

December 2012

# The Chamber @WORK

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most people think  
just happens!*

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## Welcome to the Chamber!

**Five Star Cellular**  
104 North Main  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Phone: 620-241-5673  
Contact: Levi Sides

Levi Sides and his wife Kayla are the new owners of U.S. Cellular operating as Five Star Cellular at 104 N. Main. Levi grew up in McPherson and graduated from McPherson High School. He earned a Small Business Management Degree from Central Christian College. Kayla is a graduate of Central Christian College and Emporia State University. As a locally owned and operated business, Levi and Kayla look forward to serving the community. At U.S. Cellular, they believe in "Something Better" and will provide unmatched customer service.

**Sam's Club**  
2919 Market Place  
Salina, KS 67401  
Phone: 785-825-2229  
Fax: 785-825-4602  
Contact: Kara Lerret, Jody McQuillan, Lisa Harbaugh

Sam's Club's mission is to make savings simple for members. Located at 2919 Market Place in Salina, Kansas, Sam's Club is excited to be a part of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce.

**Kasey Aroum – New Associate!**  
McPherson Realty Exchange  
1001 S. Main, P.O. Box 442  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Phone: 620-241-1322  
Contact: Kasey Aroum

Kasey Aroum was born in McPherson and graduated from Elyria Christian High School. Kasey and her husband Suhail have two children. Over the past 5 years she has held multiple customer service positions and loves working with the public in this community. She is excited to be pairing her passion and creativity with a company like McPherson Realty's 38 years of experience. Her goal is to offer the highest quality of service and professional assistance through every state of the buying or selling process.

**Mutual TeleCommunications (MTC)**  
112 South Main  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Phone: 620-897-6200  
Fax: 620-897-6211  
Website: www.mtc4me.com  
Contact: Shayla Grasser, Jimmy Todd

Based out of Little River, Kansas, MTC is excited to be opening its McPherson location at 112 S. Main – November 19. MTC will be offering SmartHome technology to residential and business customers, along with Manage Service Provider (MSP), computer sales, retail items and Nex Tech Wireless cellular service. MTC currently has locations in Little River, Lyons, Sterling and Marquette.

**WinField Solutions**  
1066 Comanche Road  
Inman, KS 67546  
Phone: 620-585-2070  
Contact: Ralph C. Weninger, Sherry Jerome

WinField Solutions, LLC links top performing products with industry expertise and insights to help growers, dealers and other industry partners achieve the highest level of bottom line success.

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**YPMAC (Young Professional Making Active Connections in McPherson County)**  
P.O. Box 215  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Phone: 620-241-1826 (Jackie Christiansen Office)  
Contacts: Jackie Christiansen – President (Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd), Katy Aichele – Treasurer (Home State Bank & Trust), Nancy LaPrad – Social Coordinator (CSI – Computer Solutions Inc.), Megan Anderson – Secretary (Kansas Secured Title Company), Katie Sawyer – Promotions (Sawyer Land & Cattle/King Enterprise Group), Eric Litwiller – Fundraising (ReUse It Center), Katie Hill – Member at Large (McPherson College)  
Web: www.facebook.com/ympmac.5

Young Professional Making Active Connections in McPherson County (YPMAC) is a not-for-profit organization committed to building connections that benefit our members, businesses and McPherson County. YPs are individuals 21 to 40ish who live, work or play in McPherson County and want to connect, get involved, develop their careers and make a difference in their community. Examples of young professionals include: customer service representatives, managers, attorneys, stay-at-home moms, secretaries, sandwich artists, etc. YPMAC strives to achieve strong community relationships through socials, volunteering and networking. This builds a strong foundation for 21 to 40 year olds in McPherson to connect within our communities.

