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Advancing Community.



NEWSLETTER

September 2026 | hayschamber.com

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

The Chamber in Hays, Kansas' Customer Resource Management tool receives upgrade

On September 10, The Chamber in Hays, Kansas will be switching to a new Customer Resource Management (CRM) program called Chamber Hive. The new CRM will provide the following benefits for members of The Chamber in Hays, Kansas:

- Allow easier access for member directory information management, giving businesses stronger and more timely referral power
- Increased automation and a more user-friendly interface
- Streamline invoicing and payment processing
- Offer more effective communication exchange between The Chamber and its members
- Provide easier self-service options for members with demanding schedules
- More customer support options

Why is The Chamber in Hays, Kansas making the switch? Over the past several years, The Chamber has received feedback from members experiencing issues receiving invoices and communication generated from the current CRM. The new platform helps remediate these concerns as market research shows improvement in this area for other chambers



that have made the switch. Cost effectiveness is the other primary driver for this change as it will save The Chamber over \$4,000 annually through decreased subscription fees. This will continue to allow The Chamber to keep membership dues as affordable as possible for businesses of all sizes.

What do members need to do with this switch, and what will change?

- The migration will take place on September 10. Members will maintain their current login credentials to access Chamber Hive, and members will be able to access their accounts
- All members are highly encouraged to log in to their accounts after this date to confirm business directory information and representatives on the account are correct (Only active reps will transfer into Chamber Hive

to help clean up accounts.)

- Invoices from the past 36-months will be exported from Chamber Master to Chamber Hive to ensure members can still access their most recent membership activity
- All active jobs that have been posted on The Chamber's Job Board will also migrate to the new system
- Business categories will also be imported, but members are encouraged to review a full list of business directory categories linked here to ensure directory searches yield the best results

"The Chamber appreciates your patience through this transition as staff educate themselves on the new CRM tool," said President/CEO Sarah Wasinger. "Please contact our team at (785) 628-8201 or email hayscc@hayschamber.com to schedule a membership meeting to review your account information, make updates, or ask any questions during the migration period. We are excited for members to have access to a more modern tool and are looking forward to this change helping our staff better serve all of our valued member investors," said Wasinger.

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Sarah's [Space]

Building a stronger talent pipeline together

As our chamber continues facilitating the Ellis County Workforce Committee, we are charged with implementing sound infrastructure that supports talent pipeline development. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics 2024 Report, the rate of natural increase (birth rate minus death rate) was 1.7 persons per 1,000 population, which is a decrease of 5.6% from 2023. National trends are estimating that the U.S. birth rate will be surpassed by the death rate in 2030.

That is why our chamber is seeking additional resources

to bridge the workforce gap for its members. In August this year, I was accepted to participate in the 12th Cohort of the Association for Chamber of Commerce Executives Foundation Fellowship for Talent Development. 20 chamber executives from across the U.S. will convene next year and study what other communities are doing to tackle their workforce challenges while also receiving data and coaching from national experts in talent pipeline development.

The culmination of this experience will yield in an official action plan that will be shared with members of The Chamber in Hays, Kansas and the Ellis County Workforce Committee to benefit our efforts to increase access to highly qualified professionals across industry sectors.

To ensure our chamber makes the most of this opportunity, we need

feedback and direction from you, our member investors. By taking a few moments to complete a workforce survey, you can help us focus on areas that impact you the most, while identifying resources that can make your employee recruitment and onboarding process more impactful. The survey will also help us identify membership HR trends so we can accurately gauge recruiting responsiveness, current workforce needs, and hiring trends. [Please access the survey link here.](#)

We know that having exceptional professionals in your business drives the customer experience and your bottom line. Thank you for supporting our chamber's efforts to recruit, retain, and develop a strong workforce pipeline for our community. It will take all of us working together to elevate our community as a stand-out location to do business, work, live, and thrive!

MISSION | Accelerating business connections and advocating community advancement

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Connecting Business.
Advancing Community.



Spirits with Spirits to blend unique pairings, collaborations, and history

On Friday, October 30 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., **The Chamber in Hays, Kansas** in partnership with title sponsor **Stone House Spirit & Cigar** will host a new event that is sure to be a spooky good time the community won't want to miss, *Spirits with Spirits*!

