

August 2012

The Chamber

@WORK

Doing what most people think just happens!

306 N. Main, McPherson, Kansas 67460 • Phone: 620-241-3303 • www.mcphersonchamber.org • Visit us on Facebook

Welcome to the Chamber!

Jessica Griffith, Certified Massage Therapist
121 W. Marlin Suite, #405 (Warren Building)
McPherson, KS 67460
Contact: Jessica Griffith
Phone: 620-504-5027
Web Site: www.jessicagriffithcmt.com

Jessica is a graduate of Johnson County Community College's Therapeutic Massage Program – a 500 credit hour program located in Overland Park.

Jessica strives to provide massage that is both relaxing and effective in helping sore, tense muscles to relax. She is able to provide deep pressure as well as a more relaxing light massage. She decided a long time ago that she wanted to help people, but needed a career that did not stress her out. Massage therapy provides her with that balance. She can start her work day a frazzled ball of nerves, but by the end of the day she is calm and relaxed. How many can say that about their jobs?

Jessica has lived in McPherson since March, 2011 with her husband Adam, daughter Ellie and their dog Dottie. She enjoys walking, biking, yoga, cooking, baking and spending time with her little family.

Join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, July 31 at 10:00 a.m.

The Village Geek, Inc.
116 N. Main
McPherson, KS 67460
Contacts: Michael Yates, Titus Brandt, Jed Litwiler & Richard Martin
Phone: 620-504-6445
Fax: 620-245-0701
Web Site: www.villagegeekgames.com
Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 1:00-10:00 p.m.
Friday: 1:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

The Village Geek is McPherson's locally owned source for new and used video games, hobby board games, comics and novelty toys and collectibles. The Village Geek will specialize in buying and selling video games and will carry a library of board games to allow customers to try before purchasing a game (for small fee). The Village Geek staff is passionate about gaming and geekiness and is deter-

mined to help the hobby and the casual customer alike find the product that suits their level.

Sawyer Land & Cattle
929 11th Avenue
McPherson, KS 67460
Contacts: Katie & Derek Sawyer
Phone: 620-755-7772
Web Site: www.sawyerlandandcattle.com

Sawyer Land & Cattle is owned and operated by Derek and Katie Sawyer of McPherson. The couple is the fourth-generation to own the family farm.

The Sawyers currently produce wheat, corn, soybeans and grain sorghum on dry and irrigated cropland located south of McPherson. In addition to crops, Derek and Katie own a commercial, Angus-based cow herd and manage a cow-calf and backgrounding operation. Derek and Katie are both actively involved in agriculture advocacy and have represented the farming and ranching industry on the state and national level.

Go to their website www.sawyerlandandcattle.com to learn more about the Sawyers and their farm. You can also follow the couple on Twitter and Pinterest via @Sawyerfarm.

Farmers Insurance Group (Bowyer)
1833 N. Rock Road Court
Wichita, KS 67206
Contact: Mike Bowyer
Phone: 620/504-2449
Fax: 316/260-8805

Let's talk about your future! Farmers offers professional expertise in auto, home, life and business insurance. Mike Bowyer with Farmers Insurance can help you by sitting down one on one for a review of your insurance needs. He will make sure you receive all the discounts that are available to you, your family and business. Mike is originally from Salina and is excited to be back in Kansas. While stationed in Hawaii, Mike served a tour of duty in Iraq and is now a retired veteran of the U.S. Army. Mike and his wife Leah (Hake) is happy to be back in McPherson and daughter Kalena have made McPherson their home. Mike's integrity and selfless service makes him the right agent for you and your family!

Be watching for the announcement of Mike's McPherson office location!

Bring Your Family & Friends When Pigs Fly BBQ Contest & Fly In

It is going to be another great event that is sure to have something for everyone. The When Pigs Fly BBQ Contest & Fly In is a Kansas City BBQ Society sanctioned event. It is scheduled for Friday, August 24 & Saturday, August 25 at the McPherson Airport is a grand opportunity to meet some of the society's best bbq contestants. These contestants that travel from all over the state of Kansas and from Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri are not your backyard grillers. They are serious about BBQ, and it is very evident when you see the masters at work and the equipment that they bring with them. The contestants goal is not only to "bring home the bacon", but also to earn points that will get them an invitation to the elite of contests – The American Royal. The Agriculture Committee should be commended for their efforts in the events that put focus on the agriculture sector of our community and county. The proceeds from this event go to fund the Agriculture Future of America Scholarship Fund that provides a \$2,500 scholarship to a McPherson County High School student pursuing study in an ag-related career. Since 2000, approximately \$44,000 has been awarded and invested in the future of agriculture.

