

# The Chamber Business Journal

July 2020

*Doing what most people think just happens!*

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## Congratulations & Welcome New Members

**INA Alert Inc.**  
112 N. Main, Ellinwood, KS 67526  
Contact: Chris Landrum  
Phone: (620) 564-3766  
Website: [inaalertinc.com](http://inaalertinc.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/inaalert](http://www.facebook.com/inaalert)

INA Alert Inc. specializes in custom camera surveillance solution, access control systems, including key cards, mag locks, and emergency controls. They also offer comprehensive intercom and paging systems that can integrate with your access controls and VOIP phone system.

For healthcare facilities they provide new systems for Nurse Call and WanderGuard applications, as well as maintenance for existing systems. INA Alert Inc. also has designed a custom messaging and scheduling software for communications with your staff through text and email messaging. "We are proud to serve! Our motto is, Think Local. Deliver Global."

**Eagle Communications**  
825 N. Main Street, Hutchinson, KS 67501  
Contact: Morgan Wilk, Ben Waters, Terry Drouhard  
Phone: (620) 662-4486  
Website: [Hutchpost.com](http://Hutchpost.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/eagleradiohutch](http://www.facebook.com/eagleradiohutch)

Eagle Communications began in 1934 in Hay, KS. It has expanded over the years to cover 4 states and broadcast 28 radio stations.

Eagle Communication Hutchinson houses Country 102.9FM, My 93-1FM and KWBW 1450AM/98.5FM. Together all three Hutchinson radio stations cover an 80-mile radius. Eagle Communications Hutchinson also offers a free local online new source Hutchpost.com

We know that to represent the best voice of the community is to be active in the community. We are very excited to become a member of the McPherson Chamber!

**Plastics Extrusion Machinery LLC**  
900 Kit Blvd., McPherson  
Contact: Nathan Spearman  
Phone: 620-241-3873  
Website: [pemusa.com](http://pemusa.com)

Plastics Extrusion Machinery Inc. (PEM) was founded in 1978 and quickly became the leading U.S. manufacturer of downstream equipment for the PVC pipe and custom profile industries. In 2017, PEM became an LLC and was acquired by current CEO Nathan Spearman who had a vision to take the company to a new level of quality, innovation, and profitability. Seeing a need to strengthen PEM's product offering, Nathan purchased Advance Equipment Company LLC of Turnwater, WA in 2018, expanding PEM's product portfolio to include downstream equipment focused on small diameter pipe. PEM specializes in pipe belling machines, pipe & profile pullers, utility & travel saws, hydrostatic testing machines, pipe bundlers, and other downstream equipment. Today, PEM has two manufacturing facilities including their headquarters in McPherson, KS and a facility in Turnwater, WA. What drives PEM runs much deeper than manufacturing high quality machines for plastic pipe and profile manufacturing facilities. PEM's core purpose is to serve humanity by enabling the manufacture of plastic materials that flows life-giving resources to the community and to the rest of the world, and that is what keeps them moving forward as an organization.

## DQ GRILL & CHILL WINNERS

Congratulations to the McPherson Opera House, 219 S. Main, Winner of the DQ cake. Thank you, Roger and Karen Horn, owners of DQ Grill and Chill, 1435 N. Main, McPherson for providing the monthly DQ ice cream treat.

## Do we need to play the Nice Game?

When the occasional negative comment was made among my family and friends, I would ask if we needed to play the Nice Game? It was a spin-off of "if you can't say something nice, don't say it at all," but the Nice Game as I refer to it, meant that following a negative comment, the person was required to say three nice things. For instance, if we passed someone who had purple sparkly shoes that were 4 sizes too big, or they had duct tape wrapped around their cowboy boots and someone commented later about "wow, did you see those awful shoes," they were reminded about how everyone has their own special kind of style that they love, or maybe they were just getting by. The Nice Game required the Negative Nelly to say 3 nice things, like "man, they must work hard to have worn out their shoes," or "the purple sure matched well with their hair." Maybe that train of thought led them to think "how boring this world would be if we all dressed alike" or "what could I do to help that person." It is an intentional process of looking at things with a positive attitude.



