

Chamber Digest

August 2009

Volume 27 Issue 3

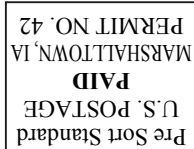


Upcoming Events

- August 11:** Business After Hours (5 - 7pm at Flooring Gallery)
August 14: Educator Appreciation Breakfast (7:30 a.m. at MHS Cafeteria)
August 20: Chamber Ambassadors Golf Outing (1:30 shotgun start)
August 25: Rural-Urban Dinner (5:30 p.m. at Consumers Energy)

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Chamber Ambassadors Golf Outing

There is still time to get signed up for the annual Chamber Ambassadors Golf Outing on Thursday, August 20.

This year's key sponsor is Hampton Inn & Suites. The golf outing gets started with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start at Elmwood Country Club and wraps up with a banquet meal at 6:30 p.m. This is a four-person best-shot tournament with lots of prizes and games.

Some of the special features of this year's outing include: free candy bars, courtesy of the Times-Republican on hole 1; prizes and fun on holes 2 and 11 with KFJB and KIX 101.1; giveaways, courtesy of Bank of America on hole 5; chance to win a set of four tires, courtesy of Big 8 Tyre on hole 6; chance to win \$5,000, courtesy of the Investment Center at F & M Bank on hole 16; and a chance to win other prizes throughout the day!

Cost to golf is just \$80 per person or \$320 per foursome through July 31. Starting August 1, cost per golfer is \$90 or \$360 per foursome. Cost includes green fees, cart rental, use of driving range and putting green, range balls, banquet meal and prizes. Space is limited.

Not a golfer? Join us for the banquet meal and prizes starting at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the banquet is just \$20 per person.

Hole sponsorships are available for just \$75. Promote your business to the over 100 golfers that will participate in the outing on August 20. Contact the Chamber office for more details.

Hole sponsors include: Acme Printing, Animal Clinic - The Vet, B & G HVAC, Bank of America Home Loans, Big 8 Tyre, Bowman and Miller, Eyecare Associates, Fareway, Greenwood Place, Hy-Vee, Independent Insurance Services, KFJB, KXIA, Marshalltown Young Professionals, Penn Mutual Life Insurance, SagePoint Financial, Sign Creations, Superior Welding, Times-Republican, United Bank & Trust, Vaughn's Pub and Zeno's. Prize sponsors include: Iowa Wholesale Supply, Pepsi, United Bank & Trust.

Don't see your business listed here? Contact the Chamber office to find out how you can get involved.



Put label here
This direction

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
P.O. Box 1000
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Hammer Medical Supply

Hammer Medical Supply is a Durable Medical Equipment and Respiratory supply company that has been servicing the needs of our clients for over 130 years. Hammer was established on the east side of Des Moines in 1872 and has remained a vital business since that time. Hammer now operates from its main location at 1801 2nd Avenue in Des Moines, and includes branch locations in Clive, Newton, Chariton, Oskaloosa, Creston, Ottumwa and the newest location here in Marshalltown at 219 East Main Street.

What you might not realize about Hammer Medical Supply is that they aren't just here to serve the elderly or ill, they have items that can make anyone's life easier: reachers, breast pumps, and compression stockings. They are a full service provider.

Locally, the business and staff support the community on a variety of levels. Dan Hlas, Delivery Technician is a volunteer EMT. Hammer sponsors the Grimes Farm run, a men's softball team and they donate to local organizations. You'll also often see staff members in local parades and events.

When asked what the best part of having a Main Street business was, Kim Walker with Hammer explained, "We are easy to find and close to the hospital and Doctor offices. We are proud to be a part of a historical Main Street district, in which the community takes pride in keeping beautiful and well maintained."

"We have a beautiful showroom full of all your home health care needs.



HAMMER
MEDICAL SUPPLY

Stop in for a cup of coffee, you might be surprised what's on our shelves that can make life a bit easier," said Walker. "We are always happy to work with your healthcare provider and insurance company to see if you have insurance coverage. We will always file a complimentary insurance claim on your behalf. Our experienced staff, scope of services and extensive coverage area all contribute to an impeccable reputation for providing quality medical products and services at competitive prices."

Stop by the store for more information.

New Members

Following is a list of businesses that have invested in the greater community by joining the

Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Please support these businesses when making purchases and business decisions.

China Connection Global Healthcare, Inc.

