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VISITORS' GUIDE 2018



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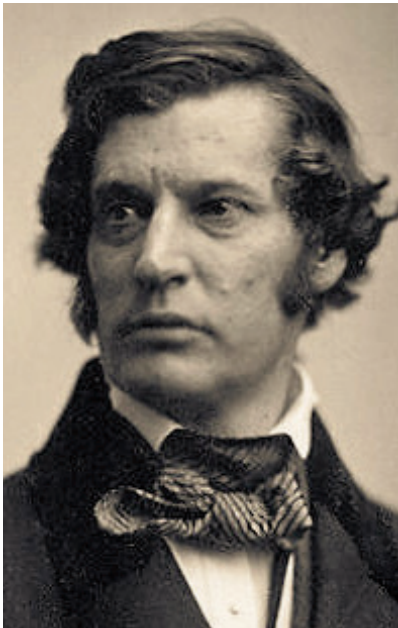
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Sumner County

H i s t o r y



John L. Magee

John L. Magee created a lithograph in 1856, depicting Preston Brooks' attack on Charles Sumner. Along with Kansas, the following states have towns named after Senator Sumner - Iowa, Nebraska, Washington and Oregon.



SUMNER COUNTY

Date Established: Feb. 26, 1867

County Seat: Wellington

Sumner County gets its name in honor of Charles Sumner (1811-1874), a U.S. senator from Massachusetts. Once the Senate's leading opponent of slavery, he was beaten unconscious on the Senate floor by a South Carolina congressman after a speech Sumner made against pro-slavery groups in Kansas in 1856. During the Civil War, he became a leader of the Radical Republicans, arguing for black suffrage, and urging an extensive program of economic aid, land distribution and free education for freed slaves. He also led the impeachment movement against President Andrew Johnson.

Cattle, wheat, and railroads have defined Sumner County. But it is wheat that makes this county great. More winter red wheat is produced by Sumner County farmers than in most third-world countries. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad runs east/west and the Union Pacific serves Peck, Riverdale, Wellington, Perth, Corbin, and Caldwell connecting Wichita and Enid, Okla., over track once owned by the Rock Island railroad. U.S. Highway 160 runs across the county, and U.S. Highway 81/Interstate 135 runs north/south.

Sumner County was organized in 1873. Early interest in the county was driven by the economic opportunities offered by the

herds of cattle coming up the Chisholm Trail from Texas. Later the Oklahoma land rush created and then drained towns in Sumner County.

The Sumner County Press, the county's first paper, was established in Oxford in 1871. The first school district in Sumner County was organized in Oxford in 1872, with Miss Whaley as the first teacher.

Mrs. Susanna Madora Salter (born March 2, 1860) served as Mayor of Argonia in 1887, and was the first woman mayor elected in the U.S. The Salter home, located at Osage and Garfield streets, is now a museum. William G. Cutler's *History of Kansas*, first published in 1883, tells about early Sumner County. There is a section on Sumner County in the book *Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History* by Frank Blackmar (1912).

The Special Collections of the Ablah Library at Wichita State University contain historical images of Argonia, Belle Plaine, Caldwell, Conway Springs, Drury, Geuda Springs, Hunnewell, Milan, Mulvane, Oxford and Wellington. The Kansas State Historical Society also has more historical data for Sumner County online including a rich bibliography and lists of cemeteries, post offices and newspapers.

www.ksschgs.com

www.ks-schgs.blogspot.com

SCHGS Facebook page

Area Activities

Wellington Lake

Located six miles west of the city, Wellington Lake was created for flood control purposes, as well as a reliable drinking source. The lake has 674 acres of surface water and 10.2-miles of shoreline. But this body of water is much more to the city than drinking water or preventing local flooding.

Families from all around Sumner County and the surrounding area drive here to picnic, fish or swim just off its various public beaches. There are also over 200 camping sites with electric and water hookups and several primitive camping areas. Permits are required, with various daily, monthly and annual rates.

Fishing for a large number of fish, ranging from large mouth bass and hybrid striper to crappie, saugeye and channel catfish, among others, is also a must-do when visiting or moving to Wellington. State fishing license is required.

The recently installed Cub Scout Trails, near the intersection of West 30th Street South and Northwest Lake Road, provide two-miles of nature hiking. These trails were constructed and main-



tained by Wellington Cub Scouts Pack 303.

Lake amenities include three boat ramps, handicap accessible fishing pier and cleaning station, picnic areas and two shower/restroom facilities. The newest addition to the lake is a small store within the permit office, selling beverages, food, fishing gear and bait, along with items for the RV or tent campers.

Taken as a whole, Wellington Lake is the best kept secret in south central Kansas.

**452 WEST 50TH STREET SOUTH
MAYFIELD
(620) 434-5454**

Bartlett Arboretum



One of Sumner County's biggest marvels is in Belle Plaine, the Bartlett Arboretum. On the west end of town, along Kansas Highway 55, "the Arb," as it's known locally, has been in Belle Plaine for more than 100 years.

Started by Dr. Walter E. Bartlett in 1910, the Bartlett family owned and cared for the Arb for several generations. Since 1997, Robin Macy has been the steward of property.

She, along with numerous volunteers — known as Soil Sisters and Soil Brothers, keep the Arb looking like the jewel that it is.

During the Bartlett Arboretum's centennial year, 2010, it became the first landscape in the history of the Kansas to garner a spot on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The arboretum is home to a host

of trees and plant life from across the globe, like the Japanese maple tree, the largest one of its kind in the state of Kansas. In the spring, the Arb truly shines and sings.

The literal singing is usually handled by the various musicians that take the stage in the center of the Arb during one of its many events through the year. From the spring to the fall, the Tree House Concert Series brings in artists of all kinds, from small, bluegrass acts to classical concerts.

To find out more information and history of this Sumner County treasure, check out the arboretum's website.

