



Connecting Business.
Advancing Community.

NEWSLETTER

October 2026 | hayschamber.com

2700 Vine St., Hays, KS 67601 • (785) 628-8201 • hayscc@hayschamber.com

Nominations for the 42nd Annual Chamber Banquet Awards open through Nov. 6



On January 26, 2027 The Chamber in Hays, Kansas and 400+ individuals will convene at the Annual Chamber Award Banquet. This event celebrates the accomplishments of dedicated businesses, non-profits, and citizens for the positive contributions they make in Hays and Ellis County.

Nine awards will be given again this year, including:

- **City of Hays** Small Business Achievement Award
- **Commerce Bank** Helping Hands Award
- **Fort Hays State University Professional & Continuing Education** Culture of Learning Award (This is a new award that recognizes ongoing investment in employee education, training, leadership development, or professional growth opportunities.)
- **Golden Belt Bank** Hall of Fame Award
- **Grow Hays** Robert E. Schmidt Entrepreneur of the Year Award
- **Nex-Tech** Citizen of the Year Award
- **Nex-Tech Wireless** Businesswoman of the Year Award
- **Vyve Broadband** Rising Star Award
- **Werth Wealth Management** Member Investor of the Year Award.

Chamber members are encouraged to submit nominations for any and all of the awards. Individuals and businesses can also be nominated for multiple awards. To access the list of previous award winners by category, [click here](#).

Nominations are due by Friday, November 6 and can be submitted online via the Chamber Hive form. The nomination form includes more information about each of the awards and qualifications considered by the nominating committee.

“For over 40 years the Annual Chamber Awards Banquet has recognized businesses, organizations, and individuals who have left an indelible mark on our community. By having an impressive pool of nominations, we will continue this proud tradition of acknowledging our community’s trailblazers and game changers,” said Sarah Wasinger, President/CEO.

The nomination process is confidential, and information captured from the forms is utilized to help honor the award winners on banquet night. Chamber staff work with nominators to help surprise the honorees the night of the event.

For more information about the nomination process, call (785) 628-8201 or email hayscc@hayschamber.com.

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Isaiah's Insights

A honest reflection on the Under 30 award

is hard to see the shape of your own impact from within. You simply show up, and solve the next problem. You try to leave your community a little better than you found it.

Working at The Chamber in Hays, Kansas, has given me numerous opportunities to give back to this community that has gifted so much to me. I've served on the Hays Public Library Foundation and the former Wild West Festival boards. I've helped raise and retire flags with the Kiwanis Club, some mornings before most of Hays was awake and before celebrating each holiday. I've offered up my photography skills to nonprofits, not because it was in my job description, but because someone genuinely needed their story told.

None of these many acts were done with the expectation of recognition, and none were meant to be

extraordinary. But repeated often enough, they started to add up to something I couldn't see yet.

Perhaps that is what being named a Next-Gen Under 30 honoree has taught me most. I realize I have much to learn, and I'm growing in earnest, but I don't need to have my whole career mapped out to make a meaningful contribution. It isn't necessarily a recognition of earning something out of reach, or the next big milestone you're chasing. It is a reminder that consistently showing up, taking ownership and pride in the work you're committed to, and investing in the place where you live and work can matter more than you realize.

If there's a younger professional out there wondering whether their own quiet, steady work counts for anything, I'd tell them it does, even before anyone else notices it does.

When I first learned I had been selected as one of this year's Next-Gen Kansas Under 30 honorees, an overwhelming feeling of surprise came over me. I remember wondering, "Why me?" I wasn't sure what I had done to deserve an award for simply doing the work I had committed myself to doing, all for the good of the community.

The more I reflected on it, the more I realized that was just it. When you're focused on being the storyteller for Hays and Ellis County, photographing special yet historical moments, and bringing visibility to local businesses and nonprofits, it

MISSION Accelerating business connections and advocating community advancement

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Election forums set for U.S. House, 1st District and Kansas Senate 110, 111th races

On October 5, Ellis County and residents in the surrounding counties will have the opportunity to hear from the U.S. House, 1st District (Kansas) race candidates during an election forum. The event will be held at Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center at 600 Park St. from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Participating candidates include incumbent U.S. Congressman Tracey Mann (Republican), Lauren Reinheld (Democrat), and Steven Jacob (Libertarian). Each candidate will have two minutes for opening statements before shifting to a Q&A session.

On October 13, there will be another forum that will

feature candidates from the Kansas State House 110th District and one for the Kansas State House 111th. This forum will also take place at Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center at 600 Park St. from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and follow the same format with opening and closing remarks and questions provided by a moderator.

Incumbent Kansas Representative Ken Rahjes (Republican) and Mark Schaukowitch (Democrat) will represent the candidates on the ballot for the 110th District race. Incumbent Kansas Representative Barb Wasinger (Republican) and Melanie McMillan (Democrat) will represent

the candidates on the ballot for the 111th District race.

Community members are welcome to email questions for the forum to hayscc@hayschamber.com.

This event is made possible by the Hays Election Forum Committee members, including: **The Chamber in Hays, Kansas, FHSU Student Government Association, FHSU Department of Communication Studies, Law & Political Science, FHSU Student & Belonging, FHSU Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Tebo Library, and FHSU American Democracy Project.**

Those unable to attend can view the livestream during or after the event via hayspost.com.

FALL ELECTION FORUM
SPONSORED BY
EAGLE MEDIA, Midwest Energy, Inc.

