

Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

June, 2008

Volume 30, Issue 6

Chamber Premium Members

Gold Members

A+ Printing
 Albright Abstract & Title Guaranty Company
 Baskin, Stevens & Freeland, P.C.
 CableONE
 City of Ponca City
 ConocoPhillips
 Dancey-Meador Publications
 Eastman National Bank
 Evans and Associates Enterprises, Inc.
 First National Bank of Oklahoma
 Hays Sign/Precision Screen
 Home National Bank
 Jack Bowker Ford Lincoln Mercury
 Parker Pest Control, Inc.
 Power 104.7 KIXR FM
 Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority
 Ponca City News
 RCB Bank/ Pioneer
 Rick Scott Construction, Inc.

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89.7 The House/Praise 88.7
 Hospice of North Central OK
 Oklahoma Natural Gas Company
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Bronze Members

Albright Insurance Agency, Inc.
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 Cherokee Strip Credit Union
 Comfort Inn & Suites
 Davis Moore Auto Group
 The Gift Shoppe/The Emporium
 Larry Murphy Insurance Agency
 Lindsay Manufacturing, Inc.
 Ron M. Kreger, M.D.
 Pryse Monument Company
 Stolhand Heating and Air
 Conditioning
 Team Radio
 WBBZ AM 1230

Ponca City will Host Preservation Conference!

Please welcome Oklahoma's 20th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference to Ponca City June 4 – 6. Congratulations to Jayne Detten and Ponca City Main Street for bringing this to Ponca City! Thank you City of Ponca City for all you have done to make it possible!!

Lots of work and time have gone into making this possible. Without a conference center they had to think outside the box! With a great team to pull it off! Thanks!

We know they will love Ponca City!

SUMMER FUN IN PONCA CITY

Ponca City has so much to see and do this summer! Don't miss out on anything! Go to www.poncacitytourism.com and check everything out!

We have events every weekend and some during the week! It is our Celebrate Ponca City summer version!

If you have family in town make sure they see all the great things we have to offer – new museums, restored ceilings and artifacts at the mansion, new art displays at several locations, one of a kind lobby movie art, incredible Chinese art at our beautiful library, great outdoor recreation it goes on and on!

HAVE FUN IN PONCA CITY!



Ponca City Day at the State Capitol this year showcased our tourism attractions. Every attraction was represented and it made a very impressive site on the 4th floor rotunda. We promoted Ponca City as a great and inexpensive summer family getaway! We also shared the importance of tourism on the economy of Oklahoma and Ponca City!



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Brown’s Shoe Fit Company located in Ponca Plaza.

June Business after Hours
Oster Financial Group

The Chamber’s June Business after Hours will be hosted by Oster Financial Group located at 106 N. 3rd Street on Tuesday, June 24th from 5 – 7 p.m.

Fun, food, fellowship and door prizes will be available to all that attend. Please bring your business cards to share with everyone. All Chamber Members are welcome and encouraged to attend these fun events held each month at various locations during the year. Business after Hours is an outstanding opportunity to meet other Chamber Members.

Hope to see everyone at Oster Financial Group!

June Chamber Business Workshop Luncheon
Sponsored by Ponca City Business Council!

This month the Ponca City Business Council, a committee of the Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Chamber business workshop luncheon on Wednesday June 11th. The luncheon starts at 11:30 a.m. and will end at 1 p.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Lunch is included in the workshop.

For the first 20 that sign up it will be free sponsored by ConocoPhillips. This special program will show you marketing tips that will benefit your business.

You must register for the luncheon by phoning 765-4400.

Ponca Politics

Senator David Myers and Representative Ken Luttrell

City Commission Chambers at City Hall!

We have had outstanding attendance at our Ponca Politics with Senator David Myers and Representative Ken Luttrell this legislative session. These informative sessions are sponsored by the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Molly Kyler is the Chairperson for Governmental Affairs Committee.

Some of the topics discussed during Ponca Politics have included the budget, education, immigration, taxes, supplemental funding, teacher retirement, tourism funds, public transportation and other important topics.

Please plan to attend the last Ponca Politics for this legislative session with Senator Myers and Representative Luttrell Friday, June 20th at 7 a.m. this time to be held at the City Commission Chambers at City Hall all are welcome!

We do thank the Poncan Theatre for hosting several this session.

Janet Martin, Chairperson
Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce

HELLO PONCA,

If you are in business, a profession, working in government, education, or are a citizen who is active in the community, the Chamber of Commerce is already helping you!

We are thanking everyone who is already a member of the Chamber of Commerce and are hoping you are taking advantage of the programs and committees that are working for you. Our goal is to advance the economic, industrial, professional, cultural and community well being. We are your partners in business.

Let us hear from you on what tools we can provide to assist with your business needs, and take advantage of the committees who are working to provide you with information in regard to long range planning for the future of Ponca City. I want to focus today on just one of those committees, the Community Development Committee headed by Barry Bickle. This committee has had a record turn out at each meeting all year and focuses on topics from roads, bridges, transportation, City operations, airport, the county, and upkeep of the entrances into the city and much more which makes Ponca City very committed to their infrastructure and tourism. We have realized each year what a difference it can make at the capital with our legislature that we need to do to be heard as a community. Feel free to join in, the more voices in the process; the more likely we are to be heard.

