

CHAMBER NEWS

PRATT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JOB CLUB PROMOTES ECONOMIC STABILITY

Recruiting the right person can be both an expensive and time consuming process for business owners.

Prairie Independent Living Resource Center (PILR) has been working with local employers since 2005 to identify the skill sets needed within the business community that also match the talents of PILR consumers.

PILR promotes the full inclusion of people with disabilities into the community of their choice.

The organization's Job Club, developed by PILR Employment Specialist Linda Adlehardt, serves as a catalyst to



ABOVE: Members of PILR's Job Club meet. Photo courtesy of Casey Rose.

effectively educate individuals with the necessary skills to fulfill employer needs.

"[The club] offers applicants job skills and tools in the

following areas: employable skills development, professional attire and demeanor, effective interview and re-

sume skills and helpful methods of dealing with disabilities in the workplace," said Billy Thompson, independent living specialist at PILR.

"The club itself offers members a chance to meet on a monthly basis and share personal experiences when seeking employment, network with one another regarding local job leads and...

• story continued on page 2

ED REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDS WIND SUMMIT

Brian Hoffman, on behalf of the Pratt Area Economic Development Corporation, attended the Great Plains & Southwest Energy Summit in Sweetwater, Texas on February 19-20. The summit involved regional and industry leaders discussing economic development, infrastructure development,

community preparedness, political environment and educational topics centered around renewable energy specifically wind energy.

The purpose of the trip was to identify potential opportunities and gain knowledge about the wind energy industry.

Hoffman toured

2 of the 3 largest wind farms in the country, schools constructed with taxes generated by wind development and operation facilities located in and around Sweetwater.

The Sweetwater area is home to 2,000 wind turbines generating just over 4,000 megawatts of power.

"Wind development has and may continue to contribute to our economy and we need to identify and encourage potential opportunities," said Hoffman.



LEFT: Wind turbines located at Horse Hollow Wind Energy Center outside of Sweetwater.

Current Chamber Membership: 260

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PLEASE SHARE THE CHAMBER NEWS WITH YOUR STAFF!

MESSAGE FROM BRIAN

In today's economic environment it pays to be an informed consumer and/or business owner. Since January 1, the number of calls from residents to the Pratt Area Chamber Commerce about potential scams has increased. Calls have included residents concerned about door-to-door, e-mail and phone scams.

According to the Federal Trade Commission scam artists, fraudsters and four flushers follow the headlines and are likely to be using the economic downturn to take advantage of consumers who may have financial problems.

MEMBER NEWS IN THE CHAMBER NEWS

Rice Named Director of Nursing

Pratt Rehabilitation and Residence Center is pleased to announce the hiring of Cynthia Rice as the new Director of Nursing. Rice has a BSN from Fort Hays State University. Rice has been employed by Pratt Regional Medical Center the previous two years, with prior long-term care experience. Rice will supervise a staff of 25 in the nursing department and oversee all resident care. She began her duties on Tuesday, February 24.

Boley Retires from PCC

Debbie Boley retired from Pratt Community College in February. Boley served as

JOB CLUB • story continued from page 1

...employers and lends support for members as they strive to become employable or actively seek a career or job."

The club's curriculum allows members to join at any point in time and gives consumers a very strong voice in deciding what particular area they would like to actively work on at each meeting.

"Linda has developed a hands-on activities approach that is much more effective than simply workbooks or study guides alone," said Thompson.

The week of March 1 is the 11th annual National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW). The NCPW Web site www.consumer.gov/ncpw has tools consumers and business owners can use to recognize a rip off, sniff out a scam and make smart choices for today's market. I would like to encourage everyone to take a few minutes and learn more about protecting yourself and identifying these types of risks.

Brian Hoffman is the executive director of the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce.

the school's financial aid director for well over 25 years.

PCC to Dedicate Building

Pratt Community College will host a public dedication at the school's main campus building on Friday, March 6 at 7pm in the Carpenter Auditorium. The building is to be named the Benson Education Center after longtime PCC supporters Bruce and JoAnn Benson. Refreshments will be provided.

Share what's happening in your office! Please contact the chamber about advertising opportunities or general announcements at (620) 672-5501.

The results have been positive for both job seekers and employers.

"Job Club has definitely motivated me to continue working and teaches me to deal with my disability in the workplace," said Mike Brown. A traumatic brain injury survivor, Brown works at Pratt Community College.

To learn more about PILR's monthly Job Club, please call (620) 672-9600 or visit www.pilr.org.

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Official Publication

The Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce's *Chamber News* is published monthly by the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce, 114 N. Main, Pratt, KS, 67124.

Brian Hoffman, editor

Amy Govert-Larson, layout and design

**VISIT US ONLINE AT
PRATTKAN.COM!**

DATES SET FOR LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

A Junior Leadership Rally is planned for Wednesday, March 11 and is open to all freshmen from Pratt High School and Skyline Schools. *The Seven Habits for Highly Effective Teens* will be used as the theme for the day.

A leadership class for this year's fresh-

man students will begin in late May. The class will also meet in July before concluding in the fall. For more information contact Lisa Coss, (620) 450-8567.