HAYS ELECTION FORUM COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
THE CHAMBER Hays, Kansas, SGA, FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES, LAW & POLITICAL SCIENCE, FHSU DOCKING INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ADP, FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY TEBO LIBRARY

MEDIA SPONSORS:
Eagle Media, FHSU Dept. of Comm. Studies, Law & Political Science, and FHSU Tebo Library

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FHSU Docking Institute of Public Affairs and The Chamber in Hays, Kansas

Kiwanis Club of Hays announces new breakfast fundraiser to benefit club



The **Kiwanis Club of Hays** is excited to be part of our first Stars & Stripes Breakfast. This new fundraising event will help support the club's

continued service to the Hays community!

Please join us Sunday, October 11, at the Fort Hays VFW Post 9076 for a delicious breakfast featuring bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, toast, biscuits and sausage gravy, and pancakes.

Tickets are preferred to be purchased in advance and will be \$12 for adults and \$7 for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and under eat free! Cash or check payments are accepted.

Our goal is to sell all 500 tickets available to our club. This is a new fundraising opportunity for Kiwanis, and community support will help us continue making a difference through programs and projects benefiting Hays, area youth and families.

To purchase tickets, please contact a Kiwanis Club of Hays member or email info@hayskiwanis.com.

DAV Chapter 18 announces special fundraiser

Join the **Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18** and Applebee's Grill + Bar, 4101 N. Vine St., Hays, for a special fundraiser on Wednesday, October 7.

To participate, dine in any time all day and simply mention the DAV fundraiser to your server.



When you do, 25% of your total order will be donated directly to support local veterans in our community. This is a delicious way to show your appreciation and give back to those who have sacrificed so much. Your meal will help continue their vital mission of empowering disabled veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity.

Mark your calendar and make your meal count!

TreeTop Security hosts free cybersecurity trainings for businesses



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and our team at **TreeTop Security** is offering free training sessions designed to protect both your business and your personal devices.

Whether you manage an office, work remotely, or simply want to keep your family's data secure, these practical, beginner-friendly classes will help you spot sophisticated phishing scams, secure your accounts, and avoid costly digital threats.

We are offering both in-person and virtual options throughout the month to fit any schedule.

Don't wait to be a victim! Visit treetopsecurity.com/free-training/#dates today to view the schedule and reserve you (and your teams) free spot!

DSNWK Custom Creations announces ribbon cutting, reception celebrating five years



Guess who is celebrating 5 years? **The Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas Custom Creations** at 1107 Main St., is an accessible space in the

heart of downtown Hays where the public can easily view the work of our artists, from one-of-a-kind pieces of refurbished furniture to smaller creations. Custom Creations collaborates and develops the special talents of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and then shares their amazing creations with our customers. We invite you to come help us celebrate on Thursday, October 15 from 5 to 6 pm. We will have a come-and-go reception along with a Ribbon Cutting at 4 p.m. It has been an amazing five years, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Humanities Kansas Speakers Bureau Presentations coming to Tebo Library



As a part of the 250th events, exhibits, and challenges at **Fort Hays State University**, Tebo Library in Hays will host two Humanities Kansas Speakers Bureau events. Members of the community are invited to attend these free

programs, which are made possible by Humanities Kansas.

- On Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00 p.m., join a presentation and discussion by Virgil Dean called "'We, The People of Kansas...' The Story of Kansas's Founding Documents, 1820-2020."
- On Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 p.m., join a presentation and discussion by Adam Hodge called "Kansas 1776: A Dynamic Landscape."

Both events take place at Tebo Library's W. R. & Yvonne Robbins Forum on the main level or you can register to virtually attend these hybrid events. For more details on 250th events, exhibits, and challenges visit fhsuguides.fhsu.edu/250/.

Cancer Council of Ellis County announces annual cash drawing for Nov. 10

The Cancer Council of Ellis County CANCER CA\$H drawing will be Tuesday, November 10, starting at 9 a.m. A maximum of 250 tickets will be sold, with the cost of one ticket each being a \$20 donation. One ticket will be drawn on the



hour, each hour live on our Facebook page from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with these possible winnings. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., winners receive \$100 each hour, 3 p.m. \$250, and 4 p.m. a \$500 prize. Get your tickets from a Cancer Council board member or by stopping by the Cancer Council of Ellis County office, 701 Riley St., Hays, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Our office is open during the lunch hour.

Farm to Fork returns October 20 to celebrate local flavors and community



The Bricks in Downtown Hays is pleased to announce the return of its annual Farm to Fork Dinner on Tuesday, October 20, bringing together local food, culinary talent, and community for a special evening in Downtown Hays.

Presented by **Werth**

Wealth Management, Farm to Fork celebrates the people and products that help make our region special. Guests that attend will enjoy a meal crafted by executive chef Austin Petz, featuring fresh produce from the Downtown Hays Market and local growers.

The annual dinner serves as a celebration of another successful season of the Downtown Hays Market,

bringing together local growers, bakers, makers, and shoppers each Saturday throughout the market season.

Farm to Fork will be held at **The Strand**, 1102 Main. With 100 seats available, tickets are only \$75 per person or \$580 for a table of eight. To purchase tickets or for additional event information, go to downtownhays.com/farm-to-fork-dinner.

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Your Business Featured Here!

**Contact The Chamber for more information!*

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www.mwenergy.com

New Member Welcome

These businesses recently made an important investment by joining The Chamber! Please consider them for your needs, and let them know you learned about their business through *The Chamber in Hays, Kansas!*



The Body Shop
(785) 639-4010



Special Olympics of Kansas
(785) 639-4010



Executive Level Members

The Chamber in Hays, Kansas thanks these businesses for making the ultimate investment!



