

Chamber Visions

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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that if your employer is a member of the Chamber, you are too? Many people are not aware of this and thus don't take advantage of Chamber opportunities for networking. So the next time there is a mixer or a 'Coffee Connection', you will want to be certain to come. You'll enjoy the hospitality of the host, some great food and an opportunity to promote your employer or to make valuable contacts for yourself through merely networking with others who attend. There is no cost to you except for your choice of beverage. Attending one of these networking opportunities is a pleasant way to either wind down your day or to get it jump-started. If you have questions about other advantages of being a Chamber member, feel free to contact us at info@aboutmccook.com or 345-3200.



4TH QUARTER HONOR BUSINESS NAMED

The 4th Quarter Honor Business Award was presented to McCook Daily Gazette on Thursday, October 13. Chamber members and the McCook Cordials were on hand for the presentation. The event served a two-fold purpose in that a Member Recognition Certificate was also presented in honor of the Gazette's 100th Anniversary. Tyler Schmick, Chamber President, noted the Gazette's long-time commitment to both the McCook community and to southwest Nebraska. Bruce Crosby, Editor,

commented on the Gazette's continued efforts to stay on the cutting edge of technology and noted that the new equipment they were just beginning to use in the printing of the daily paper would further enhance their end product. Shary Skiles, Publisher, continues to stress the importance of the phrase coined by founder, Harry Strunk, that "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy in this world." Following introductions, guests enjoyed refreshments and some participated in tours of the building.

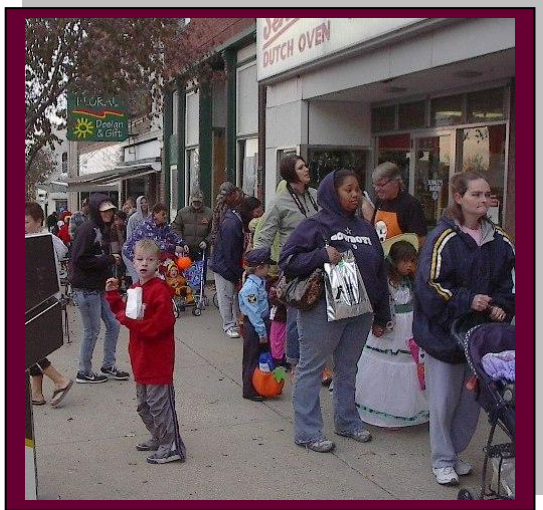
COFFEE CONNECTION HELD AT WILLOW RIDGE

The fourth quarter Coffee Connection was hosted by Willow Ridge Senior Living on Wednesday, October 19. Guests were treated to a nice selection of pastries, muffins, coffee, juice and cappuccino. Those in attendance shared new and interesting information about their respective businesses. This informal coffee is a networking opportunity for Chamber members and proves to be very informational with regard to what is happening in our community. The format is 'come as you can, leave as you must' which works nicely for busy schedules. If you would like to host a coffee connection, contact the Chamber office at info@aboutmccook.com or 345-3200.

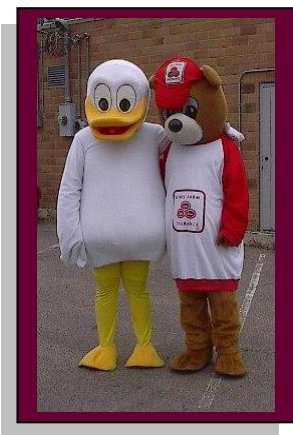
OCTOBER MIXER HELD AT WAGNER CHEVROLET

Hosts for the Wednesday, October 19, Chamber mixer were Wagner Chevrolet, Wagner Ford and CTE Construction & Roofing. The mixer was promoted as a “tailgate party” with table décor including Astroturf and miniature goal posts. The food also followed the theme with burgers, brats and other typical tailgate selections. Senior parents served the food which was prepared by Willow Creek Meats. A really nice crowd enjoyed the evening of networking and ‘catching up’ with other Chamber members.

HALLOWEEN PARADE ENJOYS ANOTHER GOOD YEAR



Witches, goblins, princesses and super heroes enjoyed good weather for the annual Halloween Parade held at 10:00 a.m. in downtown McCook on Saturday, October 29. The participants gathered at the JCPenney parking lot and followed the route on C street to Norris Avenue where they turned north, crossed Norris Avenue at D Street and headed south to B street where they crossed Norris Avenue once again and headed north returning to C Street. The parade route continued on the south side of C Street back to the JCPenney parking lot where donations of apples from WalMart and pop from Pepsi Company are distributed by the volunteers helping with the event.



