



Chamber Visions – November 2010

'HOLIDAZE' Only Weeks Away!

It won't be long and we will be trading the browns and oranges of fall for the reds and greens of Christmas. The McCook Area Chamber of Commerce is meeting regularly with the Retail Committee to design their promotion for the holiday season. Although not all plans are finalized for the season, the date for the KFNF Christmas Lights Parade has been scheduled. So make plans to attend or to enter a float or other entry in the parade on Saturday, December 4. You'll want to note that the starting time for the parade is 5:30 p.m. rather than the traditional time. The parade begins with the lighting of the islands on Norris Avenue and heads South all the way to A Street.

2011 Home Show Dates Set

The McCook Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that the dates have been set for February 19 and 20 at the Army Reserve building on Airport Road. Brochures and applications have been sent out and we have already had some vendors return their applications for a booth. Linda Frank is the Show Coordinator and can be reached at 340-7714 or you can contact us at the office, 345-3200. info@aboutmccook.com.

Pretty SCARY Numbers Attend Annual Halloween Parade

A huge crowd turned out for the annual fall Halloween Parade sponsored by the McCook Area Chamber of Commerce and the McCook Daily Gazette. Every super hero, every villain, every cartoon character and every princess was well represented by the youngsters who enjoyed the crisp, fall morning parade. The parade started in the JCPenney parking lot and wound along C street over to Norris Avenue. Then they headed South on the West side of Norris Avenue, crossed the street and came North on the East side of Norris Avenue. At Norris and D Street they once again cross the street to head South on the West Side of Norris Avenue, turning West at C Street to head back to the parking lot. It's a fun morning for both the kids and the adults as well as for the Chamber member businesses who make it all possible!



It Was a Great Day!



Brown's Shoe Fit



Country Floral



Garrisons



J C Penney



Knowlen & Yates



Longnecker Jewelry



McCook Art Guild



McCook National Bank



Modern Cleaners



State Farm Insurance Linda
Maiden Agency



New Life Christian Book Store



Sehnert's



the kloset



The Sports Shoppe



U.S. Cellular



Viaero



WalMart

Picture Not Available

AFLAC

State Chamber Officials in McCook



Barry Kennedy, President

Barry Kennedy, President-Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Executives and Jamie Karl, Vice President-Public Affairs & Policy were in McCook on October 21 for the annual Legislative Forum breakfast. The breakfast, held at the Chief Restaurant, was attended by 33 area Chamber members and public officials.

Mr. Kennedy identified the State Chamber’s priority issues which include our tax climate, labor/employment and economic development. These issues impact us with regard to jobs and growth, Nebraska’s economic competitiveness and quality of life.

Guests at the breakfast were enlightened in a number of areas of interest with regard to the current business climate in Nebraska. Nebraska was scored favorably high in the areas of the cost of doing business (number 11 out of 50 states); unemployment insurance costs (number 12 out of 50 states); and our legal climate (number 3 out of 50 states). We are number 6 in the list of the top ten pro-business states in the country. These rankings speak well for Nebraska and the State Chamber will continue to work to improve those and others so that our state is an attractive place to do business.

Following the powerpoint presentation, candidates for the State Legislature, Senator Mark Christensen and former Senator Tom Baker, were invited to share a few words regarding their plans should they be elected.

The Chamber Visions is the official publication of the McCook Area Chamber of Commerce, published monthly throughout the year at 402 Norris Ave., Suite 203, McCook, NE 69001. The Chamber accepts no responsibility for editorial content submitted to Chamber Visions.



CANDIDATE FORUM

Senator Mark Christensen

I am State Senator Mark R. Christensen from Imperial. I am married to Kathy and we have seven children, and two grandchildren. I believe that protection of life, the protection of our second amendment rights and the protection of our water rights are essential. That is why those three areas have been a focus of mine in the legislature. I introduced bills and passed bills in my first four years in the legislature that directly dealt with those issues. At the recent debate at the Bieroc Café, several candidates said that water is the number one issue for economic sustainability in the area. I have introduced and passed bills to give local control and local decisions when it comes to water. I have taken this difficult issue head on from my first year of service and I will continue to make sure that the people of Southwest Nebraska have the final say when it comes to protecting our water rights.