Ruth Lycke, CEO

1825 Wallace Avenue

Marshalltown, IA 50158

641-485-9667

China Connection Global Healthcare provides access to information and the ability for you to participate in and manage your own care.

China Connection is currently seeking financial donations as part of the Iowa Chamber of Commerce Challenge. For complete details, visit www.chinaconnection.cc and click on "Chamber Challenge".

Marshalltown Development Foundation

Conrad Dejardin, Board President

P.O. Box 164

Marshalltown, IA 50158

Established in 1999, the Marshalltown Development Foundation is an organization dedicated to creating, promoting, and funding projects, as well as soliciting contributions that will be used for the enhancement of the Marshalltown community. One of the organization's main projects is Legacies on Main.

Listen weekly to **Chamber Chat**

Sunday Mornings

6:30 am on 99.5 KDAO FM

7:30 am on 1190 KDAO AM

Keep up with the latest Chamber, MCVB and MEDIC news.

www.everydaychampions.org

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Marshalltown, IA 50158
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Fax: 641-752-8373
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Steve Soddors
Karen Squires
Tim Wynes

The Chamber Digest is a monthly publication of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Marshall Economic Development Impact Committee and Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau, who collaborate in creating opportunities for businesses, residents and visitors.

Thank You Reinvesting Members

The reinvesting members printed in bold type marks those with memberships in increments of five years.



7 Rayos Liquor Store	2
American Family-Bill Thiede	7
Arby's Restaurant	19
BDH Technology	6
Ben's Tire	21
Bruin Manufacturing Company	45
Cartwright, Druker & Ryden	33
Central Iowa Art Association	8
Cessford Ready Mix	36
Coldwell Banker	32
Denny's Hometown	20
Edward Jones-Reese & Wirin	29
Egleston Electric	44
Eyecare Associates	50
Grimes, Buck, Schoell et. all	45
HOW'-GAN Electric	12
Hahn Roofing	9
Home Federal	40
Iowa Hearing Aid Center	1
Lamar Advertising	13
Larry's Towing & Tire	9
Mack, Tom	35
Marshall Co. Coalition for Youth	14
Marshalltown Aviation, Inc.	35
Marshalltown Company	50
Marshalltown Ed. Association	14
Marshalltown General Dentistry	29
McAtee Tire	24
McDonald's	37
Mediacom/OnMedia	21
Moore Law Firm	16
Nauman-Madsen Insurance, Inc.	19
Nikkel & Associates, Inc.	5
Pinnacle Bank	13
Price, Bradley D.D.S	13
Rainbow Car Wash, Inc.	23
Roseland, et. all	7
Rund, Mary	2
Sit N Sleep	11
Sports Page Sporting Goods	19
Team Drury Auto Credit	7
United Bank & Trust	7
Vis Ltd.	32
Walmart	26
Wandering Creek Golf Course	1
Wells Fargo Bank	45

Business After Hours

August 11, 2009

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Flooring Gallery
3110 South 6th Street

September 10, 2009

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
U.S. Bank
123 West Main Street

October 2009

TBD
Hampton Inn & Suites
20 Iowa Avenue West

November 2009

TBD
Business to Business Showcase
Key sponsor: Hy-Vee
Fisher Community Center
709 South Center Street

December 2009

TBD
U.S. Bank
123 West Main Street

Dates are already filling up for
**2010. Contact Lynn
Olberding at the Chamber
office to schedule a Business
After Hours event at your
business.**

**These events are great ways to
promote your business!**

Are you ready to increase your
website traffic?
Contact Lynn at
641-753-6645 about online
directory upgrades!
Visit the Chamber website at
www.marshalltown.org

FACES & PLACES

Faces & Places is a new feature in the Chamber Digest. Each month this column will feature information about Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce members and volunteers. **Faces & Places** is a great way to utilize your Chamber membership.

Submissions may include grand openings, management changes, employee promotions, moves, expansions, major developments and award recognition. Submissions may include a photograph, if provided in a JPEG format.

Due to space limitations, each item for **Faces & Places** should be no more than three sentences in length. The editor reserves the right to determine what is newsworthy and included in the column. Items that will not be accepted include: email changes, seminars or special event promotions that would be better addressed through advertising venues.

To submit your news, email lolberding@marshalltown.org and put Faces & Places in the subject line, or mail information to **Faces & Places**, P.O. Box 1000, Marshalltown, IA 50158. Submissions must be received by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the following month's Chamber Digest.