Lauren Mack and Josh Tanguay from **Stone House Spirit & Cigar** will pair spooky libations with fresh flavors from Israel Luna and his team from **Las Hefas Latin Cuisine**. While guests enjoy spooktacular pairings, they will also encounter legends from Hays' wild west past courtesy of the **Hays Community Theatre**.

To bring the full Halloween-



themed event together, attendees are encouraged to arrive in costume. Chamber Cheque prizes sponsored by **Nex-Tech** will be awarded for the following costume categories for first-place winners:

- **Perfect Pairing** – best

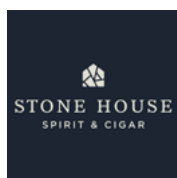
couples' costume (\$150)

- **Most Creative** – costume displaying most originality (\$100)
- **Funniest Costume** – the costume that gets the most laughs (\$100)

Tickets are only \$50 each if purchased by Friday, October 9. Prices will increase to \$60 per ticket after the priority deadline and will be available through Friday, October 23. There is a limit of 130 guests, and the event will be held at the **Hays Community Theatre** at 121 E. 8th St. To register, click [here](#).

This one-of-a-kind event that blends unique pairings and questionable characters from Hays' past is definitely one not to miss out on!

SPONSORS



AVAILABLE COMMUNITY GUIDE SPOTS

Investing in Our Future

- 3 small, 1 full page

Healthcare

- 3 small, 1 full page

Quality of Life

- 3 small, 1 full page

Retail Therapy

- 4 small features

Like a Local

- 4 small features

Savory Selections

- 4 small features



SIGN UP YOUR BUSINESS BY SEPTEMBER 30



HPL Foundation to spice up annual fundraiser

Discover delicious flavors and support your **Hays Public Library**! Join us for the 6th Annual Hays Public Library Foundation Wine & Cheese Fundraiser, featuring guest speaker Al Struttman, owner of Moburts Spices & More in Topeka.

Enjoy wine and cheese, then hear Struttman share the story behind his specialty spices, oils and vinegars—and get tips for adding incredible flavor to your cooking!



The event is November 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Hays Public Library. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at the library or online at hayslibrary.org/event. Tickets are limited, so get yours soon!

Businesses interested in sponsoring the event or providing items for the silent auction or raffle are encouraged to contact Callie Kolacny at ckolacny@hayslibrary.org.

Adams Brown rises to No. 103 on INSIDE Public Accounting Top 500

Adams Brown has risen to No. 103 on the 2026 INSIDE Public Accounting Top 500 list, up from No. 106 in 2025 and No. 110 in 2024. The firm reported \$58.63 million in net revenue, an 8.3% increase from the prior year and more than 32% growth since 2022. Managing Principal and CEO Ben Wilson said the firm's growth is focused on giving clients access to deeper expertise and coordinated support for complex business decisions. Adams Brown serves clients in agriculture,



construction, manufacturing, healthcare, dental practices, local government and other industries. Beyond tax and audit, the firm provides outsourced accounting, payroll, business valuation, succession and estate planning, wealth management, trust services, managed technology and cybersecurity. The ranking reflects the firm's investment in its people, technology and industry teams while maintaining the access, relationships and personal service of a local advisor.

Divine Mercy Radio prepares to celebrate 16th Annual Appreciation Banquet

Divine Mercy Radio is gearing up for their 16th annual Appreciation Banquet to be held in Hays September 12. The entertaining and informative Teresa Tomeo will be the guest speaker. Teresa is an author, syndicated Catholic talk show host with her weekday morning radio program, Catholic Connection, being heard from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday on 105.7 F.M., KMDG Hays.



The Banquet will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by a meal and a program. It will be held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Parish Hall, 1805 Vine St. The title of the talk will be "Beyond Assisi: The Unknown Francis. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased by sending a check to Divine Mercy Radio, 709 Main St., Hays, KS 67601 or by calling (785) 621-4110. Business sponsors are also welcome.

United Way of Ellis County launches monthly newsletter to keep community connected



Stay connected with **United Way of Ellis County**! Sign up for our monthly newsletter to see how people, businesses, and local organizations are working together to strengthen our community. Each month, we'll share the latest United Way news, community initiatives,

partner agency highlights, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and stories that show your investment in action. Stay connected to the people, partnerships, and progress strengthening the network of support across Ellis County. Sign up today!