The district 44 legislative race is all about experience and leadership. Not often can you look and see what both candidates stand for without having to decipher all of the campaign rhetoric. We both have a record of introduced bills and votes in the legislature. What sets us apart though is who simply voted right and who led on the issues important to the district. As I stated above I have a record of leading on the issues that are important to Southwest Nebraska -- like protecting life beginning at conception, protecting our second amendment rights and protecting our water rights. I have always been very accessible to the people of my district. My cell phone number is on my campaign website and legislative business cards. I want to be accessible to you. I believe the leadership I have shown is why I deserve to be re-elected as State Senator from District 44.

Senator Mark R. Christensen

Tom Baker

This is not a race to see how many yard signs a person may have or how much money a person can raise for the campaign. The campaign to represent District 44 in the Nebraska Legislature revolves around EXPERIENCE and LEADERSHIP. I have served on many boards and commissions which gives me a broad understanding of many issues critical to this area.

In order for a person to fully understand the effect the Commission on Industrial Relations has on labor negotiations you need to have served on a board dealing with the commission, I have. I served twelve years on the local school board.

The oil and natural gas industry is very important to Southwest Nebraska. I have served on the Nebraska Oil and Conservation Commission. I understand the impact this commission has on our local industry.

Rural communities rely on volunteers to carry out the duties required to maintain fire districts, cemetery district and local ambulance services. I am serving on the local fire district and cemetery district boards. I have that experience. I have also been an active emergency medical technician for thirty-three years. I understand the needs and issues to maintain these vital emergency services.

Water is vital to all of us in Southwest Nebraska. My family has been irrigators for many years. We understand that we must work to form the necessary partnership with all concerned to solve our water issues.

Leadership is the other important factor in this race. Having served in the legislature eight years allowed me to develop leadership within the

legislative body. I served four years as chairman of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. It is important that we elect a person who is capable of leading in an effective manner.

When voting November 2nd please consider which candidate has proven LEADERSHIP and EXPERIENCE, it is critical to our district. Vote for Tom Baker! Thank you.

Tom Baker

SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Arbor E&T Changes Name To ResCare

ResCare, recently known as Arbor E&T, LLC is a private company contracting with the Department of Health and Human Services of NE. We provide case management services for individuals receiving assistance. Our job is to assist participants in moving to self-sufficiency. We work with individuals in the creation of master applications, resumes, cover letters and handling interviews. We also monitor their further education and set up / follow placements for community work and work experience. Our office in McCook is located at 322 Norris Avenue Suite 1 in the Masonic Temple Building. Carolyn Miller is our case manager located there and can be reached at 308-345-4232.

Marge Daniel
Project Manager

Farm & Ranch Expo Returns to McCook

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. 17-18, 2010.

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 17th. Come join us for some great food and friendly faces. This event is sponsored by Willow Creek Meats, Vap Construction, Hometown Family Radio, Kugler, Pepsi, KRVN, and Nebraska Bull Service.

"It's a great place to come see the newest and latest in farming and ranching practices and technology," said Darren Dale, show manager. "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 live cattle handling demonstrations by Dr. Tom Noffsinger DVM on Wednesday. The cattle handling presentation will include applications of Low Stress Handling Concepts as a dimension of management that enables caregivers to have positive effects

on cattle health and performance. Our goal will be to encourage caregivers to understand more about cattle in order to apply handling concepts during calving, new cattle acclimation, processing, pen riding and sick cattle management. This event is sponsored by Heartland Cattle Company.

“Entertainment to the MAX” world renowned PRCA act of the year featuring Max Reynolds – will be trick roping both days of the show. Max Reynolds is brought to you by McCook National Bank and Vap Construction.

Also featured at the expo will be Miss Rodeo Nebraska – Michelle Boeshart. Come out to see her and get an autograph. She 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.