Heartland Give Fest returns Oct. 7, offers chance to support local organizations



Heartland Give Fest is returning to Ellis County on Wednesday, October 7. Over 30 funds that are associated with members of **The Chamber in Hays, Kansas** can be supported during this great event.

Donations will be matched with \$110,000 in funds from the **Heartland Community Foundation**. Contributions can be made on the online donation portal from October 1 through 7. But there will also be an in-person event on October 7 at the **Hays Recreation Commission (HRC)** from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There, community members can visit booths from participating organizations and learn about the amazing impact they have right here in Ellis County! All donations are tax deductible.

The Chamber is grateful for the opportunity to provide



additional visibility to its two Heartland Community Foundation funds at this event, including the **Child Care Fund of Ellis County** and **Leadership Hays**. The Child Care Fund of Ellis County was established last year to support local child care providers with training and education resources, safety equipment, and other resources to support family home providers and child care centers across Ellis County. Leadership Hays was the original fund that helped launch the Heartland Community Foundation in 2007. These funds

support area professionals to access impactful and transformational leadership content. To date, over 625 alumni have graduated from this program. Each class collaborates on a community project that benefits the youth of Ellis County.

The Chamber invites its members and the community to attend the special Business After Hours that is being held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on October 6. Mocktails and snacks will be served, and the event is free to attend. Please RSVP through this link to help them plan appropriately for refreshments: <https://members.hayschamber.com/events/59615>.

For more information about Heartland Give Fest and the amazing organizations being impacted through local philanthropy, click [here](#).

Industry meetings connect Hays High School students and area employers



Hays High School, Grow Hays, Fort Hays State University, and The Chamber in Hays, Kansas are proud to partner for the second year to host several industry meetings with local high school students and area employers.

The purpose of these meetings is to educate students on local career and workforce opportunities. In addition to learning about scholarships, training, and advancement pipelines offered by local businesses, students also have the chance to highlight the skills they are learning while in high school and better understand additional strategies they can embrace to set themselves up for success after graduation.

All chamber member businesses and non-profits are encouraged to participate in each of their

respective industry meetings and bring materials to share with students about their career opportunities and organization. All the events will be held at Hays High School in the Hospitality Room and will run no more than 75 minutes. Attendees are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to check in at the front office with their photo ID. Meeting dates for this semester include:

- Business (Business Management & Entrepreneurship, Marketing, and Restaurant & Event Management) – October 15 at 11:45
- Health & Human Services – November 6 at 8:15 a.m.
- Public Services (Teaching/Training and Early Childhood Development & Services)

– December 2 at 1:45 p.m.

A tentative meeting is being scheduled for Agriculture, Construction, Manufacturing, and Media Design & Communications for November 20 at 8:30 a.m. to give employers a fall connection for those sectors with students. Please email Assistant Principal Becky Hickert at bhickert@usd489.com to register for this event. These industries will also have individual meetings scheduled in the spring of 2027.

Lunch, pastries, or snacks and refreshments will be provided by Hays High School Culinary Arts students at each of these events. Please email President/CEO Sarah Wasinger at sarah@hayschamber.com to register for the October 15, November 6, and December 2 industry meetings.

Fiber and Communications Tailored for Your Business



> **Come see us!** <

**1503 E 27th Street
Hays, KS**

Vyve
Business

Maintaining a Healthy and Safe Workplace Workshop

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This training will provide practical knowledge on multiple forms of relationship-based violence, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. Included will be information on why relationship-based violence is a workplace issue, how to address workplace violence and increase safety for all employees, how to limit liability for employers, and guidance on adopting workplace violence strategies.

DATE/TIME:

Wednesday October 21

- Breakfast to be served at 8 a.m.
- Program begins at 8:30 a.m.

LOCATION:

Hadley Center, 205 E. Seventh St., Hays

- Enter through main entrance on Seventh St. side
- Program in Conference Room

PRICING:

Free

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Wednesday, October 15

SPEAKERS:



Kaiti Blackburn



Alex Kultgen

jana's
CAMPAIGN

How to Table an Event

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Does your business or organization attend events throughout the year where you have to engage clients or the general public? Do you sometimes find yourself sending someone in your place who may not be as versed as you are in striking up a conversation and talking about your business or organization? Or do you lack the confidence to talk to random strangers? If so, this free event is for you, or the people you are sending to represent your business! Join The Chamber in Hays, Kansas as we walk through best practices for engaging in conversations to market your business' career opportunities, products, or services. The skills you learn at this event will serve you well at job fairs, business expos, and other community-facing events!

LOCATION:

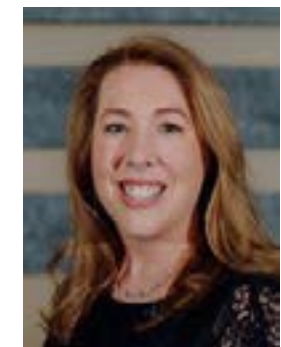
Welcome Center Conference Room - 2700 Vine St., Hays

DATE/TIME:

Thursday, November 12 - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

PRICING: FREE

SPEAKERS:



Sarah Wasinger



Delanee Wise

THE CHAMBER
Hays, Kansas

Title Sponsor:
HESS
SERVICES INC.

Event Co-Hosts:



ELLIS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER EXPERIENCE



DATE

Wednesday,
November 18



TIME

SETUP: 7:30 A.M.
8:15 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.



LOCATION

Hays High School
2500 E. 13th St.

Share your organization's career opportunities with approximately 625 juniors and seniors from Ellis County high schools!

