

The Chamber Business Journal

March 2020

Doing what most people think just happens!

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

Congratulations & Welcome New Members

Paragon Precision Metal, LLC
831 N. Vanguard St., McPherson
Contact: Robert Willford
Phone: 620-755-0121
Website: paragonprecisionmetal.com

The genesis of **Paragon Precision Metal, LLC** (Paragon) is related to Genesis 21:33 - Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he calls on the name of the Lord, the Eternal God (NIV). Planting a tamarisk tree is a statement of investing in the future. Upon retiring after more than 37 years in pharmaceutical manufacturing, Robert (Bob) Willford and his son Paul Willford, started Paragon as an investment in the future. An investment not only for their families, but the families of team members who join the company. With the determination to provide local jobs, Bob and Paul have created a shop specializing in custom sheet and plate metal fabrication. Paul joined this endeavor after working at Amada America for seven years as a laser application engineer and laser equipment trainer. Amada is the world leader in sheet metal fabrication equipment.

Paragon has outfitted its fabrication shop with world class Amada equipment including an ENSIS 3kW Fiber Laser, a 33-ton EMK3612 Electro-servo Turret Punch, and a 143-ton HG1303 CNC Press Brake. This state-of-the-art equipment provides the ability to process a wide variety of material alloys and thicknesses in sheet sizes up to 60x120 inches. utilizing Amada proprietary software, the shop has the ability to program the equipment off-line and do virtual prototyping allowing more efficient use of shop machine time. Additional fabrication support includes welding and some assembly operations.

The dictionary definition of paragon is “a model of excellence.” **Paragon Precision Metal** is committed to provide high quality, cost effective metal fabrication, demonstrating that it is the model of excellence for customer service.

Mac County Round Up – FUN for the whole family!

Hey Pardner, grab your “little pony” (aka friendly doggy) and take a fun run/walk with us at the Mac County Round Up. Whether you are super-fast, or just want to get the “youngins” (aka your energetic kids) out of the house, the Mac County Round Up is the place to be. Strollers are welcome so bring the whole family.

The annual Mac County Round Up 5K Run/1 Mile Walk is held in a different community each year to raise awareness and funding for the McPherson Chamber Agriculture Committee AFA Scholarship. This year the Mac County Round Up will be held in Inman on Saturday, April 25th. Pre-register by April 6 to be guaranteed a t-shirt, but registrations will be taken up until race time. T-shirts will sport an orange logo this year for all the Inman fans. Registration forms can be picked up at the McPherson Chamber office, 306 N. Main in McPherson, downloaded at www.mcphersonchamber.org, or email chamber@mcphersonks.org to have one sent to you.

Check in starts at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, April 25th at the Inman Community Building, 406 E. Center St. The 5K will start at 8:00 a.m. followed by the 1 mile and then we will have a free stick horse race in the park for the little tykes ages 6 and younger. Children and doggies receive a free bandana. If you have your favorite stick horse, bring it along. We will have extra stick horses available at the park.

Giddy-on-up to Inman on April 25th for the Mac County Round Up 5K/1 Mile to support a good cause, then mosey on down to the Inman Classic Car Show for more entertainment.



McPherson Chamber wants to support businesses and organizations in COVID-19 Preparedness

The Chamber wants to support you in preparing your business or organization for potential impacts from novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and seeks your help in preventing transmission in our community.

We’ve been approached by members for support in planning for potential workplace and economic disruptions from the spread of Coronavirus. This message is intended to provide you with the best sources of information we’ve found, as well as suggestions to help you plan for and mitigate the impact of this virus on your business, organization, and family. While this message is geared towards business and workplace readiness, if you’d like recommendations for preparing at home, please visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

To ensure the least impact possible to our community, it is logical to proceed on the assumption that this virus is likely to arrive at some point in 2020 – and prepare for it. Since it has a long incubation period, it could be over two weeks from initial exposure until symptoms appear, and even longer before people are tested and cases are confirmed. Everything that we are reading and examining about this illness indicates that we should take this threat seriously, and it is highly likely that widespread health and economic impacts from this virus will be felt nationwide.

It is our shared responsibility to stem the spread of this virus and to prepare as best we can. To that end, we’ve compiled some of the most reliable sources of information for your business at the bottom of this article.