“Our parking lot counts from last year showed vehicles from 37 Nebraska counties, 20 Kansas counties, 13 Colorado counties and 10 other states,” says Dale.

The Red Willow County fairgrounds are in north central McCook, near West Fifth and O Streets.

For more information, contact Darren or Tana Dale at 866-685-0989 or dales@bwtelcom.net or go online to www.mccookfarmandranchexpo.net

Darren Dale

ESU 15

Educational Service Unit 15 provides services to students in the counties of Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier and Red Willow. Included in these counties are one K-8 parochial school, and nine K-12 districts. The area served covers approximately 5,041 square miles and includes approximately 3,729 K-12 students and 422 teachers.

ESU 15 is governed by an elected board of 10 members - one representative from each district. Due to legislative action (LB 603), Nebraska ESUs were required to realign election districts according to population, rather than by county. ESU 15 is divided into ten election districts of equal or substantially equal population. The ESU 15 board meets monthly at 7:30 p.m. CT at the ESU 15 offices located at 344 Main St., Trenton, Nebraska.

Educational Service Unit 15 utilizes an advisory council structure for the purpose of receiving feedback and developing recommendations for services to be provided to schools. The Advisory Council consists of superintendents from the nine K-12 districts and the parochial school superintendent. The Advisory Council meets at least four times per year. During the 2009-10 year, the ESU 15 Advisory Council held joint meetings with the ESU 16 Advisory Council. Recommendations are considered by the ESU Board of Directors who make the final decisions concerning the program of services for ESU 15.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS

Cooperative Purchasing

In the 2009-10 school year, the ESU 15 schools purchased approximately \$110,143 worth of paper, supplies, and equipment through the Nebraska Cooperative Purchasing program. As a state, the combined School's and ESU's purchased over 5 million dollars in supplies. Schools may also participate in the COOP Food Program, Custodial Program and Special Buy purchases. These services are made available to ESU schools across Nebraska to assist them in reducing operational costs through volume purchasing resulting in savings of an estimated 40-53% on supplies.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Workshops and Trainings

- Nebraska Staff Student Record System
 - The staff development department of ESU 15 and NDE personnel provided training to area schools on the Nebraska Student Staff Reporting System (NSSRS).
- Support for Novice Teachers
 - ESU 15 provided five trainings for new and non-tenured teachers. Topics included Instructional Theory into Practice (ITIP), classroom management, behavior management, parent-teacher conferences, instructional strategies, differentiation, school and community cultures, professionalism and other topics of interest to the teachers.
- Boys Town Social Skills
 - ESU 15 arranged for training in Boys Town Social Skills for area teachers.
- Job-Alike Sessions
 - Job-alike sessions were offered during the second semester for all grade levels and all content area teachers.
- Online Assessment Training
- College Credit Course
 - A three hour graduate credit course on differentiation was offered by professional development coordinator Jamie Garner.

Principals' Advisory Group

The staff development department led four meetings of the ESU 15 Principals' Advisory Group during the 2009-2010 school year. These meetings provided a chance for ESU 15 staff to update the principals on opportunities and information. Principals were also able to provide feedback to the ESU 15 staff and express needs and concerns. Each meeting contained a professional development component related to leadership.

ESUPDO

Educational Service Unit Professional Development Organization (ESUPDO) continues to provide leadership in the development of services and training to its members and all public schools across Nebraska. During 2009-2010, members of the organization developed training materials for a wide variety of professional development topics. These will begin to be used during the 2010-2011 school year.

Nebraska State Standards and Assessment

The professional development department supported districts with aligning the new Reading, Math, and Science Standards with curriculum. The department also kept district personnel up-to-date on new assessment information.

Curriculum Development

Educational Service Unit #15 provides curriculum reviews for the curricular areas of Math, Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Science, and Social Studies. During the 2009-2010 school year, ESU 15 facilitated the writing or revision of curriculums for several districts. Additional curricular areas can be reviewed at the request of the local school district.

