

JANUARY 1, 2024

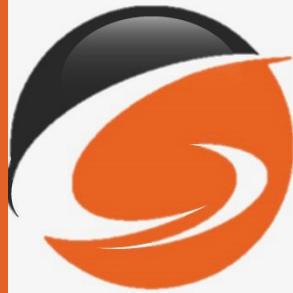
HAPPY
new
YEAR

VOLUME 5

The News

Guymon Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

2024



GUYMON
Chamber of Commerce

A DECEMBER 1ST TO REMEMBER!!

Home for the Holidays and Holiday Open House made for a festive December 1st!

The Home for the Holidays Light Festival holds its opening night lighting on December 1st. This was the third year for the event and it was fantastic! With great sponsors, vendors, and performers, as well as a multitude of volunteers, Thompson Park and Sunset Lake were transformed into a brilliant wonderland for the community to enjoy throughout the month of December.

The Holiday Open House celebrated its eleventh year this year. Holiday Open House occurs on the first Friday in December and includes a Santa fly-in, carriage rides, Santa's Secret Elves, live music, and multiple downtown merchants providing sales, refreshments, and fun!

This year, the two events occurred on the same night! What a great evening for the community!



Newsletter Highlights

- December 1st
- Town Hall Forum
- 2024 Chamber Members
- Ribbon Cuttings
- Business of the Month
- Spotlight of the Month
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Gun Draw Tickets on Sale!
- Succession Planning
- Things a Chamber Director ought to know...
- Upcoming Events & Ads



Town Hall Forum

The Chamber of Commerce hosted a Town Hall Forum for the public to hear from the County Commissioners and the Hospital Board regarding the new Sales Tax Proposal that goes before voters on January 9th. Despite the cold, wet weather, there was a good turn out. There were many good questions presented and some meaningful information presented. The questions and the Hospital's slide presentation can be found on the Chamber website: www.guymonokchamber.com



Thank you to these 2024 members!!

• Business Level

- 5R Farms
- Advanced Water Solutions
- AirPro Heating & Cooling
- American Title & Abstract
- Anchor D Bank
- Bagley Appraisal Services
- BASCO
- Bealls Inc
- Bob's Cowboy Bar
- Bunch Roberts Funeral Home
- C & S Crane & Steel
- Castlebury Investments
- Celt Properties
- Charles White State Farm
- CRI Feeders
- Custom Comfort
- Dale & Haines
- Dancer's Fine Wine & Liquor
- Denise Lunt CPA
- Dizzy B's Corner Mart
- Draper Farms
- Edgar Jones-Mitch Egger
- Edward Jones-Kyle Hawkins
- Field & Hicks
- Fronk Oil
- Fronterhouse's Houses
- G & G Electronics
- Garrison Agency
- Gigot Agra Products
- Grand Mere Restaurant Group
- Guymon Daily Herald
- Guymon Glass
- Guymon Paint & Body
- Guymon Tire & Auto
- Harana Medspa
- Harwell & Cook Orthodontics
- Hog Slat Inc
- Horizon Healing Chiropractic Center
- Hutchison Oil Company
- Inframark
- Invenergy
- Kari Montgomery
- Kaycee Development
- KKBS
- Larry Buehler

- Living with Laine
- Logomotive Engine LLC
- Long & McKinnon Inc
- Lumber Mart
- Main Street Events
- McMichael's Plumbing
- Merle Norman
- Misty Ward CPA
- Naifeh's Steakhouse
- Northwest Domestic Crisis Services
- Oakes & Associates
- Panhandle Insurance Agency, LLC
- Panhandle Marketing LLC
- Panhandle Printing
- Panhandle Services for Children
- Parkview Pharmacy
- PCHC
- Petty & Carrillo, PLLC
- Phipps Dental Practice
- Realty House
- Regency Auto Center
- Roberts Partners
- S & S Services
- Security Finance
- Seward County Broadcasting
- Sharon Perkins
- Sims Electric
- Sound Service
- Southern Office Supply
- SPC Office Products
- SWODA
- Tidalwave Investments
- Tom Quaid
- Tortilleria Velasquez & Sons
- Traci Dodgion
- Urban Bru Kitchen
- Vallarta Mexican Grill
- Victory Memorial Methodist Church
- Western Lawn Spraying
- Whispering Plains Apartments
- White Oak Home Inspections



Thank you to these 2024 members!!