THINGS TO EXPECT

- ✓ 3 by 4 feet round tables and chairs provided by Hays High School
- ✓ Share available jobs with students
- ✓ Allow students future opportunities and career exploration

REGISTRATION FEE

- ✓ Members - \$75 / \$100 after early bird registration
- ✓ Non-Members - \$125



FOR MORE INFORMATION



(785) 628-8201



hayscc@hayschamber.com



Travel through time
with literary greats
& spirits they enjoyed...

...Hosted by spirits of our own

I

Edgar Allen Poe & Sherry
The Cask of Amontillado

II

Oscar Wilde & French 75 Twist
The Picture of Dorian Gray

III

Washington Irving & Apple Brandy Riff
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

IV

Ernest Hemingway & Absinthe Sazerac
For Whom the Bell Tolls & *Death in the Afternoon*

V

Día de los Muertos &
Marigold Blood Orange Margarita

Take a macabre trip through the favorite spirits of some of the original horror writers with cocktails by Stone House Spirit & Cigar, paired with plates by Las Hefas Latin Cuisine, and hosted by the Haunted Tours Characters by Hays Community Theater and The Chamber in Hays, Kansas

October 30th - 7 pm - 9 pm at The Hays Community Theater

Early Bird Tickets \$50 until October 9th then \$60 until October 30th

Contact The Chamber in Hays, Kansas at hayscc@hayschamber.com



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS for **FALL 2026**

Data Literacy & Visualization: Turning Data into Insights

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

1 - 5 PM | Tebo Library, Room 247

\$199



Conflict Management in the Workplace

Tuesday, November 10 & Tuesday, November 17, 2026

10 AM - Noon | Zoom

\$125

Registration includes 2 sessions!



FHSU Alumni & Chamber Members save 15%!

Email pce@fhsu.edu for your discount code.

fhsu.edu/pce | pce@fhsu.edu



Maintaining a **Healthy & Safe** Workplace

Prevention of and responses to relationship-based violence at work take a coordinated approach across all levels of your organization.

This training will provide practical knowledge on multiple forms of relationship-based violence – domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual harassment.



Included will be information on why relationship-based violence is a workplace issue, how to address workplace violence and increase safety for all employees, how to limit liability for employers, and guidance on adopting workplace violence policies.

- Gain a deeper understanding of relationship-based violence and its effects in the workplace.
- Identify strategies and a prevention model to create a supportive and healthy workplace culture that is free from violence/harassment.
- Understand organizational responsibilities in addressing workplace violence.
- Receive and review multiple resources for potential use.

🕒 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

📍 Hadley Center, 1st Floor Conference Room

👤 Registration/Pricing: Free

For More Information Contact Us:

☎ 785-656-0324

✉ JanasCampaign@gmail.com

🌐 www.JanasCampaign.org

jana's
CAMPAIGN

Informational Medicare Seminar

Join us for one of our two seminars to discuss the upcoming 2027 Medicare annual enrollment period.

 14 Oct 2026
10AM - 11AM  14 Oct 2026
2PM - 3PM

 BOB & PAT SCHMIDT COMMUNITY CENTER
2510 CANTERBURY DR, HAYS, KS 67601

• MEDICARE PART D CHANGES IN 2027

What You Need To Know

Medicare Part D Is NOT Going Away

• OTHER CHANGES IN 2027?

Some monthly premiums may increase

Some formularies or pharmacy networks may change

Plan pricing may vary more than it has in recent years

• WHY REVIEWING YOUR PLAN MATTERS

Watch For Your Annual Notice Of Change (ANOC)

Compare Your Options

Don't Assume Your Plan Will Stay The Same

We're Here To Help!

Let us help you find the right plan — call our office for our simple intake form so we can understand your needs and find the best plan for you!



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PUMPKIN PATCH SOCIAL

OCTOBER 22
5:30 - 8:00 PM
PA'S PUMPKIN PATCH
978 250TH AVE IN HAYS

Bring your family and friends to enjoy the pumpkin patch, explore the corn maze, and connect with fellow HYP members in a relaxed seasonal setting. We'll even be hiding a special item somewhere in the corn maze! Find it, turn it in, and you'll receive a prize valued at up to \$25!

This is a come-and-go event! The fun starts at 5:30 PM, but you're welcome to arrive later or leave whenever you need to. You do not have to stay for the entire event to participate.

HAYS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NEWSLETTER

TRICK OR TREAT SO OTHERS CAN EAT

Tuesday, Oct 13
6:00PM

Location TBD - check our Facebook page
Help us collect pantry goods from the neighborhood for the Community Assistance Center!

WELCOME TO HYP


New
Member
Orientation
&
Prospective
AC Member
Meeting

Thursday, Aug 6
4:00-5:00 PM
Hays Welcome Center

Lunch with Leaders

Join Josh Dreher,
President of Bank of Hays, for lunch
and small group conversation about
leadership on Thursday, October 15,
at JD's Country Chicken.

CONNECTION LUNCH

TUESDAY, OCT 20
12:00 - 1:00 PM

Sponsor: Vyve Broadband
Program: All About HYP: Our 2026 in Review
Speaker: Nicole Windholz, HYP Advisory Council Chair
Bring a colleague for FREE to learn more about HYP!