Fill vacant windows with displays

Reprinted from Small Business Marketing Idea-Letter

Wherever your business is located, there is bound to be some vacant retail space. Find the building owner or mall management and propose to display your products or services in the window until it is leased. You may be able to negotiate a small fee which is more than they are getting now, but provides you an inexpensive way to promote your business. It will also look more attractive to a prospective tenant so the landlord will get something out of it as well. This is a great idea for home-based business than can now be in front of the public for a nominal cost. Be sure to have your business phone number, email address and website info in bold type for people to contact you easily.

Copies of the Chamber's Annual Report were distributed at the 111th Chamber Annual Meeting on June 25. If you missed the event and would like to see a copy of the report, please stop by the Chamber office or email lolberding@marshalltown.org.

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Leave a Legacy

In 2001, the Marshalltown Development Foundation unveiled the Legacies on Main project. The bricks are located on the four corners of the intersection of Main and Center street and allow individuals, businesses and organizations to leave their "mark" on the community.

"The success of Legacies is an indication of community pride," said Legacies on Main chairperson Jane Bauer. "We'd love to see every business, industry and organization in the Marshalltown community, as well as families and individuals have a brick on Main Street."

The Marshalltown Development Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to creating, promoting and funding projects, as well as soliciting contributions that will be used for the enhancement of the Marshalltown community. Since its inception, the Foundation has been able to raise funds through individual contributions, in-kind services and corporate, federal and state grants. Successful projects implemented by the Foundation include: Courthouse Lighting Project, Central Iowa Music Festival, Marshall County Mobile Band Shell, Annual Elected Officials Recognition Luncheon, scholarships to Boston University's Tanglewood music program and Legacies on Main.

Legacies on Main commemorates the past, beautifies the present and paves the way for the next generation. Each brick donated can be engraved in your honor, or in honor of the person, place or event you designate.

Ideas for a commemorative brick include:

- A tribute to your family or the memory of a loved one.
- To commemorate a business or industry.
- To recognize a class, group or organization
- To capture a special event, tradition or moment in time.
- To celebrate your life in Marshalltown.

"The MDF board has set a goal of 100 additional bricks to be installed and unveiled at the Holiday Stroll," said Bauer. "Orders will be accepted through September 10." Bauer reminds anyone who is interested in purchasing a brick that donations are tax-deductable.



the
Chamber
Marshalltown, Iowa

Have you visited the
Chamber website lately?
Go online to
www.marshalltown.org for
the online directory,
Chamber news
and upcoming events.

BUSINESS NEWS

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www.marshalltown.org Statistics

	June 09	YTD Total	Avg/Month
Unique Visitors	2,935	17,942	2,990
Number of Visits	4,319	27,333	4,556
Page Views	17,976	140,624	23,437
Hits	105,680	696,977	108,329

Don't forget to check the chamber website for business directory information, event photos, program information and calendar of events. Contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber office for more information.

Increase your online visibility

Research shows that over half of professionals search the web when looking to relocate or find a business. The Chamber's website's most viewed pages are the Online Business Directory, where all Chamber members are listed, and the relocation information. As a Chamber member, you receive a "Basic" listing on the Business Directory. That means your business is listed under one category (i.e. Electrical Contractor) with your complete business information: phone number, fax number, address and business representatives.

For as little as \$120 per year, your business can upgrade your online listing to include multiple categories, searchable key words, web link and email links. Being connected to a strong website like the Chamber's gives your website more power when online visitors search for your business on a search engine like Google.

This is a great time to increase your online visibility and promote your business. Let the Chamber help! Contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber office for more information and discuss options at 641-753-6645.

Chamber offers social networking

The Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce recently added another feature to the list of membership benefits: Facebook.com.

To utilize this membership benefit, you must have a Facebook account. Facebook accounts are free of charge. Once you have an account, search for "Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce" and ask to be added to the group. This is a great way to stay in touch with other business professionals in the community.

The Marshalltown Young Professionals also have an online group on Facebook.com. All MYP members who have a Facebook account are encouraged to join the "Marshalltown Young Professionals" group.

Both groups are utilizing the Discussion Board feature of Facebook to identify and discuss issues impacting your business.

Request to be added to the group today!



