

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Solstice, the Latin term for, "sun stands still."

The summer solstice marks the beginning of the summer season, additionally, this is the day we experience the longest daylight hours of the year. This year, June 21 is the date of the Summer Solstice.

Does this mean we have more hours in the day to get everything done we need to get done in a day?

Unfortunately, that is not the case, we still only have 24 hours in a day and that never seems like enough hours to get everything done. I don't know about you, but my life seems to get more and more hectic with every passing day.

In ancient times the summer solstice was considered to be a time of fullness of life, worldly blessings and celebration. Not much has changed today in how we look at summer. We see it as a time of vacations, play, celebration, fun, parties, and barbecues with family and friends. Days are longer which gives us more time to enjoy the sun and soak in its warmth.

I can sure relate to the "fullness of life!" My life is definitely full. Full of activities. Full of yard work. Full of housework. Full of kids (at my house). I wouldn't trade it for the world!

The calendar is also full of events scheduled for Coffey County. In the coming months you have many events to choose from, city-wide garage sales, Gridley Fourth of July Celebration, WildBlue Barbecue, Coffey County Fair, Waverly Ohio Days, LeRoy Homecoming, the New Strawn Fishing Derby, and later in the year the OK Kids Event in September.

Please check the Chamber Calendar for the dates of these events and don't be surprised if you get a call requesting items to fill Chamber Bags. We have received several requests for bags this year. This is a great way to advertise your business and it's basically FREE and people love getting "goodies." Some of the items we have received are coupons, pens, letter openers, carpenter pencils, water bottles, brochures, you get the idea...FREEBIES!

Anyway, I would like to wish you all a great summer and hope your "fullness of life," isn't too full that you can't get out and enjoy life with friends and family. We are halfway through making 2009 Divine!

Chamber meeting

The Coffey County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will meet in regular session at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 17, at the LeRoy Co-Op, LeRoy. The agenda includes: call to order (members absent, quorum status), approve minutes, additions to agenda, guests/member comments, treasurer's report, director's report, committee reports - annual membership meeting, old business, policies review, budget, new business, announcements and discussions, adjournment.

Feature Business

Bahr Tire & Bahr Storage

Bahr Tire & Bahr Storage, located at 2020 South Fourth Street, Burlington, is owned and operated by Chris Bahr.

Chris began his career in the tire business in August of 1994. Today, Chris shares the benefits of owning your own business with his wife, Lana, and two sons, Taylr, 9, and Trevr, 7.

Bahr Tire & Bahr Storage has been a long time Chamber member, since July 2000.

Bahr Tire offers a wide variety of services, ranging from tires and alignments to shocks, struts, brakes and batteries. Bahr Tire has four employees, Chris Christy, Heath Birk, Derrick Tompkins and Steven Dwight. "I have a great group of guys working for me. They do a great job," Bahr said.

Bahr Tire is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

In July of 2000, Chris expanded his business to include storage units. He purchased his first storage unit in New Strawn from Jack Copeland and it took off from there. Currently, Bahr Storage offers 110 individual storage units. There are three mini-storage units in New Strawn, two mini-storage units in Burlington, one outdoor RV storage in Burlington and a large indoor RV storage unit in New Strawn.

Memorial Day 2008 is a day Chris will not soon forget, metal littered the highway as high winds ripped through the area and his large RV storage unit located in New Strawn. A little more



than one year later, he has rebuilt the building, bigger and better. The previous RV storage unit in New Strawn was 8,000 square feet; the new building has 12,000 feet of prime indoor RV storage space. Large overhead doors accommodate even the biggest RVs. There is ample space for any type of RV, however, Chris' main focus, when rebuilding this unit, was on the larger RVs. I was lucky enough to have Chris take me out there and this place is enormous and there are some really nice RVs being stored. I don't have to tell you, those of you who have invested your hard earned money in a wonderful luxurious RV, you don't want to think about it sitting out in the weather, or possibly hail.

If you want to protect your investment, call Bahr Storage today at (620) 364-5641, and reserve a space. Better hurry because space is limited. COMING SOON...Bahr Storage will have a Chamber Web page.

The Kansas Small Business Development Center

Lisa Brumbaugh

Regional Director ESU Kansas Small Business Development Center

In 1983, Emporia State University along with the five other Kansas Regents universities, Washburn University and Johnson County Community College, approached the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for assistance in creating a network of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs). These Centers were to assist existing business owners or people wanting to start a business in Kansas. The Kansas Small Business Development Centers (KSBD) have now operated for 25 years.

