Great Northwest Day 2017

Great Northwest Day is an annual, cooperative effort by Northwest Missouri counties, designed to promote our region in Jefferson City and to pursue legislation beneficial to our citizens. Established by Leadership Northwest Missouri students, this event is organized by the 18 counties that comprise the “Great Northwest.”

Each year ACDC and Atchison County citizens travel to the Capitol to join other regional leaders and bring attention to priorities and issues in our corner of the state. GNW Day provides each county with the opportunity to discuss local issues directly with their legislators and department representatives during face-to-face meetings. An evening event for legislators encourages each county to showcase current projects and pride points.

If you are interested in attending GNW Day, please contact ACDC at 660.744.6562 or atchdev@rpt.coop.

AC Youth Professionalism Workshop

On Monday, November 21, ACDC hosted the 3rd annual Youth Professionalism Workshop with three goals in mind: to provide Atchison County Juniors with helpful advice for their professional lives, to introduce them to a person working in each of the six career clusters utilized in career planning, and to remind them that it is possible to make a life in Atchison County. Around 50 Juniors met at Tarkio Resource Center in the morning and at several locations throughout the county that afternoon. Here are the highlights:

- Kent Fisher spoke about young people always being on an interview when you live in a small town, and the importance of conducting oneself kindly and respectfully.
- Stephanie Parsons and Marisa Hedlund first offered a "what NOT to do" interview skit that showcased hilarious, realistic, questionable behaviors, and later, an example of an effective interview.
- Tracy Cooper facilitated a self-assessment on the elements of professionalism, and Shauna Farmer facilitated a video clip from Ashton Kutcher’s "opportunity looks a lot like hard work" speech.
About ACDC

ACDC was organized in the 1970s as a volunteer board. Since 1995, ACDC’s board and full-time staff have worked to improve the business climate in Atchison County. Today, ACDC staff provides support to community organizations and collaborates with county, regional and state groups to better our county.

The Mission of ACDC: to initiate, stimulate and facilitate opportunity in Atchison County through economic and community development.

ACDC Youth Professionalism Workshop! (cont. from front page)

- Kalvin McIntosh and Ashley McIntosh (Atchison County Hy-Vee) discussed how to apply for a job and gave advice for keeping and leaving a job.
- Jennifer Roup (SJC Marketing) spoke about the importance of using social media wisely and its impact on future employment.
- State Representative Allen Andrews promoted cottage manufacturing as an opportunity to create a great future for Atchison County and Northwest Missouri, and shared the story of his family’s Grant City business, The Wool Shop, which started as his high school FFA project and now sells products internationally.
- Heather Pemberton (Livengood and Associates) gave a personal finance overview.
- Linda Dewhirst spoke about careers available at Cooper Nuclear and her path to Atchison County.
- Brett Hurst discussed his experience starting his own law firm in Atchison County.

In the afternoon, the students headed to Community Hospital-Fairfax for lunch (kindly provided by CH-F) and presentations from CH-F’s Ann Schlueter, Sheriff Dennis Martin, and Marshall Oswald. From there, students headed to Rock Port, where they heard from Jason Watkins and Angie Vernon of Midwest Data and Chad and Mandy Ottmann of Ottmann Electric. The day concluded at Tarkio Avalanche, where Mike Farmer discussed some careers represented under Farmer Publishing’s umbrella.

Special thanks to our outstanding high school counselors, whose planning and guidance made this event happen, the employers and speakers who gave their time, wit and wisdom to the students, and the locations that hosted the group, including CH-F, Midwest Data, Bank Midwest, and Tarkio Avalanche.

Our goals with youth programs are simple: we want students to interact with each other and to connect directly with local adults who care about their future and believe that the future can be bright, right here in Atchison County. We are also here to serve our Atchison County employers and hope that these interactions help them find quality employees who are invested in this community and want to call this home one day.

This spring we’ll be hosting more youth-in-the-community events: county-wide job shadowing days. If you’re a business owner and you would be willing to host a Junior or Senior, we’ll work to connect you with those who might be interested in the industry you represent or your specific business. Thanks in advance!
Thoughts from your ACDC Director...

There’s a comic I love called The Awkward Yeti. Here’s one of my favorites:

It’s a snow girl’s version of the classic question: is the glass half full or half empty? Or in this case, winter: awesome or not so much?

Most people think of spring as a time of renewal. Consider the significance of winter in this scenario. This time of year requires sitting, slowing. It offers recovery from the busy seasons. You could argue that without a winter interlude, we would not be ready to, well, spring.

