

The Chamber Business Journal

March 2017

Doing what most people think just happens!

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Congratulations & Welcome to the Chamber!

24/7 Travel Stores
2203 E. Kansas
McPherson, KS 67460
Contacts: Larry Pankratz
(Business Development
Manager) Barbara Shirley (Store
Manager)
Phone: 785-823-7839
Website: www.24-7stores.com

24/7 Travel Stores are owned and operated by Triplett, Inc. based in Salina, Kansas. The mission of **24/7 Travel Stores** is to bring to market a unique blend of quality products and services that meet the changing demands of an increasingly convenience oriented society.

In 1963, Larry Triplett opened his first location, a Standard Station on Interstate 70 and North Ninth Street in Salina. That location is still open today.

Currently, **24/7 Travel Stores** has 10 locations to better help guests and travelers along the I-70 and I-135 corridors throughout Kansas. **24/7 Travel Stores** are operated by local teams that live and shop in the area surrounding the sites. Many of the hardworking individuals have been with the company for longer than 5 years, some as many as 35 years.

The **24/7 Travel Store** in McPherson will open soon at 2203 East Kansas. The **24/7 Travel Store** will provide fuel and convenience services to the McPherson area 24 hours a day-7 days a week. The new location will feature a Water Cave, fuel, souvenirs and many other convenience store products for the area.

The locations of the other **24/7 Travel Stores** are: Salina-2 locations, Abilene, Russell, Hays, Wakeeney, Colby, Goodland and Maple Hill.

Harmony Home Assisted Living
1108 E. Simpson
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Brenda Foster, RN
Phone: 620-242-7981

Harmony Home Assisted Living is a Kansas Department on Aging licensed Adult Care Home. Nestled in a quiet Lakeside Park neighborhood, you will find a comfortable residential home that offers you the opportunity to continue to live in a familiar manner while you receive supportive nursing care 24 hours a day.

At **Harmony Home** you plan your care with a licensed nurse who coordinates what they do with your doctor. Support with medications, bathing, dressing and other activities is provided by trained, professional caregivers and an onsite RN.

Harmony Home wants you to enjoy the comforts of home. They value family, community and caring service. Their mission is to create a home that nurtures your spirit, feeds your mind, while offering you the physical support you need. They are there, on your schedule, to help you with your day. Have coffee at the table while breakfast is made the way you like it. Put your feet up in the living room, read a book, or enjoy the company of others in your new home.

Driving Business Success

Why the Chamber is good for business

As a business owner, you know that creating meaningful relationships within the community is key to survival. In McPherson, the Chamber of Commerce is an excellent place to start.

Chamber members are not just local business owners, they are your potential customers with an added bonus. They also have their own network of customers they can refer to your business. Think about the potential growth your business could experience by establishing a relationship with just one other local business owners. At the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, you have access to hundreds of them, as well as events and program where you can interact with other members on a regular basis.

All our Chamber programs, events and activities are designed to serve many purposes – all to benefit our members and our community; marketing, awareness, education, partnerships, networking, promotional, building business relationships, etc.

Community pride also contributes to the success of business. When you demonstrate your community pride with your civic engagement, your customers feel good about doing business with you. A national study found consumers are **63 percent more likely to do business with a company they believe is a member of the Chamber of Commerce**. Your involvement with the Chamber will also give you access to more civic leaders and will add credibility to your reputation in the community.

When it comes to growing your business, it is important that you go beyond the four walls of your business and step outside. Use the tools the Chamber has available to you.

2017 Women's Trip Destination is New York City

The Chamber Women's Trip Committee is excited to announce the 2017 destination of New York City, August 24-28. The committee knows it will be a popular trip because New York City is an experience you won't forget and perhaps cannot get enough of. "New York City packs more to see and do into one compact area than any other place on earth." Cindy Krehbiel, **McPherson Travel Center**. You'll recognize its legendary and iconic landmarks: The Statue of Liberty, Central Park, Broadway, Times Square, Rockefeller Center and more. As always, there is a combination of group activities along with time for travelers to pursue their own interests. The Committee has an exciting trip planned and invite you to join us as we take in the sights, the lights and the sounds of the vibrant New York City.

