

Chamber Visions

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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the McCook Area Chamber of Commerce organizes and facilitates the McCook Home & Leisure Show? The 2012 show, which is scheduled for February 24, 25 and 26, will be the 22nd annual event. The Armed Forces Reserve Center on East Hwy. 6 & 34 will be the location of the show. Although the revenue from this event is crucial to the Chamber's budget, the Home & Leisure Show serves many purposes: 1.) Local businesses can take advantage of this opportunity to network as well as to increase their customer base and subsequent sales. 2.) It is the perfect opportunity to promote new products. 3.) Those who attend the show can make contact with several different businesses and then make an educated decision with regard to their upcoming project(s). 4.) The community at large can enjoy the social aspect of the event. 5.) The out-of-town vendors stay in motels, eat at our restaurants, buy gas for their vehicles and perhaps do some other shopping which, all told, is a boost to our economy.

"LET IT SNOW"AND IT DID!

The old adage....."Be careful what you wish for, because you might get it" became a reality for the 2011 Christmas Retail Promotion. A big day of Christmas celebrations on December 3 was cancelled due to an even bigger winter storm that left McCook and the surrounding area blanketed in snow! Santa couldn't make the trip from the North Pole to visit with children at the airport. He lamented that his trusty reindeer certainly could have made it regardless of the weather but it would have been asking too much of them with the huge travel plan for Christmas Eve looming on the horizon. The domino factor came into play because then he also could not be at the Keystone Business Center that afternoon. And....because there was far too much snow to deal with, the Chamber and the KFNF sponsor made the decision that the Christmas Lights Parade would also have to be cancelled. BAH HUMBUG!

THE CHAMBER SALUTES.....all those businesses and individuals that invested both time and money into their Christmas parade entries. We truly appreciate your support and certainly hope that you will be able to adapt your entry to a new theme next year. It was a sad day for all.

WINNER OF \$10,000.00 IN SNOWBUCKS ANNOUNCED

The name drawn for the "Let It Snow" drawing was David Ridlen of Enders, Nebraska. Mr. Ridlen will now join area shoppers in anticipation of at least six inches of snow on January 13. If that should happen, Mr. Ridlen will be the lucky recipient of \$10,000.00 in SnowBucks that can be used like cash at participating "Let It Snow" businesses. The drawing was held during the Schmick's Market Wine Tasting/Mixer on December 17.

SANTA'S HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The Keystone Business Center served as Santa's home away from home on December 10 and 17. Jolly ole Santa was delighted with the number of good boys and girls who came to see him. Christmas wishes ranged from Ipods to Barbie Dolls to racetracks to board games to Xbox and on and on! We want to thank Santa and his friend, Jim Beebe, for taking time from super hectic schedules to be in McCook keeping the age old tradition alive and well. Santa had taken a nasty fall on the ice and broken his collar bone but he still made the children his number one priority! Even through the pain, the twinkle in his eye and the jolly in his ho, ho, ho still enthralled his visitors.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP CONTINUES WORK ON PROJECT

The Young Professionals Group (YPG) met at Loop Brewery at noon on December 6 to further explore options with regard to their 2012 project as well as to exchange 'white elephant' gifts in celebration of the Christmas holiday. The group welcomed a new member from the Terry Ellinger, CPA office, Amy Dishman. Plans were made to attend the January meeting of the Museum of the High Plains Historical Society to share the project details and obtain their approval. More information will be released to the public as the project takes shape and efforts to raise funds are determined.

If you are interested in joining the YPG, or know of someone who might be, please contact the Chamber office at info@aboutmccook.com or 345-3200.

CHRISTMAS MIXER AT WELLS FARGO

Chamber members and other guests were treated to the traditional holiday mixer hosted by Wells Fargo Bank. Worthy of note is the long standing tradition wherein Wells Fargo has hosted the Christmas mixer for right at 30 years! The tradition is right up there with candy canes, mistletoe and eggnog.....the holidays just wouldn't be the same without this festive event! Attendees were treated to a variety of Christmas music presented by Karen Lieske's piano students as well as a door prize drawing and a ticket for a free beverage. Thank you to Bill and his team for the special evening.