**Find us on
Facebook**

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

For the time and a description of the events below, log on to the MCVB website's Calendar of Events at www.VisitMarshalltown.com

August 2009

Event	Date	Location
Bingo	Tuesdays	Senior Citizens Center
Farmers Market	Wed. & Sat.	108 N. 2nd Avenue
"The Laramie Project"	Aug 1	Martha Ellen Tye
Mid-IA Antique Power Show	July 31-Aug 2	West of Marshalltown
Nature's Story Hour	Aug 5	GrimesFarm & Conservation
Women & Art in Central IA	Aug 7	Fisher Community Center
Meskwaki Indian Powwow	Aug 6-9	Tama
Iowa Sales Tax Holiday	Aug 7-8	State of Iowa
Iowa State Fair	Aug 13-23	IA State Fairgrounds
Flower Show Design	Aug 17	Fisher Community Center
Nature's Story Hour	Aug 19	GrimesFarm & Conservation
Card Party	Aug 20	Art & Cultural Center
Rally for a Cure	Aug 22	American Legion
Adult Summer Book Chat	Aug 27	Public Library
F.A.R.M. Fest	Aug 29	Courthouse Square
Bike MS	Aug 29-30	Riverview Park
Dog Days of Summer	Aug 31	Aquatic Center

Post your 2009 events on the MCVB self-posting calendar at www.visitmarshalltown.com



August 2009

Date	Group	Location
Aug 3-5	Empowerment 2009	Best Western Regency Inn
Aug 8	IA Association of the Deaf	Best Western Regency Inn
Aug 11-13	Bridgestone	Best Western Regency Inn
Aug 29-30	National MS Society	Best Western Regency Inn

MS 150 Cruise the Cornfields Returns to Marshalltown

The North Central States Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society will hold its annual bike MS: Cruise the Cornfields in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids on August 29th and 30th. Riders will leave both Des Moines and Cedar Rapids in their way to Marshalltown for a celebration event at the finish line.

More than 250 riders are expected to come out and help raise the goal of \$110,000. Funds raised will support direct services for the more than 8,000 people with MS and their families in the North Central States Chapter area and national MS research to find a cure for this chronic disease of the central nervous system.

Event organizers encourage riders of all levels to come out to this event. Riders will cruise Iowa's cornfields 75 miles to Marshalltown where various event festivities will be awaiting the participants. Some of the finish line festivities include music, massages, bags, volleyball, lots of food and drinks, and a special VIP Team Village for our top teams from 2008. Saturday evening all participants and volunteers are invited to join us for a banquet where they will enjoy a pasta meal, watch a bike video recapping the previous year, and recognition is given to top fundraisers and top teams.

Matt Dvorak, rider, comes out to this event not only to enjoy a great ride, but because he wants to support the cause and help raise awareness. Matt's mother was diagnosed with MS back when he was a young child himself. Now Matt is married with five children and the entire family participates in this event in memory of their beloved one.



WHEN: Saturday, August 29th and 30th / Riders depart at 7am
WHERE: Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, Iowa to Marshalltown and back
REGISTRATION: Visit www.myMSwalk.org, call 515-270-6337 or email andria.battaglia@nmss.org

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CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Marshalltown enjoys the "Oldies"

Over 70 classic vehicles rolled into Marshalltown on Friday, July 17. The classic vehicle show and concert by Richie Lee made for a relaxing Friday night on Main Street.

"This was the first year for the Marshalltown Classic Vehicle Show and Oldies Concert. Despite the near record breaking cold temperatures and the threat of rain, this event was a great success, stated Tina Shapley, event Chairperson. Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50's were a huge hit. We received several requests to bring them back and are already looking forward to next year's event."

The Marshalltown Central Business District would like to thank all the volunteers and sponsors for their contribution in the success of this event.



Go to www.visitmarshalltown.com for a list of upcoming events, dining and lodging options, attractions and more!



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Linn Creek Arts Festival deemed huge success

The weather could not have been better for the nearly 2500 people who turned out for the Linn Creek Arts Festival on Sunday, July 19 at the Fisher Community Center. The outdoor park like setting came alive with artists, food, kid's activities, wine and beer tasting as well as top-notch entertainment.

Event organizers worked throughout the year planning Sunday's event. Mary Giese and Marti Jo Ferneau, event co-chairs, said the event had doubled in size from previous years. The success of this event can also



be attributed to the many hours that volunteers spent working not only the day of the event, but throughout the past six months. Both Mary and Marti Jo would like to thank the over 100 volunteers that helped

at Sunday's Linn Creek Arts Festival.