Thursday, August 24- depart via private motor coach to Kansas City Airport for an afternoon nonstop flight to New York City. Arrive at Millennium Hotel in the heart of Times Square. Enjoy a late group dinner at famous Carmine's Italian Restaurant, then to the Top

of the Rock for a breathtaking, unobstructed 360 degree view of New York City.

Friday, August 25 – The day begins with a private, customized sightseeing tour of the city, exploring the different neighborhoods and landmarks. The afternoon is free for you to do as you please. We will gather together in the evening as we take in an award winning Broadway Show (TBA).

Saturday, August 26 – This day, venture out and experience all that New York has. There is endless opportunities for sightseeing, shopping and eating throughout Manhattan and the surrounding boroughs. Stroll through Central Park or along the elevated High Line. Visit a world class museum or another Broadway show (afternoon matinees and evening shows offered on Saturdays). We will offer an optional excursion on this day – details will be coming.

Sunday, August 27 – Today is yours to enjoy until early evening when we board a Circle Line cruise for a 2-hour Harbor Lights tour around the lower part of

Manhattan Island, providing us with a different view of the City, cruising under the bridges connecting Manhattan Island to the different boroughs and getting an up close and personal look at the Statue of Liberty.

Monday, August 28 – Time to return back home, but travelers will have a little free time in the morning to get a walk in across perhaps the Brooklyn Bridge before we check out of the hotel and depart for the airport. We will return on a nonstop flight to Kansas City and arrive in McPherson early evening.

Trip Package Includes:

- Round trip airport transfers from McPherson to Kansas City
- Round trip airfare from Kansas City to LaGuardia Airport (NYC) nonstop flights
- Airport transfers in New York City
- Hotel accommodations at the Millennium Broadway Hotel in the heart of Times Square
- Dinner at Carmine's New York City's legendary Italian restaurant

- Admission to the Top of the Rock
- Private customized sightseeing tour on Friday morning
- Orchestra ticket to a hit Broadway show
- Circle Line "Harbor Lights" cruise
- Baggage handling at the hotel (1 bag per person)
- Opportunity to network and meet new women in McPherson

Trip Prices
\$1,665 per person – double occupancy
\$1,530 per person – triple occupancy
\$1,405 per person – quad occupancy
*Please add \$50 for non-Chamber members

With only 40 spots available, the trip will fill up fast – so get your spot reserved with your \$300 deposit – due March 1st to the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, 306 N. Main, P.O. Box 616, McPherson, KS 67460.

Optional trip insurance available and must be paid at time of deposit. Inquire with trip coordinator Cindy Krehbiel at **McPherson Travel Center**, 620-241-5830.

A Battle of the Stars 2017 Chamber Challenge

You spend hours a day working with others of the company or business, but do you really know them? We think it is important to know the people you work with, by spending time having fun too! The McPherson Chamber of Commerce has just the opportunity for you and your employees. The Chamber Challenge is designed to enhance employee engagement; establish rapport and camaraderie, enjoy friendly, team building competition while having fun with a purpose. Points are earned from each of the following events.

Chamber Challenge Team

- 6 person team (extra points for 3 guys and 3 gals and age span of teammates)
- \$250 per team (second team same business \$150) \$300 for non-Chamber member teams
- (3)* events to be completed March 1-8
- Grab your snow goggles and snow gear for an interactive *Snow Ski Kinect game at the Village Geek, 116 N. Main
- Tap into the adventurous detective work of your teammates for the* Scavenger Hunt at McPherson Museum, 1111 E. Kansas
- *Team Selfies and Infomercials - Back by popular demand, while promoting the sponsors of the Chamber Challenge, you will learn about businesses while building the camaraderie with your co-workers and teammates
- Mystery Game Challenges – teams will earn ridiculous points at the Chamber Challenge Finale scheduled on Tuesday, March 14 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Best Western Holiday Manor Convention Center, 2211 E. Kansas.
- Team registration includes admittance to the evening with hor d'oeuv-

- vres. Cash bar available.
- Sell Cash Bash 50/50 tickets for Super Extra Team Points. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Chamber Challenge Sponsor

