



The Wamego Outlook

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Welcome New Members

August

Shananagans

St. John Lutheran Church and School

Wamego Area Senior Citizens

Chamber Calendar

September 4

Labor Day

September 10

Bark in the Park Activities 1-3pm
Pooch Plunge 3-4pm

September 18

Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars!

Bring the family and enjoy "Fall Fun in the Park" **October 29th, 3-6 pm** with the **Haunted Train running from 4-6pm.**



Activities are for kids, so don't be afraid. (Sponsored by the Community Life Committee)

Experience, Experience, Experience

That's all I hear or read about--the "shopping experience". Every company wants to increase the shopping experience with lighting, music, display, layouts, and the speed of service. The other day I was shopping with my wife at Pottery Barn, which I love. The store is just beautiful. The merchandise has the right look, displayed perfectly, and it is even priced fairly. The store just put us in a buying mood and every display quietly shouted out, "BUY ME. Take me home with you". This is retailing nirvana for the visual merchandiser. What could break that wonderful mood?

It was the employee who approached us wearing her Buck Rogers headset ready to serve us in any way she could with back up support on the line waiting for whatever question we could possibly ever have. With the state of the art communicator attached to her head, she had the ability of being able to say "Price Check Register One" quietly.

I suppose it does increase the level of service. (And it definitely increases the visits to The Ear-Nose-and-Throat Doctors for all those poor unfortunate folks who have to be connected all day. I just can't imagine wearing a headset for that period of time!) But I found out the reason why they are really used. It increases the pool of people that you can hire to work in your store. You don't need to hire anyone who knows anything-- just a person who can listen to a question from a customer, repeat it word for word, then listen to the answer, and repeat that answer word for word to the customer. That was the problem. I would ask a question, then she repeated it into the headset, heard an answer and then gave me the

answer, which was not always repeated exactly. Sometimes she would miss a word or two. I felt like I was being waited on by the speaker system at Jack In The Box. Are robots far behind?

The other problem is that this sales associate brought nothing to the transaction other than data. That might work if I were the analytical type, but shopping to me is a social experience. If I wanted service like that I will buy online, which we actually ended up doing.

Every independent small merchant should run out and buy a bottle of champagne. Celebrate because having a smile, an engaging personality, some common sense, and knowing about what you are selling is still and will always be the Giant Slayer. Rejoice! Retail is a people business and if you give me an emotional experience created through relationship building, I'll take that type of shopping experience to the bank. I will even forgive a poor layout, a weak display, and even less than perfect lighting for the sales person who knows my name, anticipates what I want to buy, and reminds me when I should shop.

Writer's Note: I will continue to shop at Pottery Barn, and no, this experience is NOT a typical Pottery Barn occurrence. But I just couldn't help sharing my "Jack in The Box" Service encounter. Let it be a warning that we should never forget our roots of people selling to people or the slogan of Jordan's Furniture (one of the top furniture stores in America)—"We make people happy everyday". From Rick Segel's Tip of the Week www.ricksegel.com



Wamego Featured on Sunflower Journeys



As some of you might recall, last summer during the 4th of July, Sunflower Journeys was in Wamego to tape our festivities and followed Dr. Mike Malin around town interviewing him.

Sunflower Journeys is a half —

hour weekly program that airs on PBS. It covers different aspects of Kansas past, present and future.

If you didn't catch it when it aired, you can check it out at the Wamego Public Library.

Sunflower Journeys sent us a DVD that has this episode on it.





The Chrysler House Project

Our story begins with Walter P. (Percy) Chrysler being born in Wamego, Kansas, April 2, 1875. This is recorded in the Encyclopedia Britannica. He is noted for being a United States industrialist who pioneered in the developing high-compression engines and other improvements.

Interesting facts about Walter P. Chrysler:

- ◆ He spent his boyhood in Ellis, Kansas.
- ◆ He began work as an apprentice in a Union Pacific machine shop.
- ◆ He was plant manager for American Locomotive Company.
- ◆ In 1912 he became the works manager of the Buick Company, then President in 1916. After making Buick the strongest unit of General Motors by 1920, he left.
- ◆ Retirement lasted six months, when he assumed direction of Willys-Overland Company and of Maxwell-Chambers Motor Company which became the Chrysler Corporation in 1925.
- ◆ When Chrysler and Dodge merged in 1928, the Chrysler Corporation became a major company in the automotive industry.
- ◆ Walter P. Chrysler's autobiographical "Life of an American Workman" was published in the 1937 exemplifying the vision and contributions of this Wamego native. Money and social prestige never changed his character; old railroad friends, machinists with grease-stained, calloused hands were guests at his home as often as were the socially elite. He died August 18, 1940.