The Leadership 2000 PLUS 2008/09 graduation will be held at Park Hills

Country Club on Thursday, April 23 at 6:30pm. The evening will include dinner, presentation of the Servant Leader Award and a keynote address by Steve Hewitt, Greensburg city administrator. Nonclass members can attend for \$16.

BROWN BAG LUNCH & LEARN FOR GRANT WRITERS

In service to Pratt County's nonprofits, the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Brown Bag Lunch & Learn for Grant Writers on Friday, March 13 at noon in the Municipal Building's Commission Room.

The initial gathering



will allow local grant writers and non-profit representatives an opportunity to network.

"Our goal is to help identify those individuals who actively pursue grants for our community or who are interested in pursuing grants," said Brian Hoffman, executive director of the Pratt Area

Chamber of Commerce. "Our hope is that these individuals can then learn from each other and find opportunities to partner in leveraging funds."

Interested parties are encouraged to bring their own lunch to the meeting.

For more information about the Brown Bag Lunch & Learn for Grant Writers please contact the chamber office at (620) 672-5501 or info@prattkan.com.

FINALLY FRIDAY! TREATS SHARED

The Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce and 54 Diner & Catering presented sweet treats to Pratt County Extension; Pratt USD 382; Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and J.A. Knight &

Sons, Inc. as part of *Finally Friday!*.

Finally Friday! recognizes employees of the chamber's member businesses for their hard work.

THANKS
54 Diner & Catering
for sponsoring
Finally Friday!

RIGHT: Pratt County Extension Service
FAR RIGHT: J.A. Knight & Sons, Inc



LEFT: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

BELOW: Pratt USD 382

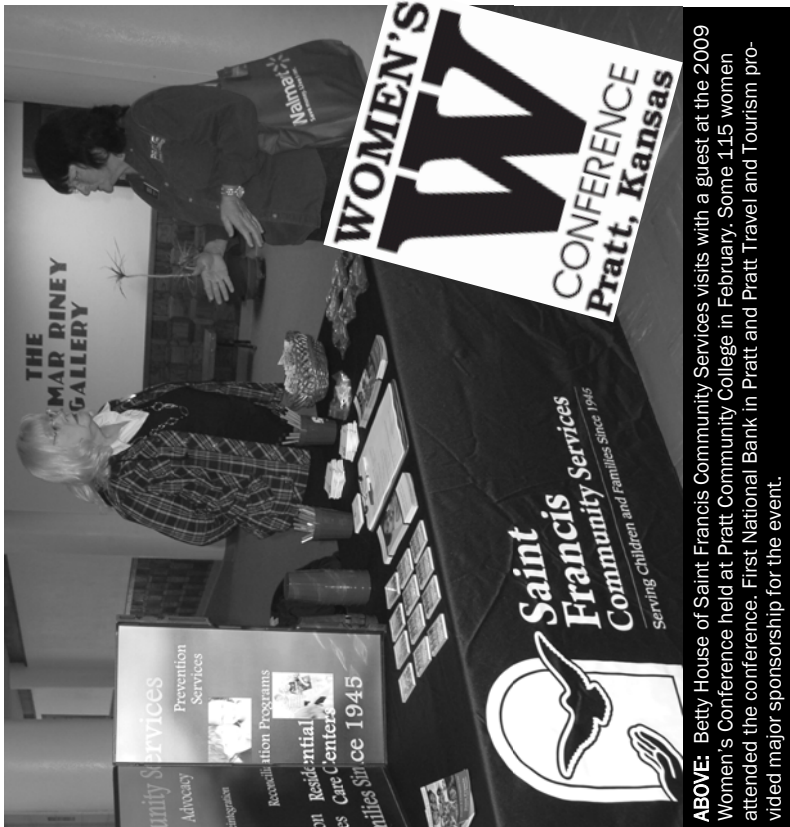




Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce

114 N. Main
Pratt, KS 67124

Pratt
Has Something
for *You!*



ABOVE: Betty House of Saint Francis Community Services visits with a guest at the 2009 Women's Conference held at Pratt Community College in February. Some 115 women attended the conference. First National Bank in Pratt and Pratt Travel and Tourism provided major sponsorship for the event.

Save the Date!

Rotary Chili Supper

Thursday, March 5 at 5-7pm

Pratt Municipal Building

Adult plates available for \$5. Children 10 years and under eat for \$4. Proceeds benefit the organization's community projects.

Pratt Community College Heartland Festival and Chili Cook Off

Tuesday, March 10 at 6-8pm

Pratt Community College

Enter a chili variety (one roaster required) for \$20 or taste the entries for \$3. The winning chili earns the cook \$100 and bragging rights for one year! For more information call Bill at (785) 650-5093.

Pilot Club's Annual Chicken Noodle Dinner

Monday, March 23 at 5-7pm

Pratt Municipal Building

Adult plates available for \$5.50. Children 12 years and under eat for \$4. Carry-out dinners are available. Proceeds benefit the organization's community projects.

2009 Beaver Backer Bash

Friday, March 27 at 6:30pm

Pratt Community College