

The Chamber Business Journal

May 2016

Doing what most people think just happens!

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Congratulations & Welcome!

Transformative Recruitment
6505 East Central Avenue, Suite 187
Wichita, KS 67206
Contact: Leon Wilkerson, MHRM, SPHR
Phone: 785-991-0239
Hours: In McPherson Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
In Wichita Monday & Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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Transformative Recruitment is a human capital consulting and recruiting firm. They provide the full suite of HR services and support what any business would want and need. Transformative Recruitment has a combined 60 years of experience providing client focused and results driven HR

services. They look forward to engaging with local HR consultant and/or recruiters.

Prairie Hills Financial Group
223 S. Main St., 3rd Floor McPherson
Contact: Glen Snell
Phone: 620-504-5062
Website: ameripriseadvisors.com/glen.snell
Hours: 8:30-5:00 Mon-Thurs. 8:30-4:00 Friday

Prairie Hills Financial Group is a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services. They provide comprehensive planning solutions for the 6 key areas of financial planning. Glen E. Snell, CPA, CRPC, has 20 years of experience helping clients dream about their goals, developing a written plan and tracking progress to those goals. They look forward to continuing to serve McPherson and surrounding communities.

MCPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee Awards Scholarships

Agriculture Future of America announces

Chase Sneath, a McPherson County high school student, has been selected to receive one-year AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships. This scholarship is presented to high school graduates pursuing four year degrees in agriculture and related degree programs.

Chase Sneath, a senior at Inman High School, plans to attend Kansas State University.

In addition to \$3,200 in academic scholarship, Chase will receive sponsorship to attend the AFA Leaders Conference November 3-6, 2016, in Kansas City, Missouri. This event is attended by over 650 top agriculture students from across the nation.

AFA partners with businesses and individual donors to provide scholarships and intern opportunities to students who are actively pursuing careers in an agriculture-related industry. It is through

partnerships such as these that the needs of youth are met, intern opportunities are created, scholarship dollars are allotted, and leader skills are enhanced.

AFA, founded in the fall of 1996 by the late R. Crosby Kemper Jr., is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to enhancing the education and leader potential of rural youth in the Midwest region through community-based scholarships, AFA provides leader and career development training and internship assistance to college students across the country.

Additional academic scholarships were awarded and funded by area ag producers.

Nathan James (Smoky Valley High) received \$500 (DVT Farms in memory of Darrell & Lucille Thompson), Trapper Bellah (Smoky Valley High) received \$200 (Charlie & Marcia Williams) and Janea McKinney (McPherson High School) received \$500 (Johnnie & Elsie Dossett).

Join the Fun!

“Tee It Up” and “Drive” Business to your Front Door

It is that time of year that the McPherson Chamber of Commerce begins “pitching” the Tartan Turkey Golf tournament scheduled Saturday, June 11. The tournament is the perfect business “caddie” to assist “follow through” to make it to that “sweet spot”. The Tartan Turkey Golf Tournament is an “ace” for networking and business promotion/marketing. We know it is a “jungle” out there and our “approach” is simple.

BIRDIE Sponsor \$In Kind Donations

• Recognition in weekly Chamber E-Newsletter, tournament program, website, monthly Chamber Business

Journal and at awards ceremony
• Suggestions for in-kind donations
• Balls, balls, balls, every player receives a sleeve of balls - any amount you can spare would be great - we combine with others to get to the 64 dozen we will need.

• Be creative with your marketing and include logo items or discounts for each golfer
• Golf tournament prizes - we need 4 items to be used for flight prizes - gift certificates/cards, hats, anything!

The Time Volunteer

Just let us know you can help us out on Saturday morning - bring a lawn chair, sun glasses and sunscreen, you might even get the “beach” location.

We will feed you breakfast, lunch and be entertained with the “wag-gles”, “dubs”, and occasional “duffers” and networking is a bonus!

The Tartan Turkey Golf Tournament is also an opportunity to connect with other business leaders through competitive fun. So gather your 4-person team and get signed up for a fun morning at Turkey Creek Golf Course.

Golf Team Registration forms are available at www.mcphersonchamber.org or contact the McPherson Chamber at 620-241-3303.

Positive View of Rural

(Small Biz Survivals Newsletter March, 2016)

10 happiness-makers to take advantage of in your own town:

1. Have a picnic in the park
2. Watch a school/college sports game
3. Sit outside at night and look up at the stars
4. Catch a school/college/community play or concert
5. Attend an auction
6. Support a community event or fundraiser
7. Visit the public library
8. Take a dip in the public pool
9. Meet someone new at the coffee shop
10. Visit a museum

You probably knew about most of these already. I offer this reminder because there is always more to do in your small town than you realize. How many times have you heard, or even said, “There is nothing to do here!”

