

Hang Your Hat In History
OZONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& VISITOR CENTER PARK

P.O. Box 1135, 505 15th Street, Ozona, TX 76943
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CHAMBER DIALOGUE

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

The Ozona Chamber of Commerce would like to wish the following members a ***Happy Anniversary***, and THANK YOU for your support of the Chamber organization, its programs and services, and your community. We would like to recognize and express our ***SINCERE*** appreciation to the following members who joined during the month of March.

Ozona Veterinary Clinic—1973
J-J Sales— 1996
Travelodge-1996
Wool Growers Central Storage-1996
Baskets & More Garden Center-1997
Circle Bar Truck Corral, Inc.—1997
John Stokes, CPA— 1997
Town & Country Food Stores— 1997
Ozona Country Club-2000
Ms. Louise Ledoux-2002
Triple C Hardware & Lumber, Inc.—2002
Upham Insurance Agency—2004
Escondido Draw Recreational Area-2008
Ozona Environmental, LLC—2008
Texas Motorized Trails Coalition—2008
Farm Bureau Insurance—2009

**CHAMBER
WELCOMES NEW
MEMBERS**

Dollar General
Georgia Morrow, Manager
1105 Sheffield Rd.
Ozona, TX 76943
325/392-9957

Web Site:
www.dollargeneral.com
Open Seven Days A Week
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Retail variety store with food,
clothing, automotive, health care,
gifts, housewares and seasonal
items

Premac
Thomas Welch, Problem Solver
P.O. Box 60508
Midland, TX 79711
432/561-8400
Cell: 432/631-4134

Web Site: www.premacinc.com
*Specializing in Valve Automation
*Instrumentation & Control
*Liquid Gauging & Metering
*Serving Texas & New Mexico

Nat Gas, Inc.
Trudy Barrera, Office Manager
901 Avenue H
Ozona, TX 76943
325/392-2201

Gas distribution for Ozona.
GE & Hot Point Dealer for small
appliances; washers/dryers,
ranges, A/C window units, upright
& chest freezers, refrigerators,
water heaters, Catalog Center
Financing for gas account
Customers

Holland Grills, microwaves, water
heaters



Dollar General Ribbon Cutting

The Dollar General hosted a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening ceremony Saturday, March 13th.

District Manager Lorrie Bauer-Pitts from San Angelo and local Manager Georgia Morrow hosted the event.

Also present for the Ribbon Cutting were County Commissioner Randy Branch, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Lisa Branch and Dustin Couch, Chamber Executive Director Shanon Biggerstaff and Chamber Ambassadors Shirley Kirby, Nell Wester and Joann Babbitt were on hand to celebrate the opening. The new store located at 1105 Sheffield Road, will be open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Dollar General raised \$120 for the Dollar General Literacy Fund selling hot dogs, chips, a drink and popcorn.



Escondido Draw Recreation Area (EDRA) Scheduled to open Labor Day

Labor Day weekend is the scheduled opening for the EDRA. Texas Motorized Trails Coalition (TMTC or www.texasmotorizedtrails.com) will open a 3,400 acre off-road vehicle park, according to an announcement made by Tony Eeds, TMTC President, on March 4th.



The park is located 34 miles west of Ozona, near the Fort Lancaster State Historic Site. It will have trails for off-road motorcycles and four wheel drive vehicles such as jeeps and all-terrain vehicles like four wheelers. There will be areas for the public to camp and will include RV hook-ups with showers and restrooms. The park will include a pavilion available for public use for reunions and other gatherings. It will also include a play area for children. The park will be open from Friday 8am to Sunday at 6pm, with quiet times, being from 10pm to 6am each night. There will be a fee, yet to be determined, to enter the park.

A corner of the park (300 acres) will contain areas for camping, bird watching, and nature tourism activities during the winter and off-season months. To date Texas Parks & Wildlife has identified over 100 species of birds.

The park will draw people and groups from Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Midland and Odessa. "One of the most important things we want to do, within the guidelines of our grant, is to use as many local businesses as possible to build our facilities", said Eeds. "Bid opportunities will be posted in the local paper."

Member Benefit

Hot Deals / Hot Deals eNewsletter:

In an effort to further promote our local businesses, and to encourage local residents to shop in Ozona, members can post Hot Deals on the Chamber website. If you have an e-mail address, by now you have received a Hot Deal E-newsletter. This is a short e-mail informing you of a Hot Deal your fellow Chamber member has posted on our web site.

A Hot Deal can be a discounted item or service, or used to move out old inventory. Many business members are simply using the Hot Deal section of our web site to gain additional visibility. Visitors to our web site can click on a Hot Deal, print it, and e-mail it to a friend.

Over sixteen local businesses offering everything from lodging, computer repair, printing, tree trimming and more, have posted a Hot Deal that YOU can take advantage of.

Visit www.ozona.com. On the home page, click Hot Deals. A list will come up. To the right you will see the business offering the Hot Deal. On the left is a list of categories to choose from. Click on the Hot Deal of your choice and a coupon will come up. **Member businesses who have posted a Hot Deal are seeing these coupons turned into their businesses.**

ASU Small Business Development Tips

A recent study by the Small Business Administration reveals that when unemployment is high, the number of sole proprietorships increases. Many people who have lost their jobs decide to start a small business. If you find yourself in this situation, unemployed and thinking about starting a new business, chances are good you will not have much money with which to start.

I want to share with you ten businesses with growth potential that require little startup capital. Many of these businesses can be operated out of your home. Most require minimal equipment except for a computer, printer, phone, some tools and a vehicle. You will not need a degree or any highly specialized training other than what you already have or can learn on the job.

Consulting for your former employer or in your previous industry. Even though your employer has downsized, it doesn't mean the work you used to do disappeared. Many times employers rehire previous employees as consultants. Do not underestimate the value of your skills in the open market. Use those contacts you made in the past. Network online and visit freelance marketplaces to find opportunities.

Web businesses. Publishing ad supported content websites, affiliate marketing, Search Engine Optimization consulting, e-commerce sites and eBay are a few examples of web based businesses in which many entrepreneurs thrive.

Virtual assistant. There are a growing number of people that work virtually. With the increased volume of email and other correspondence there is a need for virtual assistants.

Online social media consulting; online content production. It is an understatement to say that social media has exploded in the past couple of years. Social media and the content that goes with it is time consuming for many businesses.

Convenience services for consumers. When the economy picks up again people will start spending more on luxury items; the little conveniences. Consider dog walking or sitting, house cleaning or gourmet coffee.

Pet businesses. American consumers spend \$10 billion a year on pet supplies and \$3 billion a year on pet services. These numbers are expected to grow in 2010 and beyond.

Kids products or services. It may be hard to believe but you can find kids' online communities, spas for kids and even entrepreneurial support for children and teenagers.

Mobile apps development and mobile consulting. There are four times more cell phones in the world than computers and 20% of all U. S. households are now mobile only. Businesses are becoming more interested in mobile marketing and will need assistance to reach their customers.

Specialty foods. Consumers are more health and wellness conscious and are driving demand for specialty foods. Always check city and state licensing requirements for food businesses.

Landscaping and handyman services. Home owners and businesses always need help with maintenance. These types of businesses are relatively easy to start.

As always when starting a business do your due diligence. Research the business and the market to make sure there is demand. Come to the SBDC and we can help you with the process.

“Business Tips” was written by Mr. Paul Howard, Business Development Specialist and Certified Business Advisor III of Angelo State University’s Small Business Development Center. For more information on the topic of this article or the services of the ASU • SBDC, contact him at Paul.Howard@angelo.edu.