Wamego is known for people with vision-in the past and in the present. Nothing is achieved without vision and without persistence as we all know!

The Walter P. Chrysler home sits on the corner of Pine and Valley streets

in much need of repair. Several years ago Willard Balderson had a vision for the house to become a tourist attraction and more recently Joni Noe (former Wamego C of C/Mainstreet Executive Director), Dave Karnowski and John Gullion joined him in his quest. We thank them for helping us catch their vision!

Plans are underway for the home to be refurbished and moved from its current location to the corner of Highways 24 and 99. It will not only be a historical museum and tourist attraction, but also a Visitors Center complete with a kiosk for tourist information.

This article was written by Rose Ditto. Support for the project is still needed and is being accepted in the form of money, labor, and/or materials. If you would like to contribute please contact Rose Ditto, Chair or Michelle Crisler, Financial Treasurer. Supporters will have their name recorded and displayed within the Center. To date \$7,175 has been given with additional \$10,750 in pledges.



Becoming the Employer of Choice

According to the Herman Trend Alert money is not the strong motivator for employment and retention we think it is. "Meaningful work and life-work balance are the most influential attractors." Flexible work hours are important so people can enjoy more personal time and the "grow your own" mentality means owners put money and time back into their most important investment — employees.

A local employer's work environment is enjoyable, comfortable and pleasant plus they have flexible work schedules which all adds up to -

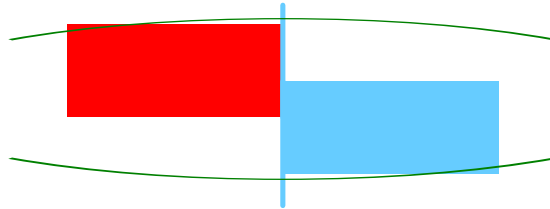
huge labor force attractors. They are not the highest paid jobs but people want to work and stay their. Another key factor to their success is that management knows the importance of "growing their own". Training opportunities leads directly to individual and corporate growth - another factor in their high retention. If you would like confidential assistance to "grow your own" and becoming the Employer of Choice please call Jo Brunner at the Manhattan Workforce Center at 785-5395691 or email at jbrunner@kansascommerce.com.

Volunteer T-Shirts



We are missing a large number of the volunteer t-shirts use during Tulip Festival and also the 4th of July. If you have a t-shirt, please bring it to the office as soon as possible. These shirts are not free, we have to pay to have them made. The funds used to produce these shirts, means less money that can be used in the community for events like Easter, Halloween, or Christmas.





