



Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce

Mainstreet News

100 West Jackson Street

Mexico, MO 65265

www.mexico-chamber.org

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MEXICO SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT RECEIVES GRANT

FOR 30-MONTH FELLOWSHIP TO ENHANCE REGIONAL ECONOMIC STABILITY

The Mexico Sustainability Project (MSP), in collaboration with Audrain County, MO, and the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to announce the successful acquisition of a grant for a 30-month fellowship aimed at advancing regional economic stability. The grant, awarded under the auspices of the ERC Project, represents a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to address poverty and bolster economic resilience in our community.

The Mexico Sustainability Project was initiated in response to identified challenges including family instability, unmet children's needs, and a lack of a dependable workforce among local employers. Recognizing the deep-seated roots of these issues is poverty, the Mexico Chamber of Commerce embraced the Bridges Out of Poverty framework in 2017, laying the groundwork for transformative change in our region.

The ERC Fellow selected to lead and support the Mexico Sustainability Project is Dr. Tracey Clark Jeffries, a seasoned municipal advisor with a track record of strategic leadership in economic development initiatives across rural and urban areas in the United States. With over a decade of experience as an advisor for small business development agencies and a mentor for women

entrepreneurs, Tracey brings a wealth of expertise to the fellowship.

Among Tracey's notable achievements are her role as the Strategic Planner for a regional planning initiative that garnered international attention on issues of economic inequity and excessive police force. Her accolades include a Humanitarian Award from Webster University, recognition as one of the Top 50 Women Entrepreneurs by Inc Magazine, and commendation from the Small Business Administration (SBA) White House of Public Engagement.



As the ERC Fellow for the Mexico Sustainability Project, Tracey will play a pivotal role in addressing economic challenges, fostering a secure workforce, and spearheading data collection efforts to assess program effectiveness. The ultimate goal is to not only monitor and evaluate the project's

impact but also to expand its reach regionally and beyond.

"We are thrilled to welcome Tracey as our ERC Fellow for the Mexico Sustainability Project," said Dana Keller, Director of the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce. "Her extensive experience and passion for community development make her the ideal candidate to lead this initiative as we work

towards a more sustainable and prosperous future for our region.”

The grant-funded fellowship represents a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to build a more resilient and inclusive community in Mexico, MO. The Mexico Sustainability Project looks forward to leveraging Tracey’s expertise to drive positive change and create lasting impact for generations to come.

About Mexico Sustainability Project

The Mexico Sustainability Project (MSP) is an initiative of the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce aimed at addressing poverty and promoting economic resilience in the region. Through strategic partnerships and community engagement, MSP seeks to create sustainable solutions to longstanding challenges, fostering a more prosperous future for residents and community.

*Thank you for your
Annual Dinner Sponsorship
Major Sponsors:*



Patron Sponsors:

*Carquest | Meyers Truck Service
Slumberland Furniture
United Credit Union*

A Special Thanks to: Dene Myers and Mark DeJaynes for their styling talents, David Pickering for photographing the evening’s honorees, Pig Up & Go for preparing dinner, Richard Henke for helping with the live auction items, and Mexico Jaycees for buying the kegs for the evening.

About ERC Project

The ERC (Economic Recovery Corps) Project aims to support innovative research initiatives that have the potential to generate significant societal impact. By funding projects across a diverse range of disciplines, ERC empowers researchers to address pressing challenges and drive positive change in their respective fields and communities.

About Tracey

Tracey is a seasoned municipal advisor with a proven track record of strategic leadership in economic development initiatives across rural and urban areas in the United States. With over a decade of experience as an advisor for small business development agencies and a mentor for women entrepreneurs, Tracey brings a wealth of expertise to her role as the ERC Fellow for the Mexico Sustainability Project.

