

# NEWSLETTER

**Novemember 2023** 

## Discover the Heart of Hays: The Benefits of Shopping Local

Hays, known for its rich history and vibrant culture, has a lot to offer. One of the ways we can nurture our community's growth is by embracing the benefits of local shopping. In this article, we'll explore why supporting our local businesses is not only good for the heart of Hays but also for our own well-being.

### **Unique Experiences**

Shopping locally has a direct and positive impact on our local economy. When you spend your money at Haysbased businesses, you're helping create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and increase the tax revenue that supports essential community services like schools, parks, and infrastructure improvements. This economic boost is a winwin for everyone.

### **Community Involvement**

Hays offers a delightful mix of unique, locally-owned shops that you won't find anywhere else. Whether you're searching for one-of-a-kind gifts, home décor, or fashion, our local retailers provide a personal touch.

Each store has its own character, making shopping in Hays a memorable experience.

### Long-term Prosperity

Local businesses are more invested in the communities they serve. They often support local charities, schools, and events. By choosing to shop locally, you indirectly contribute to the well-being of the community through the businesses' active involvement

in local causes and initiatives.

### **Keeps Hays Unique**

Every community has a distinct identity, and Hays is no exception. Our local businesses are a key part of what makes Hays unique. When you shop local, you help preserve and celebrate the distinct character and culture of our town, ensuring that it remains a place that people are proud to call home.

#### Convenience

Shopping locally can be incredibly convenient. With Hays' small-town charm, businesses are often located close to residential neighborhoods, reducing travel time and making your shopping trips efficient and hassle-free.

### **Strengthens Community**

The success of local businesses directly contributes to the long-term prosperity of Hays. When local businesses thrive, they can expand, hire more employees, and invest in our community. This means more opportunities for everyone in Hays, from job seekers to aspiring entrepreneurs.

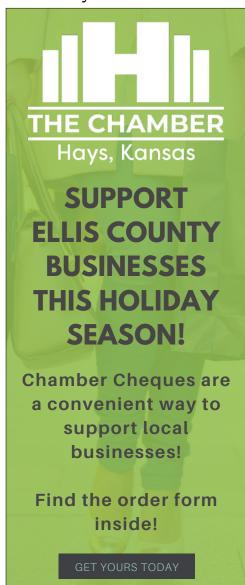
Shopping locally in Hays, Kansas, is not just a shopping choice; it's an investment in the heart and soul of our community. It strengthens our community bonds, boosts our local economy, and ensures a thriving future for Hays.

The next time you consider where to shop, we encourage you to choose our local businesses. It's a small but impactful step towards making Hays an even better place to

live, work, and play.

As we head into the holiday season, let's remember that the power to make a difference in our community is in our hands. Choose to shop local and celebrate the unique spirit of Hays while enjoying the numerous benefits that come with it.

And thank you for your ongoing support of our vibrant community!



# Sarah's Space



As we enter the holiday season, I'm reminded of the magic that surrounds this time of year.

The twinkling lights, the cheerful carolers, and the joyous gatherings with loved ones all contribute to the warm and festive atmosphere that we cherish.

It's a time when our community comes together to celebrate, and it's also a time when we have the power to make a profound impact on our local businesses.

Shopping local is not just a choice; it's an investment in our community's well-being.

According to Nasdaq.com's 2023 Holiday Shopping Season Insights and Trends published on October 24th, "Retailers and brands have a reason to be optimistic for the upcoming holiday season as projections are showing a little over \$1.5 trillion in sales." Amazon recently reported their strongest October Prime Fall Sale to date.

If we want to maintain a strong business culture and climate in Ellis County, we must all do our part to purchase as many items locally as possible this holiday season. Whether you are buying food to prepare your holiday feast, purchasing decorations or furnishings to adorn your home or business, or finding that magical holiday gift for each of your loved ones, we encourage you to cherish your fellow community members by shopping locally. Show your financial support to those who continuously invest to make our community such a special place to call home and be sure to spend last year's Chamber Cheques while shopping!