The Chamber co-hosts this annual event with the assistance of the McCook Daily Gazette. First Central Bank also provides special Halloween bags to hold the youngsters' candy collection.

The State Farm Neighbear and the AFLAC Duck escorted the parade along the route. Sparky greeted parade participants at McCook National Bank.

THE CHAMBER SALUTES.....

all those businesses who participated in the annual Halloween Parade through the downtown business district including McCook Daily Gazette, our co-host. First Central Bank donated the

special Halloween Bags, WalMart donated apples and Pepsi Company donated pop. Business mascots, including the State Farm Neighbear and the AFLAC Duck enjoyed the parade with the kids while Sparky greeted them at McCook National Bank. We appreciate the assistance of both the Police and Sheriff's Departments, as well as, the use of the JCPenney parking lot.

STATE CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE FORUM WELL ATTENDED



Nearly 30 McCook business leaders attended the State Chamber Legislative Forum held on Wednesday, October 12, at the Chief Restaurant. Barry Kennedy, State Chamber President, and Jamie Karl, Vice-President of Public Affairs & Policy, presented information about the State of Nebraska with regard to ranking polls in an effort to show the present status of the state's business climate. They also reviewed topics that will be considered during the next legislative session. It is anticipated that the state budget will dominate the session however other major issues will include tax structure, Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR) reform, federal health care compliance and the

decline of rural populations. McCook Chamber Executive Director, Pam Harsh, was very pleased with the attendance at the breakfast noting that it indicates the engagement of community members in issues of concern for the State of Nebraska. Also noteworthy is that McCook is represented on the State Chamber Board of Directors by Jeff Crick, Parker Hannifin, which allows a more direct connection for communication lines.

CHAMBER BOARD MEMBERS TO ASSIST WITH EXPO BREAKFAST

Board members of the McCook Area Chamber of Commerce will be serving up the "free producer's breakfast" hosted by the McCook Farm & Ranch Expo on November 16 located at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds beginning at 7:30 a.m. The breakfast is the opening kick-off activity for the show. The Chamber is also providing 'welcome bags' and coupon pages for each of the vendors at the show. All Chamber members are invited to include items for the vendors that promote their business. If you would like to do so, please contact the Chamber at info@aboutmccook.com or 345-3200.

Darren & Tana Dale are looking forward to their upcoming 4th annual expo which is scheduled for November 16 & 17 at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds. The event organizers are looking forward to good weather, great crowds and a huge collection of vendors who will be on hand to share their products with visitors. The Dale's expect 350 vendors from 20 states, Canada and Australia. Admission and parking are free. The show opens at 9:00 a.m. on both days and closes at 7:00 p.m. the first day and 4:00 p.m. the second day. For more information you can contact them at 866-625-0989 or dales@bwtelecom.net or go online at www.mccookfarmandranchexpo.net

FARM AND RANCH EXPO RETURNS FOR 4TH ANNUAL EVENT

By Darren Dale

With record crop yields the last two years in Southwest Nebraska, Northwest Kansas, & Northeast Colorado, the McCook Farm & Ranch Expo is the place to be. The Expo will return to the Red Willow County Fairgrounds on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 16-17, 2011. The show opens at 9 a.m. both days and closes at 7 p.m. the first day and 4 p.m. the second. Admission and parking are free. To kick things off, there will be a free producer's breakfast at 7:30am on Wednesday November 16th. Come join us for some great food and friendly faces. This event is sponsored by Willow Creek Meats, Archer Petroleum, Hometown Family Radio, Kugler, Pepsi, Nebraska Bull Service, Kleins Motor Electric, Cappel Sales, Eugene Koch Pioneer Seeds, Chief Hotel & Restaurant, Arickaree Ranch Supply, Cowboy Up Tack, Grosch Irrigation & Farmers Magazine.

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The Expo is a great place to see the newest and latest in farming and ranching practices and technology. We are expecting 350 vendors from 20 states, Canada & Australia. Exhibitors include displays for farm and ranch equipment, seed and chemicals, agricultural services, irrigation manufacturers, financial providers, commodity organizations, colleges, governmental services, home services, furniture and art galleries and much, much more.