HYP Tiger Tailgate
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Lewis Field Stadium
600 Park St., Hays



Chamber Chat
GOLDEN BELT BANK
2030 Aspen Ln., Hays



Ribbon Cutting
CITY OF HAYS PARKS DEPARTMENT
1546 Highway 40 Bypass, Hays



HYP Connection Lunch
THE VENUE AT THIRSTY'S BREW PUB & GRILL
2704 Vine St., Hays



Ribbon Cutting
NEX-GENERATION ROUND UP FOR YOUTH, INC.
FHSU Gross Memorial Coliseum
600 Park St., Hays



Chamber Chat
JANA'S CAMPAIGN
Hadley Center
205 E. Seventh St., Hays



Ambassador Lunch
LB. EVENT CENTER AND CATERING
121 E. 11th St., Hays



Grand Reopening
RIDDLE'S JEWELRY
4315 Vine St., Ste. 10, Hays



Ribbon Cutting
HAYS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
The Venue at Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill
2704 Vine St., Hays



Chamber Chat
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Black and Gold Room, Memorial Union
600 Park St., Hays



September Membership Lunch
LB. EVENT CENTER & CATERING
121 E. 11th St., Hays

Sponsor: Nex-Tech Wireless
Speaker: Patrick Woods, ITC Great Plains President and Vice President of ITC Holdings Corp.
Program: Power Transmission and Economic Impact



2026 Annual CAMPAIGN

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OF SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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realityU

SIGN UP
TODAY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOVEMBER 4 & 5

United Way of Ellis County, in partnership with the Pando Initiative, is bringing Reality U to area youth! This hands-on financial literacy simulation gives students a real-world look at earning, spending, saving, and making tough financial decisions. Guided by community volunteers, students navigate career, salary, and family scenarios while learning how financial choices and a strong network of support can help build financial security for the future.

HHS: 11.4.26

TMP with Victoria & Ellis: 11.5.26

DETAILS & SIGN UP AT WWW.LIVEUNITED.US/EVENTS



HAYSMED

Hospice Community Memory Tree

A brass dove ornament will be engraved with the name of the person you are honoring or remembering and will be placed on the tree. The tree will be displayed at HaysMed.

Donor Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
(Minimum suggested donation is \$20 per dove)

Please engrave the dove ornament(s) with the following name(s):

Name: _____ In Memory _____ In Honor _____
(print clearly)

Name: _____ In Memory _____ In Honor _____
(print clearly)

Name: _____ In Memory _____ In Honor _____
(print clearly)

For over 30 years, Hospice at HaysMed has lit the community and the surrounding area with hope, comfort and understanding for the terminally ill and their families. Donations enhance the resources available for education, support the volunteer and bereavement programs in their entirety and cover patient-related expenses not paid for by insurances. Hospice cares for people regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay. Your support of Hospice at HaysMed is truly appreciated. For questions about our Hospice please call our office at 785-623-6200 or 1-800-990-0731. Proceeds to benefit Hospice at HaysMed, which provides services in Ellis, Russell, Rush and Rooks counties.

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please make check payable to:

Hospice at HaysMed

Please mail check and form to:

HaysMed Foundation 2220 Canterbury Drive Hays, KS 67601

Thank You!



CANCER CASH

****Maximum 250 tickets will be sold****
One ticket for each \$20.00 donation

You could win multiple times with one ticket.

Every ticket will be included in
each of the 8 drawings.

One ticket will be drawn each hour live on
our Facebook page

Cancer Council of Ellis County

from 9am – 4pm

On November 10, 2026

with these possible winnings.

9am - \$100	1pm - \$100
10am - \$100	2pm - \$100
11am - \$100	3pm - \$250
Noon - \$100	4pm - \$500

Please contact the
Cancer Council of Ellis County
701 Riley St, Hays, KS 67601
(785) 625-6653 or email ccecks@eagle.com
or any board member
to purchase tickets.

Get your
tickets by
Nov 9th

OKTOBERFEST
OF GIVING

HEARTLAND
GIVE
Fest

LET'S MAKE
A MATCH!
SCAN TO GIVE

\$110,000
MATCH POOL!

24-HOUR GIVING DAY
EARLY-BIRD ONLINE GIVING

BENEFITING 73 AREA
ORGANIZATIONS
YOU LOVE!

DONATE OCTOBER 7

YOU GIVE,
HEARTLAND
MATCHES!

Donate to any of these participating organizations and help them earn matching dollars:

- A Different Mindset
 - Ag in the Classroom
 - Arc Cares Fund (Arc of Central Plains)
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters
 - Cancer Council of Ellis County
 - CASA of the High Plains
 - Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
 - Catholic Tiger Mental Wellness Fund (Comeau Catholic Campus Center)
 - Child Care of Ellis County
 - Christmas Magic on Main Street (Hays)
 - Collyer Endowment for Tomorrow
 - Company 5 Firefighters (Ellis County)
 - Damar Community Foundation
 - Damar St. Joseph Church Sustainability
 - DSNWK
 - Ellis County Fair Association
 - Ellis County Historical Society
 - Ellis County Youth Action Council
 - Ellis High School Booster Club
 - Feeding Hays at St. Michaels
 - First Baptist Church of Hays
 - First Call for Help of Ellis County
 - Fort Hays Tech North Central Foundation
 - Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County
- Hays Area Children's Center
 - Hays Arts Council
 - Hays Community Assistance Center
 - Hays Community Theatre
 - Hays High Athletics Hall of Fame
 - Hays Med Foundation
 - Hays Public Library Foundation
 - Hays Recreation Commission
 - Hays Senior Center
 - Hays Symphony Guild
 - High Plains Mental Health Center Endowment
 - Humane Society of the High Plains
 - Hutchison Memorial Scholarship Fund (benefiting Trego County students)
 - K-State Extension Cottonwood District
 - Kelly Plaza
 - Leadership Hays
 - Neighbors Feeding Neighbors Fund
 - NW Kansas Ag Education Center Foundation
 - Oktoberfest Hays
 - Options Domestic & Sexual Violence Services
 - Pete Felten Legacy Foundation
 - Plainville Community Foundation
 - Plainville Fire Family
 - Plainville Memorial Library
- Plainville Kids Wrestling Club
 - Play Hays Foundation
 - Rooks County Healthcare Foundation
 - Rooks County Historical Society
 - Rooks County Youth Action Council
 - Scouting America- Coronado Area Council
 - St. Joseph Parish of Hays
 - STEM Harvest
 - Stockton Community Fund
 - Stockton Recreation Commission
 - The Society of Friends of Historic Fort Hays
 - The Well-Center for Hope
 - TMP- Marian High School
 - Trego Community General Public Transportation
 - Trego County Food Pantry
 - Trego County Historical Society
 - Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital
 - Trego County Youth Action Council
 - Trego Grade School PTO
 - Trego Hospital Endowment
 - United Way of Ellis County
 - USD 489 Foundation
 - Victoria City Fire & ECFD Company 4
 - Victoria Community Coalition Impact
 - Women Who Lead

