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Harrell reflects on first year as fire chief

By Emily Walton

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Chief Greg Harrell will celebrate one year as head of the Sedalia Fire Department this month and is reflecting on his past year.

Harrell said he wanted to be a firefighter since he was young, and started at the Marshall Fire Department when he was 18. He said being chief was never a goal of his starting out.

"When I started, my big dream for a long time was to make captain," he said. "I guess it's one of those things where you reach one level and then you think, 'Maybe I'll try the next.'"

Harrell has slowly climbed the ranks over his nearly 45-year career and was promoted to fire chief early last June.



Sedalia Fire Chief
Greg Harrell

right direction," White said.

A specific goal of Harrell's was to create pre-fire plans for all of the commercial buildings in the city. The department wrote down the nearly 1,000 locations and split them up

A sunny afternoon of Ragtime



PHOTOS BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT

The Rhythmia performs a cakewalk number, "Whistling Rufus," in the Stark Pavilion on Friday during the Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival. The group is an acoustic string band that performs a mix of



Across the sea of audience members under the tent, Carl Sonny Leyland plays his Friday afternoon set in the Stark Pavilion.



PHOTOS BY NICOLE COOKE | DEMOCRAT

The crowd at the Stark Pavilion on East Fifth Street in downtown Sedalia applauds after another number from The Rhythmia on Friday.

Celebrate

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they want to be treated," a press release states. "The two operated W-K Garage out of a simple metal shed, gaining loyal customers, one car at a time."

Today, four generations later, W-K services and sells all nine American brands while recognizing the importance of its customers.

"Kelsey and I take great pride in being fourth-generation dealers," Kyle Weymuth said of his brother. "We have been very blessed to have this opportunity."

"Our father, Ken, as well as all the

Weymuth began their tenure as dealers and owners.

"As kids we spent our summers at the dealership washing cars, picking up trash, or whatever needed to be done," Kyle Weymuth recalled. "We literally grew up in this business watching our father and grandfather — they were our role model; and we wanted to follow in their footsteps."

In January 2017, W-K expanded and purchased two new dealerships in Boonville, W-K Ford and W-K Chrysler Dodge, Jeep, Ram, located off I-70 at exit 101.

"It has been so fun for us to watch the generations of customers come through the dealership," Kyle Weymuth said. "Not only is our family in its fourth generation of business, we have had customers that have brought

support the community that supports us. That's how my family has always viewed this and that's how our people view it.

"The fact is, a person can buy a vehicle anywhere these days," he added. "The internet has made it a very small world. We trust that by treating people the way they want to be treated and offering a fair and competitive price that W-K will be around for years to come."

The family roughly 100 employees between the three dealerships who they consider to be the backbone of the business.

"We couldn't have lasted 100 years if it were not for the great customer service that they have displayed," Weymuth said. "We spend a lot of time with our co-workers and truly believe that we are a family within ourselves."