- \$75.00 (limited to Chamber member businesses & organizations)
- Your business will be featured in selfie pictures on social media where consumers are. Not only will teams be visiting your business (maybe find products or services they didn't know you had), they will also be taking selfies to post on the Chamber Facebook page and tagging your business for maximum advertising potential.
- The teams will receive bonus points for creating an infomercial for your business! Creativity at its best, to help promote, market and advertise your products and services in an effective yet fun and entertaining way.
- Selfies and infomercials will be display for all to see at the Chamber Challenge Finale on Tuesday, March 14th.
- Sponsors will be listed in promotional materials and listed on the Chamber website www.mcphersonchamber.org

Other information

- Not jumping in with both feet, but want to witness the fun while supporting your friends, co-workers and family? Event tickets available for \$15 – includes hilarious entertainment and hors d'oeuvres.
- Cash bar available
- Opportunity to walk away with memories and cash 50/50 tickets available from team members and event night.

Questions? Apprehensions? Give us a call at 620-241-3303, we would be glad to talk you into it.

From the McPherson Chamber of Commerce



Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

The work that the Chamber does often takes us outside the McPherson area – providing an opportunity to promote our community.

Representatives of the Leadership McPherson program consisting of Board members and facilitators (Michael Terry, Chad Clark, Alana Murphy, LaMonte Rothrock, Amy Beckman and Jennifer Burch) trav-

elled to Wichita recently to attend an event hosted by the Kansas Leadership Center. They invited organizations and individuals who coordinate and facilitate community leadership programming. The three primary objectives were:

- 1) Share stories about what is working well in our community leadership programs.
- 2) Discover how the Kansas Leadership Center can be most helpful to community leadership programs.
- 3) An update was given from the Kansas Leadership Center on new programs and future plans.

Attending the 2017 Kansas ACT State Organization Symposium on April 11 in Wichita will be Jennifer Burch, Kasi Morales, Amy Beckman Elaine Farris, Rebecca Lewis, - Pankratz, and Cindy Schmidt. This team has gone through the Work

Ready Certificate training academy. We want to continue to support USD #418 in the effort to better prepare students for success in either college or career.

Senate Bill 155 has been a valuable asset to McPherson High School students enrolled in Career and Technology Education courses. The legislation provides college credit opportunities.

Tuition is waived for these classes by the college (traditionally through Hutchinson Community College).

Many of the courses prepare the students to go directly into the workforce or have begun building a credentials towards a career.

Jennifer Burch
Executive Director

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Gordon Mohn - USD #418 Staff: Jennifer Burch – Executive Director Debbie Hawkinson – Administrative Assistant • Alesia Stout – Program Assistant

Introducing the Chamber Ambassadors

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are an important part of the Chamber’s business outreach efforts and the public relations arm of the Chamber.

McPherson Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are goodwill representatives. They are professional liaisons to the business community and strengthen the Chamber’s relationship to its members and the community. Because all ambassadors are active members of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce, they provide an important member-to-member link, understanding and responding to member needs as only another member can.

Making Connections

Each month Ambassadors dedicate time to interact with other business entrepreneurs, professionals, volunteers and other individuals on behalf of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce in person or by telephone. Ambassadors encourage members to become involved and help them to learn more about the Chamber programs and initiatives. Ambassadors foster communication between the chamber staff and members and act as the eyes and ears of the Chamber in the community.

Emcee Ribbon Cuttings

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce welcomes the opportunity to conduct ribbon cuttings for the following Chamber members: new business in McPherson, new owners(s) of an existing business, and relocation or major expansion of a business. Ambassadors will:

- Emcee ceremony (Gets the ambassador and their business in the spotlight!)
- Contact Chamber member and get

brief history or background to make proper introductions. (Great opportunity to visit one on one with a prospect client or customer)

- Review ribbon cutting procedures with members (Building that business relationship!)

Assist in the ribbon cutting ceremony (In the Spotlight!)

