



## Quote of the Day

"If you want to make sure your house is clean, send out invitations to a party."

- Ron's Mom

## Remembering the Forgotten Chair

I grew up in the part of the world where nearly everyone has a basement. For those that have never had basement they serve as storage, storm shelter, man cave, teenage hideout and a place for the chair. The chair you ask? Well, it seems that invariably everyone has that one chair in the basement, it usually was dad's favorite lounge that was too ratty to leave in the living room but held far too many memories for him to get rid of it... so it got moved to the basement. While in the basement in got hot wing sauce on it during the super bowl, had two litters of kittens born on it, suffered from teenage boy drool on it from many nights falling asleep playing Guitar Hero. You get the idea, it is gross. Here is the thing though, everyone who lives in the house quits noticing it, it is not until someone comes to visit, (your mother-in-law) who says, "what's the deal with that awful chair," that you finally notice how bad it looks and smells.

Whether you have a basement or not, we all have that one funky chair in our lives, yards, neighborhoods, or city. We just quit seeing the ugly, funky things and it is not until we have visitors that mention them that they come into focus.

So, here is my challenge for you, as we have thousands of visitors in our city this weekend for Hotter'N Hell, let us see through their eyes. What are the chairs in our lives that we can acknowledge and clean up? Where can we as individuals take ownership and beautify this amazing place, we call home? No one ever regretted creating beauty in their own corner of the world.

Now let's get racing!

Always Forward.

- Ron Kitchens

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## **Panda Biotech is making huge strides!**

Many of you have heard of Panda Biotech - a hemp gin that's growing its footprint in Wichita Falls. We could not be more excited to see the progress they are making on the construction of their building and to hear of the many new partnerships they have formed. After visiting with them this week, we learned so much about their future plans in Wichita Falls including the people they are already employing and their plans to employ many more. Stay tuned to learn more and check out their [website](#) for additional information.

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## **Texas Dominates the List of Best Markets for First Time Home Buyers**

According to Recon, the Texas Real Estate Research Center, our wonderful city ranked second, in the entire country, for the best housing markets for first time home buyers. In fact, Texas cities secured 5 out of the top 10 spots on this list. In case you are wondering, Killeen, Texas ranked number one and the following other Texas cities made it on the top 10 list - McAllen (3rd), Waco (6th) and Brownsville (8th). Click [here](#) to find out who else ranked in the top ten.

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## **Chamber Happenings**

### **The Chamber's Circuit Group Visits the Delta Hotel**

The Chamber's Emerging Leaders program, The Circuit, took a tour of the luxurious [Delta Hotel by Marriott Wichita Falls Convention Center](#) last week.

The Circuit is focused on advancing emerging leaders through mentorship, community engagement, and professional development. Interested in becoming a mentee or a mentor? Contact [maria@wichitafallschamber.com](mailto:maria@wichitafallschamber.com) for more information.

### **Burn Shop Steak Cook Off Block Party**

Whether you like to cook steak or just want to eat one, you should join the Burn Shop and the Steak Cookoff Association (SCA) for a [Steak Cook Off Block Party](#). It will benefit the Wichita Falls Police and Fire Fighters Association and feature music from [Them Dirty Roses](#), the [Huser Brother Band](#) and [Matt Williams](#). You don't want to hear about this after the event, come join us! Click [here](#) to sign up.

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### **Mustang Pride**

It's Mustang Friday! Does your business have MSU pride? We challenge you to show your school spirit on Fridays during MSU's football season. Check out our [post](#) on Facebook and upload a picture of business showing their Mustang Pride. Go Stangs!

### **MSU Texas Night Out**

We all know that the Hotter'N Hell 100 is coming up this Saturday, but did you also know that Friday is [MSU Texas Night Downtown](#)? The area will be flooded with Mustang pride as people explore downtown Wichita Falls and experience the various businesses, art and entertainment that it uniquely offers. The Chamber team will be at the [Downtown Wichita Falls Farmer's Market](#) serving free popcorn and drinks to MSU students. Come see us and find out how the Chamber can help you as an MSU Mustang!

### **Funds Flowing to Healing Horizons**

Recently the Texas Legislature invested \$2.5 billion dollars to replace and renovate some of the existing state hospitals. This money has been allocated to follow their three major principles: systems-based continuum of care, unparalleled treatment and easy access. Our very own North Texas State Hospital will be one of the beneficiaries of this expenditure with \$452 million being allocated for a brand new replacement hospital here in Wichita Falls. The current building was originally built in 1917. This new campus will have 200 beds including 24 maximum security, 136 forensic non-maximum security, 24 adolescent and 16 civil. For additional information, click [here](#).

### **New Member Mentions**

We are thankful for these new Chamber members who have joined our organization.