Our mission is to provide entrepreneurs and small business owners with knowledge, tools, and resources to enhance their success. We help them identify their business needs and guide them toward opportunities and solutions. The core values of the KSBD network include: High standards of ethics, integrity, and professionalism; The entrepreneurial spirit; Customer-driven services; Continuous improvement through shared learning; Partnerships; Measurable performance that is results-oriented; and Business health and economic growth

Since the beginning, the School of Business at ESU has fully supported the SBDC along with the SBA. The Kansas Department of Commerce soon provided additional funding which continues today. For the first 15 years, the SBDC office was located on the ESU campus in the School of Business. In 1999, we relocated to the National Teacher's Hall of Fame Building. Then in 2006, moved back to the School of Business due to the intent of the Teacher's Hall of Fame to vacate and sell the building. Contact our office for

simple parking instructions.

Since 1983, the SBDC has provided free, confidential, one-on-one consulting to 3,350 small business clients in the eight-county region of east-central Kansas. Typically, we help clients with issues pertaining to business planning, cash flow analysis, developing financial projections, marketing, human resources, sources of capital and financing, inventory control, product costing and pricing, and many other business functions.

The SBDC also provides training workshops on various subjects of importance to existing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. We now have a number of online workshops which can be accessed from our Web site. As well, we make referrals and will assist a small business in locating assistance from private and public agencies as needed.

The ESU SBDC covers the counties of Lyon, Chase, Marion, Morris, Osage, Coffey, Greenwood and Woodson.

If anyone is interested in the assistance we provide or workshops to be offered, please call the SBDC at (620) 341-5308, e-mail us at sbdc@emporia.edu, visit our Web site: www.emporia.edu/sbdc, or stop by the office at Emporia State University, 1200 Commercial, Cremer Hall, Room 130.

Ribbon cutting

Tiffany's Cabinets & Carpet, 1261 Hwy 75, Burlington, is under new management and the Chamber will recognize the business by conducting a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, June 19.

KSNP 97.7 FM "The Dawg" will do a live remote from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and give away two sets of concert tickets at the end of the remote.

The Value of a Membership

Kenda Rose

Chamber Board President

(NOTE: the word "community" is used throughout this article and refers collectively to the business communities of Coffey County that are served by the Chamber.)

I recently read a study conducted by The Schapiro Group of Atlanta, Georgia, that was commissioned by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives with support from Small Business Network, Inc. The study was designed to determine, in quantifiable terms, the value of a chamber membership to companies in terms of consumer perception.

The study concluded, in general, that consumers do favor businesses who are members of local Chambers — regardless of what the consumer may or may not already think about the company. And that small business tends to benefit more from that membership, if consumers are aware that the small business is involved in the Chamber.

While the Schapiro Group study puts hard numbers on the value of membership, businesses should not overlook what may be the intrinsic, non-measurable value of what it means to be a member of the Chamber that serves the community in which one does business. When you choose to become a member of any organization, it is a statement of your alliance with the vision and goals of that organization; it is a statement that you stand with others who also share those goals.

The Coffey County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center is dedicated to establishing and maintaining itself as the primary advocate, voice, and resource for promoting the chamber member businesses and tourism attractions of Coffey County by cultivating community involvement, encouraging business alliances, nurturing the growth and development of new and existing businesses, creating educational opportunities for the youth of our communities and promoting tourist attractions in Coffey County. This is the mission statement of your local Chamber.

The next time you visit your Chamber's Web site, browse through member listing and take note of the businesses, professionals, and supporters who, too, are members of your local Chamber. They proudly support, demonstrate, and share a collective confidence in our community and its economic future; they help make community events and programs possible through generous sponsorships and volunteered time; they participate in the outpouring of support for the youth of our community who seek to realize their potential here or elsewhere in the region, state, or world; and they make Coffey County a better place to work, shop, be with family and friends, and enjoy life.

Thank you, members, for continuing to see more than the quantifiable value in being a member of your local Chamber.

The Schapiro Group report "The Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce" can be viewed at this URL: <http://www.cenlachamber.org/Portals/2/Newsroom/SchapiroGroupACCEReport.pdf>.