- **Partner Level**

- Apollo MedFlight
- BOP
- Fisch & Hitch
- Guaranty Abstract & Title
- Holiday Inn Express
- Linda Hill Crop Insurance
- Ozone Roofing
- Precision Body Shop
- Pub on the Bricks
- Shawnee Tribe
- Trunchbull Services
- Vyve Broadband

- **Corporate Level**

- Big R
- COJO
- Farm Credit
- Mitchell Theaters
- OPSU
- Seaboard Energy

- **Executive Level**

- Equity Bank
- Golden Mesa Casino
- TCEC

- **Leader Level**

- Apache Trace Apartments
- Herbel Real Estate
- PTCI
- Walmart

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On behalf of our staff, Board of Directors, and the Guymon business community, we want to thank you for your continued support of the Guymon Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to serving you now and in the future. Please let us know what we can do to help your business.

Ribbon Cuttings

Oakes of Mamre



Invenergy



**January 2024 Business of the Month
Panhandle Insurance Agency**

"I am thankful for the community support. It has made a huge impact on my business." These are just a couple of the statements that Erica Velasquez makes as she discusses Panhandle Insurance Agency and its success in its first year.

Initially founded by Diane Brown as Brown and Associates, the transition to Panhandle Insurance Agency began as Diane started looking forward to retirement. Erica purchased the business in March of 2023 and the transition was complete. Erica says that it has been a good transition and the community has been a huge part of that. She also credits her amazing team in helping make the business a success.

Panhandle Insurance offers home, auto, farm, commercial, health, and life insurance services, as well as Medicare supplements. They also try to assist with Medicare & Medicaid applications if they are able.

The team at Panhandle Insurance is very active in the community, including Guymon Ambassadors, Guymon Lions Club, Goodwell Boosters, and Delphinium Garden Club. They enjoy getting out into the community and having fun.

Recently, the team collected items to send Christmas care packages to Marines. Yara Gutierrez came up with the idea. Yara has a son who is a Marine and she sends him regular care packages. He was always requesting things for his fellow Marines, so Yara thought, "Why not put together some care packages for them?" She suggested it to Erica and they were off and running. They reached out to the community to help fill the boxes and received overwhelming and amazing support. The goal was to fill twenty boxes. The community enabled them to fill twenty-four! All of the boxes were sent and received safely at their destination. Check out Panhandle Insurance's Facebook page for the unboxing!

Panhandle Insurance also accepts Santa letters during the holiday season. Children can come in and write a letter to Santa and work on a craft project. "Santa" then answers each letter and delivers the letter and some reindeer food to each child before Christmas Day.

Congratulations to Panhandle Insurance Agency as the January Business of the Month. Thank you for all that you do to support our community!

The Team!
Left to right:

Yara Gutierrez
Heiddy Cervantes
Erica Velasquez
Kristi Beck
Not pictured:
Priscilla Cervantes



January 2024 Business Spotlight Sims Electric

"Here, I want you to be a person, not a number. We are a family." These sentiments were repeated several times by Manny Montelongo as we visited about his company, Sims Electric.

Sims Electric was founded in 1954. Manny is the fourth owner of the company, purchasing it from Mark Dunham in 2021. Manny has grown the company from six employees (four that remained with the company and two that moved with him) to eighteen employees and nine service trucks. Sims provides industrial and oilfield electrical services, as well as flash automation, in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas.

Sims Electric is currently adding a new office addition to their site. It will be a nice space to greet customers. Manny wanted to thank Trunchbull Services for all of the work that they have done on the new addition and remind everyone to Shop Local.