Sunflower Insurance Solutions to host Medicare-focused Breakfast Club



Join the **Sunflower Insurance Solutions** team for The Breakfast Club on Thursday, September 24, from 8 to 10 a.m.!

This casual, come-and-go event is a great opportunity to stop by, meet the Sunflower team, ask Medicare questions, or simply enjoy a cup of coffee, a donut, and some good conversation. Whether you're already

on Medicare, approaching 65, helping a family member, or just have questions, everyone is welcome!

Stop in anytime between 8 and 10 a.m. at 205 E. 7th St., Suite 101 at the Hadley Building in Hays — and don't forget to enter to win a prize while you're there!

FHSU to commemorate 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with events



Join **Fort Hays State University** in commemorating the historic 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Throughout the fall semester, FHSU will host a series of public events, traveling exhibits, and interactive prize challenges designed to foster civic dialogue and community connection. Spearheaded by

Tebo Library, the American Democracy Project, the Department of History and Philosophy, and Student Engagement and Belonging, this initiative invites both campus and surrounding communities to engage with this momentous occasion.

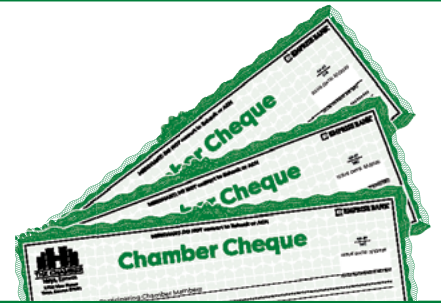
To explore the full calendar of events, visit fhsuguides.fhsu.edu/250.



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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!*



Ability Recreation
(785) 260-0287



Rattlesnake Grill Co.
(620) 255-0028



Riddle's Jewelry
(785) 623-4066



Executive Level Members

The Chamber thanks these businesses for making the ultimate investment!



Ellis County High School Career Experience to connect 600 area students with employers



How does a community keep its future talent pipeline? Give students an interactive experience to engage with area employers with meaningful careers! **The Chamber in Hays, Kansas** in conjunction with **Hays High School, Grow Hays,** and **Fort Hays State University,** are proud to host the **Ellis County High School Career Experience** for the second year with the support of title sponsor **Hess Services!**

Approximately 600 Ellis County juniors and seniors from **Hays High School, TMP-Marian High School, Ellis High School,** and **Victoria High School** will be on the HHS campus on Wednesday, November 18. Table time with students will run from 8:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Businesses can set up their tables as early as 7:30 a.m. and must be cleaned up by 11:05 a.m.

What to bring:

Please bring information about available careers in the form of handouts to share with the students. Handouts are recommended to include:

- What students should

know about the company as a prospective employer

- What exciting career opportunities are available (list of jobs with one to two sentences of what the work entails)
- Share what jobs the company will need to fill in the next three to five years
- Benefits packages (show the dollar value of benefits currently offered)
- Pay ranges for jobs (optional but highly encouraged)
- Tuition reimbursement and scholarship opportunities
- Minimum versus preferred credentials for new recruits

What to expect:

- Each student will receive a bingo card for the event that outlines which businesses are on campus, and students will be encouraged to visit at least 8-10 businesses during their time at the event.
- Be ready to start conversations with students. However, their

bingo cards will require them to ask you a question to sign off on a square.

Training for participating organizations:

The Chamber will host a “How to Table an Event” training on Thursday, November 12 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Welcome Center at 2700 Vine St. This session will provide tips and tricks for successful interactions with potential job seekers or prospective clients at job fairs or business expos. Attendees can also ask questions to prepare for the **Ellis County High School Career Experience** event the following week. Find more information about this event on the Development Opportunities section.

Pricing and registration

Early bird registration is available for \$75 for members by Thursday, October 15. Registration for members after the priority deadline is \$100. Non members may also register for \$125.

For more information or to register for the event, click [here](#).