After Hours

The May Chamber After Hours was hosted by the Life Care Center of Burlington in their lovely gazebo. It was a beautiful evening to be outside and enjoy the springtime weather. Guests were treated with many goodies to choose from, like veggies, cookies, and even chocolate dipped strawberries. There was great conversation and networking among those members in attendance. Life Care Center's new executive director, Peter Mungai, was introduced and welcomed by those who attended. He was excited to be able to host the event and showcase their gazebo. In addition to the networking and socializing,

Peter was asked to be the official person to draw the names out of the baskets for the two drawings. Martha Newkirk, Marketing Director at Life Care Center was the lucky winner of both drawings. No, this wasn't rigged; sometimes it just happens that way. So, Congratulations to Martha for being the big winner of the evening.

Thank you to Life Care Center of Burlington for hosting the After Hours and thank you to those who attended: Susan Croll, Arrowhead Hills Travel; Polly and Gary Epting, Coffey County Land Title; Richard Croll, Legacy Financial; Yvonne Ryan, American Red Cross; Jon Hotaling, Coffey County Economic Development; Martha Newkirk and Peter Mungai, Life Care Center of Burlington.

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

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

Abby's Attic Flowers & Gifts	Jones Funeral Home
Across the Borders	KSNP 97.7 "The Dawg"
Allegre Rexall Drug	Larry Hargreaves, DDS
American Red Cross	Lebo Diner, LLC
Anew Realty LLC	LeRoy Co-Op
Arnold's Greenhouse	LeRoy PRIDE Committee
Arrowhead Hills Travel Service	Lewis Oil Company
Atmos Energy	Life Care Center of Burlington
B & H Appliance Heating & Cooling	Lisa I. Garrett, CPA
Bahr Tire, Inc. & Bahr Storage	Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative
BETO Junction Travel Plaza	M T Wireless
Billy Boy's Travel	Made in the Shade Blinds and More
Brown Quality Builders	Meier's Ready Mix
Buddies Bar and Grill	Mental Health Center of East
Burlington Auto Supply	Central Kansas
Burlington Building Materials	Merry Investments
Burlington Construction, Inc.	Office Supplies Today
Burlington Place Apartments	Paige's Carpet Cleaning, LLC
Burlington Tax Center	Pamida
Burr's Roofing	Prescription Centre
Carriage House Glass Works	Pete's
Casey's General Stores, Inc	Ravin Printing
Central National Bank	Resource Center for Indep. Living
Charloma, Inc.	Rock Creek Ice Company
Citizens State Bank, all locations	Rose Business Solutions
City of Burlington	Skillman Construction LLC
City of Gridley	State Farm Insurance
City of Lebo	Sticks & Weeds N' Wallpaper
City of LeRoy	Strawn Lumber & Equip. Rental
City of New Strawn	TECU Credit Union
City of Waverly	The Appliance Store
COF Training Services, Inc.	The Coffey County Republican
Coffey County Airport	The Medicine Shoppe
Coffey County Council for the Arts	The Pizza Parlor
Coffey County Economic Dev.	Tiffany's Cabinets & Carpet
Coffey County Fire Dist. #1, all locations	True Enterprise
Coffey County Historical Society	TrustPoint Insurance
Coffey County Housing Authority	TrustPoint Real Estate
Coffey County Insurance & Real	United Methodist Church - Burlington
Coffey County Land Title Co., Inc	USD 244 Burlington Schools
Coffey County Library, all locations	USD 244 Recreation Commission
Coffey County Transportation	Wallace's Dairy Queen
Coffey Health System, all locations	Waverly Lumber
Country Haven Inn	Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
Crow-Moddie Chevrolet, LLC	Membership Information: The Chamber has extended membership opportunities to nonprofit organizations and supporter memberships. Any nonprofit organization interested in becoming a member of the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce will need to provide its nonprofit status paperwork. Supporter memberships are available. If you are an individual who would like to be part of the Chamber experience, you can join as a supporter. For more information on these membership opportunities, contact the Chamber office 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F, at (620) 364.2002 or email: info@coffeycountychamber.com .
Crow-Moddie Ford	
Crutchfield Electrical, LLC	
Dr. Dale Herder, OD	
EMBARQ	
ESU Small Business Development Center	
Everything's Fabulous!	
Farm Bureau Financial Services	
Farmers State Bank of Aliceville	
First National Bank of Kansas	
First National Bank of LeRoy	
Flint Hills Subway, Inc.	
Flinthills Eyecare Associates, PA	
Freeman Contracting, Inc.	
Freeman Plumbing, Heating & AC,	
Hoover's Thriftway	
Jayhawk Area Council - Boy Scouts of America	

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

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