Organizers will not have much time to rest. Planning for next year's Linn Creek Arts Festival will start soon. Mark your calendars for the third Sunday in July!

Right: WorldPort performed throughout the day.



AMBASSADORS VISITS



The Chamber Ambassadors celebrated the grand opening of the China Buffet (2500 South Center Street) on June 23. The China Buffet features lunch and dinner buffet, as well as menu items.



Zach Buss, Riddle's Jewelry store manager (2500 South Center Street) was greeted by the Chamber Ambassadors on June 23, along with representatives from Riddle's Jewelry local store and corporate office



Dave and Judy Adland welcomed the Chamber Ambassadors to their newly remodeled Adland Silkscreen and Engraving shop at 307 Riverside Street on June 23 for a courtesy call.



The Chamber Ambassadors visited Tyler Wolam, owner of Dairy Queen (711 North 3rd Avenue) during a courtesy call on June 23. The North 3rd Avenue store is one of the first 100 Dairy Queens opened.

Request a Ribbon Cutting or Courtesy Call at your location.

The Ambassadors are the goodwill arm of the Chamber.

Their scheduled time for courtesy calls and ribbon cuttings are at
4:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. on the second and fourth
Tuesday of the month.



Please contact the Chamber office if you would like to
schedule a visit at your business.

Contact 641-753-6645 or lolberding@marshalltown.org.



View past issues of the Chamber Digest online at
www.marshalltown.org.

BUSINESS NEWS

111th Chamber Annual Meeting - June 25, 2009



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

E-Commerce and Internet Sales

Impact on Marshall County

Internet retailing is a relatively new phenomenon and until recently, detailed data on the impact of internet retailing has been hard to find. The newly released Retail Sales Analysis and Report for Marshall County from the Iowa State University Extension has added figures this year for e-commerce for Marshall County.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, e-commerce sales in 2007 accounted for 3.4 % of total sales. Although e-commerce may not account for a large percentage of total retail sales, it is the fastest growing segment of the retail field. While total retail sales only increased 4% in 2007 from 2006, e-commerce sales saw an increase of 19% in the same time period.

If the national data holds true for Marshall County, the report says we would expect that approximately 3% of potential sales leakage could be attributed to internet retail leakage. This report uses the low estimate of 3% to try and account for some of the impact on local sales.

Marshall County	FY 2008
Actual sales	\$349,978,209
Potential sales	\$495,931,347
Estimated internet leakage	\$14,877,940
Potential sales less internet leakage	\$481,053,406
Internet adjusted surplus (leakage)	(\$131,075,197)
Per capita estimated Internet leakage	\$378

Factors that may increase the use of e-commerce here in Iowa are the increase in internet connectivity and access to broadband technology. The report also states that one of the most important factors may be the rising costs of fuel, encouraging the consumer to limit the number of their shopping trips.

According to the National Retail Federation, the top categories in volume of sales for e-retailers are: 1st computer hardware/software; 2nd books; 3rd music/video games; 4th toys/video games; 5th gift cards/certificates; 6th consumer electronics.

The complete Retail Sales Analysis & Report for Marshall County can be found online at <http://www.recap.iastate.edu/retail>.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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For additional economic
development
information,
please visit
www.marshalltownworks.com.

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Economic Statistics

May	2009	2008
Employment – Marshall County		
Labor force	20,400	20,420
Unemployed	1,280	870
Percent unemployed	6.3	4.3
Total employment	19,120	19,900
Marshalltown Construction		
Building permits	13	21
Residential dwelling units	4	53
New residential construction value	\$926,000	\$6,573,000
Residential addition/remodeling value	\$162,000	\$168,000
New commercial/industrial permits	1	1
New commercial/industrial value	\$17,000	\$2,000
Remodeling commercial/industrial value	\$52,000	\$2,347,000
Marshall County Construction		
Building permits	4	
Residential addition/remodeling value	\$477,000	
Remodeling commercial/industrial value	\$40,000	
Housing		
Single family home sales	39	28
Average sale price	\$114,832	\$99,738
Median sale price	\$110,000	\$90,000

Visit www.marshalltownworks.com for additional statistics.



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BUSINESS NEWS

Iowa Valley Leadership reaches into the community

What is Iowa Valley Leadership and how has the community benefited from 500 community residents participating in the program? Iowa Valley Leadership is an annual community leadership class that is jointly sponsored by the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce and Iowa Valley Continuing Education (IVCE). Iowa Valley Leadership believes that community vitality depends upon individuals who commit to learn about critical issues and engage in influencing change.

