

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Promoting tourism



Jennifer Anderson
Executive Director

Spring is just around the corner, hooray! I don't know about you, but I am ready for some nice weather. I guess I shouldn't complain, we have been very lucky, February was a pretty mild month, however things at the Chamber have been busy.

I have attended two trade shows since our last newsletter. The first one was in Wichita at the Sport, Boat and Travel Show. This was the second year I have had the opportunity to go to this show and promote our great county. The turnout at the show was awesome. I worked on Saturday and our booth was so busy with people asking questions about the fishing in Coffey County. The focus at the show was basically outdoor activities and fishing opportunities.

The second show I attended

was in Overland Park at the Kansas City Travel, Adventure & Culinary Experience show. This was a brand new trade show and it was well attended. The focus at this show was a completely different audience. The people I got to visit with were looking for day trips. I distributed a lot of information on Coffey County in hopes to draw visitors to our area.

I would like to thank Jon Hotaling for making it possible for me to attend these shows and promote tourism to our county. I think it is important to reach out to people in the surrounding areas and educate them on the unique opportunities and attractions we have to offer right here in southeast Kansas, specifically Coffey County.

Speaking of tourism to the area, May 9-17 has been designated at National Tourism Week. This would be a great opportunity to showcase Coffey County and show that we are...Divine in 2009!

Focus on small business success

By Lisa Brumbaugh
ESU Small Business Dev. Center

It seems it has always been a fact of life that most new businesses fail. So many times, someone asks the ever-so-popular question "What is the failure rate of new businesses?" Even though that question seems pretty specific, it really isn't. First of all, how would "failure" be defined? Does it mean the business went bankrupt, did not make a profit, or just closed their doors? One definition of a business failure is that a business closes its doors still owing creditors.

There are others too, but let's talk about business from the optimistic side for a change. Most years, there are more firms starting than there are closing, which indicates that the net effect is a gain in businesses.

According to the Center for Economic Studies at the U.S. Census Bureau, the failure attitude may soon go away. The results found on new business

starts revealed that more than half of new businesses with employees are still in business after four years. Beyond that, one-third of closed businesses were successful at the time they closed. If you think about this, it really is reasonable since many business cease due to retirement or perhaps the death of an owner. Many times, an owner just gets tired and instead of selling the business as a going concern, simply sells the inventory out and then sells the other assets such as the building, fixtures, and equipment.

Factors associated with business survival were also assessed in the study. Those who started with ample capital and were led by owners with previous business experience had a greater chance of success than others. Also contributing to successful enterprises, were the fact that a firm is large enough to have employees and the owner's reason for going into business in the first place, such as freedom for family life

or wanting to be one's own boss.

Keep in mind some very successful and positive facts about small businesses. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small businesses represent more than 99.7 percent of all employers, employ more than half of all private sector employees, and generate 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs each year.

In 2002 there were approximately 22.9 million small businesses in the United States, with 5.4 million owned by women and 1.6 million owned by veterans. Statistics on mi-

nority ownership reveal that 5.8 percent of all firms are owned by Hispanic Americans, 4.4 percent by Asian Americans, 4.0 percent by African Americans and 0.9 percent by American Indians.

Chamber board meeting

The Coffey County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will meet in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, at the Coffey County Library—Burlington Branch.

Tentative agenda includes: Approve Minutes, Additions to Agenda; Guests/Public Comments; Treasurer's Report; Director's Report; Committee Reports: Annual Membership Meeting Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Facilities Committee; Old Business: Waverly Board Seat Appointment, 5-year Expense/Income Review, 2009 Budget; New Business; Announcements/Discussions. Chamber members are welcome to attend meetings.

Chamber After Hours schedule

March 26, 5 p.m. — Abby's Attic

June 25, 5 p.m. — Coffey Health System, Allen Woods Conference Room 2

July 17, 5 p.m. — Lyon-Coffey Electric, Kelley Park 4-H Building

Spring's nearly here ... let's go fishing

With spring nearly upon us, it is time to consider spending time at some great fishing spots right here in our county.