Premiere Sponsor:



Werth Eye Group

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Sip, Stroll, & Support
The Bricks in Downtown Hays

Wines & STEINS

ON THE BRICKS IN DOWNTOWN HAYS

12. SEPTEMBER. 2026

Check In & Stroll
begin at 6:00 PM

After Party & Auction
begin at 9:00 PM

Elevated pairings of beer and wine with delectable
bites will be showcased across downtown businesses,
culminating in an auction and after-party

THE
BRICKS
CHESTNUT STREET DISTRICT
IN DOWNTOWN HAYS

Limited Tickets Available:
www.DowntownHays.com/wines

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

REGISTER TODAY AND LEARN MORE BY VISITING [FHSUHOMECOMING.COM](https://fhsuhomcoming.com) | OCTOBER 1-3, 2026



REUNION GATHERINGS

Class of 1966 | Class of 1976 | Football | Library Employees

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Tiger Bonfire

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Bickle-Schmidt Athletic Complex Ribbon Cutting

Oktoberfest

Half Century Club Social, Luncheon, and Induction
(For All Graduates 1976 and Prior)

Campus Tours

Football Reunion and Social
Honoring Alumni Award Recipients

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Class of 1966 and 1976 Reunion Breakfasts

Library Employee Reunion Breakfast

Campus Tours

Homecoming Parade

Oktoberfest

Tebo Library Open House

Tiger Tailgate and Football Game

*We can't wait
to see you there!*

Call your FHSU Alumni Office at 785-628-4430 or email alumni@fhsu.edu with any questions.

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



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:

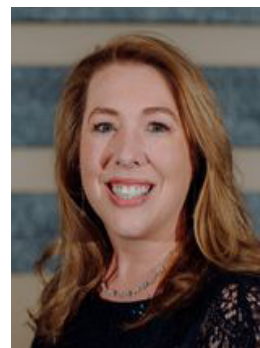
Welcome Center Conference Room - 2700 Vine St., Hays

DATE/TIME:

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

PRICING: FREE

SPEAKERS:



Sarah Wasinger Delanee Bedore



Pink Pumpkin PROJECT



The Pink Pumpkin Project a community-driven initiative dedicated to raising awareness for breast cancer screening, supporting survivors, and honoring loved ones.

This project brings together agricultural expertise and healthcare advocacy through a unique collaboration with the HaysMed Foundation, K-State Extension - Cottonwood District, HaysMed, the K-State Extension Master Gardeners, and the K-State College of Agriculture. Together, we have dedicated an entire acre of land to cultivating a unique variety of pink pumpkins.



<https://haysmedfoundation.org/pink>

Get Involved!

Become a Business Partner:

Sign up to be a Pink Pumpkin partner location to help raise funds and awareness. Contact 785-623-5014 or foundation@haysmed.com

Visit the Patch: View our galleries, follow our Facebook pages, and share this exciting collaboration with others.

Purchase a Pumpkin: Stop by our sales events during September and October to take home your own symbol of hope.

Share Your Story:

Submit an entry to our community memory board to honor a loved one or inspire someone currently fighting.



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 - **\$50 / \$100** after early bird registration
- ✓ Non-Members - **\$125**



FOR MORE INFORMATION



(785) 628-8201



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221 W 43rd Street
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Jana's Campaign invites you to

EMPTY PLACE AT THE TABLE



Saturday, October 10, 2026

**Midnight Ranch
1615 Buckeye Rd | Hays, KS 67601**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT JANA'S CAMPAIGN
RELATIONSHIP-BASED VIOLENCE
PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**



**SCAN HERE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS!**



HAYS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS 20TH ANNIVERSARY



Join HYP and The Chamber in Hays, KS for a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate 20 years of energizing dynamic, young professionals who cultivate a positive and thriving Hays community! All current and past HYP members are invited to attend.

SEPT 24TH
4PM RIBBON CUTTING
THE VENUE AT THIRSTY'S

SOCIAL TO FOLLOW
4:30 - 6:00 PM

FOOD AND DRINKS SPONSORED BY:



HAYS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NEWSLETTER

Join Us!
**REGISTRATION
IS OPEN**

10/26/2026

**Double Tree
Manhattan, KS**

Registration Link:

or visit the link in our bio

Register before 7/1
to receive the early
bird rate of
\$65
Price increases to \$75
after July 1st

Group Rate:
7+ Attendees
\$65 per person

Registration closes on October 1



Interested in learning more about our committees - or leading one? Check out any committee by attending a meeting!