An IVL Steering Committee, composed of community residents, selects critical issues that are focused on each month, September through May. Goals of the program are for participants to learn about these issues and available resources, develop a network of friends and professionals and become more involved in community activities.

"For \$675 in tuition and approval for the employee to participate one day a month, the payback is a stronger employee with new skills to impact both the workplace and the community," says Betsy Macke, Iowa Valley Leadership.

Businesses who are interested in more information about sponsoring an employee are invited to contact Iowa Valley Continuing Education.



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Jane Chizek ★ Melody Bennett
Phil Henning ★ Moises Garcia
Beth Barrett ★ Joan Johnson

Got Fast Fingers? Win on U.S. Cellular's Mobile Tour

When you grab your cell phone, do you place a call or send a text? The average American sends 357 text messages per month, but only makes 204 phone calls, according to a recent survey by Nielsen. By 2010, an estimated 2.3 trillion text messages will be sent to and from mobile phones, according to a Gartner survey.

Spurred by the unlimited texting plans offered by cell phone carriers, American teenagers sent and received an average of 2,272 text messages per month in the fourth quarter of 2008, according to the Nielsen Company. That is almost 80 messages a day, which is more than double the average of a year earlier.

If you think your fingers are fast enough to keep up with these text message crazes, U.S. Cellular has created a mobile tour experience that will put your skills to the test at locations throughout Iowan. The fastest fingers in the speed text challenge will win \$10,000. Weekly updates will be available by text or at www.ursoconnected.com.

Visit the local store (2500 South Center Street) on Saturday, August 8 from Noon to 6:00 p.m. The U.S. Cellular Mobile Tour is free and open to all individuals.

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Upcoming Events

August 5	6pm	Family-friendly Social (Zeno's)
August 12	Noon	YPConnect Mtg. (Fisher Comm. Ctn)
August 13	5 - 7pm	Thirsty Thursday (Vaughn's Pub)
August 19	8am	MYP Exec Mtg. (YSS Office)
August 19	Noon	Lunch & Learn: Managing Your Mental Health (Fisher Comm. Ctn)
August 22	6 - 10pm	Wine & Music (John Ernest Winery)

Do you know a young professional in the community that may be interested in the Marshalltown Young Professionals?
Employees of Chamber member businesses can join MYP now for just \$45!



Please contact Lynn Olberding at the Chamber, 641-753-6645, for more information.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Rural-Urban dinner planned

Planning for the August 25 Rural-Urban dinner is well underway. The annual event is co-sponsored by your Chamber Ag/Business Task Force, the Marshalltown Rotary Club and the Marshall County Farm Bureau. It will be held at the Consumer's Energy facility at the junction of Highways 30 and 330 beginning at 5:30. Individual tickets for the event are \$15.

The guest speaker for the event will be Roger McEowen, director of Iowa State's Center for Agriculture Law & Taxation. In addition to Mr. McEowen, Chip Flory from Pro Farmer will also offer his perspective on timely agriculture issues.

The evening includes a great dinner catered by Smokin' G's with steaks cooked by the Marshall County Beef Producers. Reservations are required through the Marshall County Farm Bureau office, the Marshalltown Rotary Club or the Chamber.

"The Chamber is pleased to be able to join with the Farm Bureau and Rotary in sponsoring an event that celebrates the importance of our farm economy," stated Chamber Ag/Business chairman Scott Neff.

Back to school for local educators

It's time for teachers and administrative staff to head back to school for the 2009-2010 school year. Each year, the Chamber hosts an Educator Appreciation breakfast to kick-off the year for our teachers and staff. This year's event will be Friday, August 14 at 7:30 a.m. in the MHS Cafeteria.

Each August, teachers and administrators from the Marshalltown Community School District, Marshalltown Area Catholic Schools, and Marshalltown Christian School are invited to participate in the breakfast. This year's key sponsor is Independent Insurance Services.

If your business would like to support this annual event, table sponsorships are available for just \$50. Your business will be named as a sponsor on table top tents placed at the event, as well as promotion in the Chamber Digest after the event on August 14.

This is a great way to show the teachers and staff members that your business appreciates all that they do for our children. Contact the Chamber office to sponsor.



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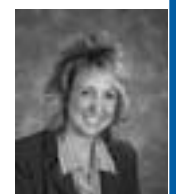
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