**Tod Emerson (Action Realty)**  
1427 N. Maple (h) 910 E. Hulse (w)  
McPherson, KS 67460  
Phone: 620-245-4237  
Fax: 620-241-2171  
Web: www.todemerson.com

Tod Emerson says that there are several reasons why you should use him in your real estate ventures. Tod will exceed your expectations to make sure the sale or purchase of your home is a complete success. Tod strives to make each client's real estate experience simple during every step of the process. When you inform him of what your needs are, he will research the areas of interest in towns, cities or rural areas which are of interest to you and provide a comprehensive analysis encompassing everything from your potential taxes and assessments to school districts and areas to shop. He will always strive to remove the stress associated with purchasing or selling real estate.

Tod works daily handling the needs of his clients from the office or in the field through the use of land line, cell phone, fax, email and websites. He can provide you with pictures of homes that are in your price range, location or style you desire. When he is handling the sale of your home, he can use these means to provide the potential buyer with information in a short period of time and help them through the buying experience.

Action Realty has become and will remain a company that is known for integrity, honesty and exceeding expectations in the real estate community. Tod is the catalyst between the company and you. Your experience with Tod will assure you of your ultimate satisfaction. Tod says one of the best parts of real estate is developing new friends along the way. He's looking forward to meet you and helping you sell your house and finding the home of your dreams!

## NetWork Kansas Awards \$457,250 in Tax Credits To Nine Kansas Communities to Raise Funds to Loan to Local Entrepreneurs

NetWork Kansas announced November 6, 2012 that it has awarded \$457,250 in tax credits to nine Kansas Entrepreneurship (E-) Communities, enabling them to raise more than \$600,000 to replenish local loan funds to be utilized by local businesses in their community. The selected communities are Chautauqua County, Coffeyville, Douglas County, Hoisington, Leavenworth, McPherson County, Norton County, Osage County, Phillips County. The awarded communities have participated in NetWork Kansas' innovative E-Community Partnership for at least one year and have actively used their previously awarded funds to loan to local businesses.

All of the communities selected to receive additional funding submitted partnership proposals in August as part of a competitive 2012 E-Community selection process before being recommended to the NetWork Kansas board of directors for approval by Director of E-Communities Erik Pedersen.

"It is very exciting that nine of our existing Entrepreneurship Communities were selected to receive additional tax credits," said Pedersen. "Loan activity is certainly an important factor that we look for. However, it's the other initiatives these communities are working on that truly effect the entrepreneurial environment in a positive manner."

Eight new E-Communities were also selected this fall. Combined, the new and existing E-Communities will raise more than \$1.5 million in seed funding for Kansas entrepreneurs this

year through the Kansas Entrepreneurship Tax Credit.

The E-Community Partnership, now in its sixth year, has grown from six communities in 2007 to thirty-eight in 2012. The NetWork Kansas E-Community partnership allows a town, a cluster of towns, or an entire county to raise seed money for local entrepreneurs through donations from individuals or businesses within the community. During the first five years of the E-Community partnership, more than \$6 million have been raised. These funds are estimated to generate more than \$34.1 million of investment in rural businesses across Kansas.

"Being designated as an Entrepreneurship Community has provided startup funding for businesses that we may not have seen open their doors without it. This has been a great asset in providing an opportunity to work with other business resources and the area banks," said Jennifer Burch, Executive Director of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and administrator of the McPherson County E-Community Loan Program.

Business startups and expansions in McPherson County who have benefited from the McPherson County E-Loan Program include: Mattress Haven, Bruno's Woodfired Pizzeria, Brooklyn & Co. Knackies, Mower Medic, Little Caesar's Pizza, Artistic Hair and Nail Salon (Lindsborg) and Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center.

Since 2007, NetWork Kansas E-Communities have loaned or granted \$2.1 million to businesses in their communities through this funding source and leveraged an additional \$11.9 million dollars, for a total investment of \$14 million dollars into businesses in E-Communities. This funding has spurred the creation or retention of nearly 551 jobs in these same communities and has immeasurable positive effects on the entrepreneurial ecosystems of these participating areas.

