

January
2012



The Bridge



Connecting Business for the Betterment of the Community



Thoughts of Executive Director Bob Rose



Happy New Year to everyone! We hope 2011 was good for you and that 2012 will be even better. There are events in the past year we would like to forget, happenings in our personal lives that were not pleasant but somehow we manage to get through those situations and hopefully, become stronger and better people because of the experience. By and large, the good things of each year outnumber the bad and we should take time to appreciate

the support of good friends and family. We are truly fortunate to live in a wonderful caring community that provides the services that make our daily lives easier, enjoyable, and prosperous.

The year 2011 brought a few changes in leadership of long established organizations and first time leader of a newly created division of the Chamber. I speak of Jeremy Parsons replacing long time Clay County Fair executive Director Phil Hurst. Phil retired in November after many years of outstanding leadership of the Clay County Fair. Terry Hemann assumed the leadership role at Spencer Community Schools, Adam Coates took over April 1st as the General Manager and Professional at Spencer Golf and Country Club and the newly created Convention and Visitor's Bureau welcomed Brittany Getting as the Director in July. The organizations that the new leaders represent have a long tradition of strength and popularity due to outstanding leadership in the past and the new ideas and positive changes brought about by new leadership will guarantee continued success. Welcome and good luck to you all.

Coming in February is the annual Ag Outlook at the Clay County Regional Event Center and just a month later is the annual Ag Breakfast. These are two popular events that recognize our Ag Industry. Make plans to attend both. And do not forget networking opportunity with Business After Hours. This is a great opportunity to socialize with your friends and neighbors and learn a little more about our local businesses. We are currently scheduling dates for 2012.

As we look forward to another year remember, our community is successful and prospers because of all of us. Support for local businesses, volunteers for community organizations and positive support for our public servants is the best way to insure continued success and prosperity. Have a Happy New Year!

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Our Members

ARE

the Chamber!

**Spencer Chamber
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[Northwest Bank](#)

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[KICD AM 1240
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Cindy Tigges
[Spencer Family YMCA](#)

2012 Ag Outlook Announces Keynote Speaker Bruce Vincent



The Spencer Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee is pleased to announce that **Bruce Vincent** will be the keynote speaker for the **28th Annual Northwest Iowa Ag Outlook Conference and Trade Show**, scheduled for February 21, 2012 at the Clay County Regional Event Center in Spencer.

Bruce Vincent is a third generation logger from Libby, Montana. During the past 20 years, he has given motivational speeches throughout the United States and the world, has testified on natural resource issues before Congress and has appeared on several news programs such as “60 Minutes.” Bruce has been named Timberman of the Year in Montana, National Forest Activist of the Year, the Agri-Women’s 2007 Veritas Award Winner, and in 2004 received the inaugural Presidential Preserve America Award from President Bush.

Bruce has been married to his wife Patti Jo for 35 years and has four children, two sons-in-law, one daughter-in-law, and 5 grandchildren. His current activities represent a family commitment to responsible environmentalism.

Bruce will be speaking from his presentation “With Vision, There Is Hope”—It is time for change – and change will be our friend. America is ready for a new vision of conservation and environmental stewardship that is based upon hope instead of fear. In order to share this vision we must first reintroduce the American consumer to the processes and the people of production and then lead – not just fight – the discussion over our environment. Those who work at the ground level in implementing society’s framework for protecting the environment are positioned at the leading edge of the changes and challenges of this discussion. That edge provides exciting opportunities and hope.

The Spencer Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee would like to express their gratitude to



Green Plains

for sponsoring the 2012 Ag Outlook Keynote Speaker

Green Plains-Omaha
450 Regency Pkwy Suite 400
Omaha, NE 68114
402.884.8700

Green Plains presents in Iowa Includes-

Ethanol Plants—Lakota, Shenandoah, and Superior

Grain—Essex, Everly, Greenville, Gruver, Langdon, Milford, and Spencer





**While we await the arrival of
Spencer's
2012 New Baby
we would like to thank the
following businesses
for their generosity-**

