

Chamber Visions

IN THIS ISSUE...

<u>Did You Know?</u>	<u>PAGE 2</u>
<u>YPG Plans Career Fair</u>	
<u>Welcome Aboard.....</u>	
<u>Brown's Shoe Fit Celebrates Milestones</u>	<u>PAGE 3</u>
<u>'Educator Welcome' Brunch</u>	
<u>41st Annual Heritage Days Enjoys Record Attendance</u>	<u>PAGE 4</u>
<u>Dignitaries Named At MNB Mixer</u>	
<u>Heritage Days Parade and Band Competition Winners</u>	<u>PAGE 5 & 6</u>
<u>Stubblefield Reception Was A "Grand Slam"</u>	
<u>Senator Tom Vickers Featured Speaker</u>	<u>PAGE 7</u>
<u>Walmart Supercenter Sponsors Mud Volleyball</u>	
<u>Fun For Kids Added To Norris Park Activities</u>	<u>PAGE 8</u>
<u>Church In The Park Enjoyed By All</u>	
<u>Heritage Days Car Show Continues To Grow</u>	
<u>McCook Art Guild Sponsors Tractor Show</u>	
<u>Bev's Costumes - Ready For Halloween</u>	<u>PAGE 9</u>
<u>Centurylink Brand Launching In Former Qwest Markets</u>	
<u>Jeans for Wishes Campaign at Buckle</u>	<u>PAGE 10 & 11</u>
<u>Heritage Days Photo Collage</u>	<u>PAGE 12</u>

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the McCook Area Chamber has a new website that was launched on September 8? We are excited about the new look and the one-stop shop for all your questions about McCook. Although loaded with information, we will continue to add to the site and keep it current right from our office. We continue to look for ways to be more economically efficient while adding value for our Chamber members. The new website offers us yet another avenue to do just that! If you review the site and would like to make suggestions on how to further improve it, feel free to contact us at 345-3200 or at info@aboutmccook.com. You can also go on the website and visit our guestbook to leave comments. We are also looking forward to utilizing Facebook as a way to stay in touch with our membership and others who want to know what is going on in McCook and Southwest Nebraska.

YPG PLANS CAREER FAIR

The Young Professionals Group (YPG) of McCook is busy making plans for their first annual career fair at McCook Community College. The event will be held on October 26, 2011. The purpose of this career fair is to broaden the knowledge base of southwest Nebraska's youth with regard to career availability right here at home. It is the hope of the YPG members that the students attending will return upon completing their education to enjoy the quality of life in this area.

There are plans for breakout sessions within various career areas as well as an opportunity for businesses and educational institutions to man a booth to share their area of expertise with the highly motivated 10, 11 and 12th grade students in attendance. Several area schools and businesses have been invited to take advantage of this opportunity to open the minds of bright young individuals to career possibilities right here in Southwest Nebraska.

WELCOME ABOARD.....

The McCook Area Chamber of Commerce welcomes Madison's to the Chamber family. Jamie and Tresa Mockry and partners Dan and Lizann Miller opened their restaurant in the spring of 2011. They are located in the newly renovated Keystone Business Center. It has been exciting to watch the development and growth of this new business in McCook. It will be equally exciting to work as partners with them in the months and years ahead! For a new dining experience, be sure to stop by and try out their menu. Welcome aboard, Madison's!

WELCOME ABOARD.....

St. Patrick's School is the newest member of the McCook Area Chamber of Commerce. The school has a long history of excellence in education as well as being active in the community. We look forward to this newly formed partnership and are pleased to have them on board with the Chamber as we work to promote both education and educators. Becky Redl will serve as their representative on the Chamber Education Committee.



BROWN'S SHOE FIT CELEBRATES MILESTONES

Max Abercrombie and his staff invited Chamber members and guests to share their celebration as we gathered for a Member Recognition Event on September 7, 2011. Brown's Shoe Fit Company has been in business for 100 years while the McCook store is celebrating their 30th anniversary! Chamber President, Tyler Schmick, presented Mr. Abercrombie with a certificate to commemorate the milestone. Congratulations!

Page | 3

Photo courtesy of McCook Daily Gazette

'EDUCATOR WELCOME' BRUNCH

WalMart Supercenter hosted the annual area 'Educator Welcome' brunch on Saturday, September 10. New teachers and administrators from area schools in a nine county area were invited to the brunch. A number of businesses in McCook donated door prizes for the event as a way to say welcome to these individuals who will have such an impact on our future through their influence as educators. Many are not only new to their respective schools but also new to the area, coming from all over the United States to rural America.



