

Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce Weekly Update January 16, 2004

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS: This past week was an excellent one when it comes to lifting the spirits of the community.

- USEC's announcement that it plans to build the new \$1.5 billion American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon (rather than Kentucky) certainly was welcome. The 500 permanent jobs it will bring by 2010 and the 300-400 construction jobs beginning in a year or two will help bolster the local economy and should result in spin-off jobs in other sectors, such as services and retail. Local and state officials put together an incentive package that USEC couldn't overlook. From left in photo are Gov. Bob Taft, Pike County Commissioner Jim Brushart, USEC CEO Nick Timbers, Rep. Rob Portman and Bruce Johnson, director of the Ohio Department of Development.
- Alan Mayne, plant manager at the Kenworth Truck Co., noted at the chamber's Wednesday's Networking Luncheon that employment there is back to 1,200 and will be headed even higher if the parent company goes along with plans for \$70 million in improvements in the next few years, including an enlarged paint department.
- Lee Bendtsen, operations manager at MeadWestvaco (and a chamber board member), outlined at the same luncheon what is being done there to help preserve the approximately 1,780 jobs at the local plant with new products as the market for carbonless paper continues to shrink worldwide. Some exciting new ventures are in the works, including the new MagneCote paper.
- Pat McAllister announced the tenant for the new building going up behind his Dakota's Roadhouse off Western Avenue: the Ohio Department of Job and Family Service claims processing center for the unemployed. It will mean about 46 new jobs and returns to Chillicothe a place where the unemployed can file their claims and get answers to questions. The 10,000 square foot structure is being built by AKM Building Systems.



HANDING OVER THE REINS: Like his father before him, Bill Herrnstein officially turned over day-to-day operations of Herrnstein Chrysler Inc. to his son, Bart. He becomes the fifth president/CEO of the firm that began in 1945 on West Water Street downtown. The company was founded by Hobart Walsh and his daughter and son-in-law, Lucille and Art Herrnstein. Bart, a graduate of Zane Trace, is credited with landing three franchises in the past seven years: Jeep, Daewoo and most recently, Mitsubishi. The Herrnstains noted that business has gone from delivering 618 new and used vehicles and total sales of \$5.9 million in 1988 to 1,469 deliveries with sales of \$28.5 million last year. Chamber members and their guests will get a chance to congratulate

the Herrnstains this coming Wednesday as they host the Business After Business from 5-7 p.m. To register: [BAB registration](#)

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT: Pioneer Center is looking for nominations to honor adults and children with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities who have overcome life obstacles and nominations of individuals, businesses and organizations which have in some way created awareness of or assisted those with disabilities. Winners will be honored at an event during

MR/DD Month in March. Forms must be returned by Jan. 30 and may be obtained from the center or by calling 773-8044 or at First Capital Enterprises, Easter Seals, Main Resource or Pioneer School.



WORKSHOPS PLANNED: The SHRM South Central Human Resource Council and the Ohio State University Extension Service are combining to offer “The Fish Philosophy” and “Communicating Through Relationships” workshops on Wednesday, Feb. 11. The Fish workshop is 8:30-11:30 a.m. and the second one is 12:30-4:30 p.m. with lunch in between at the Ross County Service Center. The fee is \$30. For reservations, send a check made payable to the Ohio Employer Council to Sonya Brown at Personnel Solutions, 153 S. Paint St. or give her a call at 779-5352. The deadline to register is Feb. 6.

CONGRATS TO FAIR BOARD: Ross County fared very well at the annual convention of the Ohio Fair Managers Association in Columbus earlier this month. Gary Prater was selected a district director, Jean Gray was named Outstanding Fair Supporter for the district, James Cawley was inducted into the group’s Hall of Fame and the local board took first-place plaques for newspaper ads and website homepage (www.rosscountyfair.com) and second place for outdoor ads and printed promotional publications.

NEWEST PLATINUM MEMBER: Preferred Staffing Personnel signed on this week to become a premium member of the chamber, at the Platinum level. It also is a new member of the chamber.

WAL-MART MANAGER STARTS: John Chlovechok is the new manager at the local Wal-Mart, having come from stores in northern Ohio. He says he’s glad to get away from all the snow. He’s originally from Cambridge. The 80,000-square foot expansion project to convert the store into a supercenter begins in March, he said.



YMCA RENOVATES: The upstairs fitness room at the YMCA of Ross County on Mill Street has new rubber flooring and has 13 new pieces of fitness equipment to go with the resistance training equipment that was moved from downstairs. The lower level now sports a suspended wood floor, mirrors on three sides and new stereo equipment. The Y also is running a special that ends Jan. 31:

Past members can rejoin without paying the joiner fee and new members get one-half off the normal joiner’s fee. Call 772-4340 or e-mail ymcaexec@horizonview.net for details.

VENDORS LICENSES: Here’s who received licenses recently from the Ross County Auditor:

- Knisley’s Rods and More, 217 Nipgen Road, Bainbridge
- Schoolhouse Restaurant, 27470 U.S. Route 35 East
- Dave’s Mechanical, 291 Vine St.
- Scent From Heaven, 7243 Westfall Road
- Opulent Source, 9801 Dry Run Road, Kingston
- Ecstasy Creationz, 20539 State Route 104

NEW MEMBERS: Here’s who’s joined the chamber recently:

- Preferred Staffing Personnel, a subsidiary of Preferred Medical Personnel, run by Ken Shelton and Abby Patches, at 132 N. Mulberry St., 773-8717
- Personal Touch Carpet Cleaning, 787 Jefferson Ave., owned by Jeff Martin, 779-3478



NEW MANAGER: Kevin and Amy Mears recently announced the addition of Pam Porter as the new manager at Mears Photography on East Water Street. She is a Waverly High graduate and holds a degree from Columbus Business University.

CHAMBER CALENDAR:

- Tuesday, January 20-Pathfinders Steering Committee, 3:30 p.m., chamber
- Wednesday, January 21- Business After Business at Herrnstein Chrysler Dodge Jeep Mitsubishi, Marietta Road, 5-7 p.m. [BAB registration](#)
- Thursday, January 22-Board of Directors meeting, noon, YSK Corporation.
- Tuesday, January 27-Ohio Valley Safety Council workshop on safety for nursing home and long-term care employees; 8:30-11:30 a.m., Ross County Service Center, \$25 per person. [Nursing home workshop registration](#)

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