All pulling together to grow our economy in Ponca.

Chamber Bucks

Reminder: We have had several complaints of businesses not giving back change from Chamber Bucks that is owed to the customer. If you take Chamber Bucks remember you must give the customer back any change they are due. If you can't do this we will remove you from our list. Thanks for your cooperation. If you have any questions please phone Rich at the Chamber Office 765-4400.

Our Chamber of Commerce at Work in June!

Wednesday June 4 Community Wide Holiday Giveaway Committee will meet at 4 p.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Erin Liberton is Chairperson.

Thursday June 5 Dedication of the Louise Fluke Oklahoma Flag Plaza at 6 p.m. at Marland's Grand Home

Saturday June 7 Ribbon Cutting Event for Big V Ranch at 12 noon located at "T" and White Eagle Road

Saturday June 7 Ribbon Cutting Event for Blubaugh Angus Ranch at 2 p.m. located at 9801 W. North Avenue

Saturday June 7 Ribbon Cutting Event for Silvertop Farm at 4 p.m. located at 6151 W. Fountain Road

Tuesday June 10 Ponca City Business Council Meeting at 8 a.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Daren Wilson is Chairperson.

Tuesday June 10 YAPS at Zino's on the patio at 5:30 p.m. This month's event is hosted by Evans & Associates. Daren Wilson is President of YAPS.

Wednesday June 11 PCBC will sponsor a business workshop from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Details are in this newsletter.

Tuesday June 17 Ambassador Committee will meet at 8 a.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Joe DeNoya is Chairperson.

Tuesday June 17 Finance Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Ryan Schwabe is Chairperson.

Tuesday June 17 Executive Committee will meet at noon in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Janet Martin is Chairperson.

Thursday June 19 Community Development Committee will meet at 10 a.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Barry Bickle is Chairperson.

Friday June 20 Ponca Politics with Senator Myers and Representative Luttrell at 7 a.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall. Governmental Affairs Committee will meet following Ponca Politics. Molly Kyler is chairperson.

Tuesday June 24 Tourism Bureau will meet at 8 a.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Kelly Johnson is Chairperson.

Tuesday June 24 Chamber Board of Directors will meet at 11 a.m. in the Chamber Office Patt Hughes Board Room. Janet Martin is the Chairperson.

Tuesday June 24 Business after Hours hosted by Oster Financial Group from 5 – 7 p.m.

Don't miss out on all the fun events taking place in Ponca City!

For a complete list of events please go to the tourism web site:

www.poncacitytourism.com

For more information on any of these Chamber events or meetings please contact our Chamber Office 765-4400



Sue Lunsford and Amie Huster worked the Chamber booth during ConocoPhillips Volunteer Opportunity Day. We really appreciate ConocoPhillips for allowing us to showcase the chamber and our volunteer opportunities.



Sue Lunsford and Rich Cantillon enjoyed helping elderly citizens of Ponca City clean up their property during the first Good Neighbor Day held in May. This effort will continue throughout the year at various times.

PRIDE Training Available for Chamber Businesses

Please consider taking advantage of the PRIDE Training that is available for Ponca City Chamber Businesses. This important program will help improve customer service and knowledge of Ponca City with your employees. You may think your business would not benefit from this training or that your employees don't need the training. **Your business and employees will benefit from PRIDE Training! Please give it a try the cost is minimal but the results are unlimited!**

The letters in the word **PRIDE** stands for **P**roducing, **R**esourceful, **I**nformed, **D**edicated, **E**mployees. PRIDE training is an exciting and affordable opportunity for employees to create better customer service, help employees become excited about their job, and have a good knowledge of Ponca City attractions and events.

Many times we don't realize how we treat people until we learn how we should be treating people. This training helps address this issue and also the appearance of your employees and your workplace.

It is important to our economy that people respond in a positive way about Ponca City. PRIDE provides this positive response to the questions asked of employees. For example is there anything to do in Ponca City? Is there a good place to eat in Ponca City? The PRIDE training will last approximately two hours and only costs \$5 per employee.

Please phone the Chamber Office today at 765-4400 to sign your business up or for more information. We do want to allow 2 to 3 weeks for scheduling a time that is convenient for you business.

Welcome New Chamber Members!

As of the printing of this newsletter these are the new members to our Chamber for this month. Any new members after the printing deadline will be in the next newsletter. Thank you to these new Chamber Members for your support of our Chamber of Commerce.

Big V Ranch, White Eagle & T Street; **Lake Home Inspection**, 2127 Garden Street; **Moonlight Machine LLC**, 3908 Santa Fe Street and **Silvertop Farm**, 6151 W. Fountain Road.

Advertise Your Business

If you would like to better promote your business in 2008 how about using the Chamber Newsletter. You have two options available for your business. One way is by providing an insert to go in the Newsletter. The cost is only \$75 plus you provide 1,200 copies of your insert for the newsletter. The other way is by placing an ad in the newsletter. Cost is \$150.00 and your ad will be in 3 issues. For more information on either way to promote your business just phone the Chamber Office at 765-4400.