A few key priorities for your business or organization to consider are as follows:

- **Workplace Cleanliness:** Encourage frequent hand washing; make hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes available; provide free tissues; and encourage your team to find non-contact ways of greeting others and working together.
 - **Sick Policies:** To help prevent the spread of this or any virus, please support your employees in staying home if they are sick. You may need to review your paid time off/sick time policies if they do not allow the flexibility or financial support your employees need to comply. Also, learn who on your team may have responsibility to care for others, should circumstances require it.
 - **Remote Work Policies:** If you are able to consider remote work as an option, and don’t already have a remote work policy, it may be time to develop such a policy with input from your IT provider. Since many workplaces cannot allow remote work, consider instead how you may shift or rotate schedules.
 - **Understand Your Employer Obligations:** You are legally obligated to provide a safe workplace and to make accommodations for those with disabilities. Protecting your workplace and team from the spread of Coronavirus is no different.
 - **Guidance from OSHA on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19** can be found at www.osha.gov
 - **Guidance for EEOC on Pandemic Preparedness** is available at www.eeoc.gov
 - **Make a Plan for Reduced or Interrupted Operations:** Prepare your business and customers for disruptions in operations, whether it be from changes in consumer behavior, supply chain issues, or a large portion of your workforce being ill. Ensure that you have access to emergency funding, or a line of credit should you have a significant disruption in operations.
 - **Examine Your Supply Chain:** Large manufacturers are already examining their supply chains in impacted areas to minimize disruptions. Consider whether any of your suppliers are located in regions with significant impacts, and whether your shipping times may be lengthened – with the goal of maintaining necessary inventory levels to support your business operations.
 - **Communications Plan:** Have a point person on your staff who will take the lead in keeping your information current, addressing staff concerns, and communicating updates to your team.
 - **Use Your Professional Associations for Support:** Many professional networks and organizations are offering webinars and other resources for employers. Make use of these opportunities!
 - **Get Updates Regularly:** Ensure you are checking back with numerous sources regularly for the most up to date guidance and information regarding the spread of this virus.
- More resources are included below for your convenience!

Centers for Disease Control

The CDC has the most resources for all groups, but specifically speaks to how businesses should prepare for this outbreak. “All employers should be ready to implement strategies to protect their workforce from COVID-19 while ensuring continuity of operations. During a COVID-19 outbreak, all sick employees should stay home and away from the workplace, respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene should be encouraged, and routine cleaning of commonly touched surfaces should be performed regularly.” www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

US Chamber of Commerce

“All employers should be ready to implement strategies to protect their workforce from the Coronavirus while ensuring continuity of operations. Download these guides created by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which are based on information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to learn more about how employers and employees can prepare for and address the impacts of the Coronavirus.” <https://www.uschamber.com/coronavirus>

-Taken from information from Tompkins Chamber of Commerce

While there are many unknowns as we navigate this new territory together as an organization and a community, the McPherson Chamber team will do our best to help communicate critical information and resources to keep our community healthy.

With many recent announcements concerning events in our community, the McPherson Chamber is currently evaluating our upcoming events and program schedule and will make changes as necessary. We are also in communication with the McPherson Health Department and will assist in getting information out to our members and community. The most current information can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and www.KDHE.gov/coronavirus.




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chamber events

**Any changes to these meeting and events will be posted on the McPherson Chamber Facebook Page and Website. Please contact the Chamber office at 620-241-3303 for questions.*

March

26 11:30 a.m. Chamber Board Meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main

April

1 12:00 noon Leadership McPherson Advisory Committee @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main

2 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections @ McPherson Community Building, 122 E. Marlin St. hosted by the McPherson Convention & Visitors Bureau

8 7:00 a.m. Agriculture Committee Meeting @ K-State Research & Extension, 600 W. Woodside

9 9:30 Ribbon Cutting & Chamber Connections @ McPherson Opera House, 219 W. Main, hosted by Awaken Church

15 4:00 Women's Event Committee @ Chamber Office, 306 N. Main

16 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections @ McPherson Public Library, 214 W. Marlin

20 6-8:30 pm. Manufest @ McPherson High School, 801 E. First St.

23 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections @ Hospice & Homecare of Reno County- McPherson 1318 N. Main

11:30 Chamber Board Meeting @ Chamber office, 306 N. Main

25 8:00 a.m. Mac County Round Up 5K/1 Mile @ Inman KS

30 9:30 a.m. Chamber Connections @ Prairie Hills Financial Group, 223 S. Main Street

“Par-Tee On” at the Chamber Classic Golf Tournament

Clear your calendar for the afternoon of Friday June 5th and plan to join us with your golf team, or as a sponsor, at the Chamber Classic “Par-Tee On” Golf Tournament at Turkey Creek Golf Course. Teams will kick off their good time with a Fiesta Par-Tee by Reach Solutions during the 11:30-12:15 check in. Tee-Off will be at 12:30, then teams will “Par-Tee On” with 18 holes of unforgettable, unconventional & nontraditional golf! Team fees also include golf carts and a golfer Par-Tee favor, celebration swag from sponsors, Par-Tee games at each hole and prizes too. Then we will enjoy the Papa Murphy's Pizza Par-Tee during the awards celebration!