From our chamber family to yours, we extend our sincerest note of appreciation and thanksgiving for all you do to support our organization and community throughout the year. Happy Thanksgiving, friends!

Yours in service,

Sarah a. Wasinger

#### MISSION

Accelerating business connections and advocating community advancement

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CHAIR: Bryan Brady, HaysMed

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PRESIDENT / CEO PH. 785.621.1389

#### Leigh Purdy

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP PH. 785.621.1385

### James Bell

VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING/ COMMUNICATIONS PH. 785.621.1384



Connecting Business. Advancing Community.

## Welcome to Our Newest Members!

The businesses listed 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.





Prospectively Healthy & Wellness Clinic

(785) 955-9228



Stone House Spirit & Cigar

(207) 776-5445



# **Election forum**





On Oct. 17
The Chamber in
Hays, Kansas,
in a partnership
with the American
Democracy Project,
FHSU Student
Government
Association, FHSU
Docking Institute
of Public Affairs,
and the Tiger
Media Network
hosted an election

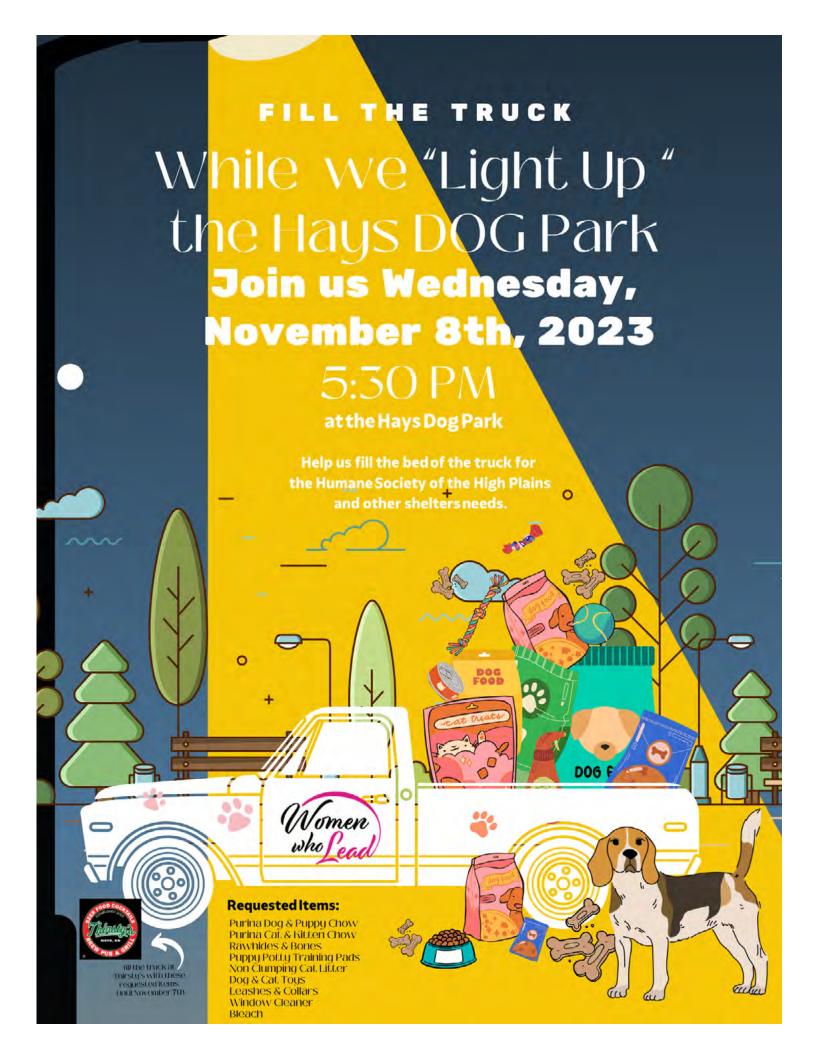
forum providing voters in the city of Hays and USD 489 district boundaries the opportunity to learn about each of the candidates and their stances on important community issues at the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center on the campus of Fort Hays State University.