These committees are open to any YP to join at any time. We are also looking for leadership for the Impact Committee!



**TAILGATE
WITH
HYP**

THUR SEPT. 3RD
TAILGATE: 5PM
GAME START: 7PM
**HOT DOGS, SIDES AND WATER
WILL BE PROVIDED**
TAILGATE SPOT # 238
****SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
MORE INFO!**

DEVELOP COMMITTEE

Join the Develop Committee to help create personal and professional development activities and opportunities for YP's!



MONTHLY MEETING

Impact Committee

Join the Impact Committee and help organize and promote HYP's service and volunteer opportunities!



CONNECT COMMITTEE

Join the Connect Committee to help plan networking, social, and engagement activities for YP's!





Ribbon Cutting
COTTONWOOD EXTENSION DISTRICT
Hays Public Library
1205 Main St., Hays



Chamber Chat
FHSU CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success
600 Park St., Hays



Ribbon Cutting
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER 18
Hays VA Clinic
4107 Vine St., Hays



Chamber Chat
FHSU TIGER ATHLETICS
Gross Memorial Coliseum
600 Park St., Hays



Ribbon Cutting
BOB & PAT SCHMIDT COMMUNITY CENTER
2510 Canterbury Dr., Hays



Ribbon Cutting
STORYTELLERS BAR & GRILL
509 W. Seventh St., Hays



Chamber Chat
HAYS RECREATION CENTER
Hays Welcome Center
 2700 Vine St., Hays



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



Ribbon Cutting
GLIK'S
Big Creek Crossing
 4107 Vine St., Hays



Ribbon Cutting
WOMEN WHO LEAD
Sunrise Park
 1335 Lawrence Dr., Hays



Chamber Chat
GIRL SCOUTS OF KANSAS HEARTLAND
 2707 Vine St., Ste. 8, Hays



Ribbon Cutting
CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK
 2604 General Hays Rd., Ste. B, Hays



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

Sponsor: Vyve Broadband
Speaker: Lyle Pantle, Ellis County Emergency Manager
Program: 72-Hour Emergency Plan



38th Annual Education Appreciation Sponsored by Heartland Credit Union
HILTON GARDEN INN
 121 E. 11th St., Hays



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

Sponsor: Heartland Credit Union
Speaker: Janelle VanKooten, United Way of Ellis County
Program: United Way of Ellis County Campaign Kickoff

UNITED IS THE WAY™



2026 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

United Way brings people, resources, and local organizations together to build, strengthen, and sustain the network of support that improves lives across Ellis County.



TOGETHER, WE CAN...

- Improve Health & Well-Being for Our Community
- Help Young People Realize Their Full Potential
- Address Urgent Needs Today for a Better Tomorrow
- Create a Stronger Financial Future for Every Generation



**JOIN US IN STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK
OF SUPPORT IN ELLIS COUNTY**

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As a Transportation Rider... we NEED to hear from you!



ACCESS
Transportation

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
OF NORTHWEST KANSAS, INC.

ACCESS Public Transportation helps Ellis County residents reach work, medical appointments, shopping, education, social activities, and other essential destinations.

Please answer the questions based on your personal experience. Your feedback will help local leaders and the Transit Task Force evaluate transportation needs throughout our community.

Scan here to
complete this
form digitally!



How important is this transportation service to you, or those you know, who use it? (please circle one)

Not Important Slightly Important Important Very Important Vital

How often do you ride the ACCESS public bus? (please circle one)

Daily 3-4 times a week 1-2 times a week Rarely This is my first time

What is the main purpose of your using the ACCESS bus? (please circle one)

Work School Shopping Medical Social

If this bus service were not available, how would you have made this trip? (please circle one)

Rode with family / friend Walked or biked Used a taxi Rescheduled
Canceled or missed Other (please explain): _____

If the ACCESS bus services were no longer available, how would this affect your livelihood? I would be unable to...

Go to Work Go to School Visit my Doctor Get Groceries
Maintain Relationships Other (please explain): _____

Were you affected by the elimination of the Sunday ACCESS Service? If so, please explain.

Additional comments may be directed to: comments@mydsnwk.org.

You may hand this form to the driver of your bus or mail your form to 2703 Hall St, Suite 10, Hays, KS 67601.