It was exciting to go in to our State's Capitol and see the Pioneer Woman Statue and Chief Standing Bear Statue at the West entrance to the Capitol. Carl and Carolyn Renfro along with the City of Ponca City represented by Mayor Homer Nicholson made this possible! They were also recognized on the floor of the Senate by Senator David Myers and Representative Ken Luttrell.

Premium Levels of Chamber Membership:

Benefits for being a GOLD member:

1. FREE enhanced membership listing on the Chamber web site
2. Feature an article about your business in the Chamber Newsletter
3. Receive a Gold Member plaque for your business to display in your business
4. One FREE flyer a year insert for your business in the Chamber Newsletter
5. Up to 5 employees FREE attendance for a Ponca City Business Council quarterly workshop
6. FREE P.R.I.D.E training for your business
7. One set of FREE membership labels per year
8. Reserved seating at the Chamber Banquet
9. Your business name listed on the front page of each Chamber Newsletter
10. Our Premium level members will also be included in the Chamber Banquet Program
Your Business name will be displayed prominently in the lobby of the Chamber Office

Benefits for being a SILVER member:

1. Feature an article about your business in the chamber monthly newsletter
2. Receive a plaque for your business to display in your business
3. Up to 3 employees FREE attendance for a Ponca City Business Council quarterly workshop
4. One set of FREE membership labels per year
5. FREE P.R.I.D.E. training for your business
6. Your business name listed on the front page of each Chamber Newsletter
7. Our Premium level members will also be included in the Chamber Banquet Program
Your Business name will be displayed prominently in the lobby of the Chamber Office

Benefits for being a BRONZE member:

1. Receive a plaque for your business to display in your business
2. One set of FREE membership labels per year
3. FREE P.R.I.D.E. training for your business
4. Your business name listed on the front page of each Chamber Newsletter
5. Our Premium level members will also be included in the Chamber Banquet Program
Your Business name will be displayed prominently in the lobby of the Chamber Office

To become a Premium Member at Gold, Silver or Bronze:

Gold Member – Is a member who pays double or more than their dues structure in a given year.

Silver Member – Is a member who pays 1.75% or more than their dues structure in a given year.

Bronze Member – Is a member who pays 1.50% or more than their dues structure in a given year.

Our staff can help you calculate the difference your investment would be in order to be a premium member. This is a voluntary investment level in premium membership. We have several Chamber Members at the premium level. We want all our Chamber Members to know that their standard investment is appreciated and needed to operate the Chamber. This is an option you might want to consider that also adds value to your investment with the Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce!

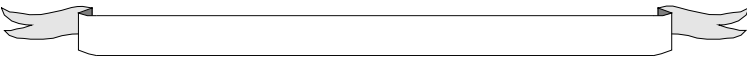
For more information please phone 765-4400.



**JUNE 2008
BUSINESS OF THE MONTH**

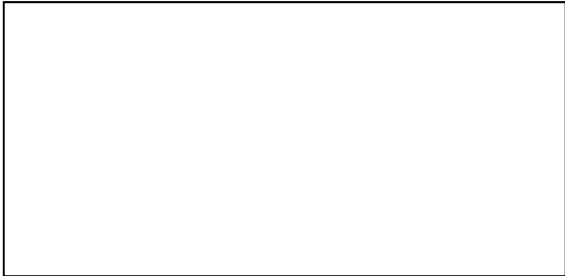


“PEMBERTON INC.”



FOR PONCA CITY
REAL ESTATE
INFORMATION:
www.poncacityarearealestate.com

MAY BAH



BUSINESS CARD WINNER!

Your Chamber of Commerce putting dollars back into Ponca City Businesses!
Chamber Buck Annual Sales as of MAY 2008
\$52,505.00

HOSPICE 
of North Central Oklahoma, Inc.



Non-Profit, Freestanding & Community-Owned
All services are provided at no cost to patients and their families.
1904 N. Union, Suite 103 Ponca City, OK 74601
580-762-9102 or 800-814-9102
www.hospiceofnorthcentraloklahoma.com

Tourism Report

By Tourism Coordinator Mary Beth Moore

May 2008 Highlights:

The Highway 60 "Osage National Heritage Trail" dedication went very well with a good crowd and a lot of dignitaries. Lieutenant Governor Jeri Askins was present as well as our own Senator Myers, Representative Luttrell and Mayor Homer Nicholson. The Ponca City Stage looked great and put a smile on our faces as we drove in to Pawhuska and saw the big Ponca City logo staring back at us from the corner of Kiamichi and Highway 60. Several folks from Ponca City attended and even won some door prizes. Rich Cantillon and I enjoyed working with the Osage Nation, Pawhuska and Bartlesville representatives and look forward to working with them again as we progress into this growing partnership formed by the new State By-way designation of Highway 60.

Red Carpet Country Board of Directors met in Ponca City on Tuesday, April 29th and although I was out of town on a media blitz, Rich Cantillon hosted lunch for the attendees. Mayor Homer Nicholson welcomed the group to Ponca City and Chuck Rager, RCC board president, said the meeting went very well. Representatives from all over Northwest Oklahoma attended.