This event was sponsored by Midwest Energy and The Hays Daily News.

As the election nears, those that could not attend the event in person are encouraged to replay the forum at <a href="mailto:youtube.com/">youtube.com/</a> <a href="mailto:watch?v=YWDYS\_wIXpY&t=590s">wIXpY&t=590s</a>.

# Chamber office November holiday hours

The Chamber in Hays, Kansas' office will be closed on Nov. 10 for Veteran's Day and Nov. 23-24 for Thanksgiving.





# Thank you to our Wonderful "Light the Park" Sponsors









A special thank you to the Business and Individual Community sponsors that donated to make this project a success!

And thank you to our yearly Women Who Lead sponsors.

Also a special thank you to the members of WOMEN WHO LEAD for their dedication to the project!



### FIRST CARE CLINIC WELCOMES NURSE PRACTITIONER



First Care Clinic is pleased to announce that Alexis Ibarra, APRN has joined its medical staff. Alexis obtained her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Fort Hays State University. She is a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner with American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

"We are excited to welcome Lexi

to our staff. We look forward to her contributions as we continue to grow and expand our patient services." said Eric Flax, CEO.

"Lexi did her clinical preceptorship with First Care Clinic, and we were so impressed that we offered her a position in our clinic. She is very knowledgeable and is kind and compassionate with patients. We are very fortunate to have her," stated Dr. Christine Fisher, Medical Director.

First Care Clinic welcomes all patients and accepts all major insurances. A sliding fee scale discount is also available to those who qualify. Patients can request an appointment at <u>firstcareclinic.</u> com or by calling First Care Clinic at (785) 621-4990.



## SBDC offers free classes

The Kansas Small Business Development Center will be offering several FREE classes in celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week.





All events can be found here: <a href="https://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events?reset=1">https://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events?reset=1</a>

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Virtual

Podcasting for Profit: Master the Art of Business Podcasting

Wednesday, November 15, 2023,

9:00-11:00 a.m., Virtual

International Trade Opportunities and Resources Webinar

Friday, November 17, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Virtual and In-Person

Trademark Essentials: What You Need to Protect Your Business

Friday, November 17, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Virtual

How to work with U.S. Patent & Trademark Office



### K-State Research and Extension plans Regional Community Visit

# K-STATE Research and Extension

K-State Research and Extension Regional Community Visit will be November 7th from 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St., Great Bend, KS, or 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at the Bullseye Event Center, 118 Kansas Avenue, Norton, KS. Everyone is invited to attend these community events, where K-State leaders and students will host a dialogue about university and community connections and the student experience. A focus will be on the future of enhancing the successful partnerships and positive relationships with and between communities in the regions surrounding Great Bend, Hays, Norton, Phillipsburg and Smith Center. For more information or to RSVP visit: <a href="https://www.k-state.edu/president/initiatives/regional-community-visits/schedule/barton-ellis-norton-phillips-smith-counties/">https://www.k-state.edu/president/initiatives/regional-community-visits/schedule/barton-ellis-norton-phillips-smith-counties/</a>

## Sunflower Bank launches Community Partner Award

Sunflower Bank is pleased to announce the creation of their new Community Partner Award program to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations in their bank communities. Award recipients will receive grants of \$3,000 to \$15,000 each to be used in support of their ongoing efforts with a grand total of \$80,000 to be donated to seventeen awardees. Nominations are open to the public from October 11 -November 15, and each bank community is encouraged to

nominate local partners for one of the five Empowerment awards.



Check donation presentations will be held throughout the month of December.

Community Partner Award

winners will be chosen from nominees that:

- Demonstrate exceptional focus on community enhancement through their work; or
- Support one of our main impact areas: affordable housing, economic development, financial education, or community services; or
- Help create stronger communities that are diverse, equitable, inclusive, and modeled to create opportunities for all.

