpentry.

Meanwhile, Sherrie was working full time herself. Due to Medicare cuts, she lost her job. It happened at the worst possible time, just before Christmas. One day she was doing her Christmas baking when she found that she needed some powdered sugar. She had all the other ingredients, but she was out of that one item. Unfortunately, her home is 25 miles from stores in Winfield and 55 miles from Wichita.

"We need to do something about this," Sherrie said to her husband. "We need a store so we can get the supplies we need locally." Scotty was reluctant, but she made her case.

"We asked some friends to commit to prayer about this," Sherrie said. "We also sent out a poll to the community and got a good response." On March 26, 2013, they opened a new store in Burden. Sherrie asked friends for suggestions to name the store, and someone suggested Forgotten Item. The name stuck.

Today, Forgotten Item Market operates in 500 square feet in the former barbecue restaurant on Main Street in Burden. "We started in a smaller building across the street but then we moved into the front third of our old barbecue place. Now we've already outgrown that," she said.

Forgotten Item Market offers produce and other grocery supplies plus household goods, pet food and gift and craft items. In

other words, a customer can get milk and bread - and powdered sugar - plus other staples, but the store also offers custom-made items from local artisans. "We have things that were made by a local woodworker, a quilter, and a jewelry maker," Sherrie said.

She also offers a custom shopping service for her customers.

"We have some elderly people in town so I go grocery shopping for them," Sherrie said. "They will give me a list on Friday or Saturday and I will shop for them on Saturday afternoon or Monday when I purchase supplies for the store." On Tuesday, their goods are picked up by the elderly families or delivered to them.

"I'm a coupon-er," Sherrie said. "I'll scour the ads, clip coupons and find the very best prices on supplies." She then drives to Wichita and restocks her store, while buying what the elderly families want.

"We've been blessed that my husband has always been able to find work locally so he's available to help," Sherrie said. "It's a God thing."

Forgotten items. They happen when we start a project or recipe and find that something is missing. Sherrie and Scotty Conklin are making a difference by using this experience to help create a business that would serve their community in this way. Such entrepreneurial ideas can serve other communities as well - don't forget.

New neon for Norton Theatre



The front of the Norton Community Theatre is lit up once again. After months of painstaking work, the new neon lights and fresh paint went up last week. The Omaha Neon Sign Company employees are seen here putting the final touches on the project. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Are ticks in your future?

Warmer weather always brings the possibility of summer insects that may sting, bite or embed themselves in your skin. Unfortunately this year, ticks seem to be a larger threat than usual. Give the following some consideration.

If you're spending the summer weekends outdoors, be extra cautious of ticks. In some areas, you can be exposed to one a minute.

There are areas in this part of the country that the tick exposure can truly be massive. You can walk into areas and literally encounter dozens or hundreds of ticks.

Those heavily infested tick areas generally have a heavy tree canopy with good vegetation, some type of water source, adequate humidity and wildlife, particularly whitetail deer and turkeys. Despite the popular myth, ticks do not fall from trees. What happens is these ticks get on us and they crawl

Home ed
Tranda
Watts,
Extension
specialist



yourself daily for ticks.

Sometimes the best thing we can do is to inspect ourselves because many of these diseases take a day or longer after the ticks attach to be transmitted.

Don't forget about your pets. Cats and dogs are also susceptible to tick-transmitted diseases. Speak with your veterinarian to find out the best type of tick management product for your pet.

If you have questions about insect safety, please feel free to contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office or Tranda Watts, Multi-County Extension Specialist - Food, Nutrition, Health and Safety at: twwatts@ksu.edu or phone 785-443-3663.

upward until they hit bare skin. The back of the neck is often the first bare skin they find, which leads people to believe they dropped down. Try to avoid these areas during the summer. If that's not an option, you can buy insect repellent to deter ticks. Spray it on the inside of your pant legs, on your socks, ankles and shoes. Then, roll your pant legs into your socks to reduce the amount of exposed skin. Also, check

COLLEGE NOTES

Brittany Otter, a 2009 Norton Community High School graduate, recently received her Bachelor's of Arts in World Missions at Nebraska Christian College. Brittany is currently working towards an inner city internship in Billings, Mont. Brittany's parents are Stephen and Penny Otter. Her grandparents are Ronald and Helen Hager.



For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361 email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com

Farm Bill applications due in June

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kansas is now accepting applications for its new Agricultural Conservation Easements Program. The Agricultural Conservation Easements Program combines Natural Resources Conservation Service's former Farm and Ranch Lands Protection, Grassland Reserve, and Wetland Reserve programs.

"This is an exciting new opportunity for even more people to get involved in conserving natural resources," said Kansas State Conservationist, Eric B. Banks. "We encourage Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners to apply." Applications must be submitted by June 6.

Agricultural Conservation Easements Program has two components, one for wetland reserve easements and one for agricultural land easements.

Wetland reserve easements would restore and enhance

wetlands and improve habitat. Eligible lands include farmed or converted wetlands that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. If you are interested in a wetland reserve easement, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

Under the agricultural land component, funds are provided to eligible entities that can use Agricultural Conservation Easements Program funding to purchase agricultural land easements that protect the agricultural use of eligible land. Interested landowners should work with an eligible entity to submit an application.

Learn more about Agricultural Conservation Easements Program and other Farm Bill programs at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

Please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or conservation district office located at your local county United States De-

partment of Agriculture Service Center, listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov, for assistance. More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

LODGE NOTICE

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American Legion Harmonson Redd Post No. 63
Second and Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m.
Gary Erlenbusch, Commander
Curt Archibald, Adjutant

Eagles Lodge FOE 3288
Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Larry Hawks, President
Secretary, Ron Miller

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Reg. 7:00 p.m.
First Mon. of each Month
Curt Archibald, Commander
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

I.O.O.F. No. 157
Meet at Eagles Club
First and Third Thursday
Each Month at 7:30 p.m.
Geneva Tier, Noble Grand
Randy Knoll, Secretary

The American Legion Riders Post 63
Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the American Legion Building on the Second Sunday of Every Month
website: www.alr63.org



COME OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN!!
Norton Rotary BB Gun Team Wobble Trap Shoot SATURDAY, MAY 31
9:30 a.m., Black Powder Range (Just West of Town)
\$5.00 a Round -- All Donations Accepted
Bring your own guns and ammo, rock will be supplied
LUNCH STAND AVAILABLE - ALL AGES ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE
Proceeds go toward team travel expenses for Daisy Nationals competition-Rogers, AR
Questions Call Jeff Elliott, 785-202-1170

CLUB NEWS

By Julie Thompson

The meeting of the Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International was held at Las Canteras Mexican Restaurant on May 5. There were 18 members and one guest present. The guest was Ashley Maybon.

In the absence of the President, Vice-President Brenda Mann called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved as read, and the treasurer's report was given. Money the Fun Way prize was won by Kim Fiscus. Hostesses, co-hostess-

es, and programs for next year were discussed. An invitation for membership was extended to Ashley Maybon. Members enjoyed fellowship and laughter during a wonderful meal. Everyone thanked co-hostesses Heather Dubois and Julie Thompson for Cinco de Mayo favors and dessert. Nancy Sebelius entertained the group with a book talk based on The Book Thief. The meeting adjourned with the club collect.



MORE STORYTIMES

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