Date: January 31, 2003

ENTERPRISE TO REPLACE WATER SYSTEM USING VOLUNTEER LABOR

The City of Enterprise, Kansas, is committed to improving its water supplyâ€”so committed that residents are putting their own sweat into the project.

Enterprise is the latest Kansas community to benefit from KAN STEP, a popular program of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H), where residents make major community improvements they could not otherwise afford by doing the work themselves.

The KDOC&H is awarding Enterprise a federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for $141,119, which will pay for materials and professional services to replace 2,650 feet of century-old cast-iron water lines and valves. The donated labor of the residents will be worth an estimated $171,063. With the city contributing an additional $4,500 for engineering design, the total cost of the project is estimated at $316,682.

"We congratulate the residents of Enterprise for taking action to improve the quality of life in their community," said Lt. Governor/KDOC&H Secretary John Moore. "The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing is pleased to be able to provide this grant to support their efforts."

The KDOC&H started KAN STEP in 2000 to give small Kansas communities an opportunity to do projects they couldn't otherwise afford. Five fire stations and four community buildings are currently under contract through KAN STEP, with three more communities in the process of completing the paperwork required for funding.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: January 6, 2003

RAWLINS COUNTY TO BUILD FIRE STATION WITH KAN STEP PROGRAM

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing's KAN STEP program is proving to be extremely popular, with Rawlins County Rural Fire District #3 being the latest recipient of a grant for a new fire station.

Through KAN STEP, Rawlins County Rural Fire District #3 will receive $155,432 in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to add three bays to its current fire station, and to do some renovation to the present structure. The total estimate for the work is $250,743. To fill the gap of $95,311, community volunteers will do the work themselves.

An acronym for Kansas Small Towns Environment Program, KAN STEP is a self-help program that enables small communities to make major infrastructure improvements. Local people volunteer labor and services, while the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) provides block grant funding for materials and technical services. No local funding match from the community is required.

The KDOC&H started KAN STEP in 2000 to give small Kansas communities an opportunity to do projects they couldn't otherwise afford. Five other fire stations are currently under contract through KAN STEP, and two more communities in the process of completing the paperwork required for funding.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: February 11, 2003

THE KDOC&H AWARDS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO DOWNS AND PALCO

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) has awarded Comprehensive Development grants for major projects in two Kansas cities.

The City of Downs will receive a Comprehensive Development grant for $1,142,661. Downs will use the grant to reconnect a well and install larger capacity water lines downtown, improve its sewer plant and construct a new sewer lagoon, rehabilitate eight houses, and demolish ten structures. The work will benefit four Downs companies (RC Pork, Inc., Brush Art Corporation, The Scoular Company, and Strikers) and mean 16 new jobs for Downs, as the companies expand.

The KDOC&H has also awarded a Comprehensive Development grant to Palco. The $966,584 grant is for sewer improvements, streets and sidewalks downtown, rehabilitation to 11 homes, and demolition of eight structures.

The KDOC&H has worked with Downs and Palco for more than a year in planning these projects. Both cities are also using funding from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for their projects. In addition, the Kansas Department of Transportation is assisting Palco with its street project.

"We applaud the communities of Downs and Palco for their commitment in growing their cities," said Lt. Governor/KDOC&H Secretary John Moore. "We are pleased to support their efforts and will work with them to ensure the success of these projects."

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) awards Comprehensive Development grants through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: February 17, 2003

KANSAS MAIN STREET "NEW CITY" APPLICATION WORKSHOP

The Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) is sponsoring a workshop in Topeka on March 21 for communities interested in becoming Kansas Main Street cities.

The workshop will give participants background information on the Main Street Four-Point Approach to downtown revitalization, what it takes to become a designated Main Street city, and how to work through the application process.

"New City" Application Workshop

March 21, 2003

1:00 p.m. â€“ 4:00 p.m.

Curtis State Office Building

1000 S.W. Jackson Street

Room 530

Topeka, Kansas

Application forms will be distributed at the workshop. No applications will be available without attending the workshop.

The workshop is free of charge, but registration is required. Interested persons are asked to register by March 6, 2003. To register, contact Jeanne Stinson at (785) 296-3485, e-mail jstinson@kansascommerce.com, or fax (785) 296-0186.

If you are in need of special accommodations, please contact the KDOC&H at least five days in advance of the workshop at (785) 296-3481, TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487, or fax (785) 296-3665.