# **Call for Content**

Would you like to see your business featured here?



Email your newsworthy story, up to 150-words along with a headshot if applicable, to hayscc@hayschamber.com. Contact us for any questions.

# Alzheimer's Association-Central & Western Kansas Chapter continues fundraising effort

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's event in Hays is over, but the fundraising is not!

The Hays community is nearly halfway to their goal of \$19,000 and fundraising continues through the end of



the year.

55,000 people are living with Alzheimer's disease in Kansas. Additionally, more than 89,000 Kansas caregivers are providing unpaid care, valued at more than \$1.9 billion, to their loved ones with Alzheimer's.

Fundraising is made easy, and participation is free!

Those who raise \$100 will receive a Walk event T-shirt. Donations can be made at <a href="mailto:act.alz.org/hays">act.alz.org/hays</a> or mailed to

the Alzheimer's Association at 535 W. Douglas, Suite 150 Wichita, KS 67213.

The Alzheimer's Association is proud to partner with Heartland Credit Union, FHSU Senior Companion Program, BCBS, KWCH, XPRESS SIGNS AND GRAPHICS, USAVE Pharmacy, Clinkscales Elder Law, HaysMed, and Bank of Hays for the Walk in Hays.

The Alzheimer's Association is dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support, and research.

# Save the dates for the 2024 FHSU Job Fairs!

Teacher Exploration & Employment Fair - 2/13/24

Werth College Career Fair - 2/26/24

Health & Wellness Career Fair - 3/8/24



Each of these will take place in the Memorial Union.

Registration will open at least a month before the scheduled date. We will send email notices to past participants and those who have Handshake accounts and asked to be included on our notification list. If a community business representative indicates they would like to be notified, please have them contact Career Services.

# Lifetime Dental Care hosts free clinic



LEC LIFETIME DENTAL CARE

On Friday, October 6th, Lifetime Dental Care hosted their annual "Seek 2 Serve Donated Dental Day."

Staff and volunteers saw

patients in need of dental care from Hays and surrounding communities, and donated \$17,289 worth of services.

They host two annual free clinics a year for those without insurance and in significant need of dental treatment.

They serve adults in October, and in February, during National Children's Dental Health month, they have another day of free services for children, 18 and under.

LDC loves giving back to the community and ensuring healthiness for all patients.



some of Ellis County's children in need!

Stop by the branch to pick up a dream list from our Hope Tree.

Emprise Bank | 1011 E 27th St | Hays **Member FDIC** 



**GYMNASTICS CLASSES** 

**PRIVATE LESSONS** Cheer | Gymnastics | Dance

Boys & Girls Ages 2.5 & up Ninja Warrior

CALL TODAY!

Heartland Academy of Hays 785.625.5567 heartlandallstars@ruraltel.net haysgymnastics.com



# **Chamber, Nex-Tech share AI possiblities**



The Chamber in Hays, Kansas, hosted an AI Content Generation Workshop on Tuesday, October 24.

The event provided attendees with invaluable insights into how generative AI tools can transform and enhance their business efforts.

Justin McClung, Director of Operational Support Services at Nex-Tech, was the featured speaker, offering his expertise in navigating the evolving landscape of AI technology.

One of the main focuses of the workshop was the advancement of technology in the realm of AI content generation. McClung stressed the importance of staying current with the latest developments in the field, given the rapid pace of innovation.

He emphasized that AI-powered tools are no longer futuristic concepts but tangible solutions that can be integrated

into various business processes to improve productivity and efficiency.

Throughout the event, attendees were introduced to a variety of AI tools that are making waves in the industry. Among the notable mentions was ChatGPT, a cutting-edge language model and imgae generator Midjourney. ChatGPT is designed to generate human-like text and can be leveraged for customer support, content creation, and more. Its versatility and natural language understanding capabilities were showcased as valuable assets for businesses seeking to enhance their communication and content generation processes.