Thank you to the following sponsors for their support of the efforts and also in supporting an event that introduces visitors to our community and is a family event.

\$1,000 Wild Hogs – Hassman Termite & Pest Control, Ferguson Production, Inc., TCK-The Trust Company of Kansas
\$500 Pork Loin – Elliott Insurance & Real Estate Agency, Gilmore Solutions, Inc., McPherson County Feeders, Krehbiel's Specialty Meats, Inc., Horizon Real Estate Services, Zeitlow Distributing Co., Midway Motors Supercenter, Peoples Bank & Trust, Farm Bureau Association, EarCare Hearing Center.

Men's Chamber Trip Destination is Richmond, Virginia

Tripsters will depart early Wednesday morning September 26th and return to McPherson about noon on Sunday, September 30th. There will be a guided bus tour of Richmond before

checking into the Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa. A casual banquet is planned for the first evening, providing an opportunity for networking with fellow businessmen. Industrial tours and a visit to historic Williamsburg are planned for Thursday and Friday, with Saturday free to do as you wish.

The total cost of the package is \$895. A \$500 deposit is required by July 26, with the remaining balance of \$395 due August 20th. We will have a limited number of seats on the plane available so call the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 241-3303 as soon as possible.

Preliminary Schedule
Friday, August 24
6:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony, Pony rides, Brush Up Mac – serving Tacos, concessions open, contestants setting up
6:30 p.m. – Antique Tractor Pull
8:00 p.m. – Contestants Meeting & Music by McPherson's Petty Cash
11:00 p.m. – Contestants Quiet Time
Saturday, August 25
6:30 – 9:30 a.m. – Kiwanis Club serving Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy
8:00 a.m. – EAA Young Eagles – FREE Plane Rides for 7 to 18 year olds
9:00 a.m. – 4-H Farm Zoo, Model A Car Display, Pony Rides, Powered Parachutes & Planes Flying In
10:00 a.m. State Fair Promendor's Square Dance Club Performs
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Real Pitts BBQ Lunch served
Noon – Official Start of the Kansas City BBQ Society-sanctioned BBQ Contest
3:00 p.m. 2012 When Pigs Fly BBQ Contest Winner Presentations

Date Correction

Rural Appreciation - July 31st!

Please take note of the date correction for the 41st Annual Rural Appreciation which is Tuesday, July 31st beginning at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Barn, 600 W. Woodside. Reports are that elevators have received record numbers of grain this wheat harvest, therefore this calls for an old fashion celebration!

The hamburger feed is sponsored by McPherson Chamber members to show appreciation to friends, neighbors and customers engaged in agricultural pursuits in McPherson County. All sponsors may assist in serving, cooking or set up for the 700 people expected to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to meet & visit with potential customers and other members of the Chamber.

Thank you to the following sponsors: McPherson

County Candidate Forum

The BAM! Committee (Business And Membership) of the McPherson Chamber of Commerce will be host for the McPherson County Candidate Forum scheduled Tuesday, July 31 at 7:00 pm – American Legion, 401 N. Main – McPherson, Kansas. KNGL/KBBE Radio will broadcast the forum live. Candidates/incumbents will draw numbers to determine the speaking order in each office. The order will rotate no one candidate will go first each time. Candidates/incumbents will have an opportunity to make a 3-

minute opening statement which should include their reasons for running and experience/qualifications. The format is question and answer. Committee members will take questions from the audience, which will be screened for duplication, legibility and suitability. Candidates/incumbents will each have 1 minute to answer the question. Voter registration deadline for the primary is July 17th and the election is August 7th. The deadline for the general election is October 16th with the election on November 6th.
County Clerk
Hollie Melroy (R), Cathy A. Schmidt (R)
Register of Deeds
Dave Chartier (R), Deborah A. Harter (R), Laurie B. Wiziard (R)
Treasurer
Brenda Becker – incumbent (R), Cassie Becker Johnson (R)
County Attorney
David Page – incumbent (R), Brian L. Bina (R)
Sheriff
Larry G. Powell – incumbent – (R)
Commissioner District #2
Jon Buck (R), Bob Carson (D), James (Jim) Leach (R), Linus L. Lineweaver (R)
Commissioner District #3
Ronald Loomis – incumbent – (R) Please plan to attend the County Candidate Forum and be an informed voter.