School Improvement

Educational Service Unit #15 is able to provide workshops and trainings to school districts involved in the school improvement process. Educational Service Unit staff development personnel have served on several external review teams within ESU #15 and outside of the service unit area. In addition to service on external school improvement teams, ESU 15 staff development personnel have facilitated local school districts improvement plan teams in the development of improvement goals for student learning. Educational Service Unit #15 is also involved in its own continuous improvement process.

Federal & State Grants

Educational Service Unit #15 Staff Development Department continues to coordinate the Carl Perkins Vocational Education Grant and the Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant.

MEDIA / TECHNOLOGY / INTERNET SERVICES

Media

Educational Service Unit 15 provides a film library for 9 school districts. ESU 15 schools benefit from a VHS/DVD format library recorded at the ESU offices and housed in an Educational Video library at each school. A media catalog listing all available media is available on-line. Educators can place orders for instructional materials housed at the ESU via the internet.

As part of the statewide I-MAT consortium, ESU 15 purchased rights to 111 film titles and other instructional materials to duplicate and distribute to the media centers in the schools. In addition, 59 titles were purchased through Special Projects. All Titles have download and streaming rights and are located on Power Media Plus (PMP). This year ESU will continue it's process for the duplication of titles. The ESU Media Center will buy and store blank DVD's to be used for duplication. ESU 15 will then bill each school district for disks used in duplicating titles for their district. The ESU will continue provide one copy of all new available titles to our schools at no charge.

The Power Media Plus is available again this year, and the original 5-year contract has been extended to meet teachers' media content needs. Power Media Plus is provided to all Nebraska schools courtesy of the ESU and the IMAT group. School Media Specialists continue to provide their input into other titles and resources. The ESU, when possible, acquires recommended resources for check out purposes. The media department has approximately 1,000 checkout video titles and other materials available to area schools. By request, the ESU 15 media center will downlink satellite broadcasts of interest to educators and provide copies, when permitted, to the schools.

ESU 15 hosts regular media advisory meetings throughout the school year. Due to a great response last year, the ESU will continue to hold Media advisory meetings for the purpose of receiving media staff input on video purchases and other content needs.

ESU 15 provides an Ellison Die-cut Machine for use by teachers and has annually purchased new stencils for decorating classrooms and use in student projects. A laminating service is also provided by ESU 15.

Technology & Internet

ESU 15 hired Todd Weimer as a Technology/Internet Specialist. Todd has been in the education/technology world for 15+ years, and has great experience with web 2.0 and developing skills for the 21st century educator.

Educational Service Unit 15 continues to serve its schools by providing internet access and e-services such as e-mail, spam filtering, e-mail virus filtering, web page storage, and internet content filtering. ESU 15 is a member of Greater Nebraska Educational Network Consortium which is a cooperative effort with ESUs 10, 11, 16 and now PanESU (13) to provide greater bandwidth to schools at a lower cost as well as provide e-services and WAN support with more cost efficiency.

ESU 15 has the ability, through the distance learning classroom and DL carts, to transmit and receive video and audio over IP (internet protocol). Staff members can join conferences and meetings with as many as 24 remote sites from across the state without having to travel to the originating site. The DL carts also allow anyone to visit anywhere in the world from your very own classroom with the virtual field trips. This allows for even more cost efficiency.

Trainings were offered in Google, Moodle, Final Cut, Smart Boards, Podcasting, webpage design, Microsoft Office, Internet Safety and more.

Support was added for web hosting and design, Microsoft Exchange, Moodle, Windows Servers, Virtual Servers and Virtual Hosting, Web 2.0 and 21st Century Skills, Desktop management and troubleshooting, Cisco Routers, Wireless and Wired Networks configuring and troubleshooting, wireless surveying, and Network mapping and diagnostics.

Southwest Nebraska Distance Education Network

ESU 15 is one of 39 sites in the Southwest Nebraska Distance Education Network, which is a two-way interactive fiber optic teaching and learning network that covers over 20,000 square miles in rural western Nebraska. ESU 16 currently serves as the fiscal agent for the network, with ESU 15 providing office space for the DL Director in 09-10. In addition, the services of the ESU 15 Secretary are contracted on a .40 FTE basis for Distance Learning assistance.

