



Chamber Connection

Your Guide To The Business Community And the Craig Chamber Of Commerce

Survey: Chamber members are most creditworthy

Craig Chamber of Commerce members on average are a more creditworthy group than Colorado businesses in general, according to a study by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.

The American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) published a new study detailing the credit scores and payment behavior of ten local chambers of commerce across the United States, comparing their member businesses with other regional, state and national business averages.

Produced by Cortera, a community-driven business credit bureau, on behalf of ACCE, the study showed that chamber of commerce members possess an average credit score of 629, compared to a 557 average score for businesses at large. Such

scores – the payment behavior from which they are derived – play a significant role in attracting lines of credit and securing favorable terms from lenders and suppliers.

“This study shows a fact that we have been aware of for several years,” Craig Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Christina Oxley said. “Investing in your local Chamber is a decision based on more than the direct benefits businesses receive, it is an investment in your community and the businesses owners who make that investment generally subscribe to a higher quality of business practices.”

A complete copy of the study, which includes both the aggregate findings, as well as the individual commercial credit scores for each chambers studied, is

Chamber of Commerce members possess an average credit score of 629, compared to a 557 average score for businesses at large.

available on the ACCE and Cortera sites. The study was contracted by ACCE and performed by Cortera, which reviewed payment behavior for chamber member businesses.

“Chamber members have long been seen as responsible and reliable members of their community,” said Mick Fleming, president and CEO of ACCE. “What this study indicates is that the perception is right. From a credit standpoint, chamber members on average are better businesses, and as a result they have significant

advantages in obtaining the funds they need. In this economy and the tight credit environment we are experiencing, that’s especially important.”

“The economic health of the entire supply chain is dependent on the payment behavior of each of its stakeholders,” said Jim Swift, president and CEO of Cortera. “This study suggests that chamber members are among the most dependable participants in this ecosystem.”

About the American Chamber

Continued on page 14.

Your Chamber works for you

CHAMBER SERVICES

- ◆ More than \$280,000 a year stays in Moffat County and is spent at local businesses because of the Craig Chamber of Commerce’s spree dollar program.
- ◆ As home to the Sportsmen Information Center and the Moffat County Visitor’s Center, the Craig Chamber of Commerce offers “one-stop-shopping” for visitors, new residents and businesses.
- ◆ The Craig Chamber of Commerce staff, board and ambassadors work with community groups to host special events for residents to enjoy and to draw visitors.
- ◆ Event planners and visitors go first to the Craig Chamber of Commerce for the community’s best source of event information. The Chamber manages a centralized calendar of events.
- ◆ Live, work and play in Moffat County — The Craig Chamber of Commerce has extensive information for businesses, residents and visitors.
- ◆ Register your OHVs and snowmobiles at the Chamber office and pick up your annual state park pass.
- ◆ Looking for maps? The Chamber of Commerce has city, county, forest service and BLM maps.
- ◆ We sell national forest wood-cutting and Christmas tree cutting permits.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- ◆ Information about your business is available at www.craig-chamber.com, one of Moffat County’s most-visited Web sites. Increase your presence with banner ads.
- ◆ Better your business. The Craig Chamber of Commerce offers several educational seminars throughout the year on topics ranging from customer service to marketing strategies.
- ◆ Get the jump on your competitors. Chamber members have access to information on people or businesses considering relocating to Moffat County.
- ◆ The Chamber is the county’s premier networking association. Get mailing lists, business information and make connections at seminars and social events.
- ◆ Free notary services for members.
- ◆ Have a mass mailing? Save time by using the Chamber’s folding machine. Automated single and triple folding.
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Hot deals, member deals get new look

Member logo identifies each deal; Member gets more focus

Hot Deals and Member-to-Member Deals posted on the Craig Chamber of Commerce Web site may now include the member’s logo next to their listing and the display of Hot Deals and Member-to-Member Deals will be spaced to better highlight each deal and place more focus on the providing member.

