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## Quote of the Day

“The days I keep my gratitude higher than my expectations...I have really good days.”

- Ray Wylie Hubbard

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## Discovered This Week

Morgan Freeman, the famous actor, once said, “How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time.” I witnessed that firsthand in my own neighborhood the other day in my driveway and the driveway of my neighbors. There, two girls named Sophie and Kinley had written in colored chalk, “Have the Best Day Ever!” and added a heart and flower for extra flourish. I do not know Sophie or Kinley, but I know from the faces of my neighbors too, as they discovered their gift of art, that their acts of kindness changed the world that day and made our neighborhood grow closer.

Always Forward.

- Ron Kitchens

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## Local Gardening Expert Recognized by Green Profit Magazine

Michael Fiore of [Smith's Gardentown](#) has been named the garden center industry's National Young Retailer of the Year by [Green Profit magazine](#). Michael is the son of owner Katherine Smith and the fourth generation of the Smith family to work in the 74-year-old Wichita Falls garden center. He was recently honored at Cultivate '23, the nation's premier trade show for the green industry and will be featured on the cover of the magazine's September edition. [Read more.](#)



## Our Wichita Falls Chamber CEO Really Rocks!

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Chamber CEO Ron Kitchens was recognized by [Southern Business and Development magazine](#) in its Spring 2023 issue as one of the Economic Rockstars of the South. Way to go, Ron!

## Chamber Happenings

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### Mix It up With the Chamber

The Chamber Team is offering a variety of options in the coming weeks where you can mix it up with your fellow Chamber members by celebrating each other and your community. Come for one event or all!

- [Thursday, July 27](#) from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a Business After Hours networking event at Foundation Auto at 2900 Old Jacksboro Hwy
- [Tuesday, August 1](#) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Wichita Falls Chamber Blood Drive at 900 8th St
- [Thursday, August 3](#) at 11:00 a.m. for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Chesterton Academy located at 600 Davy Dr in Burkburnett
- Thursday, August 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a Business After Hours networking event at [Community Healthcare Center](#) at 200 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

### Interested in Headlining a Chamber Event?

There is no better way to show your support for the Wichita Falls Chamber and our mission to “build more and better jobs through economic development and business support” than by a decision to host one of our premier networking events: Wake Up Wichita Falls and Business After

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Hours.

If you are at your best when you rise and shine, then Wake Up Wichita Falls, which happens from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., is for you. Those who like to get things rolling after the workday ends might find a Business After Hours event more their style from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Networking events typically take place at a business's location to showcase space or at another secured location. For both types of events, the Chamber Team does the promotion to get people through the doors while your business holds responsibility for the site and catering. Businesses that host an event find the experience to be an extremely rewarding one for educating members about their business, making and facilitating connections and supporting their community.

To become a host of a future event, contact [Sara Cox](#) at 940.723.2741.

### **As One Internship Ends, Another Is on the Horizon**

We recently celebrated our intern, Nathan Thompson, on completing his [Home 2 Texas](#) research and small business development program with the Chamber. An internship is a great way to explore real world career interests and build skills to be job ready. Benefits of internships also include the gaining the ability to network, build relationships and more. Get in touch with the Chamber's [Christina Bell](#) if you or someone you know is interested in becoming an intern at the Chamber in the future.

### **Gold Coat Ambassador of the Month**

There is no better way to kick off our new monthly feature on the Chamber's [Gold Coat Ambassadors](#) than with Tanja Robinson, Gold Coat president and [Community Healthcare Center](#) employee.

*Why are you an Ambassador?*

Simply put...I love Wichita Falls! I was born and raised here, and the older I get, the deeper my love is for my community. As new businesses open, I enjoy celebrating them, making them feel welcome and letting them know what an amazing choice they made.

*What is your favorite place to eat?*

My husband's outside kitchen...which is usually BBQ! Otherwise...The Cheesecake Factory.

