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Newsletter

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POSTAL PATRON

K & K Welding



“In the welding and manufacturing business you wear a lot of hats,” Kelly Wohlert, owner and operator of the newly established St. Edward business K & K Welding, said when we first asked him about the new endeavor. “Depending on the day you can be an engineer, welder, psychiatrist, public relations person, machinist, and even secretary!” With over 35 years of experience in machining and welding Kelly and his wife Cyndi of O’Neill are very excited about the opportunities that Boone County has to offer.

Operating their current K & K Welding & Manufacturing shop in O’Neill for the last 19 years, Kelly has been looking for an opportunity to expand to Boone County for the last few years. When J & J Repair in St. Edward became available and Kelly realized his services may be something missing from the area, he jumped at the opportunity. Cyndi told him at his age he was crazy to open a second shop, but Kelly saw an opportunity to save a current Boone County business and expand his own and couldn’t pass up that chance.

Having worked rurally in Nebraska for many years, Kelly has knowledge and experience working with everything from basic stick and wire welding to building and machining custom pieces, working on trailers, wagons, combines, shafts, augers, hitches, key-ways and many more. (Literally the list of things Kelly can work on or machine was too long for this article!) Kelly said, “If it’s made out of metal, we can fix it.” It’s that kind of experience, positive attitude, and hard-working demeanor that is sure to make K & K a successful business in Boone County.

Two full time employees will join Kelly and Cyndi at the St. Edward location. Bryce Dexter, formerly of Chambers, will be the location manager in St. Edward, Royce Case, a St. Edward native, recently joined the crew. Bryce previously worked at the O’Neill location and will now be a full time manager in St. Edward once the business is fully operational. Kelly & Cyndi will spend a couple days per week in St. Edward while still living in and running their O’Neill operation.

Kelly mentioned that for him the key to running a successful business is working with the customer to get the job done right the first time. With the type of manufacturing, welding, and machining K & K does, customer input is always appreciated because almost anything you bring in he can customize to your liking. We joked in our office that K & K’s slogan should be “JUST ASK KELLY,” because if there is a product you need, he’ll find it and he’ll get it for you.



Kelly Wohlert, Royce Case, and Bryce Dexter

K & K in St. Edward officially opened for business on June 1, 2015 and is open Monday-Friday 7:30-6:00. You can reach Kelly & Cyndi at either their O’Neill (402-336-2003) or St. Edward location (106 S 3rd St. – 402-678-2231)

Message from the Boone County Development Agency - “Buying Local”

Loyalty to Boone County and each of its community’s local businesses is sometimes overlooked, whether it is in Albion, Primrose, St. Edward, Cedar Rapids, or Petersburg. Big box stores can make it seem so easy to shop out of town, but the effects are felt here in Boone County. Boone County Development Agency wants to make you aware of the effects and stress just how important shopping local is to the economy of Boone County.

For every dollar spent in our local independent businesses, that dollar is then spent 6 to 15 times more before it leaves the community and on average \$5 to \$14 of value is created within that community. What does that mean to our communities you may ask?

1. Job Creation – The more profitable and successful our local independent businesses are the more opportunity there are for them to create jobs. Just having the ability for our independent businesses to hire on 1 more full time employees can make a huge impact on the economy and in turn draw more individuals to the area.
2. Financially Sound Communities – As more people work and reside in that community, more money is then being spent in that community. Most local economies work on very slim margins so every dollar counts!
3. Enhanced community uniqueness and awareness – Local businesses bring outside awareness to the county and adds a special uniqueness and individuality that makes living in the community that much better.
4. The People – The most important piece to every community are the people, and those that open their doors every morning on our Main Streets in hopes of making “Ends Meet” rely on the support, patronage, and loyalty of the others within the community and county. Those same business men and women that rely on YOU, the community members, to support them are the same ones that support our local churches, schools, parks, boy and girl scouts, fairs, raffles, sports teams, Booster Clubs, wildlife groups, and many other fundraisers and groups. Not only that, but they are the same people who volunteer their time and lives to be Fire Fighters, EMT’s, First Responders, mentors, coaches, and community event leaders, etc.

Buying local is a give and take relationship that must not be taken for granted! Next time you head to the store, remember what buying local means not just for the business owner and not just for yourself, but what impact it can have on everyone in your community and county as a whole! Live well Boone County!

Doug Koch and Mitch Glesinger - BCDA Staff

St. Edward Development Company

The St. Edward Development Company is happy to announce that they recently gained their 501(C) (3) status making them a public charity non-profit organization. This will allow them to continue to serve the St. Edward area in community and economic development.

Sharp Plumbing and Repair LLC



Mike Sharp

With his wife, Tanya, and 3 children Mike Sharp moved to Albion looking for a place to call home. Tanya, having been recently recruited for the CFO position at the Boone County Hospital, was the reason for the move but Mike said overall it was more than that. They had moved around a bit in the past and wanted a place to settle down with their three young children, a permanent place they could grow up in and a community the family could become a part of.