Adobe Photoshop, a widely recognized tool for image editing and manipulation, was also discussed in the context of AI. Attendees were introduced to how AI-powered features in Photoshop can streamline image editing processes and enhance creativity.

One of the key takeaways from the workshop was the importance of sharing best practices for utilizing AI tools effectively. McClung encouraged attendees to collaborate and exchange insights to optimize the integration of AI into their respective business models and the importance of continuous learning to stay abreast of AI advancements.



# November MDC Workshop - First Impressions Matter: A Customer Service Workshop

Do you or your team members need a refresher on customer service skills?

Join us for such topics as how to handle upset customers/co-workers, how to communicate more effectively utilizing the 4 styles, telephone etiquette, how to best represent yourself on the job and more.

Looking ahead: the MDC anticipates releasing a winter workshop schedule and the SHRM certification prep course information on or around December 1.

More info here: <a href="https://www.fhsu.edu/cob/mdc/Upcoming-Workshops/">https://www.fhsu.edu/cob/mdc/Upcoming-Workshops/</a> or connect with Sabrina at slwilliam@fhsu.edu or 785-628-4124.

# Igniting Leadership session scheduled for Nov. 8



Calling all Leadership Hays and Dale Carnegie graduates and any local leaders who enjoy synergizing with others on how to improve Hays and the surrounding area! Igniting Leadership is facilitated by 2022 Leadership Hays graduate Laurie Kennedy.

Each month, the time of Igniting Leadership will alternate between a noon lunch session and a 5:30 p.m. dinner option on the second Wednesday of every month.

The November session will be at noon and will be hosted at Professor's Classic Sandwich Shop & More, 521 E 11th St.

Anyone who is interested in flexing leadership muscle is welcome to attend.

The cost of meals and drinks will be the responsibility of attendees to cover.

Hays Public Library Director Brandon Hines will be November's featured speaker.





Hays Young Professionals Advisory Council

# SAN Bate!!!

# Leadership Development Committee

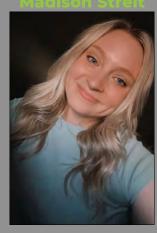
Wednesday, November 22 - 12:00 p.m. Paisley Pear Wine Bar, Bistro & Market, 1100 Main St. Hays

## **Holiday Social**

Thursday, November 30 - 5:00 p.m. STEM Harvest, 507 Main St., Hays

## Welcome to our newest members

### **Emprise Bank**



"I hope to grow and build connections with others in the Hays area! I am looking forward to expanding on my professional career, meet new people, and give back to the community in any way that I can."

### **FHSU - Residential Life**



"I want to be more involved in my community."

# HYP scholarships available

Sholarship funds are available for eligible HYP members!

HYP members will be required to fill out a scholarship application 60 days prior to the event they would like to attend and will receive reimbursement after the event (up to \$50 in a calendar year) for the learning/leadership event they choose to attend.

Priority will be given to HYP members attending local events.



# Leadership Book Club



13 WAYS TO KILL YOUR COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSION Hays Public Library

1205 Main St., Hays

Catching Up



NCK TECH 2205 Wheatland Ave., Hays



**HIGH PLAINS MENTAL HEALTH** 208 E. 7th St., Hays



USD 489 FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONATIONAL EXCELLENCE 21344 Fariground Rd., Hays



**DOWNTOWN HAYS DEVELOPMENT CORP.**1200 Main St., Hays



WOMEN WHO LEAD 1200 Main, St. Ste. 102, Hays



#### **SEPTEMBER LUNCH**

**Program:** Rural Opportunity Zones Program **Speaker:** Sheena Thomas, ROZ Program Manager **Sponsor:** Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering 2350 E. 8th St., Hays