Kansas currently has 22 designated Kansas Main Street communities. New Kansas Main Street cities will be announced in

early July.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: February 28, 2003

SPRING KANSAS! MAGAZINE OFFERS PLENTY TO SEE AND DO

As the temperatures warm and the plants wake up, you'll find plenty to do and see in the state, from mushroom hunting and exploring unique B&Bs, to watching the prairies burn. You'll find it all in the Spring 2003 issue of KANSAS! magazine, the four-color, quarterly periodical published as the official state magazine by the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing's (KDOC&H) Travel & Tourism Development Division.

Writer Jim Ramberg and Photographer Earl Richardson get together with the Kaw Valley Mycological Society as they search the spring woods for golden treasuresâ€"morel mushrooms. When these delicacies pop up, you know it's spring in Kansas.

Another sign of spring is the prairie fires, set to keep the Kansas ecosystem in check. Writer/Photographer David Dvorak, Jr. and landscape artist Louis Copt present their photographs and paintings, respectively, for a beautiful visual essay on this awesome sight.

Four unique bed and breakfast establishments offer travelers an experience they won't forget. Fly into the Beaumont Hotel, spend a cozy night at the Minor Family Sod House Bed & Breakfast, kayak across Milford to the Lake House Bed & Breakfast, and pet a giraffe at Hedrick's Bed and Breakfast and Exotic Animal Farm. Various KANSAS! writers and photographers contributed to the stories.

You're never too young or old to catch a ride on a carousel, and volunteers in the state are making sure carousels are being restored for all to enjoy. Photographer Michael C. Snell and Writer Sally M. Snell visited a few sites where the carnival magic continues.

Writer/Photographer Lou Ann Thomas samples a somewhat new springtime tradition as she visits the Kansas Sampler Festival in Independence held in May. And Photographer Bill Stephens presents a photographic essay on another popular traditionâ€"The Governor's Fishing Classicâ€"where young anglers take part in a youth fishing derby.

Wind, something Kansas isn't lacking, has become an energy source and a tourist attraction. Writer Maggie Lee and Photographer Michael C. Snell present a look at the Gray County Wind Farm where giant windmills generate 110 megawatts of power. And Marci Penner takes readers on a tour of a few of her favorite scenic drives and invites them to

get out and take a road trip to enjoy the beautiful spring scenery.

KANSAS! has been published since 1945 by the KDOC&H. Individual copies may be purchased at area retail stores including, American Indian Art Center and Short Stop, Abilene; Phil Stop, Arkansas City; Boot Hill Gift Shop, Christian Book House, and Kansas Heritage Center, Dodge City; Carrolls Books Music & Video and Town Crier, Emporia; Knott Just Books, Goodland; Ellis County Museum Gift Shop and Sternberg Museum Store, Hays; Bette & Phil's Hallmark Shop, Independence; Carroll Mansion Gifts and Corner Pharmacy, Leavenworth; Barnes & Noble, Leawood; Borders, Circle S Guest Ranch, Kansas Union Book Store, Prairie Patches, Raven Book Store, and Spencer Museum of Art Gift Shop, Lawrence; Claflin Books, Kansas Kollection, and University Bookstore, Manhattan; Land Mark Inn, Oberlin; Borders and Hollywood at Home, Overland Park; Clancey's Gifts, International Museum Gift Shop, Kansas Museum Gift Shop, Washburn University Bookstore, and Kansas Sampler Store, Topeka; and Botanica Gift Shop, Historical Museum Shop, Marriott Gift Shop, Old Cowtown Museum, The Sunflower Shoppe, and Watermark Books, Wichita.

Subscriptions to KANSAS! are available for $15 per year. For more information, contact KANSAS! magazine, KDOC&H, 1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3479.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: March 10, 2003

KANSAS TO PAY TRIBUTE TO BUSINESSES

Kansans are encouraged to nominate local businesses, large and small, for recognition during Kansas Business Appreciation Month in June. Sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H), Business Appreciation Month is an annual tribute to businesses throughout the state.

Individuals or organizations may nominate one or more local businesses in four categories: manufacturing, distribution, service, and retail. During June, the KDOC&H will honor all nominated businesses and regional winners in each category with special recognition events throughout the state. The dates and locations of the events are as follows. Details of the events will be provided in later news releases.

June 6 Lyons

June 10 Hiawatha

June 12 Clay Center

June 16 Oberlin

June 17 Garden City

June 19 Eureka

In each of six designated areas of the state, a panel of judges from the business community will select one regional winner per category. One of the regional winners will receive the Governor's Award of Excellence, the highest honor a business can receive from the state.