If uploaded, the member’s logo will display prominently in the listing of deals.

“Our Web site sees a huge volume of traffic,” Chamber executive director Christina Oxley said. “We’re always looking for better ways to turn that traffic into more attention for our member businesses.”

FEELING CRABBY?

The Craig Chamber of Commerce’s 2010 Crabfest fundraisers drew more than 150 people for generous servings of colossal crab legs and entertainment from comedian Sam Adams and the Moffat County High School acting class. See more pictures on page 13.

CHAMBER PHOTO



We're on a mission

The Chamber’s mission is to build a strong economic environment which contributes to business success by:

- ◆ Supporting public policy which create a viable business community.
- ◆ Providing quality membership services.
- ◆ Supporting aggressive economic and tourism development programs.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Oct. 4 - March 31 • Win the big game hunt of your dreams!

The Craig Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with some of our hunting industry members, is offering the chance to win a quality hunt for the price of a raffle ticket.

Beaver Creek Outfitters

www.huntbeavercreek.com is offering a FULLY GUIDED BULL ELK HUNT for 2nd or 3rd season! This is a chance-in-a-lifetime hunt that includes food and lodging. You can buy a bull elk tag over the counter so the winner is guaranteed access to a license. Units #4, #441, and #214 **Y Lazy S Ranch**

www.ylazysranch.com is offering trespass hunts for 2nd season BUCK DEER and a 4th season BULL ELK HUNT. To obtain access to this high-quality hunting area, contest winners must have obtained a license through the DOW limited license drawing process or possess a leftover license. The ranch will extend these hunts until 2012 if the winner doesn't draw a tag in 2011. Unit 301.

Norman Ranch

www.normanranches.com is offering trespass hunt for a COW ELK. A camper or trailer will be available for lodging. To obtain access to this high-quality hunting area, contest winners must have obtained a license through the DOW limited license drawing process or possess a leftover license. The ranch will extend these hunts until 2012 if the winner doesn't draw a tag in 2011. Units 4 & 301.

Four Mile Ranch/Majestic Outfitters

Four Mile Ranch/Majestic Outfitters is offering a guided RANCHING FOR WILDLIFE BUCK PRONGHORN HUNT. This hunt includes lodging and meals provided by their private chef. The ranching for wildlife vouchers will guarantee you a license is 2011. Public land pronghorn licenses in this area taking about 12 points to draw at this time, so a hunt on this 18,615 --- acre ranch may be your one chance in a lifetime. Units 4 & 301.

Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket any age can win.

Website: www.craig-chamber.com

Contact: 1-800-864-4405 or 970-824-5689

Email: assistant@craig-chamber.com

Details: Drawing will be at 4:30 p.m. March 30, 2011.

Fees/Admission: Guided bull elk - \$25/ ticket

Trespass rifle buck deer - \$20/ ticket

Guided rifle pronghorn buck - \$25/ ticket

Trespass cow elk - \$15/ ticket

Trespass rifle bull elk 4th season- \$20/ ticket

Limited number of tickets available.

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 • Family Game Night

Family Game Night

We provide the games, you provide the family!

Time: 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Moffat County Library Craig Branch, 570 Green St

Contact: 970-824-5116

Date/Time Details: Mondays through 12/27

Fees/Admission: FREE

Nov. 2 • 2010 Start Right: How to start a business 101

First Steps. Business start up and entrepreneur training. This program is designed for "never ever" entrepreneurs who are thinking of starting a business.

Time: 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Website: www.cmedp.com

Location: Moffat County Court House, second floor conference room

Contact: 970-826-2039

Email: director@cmedp.com

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 • Intercambio

This is a free, conversational group for English and Spanish language learners of all levels. Come interact with people of all walks of life in a casual and relaxed environment. The group meets every Tuesday at the Boys and Girls Club of Craig.

Time: 7- 8 p.m.

Website: www.ciiccolorado.org

Location: 1324 E U.S. Hwy 40

Contact: Eveline Bacon

Email: learn@ciiccolorado.org.

Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 • Aging Well - Wellness Wednesdays

The Aging Well Program sponsors Wellness Wednesdays for adults 50 years old and older. Options include art, writing and exercise classes. Lunch is served at each week's lunchtime presentation. Register for activities before each Wednesday.

Time: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Location: American Legion Post, formerly the Shadow Mountain Clubhouse.

Contact: Aging Well (970) 871-7676

Date/Time Details: Every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fees/Admission: none

Nov. 4 • SBA - SBDC Counseling

Looking for free, individualized, confidential advice for starting or improving your small business?

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides services to you through the Small Business Development Centers.

By phone: Call (970) 468-5989

In Person: SBDC will be in Moffat County. Contact CMEDP at (970) 826-2039 or

director@cmedp.com to schedule an appointment for:

Nov. 4, 2010.

Website:

www.coloradosbdc.org

Contact: (970) 826-2039

Email: director@cmedp.com

Nov. 4 • 2010 Grow Right - SBA: Business Success Seminars

Business Growth & Success

Training: Managing Risk:

Important Business Protection

Strategies

Time: 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Website:

www.coloradosbdc.org

Location: Moffat County Court House, second floor conference room

Contact: (970) 826-2039

Email: director@cmedp.com

Fees/Admission: \$10

FREE for Chamber & CMEDP

Members!

Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25 • Yampa Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines practice

Learn the art of barbershop singing. There will be a show next year and a tour of Hawaii to meet another chorus and have the opportunity to teach barbershop singing. Check out the new faces of our chorus!

Time: 7 - 9 p.m.

Location: Craig Middle School -

enter through front side door

Contact: Aaron Gillett

Email: aaronterry@aol.com

Date/Time Details: Every

Thursday, starting at 7 p.m.

Fees/Admission: Only applicable if you join

Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26 • Elks Bingo

Come enjoy an evening of bingo at Elks Lodge #1577. One pack of cards is \$15, two packs is \$25 (\$10 for the second pack), each new pack is \$5. Try it out for \$7.50 for half a pack.

Time: 6 - 10 p.m.

Location: Elks Lodge #1577, 43 West Victory Way

Contact: Frank Sadvar (970)

824-6131

Nov. 5 • Swingin' the Benny Goodman Songbook in concert

Three performers bring you classic popular songs and dance music, so powerful and exiting then, and still captivating us today.

Time: 7 - 9 p.m.

Website:

www.craigconcerts.org

Location: LDS Church, 900

Finley, Craig

Contact: Julie Dempster

Email: heydempster@gmail.com

Fees/Admission: FREE with

membership. Membership

prices: \$35 adult, \$10 student,

\$80 family.

Nov. 6 • Yampa Valley Pregnancy Center's 18th Annual Chili Supper & Silent Auction

This is our big fundraiser of the year. Come and eat some chili while bidding on a number of items from local businesses and individuals!

Location: Boys & Girls Club of

Craig, 1324 E Hwy 40

Contact: Katie Grobe 824-5204

Email: yvpc@rocketmail.com

Date/Time Details: Dinner will

be served at 6 p.m.

Silent Auction ends at 7 p.m.,

and items are awarded immediately following

Fees/Admission: \$6 per person,

\$10 couple, or \$20 for a family

of four (additional children \$2

extra)

Nov. 6, 20 • American Legion Post #62 Bingo

American Legion Post #62 bingo every other Saturday

evening. All are welcome to attend.

Time: 5:30 - 10 p.m.

Location: Elks Lodge, 43 W.

Victory

Contact: Frank Sadvar at (970)

620-0874 or the Post (970) 824-

3625

Fees/Admission: Minimum \$15

for the full event

Nov. 9, 23 • Craig City Council

The Craig City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Log on to

www.ci.craig.co.us for meeting

agendas and minutes.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Website: www.ci.craig.co.us

Location: City Hall, 300 W. 4th

St.