A Few Facts on the Mentoring Program Here in Wamego

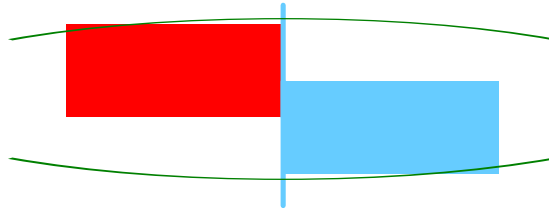
- The Community Mentoring program evolved during the 1999-2000 school year through on-going conversations with the Wamego High School site council. Their focus was to provide *all* students the opportunity to develop relationships with community volunteers who are committed to the success of *all* students. Now in its fifth year of implementation, all 450 Wamego High School students have a community mentor who commits to following their group of 5-7 students throughout their four years of high school.
- While the Community Mentoring Program does not transition into post-secondary education and training, it has been adapted to incorporate Wamego's Freshman Transition program. The entire Freshman Class meets prior to the first day of school and participates in a school rally conducted by a national speaker. Junior- and Senior-level students, who have applied for and been selected as Student Leaders, facilitate the freshmen students' introduction to high school. The Student Leaders then play an active part in the first days for the freshmen, especially during the lunch gathering when the Community Mentors are initially introduced to their mentees.
- Throughout the four years, mentees and their adult mentors talk about career plans and how to achieve them during high school and beyond. Since this is a four year program, mentoring groups have the opportunity to develop trust, friendship and respect which further allows deeper discussion of relevant topics concerning career selection and non-traditional training and employment.
- Seniors have the opportunity to select and visit local and area businesses, many of which are those owned or managed by Community Mentors.
- Personal relationship development, community service, life skills and large doses of fun are integrated throughout the four-year program.
- The collaborative efforts of this program are huge! Considering the fact that now ALL 450 9th – 12th grade students are randomly grouped by grade and assigned to a mentor who is recruited, trained and constantly supported for this one-hour-per-month-at-lunch-for-four-years program. There are currently 95 Community Mentors and 38 Mentoring alumnae due to student graduation or mentor life changes.
- A three-hour training session is mandatory for all mentors. USD 320 funds the Kansas Bureau of Investigation background required for all mentors. Training focuses on two components of mentoring: "why one person wants to make a difference" and "what do I need to do to build the relationship."
- Every December, all mentoring groups in each grade journey to senior centers and retirement homes to sing carols to the residents. While this may not be seemingly innovative in the strictest sense, having students participate in a community service project each year while in high school is not typical. As freshmen, many students expressed concern that they had never been caroling or been to a retirement facility or anticipation that they didn't know what to expect. Seniors now know how to "ham it up" for the residents!
- When people ask to participate in a program that encompasses this time commitment only because it is good for kids, the program is working. The Community Mentoring Program demonstrates that people care. This program not only gives adults an opportunity to share their concern for youth, but it allows students an opportunity to learn that working together may result in unanticipated outcomes.
- Although there has been no quantifiable documentation of outcomes that were a direct result from the Community Mentoring Program, mentors consistently report positive anecdotal stories and changes that support the program's successes and connections.
- Mentors consistently reinforce the need for a high school diploma and post-secondary education and training.
- There is no formal marketing plan as this is a required activity for the students. Mentors are recruited from current mentors' recommendations. Local newspapers receive consistent information about upcoming activities that may provide interesting story lines.
- The USD 320 Board of Education, high school administration, food service, and custodians provide ongoing financial and related support for the Community Mentoring Program. This information was taken from the fact sheet located at http://usd320.com/mentoring/NATPL_facts.pdf

Employee of Choice

Are you wanting to be the Employee of Choice? Tired of being passed over? Not sure how to get the job you want or keep a job once you have it? Kansas BEST (Basic Employability Skills Training) courses offer basic workplace training in: getting a job, successfully maintaining a job, customer service skills and working with the public, ethics in the workplace, punctuality and absenteeism, appearance, health, and wellness, and positive attitudes. Successful participants receive: a certificate of completion, recognition by area employers, and an edge over other job seekers. Upcoming courses include Appearance Health and Wellness, August 30, 2006; Power of a Positive Attitude, September 6, 2006; Keeping Your Job, September 13, 2006. For more information contact: Manhattan Workforce Center, 2005 South 4th Street, Suite 1A, Manhattan, KS 66502, (785) 539-5691.



Wamego's mystery guest during Ridiculous Days was ELVIS. This picture was taken in between events at Railroad Park.



Christmas Parade

Would you like to see a Lighted Christmas Parade this year? Help us bring back this heart-warming tradition by pledging your participation. There are no entry fees-- we just need participants! Entrants are not required to have lights on the entry, but it does add a nice touch. Carolers, bands, and other walking entries are also welcome. If your business, family, organization or group would like to pledge participation, please contact the Chamber office. We need entries to make the parade a success-- please call today!

Something Fishy was going on in Wamego during Ridiculous Days. T-Shane and Kelly Roberts are the owners of Shanagan's, the fun party store.



Winners of Ridiculous Days Activities

The rain didn't keep many people away from the weekend activities for Ridiculous Days. All of these contests wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for our generous supporters and donors: de Lacey's Lane, Dyer's Shurfine Foods, Kream Kup, Toto's Tacoz, City of Wamego and the Wamego City Police. All of our contest winners were male.

- ◆ Rock Paper Scissors Tournament was won by Calder Malin, with second place going to Drew Malin.
- ◆ 3rd Annual Salsa Contest winner was James Earnhart, who is a newcomer to Wamego. Second place went to Larry Duch.
- ◆ The Lemonade Stand contest winner was Teygan Bluthardt, with second place being James Derouchey.
- ◆ Our new event, the Digital Scavenger Hunt winner was Mike Kelly with the help of his wife, Mary, who was the designated driver.



The Lemonade Stand contest winner Teygan Bluthardt (left), with runner-up James Derouchey (right).