This season of sticking close to hearth and home also gives us an opportunity to (oh great, here she goes) (you guessed it) #ShopAC! Just think about it...do you really want to get in the car and drive an hour when it’s all cold and stuff? Of course not! Why not consider this novel approach - try getting what you need here first! Less travel time! More time to snuggle up and read or binge watch Gilmore Girls! C’mon, try it. Think Atchison County First. All the cool kids are doing it...

~Monica

ACDC Scholarships: DUE JANUARY 27, 2017

ACDC’s annual scholarship program was created to help outstanding Atchison County high school graduates fund post-secondary education and training programs, especially when that education helps enable students to live, work and create a life in Atchison County.

ACDC recognizes the importance of not only traditional undergraduate education, but also career and technical training. To that end, ACDC’s scholarship program offers a $1,000 award in each of the following categories, for a total of two scholarships per school:

- 2-year community college or tech school program
- 4-year undergraduate degree

Applications are available in each high school counselor’s office and are due to ACDC by 3pm on January 27, 2017.

ACDC Business Improvement Grant program

Since its inception in 2013, the Business Improvement Grant has assisted with 109 different business improvement projects throughout Atchison County. 109 projects! Our intention was to encourage growth and development of existing Atchison County businesses, but we’ve also witnessed the infusion of $180,000 back into our local economy in the form of goods and services from Atchison County vendors. These impressive statistics exist because grant recipients invested in their business, properties, products, and services and leveraged over $99,000 in ACDC funds (county tax dollars allocated to this office via the 1/4-cent economic development sales tax) to complete much needed business enhancements.

In 2017, ACDC will continue to offer Basic grants (50/50 matching reimbursable grants, $1,000 maximum) and 2.0 grants (1/3-2/3 matching reimbursable grants, $2,500 maximum). Total funds budgeted for this program will be determined in December, and all application paperwork (including eligibility requirements) will be available by February 1.

We know that projects can arise anytime, and we want to be able to assist whenever possible. Going forward, rather than only considering applications during a specific grant cycle, we will accept applications beginning March 1, 2017. Applications will be considered in the order they were received and will be reviewed by the BI Grant committee on a monthly basis. Applications will be accepted until all funds have been awarded.

Contact ACDC Staff (660-744-6562; atchdev@rpt.coop) if you have questions or if you would like this information sent to you once it is available.

Everything’s magical when it snows.

Lorelei Gilmore

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Upcoming Events

Dec 11: Tarkio Community Christmas Service
Dec 12: Community Blood Drive (Rock Port)
Dec 16-18: “White Christmas” (Liberty Theater)
Jan 31-Feb 1: Great Northwest Day at the Capitol

ACDC will be closed in observation of the following holidays:
♦ December 26 (Christmas: Dec 25)
♦ January 2 (New Years Day: Jan 1)
♦ January 16 (MLK, Jr. Day)

For more events, please visit our calendar at atchisoncounty.org/events!

Rock Creek Wind Project

The Rock Creek Wind Project is moving right along, with a small contingent of workers here now and a major influx due in March. We've been supplying RCWP staff with local vendor information as well as available rental properties. If you would like us to provide your details (or want to confirm that we already have already done so), please contact the office anytime at 660-744-6562 or atchdev@rpt.coop.

#ShopAC night was great fun...let’s start a trend!

On November 17, ACDC coordinated our first annual #ShopAC night. With little advertising (next year we'll do better and start earlier!), hundreds of people came out to support our AC businesses. We held a drawing for a $100 gift certificate that was won by Debbie (Gary) Johnson, who will get to shop at The Room Hair Salon!

A HUGE THANK YOU to the businesses who participated this year: A Perfect 10, Atchison County Veterinary Clinic, CH-F Auxiliary Gift Shop, Daybreak Cafe, Do it Best Hardware, EM's Emporium, Flower Mill, Food Country, Groovy's Cuts and Tees, Hy-Vee, KG Buds, Midwest Data Smart Store, Murf's Auto Supply, Quilted Farm, Quilter's Boutique, Sew It Seams, Stoner Drug, Subway, Tarkio Avalanche, The Room Hair Salon, The Walnut Shop, The Wood's Shed, Torrey Pines, Trails End Restaurant/Store/Subway.

So now that we're all the more aware of the shops and stores that help make AC awesome, let's remember that they exist and make a habit of supporting them throughout the year! It can't be overstated: our businesses are critical to the fabric of our communities and county. When we check local options first, we always learn more about what our merchants have to offer, we increase our connectedness and our sense of community, and we remember how much it matters to buy goods and services from our friends and neighbors. Please, take a moment before you zip out of town, and

Think AC First!

#ShopAC

Think AC first this gift-giving season and always.

#ACisAwesome