Manny and his crew are vital in the Home for the Holidays Lighting of Sunset Lake that happens throughout December. Without them, much of that would not be possible. When asked what motivated him to take on such a big part of the project, Manny said that Golden Mesa Casino approached them about helping the first year and they decided to give it a try. It was such a rewarding project, doing something that brings the community together during the holiday season, and something that brings his employees together for fun and teamwork. "It is good to help the community." Sims Electric also plays a big part in the production of the Pioneer Days Rodeo and participates in the Children's Health Fair.

Sims Electric was chosen as the January Business Spotlight in recognition of the things that they do in the community. Congratulations and thank you!

Meet some of the Crew!

Manuel Figueroa, Antony Figueroa, Levi Littlejohn, Jesus Deherrera, Frankie Rodriguez, Rodrigo Jimenez





Some of these are not events, just suggestions. And, we are always looking for more ideas!!

**Looking for a way to get involved with the Chamber??
Join a committee to help provide great events for our
community!!**

Chamber Events:

Pioneer Days-Parade, Rodeo, Mercantile, Golf Tournament, etc.

Golf Tournament

4th of July Event??

Food Truck Weekend??

Leadership Guymon

Chamber Banquet

Halloween Palooza

Christmas Parade??



Gun Draw Tickets for Sale

TICKET PRICE - \$10
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Pioneer Days Rodeo Gun Draw

PROGRESSIVE GUN DRAW

1 DRAWING EACH MONTH JANUARY - APRIL

FINAL DRAWING AT SATURDAY NIGHT PIONEER DAYS RODEO PERFORMANCE

WINNERS WILL CHOOSE FROM AVAILABLE PRIZE LIST

| | |
|---|--|
| HK416 22cal. Semi-Automatic | |
| CZ-USA 712 G2 12 Gauge Shotgun | |
| Ruger Security 9 Compact with Viridian E Series Laser | |
| \$500 Gift Card to David Yurman | |

2 Gift Cards - \$250 + \$250 Wirtz Lumber

PROCEEDS BENEFIT GUYMON PIONEER DAYS RODEO

**Stop by the Chamber
Office or let the
Chamber know and
we will come to you!**

PROGRESSIVE DRAW: Each ticket purchased is eligible for all five (5) drawings.

- You must be a legal resident of the United States to obtain a ticket. Winners must be of legal age to take possession of the firearm and be able to pass the background check.
- All firearm transfers will be done through a Federal Firearms Licensed Dealer (FFL) and all applicable Federal and State laws will apply, including the state laws for the legal residence of winning ticket holders.
- Winners will be notified by phone number listed on the ticket stub.
- No substitutions for ticket holders.



Check the "Guymon Pioneer Days" and
"Guymon Chamber of Commerce" Facebook pages for updates.

Succession Planning in the New Year

The new year always brings resolutions or plans for a good year. With that in mind, I wanted to remind business owners that succession planning is an important step. Consider the businesses in our community that have closed due to a lack of a succession plan or a poor succession plan. How many more will close in 2024?

If you have a plan in place, great! If not, here are a few steps to help get the process started. As always, we are here to help!

Succession Planning For Owners Of Small And Medium Businesses

Bill Conerly Senior Contributor, Forbes Magazine

Many small and medium business owners lack succession plans. Often the owner has no family members active in the company, so no obvious successors are in line to take over. This article focuses on such owners; multi-generational transitions are a different subject.

The most common reason for not creating a succession plan is that the owner doesn't know where to start. That's understandable. Although we all know that we will die one day (and possibly become incapable of running the business before death), many business owners don't have good ideas about what will happen when the time comes. And the hardest task to begin is the task that does not have clear first steps. The first three steps are fairly simple and easy. Taking them will help the business owner identify the succeeding steps. Eventually, a succession plan will be developed enabling the business owner to stop worrying. That will also enable employees, key customers and suppliers to stop worrying.

The great first step is to learn what the owner's choices are. And the best way to do that is to talk to ten business owners who have retired or developed successful succession plans that don't involve family. A business owner may very well know a few people who retired and sold their companies. Reach out to them. But many business owners will be acquainted with only a couple of such people. A full set of the possibilities requires more cases to study. So part of this first step will be to talk to people who can refer the owner to others who have sold their businesses and retired. Good referral sources would be fellow members of trade or professional associations in the company's industry. Ask people who may be retirement age what their succession plans are. Other good referral sources from the same industry would be suppliers and customers as well.