**Bulldogs Booster Club
Annual Dinner Auction**

Friday, April 5, 2024

Knights of Columbus

Social Hour and Silent Auction - 6:00pm

Dinner – 7:00pm

Live Auction – following dinner



On The Menu:
Smoked Pork Chop or Ribeye Steak
Baked Potato
Green Beans
Salad
Dessert

TICKET INFORMATION

- Must be 21 to attend - coolers allowed
- \$35 per ticket
- \$300 table of 8
- Sales end Friday, March 29th
- Ticket sales are limited
- Purchase from: Mexico High School office, Pearl Motor Company, Show Me Credit Union, Booster Board member

SPONSORSHIPS
Elite Bulldog - \$1,000 or more
Top Bulldog - \$501 to \$999
Bulldog - Up to \$500

Board Members 2023-2024: Sarah Azdell, Ryan Colley, Taylor Colley, Heather DeMint, Amy Fisher, Amy Groves, Trisha Herron, Jessica Isgrig, Shellonda Jahn, LaTosha Johnson, Stacy Shramek, Michelle Stephens, Kelli Teel, Troy Teel, Jennifer Thoenen, Lisa Thurman, Christina Unger

Dinner Auction proceeds are used to support Mexico Senior High and Mexico Middle School athletes.

Area mail includes Audrain County, Paris, Vandalia, Perry, Middletown, Farber, Laddonia, Benton City, Wellsville, Martinsburg, Montgomery City, Bellflower, New Florence, Hatton, Auxvasse, Thompson and Centralia areas; out of town mail includes Washington, DC; Quincy, IL; Pittsfield, IL; Topeka, KS; St. Charles, MO; Louisiana, MO; Monroe City, MO; Kansas City, MO; Jefferson City, MO; Columbia, MO; Boonville, MO; Fulton, MO; Moberly, MO. Mainstreet News (USPS # 123-130) is published monthly by Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce, 100 West Jackson, Mexico, MO 65265. Periodicals postage paid at Mexico, MO. Postmaster: Send address changes to Mainstreet News, 100 West Jackson, Mexico, MO 65265.

Audrain Humane Society 12th Annual

TRIVIA NIGHT



SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024
4-H Center - Highway D - Mexico, MO

Doors Open - 5:30
Trivia - 7:00

Concession Stand **50/50 Raffles** **BYOB & Snacks**
Free Soft Drinks **Silent Auction / Raffle Items** **Cash prizes for top 2 teams**
Free Beer Available **Mulligans** **Prize for best decorated table**

Concessions will be available

ALL PROCEEDS FOR THIS EVENT BENEFIT AUDRAIN HUMANE SOCIETY PROGRAMS, MEXICO ANIMAL SHELTER SUPPORT AND WELFARE OF LOCAL ANIMALS. FOR MORE INFO OR TO MAKE A DONATION, CONTACT MARILYN NIEKAMP AT 573-473-7087



Entry Deadline February 28, 2024

Team (6-8) people \$150 Don't have a team???
We always put together "Strays" to make Teams! \$25 per person

SEND OR DROP OFF ENTRY FEE AND BOTTOM OF FORM TO:

- CONSOLIDATED ELECTRIC (TONIA PRINCE AT DRIVE THRU WINDOW) 3940 E. LIBERTY STREET
- ERDEL & WOOD (CHAD COLLEY) 109 W. MONROE
- OR MAIL TO: AHS, P.O. BOX 603, MEXICO 65265

OR

Visit our website: www.audrainhumane.org/ahs-events to sign up and pay on-line.

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AUDRAIN HUMANE SOCIETY)

TEAM NAME: _____
CONTACT NAME: _____ CONTACT PHONE: _____



8th Annual

SENIOR EXPO

Thursday April 4, 2024

Expo Hall Open

9:00AM-11:00AM

Location: YMCA Gymnasium

Be sure to stop by the various booths for door prizes and giveaways!

MEXICO AREA FAMILY YMCA
MEXICO, MISSOURI

*Coffee available
in the Y Cafe!*

Membership Renewals

ACCIS
Ameren Missouri
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Audrain Humane Society
Baker Capital Management
County of Adrain
Crown Linen
Edward Jones – Ross Fryer
IMS
Kruger & Witte LLC
Garry Melton
Leslie Meyer
Merchandise in Motion
Mexico Optimist
Mexico Public Schools
Meyers Truck Service
Miss Missouri Organization
MU Health Care
Jacob Shellabarger
The Bank of Missouri
UpLift Mid-MO
Utterback Crop Insurance

New Members

Construction Engineering Solution
Cary Smith Realtor for Realty 365
Lincare

AUDRAIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY CAMP

“A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM” is the theme for the 2024 Audrain Historical Society’s History Camp to be held Monday, June 3 – Friday, June 7. “A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM” History Camp will be a Civil War era-themed camp. Campers will actively learn through Cooking, Living History/Storytelling, Science, Arts & Crafts, Guest educators/Reenactments, and Recreation. History Camp is open to children that have completed the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Cost is \$50 and is limited to the first 64 registrants. Some scholarships are available.