## From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce



Jennifer Burch  
Executive Director

At this time of Thanksgiving, we pause to count our blessings. The freedom of this great country in which we live. It's opportunity for achievement. The friendship and support our members have shown in us. For all these things, we are deeply thankful.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday and don't forget to get out and get your Candy Cane Cash stamps.

## ChamberChecks are the Perfect Gift!

Available for the general public for purchase at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, the ChamberChecks are a convenient gift for anyone. Chamber member participants are: McPherson Family YMCA, Pizza Hut (McPherson), Jantz Lumber, Clayworks at Disability Supports, Robert J. Arnold, O.D., Grabbers ACE Hardware, Artshirt Gear for Sport, Krebhiels Speciality Meats, Dr. Ken Cotton, The Well, Stull Gallery & Auction, Bruno's Woodfired Pizzeria, Farmers Insurance Group (Mike Bowyer), Jessica Griffith, Certified Massage Therapist, Little Caesars, M & W Commercial Cleaning, MiMac Printer, Mower Medic, Prairie Star Health Center, Save 'n Share, Sound of

the Heartland Chorus, Associates in Family Care, STEP MC, Take Shape for Life, TTI Electrical Services, The Village Geek, Wichita Mid Continent Airport, The Cocks Nook, Sears of McPherson, CTFir24, Sounds Great!, Integrated Health & Wellness, Wallace Chevrolet, Dr. Esther V. Rettig, Walmart (McPherson), Mutual TeleCommunications, Five Star Cellular, Jim's Appliance of Inman, Tod Emerson (Action Realty), Venable Jewelers, McPherson Dental Care, Hopp's Sound & Electric, Time Out Sports Bar & Grill, Brown's Shoe Fit, Burgett's Furniture, A5 Western, Brooklyn & Co., McPherson Eye Care, Knackies Meats & Sweets, McPherson Hospitalist Gift Shop, McPherson Business Solutions.

ChamberCheck orders will need to be picked up by 12:00 on December 24.

2013 Farm Forum

## Plant the Seeds of Succession

The Agriculture Committee met recently, and Jonie James, Chair of the planning committee for the Farm Forum, announced that Lance Woodbury will be the keynote speaker for the 2013 Farm Forum. Lance will be speaking on estate planning and farm succession, as well as honoring Todd and Janel Hamrin, Farm Family of the year and Norlan Ferguson, Friend of Agriculture. The annual event is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23 at 6:30 a.m. – Perkins Restaurant.

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## 2012 - 2013 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

President- Dell Reese • President Elect – Dr. Brandon Trost  
Treasurer – Jaymie Rothrock • Past President – Greg McCullough

Directors: Chad Clark, Scott Johnson, Gena Strathman, Richard Ragan, Anna Ruxlow, Troy Short, Corey Hoover, Ted Ode

Mission: to work as an organization of individuals, businesses and professionals to enhance the economic, civic and cultural interests of the McPherson area.

## chamber events Nov./Dec./Jan. 2012

### November

22 Happy Thanksgiving – office closed  
23 Office Closed  
26 12:00 B.A.M. Committee @ Chamber  
29 Chamber Coffee @

### December

4 12:00 Ambassadors @ Chamber  
5 Leadership Board of Trustees @ Chamber  
6 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee at McPherson Hospital hosted by Hospital

Volunteers 12:00  
GOMcPherson at BPU Office  
10 9:00 Kansas Small Business Development Counseling @ Chamber  
11 7:00 a.m. Ag Committee @ Perkins  
12:00 Community Development @ Chamber – special presentation from the Mac Dog Park  
13 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by Cox, 322 N. Main

19 4:00 p.m. Women's Event Committee @ Chamber  
20 9:30 a.m. Chamber Coffee hosted by McPherson Senior Center, 112 E. Euclid  
24 Christmas Eve – office closes at 12:00  
25 Merry Christmas – office closed  
27 9:30 Chamber Coffee @ Assured Occupational Solutions, 400 W. 4th  
31 New Years Eve – office closes at 12:00

### January

1 New Years Day – office closed

### Christmas in McPherson Schedule

#### Saturday, December 1

3:00 p.m. FREE MOVIE "Funny Farm" at the McPherson Opera House, sponsored by Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., El-lene McKean & Associates, Femco, Mi-MacPrinter, Peoples Bank & Trust, The Stone Chimney and CertainTeed Corporation.