During the period between August 15, 2009 and August 15, 2010, Southwest Nebraska Distance Education Network and its members served 1,725 students in 112 two-way interactive classes. That number includes 540 high school students enrolled in daytime college classes over the network. Broadcast hours for classes and events totaled 17,830 hours. Community/school meetings, inservices and special event sessions accounted for 620 hours of the total.

The Network has been successful in writing Distance Learning and TeleMedicine grants through the USDA Rural Utilities Service. Grant funds awarded in 2008 funded new mobile carts for every network member district.

The SWDE Network continues to apply for e-rate reimbursements through the federal Universal Service Fund. The funds are used to pay a portion of the schools' and ESUs' yearly video line charges and Nebraska Universal Service Fund Surcharges.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

School Psychology

During the 2009-2010 school year, the two school psychologists provided educational and psychological services to all of the school districts in the ESU 15 region except for McCook Public Schools. Students from infants through high school were evaluated with recommendations for appropriate services. The school psychologists also provided consultations, counseling sessions, behavior assessments, independent observations, 504 plans and curriculum-based assessments, including AIMSWEB administration and data compilation. The school psychologists helped increase the use of AIMSWEB CBM testing across all districts, and provided further training on AIMSWEB.

Additionally, the psychologists provided in-service training on reading strategies. Teachers and administrators were provided assistance with multidisciplinary team meetings, individual educational plans, state mandates in the area of special education, and referral services for students.

Speech and Language Therapy and Hearing Screening

Speech, Language and Hearing services were provided to eight school districts in ESU 15 for the 2009-10 school year. Speech/Language services at ESU 15 are delivered in a variety of ways, depending on the needs of the students. At school age, some students receive direct services from the SLP. Some students are supported within the classroom environment through consultation/ collaboration between the SLP and classroom teachers. Some students receive a combination of services. Services are based on the needs identified through the IEP process and dictated by the IEP, and are related to areas of difficulty the students are experiencing in their educational environment.

Support for children in Early Intervention/PreK is provided primarily through the coaching model of service delivery. Team meetings are held regularly in most districts with SLPs consulting/collaborating with Early Childhood Special Educators, who in turn, meet with the adults who see the children most. This may be in homes, community daycare centers or preschools, or in school based PreK programs. Services at this level are based on areas of difficulty the children are experiencing in their daily routines.

At school age, hearing screenings are done in all districts with the help of the Lions Club's Mobile Screening Unit in several districts. Follow up rechecks are done based on the results of the screenings. For children ages 0-5 years, screenings are done primarily at the request of parents.

Transition Services

During the 2009-10 school year, ESU 15 employed two individuals at 0.20 FTE each to provide transition services for special education adolescent students in nine districts in the ESU 15 region. The transition specialists worked with high school Special Education teachers to provide counseling services, career assessments, workshops, and business tours, and helped students with job exploration activities.

Behavior Consultant Program

The Behavior Consultant traveled to participating schools to provide assistance to teachers with students who were challenging in the classroom. When requested, time-on-tasks observations were performed as

well. Assistance with behavior plans, speaking to administrators and providing materials were all part of the consultant's services. The consultant regularly made contact with special education teachers and counselors to ascertain any needs they might have in the behavior area.

Early Childhood Program

Early Childhood services were provided to children from birth to 5 years of age. All services were provided in the child's natural environment. These "natural environments" included places such as, daycares, preschools (both private and public) and homes. The ESU 15 early childhood team consists of the following team members; speech pathologist, early childhood special educators, school psychologist and a services coordinator. The Early Childhood Special Education Teacher was the primary provider/consultant. The team collaborates with the following professionals in our communities: physical therapists, occupational therapists, head start teachers, and school nurses. The teams are "coaching" rather than using a direct service model. This has been recommended by the NDE and described as "best practice".

Team meetings of the OT, PT, Speech Pathologist, School Psychologist, the Services Coordinator, and the Early Childhood Special Education Teacher are held regularly discuss needs, concerns, and joys for each child being served.