*What is your favorite memory/highlight of being a Gold Coat?*

I would have to say [it was] one of the most recent ribbon cuttings involving the youngest Chamber member, [Turtle D's](#) — such a unique and intelligent young man who started his business due to his compassion for helping others. It was an inspiration and an honor to play a part in his celebration.

*Why should someone join the Ambassador program?*

We have a good group who all share a passion for celebrating others, not to mention the networking opportunities it provides. It's nice to have a little extra insight into these businesses as well.

### **New Member Mentions**

We are shouting loud and far this week for these new Chamber members:

- [My Amy, LLC](#)
- [Caliber Collision](#)
- [Quickees Delivery](#)

- [Kinder Hearts – Home Health, Hospice, Pediatrics](#)

## Military Matters

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### Portability of Professional Licenses and Certificates for Servicemembers and Their Spouses

In January of this year, President Biden signed into law the Military Licensing Relief Act. [This new law](#) amended the Service Members Civil Relief Act, affirming that state licensing boards must accept valid professional licenses, with the exception of law licenses, that service members and spouses received from other states if they moved due to a [permanent change of station](#) or on other military orders. The [Department of Justice recently sent a letter](#) to all state licensing authorities, as a reminder, as well as issuing a [one-page flyer](#) about license portability.

### New Faces. New Leadership.

Summer is the season of moving in the military, which means new faces and new leadership. July alone saw three changes of command! Join us in [welcoming these new leaders](#) to Sheppard Air Force Base and Wichita Falls:

- Colonel Eric Haler, Commander, 782nd Training Group
- Colonel John Hollister, Commander, 82nd Mission Support Group
- Colonel Grant Fowler, Commander, 982nd Training Group

### International Partner of the Month: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Did you know that Saudi Arabia is home to [six UNESCO World Heritage sites](#)? One of these sites is the [Al-Ahsa Oasis](#). Located in the eastern Arabian Peninsula, the Al-Ahsa Oasis is a serial property comprising gardens, canals, springs, wells and a drainage lake, as well as historical buildings, urban fabric and archaeological sites. Al-Ahsa is the largest oasis in the world and has over 2.5 million date palms. According to UNESCO, “The oasis is an outstanding example of traditional human settlement developed in a desert environment exemplifying the intimate link between landscape, natural resources and the human efforts to settle the land.”



## Jobs Board Highlights

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If you enjoy cultivating relationships, Texoma Community Credit Union may be the perfect fit for you. The local financial institution is seeking a [Relationship Banker](#) for its Sheppard Office. This position will have a thorough understanding of the member's transaction requirements and be able to effectively communicate all available options to them. They will also educate members about sales and service delivery options and refer the appropriate products and services matching the member's needs in an efficient, friendly and accurate manner. Learn more about [this opportunity](#) and other local jobs on the [Wichita Falls Chamber Jobs Board](#).

- [Office Manager](#), SERVPRO of Wichita Falls
- [Coordinator, Priddy Scholars](#), MSU Texas
- [Juvenile Probation/Detention](#), Wichita County
- [Digital Content Producer](#), KAUZ News Channel 6
- [Patient Services Representative](#), ER Now

## In Other News...

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<https://www.newschannel6now.com>

### SAFB training program volunteers at community closet

Pilots training at the Sheppard Air Force Base took a little break from their learning to give back to the community.

[Read More](#)



<https://www.newschannel6now.com>

### MSU Texas to establish Center for STEM Excellence

The 88th Texas Legislature session has approved \$2.4 million in funding to establish a Center for STEM Excellence at Midwestern State University.

[Read More](#)



## Texas Monthly

### Carolyn Pfeiffer on Marfa, Tutoring Claudia Cardinale, and Asking Michael Jackson What He Fed His Giraffes

From her West Texas home, veteran film producer Carolyn Pfeiffer reflects on her coming of age in the world of celebrity and discusses her memoir.

[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



Grow your business in  
Wichita Falls.



Contact us at

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



Wichita Falls Chamber

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