The deadline for nominations is 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 1, 2003. Nominations may be submitted online at www.kansascommerce.com/bam. Nomination forms are also available by contacting the Business Development Division of the KDOC&H at (785) 296-5298, e-mail busdev@kansascommerce.com, or TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487.
Source: KDOC&H

For more information, contact:
Business Development Division

Phone Number: (785) 296-5298

Date: March 12, 2003

SALINE COUNTY TO BUILD FIRE STATION WITH VOLUNTEER LABOR

Residents of Saline County will build a brand new fire station, using volunteer labor and a popular self-help program administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H).

The KDOC&H has awarded Saline County a $298,609 KAN STEP grant. The funds will be used for materials and professional services to construct a 7,040-square-foot fire station with training facilities for Rural Fire District No. 3, which covers one-third of Saline County.

Approximately 40 volunteers will donate their labor for the project. Their work is worth $178,572. Saline County will also provide $17,065 in donated materials and $4,200 in donated equipment. Combining the local contributions and the grant award, the project totals $534,932.

KAN STEP is part of the KDOC&H's federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The KDOC&H started KAN STEP in 2000 to give small Kansas communities an opportunity to do major community improvement projects they couldn't otherwise afford.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: March 31, 2003

CITY OF WASHINGTON IS AWARDED KAN STEP GRANT

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) has awarded the City of Washington, Kansas a grant in the amount of $347,614 to construct a building to house fire and ambulance emergency services.

The grant is awarded through the KDOC&H's popular KAN STEP program, a self-help program that enables small communities to make major infrastructure improvements. Local people volunteer labor and services, while the KDOC&H provides funding for materials and technical services. The funding is provided through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. No local funding match from the community is required.

The total project cost for Washington's emergency services building will be $580,754, with local volunteers contributing $233,140 in labor and donated materials and equipment. The building will be constructed on city-owned land.

An acronym for Kansas Small Towns Environment Program, KAN STEP was started by the KDOC&H in 2000 to give small Kansas communities an opportunity to do projects they couldn't otherwise afford.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: April 20, 2003

THE KDOC&H AWARDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) has announced nine community development awards totaling $2,696,261. The awards, which are given to cities and counties, are for a variety of projects. They are part of the KDOC&H's federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The recipients of grants are as follows:

Crawford County

This project will install 10,900 linear feet of 4" waterlines, as well as build a new 12-foot diameter standpipe and booster pump. Crawford County will be granted $350,000 in CDBG funds and will contribute $48,500 in local funds.

City of Coolidge

Located in Hamilton County, the City of Coolidge will install a new ion exchange unit to remove iron and radium from the city's water supply. The city will receive $185,700 in CDBG funds.

City of Hamilton

The City of Hamilton will construct a new sewer lagoon cell, replace 261 linear feet of sewer lines, and reseal nine manholes. The city will receive $186,600 in CDBG funds and contribute $186,600 in local funds.

City of Nortonville

Located in Jefferson County, the City of Nortonville will construct a third lagoon cell, as well as install 2,100 linear feet of sewer line. The city will contribute $691,500 in local funds towards this project. The city will receive $400,000 in CDBG funds.

City of Greeley

Located in Anderson County, the City of Greeley is being awarded $306,749 in CDBG funds to replace water lines in the city. The city will contribute $157,191 in local funds towards this project.

City of Glenn Elder

Located in Mitchell County, the City of Glenn Elder will receive $187,612 in CDBG funds to construct a third sewer lagoon cell. The city will contribute $186,488 in local funds towards this project.

Cloud County

Through the county, AFK Properties LLC and OCCK Inc. will purchase and renovate a new work center in Concordia to serve disabled clients in Republic, Cloud, and Ottawa counties. The center will include workshop space, life skills training, assistive technology, and general office space. AFK Prosperities LLC and OCCK Inc. will contribute $401,477 towards this project. Cloud County will be awarded $400,000 in CDBG funds.

Finney County

The Finney County Health Department will remodel the lower level of an existing facility to add additional offices, client meeting rooms, and records storage space. The county will contribute $50,000 in local funds towards this project. The County will receive $279,600 in CDBG funds.

Republic County

Through Republic County, the Republic County Hospital will renovate and enlarge its physical therapy area, improve accessibility, install a new elevator, and improve the mechanical and electrical systems. The county hospital will contribute $451,131 in local funds to match a grant of $400,000.