Let's look this month and next, at what Coffey County has to offer in its city lakes.

Enjoy your time!

Gridley City Lake

Gridley City Lake is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., twelve months a year. All persons using the lake, regardless of age, need a user permit. This includes fishing, boating or hunting.

Shotgun hunting only, during regular seasons. Annual permits are \$10, age 15 and under are \$3. Daily Permits are \$4, age 15 and under, \$1. Permits are available at Gridley City Hall, Nancy's Grocery, & Rodger's Oil.

Gridley City Lake has an aggressive fish management program, which includes fish stocking, supplemental feeding, restrictive length and creel limits, water level management, and fish habitat development. The program is funded by the sale of city lake user permits.

Regulations are a key component of the management plan and may be adjusted in the future based on sampling results. To maintain quality fishing, the regulations will be strictly enforced, so bring along your rulers and current regulations. The minimum fine is \$50 per violation.

The intensive fishery management program at Gridley City Lake focuses on sustainable quality and quantity.

Harvest regulations allow fish to grow to a harvestable size, while providing excellent catch and release fishing. Length limits protect young fish, while creel limits spread the harvest over a longer period.

Travel to Gridley City Lake and try your luck at hooking one of these types of fish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, walleye, wiper, black crappie, bluegill sunfish, redear, green sunfish.

Lebo City Lake

Lebo City Lake is open from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. with a special permit to fish for yellow catfish and flathead ONLY. The special permit is \$10. A regular permit allows you access to the lake from 5 a.m. to 12 a.m. every day.

The Lebo City Lake was rebuilt in 1997. Originally constructed as the city's water supply, the lake has been developed as a recreational facility and a 55-acre sport fishery. The basin renovation included deepening around the shoreline and installation of 13 fishing piers.

Generous built-up rock and brush fish habitat was also installed in the basin. The renovation included a boat ramp, a restroom facility, informational signs and gates. The intensive fishery management program at Lebo Lake focuses on sustainable quality and quantity.

Length limits protect the young fish while creel limits spread the harvest over a longer period of time. With proper management and the cooperation of anglers, Lebo City Lake promises to be a first rate fish-

ery. With the Kid's Pond, you are right in the middle of some serious fun! Centrally located a stone's throw away from four major Kansas reservoirs and the catfish heavy Neosho River, Lebo is a great choice for fishing excursions.

The Lebo Kid's Pond offers trout fishing (all ages) in the winter months (Feb. 1—April 30) and youth fishing year round.

A city fishing permit is required to fish the City Lake and angle for trout at the Kid's Pond. Fishing permits can be purchased at Lebo City Hall, D & S Service, Lebo Lumber and Petticoat Junction.

Lebo City Lake offers a variety of fish to be caught, such as largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, walleye, wiper, black crappie, bluegill sunfish, redear sunfish, green sunfish.

New Strawn City Lake

New Strawn City Lake is open 365 days a year from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. All persons using the lake, regardless of age, need a user permit. Annual permits, Jan. 1 to May 1 are \$10 for USD 244 residents 16 years old and up; children under 16 are \$4; Non-USD 244 residents 16 years old and up are \$15 and children under 16 are \$6. These permits include a Trout Stamp. Annual permits May 1 to Dec. 31 are \$5 for USD 244 residents 16 years old and up; children under 16 are \$2; Non-USD 244 residents 16 years old and up are \$10; children under 16 are \$4. Three-day permits are also available. Permits may be purchased at New

Strawn City Hall, Casey's in New Strawn, and Coffey County Lake Gatehouse when open.

The New Strawn City Lake is stocked each January with approximately 1,500 trout for the sportsman. This program is sponsored by the City of New Strawn and USD 244. The creel limit for golden and rainbow trout is two per day with a no catch and release provision in effect.

New Strawn City Lake was renovated as a 3 1/2 acre recreational lake for the city in 1983. The lake was an old farm pond that had become nearly silted in during the housing construction period in the 1970's and 1980's. The lake was dredged in August 1999, which added 3.22 million gallons to the capacity.