During Give Fest, gifts to an organization's fund at HCF of up to \$10,000 per donor, per organization, will earn a prorated match based on total dollars raised. No organization may receive more than \$15,000 from the match pool. Participating organizations must serve Ellis, Rooks, and/or Trego counties. Matching dollars are for the organizations' immediate needs.

→

WWW.HEARTLANDGIVEFEST.ORG

Donate early online! Online giving window is open Oct. 1-7!

COME FOR THE GIVING.
STAY FOR THE GOOD STUFF.

Give online or in person at our Give Fest events. Visit the Nonprofit tables or stick around for some giving fun!

ELLIS COUNTY

Hays Rec Main Gym
1105 Canterbury Dr., Hays
9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Free Happy Hour
Snacks & Mocktails 4:30-6 p.m.

ROOKS COUNTY

Plainville Township Hall
108 S. Jefferson, Plainville
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Free Lunch
Brats & Rootbeer 11:30-1 p.m.

TREGO COUNTY

Trego County Fairgrounds
13th and Russell, WaKeeney
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Free Lunch
Brats & Rootbeer 11:30-1 p.m.

Can't make it Oct. 7? Mail your gift to HCF, PO Box 1673, Hays, KS 67601 before Oct. 7; please note the name of the organization/fund you want to support. Support multiple agencies with just one check! You can also give online at www.HeartlandGiveFest.org or give your gift directly to the organization.



HEARTLAND
GIVE
Fest

2026 DONATION FORM

Complete the form below to make a donation on or before Oct. 7, 2026!

Scan to give online

For office use only:
Check#: _____
Cash receipt: _____
CC: _____

DONOR NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ST/ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ E-MAIL _____
for e-receipt

☐ Check here to remain anonymous, no information will be shared with participating organizations.

IN HONOR OF /MEMORY OF: _____
Include below if applicable

Please write your donation amount on the line next to each organization or fund name. Gifts up to \$10,000 per donor, per organization will receive a prorated match based on the total raised. No one organization can receive more than \$15,000 from the match pool. Thank you!

A Different Mindset	Hutchison Memorial Scholarship Fund (Trego County)
Ag in the Classroom	K-State Extension Cottonwood District
Arc Cares Fund (Arc of Central Plains)	Kelly Plaza
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Leadership Hays
Cancer Council of Ellis County	Neighbors Feeding Neighbors Fund
CASA of High Plains	NW Kansas Ag Education Center Foundation
Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas	Oktoberfest Hays /VGCA
Catholic Tiger Mental Wellness Fund (Comeau Catholic Campus Center)	Options Domestic & Sexual Violence Services
Child Care of Ellis County	Pete Felten Legacy Foundation
Christmas Magic on Main Street (Hays)	Plainville Community Foundation
Collyer Endowment for Tomorrow	Plainville Fire Family
Company 5 Firefighters (Ellis County)	Plainville Memorial Library
Damar Community Foundation	Plainville Kids Wrestling Club
Damar St. Joseph Church Sustainability	Play Hays Foundation
DSNWK (Developmental Services of NW Kansas)	Rooks County Healthcare Foundation
Ellis County Fair Association	Rooks County Historical Society
Ellis County Historical Society	Rooks County Youth Action Council
Ellis County Youth Action Council	Scouting America - Coronado Area Council
Ellis High School Booster Club	St. Joseph Parish of Hays
Feeding Hays at St. Michaels	STEM Harvest
First Baptist Church of Hays	Stockton Community Fund
First Call for Help of Ellis County	Stockton Recreation Commission
Fort Hays Tech North Central Foundation	The Society of Friends of Historic Fort Hays
Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County	The Well-Center for Hope
Hays Area Children's Center	TMP-Marian High School
Hays Arts Council	Trego Community General Public Transportation
Hays Community Assistance Center	Trego County Food Pantry
Hays Community Theatre	Trego County Historical Society
Hays High Athletics Hall of Fame	Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital
Hays Med Foundation	Trego County Youth Action Council
Hays Public Library Foundation	Trego Grade School PTO
Hays Recreation Commission	Trego Hospital Endowment
Hays Senior Center	United Way of Ellis County
Hays Symphony Guild	USD 489 Foundation
High Plains Mental Health Center Endowment	Victoria City Fire & ECFD Company 4
Humane Society of the High Plains	Victoria Community Coalition Impact Fund
	Women Who Lead

- ★ Return on OCT. 7 at these Give Fest in-person events:
- Ellis County: Hays Rec Main Gym, 1105 Canterbury Dr., 9-6 p.m.
 - Rooks County: Plainville Township Hall, 108 S. Jefferson, 9-4 p.m.
 - Trego County: Trego Fairgrounds, 13th & Russell, WaKeeney, 9-4 p.m.
- ★ Give by mail to: HCF, P.O. Box 1673, Hays, KS 67601 prior to Oct. 7
- ★ Give online at www.HeartlandGiveFest.org, Oct. 1-Oct. 7!