Debbie Hawkinson,  
Executive Director,  
McPherson Chamber  
of Commerce

I've read a lot of negative comments lately about wearing a mask, or being asked by businesses to wear a mask, and I just want to reply, "do we need to play the Nice Game?" Stop and think about the process we are all going through. The uncertainty of almost every aspect of the pandemic. The confusion of what is the right thing to do to keep staff and valued customers safe, and the stress of those decisions along with the reduced income and other struggles. If we were playing the Nice Game, people would be saying, "I really respect that business owner for doing what they think is best," or "I am so impressed with the way they have created unique ways to serve their customers though all of this, or I appreciate their tireless dedication and concern for our community."

It is time to be nice, to be grateful for our businesses and our incredible community. As we navigate these challenging times together, let's skip the negative comments and go straight to the positive ones to lift each other up. We will get through this together, and I have no doubt that we will come out even stronger by being intentionally NICE.

## Your Vote Matters

The McPherson Chamber of Commerce Civic Awareness Committee would like to thank the McPherson Radio KNLG/KBBE for airing the County Commission Candidate Forum, and the American Legion for the venue. We appreciate all those who attended or tuned in to listen and learn more about the candidates who are running for office. For more information on advanced voting, voting on election day (August 4th), polling locations, precinct maps, a sample ballot, candidate lists and other information, go to the McPherson County website at [www.mcphersoncountyks.us](http://www.mcphersoncountyks.us).

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Troy Glidden - Director

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# 2019 - 2020 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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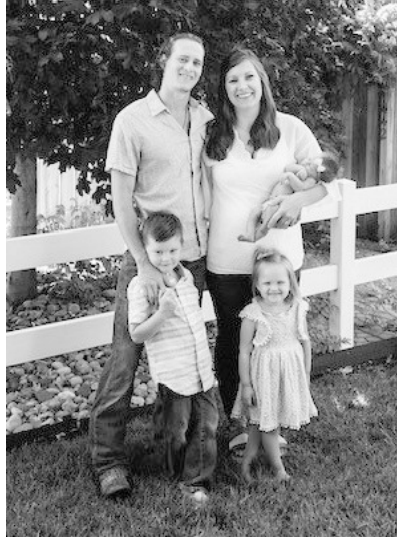
## Families and Faces Behind the Chamber Businesses

The more we get to know our Chamber members, the more they become friends and seem like family. When you know the people who own or manage the local businesses, the more you realize how connected we all are. Many have come from all corners of the world and have incredible stories to tell, while others have grown up in the area and stay or move back because they realize what a special community McPherson is.

Our hope is that as you enjoy "getting to know" your business neighbors through their stories, you will appreciate their commitment, passion, and enthusiasm, and understand the value of shopping local. Not only is your investment staying local, it is making a huge impact on the families who own or operate businesses and is instrumental in building our incredible community! Check out the family stories below and read more at [www.mcphersonchamber.org](http://www.mcphersonchamber.org) or #McPhersonChamberFamilies.

### Brandon and Morgan Stupka - Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center, 114 W. Euclid

"Hello McPherson! We are Brandon and Morgan, the doctors and owners of Stupka Chiropractic & Wellness Center. We are thankful as members of the Chamber & Main Street of McPherson. Brandon always seems to have something he wants to do, so fair enough, having a town with plenty of social engagements is a perk for that social butterfly. I personally like the one-on-one conversations found at the office, shopping downtown, or with the wonderful people we have been fortunate to meet on our journey.



"Brandon and I both ventured from small towns originally. He was raised in Western Kansas, Colby... or as he calls it, "The Cheese." As for myself, I am from Alva, Oklahoma. Brandon first attended college at Colby Community and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Kansas State University. After working in the construction field for several years under his parents, he recalls his dad telling him the day he turned 16, "Son I want you to do this [construction] now, but I don't want you doing this stuff the rest of your life." Eventually that set in, as he set his eyes on the next challenge in life. Being fascinated with health, he sought the challenge to help others achieve optimal health and improve overall quality of life, which led him on the road towards chiropractic.