**KS-55, BELLE PLAINE
(620) 488-3451
www.bartlettarboretum.com**



Kansas Star Casino and Event Center

Kansas Star Casino Event Center Hotel is the destination for high-energy gaming, unforgettable entertainment and distinctive dining.

The property offers more than 1,750 hot slot machines, 50 table games and an eight-table poker room. When you visit, make sure to come hungry. From signature fine dining and USDA Prime grade steaks at Woodfire Grille, to endless options at the Kitchen Buffet, Asian fusion at An Pho and even more, Kansas Star has something to satisfy every craving. Kansas Star also has the facilities to make your next big event unforgettable. An over 53,000-square-foot meeting and convention space is the perfect location for business meetings, holiday parties, trade shows and weddings.

The casino offers on-site catering and other convenient amenities to make your experience at Kansas Star as seamless as possible. The Kansas Star Casino offers entertainment for everyone. The casino is home to a multi-purpose arena, where customers can enjoy national touring entertainment, sporting and equestrian events. Many comedians come from all over the country to perform at the Kansas Star Arena on the weekends.

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Wellington Heat

Wellington became the home of a semiprofessional baseball team in 2013. The Heat have played in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., from 1993 to 2009, and then in Haysville from 2010 to 2012.

For the past 20 seasons, the Heat has been a national force, playing in the National Baseball Congress, winning the NBC World Series in 2007. The Heat nearly accomplished that feat again in its first year in Wellington, earning second place.

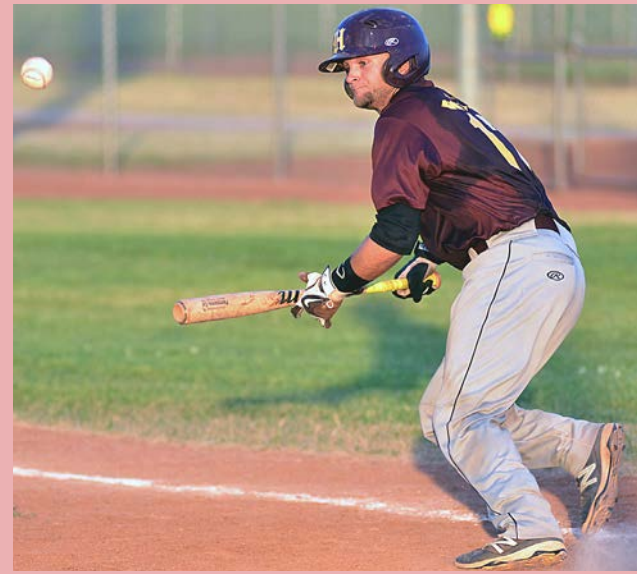
The Heat joined the Kansas Collegiate League after the 2016 season, ensuring the baseball tradition staying in Wellington. Other area teams in the KCLB include: Clearwater Outlaws, Kansas Cannons

(Augusta), Park City Rangers, Valley Center Mud Daubers and Wichita Marlins.

A completely renovated Hibbs-Hooten Field, in Sellers Park, is the location of all the Heat home games. Each night, there is usually something fun taking place at the stadium, such as theme nights, raffles and between-inning contests that involve a lucky Heat fan.

The Heat provides visitors with another reason to come and enjoy what Wellington has to offer. The addition of this baseball team is a high-quality area attraction for baseball fans of all ages.

www.wellingtonheat.com



Wellington Family Aquatic Center

Located just east of the Wellington Golf Club, the Wellington Family Aquatic Center is a water haven for folks of all ages, particularly during the steamy summer months of May through August.

The park features three water slides and various spray-n-play structures. Also located on the premises are a "diving well" and a tot pool, as well as concessions and shower facilities.

Coupon books are available each

year and are good throughout that entire season, as are season family passes.

The pool, bathhouse and deck areas are cleared for 10 minutes every hour for safety checks.

Every year the pool closes with the annual Doggy Dive, allowing fur-parents a chance to let their four-legged children a chance to go for a swim.

**1101 WEST HARVEY,
WELLINGTON
(620) 326-5623**

Wellington Golf Club

The Wellington Golf Club invites you to come play a round with them.

The par 70, 18-hole golf course features some of the fastest and truest putting surfaces in the area. At only 6,201 yards from the championship tees, the course does not beat you up in length, but challenges even the most avid golfer with its demand for accuracy.

Almost every tee shot is framed by cedar, oak, and pine trees, and the relatively small bent grass greens can be approached through the air or with the classic bump and run.

WGC also takes great pride in the fact most rounds are completed in four hours or less.

The Wellington Golf Club offers annual memberships as well as daily greens fees both of which are great values for the quality of golf provided.

The Pro Shop at WGC stocks the top name brands in golf equipment and apparel at some of the lowest prices around.

The Wellington Golf Club was founded in 1919 and is owned and operated by the city of Wellington. It is conveniently located only five miles from Interstate 35 and just off U.S. Highway 160.

**1500 W. HARVEY AVE.,
WELLINGTON
(620) 326-7904
wellingtongolfclub.com**



Museums and Festivals

Panhandle Railroad Museum

In 2005, Perry Wiley of Wellington placed his collection of train memorabilia inside a museum and named it the Panhandle Railroad Museum. These relics from yesteryear, including engines and even old spittoons, are housed inside a city-owned building at 425 E. Harvey.

Exhibits also include various furniture pieces used throughout the Santa Fe system, uniforms and safety

items used by all employees. Also featured are clocks and watches, which were vital to the safe movement of trains before the signal system was put into use. As well as a vast array of everyday tools, old and new, that were utilized by the railroad workforce.

Hours are 10-4 everyday except Sunday and Monday.
**425 E. HARVEY
WELLINGTON
(620) 399-8611**



National Glass Museum

The National Glass Museum, a product of the National Depression Glass Association opened in Wellington in 2012. Located at 117 S. Washington, the museum is home to thousands of pieces of antique glass.