During the 2009-2010 school year, the following summarizes services in the Imperial/Chase County area: one baby was being served in his home by the Early Childhood special education teacher, who was the primary provider. One baby continued to be served at the end of the year. Five children ages 3-5 years were being seen in the natural environment of their preschool or home setting. At the end of the year, one child had moved, two children would move on to Kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year, and two children would remain in the early childhood program.

Special Education Finance for Local Schools

Eight school districts requested and received assistance on special education financial matters in the 2009-10 school year. The ESU 15 special education staff assisted with filing the final financial reports for reimbursement in the areas of transportation, school age services, and early childhood costs. Assistance is provided in filing applications for IDEA poverty and enrollment funds with the money being used for excess special education costs or new special education projects. Some of the financial reports are now filed on the NDE web site.

Flexible funding applications are calculated and filed for Chase County, Hitchcock County, Wauneta-Palisade, Hayes Center, Maywood, Medicine Valley, and Southwest Schools. The flexible funding money is used to support the alternative education program (STEP).

NDE-ESU Collaboration Project

ESU 15 received a renewable grant from the Nebraska Department of Education for a Collaborative Project. This project requires each ESU to provide conflict resolution services for parents and schools and facilitate Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities (ILCD), which includes providing training to school districts, assisting districts with data collection and analysis activities and helping districts develop and implement improvement activities.

During the 2009-10 school year the ILCD Facilitator, George Young, and Co-facilitator, Teresa Rinehart, provided on-going training on the ILCD process to district teams and the Southwest Early Intervention Team (SWEIT); helped districts and SWEIT conduct ILCD data analysis workshops; and

helped conduct special education file training, file reviews and assistance in writing corrective action plans in conjunction with NDE.

Special Education Continuous Improvement Projects (SCIP)

During the 2009-2010 school year, ESU 15 received Part B and C SCIP grants in the amount of \$21,600, which were used for staff training in ILCD, Response to Intervention, Transition from school to adult living, speech, brain injury training, early childhood, autism, infant mental health, dealing with student behaviors and reading intervention. SCIP was also used to have Jim Grant provide training on differentiation for about 250 teachers in the ESU 15 region.

GENERAL EDUCATION

English Language Learners

ESU 15 provides assistance to schools in identifying English Language Learners (ELL) and implementing a program that meets their needs. Collaboration with the ESU 10 consortium in Kearney helps schools comply with guidelines from the Office of Civil Rights as well as “No Child Left Behind” regulations.

McCook Schools contracted with ESU 15 to provide a program coordinator for their ELL students. Duties included coordinating all planning, operations, and professional development for the ELL program. The coordinator administered various tests for determining eligibility; maintained appropriate and required documentation; monitored district compliance with state and federal ELL guidelines; developed, implemented and trained on policies, procedures and guidance of ELL programs; assisted in developing measurable ELL goals, objectives and timelines for continuous improvement; designed and implemented activities to support effective programs and instructional strategies; and stayed current with relevant research and teaching/learning trends for ELL students.

Migrant Education

Migrant Education comes to ESU 15 through federal grant monies and is a state operated program. It provides supplemental education and support services to eligible migrant children. These services help children of migrant workers overcome the disadvantages they face, including disruption to their education. The grant provided for a 0.40 FTE Migrant Director and a 1.0 FTE Migrant Recruiter.

The migrant education program continues to support academic attainment for migrant students through after-school and summer programs. After-school programs were held in the communities of Wallace, Imperial and McCook. The summer school programs were held in Hayes Center, Imperial and McCook. The migrant program hired eight staff members for the after-school programs and five staff members to help with summer school.

Success Through Educational Partnerships (STEP) Program

ESU #15 began providing an alternative educational program in 1999 to assist youth who were at risk of failure within their traditional home school. ESU 15 now operates two STEP (Success Through Educational Partnerships) programs, located in McCook and Imperial, which serve school districts within the ESU Region. Designed as a preventive program for youth ages 12 - 18, STEP offers an individualized, self-paced curriculum in academic, behavioral, life, and social skills. These alternative schools are made possible through flex funding.