For more information on the Community Development Block Grant program, contact Debbie Beck in the Community Development Division of the KDOC&H at (785) 296-7092,
e-mail dbeck@kansascommerce.com, TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487, or visit www.kansascommerce.com.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: April 22, 2003

SIROLLI ENTERPRISE BOARD DEVELOPMENT DAY

Kansas has five multi-county consortiums that are taking unique steps to strengthen their rural economies. They're using a process called Enterprise Facilitation, a grassroots approach that relies on local knowledge and skills to provide vital assistance to develop entrepreneurial businesses.

Initiated and funded by the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H), the five Enterprise Facilitation demonstration projects are enrolled in a program of the
Sirolli Institute of Sacramento, California. The Enterprise Facilitation model was developed by Ernesto Sirolli as a way to help rebuild rural areas.

Ernesto Sirolli will be in Kansas this week, meeting with citizen volunteers and board members from all of Kansas' Enterprise Facilitation projects. This is the first ever board development day sponsored by the Institute. Dr. Sirolli chose Kansas because of the concentration of projects and the enthusiasm shown by the citizen board members. Projects from Montana, Idaho, California, and Canada will also be represented. Details are as follows:

*Sirolli Institute

Enterprise Facilitation Board Development Day

Friday, April 25

10:00 a.m. â€“ 4:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn

21st Street North and Rock Road

Wichita

The Enterprise Facilitation program has been highly successful in America, Canada, Australia, and England, creating new businesses in rural areas by transforming local intelligence and passion into rewarding new enterprises. A local volunteer acts as a resource to the clients; and an Enterprise Facilitator serves as a full time management coach, advising clients for

free and in confidence.

The clients are introduced to the "trinity of management" concept, developed by the Sirolli Institute, which teaches that to be successful three aspects of the business must be equally executed: the Product, the Marketing and the Financial Management. Since nobody loves equally these three fields, Enterprise Facilitation recommends to entrepreneurs that they concentrate on what they love doing, and then surround themselves with people who love to do what they, themselves, have no talent for.

The five Kansas Enterprise Facilitation demonstration projects and the counties they represent are: Quad County Enterprise Community-Chautauqua, Elk, Greenwood, Woodson;
Four County Sunflower Region-Harper, Barber, Kiowa, Pratt; Western Kansas Community Consortium-Sherman, Greeley, Wichita, Scott, Lane, Kearny; Northeast Kansas Consortium- Brown, Nemaha, Jackson, Doniphan, Atchison; and Midwest Entrepreneurial Association-Edwards, Barton, Rice, Russell, Ellsworth.

For more information, contact Sally Lunsford at the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing at (785) 296-2477 or e-mail slunsford@kansascommerce.com.

*Ernesto Sirolli will be available for interviews throughout the day. Interviews with the citizen board chairs can also be arranged.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: April 22, 2003

THE KDOC&H AWARDS DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO PITTSBURG

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) has awarded a Comprehensive Development grant to the City of Pittsburg for a major project to enhance services for low-income and homeless families.

The $1,760,405 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will be used to build an emergency homeless shelter and also to rehabilitate existing buildings for a learning facility, daycare center, SKIL outreach center; and six transitional housing units. In addition, the grant will provide funds for curbs, gutters, streets, sidewalks, and park improvements to the area.

The KDOC&H has worked with Pittsburg for a year on this project. In addition to the Comprehensive Development grant, the project has $550,000 pledged in matching funds.

"We are pleased to partner with Pittsburg on a project that will improve the quality of life for its residents who are most in need," said Lt. Governor/Commerce & Housing Secretary John Moore. "We congratulate the community for recognizing a need and taking steps to address it."

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) awards Comprehensive Development grants through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. For more information, contact Debbie Beck in the Community Development Division of the KDOC&H at (785) 296-3004, dbeck@kansascommerce.com, TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487, or visit the KDOC&H web site at www.kansascommerce.com.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: April 3, 2003

CITY OF AXTELL AWARDED KAN STEP GRANT

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) has awarded the City of Axtell, Kansas a grant in the amount of $299,800 to construct a building to house a fire station and emergency services building.

The grant is awarded through the KDOC&H's popular KAN STEP program, a self-help program that enables small communities to make major infrastructure improvements. Local people volunteer labor and services, while the KDOC&H provides funding for materials and technical services. The funding is provided through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. No local funding match from the community is required.

Axtell's population is 440. It serves a population of more than 1,000 through its fire department and emergency services. The total cost for the Axtell construction project will be $500,594, with local volunteers contributing $200,794 in donated labor.