Speaking of media blitz's, I've attended two blitz's this month starting in Missouri with stops at Joplin and Springfield, then moving on to Arkansas with stops in Fayetteville and Little Rock. A total of 27 appointments and all went well. The media kits were well received and I've received requests from 2 newspapers and 3 radio stations. The second blitz started in Wichita with 7 appointments, then on to Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City for 15 more appointments with various radio, magazine and newspaper representatives. We moved on to Columbia Missouri and then off to St. Louis. I feel the appointments all went very well and we were welcomed with enthusiasm by all media, I am especially excited that AAA Destination magazine (St. Louis) was looking for story ideas for an upcoming deadline and were happy to have the media kits to include in their fall issue.

Kaw Lake Association hosted the 2008 Cabella's "Crappie USA" tournament at Pioneer Cove in Kaw City this month; with well over 30 teams participating, we had a great turnout. The Crappie Kids Rodeo was a huge success with over 100 kids pre-registered.

State Department of Tourism has invited Ponca City to participate in a 2009 Vacation Give-away; the winner receives a vacation package to different locations throughout Oklahoma as well as a 2009 Chevy Malibu!

Our first International Travel Writer tour will begin on June 10th. I've just received word that Hilary Scott, Deputy Editor with the Evening Post – Reading, England and Alison Hepworth, Editor of the Bracknell Forest Standard will be here for an overnight stay and guided tours of the city. A ConocoPhillips sponsored tour of U.S. Travel writers will be in Ponca City on June 19th. We will be hosting a group of 10 Travel writers from the NAJTA (North American Journalists Travel Association) who will be in Oklahoma City attending their National Conference. This group has chosen Ponca City for a two day tour and overnight stay.

Advertising/Marketing:

- 2009 State Travel Guide ad copy deadline met
- June/July/August Rack card off to print
- D Magazine deadline met
- Oklahoma Vacation Giveaway participant
- Tinker Take-off
- Oklahoma Magazine deadline met
- Ark City Traveler internet banners submitted

Meetings/Events attended:

- Fly-In Breakfast
- Crappie USA Fishing Banquet
- Speaking at the Lions Club meeting this month

Welcome Bags and Gift Baskets:

- 200 brochures mailed to the Tom Mix Museum, Dewey
- 200 brochures mailed to the Pioneer Museum, Woodward
- Over 200 Gift bags picked up for May



Ponca City had a really nice booth at the national retail show in Las Vegas promoting retail business development for our city and region. Several worked the booth including Mayor Homer Nicholson and Jim Cochran, manager of Ponca Plaza.

NEED Partnership Brings Energy Education to U.S. Classrooms

Energy Education Workshop Scheduled for Ponca City on September 16

In January 2008, ConocoPhillips successfully launched the first of 24 energy education workshops to provide K-12 teachers with training, energy resources and science kits to pass on to their students.

Through its partnership with the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, ConocoPhillips will bring energy education workshops to cities near several of the company's operating facilities and offices. The company hopes that teachers reached through this effort will begin a dialogue about energy in their classrooms.

A workshop will be held in **Ponca City** on **September 16** at the **Fourth Street Club House**. The workshop, which will feature hands-on energy activities and provide teachers with more than \$400 in science materials, is free for those who register. Teachers who have attended previous workshops participated in interactive energy-related activities and learned about energy transformation and conservation through science experiments.

For more information, visit <http://energy.conocophillips.net/education/index.htm>. To register, go to <http://www.need.org/needpdf/EnergyWorkshopPoncaCity.pdf>.

Space is limited.

The Value of Economic Development

David Myers, Ponca City Development Authority

There's an old saying that some people know the cost of everything and the value of nothing. With an election approaching on July 29th about whether to extend Ponca City's one half cent sales tax for another five years, it might be helpful to voters to address both parts of this old adage as it relates to economic development in Ponca City.

Before doing so, here's the disclaimer: Even though this is the Chamber of Commerce newsletter, not funded by tax dollars, this article was written on a PCDA computer by a PCDA employee. As such, I'll attempt to be factual and not advocate any particular position in the upcoming election since public dollars cannot be used for political purposes.

That out of the way, the question of the cost and value of economic development was addressed in a study released late last month by Dr. Mark Snead of the Oklahoma State University Center for Applied Economic Research. That study quantified the Ponca City economic development sales tax since its inception through the end of 2007. It also quantified the value, or benefits from that tax.

The report found that since 1995, the Ponca City economic development sales tax spent \$24 million dollars on dedicated economic development activities. That's a lot of money in anyone's book. That is the quantifiable, documented cost according to OSU.

The report looked at what that cost had produced or the value. More specifically, it looked only at those projects and benefits that were directly attributable to PCDA activities. It did not look at indirect benefits from companies that were induced here without incentives. Doing so could have doubled or tripled the economic benefits, depending upon which economist you prefer. The OSU report steers clear of such a subjective assessment and sticks to hard data.

Since 1995, the economic development sales tax has produced \$530.4 million in economic benefits to Ponca City. That, too, is a lot of money. If you do the math, you'll see that for every dollar spent on economic development, \$21 has been returned to the community.

The number largely represents payroll. If you take the total payroll and spread it out over the jobs created, you'll find that the average wage is a little over \$24,000 per year. This may seem to support those that say economic development only generates low paying jobs. History, in this case, would be misleading.