Enjoy a fun afternoon on the course with your team of co-workers, friends, customers or neighbors. Golf expertise is not required (or expected) since it is a 4-person scramble and the alternative golf games and challenges tend to even the playing field. Just as fun as being a golfer, is being a sponsor at the Chamber Classic Golf Tournament. Wood sponsors will “Par-Tee On” the golf course at a designated hole. Bring your company pop-up tent, Par-Tee game that is uniquely amusing, hand out business swag and/or provide an awesome prize. Iron and Ol'Wedgie sponsors are also needed. Contact the McPherson Chamber at 620-241-3303 to find out how you can “Par-Tee On” at the Chamber Classic Golf Tournament. We look forward to helping you decide on a unique and unforgettable Par-Tee game.

Gather your team and/or sign up as a sponsor to promote your business. Registration forms are available at www.mcphersonchamber.org or email chamber@mcphersonks.org and we will send you a form. The countdown is on to “Par-Tee On” at the Chamber Classic Golf Tournament!

2020 Census Is Right Around the Corner!

The results of the 2020 Census will inform decisions about allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country—for hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs, and other critical programs and services. You can inspire others, tell everyone! Find out more at www.2020census.gov

THE MCPHERSON SENTINEL

116 S. Main - McPherson - 620.241.2422

McPherson County Manufest

Parents and students in McPherson County are invited to attend the McPherson County Manufest. This year's event will be held at McPherson High School from 6-8:30 p.m. on April 20th, 2020.

Explore industrial career opportunities with some of McPherson County's most successful industrial employers and learn what the State of Kansas is doing to prepare students for industrial careers, as well as efforts to make Kansas a great place for youth to live and work.

During Manufest, attendees will:

- Interact directly with leaders of some of McPherson's most successful industrial companies to understand what their businesses do and how students can be successful in their careers. (Employers that will be present include Bradbury, CertainTeed, Grain Craft, Hutton Construction, Johns Manville, Milacron, Moridge Manufacturing, Pfizer, Viega and Central States Marketing and Manufacturing.)

- See demonstrations of projects from students attending USD 418 (open to other schools as well), Hutchinson Community College, and Flint Hills Technical College. These demonstrations include CAD/3D Printing, Robotics, Automation, Welding, and more.

- Learn from the state of Kansas leaders about what the state is doing to help prepare students for industrial careers and efforts to make Kansas a great place for youth to live and work. Dr. Randy Watson, Kansas Commissioner of Education, Patty Clark, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce, and Tiffany Stovall, CEO of Kansas Manufacturing Solutions, will be participating in the event.

- Hear from students who have graduated and are now leading successful careers in McPherson industrial companies.

This is a terrific event for parents and students to learn about potential career paths that can be pursued after high school, trade school, or college and the McPherson Chamber is pleased to help promote it. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Kasi Morales, Executive Director of McPherson Industrial Development Company at kasim@mcphersonpower.com by April 13th.



ROB MACKEY
Executive Director

THE CORONA CENSUS

It comes like clockwork – The United States Census 2020 is here. The decennial census began in 1790 and I remember census takers coming to my door throughout my life. This year's census will be largely done through the Internet, but there will still be in-person census workers to check on households where there isn't a response.

Local officials will tell you census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year. It's really important that we all get counted.

But there's an extraordinary drama taking place as the census rolls out. The Coronavirus – COVID-19 – is sweeping its way around the world bringing sickness and death and turning parts of countries like China and Italy into ghost towns.

I was preparing to watch an NBA game the other night when suddenly, with an arena full of fans, it was announced the game would be postponed. It was later learned a player had the coronavirus, and out of an abundance of caution, they decided not to play. And then, the professional basketball season was

From the United Way of McPherson County

suspended, followed by a domino effect on college basketball (the big dance was cancelled) baseball season was delayed, schools and universities closing their doors, Broadway went dark.... the list goes on.

Some people are greeting each other with fist bumps and elbow taps, while senior citizens who thrive through visits from friends and relatives, may be dealing with further social isolation.

Barbra Streisand famously sang, “People who need people are the luckiest people in the world.” While I enjoy vegging out as part of my unwinding, I need people in my life. Friends, family and acquaintances make life special. If it takes social isolation to survive, I guess that's what we need to do. I sure hope this doesn't last long.

The saddest story I read was in The Washington Post, where a man from Italy said he and his family were quarantined inside his home with the body of his sister, who had died after contracting COVID-19. It was more than a day before they could find a funeral home willing to take her body. He said, “The institutions have abandoned me.”

More than ever, we need each other. Maybe we'll write more letters and make more phone calls. Thanks to all of health professionals who are doing everything they can to weather this crisis. Let's do our part. Take the census. Wash your hands. Call your mother. Tell the people you love that you love them.

DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to Artshirt - Gear for Sport Winner of the DQ Cake. Thank you, Roger and Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill & Chill, 1435 N. Main, McPherson for providing the monthly DQ ice cream treat.

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