THE CHAMBER SALUTES these businesses that donated door prizes for the 'Educator Welcome Brunch': AmFirst Bank N.A., Barnett's Do-It Center, Brown's Shoe Fit Company, Country Floral & Floral Design, D & S Hardware, Eakes Office Plus, First Central Bank, Garrison's /McCook Lettering, Gateway Realty of McCook, Horizon Bank, Janssen-Kool Honda, Lincoln Federal Savings Bank, McCook National Bank, New Life Christian Book Store, Peterson Jewelers, Pizza Hut / KFC / Taco Bell, Sara Lee/Old Home Bread Store, The Buckle,

Top Office Products, U Save Pharmacy & Medical Supply, VK Electronics, Wal-Mart SuperCenter, Wells Fargo Bank and Weskamp Floral & Gifts.

41ST ANNUAL HERITAGE DAYS ENJOYS RECORD ATTENDANCE

Page | 4

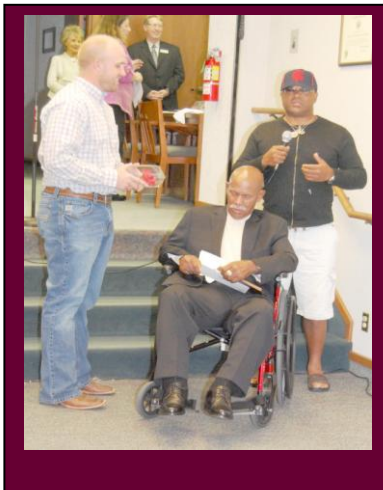
The 41st Annual Heritage Days Celebration was blessed with phenomenal fall weather as area residents gathered to take part in the event. Linda Thieben, Administrative Assistant, reported 88 parade entries with several involving a number of vehicles which pushed the number closer to 100. The combination of wonderful weather and the addition of several new events prompted a record attendance at the various activities. Tacie Fawver, Chamber Assistant Director, reported an outstanding number of vendors at the Arts and Crafts Fair in Norris Park with 72 booths. Vendors were very pleased with the enormous crowd on Saturday and the steady traffic on Sunday. Entertainment in the Norris Park Bandshell was top-notch and varied from instrumentals, to vocalists, and dancing. New events included the McCook Fire Department Water Fight, the McCook Art Guild Tractor Show, the Mud Volleyball tournament and kids activities in the park. The Heritage Days Car Show, held on H street just North of the park, and facilitated by Mike Towery, continues to grow. The Hot Air Balloon event complemented the weekend with successful launches on Friday evening and Sunday morning.

DIGNITARIES NAMED AT MNB MIXER

Photos courtesy of McCook Daily Gazette



HONOR FAMILY
Jack & Norma Stevens



GRAND MARSHAL
Mickey Stubblefield



PARADE MARSHAL
Gene O. Morris

Wednesday evening, September 21, marked the opening event of the 2011 Heritage Days Celebration which was hosted by McCook National Bank. The mixer is the time when dignitaries selected for the celebration are announced. They are as follows: Honor Family, Jack and Norma Stevens; Grand Marshal, Mickey Stubblefield; Parade Marshal, Gene Morris; and High School Royalty, Mattie Uerling, Queen and Jacqueline Carfield, Princess. Other finalists in the competition were: KathrAnn Sides, Cascade Tollman and McKenzie Schmitz.



Photo courtesy of McCook Daily Gazette

The traditional Chamber mixer was well attended. McCook National employees shared their creativity through the utilization of the Heritage Days theme, “Back In The Day”, taking guests back to the good ole days at the Fox Theatre with décor that included buckets of popcorn, lifesize posters featuring movie stars John Wayne and Clint Eastwood, reel to reel film, etc. Employees donned Fox Theatre vests to further feature their theme.