The twelve year average wage mentioned does not adjust for inflation, (\$24k in 1995 is not the same thing as \$24k in 2007) and reflects a couple of large projects from the 1990's. The report, however, also notes a rather dramatic shift in Ponca City's economic development strategy and the results that strategy has produced, (quoting from the report):

"Since 2004, PCDA has shifted its emphasis to the attraction of higher-wage technology oriented manufacturing and services firms. The new focus is having a visible impact on the labor force as the average wage for jobs created under incentive agreements has increased rapidly. Jobs created since 2004 have an average annual wage of \$41,250, more than double that of firms arriving in 1995 and 1996 and 40 percent above the wages paid by firms attracted between 1997 and 2003. It is also more than 28 percent above the average wage and salary income in the Ponca City micropolitan area."

What is equally significant to note is that the full impact of newer companies, including the UML, Continental Technologies, Host Analytics and others has not yet been fully realized. The report took hard data, not promises and projections, to develop its summaries. As the hard numbers start to kick in from the UML, (Grand Opening this month) Continental Technologies, (began operating in Bob last month with full operation scheduled for 2009) not to mention the expansion of Encompass Tool, Mertz, Precision Metal Fab, Quarter Turn and others, those numbers should increase exponentially.

The full report is available in the PCDA office. For 530 million reasons, we're happy to share it.

Ponca City was well represented at the State Capitol for Ponca City Day in May. We promoted all of our tourism attractions with individual booths. We want to thank Senator David Myers and his wife Sara plus his staff including Lana Jones and Representative Ken Luttrell for all their assistance in getting this set up. It was very successful!



Ponca City Day At the Capitol:



SALT FORK TOURS & SILVERTOP FARM
Present

- RENE, ARTIST
- JOSE, CHEF
- WILLIE, SINGER

THE ALVARADO BROTHERS

CHARITY DINNER, AUCTION & OUTDOOR CONCERT ON THE COWSKIN

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH AT 6:00 PM \$25

AT THE SILVERTOP
6151 W. Fountain Road
Ponca City, Oklahoma
www.thealvarado.com
www.saltforktours.com

Benefiting North Central Oklahoma Restoration Projects
101 Ranch • Tonkawa Santa Fe Depot • Ponca Indian Mission

Tickets available at Ponca City Chamber of Commerce, First National Bank of Oklahoma, RCB Bank (Ponca City), Blubaugh Insurance Agency call 877-752-2749 or locally 590-763-3727 (Visa & MasterCard accepted)

NOTICE

Please Join Us At
Big V Ranch
For Our
"Summer on the Salt Fork"
Kick-off Event
Saturday, June 7th at High Noon
Free Admission
Ranch Retreat Ribbon Cutting, Grounds Tour
Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture
Terry Penick, Guest Speaker
Big V Ranch
17 Street & White Eagle Road
Ponca City, OK
www.BigVRanch.com www.saltforktours.com

Please Join Us At
Blubaugh Angus Ranch
For Our
"Summer on the Salt Fork"
Kick-off Event
Saturday, June 7th at 2:00 pm
Free Admission
Salt Fork Tractor Ribbon Cutting
Ranch & Farm Tour
State Agronomist Director,
Alby Cuda, Guest Speaker
Blubaugh Angus Ranch
9840 W. North Ave.
Ponca City, OK
www.BlubaughAngusRanch.com
www.saltforktours.com

Please Join Us At
Silvertop Farm
For Our
"Summer on the Salt Fork"
Kick-off Event
Saturday, June 7th at 4:00 pm
Free Admission
Vineyard Ribbon Cutting, Farm Tour,
Art Show & Wine Tasting
Cecie Norbertus, Julie FOX'S Reporter,
Facor
Silvertop Farm
6151 W. Fountain Road
Ponca City, OK
www.thealvarado.com www.saltforktours.com

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO SPEAK AT SALT FORK RIVER VALLEY AGRITOURISM KICK-OFF ON JUNE 7TH

*The Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture Terry Peach will be the keynote speaker for the Salt Fork River Valley agritourism kick-off events being held on June 7th at the Big V Ranch, Blubaugh Angus Ranch, and Silvertop Farm. Carrie Netherton of Tulsa Fox23 News will emcee the "Summer on the Salt Fork" events. Abby Cash, Oklahoma State Agritourism Director, and other Oklahoma Department of Tourism officials will attend the events.

*The three agritourism venues have joined together to develop the "Salt Fork River Valley Ranch and Farm Tours" to tap into the fastest growing segment of the tourism market in recent years. Over 63 million people visit agritourism venues in the United States annually.

*The Salt Fork River Valley agritourism events will begin at high noon with ribbon cutting ceremonies at the Big V Ranch, followed by a 2 pm kick-off at Blubaugh Angus Ranch, and a 4 pm kick-off at Silvertop Farm. Each farm or ranch will be open for tours and activities for all ages. The Big V Ranch is located at "T" Street and White Eagle Road, the Blubaugh Angus Ranch is located at 9801 W. North Avenue, and Silvertop Farm is located at 6151 W. Fountain Road. The Salt Fork River Valley is located southwest of Ponca City, Oklahoma. Each venue is located west of Highway 156 and south of Highway 60.