From the Chamber

As I prepared for the 2012 Leadership McPherson retreat I made a distinct coalition between what I wished I could have done to what I am doing. In leadership class we ask participants to do introductions in a non-traditional manner. One of those exercises is what do you wish you could have done and have not. My answer has always been I really would have loved to have been a back up singer, you know like a Tony Orlando & Dawn,

Gladys Knight and the Pips, Kool & The Gang, etc. Although I can't sing a tune to save my life, but I do dance (or my interpretation of it). I have somewhat followed that path – I am part of a very energetic and talented group that Rocks! The sensational group is called the McPherson Chamber of Commerce & Staff. We provide a valuable show (benefits & programs), some our performances include (Chamber Coffees, Men's & Women's Trips, Ribbon Cuttings, Education programs, training seminars, etc.), and we even have groups (our volunteers), and our stage is the Grand Ole McPherson community. I guess now I will have to dream up another what I could have done, but didn't answer. Hmmm.....

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2011 - 2012 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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Directors: Rob Monical, McPherson Hospital, Jim Leach, retired, Richard Ragan, Brown's Shoe Fit, Ron Willems, Sunflower Bank,

Anna Ruxlow, McPherson College, Penny Selzer, Selzer Backhoe Service, Troy Short, Hospira, Corey Hoover, Midway Motors

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

2012 Leadership McPherson Class Announced

Welcome to the 11 members of the 2012 Leadership McPherson Class. Leadership McPherson is a leadership development experience that provides opportunities to individuals that will improve their professional skills as well as learn leadership skills that can be used in the workplace, community, at home, etc.

There is a leader in everyone. Leadership McPherson is designed to better define the leader in all of us and recognizes that leadership in a community is vital to its ongoing success. The McPherson Chamber of Commerce has

been providing a community based leadership program since 1982. The program began with a reception hosted by the Leadership Board of Trustees on June 28. Class members will meet again at a required two-day overnight retreat July 12 & 13 and then 8 morning class sessions beginning August 7 to November 12. Sessions include skill training, discussions and interactive presentations. Class members will learn: learning styles, diversity, collaboration, consensus, facilitation, visioning and steps to a performing community, working for the common good of the whole community. The leadership experience is best described in words by J.W. Flanning, "Every individual has the potential for leadership and the challenge to use this leadership in helping people to help themselves."

2012 Leadership McPherson Class

Nathan Miller – City of McPherson Park Department
 Frances Slucky – retired educator/K-State Extension
 Sandi Ide – Sunflower Bank
 Sara Nason – McPherson Chamber of Commerce
 Jake Streckler – The Cedars
 Nancy Young – McPherson College
 Scott Barkley – National Co-operative Refinery Association
 Ben Wilson – Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd
 Dr. Jack Stanfield, Jr. – Integrated Health and Wellness Center
 Annie Amstutz – Hutchinson Community College – McPherson Campus
 Ayda Dosssett – Home State Bank & Trust



Ann Engel
Executive Director

From McPherson Main Street

This week I have been getting new windows in my house, and I must say it is amazing to see what a clean window does for the view! This is even more true in your business window display, as your window is like a billboard for your store. Think about it, you have this blank canvas at your disposal to create whatever you want to represent your point of view and feature your products and services! Don't have a lot of money to spend? No problem! I have attended workshops where entire windows were done on a budget of \$50 or less. Learning from my recent observation, you will want to start with a clean window and display area. Go outside and stand in front of your building and look at things through the "eyes" of your customer. What will they see? A helpful tip is to run a line of blue tape across the window to mark eye level from the street. This will give you a visual guide as you begin to layout your display. You will want to maintain a focal point in this area, but don't be afraid to suspend items from the ceiling or close to the floor. Begin by choosing a theme then plug in the pieces. Your goal is to tell a story without being predictable. An example of this was last October when Kari Lynns suspended a witches

broom in the "blue line area" and had a wedding gown "flying" on the broom. It was clever, unexpected and created interest while building on the Halloween theme. Another key is to choose one very large object as your focal point and build around it. Don't be afraid to think outside the box. For example, instead of a regular red heart for Valentine's Day, one hardware store used the theme "How to mend a broken heart" and had a plywood heart with a jagged line with hinges and chains attached. They created interest, showcased some of their merchandise, and were definitely NOT predictable!