History Camp registration will be held at the Graceland Museum, 501 Muldrow Street: for Audrain County Historical Society members: Saturday, March 16, 10AM-4PM continues Wednesday, 3/20 - Friday, 3/22, 10AM-4PM. Opens to the public Saturday, March 23, 10AM-4PM continues Wednesday, 3/27 - Saturday, 4/20, 10AM-4PM.

For questions regarding History Camp, please contact the Audrain County Historical Society at 581-3910.

2024 Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce

Annual Dinner



Colonel C. R. Stribling Community Service Award • Barbara Hoff Wilson

Congratulations to Barbara Hoff Wilson, recipient of the Colonel C.R. Stribling Community Service Award presented the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner February 16th. Barb's remarks gave credit to everyone but herself, a true measure of a humble servant, and leader.

"You all know I love this community, and it's not the houses, the buildings, the streets. What makes this community special are the people. The people in this community are driven to make things better. Even when things take a downturn, people still have a positive attitude and that's what makes this community what it is, a great place to live, work and play." - Barbara Hoff Wilson



Educator of the Year • Jessica Brown

Recognizes service, commitment, excellence, and dedication in meeting the educational needs of their students.

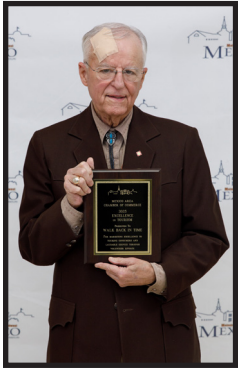
Mrs. Brown started her teaching career with Mexico Public Schools fresh out of college as a paraprofessional and the following year joined the first-grade team. Jessica has brought with her a solid training in pedagogical methods and reading curriculum, along with great energy and enthusiasm. Mrs. Brown is charismatic and creative and thinks outside the box. She has shown excellent classroom management skills and developed a rapport with students, colleagues, and parents that is characterized by mutual respect. Jessica has high expectations for all students, and her students achieve some of their highest accolades while in class.



President's Award • Brad Walker

Given for outstanding contributions to Mexico Community.

Brad has served on the Mexico Chamber Board of Directors since 2018. Through Brad's position as office manager of True Manufacturing, he has driven the efforts for True to become an active community partner. Through Bright Futures, True supports the JAG Program, and has provided talks about goal setting and employability, participated in mock interviews, and offered group and individual tours. Brad has led the charge for True's involvement in Find Your Path, The Reality Store, and Inclusion Revolution. Brad has formed partnerships with the Handi-Shop, Mexico School District special services, and the Boone Center, Inc. to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Brad advocated for True employees to be offered the chance to become lunch buddies during their workday. Through True's partnership with the chamber's Workforce Resource Assistance Program (WRAP), Brad became certified to present workshops on Workplace Stability so he can provide this resource to other True plants.



Excellence in Tourism • Walk Back In Time

Recognizes marketing excellence in touring consumers and laudable service through volunteer efforts.

The Walk Back in Time has tripled from its first event in 2002 which drew 4,000 visitors. The variety attracts visitors, both local and distant. Its carefully laid out timeline is multi-period and offers variety from one camp to the next as it surrounds our majestic 1857 Graceland Mansion. In 2023 the major new addition was the “Old West” that complimented the established western town of “South Fork”, offering remarkable scenes of yesteryear. WBIT expanded to two performance stages and filled every time slot with period and traditional musicians, as well as historical portrayals and presentations. Beyond the historical camps, visitors find such things as the new Cultural Pioneers of America, “Artists and Artisans,” sector.



Philanthropic Award • Knights of Columbus

Designed to honor the philanthropy of those citizens whose monetary contributions that improve the quality of life in Mexico and surrounding community.