"I attended Oklahoma State University and graduated with a Microbiology/Biomedical Sciences Degree. After interning with a couple in Stillwater, I decided to pursue chiropractic. Brandon and I actually met at Cleveland Chiropractic College-Kansas City. After receiving our Doctorate Degrees, we decided to establish a practice in McPherson. His aunt, Julie Wenthe, a phenomenal realtor, helped us locate our property on west Euclid. With Brandon's construction background, twenty-seven loads to the dump and a few sleepless nights, we were able to renovate and make the place our own. If you frequent our building you will get to see his many talents and projects throughout the office.

"Since opening our practice in the spring of 2012, we have had the opportunity to expand our education and offer a variety of wellness options none so limited to spinal manipulation. Over the years, we've included acupuncture, cold laser, cryotherapy, cupping, decompression, dry needling, and infrared sauna. Dr. Brandon has recently implemented a functional medicine aspect to our practice. As for myself, I have continued expanding my postpartum care for women, which I continue to love more and more every day. We often praise the road we chose as our career, for how often do you get the chance to constantly expand your knowledge and technique, constantly put these skills to use and constantly be amazed with the results!

"Aside from the office, our most treasured time is spent with our children; Drace (5) into all things boy, Demi (3) into kittens and lipstick and Dre (1) climbing and bossing her big siblings. They are our pride and our joy and keep us on our toes. We prosper on anything outdoors, be it hunting season, motorcycle rides, gardening, hiking or hanging out by the lake just to name a few. Each summer we venture to Colorado for a few days to take the kids biking and hiking. Memories we will cherish for years to come.

"We continue to look for ways to bring our community together; we plan to continue to invest in events like Good Old Boys BBQ and Lakeside Summer Fest, as we feel these are only a mere beginning as to the gratitude we owe this community for the joy you all have given to us. Thanks for being you McPherson!"

### CeCe Lehman - Integrity Salon & Spa, 108 N Main

"Hello there! My name is Cecilia Lehman, but everyone has called me CeCe since before I can remember. I am the new owner of Integrity Salon and Spa, located in downtown McPherson. My husband Danny and I both grew up in Greensburg, Kansas. We have been together for 9 years and married for 2. We are proud fur parents to our four dogs: Lollipop, Sparticus, Chloe, and Luna. We are also slaves/roommates to our two cats, Kevin, and Janet. (If you have cats, you will understand.) We favor the dogs, in particular Luna, our 2-year-old Golden Retriever.



"I attended cosmetology school at Hays Academy of Hair Design in Hays, KS back in 2013 and have done quite a bit in the beauty industry since I have graduated. I moved back to Greensburg for about a year and booth rented at the salon downtown before accepting a job as an instructor at Hays Academy of Hair Design-Salina. Danny is a Certified John Deere Diesel Mechanic and was offered a job at PrairieLand Partners, so that is how we landed in McPherson.

"After about 6 months of working in Salina, I switched gears and went back behind the chair. I began working at Creative Hairlines, which is where I learned how to do lashes. Lashes instantly became a huge passion/obsession for me. I have considered them "my area of expertise" for the past 5 years. I am a Brand Ambassador/Beauty Insider for Borboleta Beauty, a large lash company based in Salt Lake City. I have been there every year since becoming an Insider for some sort of lash event or training. I was just recently there in early March and was certified in Mega Volume Lash Extensions.

"This coming July will mark 3 years of being at Integrity Salon, and I will celebrate 1 year of ownership in October. If I am being completely honest, I have never wanted to own my own salon. I thoroughly enjoyed going to work, going home, and getting paid at the end of every 2 weeks. The previous owner of Integrity had been planning on retiring and selling the business since before I started working here. It never crossed my mind that I would one

day become the new owner. But the opportunity presented itself and was too good to turn down. Perfect location, amazing staff, amazing clientele. How could I say no? Since becoming the owner, I have been amazed with the community we live in. With taking the business over right before the holidays and being shut down because of COVID-19 it has been a crazy adventure. I feel so blessed from all the support the salon has received, and I am looking forward to the years to come! Thank you for being awesome, McPherson!"