The McCook STEP program has served 89 different students with 24 students successfully graduating, 19 students transferring to other agencies, 29 returning to their home school, 9 students quit, and 14 students being terminated. Taking into consideration that some students return to continue working toward their goals from one year to the next, 128 youth have been enrolled over the past 11 years. During the 2009-10 school year, nine students were served. One student graduated, four students returned to home schools, one moved away, two students dropped out, and one student will continue in STEP for the 2010-2011 school year.

During the 2009-2010 school year, the Imperial STEP program served 6 students. Of those six, one graduated with a high school diploma, two have returned to the Imperial STEP program, two moved out of state, and one has returned to her regular school district to complete her senior year.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Early Development Services Coordination

Early Development Services Coordination provides a central contact person for families who have concerns about their child's growth and development. Services Coordinators find services to meet developmental, educational, financial, health care, child care, respite care, and other needs. Eligible families of infants and toddlers below age three, who have a disability or developmental delay and qualify for special education through their public schools, qualify for year round services at no cost to families. Service Coordinators serve as case managers. They also coordinate services for schools and outside agencies. This service began in the ESU 15 area in May of 1995.

Early Childhood Planning Region Team 15

ESU 15 is the Lead Agency for the Planning Region Team #15, as required by Rule 51. The Planning Region Team's main purpose is to meet the needs of young children with special needs and their families. The Planning Region Team identifies gaps and barriers of service, works with local and state agencies to address gaps, assists with child find efforts across the region. They also assist with the ILCD process and Results Matter. At least 20% of the Planning Region Team membership must be parents of children with special needs. The work of the Team is funded through the Early Intervention Systems Support Grant.

Paul Calvert

GUEST EDITOR

Well, it doesn't seem possible I have been in McCook for three years and eight months. So much has happened in this period of time, you wonder where to start. It really surprises me that a town of this size has so much going on all the time. And with all of these activities, the volunteer base has to be fantastic. I don't think anyone realizes how much time and effort it takes just to pull off Heritage Days for example.

Also, look around town; look at all the new things that have happened to McCook from Norris Park to the Chamber moving into their new location. If you haven't been to the Chamber, you should stop in and see what a beautiful new home they have, along with all the space. I also think that a new hospital as large as we are getting will be such a boon to our economy. From the new jobs the hospital will create to the benefit to the people in town and the surrounding town. Just to mention a few of the businesses will be restaurants, gas stations and shopping areas. And this is just to name a few.

A gentleman I worked with in North Platte said that if something new like the hospital coming to town, or even the Home Show, brings in a multiplier of four to seven times. So if the people coming to the Home Show, for example, spent a million dollars for gas, food, lodging, shopping and so forth, it could multiply to four to seven million dollars into our community. What I mean is the restaurant owner, receives money for food, the owner of the restaurant pays his employees, this in turn pay for their mortgages; they pay their employees and it snowballs from there. Hey, life is great in our small town.

Once again, the coffee pot is always on, so come in and visit us at the **Days Inn and Suites**.

Barb Giesler

RETAIL DETAILS

Lifetime Eyecare

Believe it or not, it has already been three years since we moved into our new building. We would like to extend our warmest appreciation to all of our patients. Our staff has been a big part of the growth of our clinic by going the extra mile to ensure that you and your family get the quality of eyecare you deserve. Our team of professionals include: Amy Hurdle, Office Manager; Cindy Kohmetscher, Kelly McConville and Sheri Ord, Receptionists; Pam Fagot, Courtney Ewald, Courtney Modrell and our newest employee Sara Wagner Clinic Technicians; Leta Meitl, Kristina Propes, Debbon McConnell and Sandy Baker Frame and Lens Specialists.

We have some fun and exciting things happening at Lifetime Eyecare. We are introducing four new lines they are Rudy Project, Robert Cavalli, OGA for men, and Koali.

Robert Cavalli, with their beautiful Swarovski crystals and elegant handmade temple designs; are the latest fashion for your face.

Koali, Inspired by nature. You may have seen it in a flower box on your window sill, or in your garden, but never before in eyewear.