*L-R: KathrAnn Sides, **Mattie Uerling (Queen)**, Kascade Tollman, **Jacqueline Carfield (Princess)**, and McKenzie Schmitz*

HERITAGE DAYS PARADE WINNERS

Governor’s Award – AmFirst Bank
 Antique Car – Clayton Pascall
 Antique Farm Machinery – Ed Unger
 Class Reunion – 1971
 Community Organization - Fraternal Order of Eagles
 Equestrian – Proud Family Traveling Horse Act
 Large Business – McCook National Bank
 Small Business – Green Turf Lawn Care
 Large Youth Group – Future Farmers of America

McCOOK COMMUNITY COLLEGE BAND DAY AWARDS

McCook High School – Superior
 Perkins County High School – Excellent
 Medicine Valley High School – Good
 Wauneta-Palisade Jr/Sr High School - Fair

STUBBLEFIELD RECEPTION WAS A “GRAND SLAM”

The McCook Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a homecoming reception for the 2011 Heritage Days Grand Marshal, Mickey Stubblefield at the Museum of the High Plains Historical Society on Thursday, September 22.

McCook has a rich history in many and varied areas. One of those storied eras was during the years of the 1940’s and 50’s when Nebraska was a hotbed of baseball enthusiasts. McCook was right there in the thick of the ongoing baseball mania and even surpassed other communities in Nebraska when it came to game attendance and the number of season ticket holders. Early games were played in Eastside Ballpark which is now named Felling Field. “Back In The Day”, encouraged by strong community support, the Rotarians, the Lions Club and the Kiwanis Club led a drive to develop a new baseball field at the fairgrounds which became known as Cibola Ballpark. In order to be a member of the Nebraska Independent League (NIL), communities had

to guarantee sales of 500 season tickets. McCook sold 700! Crowds numbering in the thousands regularly attended the games. It was an exhilarating time!

Stubblefield was a renowned pitcher in the semi-pro leagues and played for the McCook Cats in the 1950s. He and his family lived in McCook for over 20 years. Chamber Director, Pam Harsh stated, “We were excited to be a part of this intriguing opportunity as Mr. Stubblefield shared fond memories of his years in McCook. I had spent some time visiting with McCook residents about their recollections, their connection to the McCook Cats or their memories of the Stubblefield family. The stories were amazing and we asked people to come and share theirs with us that evening.” The Committee also had baseball memorabilia on display and Maggie Repass, New York Life Insurance, put together a power point featuring some old photos of the Cats and other items of interest. Fans, bat-boys, as well as, brothers, wives and children of players attended the reception. Aggie Roberts, McCook, of the McCook Kittens softball team was also in attendance. The team was coached by Mr. Stubblefield. Over 150 people attended the reception and many of them shared a variety of memories, not all of which were about baseball.

The can-do attitude that was so prevalent “Back In The Day”, when baseball was the recreation of choice, is still alive and well in McCook today! Harsh noted that the Committee wants to acknowledge and sincerely thank several businesses that have made it possible for the Stubblefields to be in McCook for the celebration. Those include Great Lakes Aviation, Wagner Chevrolet, Horse Creek Inn, Frontier Home Medical and New York Life-Maggie Repass. She also expressed appreciation for businesses and individuals that helped make the reception a special event.



Mickey Stubblefield shares stories with his “fans”.

THE CHAMBER SALUTES....

The following businesses and individuals who helped make it possible to make the reception as special as it was: High Plains Historical Society Museum; Brent Cobb; McCook Community College; MCC Baseball, Jon Olsen, Coach; Maggie Repass; Subway; Weskamp Floral and Gifts;

VK Electronics and American Legion Representatives, Chris Conroy and Gavin Harsh. Also a huge thanks goes to the McCook Cats (12 and Under), Shane Burkey, Coach, for creating a very special float for Mr. Stubblefield's ride in the parade. The community of McCook and the surrounding area are fortunate that these businesses and individuals are so generous and supportive of providing opportunities like this for us to enjoy.

SENATOR TOM VICKERS FEATURED SPEAKER

The George W. Norris Foundation hosted their annual Prayer Breakfast at the Heritage Senior Center featuring former Senator Tom Vickers as the keynote speaker. As always, there was an excellent turnout as guests gathered to hear about the formation of the Nebraska Unicameral which was the brainchild of Senator George W. Norris. Musical selections by Kelsey and Megan Siebrandt complemented the morning breakfast. Foundation Board members include: Flora Lundberg, President; Gene O. Morris, V-President; Leon Kuhlen, Secretary-Treasurer; Pete Graff; Walt Sehnert; Duane Tappe; and Dawna Bates.