The NGDA's Mission Statement says The National Depression Glass Association, founded in 1974, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of American made glassware manufactured just before, during,

and immediately after the Great Depression.

The organization is also dedicated to the dissemination of educational information regarding the same.

Our ultimate goal is a first-class museum of American-made glass and related items. For more information, log on to www.ndga.net.

**117 S. WASHINGTON AVE.,
WELLINGTON
(620) 326-6400
ndga.net**

Chisholm Trail Museum

Founded in 1963, the Chisholm Trail Museum serves Wellington and the Sumner County area, and welcomes those who pass through the town or return to visit.

Wellington has a rich and proud frontier heritage dating back to 1871, shortly after cattle began being driven from all over Texas across the Red River and Indian Territory to Abilene in 1867. The trail itself passed seven miles west of Wellington from Caldwell to Wichita, and on to Abilene. The museum library contains

numerous enlarged historic photographs taken in the early town and local area. Over 40 rooms too numerous to list, document past life in the town, from military history, the general store, railroad room, dolls, automobiles, doctors office, sewing room, and something for everyone.

**502 N. WASHINGTON AVE.
WELLINGTON
(620) 326-3820
chisholmtrailmuseum.com**



Mulvane Historical Museum

The Mulvane Historical Museum, housed in the former Santa Fe Depot, was dedicated and opened August 19, 1983.

The depot was built in 1910. It would have opened its doors for travelers coming as far back east as Chicago and heading as far west as California.

The wooden floors and woodwork are original to the building. Its displays include various railroad items, a replica of a former business man's home,

which is still in existence, woodworking tools, a large collection of wrenches, a collection of old telephones, telegraph equipment and many items that would have been found in homes of that era.

We honor our veterans by having on view, many uniforms and other memorabilia from their lives during service to the country. Men and women alike. The city jail, built in 1897 is on the museum grounds and is open to visitors.

A 1940's era caboose is also on site. In the

museum's storage building four display rooms—a funeral exhibit, a parlor, a print shop and a barber shop—were built to be viewed from outside looking in. The museum is of interest to those of all ages.

**300 W. MAIN, MULVANE
(316) 777-0506.
WWW.MULVANEDEPOT.COM
HOURS: 10:00AM-4PM.
TUES.- SAT.**

The Veteran's Room



The Veteran's Room at Memorial Auditorium in Wellington was originally put together for the veterans of World War I as a way to show pride and loyalty to the veterans.

Recent attempts have been made to develop the room into more of a present day memorial for the soldiers of not only World War I, but other battles as well.

The room is located on the right side of the building near the entrance of Memorial Auditorium at 208 N. Washington in Wellington.

Lack of interest has been a hurdle in getting the project moving along as quickly as those involved would like, but the room still features dozens of artifacts from various wars now, commemorating the men and women who have served.

Items are currently on display from the Afghanistan, Iraq and Gulf Wars, WWI and WWII, as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Assistance is needed to help make the Veteran's Room project continue to grow. While there is no funding behind the project, donations are obviously accepted.

Currently, the Veteran's Room at Memorial Auditorium is open only one day per week on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help out with the room, which would help keep it open and ideally then be open to the public more often. So far, volunteers have been hard to come by.

Despite low interest from potential volunteers, the Veteran's Room has had some help in putting the room together.

Triumph's "Wings over Wellington" program made curtains for the room and helped put things up around the room, including added bits of information to go with each picture on display.

Donations are always welcomed and appreciated, and not just financially.

Any war artifacts such as photos, helmets, jackets and so on can be donated to contribute to the exhibits already in place.

Anyone wishing to have an item displayed does not necessarily have to give it away completely.

**208 N. WASHINGTON AVE.,
WELLINGTON**

Kansas Wheat Festival



Kansas is known for its rolling fields of golden wheat — The Wheat Capital of the World.

Sumner County is the number one wheat-producing county in Kansas.

The Kansas Wheat Festival is a post-harvest event that will celebrate its 118th year in 2018.

The festival began as the Sumner County Jubilee in honor of a bumper wheat harvest in its inaugural year, 1900. On April 26, 2012, an official proclamation was issued by the state of Kansas making Wellington's wheat festival the official Kansas Wheat Festival.

Today the Kansas Wheat Festival is the premier fundraising event for the Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB and supports the activities of community businesses year round. Admission is a \$3 festival button. Buttons will cost \$5 after July 1. Children two and younger are free.

Over 6,000 people come from all over the region to enjoy music, food and events for the entire family.

Tulip Time Festival

Since 1986, Belle Plaine welcomes thousands of visitors to this annual two-day event. Enjoy activities for every age, including the arboretum tour featuring 30,000 tulips, athletic competitions, bingo, BBQ competitions, a car show with nearly a hundred vintage vehicles, a carnival, contests, festival food, helicopter rides, Kids Fest, a parade, scavenger hunt, street dance, talent show, and a variety of live entertainment.

Shop until you drop at the vendor's fair featuring artisan designs, crafts, antiques, repurposed vintage pieces, shabby chic, direct sales, plants, food products, textiles, primitives, and commercial goods.

Tulip Time buttons can be found at tram stops and the Chamber of Commerce booth downtown at the Community Center.

The \$3 button helps support festival events and live entertainment, and is required for several activities.

It is your 'ticket to ride' the tram to designated stops all over town, including the Bartlett Arboretum stop. The button does not gain admittance to the Art of the Arb. A \$5 donation has been requested in the past for the Arb.

Visit www.belleplainechamber.com for more information



The Great Race



The race started as a 4th of July celebration at the Slate Creek Depot in 1977. It soon became a staple of activity in Wellington thanks to the hard work and dedication of Jack Potucek and his group of over 150 volunteers.