OGA was dreamed up and designed in France. OGA specializes in a discreet and elegant design faithful to the traditional Scandinavian spirit.

Rudy Project, Rudy uses unique material to create a lightweight, functional and extremely comfortable sunglass. It's the world's most advanced sports Lens that can be made with your prescription. Always at the peak of technology, Rudy lenses provide optical clarity and protection from ultraviolet rays.

Stop by Lifetime Eyecare today and browse our new selections while getting a "tune-up" on your eyewear.

We are always here to help you in any way possible. Also make sure you check out our website. www.lecvisionsource.com You can also find us on facebook.

Sandy Baker

MEMBER NEWS

Fourth Quarter Honor Business Named



Photo courtesy of McCook Daily Gazette

A nice representation of area businesses recently presented the 2010 Fourth Quarter Honor Business banner to State Farm Insurance – Linda Maiden Agency.

Linda and her staff were cited by the Chamber as having made a great number of contributions, not only to the Chamber, but to our entire community and others across Southwest Nebraska.

Chamber Board members, McCook Cordials and other business leaders were on hand for the presentation.

Cowboy Up Tack Celebrates Expansion at New Location



Photo courtesy of McCook Daily Gazette

It was an exciting day on Friday, October 22, when members of the Chamber of Commerce and the McCook Cordials met for a ribbon cutting at 1008 West B Street. The ribbon cutting was to kick off the Grand Opening celebration for Cowboy Up Tack.

Bob and Sharon Harvey started their business as a hobby which grew to a small trailer behind their vehicle, to a warehouse concept which actually developed into more than that as a retail storefront. They have now expanded their store to occupy the area formerly occupied by Movie Gallery. Stop by to see them.

They, of course, have the tack, including saddles, horse blankets, ropes, halters, bridles and anything else you might need but also they have “bling” for people including jewelry, accessories, candles, house décor, etc.

We congratulate them on growing their business and we are very appreciative that they are located in McCook!

Wagner Chevrolet/CTE Roofing Host Chamber Mixer

Spiders, skeletons and other typical Halloween decorations highlighted the annual mixer held at Wagner Chevrolet on Wednesday, October 13, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. CTE Roofing co-sponsored the mixer. As always, a great crowd attended and, as always, they were elated by the wonderful food selection provided by the hosts. The Chamber thanks Chris, Annette, Jay and Susan for hosting the event.

Janssen Kool Honda Plans for November Chamber Mixer

Mark your calendar to attend the November 17 mixer at Janssen Kool Honda in McCook. Lee and the crew at Janssen's are planning a special evening highlighted by a great selection of food.

CHAMBER STATS

Office

2010	Calls	Walk-In	Tourism Packets Mailed or Distributed	Relocation Packets Mailed	Misc. Packets Mailed
Jan	888	329	70	5	6
Feb	1,008	442	109	5	5
Mar	980	293	113	4	4
Apr	887	278	237	3	2
May	744	247	402	5	3
June	875	279	39	5	4
July	868	282	15	5	4
Aug	902	322	16	6	14
Sept	803	311	12	4	16
YTD	7,955	2,763	1,012	42	58

Website

Rolling 12 Mo Hits		Specific Website Page Total Hits					
Month	Total Website Hits	Business Spotlight	Business Directory Search	Member Directory Search	Community Calendar	Chamber Calendar	Chamber Newsletter
Oct '09	4,522	280	310	166	66	98	444
Nov	4,002	251	412	294	54	96	408
Dec	3,667	241	299	119	56	103	308
Jan '10	4,814	235	437	144	50	90	357
Feb	5,418	256	719	324	57	107	310
Mar	5,859	245	587	172	67	95	462
Apr	5,433	234	462	200	53	80	406
May	4,658	180	473	128	63	83	275
June	5,218	224	635	181	64	93	277

July	4,416	205	346	96	93	107	341
Aug	3,826	180	311	173	73	105	297
Sept	4,396	215	277	96	101	142	374
Totals	56,229	2,746	5,328	2,093	797	1,199	4,259



