

Our mission is to encourage economic development and growth and improve the business conditions of the Falls City area.

edge

MFG DAY BRING MANUFACTURING TO LIFE FOR STUDENTS

If you've never visited a modern manufacturing facility, you might be forgiven for picturing a choppy black-and-white film of a Henry Ford assembly line. The fact is, however, that industrial shops aren't what they used to be. Today's trades feature some of the most sophisticated operations in history—computer-assisted engineering, advanced robotics, and other cutting-edge innovations.

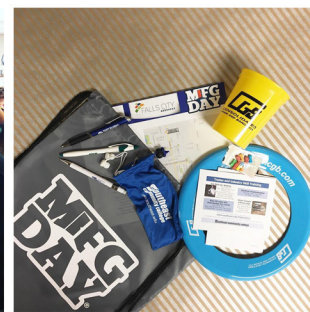
The idea of MFG Day, an annual event founded in 2012 and supported by a multitude of manufacturing trade associations, is to invite people into local facilities to observe manufacturing operations first-hand. It's a nation-wide effort aimed at addressing common misperceptions about manufacturing by giving manufacturers an opportunity to open their doors and show, in a coordinated effort, what manufacturing is — and what it isn't. This year the national event has a local focus with Falls City EDGE coordinating an event that includes some 300 middle school students from Falls City Middle School, Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer, and Sacred Heart. Students will have an opportunity to check out careers, facilities and manufactured products built in Falls City. Each student will have the opportunity to tour two or three sites including Airlanco, FAST Global Solutions, Vantec, Inc., Falls City Foods, Frost – Tec, and Consolidated Grain and Barge. They will have firsthand knowledge of the skills and education needed to obtain a career in the agricultural, plastics, metal manufacturing and food industries.

This year's event comes at a vital time in US manufacturing. While fewer people work in the manufacturing sector, overall output has increased for several decades, as industries use more sophisticated machinery on the shop floor. Running these hi-tech machines requires a skilled workforce with math, computing, and engineering skills, in

Continued on Page 2

In this issue

MFG Day **P.2**
It Pays to Job Shadow! **P.3**
Upcoming Events **P.3**
Governor Ricketts Visits Falls City **P.4**
EDGE/Chamber Welcomes Laura **P.5**
SCC Class **P.5**
Kearney Welding **P.6**
Ames Corporate Visit! **P.6**
Photo of the Quarter **P.7**



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Continued from page 1

addition to lower skilled workers to manage other tasks.

The upshot? “Workers with the right skill set are in high demand in today’s manufacturing segment,” said Beckie Cromer, Executive Director of Falls City EDGE. “These tours are a great opportunity for local youth to see first-hand how promising a career in manufacturing can be.”

Jerry “Ruben” Koopman, owner and plant manager at FAST Inc, which manufactures heavy equipment, said he’s happy to invite area youth into the company. The students “will one day be our leaders and [business] owners,” he said. “We feel it is important to support our area students while giving them an inside look at what is available for their growth right here in their own backyard!”

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GENERATES TAX GROWTH

FALLS CITY EDGE PROJECT

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Vantec, INC | \$16,556 |
| Grand Weaver Hotel | \$5,614 |
| Flat Water Windfarm, LLC | \$211,080 |
| Herzog Track Expansion | \$23,378 |
| Airlanco R&D | \$3,387 |
| CMC to FCIDC | \$2,913 |
| Falls City Homefront | \$3,204 |
| Falls City Homefront | \$3,567 |
| Kasel Industry Expansion | \$3,000 |
| Wilderness Falls II | \$2,068 |
| Kearney Welding | \$1,500 |

TIF PROJECTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Wilderness Falls I | \$1,917 |
| Vision Inn | \$11,000 |
| CGB | \$300,000 |
| Armbruster Motor Company (Estimated) | \$7,000 |

**TOTAL ANNUAL R/E
PROPERTY TAX PAID
THROUGH EDGE PROJECTS:
\$276,276**

**TOTAL AMOUNT PAID
THROUGH ALL PROJECTS
INCLUDING TIF:
\$596,184**

#FALLSCITYPROUD



SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE

On October 4th, Bob Morgan, Vice President for Program Development/Beatrice campus Director provided the following update regarding the Falls City Learning Center construction planning:

- Project Control is working with Olsson and Associates to develop a contract for Olsson to be the Civil Engineer on the project. Their team will be working on infrastructure and wetlands delineation .
- Recently, Dr. Paul Illich, President of Southeast Community College (SCC), sent out a letter of interest, through project control, to 9 Architectural firms seeking interest in doing the Falls City Learning Center for SCC. Those letters of interest will be submitted to Dr. Illich’s office no later than noon October 18th 2017.
- Project Control is developing a tentative timeline to get the project completed so SCC will be able to provide more information in the future.