Since 1985 the Knights of Columbus have distributed over \$134,000 in scholarships. The annual Tootsie Roll Drive has donated over \$17,000 to local Children’s Therapy and Early Education School. They have helped in the funding of the local Veterans Home walk ways around the facility and help with cooking for the residents. The Knights have sponsored numerous community fuctions like car shows, beer fests, fireworks and fish fry’s. They’ve sponsored a local Boy Scouts Club, local Special Olympics and Veterans Emergency Evac Center and hold an annual food and coat drive to help our local Laura Miller George Help Center.



G. Andy Runge Ambassador Award • Clarissa Cauthorn

Awarded to an individual or business who has brought great statewide or national credit or publicity to the Mexico area.

Mrs. Clarissa Cauthorn is a resident of Mexico, Missouri where she lives on the family farm with her husband, Andrew Cauthorn. Andrew and Clarissa Cauthorn have three children, two boys and a little girl. She works full-time for Beck’s Hybrids where she manages a network of seed dealers and services customers across the state. Clarissa feels that it is her job to build a better community. She has served at the state level for the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation as their Young Farmer and Rancher Chair and is on the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association Youth Committee. Clarissa is also on the Board of Directors for the Mizzou Alumni Association.

Nationally, Andrew and Clarissa serve on American Farm Bureau’s Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. Clarissa Cauthorn just finished her term with the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Energy Committee where she talks about how energy and agriculture coincide. She currently serves on her local Farm Bureau board as their president. She also manages the finances for her local Cattlemen’s Association and serves on their board. Clarissa is a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church and teaches a Young Moms Sunday School class. Clarissa is often speaking in the classroom to students about real life or mentoring college students.



Civic Award • Audrain County Historical Society History Camp

Recognizes exceptional effort or a benefit conferred upon the Mexico Community during the 12 months.

The Audrain County Historical Society’s History Camp began in the summer of 2004 with 48 campers celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. 2024 will mark the 20th year of this annual summer camp accepting 64 campers that have completed the 3rd-5th grades. Each year a different era-specific theme is chosen. Previous year’s themes include the Wild West, Colonial America, the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, World War 1, World War 2, modern history, and the Missouri Bicentennial.

Campers actively learn through Cooking, Living History/Storytelling, Science, Arts & Crafts, Guest Educators/Reenactments, and Recreation. These sessions are led by an army of adult and teen volunteers that engage the campers with hands-on activities and make learning history fun!

March 2024 Calendar

March 2	Humane Society's 12th annual Trivia Night @ 4-H Center – 5:30pm The Echo's Concert Featuring Becky Denton @ PAC – 7pm
March 3	Jeremy Divers Gallery Opening @ PAC – 2pm-3pm
March 4-5	Auditions for Holiday Production @ PAC – 6:30pm-8:30pm
March 6	Chamber Executive board meeting @ Chamber – 12pm Elks Meeting @ Elks Lodge – 6pm
March 7	Mexico Noon Lions Club meeting @ Utterback Crop Insurance – 12pm
March 11	Ceramics with Ashley Jones begins @ PAC – 5:30pm
March 12	Village Square Association Meeting @ Chamber – 8am League of Women Voters @ Chamber – 7pm
March 13	Chamber board meeting @ Chamber – 12pm Book & Art Club @ Mexico Public Library – 4-5pm
March 14	Altrusa Meeting @ The Oaks – Noon
March 17	Sights, Sounds, & Smells @ Scattering Fork Outdoor Center – 2-5pm
March 18-19	Summer Camp Theatre Auditions @ PAC- 6pm-7pm
March 19	Leadership Mexico @ MMA – 11:30am Dream Factory Meeting @ Chamber – 7pm
March 20	Elks Meeting @ Elks Lodge – 6pm
March 21	Lunch & Learn "Cyber Security" @ Chamber– 11:30am Mexico Noon Lions Club meeting @ Utterback Crop Insurance – Noon
March 27	MO Women's Business Center "Lenders Workshop" @ Chamber – 2pm
March 28	Altrusa meeting @ The Oaks – Noon

Every Tuesday Mexico Kiwanis Club meets @ The Oaks – Noon

Every month the Third Wednesday Alzheimer's Support Group @ MO Veterans – 1:30pm

Every Friday Rotary Club meets @ The Oaks – Noon



ABOUT US

MISSOURI WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER

The Missouri Women's Business Center assists entrepreneurs as they plan, start, build, and scale their businesses by providing accessible resources, programming, and business coaching at no cost.