Additional Afternoon Activities in the Salt Fork River Valley

*A-1 Savannahs Cat Farm, 7750 W. Riverview Road, and the Ranch Drive Volunteer Fire Department, 3454 S. Ranch Drive on Highway 156, will also host open houses from 1 pm to 4 pm. A-1 Savannahs is the largest exotic Savannah cat breeding facility in the world.

*The 101 Ranch memorial grounds located on Highway 156 near the Salt Fork River will also be open during the June 7th Salt Fork River Valley agritourism kick-off events. The 101 Ranch was founded in 1893 during the Cherokee Strip Land Run by Colonel George W. Miller. The 101 Ranch was the largest diversified farm in the United States at the turn of the century and included a Wild West Show that toured worldwide. The farm and show operations were auctioned off during the Great Depression. The memorial grounds are now open to the public as a picnic facility.

Evening Charity Event

*At 6:00 pm, the Salt Fork River Valley Ranch and Farm Tours will host a charity dinner, auction, and outdoor "Concert on the Cowskin" at Silvertop Farm, featuring contemporary artist Rene Alvarado of San Antonio, Texas, chef Jose Alvarado from Boston, Massachusetts, and singer Willie Alvarado from San Angelo, Texas. Klein's Catering of Perry, Oklahoma will assist with the event. A Spanish dance troupe from Alamogordo, New Mexico will provide entertainment during dinner.

*Tickets are \$25 per person and available at the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce, First National Bank of Oklahoma in Ponca City and Tonkawa, RCB Bank in Ponca City, and Blubaugh Insurance Agency in Tonkawa. Tickets may also be purchased by calling (877) 752-2748 or (580) 765-3727.

*The Salt Fork charity event will benefit three North Central Oklahoma restoration projects - the 101 Ranch memorial grounds, the Tonkawa Santa Fe Train Depot, and the Ponca Indian Mission on the Ponca Indian reservation.

Big V Ranch Events

*The Big V Ranch will kick-off the agritourism efforts with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Big V Ranch Retreat, a six acre facility which includes its historic ranch house, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, newly rebuilt commissary, and refurbished mule barn. The Ranch Retreat will be a private reservation only facility.

*The ranch house as well as the mule barn and commissary will be open for tours from noon to 2 pm. An exhibition of the works of Tonkawa artist Audrey Schmitz and photographer Ken Crowder will be held in the commissary.

*The Big V Ranch was one of the largest farms in the area at the turn of the century and included over 10,000 acres at that time. The Big V Ranch was the largest mule dealer from 1907 to 1912 and even sold mules to the British army. Today, the operation spans over 1000 acres and includes cattle, hay, and small grain operations. Future plans include a "you pick" garden and prairie chapel.

*The Big V Ranch is owned and operated by the descendants of William and Viola Vanselow, founders of the Big V Ranch. The Big V Ranch is located one quarter mile south of the intersection of "T" Street and White Eagle Road off of Highway 156 southwest of Ponca City.

*Website: www.BigVRanch.com, www.saltforktours.com

Blubaugh Angus Ranch Events

*The Blubaugh Angus Ranch will kick-off the Salt Fork Tours venture at 2 pm. Salt Fork Tours will schedule tours by private reservation only throughout the year.

*Blubaugh Angus Ranch, which includes cattle, hay, horse, and small grain operations, will be open for tours from 2 to 4 pm and showcase the farming and ranching heritage of the area. Calf roping will be demonstrated by Bob Mulligan, world class champion and nationally ranked calf roper. The Blubaugh Angus Ranch is located at 9801 W. North Avenue.

*Founder Cletus Blubaugh settled nearby in 1893 after staking a claim as part of the Cherokee Strip Land Run. Blubaugh was one of the youngest legal participants in the land run, having reached the age of 21 by three days. Blubaugh lived in a dug-out for seven years before building a farmhouse, which still stands today nearby. The current farmhouse for the Blubaugh Angus Ranch has historic significance for its oil and Native American ties.

*Blubaugh Angus Ranch was on the railroad line during the Great Depression and saw many people jump off the train looking for work, including a Harvard math professor who taught algebra to Blubaugh's son. Algebra equations on the walls of the granary are still evident today.

*Website: www.BlubaughAngusRanch.com, www.saltforktours.com

Silvertop Farm Events

*Silvertop Farm will host a ribbon cutting ceremony and blessing of the vines for its newly established vineyard at 4 pm. Farm tours will be held from 4 to 6 pm highlighting the Silvertop sheep facilities. Linda Holloway of Ability Stock Dogs will demonstrate sheep herding and Marc Hodgson, Sheep Manager for Silvertop Farm, will demonstrate sheep shearing. Wool spinning will also be demonstrated during the event.

*A free admission art show and wine tasting event will be held from 4 to 6 pm featuring the works of contemporary artist Rene Alvarado of San Antonio, Texas and western artist Gene Dougherty of Tonkawa, Oklahoma. Nearby regional vineyards and wineries will be showcased including Indian Creek Village Vineyards and Winery of Ringwood, Woodland Park Vineyards and Winery of Stillwater and Prairie Rattler Vineyards and Winery of Shidler.

*A charity dinner, auction, and outdoor "Concert on the Cowskin" will be held starting at 6 pm with admission by ticket only. The art show and wine tasting area will be open from 6 to 8 pm for those participating in the charity dinner, auction, and concert.