Email: jferree@ci.craig.co.us

Fees/Admission: None

Nov. 11 • Chamber mixer hosted by State Farm Insurance

The Craig Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors invite you and your staff to a Business After-Hours Mixer hosted by State Farm Insurance.

Time: 5 - 7 p.m.

Contact: Please RSVP by calling

(970) 824-5689 or email

Email: office@craig-chamber.com

Nov. 13 • Daughters of the American Revolution

The Augusta Wallihan Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution meets each month. All visitors are welcome.

Location: Museum of Northwest

Colorado, 560 Yampa Ave.

Contact: Shannan Koucherik at

824-9518

Date/Time Details: 2 p.m. the

second Saturday of each

month.

Nov. 13 - 14 • Holiday Craft Show

Holiday Craft Show features various arts & crafts, food & more from over 80 vendors. Stop by and get your Holiday gifts!

Website:

www.centennialmall.com

Location: Centennial Mall, 1111

W. Victory Way

Contact: Vicki Hall (970) 824-

7011

Email:

vhall@coloradosantafe.com

Date/Time Details: Nov. 13:

Noon - 7 p.m., Nov. 14: 9 a.m. -

4 p.m.

Fees/Admission: Free admission

Nov. 16 • Yampa Valley Piecemakers Quilt Guild

Join the Yampa Valley quilt guild in their monthly meetings and enjoy presentations from special guests. The guild meets the third Tuesday of every month. This month will be a Christmas party and elections.

Location: Sunset Meadows

Contact: Linda Pinnt (970) 824-

5219

Nov. 17 • CMEDP Board Meeting

Craig/Moffat Economic Development Partnership's regular monthly board meeting. Community welcome.

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Website: www.cmedp.com

Location: Moffat County Courthouse second floor conference room

Contact: Darcy Trask

Email: director@cmedp.com

Date/Time Details: Third

Wednesday of the month

Fees/Admission: Free

Nov. 18 • Chamber mixer hosted by Holiday Inn of Craig

The Craig Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors invite you and your staff to a Business After-Hours Mixer hosted by Holiday Inn of Craig.

Time: 5 - 7 p.m.

Contact: Please RSVP by calling

(970) 824-5689 or email

Email: office@craig-chamber.com

Nov. 24 • Member Benefit Session

Are you a member of the Chamber and don't know what the Chamber does for your business?

Are you interested in joining the Chamber but don't know exactly what the Chamber does?

Come join us in an informal session to discuss what we do and how we can help you grow your business.

Website: www.craig-chamber.com

Location: Craig Chamber of

Commerce, 360 E. Victory Way,

Craig

Contact: Christina Oxley (970)

824-5689

Email: director@craig-chamber.com

Date/Time Details: There will be

two sessions the fourth

Wednesday of each month.

The first will be at 8 a.m. The

second session will be at noon,

bring your own lunch.

Fees/Admission: Free

Nov. 27 • Preserving the Last Frontier meeting

Preserving the Last Frontier meets the last Saturday of the month. The meeting is open to the public.

Location: Second Floor

Conference Room at Sunset

Meadows, 633 Ledford St, 595

Ledford St.

Contact: 824-6761

Date/Time Details: 1:30 p.m.

Nov. 27 • Parade of Lights - 2010

The Craig Lions Club and the Downtown Business Association Partner to sponsor this annual event to kick off the holiday season. This year's theme is Christmas stories.

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.

Location: Parade begins at

Craig Middle School, travels

down Yampa Avenue until

turning west on Victory Way ,

then turning on Ledford Street.

Contact: Karen Brown, (970)

824-7898

To include your event, or to see additional events, log on to www.craig-chamber.com and click the "Events" button. Choose "submit your own event" and fill out the event details. It's that easy!

2011 Chamber board of directors selected

Chamber members have selected their 2011 board of directors.

Elected in 2010 for the 2011-2013 term are Mardi Anson, Anson Excavating; Missy Bonaker, Bonaker and Associates, Renee Campbell, Holiday Inn and Clay Russell, Atmos Energy.