#### Thursday, December 6

6:00-7:30 p.m. Cookies & Photos with Santa at SassyBags, 302 N. Main  
6, 7 and 8:00 p.m. Holiday Light Trolley tours, get on board at the McPherson Opera House

#### Saturday, December 8

9:00-10:30 a.m. Cookies & Photos with Santa at McPherson Family Life Center, 401 E. Kansas.

#### Sunday, December 9

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Cookies & Photos with Santa at Oh Yarn It, 221 S. Main  
3:00 p.m. FREE MOVIE "An American Christmas Carol" at the McPherson Opera House, sponsored by Clayworks at Disability Supports

#### Thursday, December 13

6:00-7:30 p.m. Cookies & Photos with

Santa at MiMacPrinter, 312 N. Main  
6, 7 and 8:00 p.m. Holiday Light Trolley tours, get on board at the McPherson Opera House  
Strolling Carolers for the evening McPherson Children's Arts Council Choir -

#### Saturday, December 15

9:00-10:30 a.m. Cookies & Photos with Santa at Shimmerz Tanning Salon, 306 S. Main  
3:00 p.m. FREE MOVIE "The Santa Clause" at the McPherson Opera House, sponsored by Brown's Shoe Fit

#### Wednesday, December 19

6, 7 and 8:00 p.m. Holiday Trolley Light tours, get on board at the McPherson Opera House

#### Thursday, December 20

6:00-7:30 p.m. Cookies & Photos with Santa at Creative Hairlines Spa & Salon, 207 S. Main

#### Saturday, December 22

9:00-10:30 a.m. Cookies & Photos with Santa at Clayworks at Disability Supports, 107 N. Main  
6, 7 and 8:00 p.m. Holiday Light Trolley tours, get on board at the McPherson Opera House  
Strolling Carolers from Elyria Christian School

## Where Santa Shops and Gets Candy Cane Cash!

Shop at these participating Chamber and Main Street members and get your Candy Cane Cash stamps for the \$500 drawing: A5 Western – 102 N. Main, Artshirt Gear for Sport – 211 N. Main, Brooklyn & Co. -213 N.

Main, Brown's Shoe Fit – 118 N. Main, Clayworks at Disability Supports – 107 N. Main, Creative Hairlines Spa & Salon – 207 S. Main, CTFit24 – 119 N. Main, Guys 'N Gals – 106 N. Main, Hopp's Sound & Electric – 214 E. Euclid, Mattress Haven – 310 N. Main, MiMacPrinter – 312 N. Main, SassyBags – 302 N. Main, The Cook's Nook – 219 N. Main, The Village Geek – 116 N. Main, The Well – 101 N. Main, Venable Jewelers – 214 N. Main, Daylight Donuts – 122 N. Main, Oh Yarn It – 221 S. Main, Stitches Quilt Shop – 102 S. Main, The Bookshelf/The Hidden Closet – 206 N. Main.

### DQ Grill & Chill Winners

Every month DQ Grill & Chill, 1435 N. Main provides 1 lucky chamber member a FREE treat. This month's lucky winner is The Village Geek, 116 N. Main. Congratulations to the staff at The Village Geek. Enjoy your special treat! Thank you to Karen & Roger Horn for providing this opportunity for our Chamber members.