Enterprise Development Corporation works with local banks to provide financing to small businesses through the SBA 504 loan program, which provides long-term, fixed-rate financing for the purchase of real estate and capital assets.



The Small Business Development Center provides counseling and training to small businesses, including individualized business advising and technical assistance to start ups and existing small businesses.

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

THIS WORKSHOP

Enterprise Development Corporation, Missouri Women's Business Center and The Small Business Development Center will sponsor several joint workshops, to introduce the SBA 504 loan program to new lenders and share information about business development and support services available to local businesses.

WHEN & WHERE

Feb. 27, 2 p.m. – State Fair Community College
701 3rd St., Room 201, Boonville

Feb. 28, 2 p.m. – Callaway Chamber of Commerce
510 Market St., Fulton

March 27, 2 p.m. – Mexico Chamber of Commerce
100 W. Jackson St., Mexico

RSVP: DDELONG@ENTDEVCORP.ORG

4.6.24
PIXELS
WITH A PURPOSE
Gamers for Shelter Game Day

10 AM to 8 PM
Hart Career Center Mexico, MO

Tournaments: Poker, Nerts, Ticket to Ride, Hungry Hippos, and Trouble Magic the Gathering Event
Esports Tournament: Super Smash Bros. Ultimate
Free Play: Mario Kart, Original Mario Nintendo, Loran, and much more!

FREE T-SHIRT IF REGISTERED BY MARCH 15!
Event Entry Fee: \$5
Tournament Fee: \$5 per tournament or \$25 for all tournaments
Magic Tournament: \$35
Early Registration Deadline: March 15

To register, go to: www.facebook.com/acsrc.mo
Online Registration ends March 30th!

COSTUME CONTEST WITH COSPLAY

\$100 PRIZE POOL FOR TOURNAMENT WINNERS!

FOOD VENDORS: DIRTY REDS AND THE BOONIE CLUB

RAFFLES WITH COOL PRIZES

Lunch & Learn

March 21, 2024

11:30-1:00pm

Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce
100 W. Jackson St. - Mexico, MO 65265



Program Presented by:
Jason W. Landrum, M.A., CISSP
AJROTC Cybersecurity Instructor
Missouri Military Academy

We will discuss various topics, including but not limited to end-of-life software, passwords, onboarding/offboarding employees, antivirus, group accounts, admin vs. user accounts, firewalls, WiFi, etc.

RSVP by March 18, 2024 by email or phone
mexicochamber@mexico-chamber.org or 573-581-2765
LUNCH PROVIDED BY CENTRAL BANK @ 11:30am

Sponsored by:



Spring at Scattering Fork Outdoor Center

Sights, Sounds and Smells of Spring at Scattering Fork Outdoor Center Sunday, March 17 - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. just 2 days early, Spring comes the 19th this year. Come out to Scattering Fork Outdoor Center and pick violets and spring beauties. Listen to spring peepers (tiny frogs), smell wild onions and garlic (can you tell them apart) and Spice Bushes blooming. Just enjoy nature on our trails. \$2.00 donation appreciated. Call 573-581-3003 for more information. Our address is 15640 Audrain Road 815, Mexico, MO 65265.



www.modot.com



The 4th Quarter, 2023 Excellence in Business Award recipient is Pearl Motor Company! Logan Ray, the VP of Business Services for the Mexico Area Chamber of Commerce presented George Huffman, owner of Pearl Motor Company the award on February 16th at the chamber's annual dinner.

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**Sale
into Spring!
Cha-Ching!**

**Saturday, April 13
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Grab a passport at any participating business and then stop by each one to get your passport stamped. Leave completed passport at one of the participating businesses for a chance to win one of five **\$100 CASH PRIZES**

Purchases made, allow for an entry into that business's special drawing.