Managed by the City of New Strawn and Kansas Wildlife and Parks, New Strawn City Lake is strictly for recreational sport fishing.

It has an aggressive fish management program, which includes fish stocking, supplemental feeding, restrictive length and creel limits, water level management, and fish habitat development. The program is funded by the sale of city lake user permits.

To maintain quality fishing, the regulations will be strictly enforced, so bring along your rulers and current regulations. The minimum fine is \$50 per violation.

New Strawn City Lake offers a variety of fish to be caught, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, channel catfish, walleye, wiper, black crappie, bluegill sunfish and rainbow trout.

Coffey County Chamber of Commerce Member List (renewals to date)

(Current as of March 1, 2009) Bold = new member

Abby's Attic Flowers & Gifts	Freeman Plumbing, Heating & AC.
Across the Borders	Hoover's Thriftway
Allegre Rexall Drug	Jayhawk Area Council - Boy
American Red Cross	Scouts of America
Anew Realty LLC	Jones Funeral Home
Arnold's Greenhouse	KSNP 97.7 "The Dawg"
Arrowhead Hills Travel Service	Larry Hargreaves, DDS
Atmos Energy	Lebo Diner, LLC
B & H Appliance Heating & Cooling	LeRoy Co-Op
Bahr Tire, Inc. & Bahr Storage	Lewis Oil Company
BETO Junction Travel Plaza	Life Care Center of Burlington
Billy Boy's Travel	Lisa I. Garrett, CPA
Buddies Bar and Grill	Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative
Burlington Auto Supply	M T Wireless
Burlington Building Materials	Made in the Shade Blinds and More
Burlington Construction, Inc.	Meier's Ready Mix
Burlington Place Apartments	Mental Health Center of East
Burlington Tax Center	Merry Investments
Burr's Roofing	Paige's Carpet Cleaning, LLC*
Carriage House Glass Works	Panida
Casey's General Stores, Inc	Prescription Centre
Central National Bank	Pump 'n Pete's/Jumpstart
Charloma, Inc.	Ravin Printing
Citizens State Bank, all locations	Resource Center for Indep. Living
City of Burlington	Rock Creek Ice Company
City of Gridley	Rose Business Solutions
City of Lebo	Skillman Construction LLC*
City of LeRoy	State Farm Insurance
City of New Strawn	Sticks & Weeds N' Wallpaper
City of Waverly	Strawn Lumber & Equip. Rental
COF Training Services, Inc.	TECU Credit Union
Coffey County Airport	The Appliance Store
Coffey County Council for the Arts*	The Medicine Shoppe
Coffey County Economic Dev.	The Pizza Parlor
Coffey County Historical Society	Tiffany's Cabinets & Carpet*
Coffey County Housing Authority	True Enterprise
Coffey County Insurance & Real	Trust Point Insurance
Coffey County Land Title Co., Inc	Trust Point Real Estate
Coffey County Library, all locations	USD 244 Burlington Schools
Coffey County Transportation	USD 244 Recreation Commission
Coffey Health System, all locations	Wallace's Dairy Queen
Country Haven Inn	Waverly Lumber
Crow-Moddie Chevrolet, LLC	Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Crow-Moddie Ford	
Crutchfield Electrical, LLC	
Dr. Dale Herder, OD	
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Farm Bureau Financial Services	
Farmers State Bank of Aliceville	
First National Bank of Kansas	
First National Bank of LeRoy	
Flint Hills Subway, Inc.	
Flint Hills Eyecare Associates, PA	
Freeman Contracting, Inc.	

Renewals are still in progress. If you are planning to renew, please submit your investment fees to: **Coffey County Chamber of Commerce**, 110 N. Fourth Street, Burlington, KS 66839. If you do not see your name on the list, it's time to renew. For questions, please contact the Chamber office, (620) 364-2002.

E-mail the Chamber at info@coffeycountychamber.com or executivedirector@coffeycountychamber.com

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