*Silvertop Farm was founded in 1945 by Joe and Ruth Steichen based on the principles of diversified agriculture. Silvertop Farm operations include small grains, hay, cattle, sheep, pecans, and vineyards. Goats, burros, and horses are also a part of the facility. Hunting and fishing activities will be available during the fall of 2008. A winery is scheduled to be operating on the facility by 2010.

*Silvertop Farm is located at 6151 W. Fountain Road, southwest of Ponca City. Tours will be scheduled by private reservation only throughout the year.

*Website: www.theSilvertop.com, www.saltforktours.com

Agritourism

The State of Oklahoma has been working for the past seven years to bring together the largest and third largest economic base for the state, according to Abby Cash, Oklahoma State Agritourism Director. In connection with its efforts, the Oklahoma Tourism Department will launch a regional advertising campaign to focus on the diverse Oklahoma agritourism activities.

The tourism website at www.OKtravel highlights the various agritourism venues. In addition, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation will begin installing agritourism road signs to mark the attractions throughout the state, which include fourteen categories: birding tours, country stays, guest ranches, exotic breeding, farm and ranch attractions, farmers markets, horseback riding, hunting, mazes, specialty crops, you pick farms, and vineyards and wineries.

Ponca City Events during June 7th Weekend

The 10th Annual Draggin' Grand Nostalgia Cruise with over 400 vintage cars on Grand Avenue will be held on Friday, June 6th from 6 to 10 pm. The Aviation Boosters will host a Fly-in Breakfast at the Ponca City Airport from 7 to 10 am including both vintage and small modern aircraft. Over 20,000 people are expected at the 15th Annual Ponca City Herb Festival to be held from 8 am to 4 pm at the LA Cann Gardens, a 10 acre showcase of color, texture, fragrance and landscape architectural beauty. The festival offers vendors, music, food, plants and seminars on herbs, horticulture, and outdoor design. The Classic Car Club will host the 26th Annual Show 'n Shine and the 7th annual Cherokee Strip Corvette Show will be held from 9 am to 4 pm at Ponca Lake.

Contacts for further information on Salt Fork Tours, Agritourism, and Ponca City Tourism:

Big V Ranch – Jane Morris (580) 716-1729, captjane@mac.com

Blubaugh Angus Ranch – Scott Blubaugh (580) 761-0923, scott@blubaughangusranch.com

Silvertop Farm – Mary Steichen (214) 458-1340, marysteichen@yahoo.com

Oklahoma Agritourism – Abby Cash (405) 522-5652, abby.cash@oda.state.ok.us

MaryBeth Moore, Ponca City Tourism, (580) 765-4400, Marybeth@poncacitychamber.com

Member-to-Member Discounts

Following are the discounts being offered to Chamber members by other members. To receive the discount, simply show the participating business your Discount Card. If your business needs additional cards, or would like to participate in this free program, call the Chamber at 580-765-4400.

Bob's Glass Plus, 619 S. 1st: Free Glass Cleaner with full tint. Call 762-8522 or 762-8746 and make an appointment. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Bodyworks Massage & Spa, 2002 N. 14th: \$5 off one hour massage. \$5 off 1/2 hour massage. For chamber members only! Call 762-5000. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Jack Bowker Ford Lincoln Mercury, 2415 N. 14th: Receive 10% off any rental vehicle. Call Kim Ochoa 765-5533. For chamber members only! Offer expires 6/30/08.

Brandt's Ace Hardware, 3203 N. 14th: 10% off all hardware items, excluding power tools and fence supplies. 5% off tire purchases. Call 762-2921. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Brown's Shoe Fit Company, 2101 N. 14th: 15% off purchase of \$65.00 and up. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Carriage House Cleaners, 713 E. Hartford: 10% off any cleaning services. For Chamber members only! 762-8250 Offer expires 12/31/08.

Chimney Doctor, 5911 E. 68th : Certified Sweep Service offers \$20.00 off regular cleaning & inspection price. Call 762-3838 or toll free at (888) 477-SOOT (7668). Offer expires 12/31/08.

Completely Quilted Bernina Sewing Center, 315 E. Grand: Free Fat Quarter with \$20 or more purchase. Call 718-9300. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Cope Photography, 1804 North 5th: One free 8x10 with any portrait package purchase. Call 762-2075 for your appointment today! Offer expires 12/31/08.

The Daily Grind, 202 E. Grand: Any large drink for a medium charge. Call David Broome at 762-5594. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, 3214 N. 14th: We have everything from compact cars to sport utilities to 15 passenger vans. Receive 10% off daily and weekly rental rates and over 40% off daily rates for weekends. Call Dewey Wilson or Katy Smith at 718-9500. No expiration.

The Gift Shoppe—The Emporium—Deli-licious Diner, 301-307 East Grand: 15% off any regular priced items. Members only! Offer expires 12/1/2008 (Excludes Dec 2008).

Golden Villa Adult Day Services, 1722 N. 4th Street, Suite B: Visit our day program for one day at no charge. Must be a new appointment. Call Melissa at 762-0264.