“LITERACY FOR LITTLE PEOPLE” PROJECT DEEMED A HUGE SUCCESS!



The 2011-2012 Southwest Nebraska Leadership Institute organized and facilitated a book drive with the goal of obtaining new and gently used books that would, in turn, be distributed at no cost to area youngsters. The project was a huge success on several levels: 1.) between 1,500 and 2,000 books were collected, 2.) the children and their parents were delighted with the selection of books, 3.) most of the books were distributed and the others were taken to the Toy Box for distribution on the following day, and 4.) the class members learned the detailed intricacies of pulling an event together, 5.) the target group readily accepted the invitation to “shop” for books at absolutely no cost, 6.) Selecting and successfully completing a project is a requirement to graduate from the Leadership Institute.



SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

At the beginning of the year, the 2011-2012 class voted to hold two meeting dates in January. This would allow them the opportunity to graduate in April ahead of the rush of other activities in May. January 11 and January 25 were selected as days to meet. The class was also reminded that they must attend a local, formal board meeting and submit a signed agenda to the Leadership Board of Directors as a requirement for graduation.

WELCOME ABOARD...

The McCook Area Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a warm welcome to Loop Brewery as a new member of the Chamber. Tyler and Tyler Sue Loop opened their doors for the first time in mid-November and thus far they have enjoyed an overwhelming success. We will be visiting them for a ribbon cutting in the near future to welcome their new business to McCook. The brewery is located in the former "ice house" at West 4th & A Streets.

WELCOME ABOARD...

Casey's new store at 204 West B Street has completed their remodeling effort and is the newest member of the McCook Area Chamber of Commerce. Both Casey's West and Casey's East are members so it is good to have Casey's Central on board also. We appreciate their support and look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead. Stop by and check out their new look!

WELCOME ABOARD...

We would like to welcome Young's Auction Service on board as a new Chamber member. Dennis is well-known throughout the area and has had his own company for a good number of years. Young's Auction Service will handle farm sales, from equipment to land sales, as well as estate sales, household sales, etc. We are pleased to have this well-established business in the McCook area join the Chamber and look forward to working with them for years into the future!

TROPICAL TANNERS HAS NEW OWNER

By Starla Werkmeister

Tropical Tanners has been in business since 2007. I bought Tropical Tanners on November 1, 2011. There are 6 lay down beds and 1 stand up bed. Three of the lay down beds are your basic beginning tanning bed and the other 3 plus the stand up are your super beds. I also carry over 40 different brands of lotions to choose from ranging in tanning lotions to moisturizers. No appointment is necessary and your first tan is always free!

I was born and raised in McCook, graduating from McCook High School in 2001, McCook Community College in 2003 and Peru State College, Peru, Nebraska in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. I worked for Region II Human Services in North Platte before transferring to Region II Human Services in McCook in 2007. I then started working part time at Tropical Tanners in 2007 and quit working in 2009 to marry Kyle Werkmeister. We have one child, a son, Hudson and he is 2 1/2 years old.

Stop in at 1006 West B Street anytime. My hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am - 7 pm, and Saturday, 9 am - 2 pm. My phone number is 345-3323.