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### From McPherson Main Street

As you make up your Christmas list this year, why not get a unique and special gift and help the local economy at the same time! Think of specific things and buy gift certificates or make arrangements to pay for a service like lawn mowing, house cleaning, oil change, computer repair or a home improvement project. One of the benefits to shopping locally is the ability to work with local owners who are willing to make special arrangements to suit your needs. Don't forget the local artists and craftsmen that can customize or create a special one-of-a-kind gift that will be remembered for years to come.

will be attending! Just the fact that you spent the time learning what they like is a gift in itself.

Don't forget entertainment! Plan a family gathering or company party at a locally owned restaurant, go see a play at a local theatre or attend a school concert. Ride the trolley, look at Christmas lights, attend the FREE movies, visit Santa, go caroling, sledding, bake cookies.....Make a Memory!

You see, Christmas is not about draining your pockets to find the best gift, it is about caring about people and doing something special for that person while encouraging our small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other people, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we could not imagine.

For those hard to buy for people on your list, or those who insist they need nothing, find out what their interests are and sign them up for a class or donate to a local charity in their name. Buy an ornament or class supplies that relate to your gift and tie a card to it stating what group will be benefiting from the donation, or what class they

Main Street is about supporting our local community but it is also about spreading the word on what we have to offer. Bigger isn't always better and sometimes it is the little things that make the most difference or create the best memories. Enjoy the holidays, have fun shopping and take some time to explore what is right here in our own back yard.



### From the United Way of McPherson County

As we enter a time of reflection and celebration, I continue to be awed by the individuals and agencies within McPherson County who are dedicated to improving the lives of others. Unselfish efforts abound as United Way partner agencies stay committed to their missions. Let us be thankful for the magnitude of human services provided within our community.

McPherson Family YMCA program directors Eddie Reeder, Jolonna Carr and Konnor Bergstrom are passionate about Learn to Swim, Y-KIDS Club and Activate. These programs are designed to boost a child's confidence while teaching life-long skills.

Cheryl Whalen provides new leadership for McPherson County Council on Aging (MCOA). Her background in geriatric and mental health services will be beneficial as she supports senior citizens through diverse programming and collaborative efforts.

Big Brothers Big Sisters director Jackie Rice is dedicated to overseeing the mentoring program that matches at-risk children with positive adult role models. She knows the value of the program as these nurtured children become contributing citizens to their communities.

Melanie Babbitt, director of Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), oversees a base of volunteers who serve as advocates for children who have been removed from their homes as a result of abuse or neglect. Melanie helps give these children a voice while representing them in the juvenile court system.

Steps to End Poverty (STEPMC) is led by Brenda Sales. Her professional, nurturing manner works well in overseeing the mission of STEPMC – Circles® of McPherson County. She articulates the purpose of her program well and challenges those around her to understand the full impact of transforming lives through the elimination of poverty.

I encourage you to take notice and be grateful for those dedicated to improving the lives of others. May those individuals be equally blessed during this holiday season!



### From McPherson CVB

McPherson is a wonderful place to be during the holidays whether you're a visitor or a lifelong resident. McPherson Main Street, Chamber and the CVB have put together a schedule of fun activities during December including free movies at the Opera House, cookies with Santa at area merchants, holiday light tours and shopping promotions. They are just three of many organizations and individuals in the community that have established some wonderful holiday

traditions like Santa train rides, holiday light displays, craft fairs, cookie exchanges and alternative Christmas markets. Home State Bank's annual Christmas Carol-a-long has become so popular they've had to move it to the Opera House. Free community dinners, mitten trees, gifts for teens, food baskets, shoe boxes filled with gifts for children in far away countries are all signs of the generous hearts of the people of McPherson. So from Cindy, Pam, the trolley drivers and myself thank you for making this such a special community to live and work in. Have a wonderful Christmas. To keep informed with the latest community schedule of events, tune into Channel 13, go to visitmcpherson.com or read the Chamber's weekly schedule every Saturday in the Sentinel.

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