- Avera Home Medical Equipment – Pediatric Kit**
- Burger King - \$30 Gift Card**
- Century 21-Jacobsen Real Estate – Free Home Inspection on Purchase of Home**
- Chiropractic Arts Clinic – Baby Trophy**
- Clay County Farm Bureau - \$10 Ethanol Certificate**
- Community Bank & Insurance – \$50 KFC Gift Cards**
- Dove Chocolate Discoveries – Gifts of Chocolate**
- Farmers Trust & Savings Bank - \$50 Gift Card**
- H & N Chevrolet - \$25 Service Certificate**
- Hy-Vee – \$20 Gift Card**
- Indoor Archery - \$100 Fareway Gift Card & Johnson Gift Bag & Purple Hippo**
- Info Dog Security – 5 boxes of on sight shredding**
- Iowa Lakes Community College – Flash Drive, Baby T-Shirt & Stuffed Elephant**
- Modern Woodmen – Baby Book and Gift Bag**
- Nelson Jewelry – Baby feeding spoon**
- On Eagles' Wings – Special Keepsake**
- Perkins Restaurant – 3 Free Kids Meals**
- Results, Inc. – Baby Books & \$20 Walmart Gift Card**
- Schmidt Pediatric Dentistry – 1st Exam Gift Certificate, toothbrush & toothpaste**
- Shoe Sensation – Baby Shoes**
- Sikora Sprinkler Service – Flashlight and \$10 Fareway Gift Card**
- Spencer Chamber of Commerce – Wicker Basket**
- Spencer Community Theatre – 2 Ticket Vouchers for SCT**
- Spencer Family YMCA – Family Passes & Water Bottle**
- Spencer Hospital Gift Shop – Baby Blanket & Pizza Party Gift Pack**
- Spencer Municipal Utilities –**
- State Farm Insurance/Garry Slota – Baby Feeding Assortment**

**Thank you for
supporting
Spencer Chamber
Members with
your purchase of
Spencer Chamber
Dollars**

**In the first three
months of our new
fiscal year, we have
issued over
\$47,000
in Spencer
Chamber Dollars**

**Remember
Spencer Chamber
Dollars make the
perfect gift
anytime of the
year!**





Bill Northey



Jack Kibbie



David Johnson



John Wittneben



Jeff Smith



Royd Chambers

Introducing Our Newest Chamber Members

Palace Jewelers operated by owner, **Steve Amir** and his family, have made Spencer the home for their second business location. The new jewelry store is located downtown Spencer at **217 Grand Avenue**, with another location in Worthington. At **Place Jewelers**, you will find diamonds, gemstones, and gold jewelry. Talk with them to custom design one of a kind pieces for you and your loved ones, or try their expedited in store jewelry and watch repair service. Stop in to see their sparkling inventory, e-mail them at showtor@aol.com or phone them at **712-262-5000**.

Aventure Staffing and Professional Services are located at **319 Grand Avenue** in downtown Spencer. They are a staffing agency that promotes "Our Solutions-Your Success" with their approach to employment services. Stop by their office to visit with Sheryl Lee, SueAnne Stoermer, and Danielle Wigen to learn more about how they can enhance your business needs. Contact them at 712-262-5990 or visit their website at www.aventurestaffing.com.

Gear Up For the First Session of the 2012 "Eggs and Issues"

William Howard "Bill" Northey, the current **Iowa Secretary of Agriculture** has confirmed with the **Spencer Chamber of Commerce** that he will be available to accept our invitation to participate in the first session of "**Eggs and Issues**" slotted for **Saturday, January 14th, 2012**. **Iowa Legislators Senator Jack Kibbie, Senator David Johnson, Representative John Wittneben, Representative Jeff Smith and Representative Royd Chambers** have all been invited to attend each of the four sessions held annually in the **Spencer City Hall Council Chambers** at 418 2nd Avenue West.

The doors open for the public at 8:30 a.m. Guests are asked to register their name and the topic of their question they would like to address the panel. The question and answer session beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m. and continues until 10:30 a.m. Our community participation for these sessions has been very strong and frequently fill the Council Chambers to standing room only. This location is important to accommodate the technology necessary to broadcast the event on Spencer's cable television station.

The Spencer Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following businesses for their breakfast sponsorship-

Saturday, January 14, 2012 – Eggs Sponsored by **Iowa Lakes Community College and Northwest Iowa Small Business Development Center.**

Saturday, February 11, 2012 – Eggs Sponsored by **Cabernet Catering**

Saturday, March 10, 2012 – Eggs Sponsored by: **Clay County Farm Bureau**

Saturday, March 24, 2012 – Eggs Sponsorship by: **TBA**

Saturday, April 14, 2012 has been reserved as a snow date

Lace Up Your Bowling Shoes for the Chamber Bowling Outing

If you have not registered your team for the **9th Annual Spencer Chamber of Commerce Bowling Outing**, now is the time to sign up. Join us **Friday, February 3rd** at **Spencer Bowl** for an 8 pin Tap Bowling afternoon of fun! Your \$30 per person/\$150 per team registration includes bowling, refreshments, appetizers, and gratuity. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. with bowling to begin at 1 p.m. If your business is interested in sponsorship opportunities, a Food/Beverage Sponsorship is available for \$100 or Lane Sponsorships are available for \$50.