The race continued for nine years, even after a fire destroyed the Depot in 1982.

"We kept the race going for years, but it was tough to have fun at a cemetery," Potucek said. "I should have pitched it to the chamber to keep it going, but I think '85 or '86 was the last race."

The Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce approached Potucek in 2001 about resurrecting the race and making it a part of the Wheat Festival. Director Carter Green wanted to draw more people to the festival.

"What Carter's intentions were was he wanted to amp up the Saturday late afternoon, early evening of the Wheat Festival," Potucek said. "So he did that the first year. He and the chamber board quickly came to the conclusion that it was

a load in itself. So they suggested, and I agreed whole heartedly, that it have its own weekend. So that's why it follows the Wheat Festival by two to three weeks."

The event, held the last weekend in July, draws in, on average, nine to 10 teams of 15 members to vie for the honors of winning the Slate Creek Cup with competitors from around the world competing. Several teams have members from outside of the Wellington area to include members from Texas, Florida, Colorado and Nebraska to as far away as the United Kingdom and Serbia.

The teams race through nine-and-a half miles of western Wellington and Wellington Township through 13 stages. An average age of 26 years old must be maintained while forming the team, in order to keep things as equal as possible.

There are so many competitors that transporters take the racers to their starting positions to ensure everyone is in the right spot.

Blues-BBQ-Horseshoes

Smoke and the sweet smell of barbecue fill Napawalla Park during the annual Oxford Roundup. Music from local and area bands fill the park with 'Blues' music while the teams compete in horseshoes and cornhole tournaments.

The Barbecue competition is open to amateur and professional teams looking to up their game or make their mark in competitive cooking.

Vendors of all sorts display their latest and greatest items in the swapmeet.

Activities fill the day for both the young and young feeling.

Held the weekend after Father's Day, the day is a great way to spend with the family, get some sun, play around and relax to local musicians.

**315 W CLARK ST
OXFORD, KS
(316) 304-6801
facebook.com/OxfordRoundup/**





2018 Sumner County Fair Schedule

FRIDAY, JULY 27

6:30 pm Fashion Revue at the Raymond Frye Complex

SATURDAY, JULY 28

6:00 pm Horse Show at the Argonia Rodeo grounds

MONDAY, JULY 30

7:00 pm Fair Set Up

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

4:00--8:00 pm Entering of open and junior class exhibits.
 Entering and Consultative Judging of 4-H Exhibits
 Weighing and Entering of all livestock
 8:30 pm Required meeting of livestock exhibitors in barn

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

8:00-10:30 am Enter of Junior and Open Class exhibits
 11:00 am Begin Judging of exhibits
 8:00 am Swine Show
 1:00-3:00 pm Digital Scavenger Hunt
 5:00 pm Czech Kitchen and Beer Garden opens
 5:30 pm Shepherd's Lead Contest:
 6:00 pm Sheep Show

7:00 pm Kiddie Tractor Pull on Chisholm Street (registration at 6:15)
 7:00 pm Goat Show
 7:30 pm Ice Cream Bars courtesy of Farm Bureau
 8:00 pm Platform Program - Local Talent with Suzie Yunker, Director
 9:00-11:00 pm BINGO - Calling starts after program concludes
 8:00-11:00 pm Laser Tag & Games
 10:00 pm Glow dance behind Community Building

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 - AG DAY

8:00 am Beef show followed by Bucket Calf Show (Bucket calves must be checked in by 8 pm Friday and may leave after the show.) Peewee Show will follow Bucket calf Show
 9:00 am - 8:00 pm Ag Building Open, full of educational activities throughout the day
 9:00 am Kolache Kitchen opens – Nostalgia Nook
 10:00 am Antique Tractor Show
 10:00 am Czech Kitchen and Beer Garden opens
 1:00 pm Antique Tractor Pull - East of Rock Building
 1:30 pm Enter Pies for Baked Pie Contest
 2:00 pm Judging of Baked Pie Contest
 3:00 pm Herding Heroes Sponsored by Impact Bank
 3:00-5:00 pm Ag Day Demonstrations located in Ag Building (More information will follow)
 2:00-4:00 pm Car Show
 4:00 pm Round Robin Showmanship Contest

KIDS DAY EVENTS

1:00 pm Mutton Bustin' in the livestock arena
 2:00-4:00 pm Petting Zoo
 2:00 pm Turtle Races (Bring your own Turtles, NO SNAPPERS!)



2:00 pm Critter Contest (in barn)
 3:00 pm Sandpile Dig
 2:30-4:30 pm Kids Races and Games
 5:30 pm Kiddie Parade Lineup at KanOkla Tech Store
 5:45 pm Kiddie Parade
 5:30 pm Grand Parade Lineup at Christian Church
 6:30 pm Grand Parade
 7:30 pm Pie Auction
 8:00 pm Platform program Six Appeal
 7:00-11:00 pm Inflatables
 10:00-Midnight BINGO - Calling starts after program concludes

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

8:00-9:30 am Breakfast courtesy of MKC Coop
 10:00 am Country Church in the Community Building
 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Premium Check pickup
 Noon Release Exhibits and set up for auction (Not responsible for items left after 3 pm)
 1:30 pm Exhibitors and Buyers BBQ
 3:00 pm Juniors Livestock Auction beginning with cookie jar auction



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Chisholm Trail Festival

The Wild West comes alive as Caldwell celebrates its heritage and place on the Historic Chisholm Trail the first weekend of May.

Along with Can-Can Girls roaming the streets, it's not a strange site to see Marshal's, prominent citizens and outlaws throughout town.

The Border Queen Museum showcases Caldwell's colorful history

while visitors wait to inspect the brothel that was once in town.

There are activities for children, and historic presentations of notable characters from the Wild West.