If you need assistance with this form, or need special accommodations, please contact us at 785-625-5678.

As a Community Member... we NEED to hear from you!



ACCESS
Transportation
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
OF NORTHWEST KANSAS, INC.

Public transportation affects more than the individuals who ride the bus. It can influence workforce access, local businesses, health care, education, independence, and participation in community life.

You do not need to be an ACCESS rider to complete this questionnaire. Your feedback will help identify the broader value of public transportation throughout Ellis County and the possible consequences of future service reductions.

Scan here
to complete
this form
digitally!



How important is public transportation to your business and community? (please circle one)

Not Important

Slightly Important

Important

Very Important

Vital

Do your workers rely on public transportation to get to / from work? (please circle one)

Daily

3-4 times a week

1-2 times a week

Rarely

If the ACCESS bus services were no longer available, what would you believe the outcomes would be for our community?

As our Task Force evaluates local transit needs, what value does ACCESS bring to our entire Ellis county region, and what direct impact would your household or local community feel if funding shortfalls forced further service reductions?

Additional comments may be directed to: comments@mysnwk.org.

You may hand this form to the driver of any bus or mail your form to 2703 Hall St, Suite 10, Hays, KS 67601.

If you need assistance with this form, or need special accommodations, please contact us at 785-625-5678.



Nex-Generation Internship Program

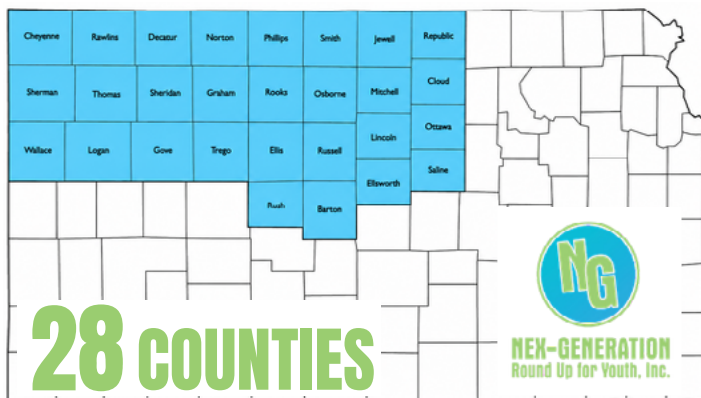


ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth Internship program allows local businesses within our 28-county region in Northwest and North Central Kansas to employ college and high school students for a paid, summer internship. Students gain professional skills and broaden their perspectives on local career options which later on contribute to youth retention to our small, rural communities.

Interns receive hands-on training and mentorship from local business professionals, become fully engaged in networking with community members, participate in local events, and learn to invest their time and talents within their rural communities.

OUR SERVICE AREA



BASIC BUSINESS INFORMATION

Funding Available

- Small Businesses are eligible for a \$2,720 grant per intern.
- Large businesses are eligible for a \$1,720 grant per intern.
- A business can apply for up to 12 interns. When applying ask for the maximum number of interns that you can realistically use.

Interns

- Interns can be high school or college students, with the minimum age being 16.
- Students apply for internship positions starting January 1.
- Interns are your employees. You will review their applications, interview them, hire them, assign tasks, review their work, and most importantly give them a meaningful experience.

Get the word out!

We encourage you to promote your intern positions through social media, local schools, community organizations, and other channels to help attract students.

APPLICATION PROCESS NOW OPEN!

Go to: www.nex-generation.org and click on the Nex-Gen Portal button.

CONTACT US!



www.nex-generation.org



785-567-3282



clawson@nex-generation.org

INTERNSHIP READY: BUSINESS & STUDENT CHECKLISTS

BUSINESS CHECKLIST

- ☐ Apply for summer 2027 internship program 8/3/26 – 12/1/26
- ☐ Complete all required paperwork
- ☐ Review applications on portal 1/1/27 – 3/12/27
- ☐ Promote internship positions
- ☐ Interview applicants 3/12/27 – 4/15/27
- ☐ Hire intern(s) by 4/15/27
- ☐ Interns Start May 20
- ☐ Internship ends August 2, 2027
- ☐ Apply for 2028 Internship Program beginning August 2
- ☐ Nex- Gen payroll reimbursement due September 30

STUDENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Create an account on the Nex-Gen Portal
- ☐ Apply for Fall Work Study – 8/13/26 – 9/30/26
- ☐ Apply for Summer 2027 internships 1/1/27 – 3/12/27
- ☐ Apply for Spring Work Study 1/13/27 – 2/28/27
- ☐ Businesses review applications on portal 1/1/27 – 3/12/27
- ☐ Businesses conduct interviews 3/12/27 – 4/15/27
- ☐ Interns hired by 4/15/27
- ☐ Internship starts May 20
- ☐ Attend one Leadership Day in June
- ☐ Turn in all required documents by 8/2/27
- ☐ Internships end 8/2/27

JOIN US SEPTEMBER 16

Meet the staff and learn about our 4 core programs

HAYS CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING

11:00 AM

FHSU - GROSS MEMORIAL COLISEUM, GATE 2



2027 PRICE CHANGES AND NEW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Membership Lunch
Ticket Price

\$20

Membership Lunch
Sponsorship

\$200

Business After Hours

\$250

Legislative Coffee
Sponsorship

\$1000

Banquet Tickets

\$80

Banquet Dessert or
Wine Sponsor

\$1100

Banquet Floral and
Print Sponsors

\$1325

Banquet Premier
Sponsorship

\$1325

Wellness Sponsorships

\$500+

Leadership Hays
Adaptive Challenge
Sponsor

\$1500

Leadership Hays
Session Sponsor

\$250

HirePaths 7th Grade
Career Hunt
Sponsorships

\$500+

TextCaster Quarterly
Sponsorship

\$250

Community Guide
Small Spread Features

\$400

Professional
Development Workshop

\$1000

After Deadline Pricing
for Career Experience

\$100

For a full list of all available Chamber sponsorships, [click here](#).





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.



**Save
the
Date**

**October
21**

- 🕒 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™

SEPTEMBER 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
Downtown Hays Market | Saturdays | 7:30-11 AM | Downtown Pavilion at 10th and Main
Summer Exhibit: Under the Canopy | M-Sat. 9 AM-6 PM, Sunday 1-6 PM | Sternberg Museum
9/1-9/5: **Hays Arts Council Exhibit: By Seed & Spirit by Taylor Wiens and Justin Miller**
|Th-F 10 AM-4 PM, Saturday 1-4 PM| Hays Arts Council Gallery 1010 Main St.
9/1-9/11: **P.J. Stauffer, MFA Thesis Exhibition: Drawing** | M-F 10 AM-4 PM | FHSU Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art
9/3: **Infant Care** | 5-7:30 PM | Hays Extension Office
9/4, 9/12, 9/19, 9/25: **Live Music at the Paisley Pear** | 8-10 PM | Paisley Pear
9/5: **Historic Fort Hays "Diseases and Healthcare at Fort Hays"** | 2 PM | Historic Fort Hays
9/5: **5K Midnight Run** | 10:30 PM | Hays Recreation Commission
9/8: **Trivia Night at the Paisley Pear** | 6:30-8 PM | Paisley Pear Wine Bar and Bistro
9/10: **Science Book Club: "The Rise and Reign of the Mammals" + Mammal Collection** | 6:30-8 PM |
Sternberg Museum of Natural History
9/10: **Postpartum Health** | 5-7:30 PM | Hays Extension Office
9/11: **The Fox Theatre: Fox N'Vead Playing the Game Tour** | 6:30 PM | The Fox Theatre
9/11-9/12: **Hays Fall Citywide Garage Sales** | 8 AM-5 PM
9/12-9/13: **Hays Prairie Winds Kite Show** | 11 AM-4 PM | Bickle-Schmidt Sports Complex
9/12-9/13: **42nd Annual Frontier Open Disc Golf Tournament** | 9 AM-7:30 PM | Frontier Park
9/12: **6th Annual 9/11 Memorial Event and Stair Climb** | 7:46 AM | Lewis Field Stadium
9/12: **15th Annual Free Spirit 5K/10K Run** | 10 AM | Dusty Glassman Ballfields
9/12: **Poker Run for Mason's Mourning Light Foundation** | All Day | Various Locations
9/12: **Wines and Steins** | 6-11 PM | The Bricks in Downtown Hays
9/18: **Golf Tournament: IHM 4 Person** | 9 AM | Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course
9/18-10/9: **New Faculty Exhibition: Justin Price** | M-F 10-4 PM | FHSU Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art
9/18: **Hays High School Homecoming Parade** | 5 PM | Downtown Hays
9/18: **The Fox Theatre: Josh Meloy** | 6:30 PM | The Fox Theatre
9/19: **Indoor Vendor Market** | 10 AM-2 PM | 2450 E. 8th St.
9/19: **Pedal Patrol in the Park** | 11 AM-2 PM | Aubel-Bickle Optimist Park
9/19: **Northglen Antiques Fall Flea Market** | 9 AM-3 PM | Northglen Antiques
9/19: **LoKal: Rock the Frontier Music Festival** | 3 PM | LoKal Country Bar
9/24: **Ice Cream and Art in the Park** | 2-4 PM | Bethesda Place
9/24: **Go Truck Go** | 5-7 PM | Between Early Childhood Connections and Crosspoint Church
9/26: **Elizabeth Polly's Statue Reception** | 4 PM | Historic Fort Hays
9/26: **The Fox Theatre: Saving Abel** | 6:30 PM | The Fox Theatre
9/26: **Hays Symphony presents: Simply Strings II** | 7:30-8:30 PM | St. Joseph Catholic Church
9/28: **Celebrate Family Day with Pizza Make and Take** | 4-6 PM | Hays Extension Office