Participation forms are posted to our website at www.spenceriowachamber.org or by contacting Becky Fear-Hatting at 712-262-5680.

December Chamber Ambassador Visits



December 6- **Palace Jewelers** at 217 Grand Avenue to welcome owner, **Steve Amir** and his family.

December 13- Visited **Rhonda Helm, Farm Bureau Financial Services** agent at 12 East Fifth Street.

December 20- Visited the new location of **Medi-Claim Solutions, LLC** with owner, **Cindy Greer** and office manager, **Jeanette Trojahn**

Interested in Showcasing Your Business?

**We are now scheduling
Business After Hours
dates for 2012!**

**Business After Hours is a networking program
through the
Spencer Chamber of Commerce.**

**Businesses or groups interested in hosting a
Business After Hours event may call or e-mail our office for
more information or to reserve your 2012 date!**

**We reserve the second and fourth Tuesday of each month
for Business after Hours.**

(Subject to change due to Holidays and Fair activity)

Other dates can be arranged.

**All Business After Hours are held from 5-7 p.m.
with a Chamber Dollar drawing and
business introduction at 6 p.m.**



January Event Calendar

Arts On Grand—Jan 3-7 “Through the Lens” Nature Photography by Dan Ruf & Mike Houge
Arts On Grand—Jan 3-14 “Chair-ity Chairs” ArtsLIVE project Exhibited
Arts On Grand—Jan 20-26 Preschool Art Exhibit
Arts On Grand—Jan 27-Feb 10 Elementary Art Exhibit
Each Tuesday Spencer Public Library—Story-time 10:30a
Daily Activities Spencer Area Activity Ctr.—Detailed schedule on our online calendar
Each Saturday Spencer Area Activity Ctr.—Bingo—Early Bird 6p–Bingo-7p

- 4 Spencer Public Library Anime Society 1p
- 4 Spencer Public Library Adult Movie Night 7p
- 7 Arts On Grand Writers Group 10a-12p
- 7 Arts On Grand Water Color Pencil Class taught by Jim Neighbors 9a-12p
- 7 Spencer Public Library Teen Video Gaming 2p
- 9 Spencer Public Library Adult Movie Night 7p
- 12 Spencer Public Library Indie Art Foreign Classic Films showing “Kinky Boots” 7p
- 13 Clay Co. Regional Event Center NW Iowa Home Show 5-9p
- 14 **Spencer Chamber of Commerce “Eggs & Issues” in Spencer City Council Chambers Doors open at 8:30a Session 9a-10:30a**
- 14 Clay Co. Regional Event Center NW Iowa Home Show 10a-6p
- 14 Southpark Mall Community Bake Sale 10a-2p
- 14 Southpark Mall—4-H Day Activities
- 14 Arts On Grand “From Memory to Memoirs” taught by Arla Kintigh
- 14 Arts On Grand Reception for Preschool Exhibits 2p-3p—Open to the public
- 15 Clay Co. Regional Event Center NW Iowa Home Show 12p-5p
- 15 Spencer Area Activity Center Omelet Breakfast Fundraiser 9a-1p —Enter from west door at center location of 104 East 4th Street
- 18 Spencer Women of Today hosting Margaritas, Manicures, & Massages fundraiser for CAASA at Legends Social & Event Ctr 5:30-9p
- 21 Southpark Mall Clay County Toy Show 10a-6p
- 21 Southpark Mall Girl Scout Cookie Sales 10a-6p
- 21 Arts On Grand Writers Group 10a-12p
- 21 Spencer Public Library Family Movie Day 2p
- 21 Arts On Grand Winter Dance Party at Clay County Regional Event Center—Doors open at 5:30p Advance Reservations Required
- 21 Legends Event Ctr. presents Korcel Norteno Band and Mariachi Band—8p-12a
- 22 Southpark Mall Clay County Toy Show 12p-5p
- 22 Southpark Mall Girl Scout Cookie Sales 12p-5p
- 23 Spencer Public Library Baby Storytime 6:30p
- 25 “No Apologies” Event for Middle School and High School students at Clay Co. Regional Event Center 6p-9p
- 26 Spencer Public Library Indie Art Foreign Classic Films showing “Sordid Lives” 7p
- 28 Southpark Mall Sport Card Show 10a-6p
- 28 Arts On Grand “From Memory to Memoirs” taught by Arla Kintigh
- 30 Spencer Public Library Baby Storytime 6:30p