So I’m challenging you to think, right now, of five things to do in your town. Right now. Get a pen. Start with the

first happy thing you can think of. Yes, you can draw on that list above, but put a local spin on it. Don’t just copy, make it personal for your place.

It’s easy to remember the big festivals and events, like the car show or craft fair. You have to think more to find your “insider” events, the things locals know about but never tell visitors. Your visitors from big towns would love to sit in your small town gym and cheer at the high school basketball game or bid on cool junk at your country auctions, or watch movies without fighting a crowd at your local theater.

Do you have two things to do on your list now? Write them down.

Events you think are nothing special can mean the world to visitors and guests. When travel blogger and tourism expert Sheila Scarborough found out about a weekly Amish product auction in Jamesport, Missouri, she was thrilled to go see it. “The experience added immeasurably to our stay there and became the lead for a Jamesport travel article that I wrote for the “Dallas Morning News”, Sheila said.

Make time for “anytime activities. Think about the experiences that make your small town special, like enjoying the walking trail, touring the historic neighborhood, playing at the playground, or laying out and watching the stars in the park at night.

From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce



Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

The article “Positive View of Rural” hit a soft spot in my heart when I read it and I just had to share. I think that we take for granted so many opportunities

we have right in our own back yard. Especially with the weather getting nice, my first thought is the Meadowlark Trail - what a great asset to our community, there are always several people and families using the trail. With the recent receipt of a grant from the Kansas PRIDE the fund raising by the Central Kansas Conservancy and the partnership of Hutton Construction there will be a “Sunset” bench and a “Sunrise” bench installed along the trail to gaze at the beautiful, open landscape the trail offers, in addition to providing a comfortable resting spot.

I am so looking forward to the dog park and taking my dog Jaxx. Although the visit to the

dog park will be more for me. I enjoy meeting new four legged friends, who can assist a wagging tail and a happy drool.

McPherson has such beautiful green spaces to enjoy, whether it is a quiet spot on a bench or at one of the many playground areas where the laughter of children always brings a smile. We have so much to be thankful for and sometimes I think we forget how fortunate we have it here in McPherson. If you are looking for what there is to do, go to the Chamber website at www.mcphersonchamber.org and check out the community calendar or www.visitmcpherson.com. There is no excuse for saying “there is nothing to do.”

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2015 - 2016 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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 Tom Saffel – Prairie Landworks • Katie Sawyer – McPherson College
 Staff: Jennifer Burch – Executive Director • Debbie Hawkinson – Administrative Assistant • Alesia Stout – Program Assistant

CertainTeed Supports Chamber



The McPherson CertainTeed Siding Products plant recently awarded the McPherson Chamber of Commerce \$500 towards the upgrades for new Chamber management software and new website – www.mcphersonchamber.org. Pictured L-R is Jennifer Burch, Executive Director of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and Janet Lynch, Plant Manager of CertainTeed Siding Products.

From the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau



Joni Regnier
CVB Director

The excitement is building as the McPherson Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) prepares for the long-awaited move to the McPherson Museum & Arts Foundation at 1111 E. Kansas.

Our location change is part of a comprehensive plan to establish a Kansas Travel Information Center in McPherson and to support the ongoing efforts of the McPherson Museum. According to the Kansas Division of Tourism, travelers stopping at travel information centers often increase their stay in the state by one day and increase their spending by an average \$150 per vehicle.

When will you be in your new location? How much is the move going to cost? Who pays for the move? These are the most popular questions asked of our office, and we are happy to share the news.

The CVB plans to be in its new location no later than May 31, providing opportunity for our office to greet tourists as the travel season begins. Moving expenses total \$43,529.55 and include phones, electrical, furniture, site maps and signage. The majority of the cost is a new 16 mm LED sign that will be posted along Kansas Avenue and will be used to promote CVB and community events.

Most important, the CVB move will be completed at no cost to the residents of McPherson. Our office is fully funded by the transient guest tax, also known as bed tax, which is collected quarterly from McPherson hotels. Thus, CVB operations including our move to the McPherson Museum are paid for using guest tax, not local taxes. What great news! The City of McPherson benefits from CVB improvements at no cost to the local taxpayer.

Thank you, McPherson, for your questions regarding our upcoming move. Our new location will improve our ability to market local attractions and events. We look forward to welcoming visitors and encouraging them to explore our community.

Joni Regnier
Executive Director

Community Development USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

There are several upcoming FREE USDA Rural Development workshops scheduled to share with you about their programs and how they can help finance your next project.