Attend Monthly Meetings

- Attend monthly committee meeting – 2nd Monday of each month at 12:00 at the Chamber office. (Committee meets September through June)

- Make contact with (3) different Chamber members each month and report on visit at the monthly Ambassador meeting

Network and Volunteer Opportunities

- Attend or volunteer at Chamber functions such as; Chamber Connections, Rural Appreciation, Farm Forum, Chamber Business After Hours, Annual Meeting/Expo, Tartan Turkey Golf Tournament, Chamber Challenge and any other events etc.
- Share opportunities about Chamber membership with new businesses
- Bring potential new members as guests to Chamber functions

We appreciate our McPherson Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors:

Eric Duerkson – Hutton Construction, Karleen Brown – Elevate Tutoring Services, Emilie Raines – Bluestem Pace, Amy Bower – McPherson Healthcare Foundation, Dylan Obermueller – Home State Bank & Trust, and Kyle Banman – McPherson News & Information.

If you are interested in being a Chamber Ambassador – please contact the Chamber office.

Mac County 5K Round Up

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee is not afraid to venture into fields outside their comfort zone. Thankfully the committee has recruited the expertise of Betsy Patrick of Marquette to guide them in the planning of the first Mac County 5K run & 1 mile walk in Marquette. You may be thinking why a run and why Marquette? Well, Betsy Patrick has been the Marquette community expert in organizing several successful runs and walks in Marquette and along the trail. In addition, Betsy is an avid runner and has experience in being a participant in many running events. We are very excited to host this event on a true and tried route in Marquette.

The Mac County 5K Round Up will be a fund raising event for the Agriculture Future of America Scholarship. The Agriculture Committee has funded a \$2,500 scholarship to a McPherson County High School Senior who is pursuing an agriculture related field of study since 2000. The Agriculture Committee partners with Agriculture Future of America who provides matching funds for a significant scholarship award. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee has invested \$55,000 in the continued education of agriculture to 22 students and awarded 6 students \$1,000 Leadership Conference tuition.

chamber events

February

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 14 | 7:00 a.m. Ag Committee @ Perkins, 2111 E. Kansas | 12:00 Community Development @ Chamber |
| 16 | 9:00 a.m. Chamber Connections @ the Chamber hosted by Bethany Home | 5:30 p.m. Chamber Challenge, Best Western Holiday Manor Convention Center, 2211 E. Kansas |
| 23 | 9:00 a.m. Chamber Connections @ the Hampton Inn, 200 Centennial Drive | 15 4:00 p.m. Women’s Event meeting @ Chamber office |
| | 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board meeting @ Chamber office | 16 9:00 Chamber Connections @ Jantz Lumber & Hardware 200 W. Euclid |

March

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | 12:00 Leadership Board meeting @ Chamber office | 5:00 p.m. American Legion Family Night to benefit Agriculture Future of America Scholarship |
| 2 | 9:00 a.m. Chamber Connections hosted by McPherson Community Theatre @ Chamber office | 23 9:00 a.m. Ribbon Cutting and Chamber Connections for Waddell & Reed @ new location 324 N. Main. |
| 7 | 6:30 a.m. 2017 Farm Forum @ Perkins, 2111 E. Kansas | 25 8:00 a.m. Mac County Round Up – Downtown Marquette |
| 9 | 9:00 a.m. Chamber Connections @ TBD | 31 2017 Leadership McPherson Enrollment Deadline |
| 13 | 12:00 Ambassadors @ Chamber | |

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 N. Chestnut. They are the winner of a DQ Cake. Thank you Roger & Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill & Chill, 1435 N. Main for providing the month DQ ice cream treat.



Stuart Dille
Executive Director

From the United Way of McPherson County

FINAL CAMPAIGN THOUGHTS:

What amazing support this county has given United Way! When this year’s campaign began, I knew our goal of \$250,000 was going to be a tough one to meet. Our final number came in at \$224,346, which I am extremely happy with. Like in an Academy Award

speech, there are too many people to thank, and although I fear I may miss someone, I must give a “shout out” to at least a few. My Board of Directors stepped up in a huge way during the transition of Directors. Our media partners played a significant role in our efforts and were always so willing to help. Thank you to all of our community partners, like the Chambers of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Main Street, who helped spread the word about United Way. Of course, nothing can happen without the actual pledges!

There were outstanding efforts made by companies and their employees who came up with really creative ways to maximize workplace campaigns. So many businesses continue to show immense support. Numerous individuals showed their support with private donations. THANK YOU to our veteran donors for your continued contributions, as well as to the many who gave for the first time this year. You truly do help us to Live United.

Stuart Dille,
Executive Director

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