TOTAL DONATION

If paying by check, please write ONE CHECK made out to HCF for the TOTAL amount of your donation.

The Heartland Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation. GSCF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, EIN #48-6108086. Donations are tax-deductible.



SANTA'S CHECKLIST

HOLIDAY WELLNESS CHALLENGE

October 15 - January 15



NAME _____

NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

DIRECTIONS

The holidays are busy, but small daily habits can help you build health through every season. Integrating wellness techniques into your lifestyle help you feel calmer, healthier, and more energized. Below is a list of habits across five areas of wellness: Mental Health, Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Rest.

Circle any of the habits from the lists below that feel realistic for you. Write your chosen habits on the tracking sheet, then use the calendar (October 15 – January 15) to check off each habit as you complete it each day. This challenge emphasizes consistency because small, repeatable actions compound over time and help you to make sustainable progress no matter the season.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Practice 5 minutes of mindfulness, meditation and prayer
- Write down 3 things of which you're grateful
- Build relationships - check in on someone you care about
- Journal your thoughts and feelings
- Practice a breathing exercise
- Check in on a family member or friend
- Make a holiday budget

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Walk 7,000 steps or more
- Stretch for ten minutes
- Exercise for 30-60 minutes
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator
- Dance or move to your favorite music for 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

Please return pages one and two back to The Chamber office at 2700 Vine St. by January 31 to be entered into the prize drawing. Over \$750 in prizes will be given, including items that can help you on your wellness journey.

Be sure to check out the October Community Wellness Corner Newsletter for information on fun and informative events to help you find success with the challenge!

NUTRITION

- Eat three (3) servings of vegetables
- Eat two (2) servings of fruit
- Remove added sugar for the day
- Practice mindful, unhurried eating during one meal
- Drink at least 8 cups (64 oz) of water per day
- Abstain from alcohol for a week (min. 4 weeks)
- Create three (3) healthy meal plans to add to your rotation

REST

- Get 8 hours of sleep
- Set a consistent bedtime
- Avoid screens for 30 minutes before bed
- Take a short 10-15 minute break (without technology) during the work day
- Wind down with a relaxing bedtime routine



SANTA'S CHECKLIST

HOLIDAY WELLNESS CHALLENGE

October 15 - January 15



OCTOBER 2026	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					☐ 15	☐ 16	☐ 17
	☐ 18	☐ 19	☐ 20	☐ 21	☐ 22	☐ 23	☐ 24
	☐ 25	☐ 26	☐ 27	☐ 28	☐ 29	☐ 30	☐ 31
NOVEMBER 2026	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 6	☐ 7
	☐ 8	☐ 9	☐ 10	☐ 11	☐ 12	☐ 13	☐ 14
	☐ 15	☐ 16	☐ 17	☐ 18	☐ 19	☐ 20	☐ 21
	☐ 22	☐ 23	☐ 24	☐ 25	☐ 26	☐ 27	☐ 28
DECEMBER 2026	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5
	☐ 6	☐ 7	☐ 8	☐ 9	☐ 10	☐ 11	☐ 12
	☐ 13	☐ 14	☐ 15	☐ 16	☐ 17	☐ 18	☐ 19
	☐ 20	☐ 21	☐ 22	☐ 23	☐ 24	☐ 25	☐ 26
JANUARY 2026	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						☐ 1	☐ 2
	☐ 3	☐ 4	☐ 5	☐ 6	☐ 7	☐ 8	☐ 9
	☐ 10	☐ 11	☐ 12	☐ 13	☐ 14	☐ 15	

SHRM® Western Kansas

presents their

ANNUAL HUMAN RESOURCES OCTOBER SEMINAR

 **Date:** Thursday, October 22

 **Time:** Registration: 8:30 – 9:00 am.
Program: 9:00 am – 4:00 p.m.

 **Location:** LB Event Center
121 E 11th St., Hays

 **Back by Popular Demand: Fisher Phillips**
Melody Rayl, Partner
Darian Doser, Associate
Harper Palmer, Associate



 Topics:

- Legal Update: *The Good, the Bad and the Bureaucratic*
- Leave and ADA: *The Tutorial You Actually Need*
- Performance Management: *Getting the Most from the Best and Getting Rid of the Worst*
- Under the Microscope: *The Anatomy of a Workplace Predicament*

 All are welcome to attend! Ideal for HR professionals at all levels, supervisors, managers, and multi-role professionals.

Register now at: <https://affiliate.shrm.org/westernks/en/events/2026/10/annual-western-ks-seminar>

GATSBY GALA NIGHT



An Evening of Glitz, Giving & a Roaring Good Time

PUT ON THE RITZ & JOIN US

Step back into the Roaring '20s for an unforgettable evening benefiting Mason's Mourning Light Foundation.

- Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres
- Drinks
- Music
- Best Dressed Contest
- Silent Auction
- Gatsby-Inspired Fun
- Supporting Families in Our Community

Come dressed in your finest 1920s-inspired attire and spend the evening mingling, sipping, snacking, and celebrating for a cause.