- [Wichita Treatment Services, LLC](#)
- [Home Zone](#)
- [Stratosphere Holdings Group](#)
- [Cantu's Vending Service, LLC](#)

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## **Military Matters**

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### **Join Us for a Virtual Hiring Event**

You are invited to join Hiring Our Heroes at their [Virtual Military Spouse Hiring Event](#) on August 30 from 1 – 4 p.m. ET!

There is no cost to attend, and available roles span all career levels. Join us to learn how to gain employment in leading industries, network with hiring managers, recruiters, and representatives from a variety of companies.

### **Salute to Service**

The [Sheppard AFB Retiree Activities Office](#) (RAO) has partnered up with [Hospice of Wichita Falls](#) to establish the Salute to Service Program here in town. The Salute to Service ceremony gives veterans an opportunity to tell their story, share their feelings, allow volunteers to thank them for their service and show appreciation to their families.

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This program wouldn't have started without the work of Michelle Houck. Michelle, who recently retired from civil service at Sheppard AFB, was deeply impacted by a Salute to Service program at a hospice facility in Maryland. Her father, a proud Navy veteran, was offered a tribute by fellow soldiers. This small, yet powerful gesture was profoundly meaningful for her father. and Michelle knew that she wanted to bring this same program to her home in Wichita Falls.

To make this program successful, they need military volunteers (veterans, active duty, guard, and reserve) from all branches of the military. Volunteers may sign up by contacting the RAO at (940) 676-5088, Monday-Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm or by emailing [sheppardrao@gmail.com](mailto:sheppardrao@gmail.com).

#### **International Partner of the Month: Qatar**

Sports in Qatar isn't just soccer ... it's also [falconry](#) and [camel racing](#)!

Falconry has been a major part of culture in the region for centuries! Bedouins traditionally deployed these magnificent birds to help with supplementing food, as they could catch hares and smaller birds. Present day, falconers engage in hunts and races during the winter months. Anything a falconer could need can be found for purchase in the Falcon Souq in Doha. Peregrines, lanners, and sakers for purchase range in price from £2,000 to more than £200,000.

Camel racing is also a sport that has a long history in Qatar. But nowadays, the sport looks a little different, as atop the camel sits a humanoid robot jockey wearing classic racing silk! These "riders" are linked to the trainer by walkie-talkie and are followed alongside the track by their trainer in white SUVs.

## **Jobs Board Highlights**

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#### **This Week's Featured Job**

If you enjoy working with both information and people, the Wichita County Courthouse is looking for a new [Human Resources Risk Management Coordinator](#). This individual will provide administrative support, working closely with both Wichita County employees and the public. Duties would include training, work safety, job announcements, employment applications, pre-employment testing, Employee Service Awards, Worker's Compensation, FMLA and other Human Resource related duties. Check out this job posting and others at the [Chamber's Job Board](#) and see if you are who they are looking for!

- [Youth Development Director](#), YMCA of Wichita Falls
- [Medical Assistant – CMA](#), Texas Oncology
- [Certified Pharmacy Technician \(CPht\)](#), Franklin Pharmacy
- [Office Manager](#), SERVPRO of Wichita Falls

## In the News Now...

<https://www.newschannel6now.com>

### Texas Fallen Outdoor promoting veteran suicide awareness through Hotter'N Hell

The Fallen Outdoors' Texas branch is planning an awareness campaign for veteran suicides called 22 miles for the 22 a day.

[Read More](#)

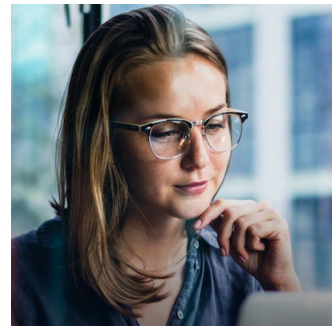


### Entrepreneur

### Free Report: Planning and Navigating Financing for Business Success

From startup to IPO to going public, each growth stage has pitfalls to avoid and best practices to consider.

[Read More](#)



### New York Times

### Shell Company Seeks to Extend Deadline for Merger With Trump Media

The merger has been delayed several times since it was announced in October 2021, but now faces a time crunch before a looming liquidation date.

[Read More](#)

**Isn't it time you joined the Wichita Falls Chamber?**

Start making the right connections today to take your business to the next level.



[WICHITAFALLSCHAMBER.COM/ATTHEHEARTOFBUSINESS](http://WICHITAFALLSCHAMBER.COM/ATTHEHEARTOFBUSINESS)



Grow your business in Wichita Falls.



Contact us at

940.723.2741 or [wichitafallschamber.com](http://wichitafallschamber.com).



Wichita Falls Chamber

900 8th Street, Ste. 100, Wichita Falls Chamber, TX, USA, 76301

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