WALMART SUPERCENTER SPONSORS MUD VOLLEYBALL

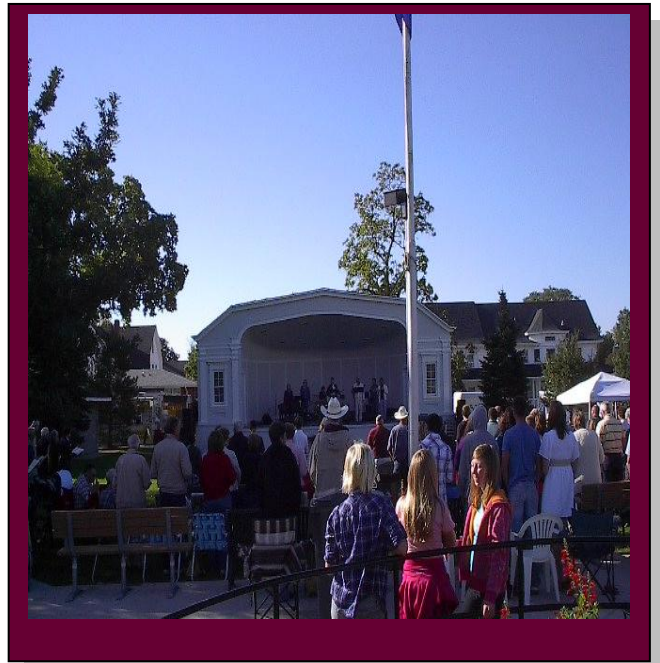
In the search for a way to help the Chamber of Commerce defray expenses for the Heritage Days Celebration, WalMart Associates came together under the leadership of Holly Anderson and Bobbi Allen to sponsor the first annual WalMart SuperCenter Mud Volleyball Tournament. Six teams participated on mud courts prepared by Earl McNutt at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds. Anderson expressed her excitement for the success their inaugural event and looks forward to growing it in subsequent years.

FUN FOR KIDS ADDED TO NORRIS PARK ACTIVITIES

Pam Harsh, Chamber Executive Director, was excited to add a number of activities geared for the youngsters who attended the Heritage Days Celebration in Norris Park. The Youth Change Reaction, a group of high school age members, facilitated a frozen t-shirt contest as well as a coin search. Gavin Harsh, President, reported that they gave out 35 t-shirts in a unique competition and the kids seemed to really enjoy finding money in the sandpile. McCook PTO group brought in several of their kids games that are used in their annual carnival. Jennifer Burns, PTO member, reported that the kids really enjoyed having something fun to do while their parents took in the entertainment in the bandshell or enjoyed the Arts & Crafts Fair.

CHURCH IN THE PARK ENJOYED BY ALL

Heritage Days worship in the park was hosted by McCook Christian Church. Pastor Clark Bates presented his sermon to a large audience as they soaked in all that Mother Nature offered on a comfortable sunny morning. Several musical numbers, led by the vocal talents from the Christian Church membership, were enjoyed by all in attendance. Pastor Bates referenced a number of items from “Back In The Day” to stir memories of our past. Do you remember roller skate keys, candy cigarettes, the small wax coke bottles, party lines on the telephone, Blackjack gum, news reels before the movies started and many others.



HERITAGE DAYS CAR SHOW CONTINUES TO GROW

Mike Towery, organizer of the Heritage Days Car Show, is pleased with the continued growth of the show. Participants of the car show seem to really like the location since it was moved to East H Street just north of Norris Park three years ago. It allows the best of both worlds for participants now that they are ‘in the park’ so more people can check out the cars and they can enjoy the food and entertainment, as well as, the Arts & Crafts Show.

McCOOK ART GUILD SPONSORS TRACTOR SHOW

Tim Monzon, McCook Art Guild member, organized and facilitated a tractor show on East C Street during the Saturday Heritage Days Festivities. The Art Guild also held a special showing of rural art at the gallery. Visitors at the tractor show enjoyed visiting and sharing stories about those times “Back In The Day”.

THE CHAMBER SALUTES.....

all those who were involved in any way to help make the 41st Annual Heritage Days Celebration such a special time. Many, many wonderful memories were made that will be reflected upon in the years to come. THANK YOU!