Falls City EDGE will continue to provide updates as the project continues to evolve. To learn more about SCC and the local programming available at the Falls City Learning Center contact Holly Carr, Learning Center Coordinator, (402) 323-3396.

Exploring Careers Through Job Shadowing



Ryan Keithley,
Senior at Sacred Heart

It pays to job shadow, literally! Just ask Ryan Keithley, a senior at Sacred Heart High School, who spent his summer working as a result of a job shadowing experience from his junior year. Ryan worked at Lifetime Vision Center in Auburn during the summer and that opportunity allowed him to gain firsthand knowledge of the optometry business. It also gave him insight into an industry he has interest in pursuing after high school.

Job shadowing allows students to gain comprehensive knowledge about what an employee who holds a particular job does every day. The job shadowing student is able to observe how the employee performs the job, the key deliverables expected from the job, the education and skills necessary to obtain the job and the employees with whom the job interacts. It's a great way for local students to engage with our regional employers about the opportunities available right here in the area. It is an activity that could spark interest in a student returning home to start their career once they have completed college or gained the technical skills necessary to perform the job.

Our local schools allow students to take time to participate in job shadowing activities which allows our kids to become engaged with employers. Our employers have been accommodating to student requests which is a great way for them to make a connection that may pay dividends in the future. So, if the phone rings and it's a student interested in learning more about what your business is about, take the call, open your doors and expose them to the complexities of your industry. Make that valuable connection. Who knows, they may knock on your door again someday!



CLICK IT. POST IT. TAG IT.
#FALLSCITYPROUD

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Falls City EDGE collaborates with many partners throughout the year and hosts many community events. Here are some upcoming events:

October 19th - Inventure Day
October 22nd - FC Volunteer Ambulance Squad Spaghetti Dinner
October 31st - Spooks on Stone
November 24th - Home for the Holidays
January 10th - EDGE Annual Banquet

Governor Ricketts celebrates prestigious award in Falls City

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts visited Falls City in July to celebrate the economic vitality of the state, which was recently recognized by Site Selection magazine with its prestigious “Governor’s Cup” award. The annual honor is designed to acknowledge states that excel in economic development and job growth.

Among his stops in Falls City was an appearance at the recently established Falls City Foods, which is owned and operated by the Colorado-based Great West – Teeuwissen company. The facility, which processes animal byproducts, brought an estimated \$1.7 million in capital investment and substantial employment growth to the Falls City region.

A success story for the local economy, the Falls City Foods location also helped propel Nebraska above competing states for the Governor’s Cup. The award is based in part on which state can claim the most capital investment projects, like the Falls City Foods plant, per capita.

“We’re proud of our success in Falls City, and we are extremely grateful for the Governor’s visit, as well as the Governor’s Cup award,” said Falls City EDGE Executive Director Beckie Cromer,

who led the complex and multifaceted effort to attract Great West – Teeuwissen to Falls City. “At the same time, the award just confirms what Cornhuskers have always known—that we have a gem of a location for businesses and for families.”

Site Selection magazine cited a number of factors that contribute to Nebraska’s thriving economy: A high rate of participation in the labor force, a stellar education system, and reliable and affordable utilities, among them. Nebraska ranks among the top 10 states for affordable power and has the second highest high school graduation rate in the nation. These assets have attracted businesses and entrepreneurs across a wide range of industries, including ethanol, wind, and natural gas; craft brewing; and high-tech.

In accepting the award in March, Governor Ricketts acknowledged these and other benefits the state offers. “Our business-friendly regulatory environment, high labor force participation rate, competitive power rates, and quality infrastructure combine to create an attractive environment for job creators and entrepreneurs,” he said. “Above all things, I know from personal experience in hiring Nebraskans that our people are our biggest competitive advantage.”

But while the award is an important acknowledgement of Nebraska’s achievements, Ricketts stressed the importance of ongoing economic development efforts—like those of Cromer and her colleagues at organizations across the state—to continue to build the state’s economic strength.

“Economic development is a competitive environment,” said Ricketts. “We must continue to work to build new competitive advantages to keep Nebraska the best place in the world to live, work, and raise a family.”