#### **OCTOBER LUNCH**

**Program:** FHSU Updates

Speaker: Tisa Mason, FHSU President

Sponsor: Nex-Tech

Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering

2350 E. 8th St., Hays



#### **SIMPLY CHARMED**

1011 Main St., Hays



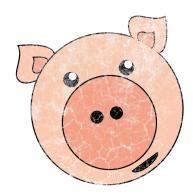
## MASON'S MOURNING LIGHT FOUNDATION

2700 Vine St., Hays



#### **GOLDEN PLAINS CREDIT UNION**

2720 Broadway, Hays



Branded swag bag option Guest welcome placement

Radio interview guest spot

Featured item per bag (\$5-10 item)

Booth space with 5 staff attending

# **36th Annual AG APPRECIATION**

## FEBRUARY 29th, 2024

Schenk Building - Ellis County Fairgrounds 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 1344 Fairground Road

THE CHAMBER

Hays, Kansas

Contact name (Please print)	<u> </u>		
Sponsor name (to appear in advertising			
Address			
Perferred phone number	Preferred email address		
Authorized signature	Date		
<ul> <li>\$100 - Grower</li> <li>Newsletter thank you</li> <li>Social media recognition</li> <li>Opportunity to provide promotional swag bag in</li> <li>Event signage</li> </ul>	tems for first 150 bags		
\$250 - Cultivate  Grower level items +  Save the date card distributor Booth space with 2 staff attending	December 15  Please select one option		
\$700 - Barnraise Grower and Cultivator level items +	Will drop off items to the Chamber <b>Feb. 20, 2024.</b> Need Chamber to pick up		
<ul> <li>\$25 Chamber Cheque giveaway in sponsor's nate</li> <li>Promotion social media video placement</li> <li>Videos played during event</li> <li>Save the date sponsor listing</li> <li>Booth space with 3 staff attending</li> </ul>	Door prize provided		
\$1000 - Title  Grower, Cultivator, and Barnraiser level items +  Event naming			

# COMMUNITY EVENTS - NOVEMBER 2023

11/1-11/21: "Along the Santa Fe Trail" paintings exhibit by Cally Krallman | Hays Arts Center

11/1-12/21: Expedition Dinosaur: Rise of the Mammals | Sternberg Museum

11/2: Triston Marez with David Adam Byrnes & Mila Rae | 6:30 PM | The Fox Theatre

11/3: 1920's Mafia Marriage Murder Mystery Dinner & Show | 5:30 PM | Strand Event Center

11/4: Hays Recreation Commission Turkey Trot 5K & 10K | 9 AM | Dusty Glassman Ballfields

11/4: 51st Annual Peddlers' Fair | 9 AM-1:30 PM | First United Methodist Church

11/4: Hays Area Ducks Unlimited Annual Banquet | 5 PM | Ellis County Fairgrounds

11/7: Hays Hall of Fame Award Ceremony | 4:30 PM | NCK Tech Dreiling-Business Occupations Center

11/7: NCK Tech Community & Alumni Social Event | 6:30 PM | Defiance Taproom

11/7: **Square Dancing** | 7-9 PM | Hays Senior Center

11/9-11/11: **Downtown Holiday Open Houses** 

11/9-11/12: Hays High School Music & Theatre presents: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street Rockwell Administration Building

11/9-11/12: FHSU Department of Music & Theatre presents: Silent Sky | Felten/Start Theatre

11/9-11/13: The ARC of Central Plains Festival of Trees/Online Auction

11/9: **Beginner Pie Making** | 6 PM | Hays Public Library

11/10: Cody Canada & The Departed with Jarat Ray Reddick & Tyler Byrd | 6:30 PM | The Fox Theatre

11/11: Veterans Day Program & Lunch | 11 AM | VFW Hall

11/11: Puzzle Competition | 1-3 PM | Hays Public Library

11/12: Stars & Stripes Breakfast | 7:30 AM-12 PM | VFW Hall

11/14: Trivia Night: Disney | 6:30 PM | Paisley Pear

11/16: **Thanksgiving at the Library** | 5-7 PM | Hays Public Library

11/16: **"You Say Tomato, I say Tomahto: Evolution of Language in Kansas" by Mary Kohn** | 7 PM Ellis County Historical Society Museum