BEV'S COSTUMES- READY FOR HALLOWEEN

By Bev Smith

The Halloween season is coming soon and I am ready with many new costumes for you to choose from. There is still time for some special orders too, so get ready to have some fun this year. It doesn't matter if you are dressing up for a party or just to hand out treats to the little ones, you need a costume! I am sure we can come up with something you will love. Bev's Costumes started as a hobby in 1985 with 5 costumes. Over the years it has grown to a huge building full of costumes for plays, parties, Halloween, Christmas and everything in between. We have special rates for schools and other non-profit groups. The shop is open by appointment only, so just call ahead. Afternoons and Sundays are generally the best time to plan a visit. I have all sizes and most categories. If I have enough notice, I will make the costume you need if I don't already have it. My number is 308-350-1294

CENTURYLINK BRAND LAUNCHING IN FORMER QWEST MARKETS

By Karl Bieber, Market Development Manager

[CenturyLink, Inc.](#) (NYSE: CTL), which acquired Qwest Communications April 1, 2011, is in the process of changing out the former Qwest brand in Nebraska. While initial work began in April, starting this weekend and continuing through the end of the year, most Qwest logos and the Qwest name are being changed to the CenturyLink logo and name. CenturyLink has been using a transitional brand in former Qwest markets that included both company's logos. Communities can look for changes to physical assets such as buildings, retail stores and company employee uniforms. Work at local offices to replace signs began in early August and should be complete by the end of September.

“CenturyLink is focused on providing consumers and businesses a consistently fast broadband network and delivering advanced communications services that improve people's lives,” said Danny Pate, vice president and general manager for Nebraska. “Our transition to the CenturyLink brand introduces a company who has been serving customers for more than 40 years with a focus on investing in our network and in our communities, and linking you to better service and better value.”

“Our customers will also begin seeing the transitional brand on their invoice envelopes beginning August 8, and their bill will reflect the standalone CenturyLink name and logo,” Pate said.

About CenturyLink CenturyLink is the third largest telecommunications company in the United States. The company provides broadband, voice and wireless services to consumers and businesses across the country and advanced entertainment services under the CenturyLink™ Prism™ TV and DIRECTV brands. In addition, the company provides data, voice and managed services to business, government and wholesale customers in local, national and select international markets through its high-quality advanced fiber optic network and multiple data centers. CenturyLink also is recognized as a leader in the network services market by key technology industry analyst firms, and is a global leader in cloud infrastructure and hosted IT solutions for enterprises through Savvis, a CenturyLink company. CenturyLink's customers range from Fortune 500 companies in some of the country's largest cities to families living in rural America. Headquartered in Monroe, La., CenturyLink is an S&P 500 company and is included among the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations. For more information, visit www.centurylink.com.

JEANS FOR WISHES 2011 CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN AT BUCKLE STORES

by Jessica Huebert, Buckle/Store Support

Jeans for Wishes is a charitable campaign and fundraiser for Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Nebraska. During the weeks of September 12th – October 10th, companies, organizations and schools will join together to wear jeans or their favorite sports apparel in exchange for a donation to Make-A-Wish to help grant wishes for children living in Nebraska with life-threatening medical conditions.

With no minimum donation value to participate, companies and schools allow their employees or students to wear jeans or their favorite sports jersey one day during the September 12th – October 10th timeframe. In addition to wearing jeans, all Nebraska Buckle stores will be selling Wish t-shirts with \$5 of each t-shirt sold supporting Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Nebraska. For orders larger than 20, interested schools or businesses can pre-order t-shirts through Make-A-Wish by contacting Lauren Piller at jeansforwishes@nebraska.wish.org

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. The Nebraska chapter is one of 64 chapters affiliated with the national organization, and grants wishes to 90 to 100 children each year. With the help of generous donors and more than 400 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Nebraska has granted 1,860 wishes to children throughout Nebraska since 1983. For more information on how to get your organization or business involved in Jeans for Wishes please contact Lauren Piller at jeansforwishes@nebraska.wish.org or call the Make-A-Wish office at 402-333-8999.

About the Make-A-Wish Foundation

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the [wishes](#) of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Founded in 1980 when a group of caring volunteers helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer, the

Foundation is one of the world's leading children's charities, with 64 [chapters](#) in the United States and its territories. With the help of generous donors and nearly 25,000 [volunteers](#), the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 40 minutes and has granted more than 200,000 wishes in the United States since its inception. Visit wish.org and discover how you can share the power of a wish® with the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

**PLEASE ENJOY THE HERITAGE DAYS PHOTO
COLLAGE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE!**



HERITAGE DAYS
2011