Falls City Foods shares in the Governor's Cup Tour



Governor Ricketts tours Falls City Foods

Falls City EDGE/Chamber Welcomes Laura Thompson

Falls City EDGE/Chamber and Main Street welcomed a new office partner in September. Laura (Stevens) Thompson, moved home to Falls City this past summer and is telecommuting in her position with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as their Nebraska On-Farm Research Network & Ag Technology Extension Educator. Her work is exciting, driven by advances in technology and helps farmers and crop advisors use available agriculture technologies to assess crop production strategies and improve farm profitability. You can learn more about her work and how you can be involved by visiting farmresearch.unl.edu.

In her spare time, Laura and her husband Nate are working to grow their business, Good Life Precision Ag. They offer drone imagery services (Red/Green/Blue and vegetative indices with near-infrared band, such as Normalised Difference Vegetation Index.), precision ag data analytics, prescription map creation and drone videography. Check out the Good Life Precision Ag YouTube video to learn more <http://bit.ly/goodlifeag>.

Welcome back to Falls City Laura!

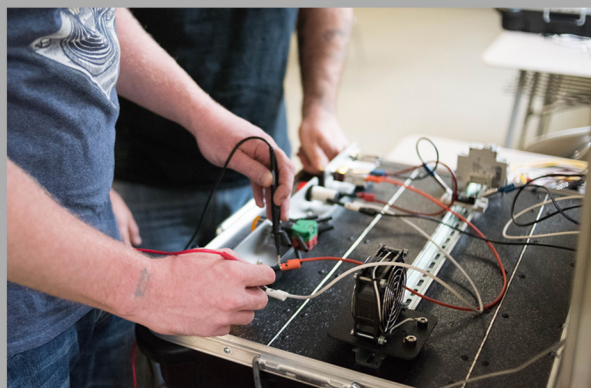


LOCAL WORKERS COMPLETE SKILLS TRAINING

FAST Global Solutions and Vantec, Inc. employees upgraded their skills in the Falls City EDGE sponsored Electrical Fundamentals class offered by Southeast Community College. This three-day seminar covered electrical fundamentals from a troubleshooting perspective. Participants learned what to expect in operational series, parallel and combination circuits through measuring voltage resistance and current flow with digital multimeters. Topics they covered included electrical terminology, Ohm's Law, schematic reading components wiring and safe work practices. This hands-on, skill-enhancing class supported the advancement of knowledge of employees which, in turn, add value to the companies they represented. Summer school is cool!



#fallscityproud



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INVENTURE



DAY

10.19.2017

Falls City
Middle School



For more information contact
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Extension Educator,
402.245.4324

The Ames Companies Headquarter Visit



Falls City EDGE Marketing and Sales committee members Kevin Malone, Gary Jorn and Beckie Cromer completed a corporate headquarter call to the Ames Companies in Camp Hill, PA in September. It was an informational visit and they had an opportunity to meet with The Ames Companies management team which included, Bob Novak Chief Operating Officer, Jacob Haas Vice President of Operations, Manufacturing and Chris Ebeling Human Resource Director. It was noted that the Ames Companies were making a significant investment in Falls City by bringing back presses that will increase output volume at the local plant. John Martin, local plant manager, is working hard to bring the new equipment online by December 1st 2017. This is a

vital part of their sustainable growth plan for the Falls City location which also includes returning valuable jobs to the area. We look forward to the opportunities that await this location in terms of investment and job growth for the remainder of 2017 and beyond!

To learn more about the Ames Companies visit their website at www.ames.com.

Congratulations to Kearney Welding!

Kearney Welding is open for business and family, friends, business and community leaders celebrated by attending the Grand Opening on Thursday August 10th! The Falls City EDGE Investor and Communications team hosted the event which included cupcakes and a ribbon cutting.



Join the EDGE team and invest in the future of Falls City/Richardson County!

Investment levels range from \$5,000 for Visionary to \$100 for Supporters

To Learn more about EDGE's program of work, visit the EDGE website or contact Beckie Cromer, Executive Director, at 402-245-2105 or email director@fallscityedge.com

PHOTO OF THE QUARTER



Calvin Santo, son of Tony and Jessica Santo, enjoys the total solar eclipse on August 21st.

COMING SOON: NEW INDUSTRIAL PARK SIGN



FALLS CITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH
ENTERPRISE (EDGE)



Instagram

FALLSCITYPROUD



FALLSCITYEDGE

Falls City Economic Development
& Growth Enterprise (EDGE)
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info@fallscityedge.com

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Jessica Santo, Administrative Assistant

Visit us online
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