START THE NEW YEAR OUT RIGHT - TAKE A CLASS AT MCC

By Brent Cobb

If you are you looking for continuing education credits, professional development, or personal enrichment classes, McCook Community College has several upcoming classes which might be of interest. The Mid-Plains Center for Enterprise, located in the Hormel Center for Business and Industry in McMillen Hall has the following classes:

- Grants: Crafting a Compelling Need – Jan. 21, noon-4
- Zero to Grant Proposal in 4 weeks – Feb. 11-Mar 3, noon-4
- Finding Federal Funding – Feb. 4, noon-4
- Grass Roots Fundraising Series – Feb 13-20-27, 6:30-9:30
- Marketing – Don't Put All Your Eggs In One Basket – March 13, 6:30-9:30
- Managing Multiple Priorities & Projects – Mar 8-29 (Thurs), 7-8:30
- Prezi: Add Wow to Your Presentation – Feb 23, 6-9 pm
- Get Hooked Up With Twitter & LinkedIn – March 24, noon-4

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MCC BASKETBALL

With classes for the spring semester starting Jan. 16, the MCC men's and women's basketball teams are poised for a stretch run that will see their final season in historic True Hall before moving to the Events Center in the fall. The MCC men have nine home games scheduled and the women have eight. The MCC men will close out True Hall Feb. 15 against North Platte. The MCC women will shut down True Hall Feb. 28 against Northeast CC of Norfolk in a 5:30 p.m. game.

MCC MEN REMAINING HOME SCHEDULE

- Jan. 10 -- Hastings College Junior Varsity, 6 p.m.
- Jan. 20 -- Eastern Wyoming Community College, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 21 -- Western Nebraska Community College, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 28 -- Southeast Community College, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 3 -- Lamar Community College, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 4 -- Northeastern Junior College, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 15 -- North Platte Community College, 7:30 p.m.

MCC WOMEN REMAINING HOME SCHEDULE

- Jan. 9 -- NCTA (Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture), 6 p.m.
- Jan. 11 -- Hastings College Junior Varsity, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 20 -- Eastern Wyoming Community College, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 21 -- Western Nebraska Community College, 5 p.m.
- Jan. 28 -- Southeast Community College, 4 p.m.
- Feb. 3 --Lamar Community College, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 4 --Northeastern Junior College, 5 p.m.
- Feb. 28 --Northeast Community College, 5:30 pm

FARM BUREAU-THREE PROFESSIONALS READY TO SERVE THEIR CUSTOMERS

by Teri Turcotte

Jimmy Gleason, Sara Richards and Teri Turcotte are the professionals at the Farm Bureau office located at 802 West B, Ste 104.

Jim is married to Annette and they live in Benkelman. Jim is licensed in NE and KS. When Jim is not working with customers from Benkelman to Cambridge, he helps his father with the family farm north of Bird City KS. Jim has been a Farm Bureau agent for over 30 years, working in Montana and Wyoming. Jim works to have the office reflect the statement "Best Known, Most Sought After"

As a new agent to Farm Bureau, Sara is excited about the opportunity to help Farm Bureau customers prepare for the future and protect what matters most to them by providing products and services that protect families, individuals and businesses. Sara and husband Zac Richards, who specializes in Crop/Hail insurance, also run a Farm Bureau office in Hayes Center. Sara and her husband along with their two little girls, Aubree and Adrianna, own a farm near Hayes Center.

Teri has over 20 years experience in the insurance industry. She uses her customer service skills along with her insurance licenses to help each customer's needs. Teri works in the McCook office Monday through Friday. Teri is married to Jim Turcotte and they live in McCook.

Jim, Sara and Teri are working together in order to serve the customers of Farm Bureau.

KARMON COLEMAN JOINS CHAMBER BOARD

By Karmon Coleman



My name is Karmon Coleman, and I am the Branch Manager at Great Western Bank. I have been with the bank for almost 6 years, which included the transition from Tier One to Great Western Bank, giving me quite the experience in how industries change with time. My husband Clint is the assistant superintendent at Heritage Hills Golf Course. We have a son, Walker, who just turned one. We are both proud to be McCook natives, glad to make Southwest Nebraska our home.

I was excited to join the Chamber's Board of Directors because I think it's a great way to get involved with the community. The Chamber plays such a big role in promoting McCook and helping residents to be involved. In our rural area, it's a great place to connect with a wide variety of people, and I'm glad to be a part of it. My hope is to see the businesses of McCook grow and prosper.