JILL KUEHNY
100 KANOKLA AVE,
CALDWELL KS 67022
(620) 845-5682

Mulvane Old Settlers Day

Mulvane Old Settlers is a Mulvane tradition that has been taking place for 143 years. This celebration takes place on the third weekend of August every year, and the 2018 celebration will be Aug. 17-19. There are many events for Old Settlers goers: road

race, rodeo, carnival, arts and crafts, quilt show, parade, talent show, Little Miss Pioneer pageant, turtle races and much, much more. If you are in the mood for good food, good entertainment, or just good company, come on down for Mulvane Old Settlers.



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Argonia

Argonia, like many frontier towns, owes its founding to the railroad. When the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad started construction of a track from Wichita to Wellington the Southern Kansas line was under construction heading west towards Harper, Kans.

On Aug. 20, 1880 the first train passed through the Dixon Township.

Prior to the rail coming west, Argonia was providing services, with a daily stagecoach, linking Dodge City and Wellington.

Incorporated in 1885, Argonia was named for the Argonauts of Greek Mythology. The band of heroes, with Jason, set out to fetch the Golden Fleece in the ship Argo.

A young lawyer from Wellington, Alfred E. Parker, whose father was a member of the Town Company proposed the name Argonia.

The summer of 1882 featured a rush of new residents for Argonia that lasted until 1888.

Francis Argonia Salter, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Salter, was the first child born in the new town on Feb. 13, 1883.

Four short years later, the Salter name would make Argonia famous and a key town for women.

Susanna M. Salter became the first woman to win a political office in the United States when she was named Mayor of Argonia in 1887. Her former home is now the site of the Salter Museum, which will re-open this summer following a restoration process that has taken place over the past few years.

With the construction of the Missouri Pacific tracks through town in the winter of 1885 and 1886, more people settled into town. Records from the period indicated that in 1886, Argonia was home to approximately 800 people.

While small in size, Argonia hosts activities throughout the year.

Visitors are encouraged to take a walk on the Memorial Walkway. This half-mile path provides a safe place for visitors and residents of Argonia to walk, bike, or run in a beautiful outdoor setting. At the south end of the walkway is Argonia's River

Park along the Chikaskia River. The River Park provides RV hookups, tent camping sites, picnic grounds, a bathhouse, and fishing access on the river.

Argonia's scenic river park overlooking Chikaskia River provides residents and visitors with ample opportunities for fun and recreation. The park has picnic shelter houses, deck, picnic tables, public fishing access and free WiFi.

On the southeast corner of the Salter Park is the city's swimming pool. Open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, the pool, complete with dual water slides and a diving board, provides a cool escape from the Kansas summer heat. Periodic midnight swims provide an opportunity for fellowship for young and old alike. The pool offers a wide variety of activities; swim team, water aerobics, lap swimming, pool parties and swim lessons.



NUMBERS TO KNOW WHEN VISITING

ARGONIA COMMUNITY CENTER
(620) 435-6667

HOLDEN PARK AND WILDLIFE AREA
(620) 435-6563

RIVER PARK
(620) 435-6417

SWIMMING POOL
(620) 435-6520

CITY OF ARGONIA
(620) 435-6417

SALTER MUSEUM
(620) 435-6171

RIVER PARK AND CAMPGROUND
(620) 435-6777



Belle Plaine

Belle Plaine — the oldest city in Sumner County — was founded in 1871 and incorporated in 1884. It is in the northeast corner of the county. Belle Plaine is situated in a valley between the Arkansas and Ninnescah Rivers, and according to some sources was named after Belle Plaine, Iowa, where some of the early settlers were from. The words mean “beautiful prairie.”

Many of this city’s almost 1,700 residents are employed in aviation-related industries in the surrounding area. Housed in the Belle Plaine Industrial Park are several firms engaged in various manufacturing operations.

Its excellent school system and quality recreational activities for youth attract many families wishing to reside in a small community.

Belle Plaine is the home of Bartlett Arboretum. The arboretum was formerly owned by Bob and Mary Bartlett Gourlay, and is now owned by Robin Macy.

Special events with live music and arts and crafts are scheduled throughout the year.

One thing that makes this community stand out is the support it gives to community and school events.

Tulip Time is now in its 33rd year. Set in April, the festival attracts visitors from numerous communities in south central Kansas and northern Oklahoma. The two-day festival features thousands of

tulips planted throughout the community, arts and crafts, on-site entertainment by both professional and non-professional entertainers, a food court, car show, parade and children’s activities.

Each July 4, Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce has an evening celebration including fireworks and games.

During the first weekend in August is National Night Out, and during the first weekend in December Santa comes to town.



NUMBERS TO KNOW WHEN VISITING

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(620) 488-3433

SWIMMING POOL
(620) 488-5511

LIBRARY
(620) 488-3431

CITY OF BELLE PLAINE
(620) 488-3433



Caldwell

Caldwell was founded in 1871 astride the famous Chisholm Trail as cowboys pushed their way north out of Indian Territory into Kansas.

The trail, known as the world's greatest cattle trail, guided over a million longhorn steers and their guardian cowboys through Caldwell. As the first town north of Indian Territory, cowboys went wild in this untamed "Border Queen City" after months on the dusty and treacherous trail. One of six original Kansas "cowtowns,"

Caldwell boasted a longer cowtown period (1880 – 1885), a higher murder rate, and loss of more law enforcement officers than any of the other more famous cowtowns. It was a place of cowboys, saloons, gambling and violence; where gunfights, showdowns, hangings and general hell-raising were commonplace.

Caldwell also was one of the starting points for the famous Cherokee Strip Land Run in 1893 when Oklahoma Territory was opened for homesteaders to stake land claims.

Preserving its rich heritage, Caldwell's historic past is retold through a series of historical markers located throughout the downtown area. An impressive street-spanning limestone arch

depicts Caldwell roots as it welcomes visitors into town. Other reminders of our riotous history can be found in town as well in the surrounding outskirts, including life-sized silhouettes depicting a trail cattle drive, Border Queen Museum, Caldwell Opera House, Heritage Park, Country School Museum, and Boot Hill Cemetery with "Talking Tombstone" re-enactors.