Twenty-eight percent of Chamber members returned ballots.

"We would be thrilled if every member took the opportunity to guide the direction of the organization they support, but are not unhappy with the number of members who did participate in this election," Chamber Executive Director Christina Oxley said.

After announcing the election

results at its October meeting, the board elected its officers for 2011.

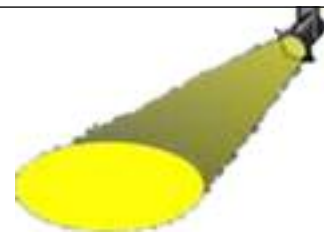
Serving as president of the board will be Jim Herschberg, Trapper Mine. Anson was re-elected as the vice-president and Bonaker as the board's treasurer.

The new board will be seated in January.

The board will meet Dec. 2 for a retreat to set the Chamber's 2011 goals.

Member input is critical to the success of this retreat. Members will be asked to return a short survey on Chamber services and are encouraged to contact the Chamber or any Chamber board members with their feedback on current Chamber services and suggestions for future considerations.

Business Spotlight



Community Budget Center

555 Yampa Ave. • (970) 824-7898

Number of employees: 7

Number of years in business: 30

What is your specialty? Community Budget Center is a non-profit thrift store. We carry a wide variety of gently used merchandise. We have lots of clothing, dishes, furniture, books, household items, sporting goods, and misc.

What is something about your business that people don't seem to know about? We have many brand names and often have antique and collectible items. The inventory changes daily. We also sell cotton rags.

What is your business philosophy?: We provide low cost items to the community and provide a place to drop the things people no longer use in their homes. We use the profits to

assist the needy in our community with shelter, clothing, utilities, rent insurance, transportation, medical needs and many other various needs.

Anything else you would like to add? We offer seasonal items such as Valentines, Easter, Halloween and Christmas items. We put these items out before each season. The clothing is always out for the season we are in currently. The second Saturday of each month we try to have a ½ price sale storewide depending on the amount of inventory we have available. The last Friday and Saturday of each month we have a "Sack Sale". This consists of all the clothing you can fit into a paper bag for \$5. This is always a big draw for the community.



CHAMBER PHOTOS

Left, Chamber ambassador Adriana Robbins serves corn during the 8th annual crabfest. Above, Aaron Cramer serves as the event's crab cracker. The fundraiser drew more than 150 people.

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20135226

Board of directors

The Chamber's 12-member board of directors meets at 11:30 a.m. the second Thursday of each month. Members are always welcome.



President:
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Cook Chevrolet
(970) 824-2100
jbird@cookchevrolet.com



Vice-president:
Mardi Anson
Anson Excavating
(970) 824-0382
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Treasurer:
Missy Bonaker
Bonaker & Assoc.
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Chamber takes position on ballot question

The Craig Chamber of Commerce board of directors unanimously agreed to support a question on November's ballot to implement a lodging tax in the city of Craig.

The tax would be minimal, less than \$5 a night paid only by travelers, but the impact to Craig's economy would be significant – more than \$500,000 that will be spent on capital projects, marketing, economic development and community beautification, all of which the Chamber believes are critical to a growing, diverse and vibrant economy, Chamber Executive Director Christina Oxley said. Those dollars would mean more jobs, healthier businesses, a more diverse economy, higher sales tax revenue and

better services and amenities for Craig. And best of all, residents can reap all of those benefits without it costing them anything.

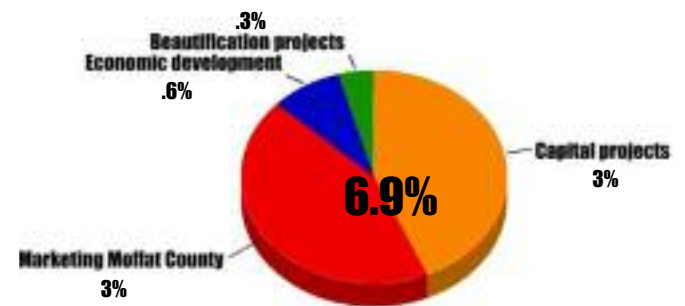
By using lodging tax dollars committed to capital projects, we have the opportunity to construct amenities to serve and to draw tourists.