Grand Flowers & Gifts, 217 East Grand: 10% off Total Purchase. Call 762-3388. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Happy Days Café, 423 East Grand: 10% off Full Breakfast, Sandwiches, Salads and Dinners (Beverages not included). Call Lee Vernon at 762-2310. Member meals only. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Head Country Bar B Q, 1217 E. Prospect: 10% off regular price dinners. Call Charlie Ryan at 767-8304. Offer expires 12/31/08.

The Healing Tree, LLC, 1717 N. 3rd: \$5 off one hour massage. \$5 off 1/2 hour massage. For chamber members only! Call 762-1255. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Kay Office Equipment Company, 1401 N. 7th: Your old copier is worth at least \$500 as trade in on a new Toshiba or Samsung Digital Copier. 10% discount off all supplies in stock. Call Dan Stahl at 765-4436. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Mayer Eye Care, 1722 N. 4th, Suite C: 10% off Regular Priced Items. Call 762-0870 for your appointment today! Offer expires 12/31/08.

Mazzio's Pizza, 720 E. Prospect: Mazzio's Pizza will give a 30 % discount on 5 or more pizzas. A 10% discount for members on any menu item. Void with daily specials, coupons, discounts, or Mazzio's special offers. Marc & Kathy Leavell. Offer expires 12/31/08.

McGee Jewelers, 219 East Grand: 30% off store wide excluding repairs and class rings. Call Matt McGee at 765-2636. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Parker Pest Control, 3614 Lake Road: First treatment on five step lawn program, 1/2 price for new customers. Call Brad Parker at 762-6614. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Pecan Place Apartments, 3550 N Pecan Road: \$50.00 off move-in rent on a 1 or 2 bedroom unfurnished apartment. Members only. Call Kaleen Mills at 767-7783. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Personnel Staffing, Inc., 715 E. Hartford: Four hours free on a forty hour work week. Only one per customer. New job orders only. Please contact Mikki or Tricia at 762-8376. No expiration date.

Ponca Bowl, 2000 Lake Road: Buy 1 Get 1 Free, Open play only. Call 762-3333. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Prairie Rose, 407 East Grand: 15% off regular price items. Call Lori George at 767-8331. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Spray's Jewelry, 210 East Grand: 20% discount on all merchandise excluding class rings and repairs and sale items. Call Carter Buller at 762-1604. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Steamatic Carpet, 507 S. Pine: Minimum job is \$65.00 Receive at 10% discount on \$75.00—\$100.00 job. Any job over \$100.00 will receive 15% off. Ask about discounts on Air duct cleaning! Call Jackie at 762-7586. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Take Ten Tire & Lube, 3015 N. 14th: Your one stop shop for all your automotive needs! \$3 off full service oil change, free brake & tire inspection. Give us a call 580-762-5919. Offer expires 12/31/08.

The Ranch Wellness Center, 1043 N. Union: 15% off any service. Call 762-1500 for your appointment today. Offer expires 12/31/2008.

The U.P.S. Store., 522 North 14th: \$3 off Package Service for Shipment from the U.P.S. Store. Call Pam Childs at 762-6225. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Throop Propane Company, Highway 177 South: \$2 off any 20 lb gas grill fill. Call Leslie Throop at 765-3645. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Village Green Apartments, 2700 N. 5th St.: \$50 off first month's rent with 6 month lease on 2BR apt. Call 762-0017. Ask for Paula. Offer expires 12/31/08.

Visual Solutions, Inc., 211 N. 2nd St.: Free order of business cards (Qty 250) with first order over \$100, to new (Member) customers. Call Roger or Wendy at 762-2054. No expiration date.

What a Cowgirl Wants, 102 N. 2nd St.: 15% off a purchase of \$30 or more. Offer expires 12/31/2008.

Is Your Business Here? If not, call the Chamber to promote your business. This is a benefit of being a member and there is no cost to you Call Debbie Robinson at 765-4400 to take advantage of free advertising.

Ponca City Area Chamber of Commerce

Proudly announces our
2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brett Austin	RCB Bank/Pioneer
Earl Ball	Earl Ball Insurance Agency
Dennis Barts	Ponca City Medical Center
Troy Campbell	Home National Bank
Jim Cochran	Ponca Plaza, Inc.
Debbie Covey	First Council Casino
Steve Crank	Oklahoma State Employment Services
Lee Evans	Evans & Associates, Inc.
Natalie Fraser	Lindsay Manufacturing, Inc.
Mary Graham	ConocoPhillips
Derrin Hiatt	Baumert, Cummings, Hiatt & Young
Scott Jackson	Boettcher, Martin, Jean & Jackson
Dr. Joe Kinzer	Northern Oklahoma College
Justin Krebs	First National Bank of Oklahoma
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Sue Lunsford	Community Volunteer
Verona Mair	The Gift Shoppe/The Emporium
Dr. Doug Major	Pioneer Technology Center
Janet Martin	Eastman National Bank
Homer Nicholson	Mayor of Ponca City
Dr. David Pennington	Ponca City Public Schools
Ryan Schwabe	Baskin, Stevens & Freeland, PC
Daren Wilson	Albright Insurance Agency

Member to Member Discount Cards!

Please remember to use your Member to Member Discount Card for some great bargains with our Chamber Members who are signed up to participate. A complete list is in this Chamber Newsletter. Everyone member receives a Member to Member Discount Card. Shop with other Chamber Members for great prices and service!

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