The annual Chisholm Trail Festival is held on the first full weekend in May celebrating our powerful heritage and bringing history to life. Caldwell was host to one of many sesquicentennial celebrations of the infamous Chisholm Trail in 2017. Representatives from Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas made plans for this year-long tri-state celebration.

While preserving the past is important to the community, Caldwell is equally "poised for the future" supporting its bustling Main Street, outstanding

schools, beautiful parks, churches, civic organizations and thriving businesses. Caldwell invites you to come, visit awhile and perhaps decide to "hang up your hat" and make Caldwell your home.



NUMBERS TO KNOW WHEN VISITING

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(620) 845-6666

CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY
(620) 845-6879

CALDWELL SCHOOLS, USD 360
(620) 845-2585

CITY OF CALDWELL
(620) 845-6514



Conway Springs



Welcome to beautiful Conway Springs, where residents will take pleasure in showing you their rich heritage.

The people of Conway Springs are proud supporters of their community and schools.

The town was started when Hiram Cranmer platted a tract in the southwest part of his quarter section, with six blocks of sixty-foot streets, and named it Northfield. When the railroad was surveyed in 1883, it went about a mile east of town.

Cranmer took immediate steps to launch a new town site closer to the railroad. The new town would be called Conway Springs, owing to the abundant springs in the area. It was incorporated in 1886.

Vintage Bank Kansas, formerly the State Bank of Conway Springs, originated in the town in 1884. Today, there are a variety of successful businesses in town.

In your visit to Conway Springs, be sure to stop by the gorgeous city park, and dip your toes in the naturally flowing springs in the historic spring house. It is a perfect way to cool off on a hot summer day.

The museum, which is full of historical items and information from early residents, is in the process of becoming more accessible on a regular basis. You can enjoy a lunch of pizza, burgers, or much more at local eateries such as Gambino's Pizza or au'Dean's Bar and Grill.

For over fifty years, the Conway Springs Arena Club has been holding its annual rodeo in May, with traditional rodeo events and fun activities for kids.

On the fourth Saturday in September, the annual Fall Fest includes a fun run, parade, carnival, car show, vendors, and entertainment all day. As evening comes, the chamber hosts a barbecue followed by fireworks and an outdoor dance.

Conway Springs offers the following services: appliance repair, auto body shop and repair, banks, car/truck wash, computer repairs, construction, convenience store, electricians, EMS service, fabric and quilting supplies and classes, fire protection service, friendship meals, grain elevators, grocery and grill, hair salons, home-based businesses, industrial park, insurance agencies, library, licensed child care centers, liquor stores, medical center, mortuary, nursing home, orchard, paint store, rental storage facilities, telephone/insurance company, trucking, upholstery shop, veterinary clinic, welding, and workout facilities.

The city park boasts great tennis courts, along with a swimming pool, which is open during the summer months. A separate sports complex for baseball, softball, and soccer, complete with a new peripheral walk-way is located on the south side of town.

NUMBERS TO KNOW WHEN VISITING

**CONWAY SPRINGS PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
(620) 456-2859

CONWAY SPRINGS SCHOOLS, USD 356
(620) 456-2961

CITY OF CONWAY SPRINGS
(620) 456-2345



Mayfield

Mayfield is a Sumner County authority on hamburgers and summer ball games. The town is just a stone's throw away from the old Chisholm Trail, and was founded by the Walton family in 1874.

Mayfield Grocery and Locker provides meat to customers who come from all over just to buy their product. The meat is used in local restaurants, such as the Dore in Wellington, for their hamburgers.

Mayfield has several historical markers noting where the trail used to lead. There are also grave sites still visible in the nearby cemetery, indicating where early settlers had perished along the trail or in the vicinity. The Mayfield community is very tight-knit, and in recent years, the town has built a brand new community center building, located by the ball diamond.



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Mulvane

Mulvane is located on the Sumner and Sedgwick County lines, and was founded in 1879 as a railroad and agricultural community. The community consists of over 6,100 people, and has a great small-town atmosphere.

Mulvane is a progressive city, with elected officials and community members alike, donating their time for the betterment of the community.

The Mulvane Settlers Festival has been a part of the city for 145 years. It takes place the third weekend of August, and includes live music, a carnival, a car show, a rodeo, crafts, a parade, and the Old

Settlers Run. There are activities for all ages to enjoy.

Mulvane was named in honor of Joab Mulvane, of Topeka, for his contributions that brought the railroad through the city. During the early years, the railroad was Mulvane's main source of revenue.

There are sixteen parks in Mulvane. The Mulvane Sports Complex is located at 111th Street and Webb Road. It has a playground area, three illuminated baseball diamonds, three soccer/football fields, and three T-ball diamonds. For a complete listing, and to reserve a park for a special use, contact City Hall at (316) 777-1143.



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Oxford

Founded in 1871, Oxford is a strong community with an abundance of history. Dating back to 1869, Oxford was once home to the Osage Native American Indian tribe. The first name given to Oxford was Napawalla, after the chief of the Osage tribe.

After the signing of the Treaty of 1870, the Osage were moved out of the area, leaving thousands of acres for the settlers to purchase and use.

The first business to open was the Oxford Town Company in 1871. It was right after this act that the name of the town was changed to Oxford. It was hoped that the town would one day have the same educational status as Oxford, England. A similarly-named town in Cowley County, Cambridge, is also located on Highway 160.

The first school district in Sumner County was established in Oxford. Several other businesses helped the city's growth, including hotels, churches, and a newspaper. In the 1930s, the town grew in population due to the boom in the oil business. After World War II, the oil production greatly decreased.