Complete List of Hays High School Homecoming Activities: hayshighindians.com

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



September 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT./SUN.
	1	2 HYP, Connect Committee, 12:00 PM Astra Bank, 2605 Main St., Hays	3 HYP, Tiger Tailgate, 5:00 PM Lewis Field Stadium at Fort Hays State University, 600 Park St., Hays Spot #238	4 CC, Golden Belt Bank, 9:00 AM 2030 Aspen Ln., Hays	5 6
7 Labor Day, Chamber office closed	8 Child Care Task Force of Ellis County Meeting, 4:00 PM Bob & Pat Schmidt Community Center, 2501 Canterbury Dr., Hays RC, City of Hays Parks Department, 4:00 PM 1546 Highway 40 Bypass, Hays	9 HYP, Advisory Council Meeting, 12:00 PM Astra Bank, 2605 Main St., Hays	10 Ellis County Wellness Committee Meeting, 9:00 AM WC, 2700 Vine St., Hays	11 No Chamber Chat Scheduled	12 13
14	15 HYP, Connection Lunch, 12:00 PM Sponsor: Midwest Energy Program: Connect, Network, & Grow Speaker: Christina Bixenman, Audio/ Video Editor at Nex-Tech, and HYP AC The Venue at Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill, 2704 Vine St., Hays Chamber Board of Directors Meeting, 3:30 PM WC, 2700 Vine St., Hays	16 RC, Nex-Generation Round Up for Youth, Inc., 11:00 AM Gross Memorial Coliseum, 600 Park St., Hays Enter through Gate 2	17	18 CC, Jana's Campaign, 9:00 AM Hadley Center 1st Floor Conference Room, 205 E. 7th St., Hays AMB, Lunch, 12:00 PM Lb. Event Center & Catering, 117 E. 11th St., Hays	19 20
21	22 GR, Riddle's Jewelry, 1:00 PM 4315 Vine St., Ste. 10, Hays	23 HYP, Develop Committee, 12:00 PM Virtual only	24 RC, Hays Young Professionals, 4:00 PM The Venue at Thirsty's Brew Pub & Grill, 2704 Vine St., Hays	25 CC, 2026 FHSU Homecoming Committee, 9:00 AM Black and Gold Room at FHSU Memorial Union, 600 Park St., Hays ML, 12:00 PM Sponsor: Nex-Tech Wireless Speaker: ITC Great Plains President and ITC Holdings Corp. VP Patrick Woods Program: Power Transmission & Economic Impact Lb. Event Center & Catering, 117 E. 11th St., Hays	26 27
28	29 Ellis County Workforce Committee Meeting, 2:00 PM WC, 2700 Vine St., Hays	30 HYP, Headshot Drive, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Nex-Tech Studio, 2418 Vine St., Hays			

**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.



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THEY ARE PAID ADVERTISEMENTS BY CHAMBER MEMBER INVESTORS.