Bold shapes, colors and movement are all great ways to add interest to your display and can be easy to incorporate into your one BIG focal piece. Remember that "less is more" and avoid clutter. Update your displays! Sassy Bags is a great example of a store that frequently changes their display and rotates feature merchandise. I walk by the windows every day and from work, and I am always noticing something new. This concept helps keep the customer on their toes and makes them realize that they'd better come in often or they might miss something special. Last but not most important, don't forget lighting! If you create this masterpiece and no one can see it, what is the point? Avoid hanging lights directly over your product as this creates focal points. Invest in a couple of spotlights and leave them on when you leave for the night. People are out and about in the evenings and if you are the only place with your lights on, you will be the only store people see.

chamber events July/Aug. 2012

| July | Forum @ The American Legion, 401 N. Main | When Pigs Fly @ Perkins |
|--|--|--|
| 18 4:00 Women's Event @ Chamber | | 4:00 Womens Event @ Chamber |
| 19 9:30 Chamber Coffee hosted by Wichita Airport Authority @ The Well, 101 N. Main | August | 16 9:30 Chamber Coffee – OPEN! |
| 11:30 Chamber Board @ Chamber | 1 7:00 When Pigs Fly @ Perkins | 20 9:00 Kansas Small Business Development Council @ Chamber |
| 25 12:00 BAMI @ Chamber | 2 9:30 Chamber Coffee – OPEN! | 22 7:00 When Pigs Fly @ Perkins |
| 29 9:30 Chamber Coffee @ Ear Care Hearing Aid Center, Inc. @ 213 S. Main | 7 8:30 2012 Leadership McPherson Class @ Chamber | 8:30 Farmers Alliance Mutual Ins – Education Building |
| 5:30 YP Mac Social @ Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance, 1121 N. Main (Education Building – West side) | 12:00 Ambassadors @ Chamber | 12:00 BAMI @ Chamber |
| 31 10:00 Ribbon Cutting for Jessica Griffith Certified Massage Therapist, 121 W. Martin, Suite 405 (Warren Building) | 4:00 YPMAC @ Chamber | 23 9:30 Chamber Coffee hosted by When Pigs Fly @ McPherson Airport |
| 6:00 Rural Appreciation @ 4-H Grounds – 600 W. Woodside | 8 7:00 When Pigs Fly @ Perkins | 11:30 Chamber Board @ Chamber |
| 7:00 County Candidate | 9 9:30 Chamber Coffee – OPEN! | 24 6:00 When Pigs Fly Event @ McPherson Airport |
| | 14 7:00 Ag Committee @ Perkins | 25 6:30 When Pigs Fly Event @ McPherson Airport |
| | 15 7:00 | 28 8:30 2012 Leadership Class @ Chamber |

McPherson is "Open" for Business TV Ads

You need not have a sale or a specific product to advertise in this promotion. The promotion is designed to not only promote your business, but to promote McPherson and to

teot our own horn. We want people to know that McPherson is Open for Business and to keep McPherson in the minds of potential customers, residents, and businesses. The TV ad program is brought to you by the McPherson Chamber of Commerce and McPherson Main Street with

KAKE Channel 10 TV at a very affordable price. This is an ongoing promotion and if you are interested in participating, you can join in at any time. Contact the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 241-3303, for TV ad details. Check out our facebook page and see tv ads playing now.

Free & Confidential One-on-One Business Consulting Available

The Kansas Small Business Development Center will have an Outreach Center Consultant at the McPherson Chamber of Commerce office located at 306

N. Main from 9:00 to 4:00 on the following days: Monday, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19 and December 10.

The KSBDCC offers individualized, confidential, and comprehensive business consulting at no charge to its clients. Any existing small business or individ-

ual interested in needing counseling in areas of: marketing and sales, accounting, financial analysis and cost control, personnel, inventory control, business start-up or acquisition, business liquidation or sale, strategic planning, and many other areas. Appointments can be made by calling the McPherson Chamber of Commerce at 620/241-3303.