Workshops will focus on:
 • USDA Community Facilities Programs overview and type of funding for projects
 • Discussion of the application and planning process
 • Resources and partners for community projects
 • Time for attendees to work individually with USDA staff to address specific community needs

Examples of Essential Community Facilities Include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities
- Public facilities such as city halls, courthouses, libraries, museums or street

improvements

- Community-support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing
- Public-safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances, warning sirens, storm shelters, public works vehicles or equipment
- Educational facilities and/or equipment
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, good pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or green houses.

Here is the schedule for various locations in Kansas.

April 21 – Smith Center
1:30-4:00 p.m. at Srader Center, 219 S. Main

April 27 – Eureka
9:30 a.m. to noon at Eureka Library, 606 N. Main

May 11 – Fort Scott
9:30 a.m. to noon at Empress Event Center, 7 N. Main

May 19 – Kingman
9:30 to noon Kingman Activity Center, 121 S. Main

June 8 – Great Bend
1:30-4:00 p.m. Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main Street

RSVP to Attend Workshop
 Please RSVP for a workshop by contacting Shane Hastings at 785-271-2728, or email at shane.hastings@ks.usda.gov. Include the following information in your RSVP, name, organization, project(s) needing funding, and type of funding you would like to learn more about.

chamber events

- April**
- 10 **7:00 a** Agriculture Committee @ Perkins, 2111 E. Kansas
 - 12:00 Community Development @ Chamber
 - 5:00 p Ribbon Cutting Hutchinson Clinic, 619 N. Main
 - 27 **4:00 p** Tartan Turkey Golf Tournament meeting @ Chamber
 - 28 **9:30 a** Chamber Coffee @ Midway Motors – Rental Department, 2075 E. Kansas
 - 11 **7:00 p** OMEGA Presentation @ Mayfate
 - 12 **9:30 a** Chamber Coffee hosted by All Schools Day at McPherson Museum, 1111 E. Kansas
- May**
- 3 **12:00** Ambassadors @ Chamber
 - 13 **Office Closed for All Schools Day**
 - 4 **12:00** Leadership Board of Trustees @ Chamber
 - 18 **4:00 p** Women's Event @ Chamber
 - 5 **9:30 a** Chamber Coffee at Winfield Solutions, 1066 Comanche Road
 - 19 **9:30 a** Chamber Coffee hosted by McPherson
 - 6 **10:00 a** Ribbon Cutting All in One Safety, 1411 S. Old 81 Hwy

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Browns Shoe Fit located at 118 N. Main. They are the winner of a DQ Cake. Thank you to Roger and Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill and Chill, 1435 N. Main, for providing the monthly DQ ice cream treat.

From the McPherson County United Way

A HUGE THANK YOU
 To the entire county and community. So many have reached out to welcome me and support me in my role as Director. I really have been taken aback by the support given to the United Way. The organizations we pair with to help those in need are just spectacular and do a fantastic job. To the McPherson Chamber of Commerce for welcoming me into their building where my office is even though I am the only guy. The Convention and Visitors Bureau and McPherson Main Street have also been there to field my questions. I certainly would have



Stuart R. Dille
Executive Director

floundered if not for the assistance of my predecessor, Anne Kirchner. The other county Chambers have been great by agreeing to share our press release and just being friendly. I have already met quite a few great people and I can't wait to continue to get to know as many as possible in the County. Our Board of Directors is just an outstanding group and it is because of their support and guidance that I am thrilled to continue the work of the United Way here in McPherson County. I look forward to cooperation and collaboration that will continue to help those in need to survive and thrive. I am also excited to experience all that there is to offer in this great community.

Thank you for Living United!
 Stuart R. Dille
 Executive Director

Congratulations to Power to the People (BPU) who won the first Chamber Challenge event.

A great thanks to the other teams that participated Fergies Feisty Flyers (Ferguson Production), Team Home State Bank (Home State Bank), Hutton Construction (Hutton Construction), Power to the People (Board of Public Utilities), Bank Rollers (Farmers State Bank), Sparkling Spines (Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center and Venable Jewelers).

The various events held for the Chamber Challenge were:
 1) River Rush, an interactive Kinect Adventures game @ The Village Geek
 2) Knocking Down the Pins! At Starlight Lanes
 3) Taking team selfies at Chamber Challenge
 Champion businesses with their selected feature product or service:
 Thank you to the following sponsors where teams took selfies on location and posted to Facebook: Prairie Land Works, Farmers State Bank Ferguson Production, Hall's Culligan Water, Graber's Ace Hardware, Sunflower Bank, Nex-Tech Wireless, Home State Bank & Trust, Hutton Construction, First Bank Kansas, Treasure Chest Shooting Range, Board of Public Utilities, Craft Coffee Parlor, Venable Jewelers, Simply Good Overstocks, Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center and the McPherson Chamber of Commerce.

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