One of the great historical sites in Sumner County is the old Oxford Mill, which was built in 1874. The mill was bought by Wallace Champeny and Hall Ross. A restaurant was built inside, during the mill's restoration, from 1988-1989. Located at 170 Old Mill Road, it has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Oxford hosts the long running Christmas in the County each Thanksgiving weekend. The Nappawalla Music Festival takes place over Memorial

Day weekend. There is also a Watermelon Feed that takes place the Saturday following Labor Day. Activities that day include a children's parade, followed by another parade down Sumner Avenue. It includes food stands, crafts, games, and an outdoor dance.

Napawalla Park borders the Arkansas River on the east side of town, with boat access to the river.

Slate Creek Wildlife Area is also located seven miles south of Oxford. Although the area was purchased for waterfowl use and management, there are excellent populations of pheasants, quail and deer. Doves, rabbits, squirrels and many fur-bearers are also present. The many non-game species for wildlife on the make it an excellent area for bird watching, photography, and hiking.





Peck

Located just west of Highway 81 in the north-central part of Sumner County, this small town still boasts a post office, located inside the building that used to house the old bank. The Mulvane-Peck Co-Op is still where local farmers come to pick up their feed and farm supplies. Boudreaux Burger Barn brings in patrons from all over the area to try their delicious hamburgers and fries.

The town was one of many in the state that owes its existence to the railroad. In 1887, the Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska Railway built a branch line, from north to south, taking it from Herington to Peck onto Caldwell. It was foreclosed upon in 1891, and was taken over by the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway, which then shut down in 1980. Most locals still refer to this railroad as the "Rock Island."



Wyldeewood Cellars

Wyldeewood Cellars Winery is on 119th/53 highway just west of US-35, at exit 33. The largest and most awarded winery in Kansas, and the largest jelly and syrup company in the state.

Free tastings of the wines, jellies, and homemade fudges are offered seven days a week. Over 45 wines are available to choose from. At every sweetness level from the very dry to the sweet, dessert wines, and even a Mead (honey wine). The winery is

a popular venue for weddings and events, with a large banquet/reception room and landscaped patio with gazebo. The signature line is Elderberry, but you will find wines from not only fruits and berries, but also some amazing grape wines that are winning international acclaim. Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

CALL 316-554-9463 FOR MORE INFO.





South Haven

South Haven is a small community located just north of the Oklahoma border, between Caldwell and Arkansas City. The town is situated on land that had originally belonged to the Osage Indian Nation. The town was established in 1872 when four men gave a quarter of a section of their adjoining land to form the new city.

When the city made an application to the U.S. Government to establish a post office, Washington officials objected to the name 'Shoe Fly City.' They wanted the town to have a more dignified name. A few of the town's more prominent citizens came from South Haven, Michigan. This name was chosen when it came to a vote. The town was then awarded a charter for the South Haven post office in 1874.

The railroad came into town in 1883 as a means of hauling cattle to market. The tracks ran from Arkansas City to Anthony, a total of 59.35

miles. The railroad company needed more land, but the Town Development Company could not reach an agreement. They believed the railroad would continue its road south. Thus the the decision was made to continue the line to Hunnewell. In 1882, a group of merchants and ranchers had a horse show as an effort to bring the town together.

Known as the Farmer's Institute, the event was conducted for several years with a picnic, games, and other forms of entertainment.

In August of 1901, the name changed to the South Haven Fair Association, with exhibits of fruit, vegetables, and field crops. The South Haven Fair is still on the last weekend of August. Activities include exhibits, races, rides, a parade, a pedal pull, a 5k and one mile fun run, ag olympics, and drawings.

South Haven still had around 363 people, as of the 2010 census.



NUMBERS TO KNOW WHEN VISITING

**SOUTH HAVEN
COMMUNITY BUILDING**
(620) 892-5720

CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
(620) 892-5292

**SOUTH HAVEN
TOWNSHIP LIBRARY**
(620) 892-5268

**SOUTH HAVEN
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
(620) 892-5216

FLEMINGS TRAVEL PLAZA
(620) 829-5225

OASIS RV PARK
(620) 892-5115



Wellington

“Live well...live Wellington,” is not just a slogan, but a way of life for folks in Wellington, a town of about 7,800 people, who believe life in this small town is the best way to live, work, and play.

Located in the heartland of America, Wellington has all of the safety and charm of a small town, but is only a short twenty-minute drive to Wichita on either Highway 81 or the Kansas Turnpike.

Wellington is a transportation hub for travelers with three major highways. The Kansas Turnpike is just a mile east of town. US Highway 81 travels north and south through the center of Wellington, while US Highway 160 intersects from east to west.

Wellington is the county seat of Sumner County. It is known as the Wheat Capitol of the the World, and was named for the Duke of Wellington by one of the town founders.

In the historic downtown area, there is a original Carnegie Library, still in use today. The Chisholm Trail Museum operated out of the former Hatcher Hospital. The Hatcher Hospital was still in use as one of the city hospitals until the death of one of its founding doctors in 1964. The National Glass Museum contains many valuable and rare pieces of historic glass that brings visitors from all over the country.

The Panhandle Railroad Museum contains the personal collection of P.H. Wiley. Retired Engineer Wiley began his hobby during his 27-year career with the Santa Fe railroad. Wanting to share his extensive collection with others, he renovated a



historic stone building built in 1886. Exhibits also include various furniture pieces used throughout the Santa Fe system, uniforms worn by the trainmen, and safety items used by all employees. Also featured are clocks and watches, which were vital to the safe movement of trains before the signal system was put into use.

Outside the museum is an old 1067 steam engine that offers great fun for the train aficionados.

Wellington has so many restaurants that offer everything from 1950s-era Penny's Diner to your choice of a Mayfield hamburger at the Dore in downtown Wellington. From a variety of fast food places to your favorite kind of Mexican food, Wellington has several choices of places to eat.