Anne Hassler
Director

From the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

It's time for Olympic basketball

Well the buzz around this year's Summer Olympic Games in London has already started and I, of course, think it's an excellent time to promote our own Summer Olympic connection – players from the McPherson Globe Refiners. We are busy putting the finishing touches on the CVB documentary "Oil and Gold" in time for our Basketball Traditions Celebration Aug. 10-11. Six Globe players were part of the first-ever Olympic gold medal basketball team in 1936. Joe Fortenberry led all scorers in the final game with eight of the 19 points scored and was overall scoring leader for the team with 29 points.

I was lucky enough to travel to Amarillo, Texas recently to interview Joe's wife Barbara and his son Oliver for our documentary "Turning Oil into Gold" about the team. They seemed a little uncomfortable at first with the idea that anyone would want to hear their stories but once they began talking about Joe, the words came easily. Joe and Barbara (Bobbie) met after his days of playing professional basketball were over. They both worked in the oil industry in Texas when they married in 1947. Joe had gone on to play for the Phillips 66 Oilers after playing for the Globe Refiners. They made a striking couple – Bobbie was all "27" next to Joe's "97". They had two children, Oliver and Sally and adopted another daughter Trisha, a niece they had raised like one of their own.

I tried to get a story out of Oliver about his dad's gold tending process, but he said their games on the driveway were very tame. "You could tell Pop knew how to put the ball in the hole," Oliver said. "He was just a very kind guy. You never heard him say a disparaging word about anybody." Oliver recalled his father's stories about being in close proximity to Adolph Hitler during the Olympic ceremonies.

"He said if he had known then what was going to happen, he would have jumped him right there. It gives me the heebie-jeebies just thinking about that. All of the athletes knew there was a big war coming. It wasn't a surprise they were going to have to fight these people." Oliver said it wasn't until the 1980s when the Olympics were scheduled to play in Los Angeles and people started showing an interest in the 1936 games that his dad realized his place in history. "He kept his Olympic medal in a shoe box in the closet. The only time it ever came out is

when I played with it," Oliver said. The Fortenberry family kept articles, photos and scrapbooks of Joe's career. Oliver showed me his dad's many medals from AAU tournaments, the ship's manifest from the S.S. Manhattan, pages of autographs from other Olympic athletes like Jesse Owens, a sweat shirt from the Olympic team and even two pairs of his old basketball shoes.

One point that I've always wondered about in the Refiners' story was what happened to the team when they returned from Berlin. The Globe Refinery no longer sponsored the team past 1936 though a competitive, non-AAU team still existed with Tex Gibbons as the coach. Gene Johnson moved on to coach a team at the Antler Lodge in Colorado with his brother Francis and Willard Schmidt. I asked Oliver and Bobbie if Joe had a job at the refinery when he got back. "No, his brother had lined up a job for him with Greyhound Bus Lines. Not playing ball for them or anything, just working at the bus station. He'd already accepted it, just happy to have any job, when the offer to play for Phillips 66 came," Oliver said.

Owners of Lario Oil, formerly Globe Oil, have said the company supported the team's trek to the Olympics. Unlike the players for the Hollywood Universal team, Globe players weren't given an ultimatum about going to the Olympics or losing their jobs. My guess, and it's purely a guess, is that Gene Johnson would have liked to have a bigger venue than the community building to play in and found greener pastures in Colorado. A copy of the original agreement was shared with me by Brett Whitenack, curator at the McPherson Museum. Gene Johnson received \$1,500 to organize the team that was to be used to cover uniforms, travel and any other team expenses. I don't know who kept the gate from home games – Johnson or the refinery. The refinery probably thought they had ridden the publicity out as far as they could by sponsoring the team. Given that it was the middle of the Great Depression I can understand why they might have wanted to fill the Refiners jobs with men dedicated solely to working at the refinery. I can also see why Johnson might have wanted to take advantage of their recent success and find better opportunities. But man, it sure was an excellent team while it lasted!

This is our first documentary production by the CVB but I hope not our last. McPherson has so many great stories to tell. The premiere of the documentary will be at the McPherson Opera House Aug. 11, 2012 followed by a question and answer session with Keith Cantrell, Rich Hughes, who wrote a book called "Netting Out Basketball 1936" on the team, and me. Follow the progress of our documentary project and find out more about our Basketball Traditions Celebration at www.facebook.com/basketballtraditions.

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