Having been an experienced plumber of 15 years, it was obvious right away that forming his own LLC to do plumbing and repair work in the area could make Mike a successful living. Mike has worked in a wide variety of areas in his past including for Culligan in water quality, plumbing for large and small operations, and gained experience through many difference facets of the plumbing and water world.

Working with mainly residential plumbing Mike became bonded and insured and officially opened for business in Albion on June 1st. He prefers to stay away from the underground work but otherwise can handle most any residential or commercial plumbing issues you may have. Mike is also a Mi-T-M dealer and has power washers, compressors, and generators for sale along with his repair and plumbing operation. He is excited to soon build a shop behind their current Albion residence to operate out of and be on the lookout for his service truck around town; it'll be hard to miss!

Mike said the family loves the Albion area so far, and he has been able to keep very busy just on word of mouth business. He is very community orientated and is excited to keep meeting and helping more in the area. Currently, Mike is willing to travel the Boone County area (he is not limited to just Albion) and welcomes calls day or night as emergency service is available 24/7! You can reach him at 402-741-2739, via email at sharpplumbing@yahoo.com, or on Facebook at Sharp Plumbing and Repair LLC.



Gingo Joe's

She was a nurse. He was a computer administrator. Now, Tim and Laurie Frey are owners and operators of Gringo Joes Cantina in Cedar Rapids. Looking for a way to move out of Denver, Laurie originally from the area, suggested a move back to her hometown. The couple purchased a home in 2010 and over the next few years fixed it up, preparing for the move. The full time move was made in 2013 with the goal of semi-retirement.

Laurie has always loved to cook and throw dinner parties, so when the opportunity to take that to the next level arose they were both beyond excited. The couple officially took over on May 11th and Tim told me, "It's been a lot of fun so far. There has been such a huge amount of support from the community, and we have made so many new friends."

Laurie is excited about the different events, parties, and food specials she will be able to serve and host at the new establishment. She said they have the best homemade pizza around and wants everyone to be on the lookout for special events such as live music, karaoke, steak and BBQ nights as well as ladies nights, formal parties, and more. Tim said he is working hard to support the business side of things while Laurie shows off her cooking talent, but with his vast computer experience has also been helping locally with technical computer support.

Currently Gringo's is open Tuesday-Saturday 8 AM-Close with the grill typically running from 11 AM -11PM. They have specials every weekday starting at 11:30 AM (check their Facebook page under "Gringo's" to see those and other special events!) and Happy Hour specials every evening Tuesday-Friday. Laurie said her food is always a hearty "meat and potato" style and hopes everyone has a chance to stop in and say hi; the couple would love to meet you. You can contact Gringo Joe's on Facebook, or at their Cedar Rapids location, 303 W Main St. (308) 358-0412.



Laurie and Tim Frey

Petersburg Duplex

With affordable housing always being a Boone County focal point, the Petersburg Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) was excited to complete a 2400+ sq. foot duplex that will make residences available for two more families in the area. The PIDC made sure that Boone County contractors were used for the entire construction period, and local retailers were used for purchasing materials. Currently both sides of the duplex are being rented to tenants, but the duplex is available for outright purchase at any time. Please contact the Petersburg City Clerk at 402-386-5551 for more information or to inquire about purchase of the unit.



Prairie Breeze Wind Farm

The Prairie Breeze II wind farm is currently under construction in Boone & Antelope counties, expected to begin commercial operation in 2016. This new addition has a max capacity of 73,500 kilowatts, and the average annual energy output could power up to 30,000 homes! The Lincoln Electric System is committed to buying 73 megawatts already and because of the output and need a for a 3rd farm, Prairie Breeze III is also under construction. In conjunction with the 118 tower Prairie Breeze I Wind Farm located in Boone, Antelope, and Madison counties the total annual power output could power 90,000 homes. The total number of towers once completed will be over 180, have an output of over 200 megawatts, and provide employment to 20 or more full time employees that reside in Boone & Antelope County.



Timeless - Floral, Rentals, & Decor

With a takeover date of August 10th, Jackie Borer, owner of the new local business "Timeless – Floral, Rentals, & Décor" (formerly Amy's Flower Basket) said, "We are still getting situated, but I am excited to keep growing and encouraged by the amount of interest I have seen already!" Jackie, having worked in the flower business in the past and more recently in the wedding decorating and rental business, was very excited when the opportunity arose to get a store front for Timeless and to add the floral business.

At Timeless, Jackie can be a one stop shop for weddings, showers, seasonal parties, and other events. She said the name comes from many of her décor pieces being "Timeless, things that always have been and always will be in style." Along with meeting rental, decorating, and floral needs she does sell antique and décor pieces as well as Stellas Furniture Paint and Maddison Avenue Candles.

Jackie started decorating weddings last year and since April established herself as a local business. She has help from everyone in her family and earlier this year her daughter's wedding that she decorated for was featured on the Nebraska Wedding Day blog. She is currently working on a website but can be found on Facebook at Timeless Rentals & Décor or at the store in Albion, 354 West Main St. (402-843-0253). She looks forward to growing Timeless and hopes everyone stops in to check out the store changes!



Jackie Borer