Friday, November 13, 2026

6:00–11:00 PM

The Strand | Hays, Kansas

**Step Into the Glamour — Get Your
Tickets Today**



Tickets
Individual — \$50
Couple — \$95
Table of 8 — \$375
Eventbrite fees apply



OCTOBER 2026
COMMUNITY EVENTS



BINGO | Wednesdays & Fridays | 6:30 PM | 2450 E. 8th St.
The Hays Fresh Produce Market | Wednesdays 5-7 PM; Saturdays 7:30-11 AM | Bomgaars
Summer Exhibit: Under the Canopy | M-Sat. 9 AM-6 PM, Sunday 1-6 PM | Sternberg Museum
Pa's Pumpkin Patch | Saturdays 10 AM-7 PM; Sundays 11 AM-6 PM | 978 250th Ave
Cottage Lane Pumpkin Patch | Saturdays 11 AM-6 PM; Sundays 1-6 PM | 1001 W. 15th St., Ellis
10/1: Sternberg Book Signing with Author Melanie Bonner Thomas | 6:30 PM | Sternberg Museum
10/1-10/3: IMCA Races: 19th Annual Fall Nationals - Finals | 6:30 PM | RPM Speedway
10/2-10/3: Volga German Oktoberfest | 10:30 AM-7 PM | Municipal Park
10/3, 10/10, 10/17: Downtown Hays Market | 7:30-11 AM | Downtown Pavilion at 10th and Main
10/3: FHSU Homecoming Parade | 11 AM | Downtown Hays
10/3: Your Voice Through Cancer Craft Fair | 9 AM-3 PM | FHSU Gross Memorial Coliseum
10/7: Heartland Give Fest | 9 AM-6 PM | Hays Recreation Commission
10/8: Science Book Club: "Who Hid the Stars" +Albertson Hall Observatory | 6:30-8 PM | FHSU Tebo Library
10/9: TMP-Marian Homecoming Parade| 5:30 PM | Downtown Hays
10/10: Halloween Trick or Trot 5K | 9 AM | Municipal Park
10/10: Prairie Garden Festival | 11 AM-3 PM | Extension Office Parking Lot
10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31: Live Music at the Paisley Pear | 8-10 PM | Paisley Pear
10/10: Jana's Campaign Fundraiser: Empty Place at the Table | 5:30-10:45 PM | Midnight Ranch
10/11: Essenfest: German Style Cook-Off | 11 AM-12:30 PM | Kennedy Cafeteria
10/13: Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat Food Drive | 6-9 PM | Throughout Hays
10/16: NSSLHA Annual Soup Fest | 5-7 PM | FHSU Albertson Hall
10/16-10/17: Haunted Hays City Historic Tour | 7-10 PM, Tours run every 15 minutes | Hays Community Theatre
10/17: Indoor Vendor Market | 10 AM-2 PM | 2450 E. 8th St.
10/18: Youth Mountain Bike Team Info. Meeting | 1:30-2:30 PM | Ellis County Historical Society
10/19-10/23: Annual Fall Cleanup | 7 AM-5 PM | Throughout Hays
10/23: ECEMS Annual Fill-the-Ambulance Food Drive | 4-7 PM | Both Dilllons Locations
10/24: Annual Coat Drive Give Away Day | 9 AM-2 PM | Master Cleaners
10/24: Block Party on the Bricks | 2-6 PM | 11th St. between Main and Oak
10/26: Let Your Voices Be Heard! | 10 AM - 4PM, thru November 6th | FHSU Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art
10/26: Hays Arts Council Presents: Wichita Children's Theatre Production of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" | 6:30 PM | Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center
10/28: Trunk or Treat | 6-7:30 PM | First United Methodist Church Parking Lot
10/30: Trick or Treat on the Bricks | 3-5:30 PM | Downtown Hays
10/30: Spirits with Spirits | 7-9 PM | Hays Community Theatre
10/31: Historic Fort Hays Frontier Fall | 1-3 PM | Historic Fort Hays
10/31: Trick-R-Treating at Big Creek Crossing | 3-5 PM | Big Creek Crossing

Complete List of FHSU Homecoming Activities: www.fhsu.edu/homecoming/
Complete List of Oktoberfest Events: www.oktoberfesthays.com/
Complete List of TMP Homecoming Events: https://www.tmp-m.org/o/tmpm/page/homecoming
Fort Hays State University Athletics Schedule: FHSUAthletics.com
Hays High Athletics Schedule: hayshighindians.com/athletics
TMP-Marian Athletic Schedule: tmp-m.org/athletics
Details and more events: VisitHays.com
2700 Vine St., Hays, KS 67601 • 785-628-8202



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2026

Calendar grid with columns MONDAY through SAT./SUN. and rows for dates 1-31. Each cell contains event details for that date.

For more information on registration and events, click here!

ABBREVIATION LEGEND

- AMB = Ambassador
BAH = Business After Hours
BP = Brick Presentation
CC = Chamber Chat
CK = Construction Kickoff
CU = Catching Up
GB = Groundbreaking
GO/GR = Grand (Re) Opening
HYP = Hays Young Professionals
LH = Leadership Hays
LL = Lunch & Learn
ML = Membership Lunch
RC = Ribbon Cutting
WC = Hays Welcome Center

Connecting Business. Advancing Community.



ENCLOSED FLYERS ARE NOT ENDORSEMENTS OF THE CHAMBER, HAYS, KANSAS. THEY ARE PAID ADVERTISEMENTS BY CHAMBER MEMBER INVESTORS.