This year the McCook Farm & Ranch Expo will feature a working Ranch Horse Sale on Wednesday the 16th starting at 6:00pm. The sale will show case the best performance horses for sale in the state that will be sold to the highest bidder. This event is sponsored by Z Tags North America. Along with the horse sale many local FFA Chapters will be making a project that will be auctioned off with all proceeds going back to that chapter. Scott Daily Horse Training will be displayed this year at the expo. Scott has been featured on RFD-TV. He will be show casing his low stress horse training techniques both days at the expo. Scott has been around horses most of his life. His love for horses and desire to train them began in 4-H while he was growing up in Inola, Oklahoma. Scott started training horses about 15 years ago. After many years of working with challenging colts and horses, Scott has developed and perfected his own techniques. Scott believes in building trust between horse and rider. Scott Daily Horse Training is sponsored by Vap Construction. There will be park and drive zero turn mower demonstrations in front of the Kiplinger Arena. They will be brought to you by Kurtzer's Walker Mowers. We have a great line up of Rodeo Athletes this year, including Professional Bull Fighter Quirt Hunt, World Champion Steer Wrestler Dean Gorsuch, World Champion Bareback Rider Will Lowe, along with Miss Rodeo Nebraska. They will be at the expo both days signing autographs along with other Rodeo queens from the area. There will be several drawings at the expo including tickets to the Tri-City Storm Hockey and a beer garden to quench that thirst. Corporate sponsors for the expo include Southwest Implement, Hometown Family Radio and the American Hat Company.

McCook is in the center of rich farmland and cattle feedlots in southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas. Parking lot counts from last year showed vehicles from 37 Nebraska counties, 20 Kansas counties, 13 Colorado counties and 10 other states. The Red Willow County fairgrounds are in north central McCook, near West Fifth and O Streets. For more information, contact Tana or myself at 866-685-0989 or dales@bwtelcom.net or go online to www.mccookfarmandranchexpo.net

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL EDUCATING CHILDREN FOR 93 YEARS

By Becky Redl

St. Patrick School began educating children in the McCook area in 1918. On August 28th, 1985, the current St. Patrick School was opened to approximately 190 students and cost nearly \$1.4 million to build. The 31,000 square-foot building offers a kindergarten room with a reading center, 12 classrooms, a library and media center, a computer lab and a 400-person gym.

Today's enrollment is 133 students with a full/part-time staff of thirty. Our faculty includes sixteen teachers with teaching experience ranging from 26 years to first year teachers. Band, vocal music, Spanish, art, athletics, student council, hot lunch, advanced math and literature are programs offered to our students. Our class sizes vary from 10-20 students. K-4 have self-contained classrooms and 5-8 is departmentalized. Our Little Knights Preschool program is housed at 612 East 3rd and offers pre-k and toddler classes.

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We are very blessed to have our school to help form strong minds and bodies; we are especially blessed to enrich their spiritual lives and relationships with Christ. St. Patrick School is the only parish school of the Dioceses of Lincoln west of Holdrege. Our school is fully approved by the Nebraska Department of Education and as our students graduate from eighth grade and transfer to McCook Senior High; we believe that they have received an excellent faith-based education that will continue to guide them educationally and faithfully through life.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT - ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU NEED US!

By Brian Buhr

Hello, my name is Brian Buhr and I am the distribution superintendent at Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) in McCook. I would like to share with you some information about NPPD, who we are, and some history about us.

NPPD is Nebraska's largest electric utility, with a chartered territory including all or parts of 91 of Nebraska's 93 counties. Formed in 1970, NPPD is a public corporation and political subdivision of the state of Nebraska. The utility is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors, who are popularly elected from NPPD's chartered territory.

NPPD's revenue comes mostly from energy sold at either wholesale or at retail. In total, NPPD has wholesale power supply agreements with 52 towns and 25 rural public power districts and rural cooperatives that rely totally or partially on NPPD's electrical system. At the retail level, NPPD serves 80 communities in Nebraska. McCook is an NPPD retail town, meaning electric customers pay their bill directly to NPPD.

NPPD generates power to serve its customers using a diverse resource mix consisting primarily of coal, nuclear, hydro, wind, and natural gas. Approximately 54 percent of the energy produced to serve NPPD's customers in 2010 was carbon-free. Once this power is generated, it is sent across a network of more than 5,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines, which make up the NPPD electrical grid system. Through this system NPPD delivers power to about one million Nebraskans either directly or indirectly.

On a local level our office is located at 1901 North Highway 83 in McCook. We have nine employees that are involved in operations and four employees that work in customer service. The city of McCook's electric distribution system is operated by NPPD under a lease agreement with the city of McCook. Power is delivered to McCook via McCook's 115 kV transmission system with the main source originating at a 345 kV substation located approximately seven miles from McCook.

To learn more about NPPD and our statewide offices and plants, you can visit our website: www.nppd.com. NPPD wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!