The Wellington Golf Course is recognized as one of the best public courses in the State of Kansas. Located on the west edge of town, near the Wellington Family Aquatic Center, both locations offer plenty of activities for people to do.

Not far away is Worden Park, which has both baseball and softball fields. The park also contains Little League football and soccer fields, a go-cart track, model air plane pad, two well-lit walking paths, and a terrific playground.

Donut Bay Park is located along the banks of Slate Creek, and offers great fishing as well as a disc golf course.

Sellers Park is home to the Wellington Heat,

and is also where the Crusaders play baseball and football.

Wellington continues to be home for many citizens who believe in Crusader pride and do their best to live well...live Wellington.





Wellington Airport

Located two miles north of town on U.S. Highway 81, Wellington Municipal Airport/Industrial Park is 20 miles from Wichita's Mid-Continent Airport.

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Wellington Public Library

Most towns have libraries, no big deal. Few cities, though, can claim a rare and prestigious Carnegie Library.

Located at 121 W. Seventh St., the beautiful structure was constructed in 1916, with a majority of the costs donated by the Carnegie Corporation. The building was enlarged and renewed during the late 1980s, with much of the original interior maintained. A year later, the library was officially entered onto the National Register Of Historic Places.

The mission of the library is simple: to provide resources and services necessary to meet the educational, recreational and informational needs and interests of the community. (620) 326-2011





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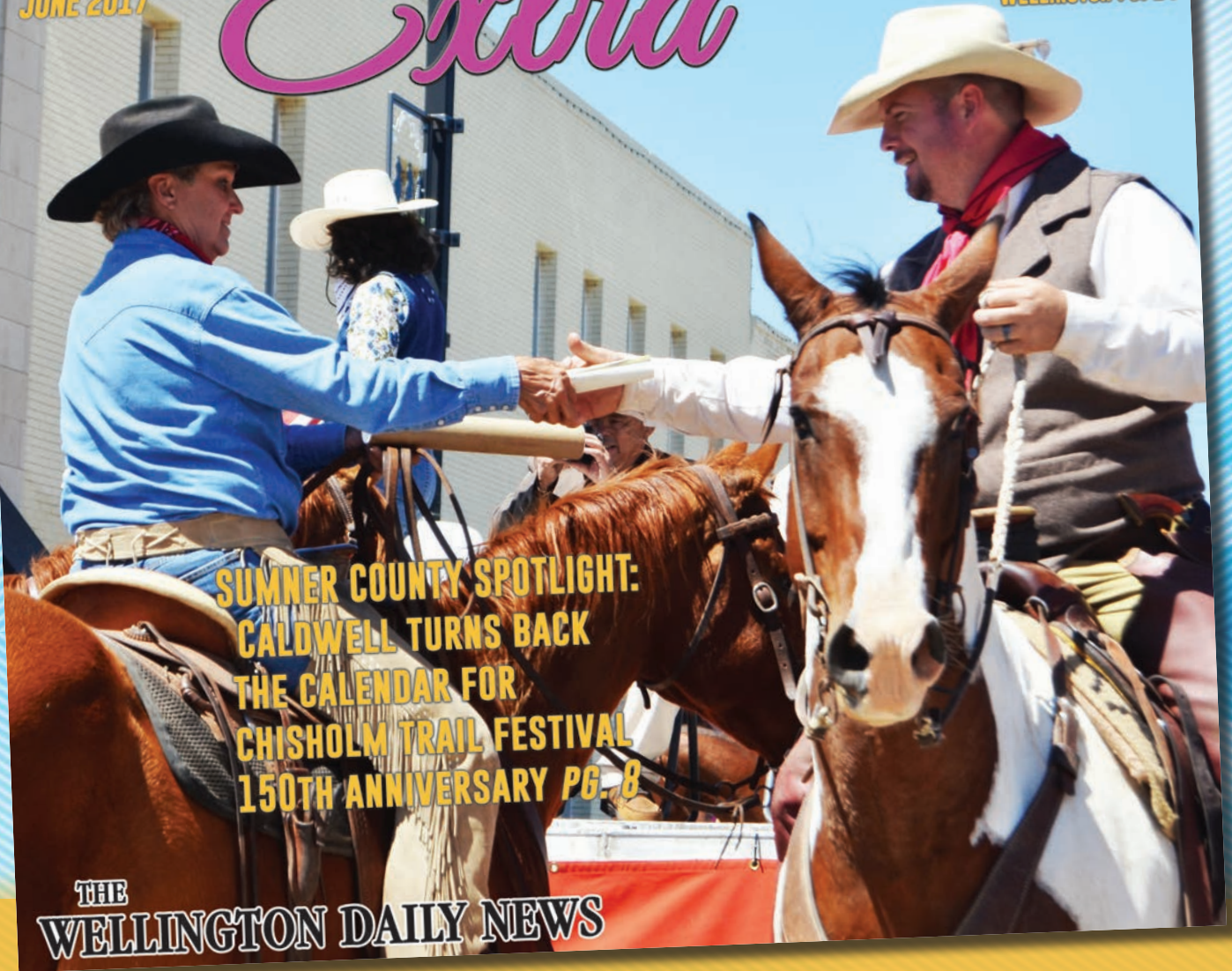
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SUMNER COUNTY Extra

JUNE 2017

FEATURING AREA COMMUNITY
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE:
BELLE PLAINE PG. 4
CALDWELL/SOUTH HAVEN PG. 6
CONWAY SPRINGS/ARGONIA PG. 10
MULVANE PG. 11
OXFORD PG. 12
WELLINGTON PG. 14



SUMNER COUNTY SPOTLIGHT:
CALDWELL TURNS BACK
THE CALENDAR FOR
CHISHOLM TRAIL FESTIVAL
150TH ANNIVERSARY PG. 8

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