"It would be an incredible process to brainstorm all the things we could do to make Moffat County more tourist friendly and know the funds are available to choose a project and see it through," Oxley said.

As proposed, three percent, approximately \$230,000, would be used to market Moffat County.

A small portion of the proposed lodging tax would be used for economic develop-

How would the lodging tax be divided?



ment and beautification – two things the Chamber believes are critical to attracting investment in our community.

The Chamber believes that residents cannot lose by voting "yes" on this important question.

If approved by voters, the

city council would appoint community boards to oversee the funding and to make recommendations on how to use it. Resident input would be encouraged in every step of the process.

For more information on the proposed lodging tax, visit www.progressforcraig.com.

Firewood permits now available at the Craig Chamber

The Craig Chamber of Commerce is now selling Forest Service firewood permits.

The permits are \$10 per cord, with a minimum purchase of two cords. Instructions and locations will be provided when the firewood permit is purchased.

The Bureau of Land Management in Craig sold the

permits for the past several years, but will not be selling Forest Service firewood permits this year. BLM firewood permits are available at their office at 455 Emerson St.

"We heard from folks in Craig that it's important to have a local place to purchase firewood permits, rather than driv-

ing to Steamboat Springs or Yampa," said District Ranger Jamie Kingsbury. "This partnership with the Craig Chamber of Commerce meets those community needs."

Christina Currie, Chamber executive director, said the organization is always seeking new ways to serve its businesses

and community, and selling firewood permits helps meet those goals.

The Craig Chamber, at 360 Victory Way, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, with extended hours of 8 to 6 during the rifle hunting seasons. For more information call the Chamber at 824-5689.

Credit: Chamber members better investment risks

Continued from page 11.

of Commerce Executives Established in 1914, ACCE is the only national association serving the professional development needs of chamber professionals throughout the United States and Canada. Representing more than 7,300 individuals, ACCE enhances the knowledge,

leadership skills, and management effectiveness of chamber executives and their staff through education, benefits programs, trend analysis, benchmarking, and network development. ACCE promotes the highest standards of professional excellence and integrity within the chamber profession.

"Our members as a whole are

extremely diligent in their business practices," Oxley said, "and manage their businesses in a way that positively drives economic success."

According to the study, a Cortera score of 600 or more is favorable, and usually reflects payment practices, such as a low rate of allowing a bill to go a long time past invoice terms.

At the opposite end of the scale, a Cortera score of 300 or lower is considered risky and often reflects payment practices in a business of more than 45 days past term.

On average, chamber members average a payment rate of about five days past term, compared to 10 days for all U.S. companies.

November Anniversaries

A-1 Laundromat Dry Cleaners1997
Vermillion Ranch.....1997
Yampa Valley Regional Airport1997
Moffat County Cattlemen1997
Big Rack Outfitters & Horseback Adventure.....1997
VFW #4265.....1997
NW Colorado Snowmobile Club1998
Colorado Outfitters Services1999
Copy Shop & Computer Corner1999
Crime Stoppers of Moffat County2002
Mountain West Insurance.....2003

Kidder Floor Covering2006
Steamboat Springs Orchestra.....2006
Jenison Custom Builders2006
Apostolic Lighthouse Church.....2008
Sideline Truck and Auto Repair2008
The Journey at First Baptist2008
OP Bar 'n Grill.....2008
Mike & Vicki Crackel2008
Triple Track Hunting2008
A NuView Auto Glass, Inc.....2009
Avon.....2009
Total Teamwork Training, LLC.....2009

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A Division of Colorado West Regional Mental Health, Inc.
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