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SUMMER STORM SPILLS OVER CITY
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BUHLER ALUMNI GAME PROVED TO BE MORE ABOUT FUN THAN FOOTBALL, SPORTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2016

\$2.00 newsstand



A history of harvesting

With roots 130 years deep, an era to end

By AMY BICKEL
Kansas Agland

PRATT – Like clockwork, at noon the combine, grain cart and trucks stop. It's lunchtime at the Barker farm – and for countless decades, this has been the wheat harvest ritual. Like a family, the crew gathers for a three-course meal in Ruth Ann Barker's air-conditioned kitchen before heading back to the field again.

"There's more potatoes," says Ruth Ann as she passes down the nearly empty basket of rolls before offering up her two desserts – strawberries and angel food and pineapple cake.

It's enough food to make a guy sleepy, jokes farm hand Mack Calloway.

Yet here, amid Pratt County, while technology has changed, the Barker farming tradition is long and deep rooted – going back 135 years when Galen Carter Barker broke the native grasslands with a horse and plow.

Helping bring in the state's nearly 9 million acres of wheat each year has now flowed through the family's veins for four generations.

At 84, the family patriarch, Carter Barker, is embarking on his 72nd wheat harvest. He still drives the old wheat trucks back and forth from

See **HARVEST** / A8



Photos by Travis Morisse/The Hutchinson News
Ruth Ann Barker serves rolls Wednesday to her husband, Gary Barker, and Trey Langford during lunch Wednesday at their home near Cairo. Below, Carter Barker and his Gary Barker are the final generation of farmers in their family.



A harvest hand for going on 50 years

By AMY BICKEL
Kansas Agland

Fifty harvests ago, long before air conditioned combines, before internet job boards, before he spent more than 30 years in a classroom, Norman Forsberg was just a married

man needing a summer job.

Happenstance, he calls it from atop a combine, his weathered hand steering a machine across Pratt County's amber terrain.

Fifty harvests

See **HAND** / A8

HANDS IN THE HARVEST



A NEW WAY TO WATCH

See the wheat harvest from every angle with an interactive 360-degree video at <http://hutch.news/067am0>

US HOUSE RACE

Candidates prepare to square off in debate

■ Contrasts expected from Huelskamp, Marshall during June 27 Hutchinson event.

By MARY CLARKIN
The Hutchinson News
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U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp and his Republican primary election challenger Roger Marshall will square off in their first head-to-head debate Monday, June 27, in Hutchinson.

The event will take place in Hutchinson Community College's Stringer Fine Arts Center, situated east of Gowans Stadium on East 11th Avenue. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the debate will begin at 6 p.m. and run until 7:30 p.m. It will be carried live on The Hutchinson News' Facebook and Twitter sites.

"We are excited to finally

See **DEBATE** / A5



HUELSKAMP



MARSHALL

INSIDE

Send in your questions, **A8**

GOOD AS A SCRATCH BEHIND THE EAR

Animal shelter turns to social media to help pets find families **A3**



ROYALS PUT A REAL POUNDING ON, D1

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CLASSIFIEDS E1 X-WORD E4
LOTTERIES A2 SPORTS D1
OUTDOORS D4 BUSINESS C1



95 71



INTERCEPTED LETTER

Carter and Gary Barker

Dear friends,

What an incredible run your family has made in the tradition of farming.

Yours, Hutch

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