Beyond the industry, accountants, attorneys, bankers and insurance agents would probably be able to make referrals. Keep at it until at least ten conversations have been held. The business owner could do a good bit of research online, finding good articles such as Thienel Law's or Robert Newcomer-Dyer's. However, personal conversations with people who have gone through the process will add texture to the bare facts, as well as pitfalls to avoid and opportunities to embrace.

The second step is based on these conversations and research. The owner needs to keep notes on the possibilities that others not only used, but also those considered and rejected.

After learning what the options are, the third step is simply to plan the next few steps. It is possible that a single option will stand out. For example, the best option may be to sell the company by the owner's 65th birthday. If that's the case, then the next steps are to ensure that the company will be attractive to a buyer at that time. Identifying what needs to be done to make the business salable is the next step. In other situations, the owner will have narrowed the choices to a couple, such as liquidating the company's assets or selling to a current employee. In this case, the next step would be to sketch out action items for each of these possibilities.

So the business owner who lacks a succession plan has three steps to get started: talk to others who have exited their businesses, identify viable choices for the owner's particular situation, and then sketch out the next three steps in developing the plan. With this simple plan to get started, there's no excuse for a business owner to leave a mess behind when death or incapacity comes along.

Things a Chamber Director ought to know...

Is the City of Guymon hiring CDL drivers?
Who sells shotgun shells besides Walmart?
When will Santa be in town?
When is the Christmas Parade?
Can you tell me anything about rentals in Boise City?
Are there any business permitting requirements for Texas County?
Do you have vendor spaces available for Pioneer Days?
How's the quail hunting up there?
When is the Christmas Train running?
Where can I purchase a book on the history of Guymon?
How can you raise the sales tax? I am very disappointed.
Can you help me with the Service men & women on Main Street?
Are rodeo tickets available for purchase?
Can you help me get in touch with Steve Rhodes?
Are there any cleaning services in Guymon?
Give us a call!! We are here to help!! 580-338-3376



Upcoming Events

- January 4 Shop & Dine
- January 9 Sales Tax Vote
- Jan 13 Making Meetings Matter Workshop

All of these events & more can be found on the Event Calendar at:
www.guymonokchamber.com.

And follow us on Facebook!



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TCEC Scholarships

Leadership Summit

Students attend an energetic and motivating day-long leadership program held during Oklahoma Youth Expo and receive a \$500 scholarship.

- March 18
- Applications open Nov. 1 - Jan. 10
- Apply online
- Two HS Seniors will be chosen to attend and receive \$500 Scholarship

Oklahoma Panhandle State University

Eight scholarships will be awarded to incoming freshmen or returning sophomores.

- Eight scholarships valued at \$2000
- Applications available Dec. 1 - Feb. 15
- Learn more and apply at www.opsu.edu

Golden Spread Director's Memorial Scholarship

Seniors who plan to attend college in Kansas, Oklahoma or Texas.

- Scholarships valued at \$2000
- Applications close on March 1
- Learn more and apply at www.gsec.coop/Public/Community/Directors-Memorial-Scholarship

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TCEC Youth Trips

Youth Tour

From museums and memorials to the U.S. Capitol, there's a little bit of something for everyone in Washington, D.C.

- June 14-20
- Applications open Nov. 1 - Jan. 10
- Apply online; 10 finalists will be interviewed via zoom
- Three HS Juniors will be chosen

Energy Camp

Campers will experience four fun-filled days learning electrical safety, riding in bucket trucks, climbing poles and participating in team building activities.

- May 28-31
- Applications open Nov. 1 - Jan. 10
- Apply online
- Four 8th Graders will be chosen

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

CYLC brings together kids from CO, KS, OK & WY to learn how electric coops operate while building leadership skills in beautiful Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

- July 12-18
- Applications open Nov. 1 - Jan. 10
- Apply online; 10 finalists will be interviewed via zoom
- Two HS Juniors will be chosen

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