### Steve Kuder - CK Pharmacy, 200 N. Main

"Hi! I'm Steve Kuder and I am the owner of CK Pharmacies with locations in McPherson, Moundridge, and Peabody. I grew up in Western Kansas and moved to Minneapolis Kansas my senior year of high school. I wrestled at Neosho County Community College for two years before getting my Pharm D degree from the University of Kansas in 2005. My goal after graduation was to own my own pharmacy and be a part of a small town community.

"I met my wife Melissa at church in Lawrence and in 2004 were married. Melissa grew up in Hesston and loves the central Kansas hometown charm. We have two children Daniel, 11 and Abby, 9. When I'm not working at the pharmacies I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family hiking, biking, boating, and completing obstacle races with my brothers.

"I took over ownership of Medical Center Pharmacy (McPherson), Moundridge Pharmacy (Moundridge) and Don's Drug (Peabody) on July 21, 2015 from Ken Krehbiel and Keith Schooler. Krehbiel and Schooler still work at the different locations and continue to be a vital part of the pharmacies. The Medical Center Pharmacy was located by the hospital at 400 West 4th Street. In August 2016 the pharmacy was moved to 200 N. Main. We love being a part of McPherson Main Street and the community feeling. "In June 2017 Jocelyn Cotton a McPherson native was hired as the Pharmacy Manger for the McPherson location. She has extensive training in medication therapy management and loves to help her patients live healthier lives. Jocelyn is a wonderful asset to the pharmacy.

"I consider myself an expert at medication synchronization and love helping people simplify their medication regimens. I am always willing to help with medication problems. I am happy to help my patients in any way I can from helping them find manufacturer coupons to save money on their prescriptions to assist them in choosing a Medicare D insurance plan.

"At CK Pharmacy we strive to make "every customer who walks through our door our priority. We want you to feel like our neighbor, not just a number in line." We want to offer hometown service and personal attention from a professional team.

"CK Pharmacy-McPherson has a variety of OTC items, walkers/scooters, cards, Melissa & Doug toys, Chala Handbags, and unique gift items. We offer free curbside delivery, free delivery, and mail outs. The newest product the CK MEDPAK is a portable, compact medication pouch that replaces the time you spend sorting and worrying about your medication. It helps to make taking your medications safe and simple. Because Your Health Is Worth It!"



## From the United Way of McPherson County



**ROB MACKEY**  
Executive Director

### AND NOW IT'S REAL

My wife recently learned that a former co-worker of hers in Virginia had died of coronavirus. Last week, the news came that another friend of hers at the same school where they had worked together was in a hospital back east due to COVID-19.

Like so many things, illnesses become real when you know someone who has had it. A recent national poll shows 1 in 3 Americans know someone who have had this illness, compared to just 11% of the country in March. While senior citizens and high-risk individuals are most vulnerable, we've learned even young people can contract the disease.

While more than 137-thousand people have died from the virus in the U.S., among nearly a hundred cases in McPherson County have resulted in only 9 hospitalizations and no deaths. We have been very fortunate here.

United Way of McPherson County's focus during the pandemic has been helping county residents who have been adversely affected economically by the crisis.

Thanks to financial support from individuals, the Kansas Health Foundation, CHS and its employees and Williams Energy, \$36,507.50 has been raised for United Way's Community Response and Recovery Fund. So far, 36 McPherson County families have been helped through the fund. To date, United Way has paid out \$15,677.47 in rent, utility and medication assistance.

We have talked to dozens of local people. Some have contracted the virus. Sometimes it's someone else in the household. Others have had to self-quarantine while being tested and that means being out of work for two weeks. We've played a small part in avoiding some evictions and keeping the lights on. And we've guided many more people to other resources such as food.

We will continue to accept applications for the fund until the money runs out. If you have lost your job, had your hours cut, or experienced other economic hardship since the advent of the coronavirus, please complete our application at [www.unitedwaymcpherson.org](http://www.unitedwaymcpherson.org). For some time, society has been hoping COVID-19 would just go away. It's been a tougher adversary than may have been anticipated in the early going. As more people we know contract the virus, it's starting to feel very real what we're up against.

United Way continues to fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in McPherson County.