11/17: Hailey Whitters with Autumn Ragland | 6:30 PM | The Fox Theatre

11/17: Kids Night Out - Turkey Trot | 7-9 PM | Heartland Academy of Hays

11/18: Bright Lights for Little Tykes | 5-11 PM | Strand Event Center

11/18: Live Music by Murphy's Mountain Kings | 8-10 PM | Paisley Pear

11/23: Annual Ellis County Ministerial Alliance Community Thanksgiving Feast | 11 AM-1 PM Kansas National Guard

11/24: Santa Arriving at Big Creek Crossing | 10 AM-5 PM

11/24-12/30: Christmas at Creek Side | Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays 6-11 PM | Creek Side Resort RV Park

11/25: KSHSAA Football State Championship | 1 PM | Lewis Field Stadium

11/25: **Annual Tree Lighting** | 5-6:30 PM | Union Pacific Park

11/25: Live Music by Brad Dawson | 8-10 PM | Paisley Pear

11/28: Plymouth Schoolhouse Christmas Open House | 3-4:30 PM | FHSU Campus

11/29: **Tiger Trivia** | 5:30 PM | Defiance Downtown

11/30-12/2: Annual Gerald Mitchell Hays City Shootout | Hays High School







# November

SAT	SUN	М	т	w	TH	F
				HYP, Leadership Over Lattes, 7:30 AM Breathe Coffee House 703 B Main St.      RC, The Gamers Guild 4:00 PM 200 E. 8th St.	- HYP, Networking & Engagement Committee Meeting, 12:05 PM WC, 2700 Vine St HYP, First Thursday Social Meeting, 5:15 PM Colden Q 809 Ash	• RC/CC, Grabbe Law Office, 9:00 AM, WC, 2700 Vine St.
4	5	6	7	• IL, 12:00 PM Professor's Classic Sandwich Shop & More 521 E 11th Street • CU, Hays Area Children's Center, 4:00 PM 94 Lewis Dr.	HYP, Advisory Council Meeting, 12:00 PM WC, 2700 Vine Street  - Lunch & Learn, 12:00 PM Speaker, Kaley Conner, James Gerstner Program: Coping with Holiday Blues & Stress The Venue at Thirsty's Brew Pub & Crill 2704 Vine St. #B	• Chamber Closed - Veterans Day
11	12	13	14	15	16 • Child Care Provider Professional Development Series, 6:00 PM Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering 2350 E. 8th St.	• CC, Kat's Hallmark, 9:00 AM, 1003 Main St • AMB, Monthly Lunch, 12:00 p.m. Rose Garden Banquet Hall & Catering 2350 E. 8th St.
18	19	20	• Chamber BOD Meeting, 3:30 PM WC, 2700 Vine St.	222  • HVP, LDC Meeting, 12:00 PM, Paisley Pear Wine Bar, Bistro, & Market 1100 Main St.	23 • Chamber Closed - Thanksgiving	24  Chamber Closed - Thanksgiving
25	26	27	28 -child Care Task Force of Ellis County Meeting, 4:00 PM, WC, 2700 Vine St.	29	HYP, AMB Holiday Social, 5:00 PM, STEM Harvest 507 Main St.	

#### ABBREVIATION LEGEND:

**AMB** = Ambassador

**BAH** = Business After Hours **BP** = DHDC Brick Presentation

**CC** = Chamber Chat

**CU** = Catching Up

**GB** = Groundbreaking

**GO** = Grand Opening

**HYP** = Hays Young Professionals

IL = Igniting LeadershipLH = Leadership Hays

**LL** = Leadership Hay

ML = Membership Lunch

RC = Ribbon Cutting

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

## **Executive Level Chamber Members**

"The Chamber thanks these businesses for making the ultimate investment!"