An acronym for Kansas Small Towns Environment Program, KAN STEP was started by the KDOC&H in 2000 to give small Kansas communities an opportunity to do projects they couldn't otherwise afford.

For more information on the KAN STEP program or this project, contact Marilyn Graham in the Community Development Division of the KDOC&H at (785) 296-3485, e-mail comdev@kansascommerce.com, or TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: May 2, 2003

LEAVENWORTH AND FT. LEAVENWORTH SELECTED FOR PILOT PROGRAM

The City of Leavenworth and Fort Leavenworth will be leaders in a national pilot program to strengthen economic, historic, and social ties between the community and the fort.

Only three groups nationwide were selected to participate in the program. Called the Army-Community Heritage Partnerships, the pilot program is jointly sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center and the U.S. Army.

As one of 22 designated Kansas Main Street cities, Leavenworth is already involved in preservation and downtown revitalization. The pilot program will benefit Leavenworth Main Street volunteers and staff, who will receive training from specialized experts. In addition, the pilot program is expected to bring Leavenworth national recognition.

"We are very proud of Leavenworth and Fort Leavenworth for being selected to participate in this program," said Jean Warta, Kansas Main Street Assistant Coordinator. "It will pave the way for other such partnerships in addition to providing terrific opportunities for the Leavenworth community."

Among the goals of the Army-Community Heritage Partnerships is the development of strategies to better serve the needs of Army personnel and those who visit or work on the installation by enhancing shopping opportunities, product availability, and services offered in the adjacent historic downtown district.

"We will be looking at innovative ways to use the Army's historic properties in partnership with the private sector," said Gary W. Robinson, director of the Office of Historic Properties for the Assistant Secretary of the Army dealing with installations and environments, "Our plan will be to re-energize economic activity in downtown Leavenworth, expecting other things to grow out of that, especially in the area of heritage tourism."

For more information on the Kansas Main Street program or the Army-Community Heritage Partnerships, contact Jean Warta in the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) at (785) 296-0091, jwarta@kansascommerce.com, or TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487.
Source: KDOC&H

Date: May 20, 2003

KANSAS BUSINESSES TO BE HONORED NEXT MONTH

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) will honor hundreds of Kansas businesses next month when it hosts regional ceremonies across the state as part of Kansas Business Appreciation Month.

KDOC&H officials, led by Lt. Governor/KDOC&H Secretary John Moore, will recognize businesses in four categories: Distribution, Manufacturing, Retail, and Service. At each regional ceremony, one company in each of those categories will win a Regional Achievement Award.

"It is one way we can say â€˜thank you' to the businesses that are the lifeblood of our Kansas communities," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore. "They provide the jobs and support their communities in ways that help our state grow and prosper."

The locations and dates of the six regional awards ceremonies are as follows:

LYONS

June 6

12:00 p.m. (lunch)

Rice County Activity Center

1145 Highway 56E

Lyons, Kansas

HIAWATHA

June 10

12:00 p.m. (lunch)

Fisher Community Center

201 E. Iowa

Hiawatha, Kansas

CLAY CENTER

June 11

12:00 p.m. (lunch)

S.S. Peters and Paul Catholic Parish Center

730 Court Street

Clay Center, Kansas

OBERLIN

June 16

12:00 p.m. (lunch)

Gateway

#1 Morgan Drive

Oberlin, Kansas

GARDEN CITY

June 17

12:00 p.m. (lunch)

Plaza Hotel

1911 E. Kansas Avenue

Garden City, Kansas

EUREKA

June 19

12:00 p.m. (lunch)

Eureka Country Club

1563 N Road

Eureka, Kansas

The highlight of Business Appreciation Month will be on June 5, when the recipients of the 2003 Governor's Award of Excellence and the 2003 Governor's Exporter of the Year award will be announced. Both awards are sponsored by the KDOC&H and will be presented during the annual Kansas Cavalry Encampment being held at the Radisson Broadview Hotel in Wichita. More information on the Governor's Award of Excellence and the Governor's Exporter of the Year award will be included in later news releases.

For more information on Kansas Business Appreciation Month, contact Kristy Druse at (785) 296-3805 or kdruse@kansascommerce.com. For additional information on the 2003 Exporter of the Year award, contact Tim McCall at (785) 296-4610 or tmccall@kansascommerce.com.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: May 28, 2003

GOVERNOR SEBELIUS TO AWARD TOP BUSINESS HONORS

Governor Kathleen Sebelius will kick off Kansas Business Appreciation Month on June 5 when she announces the recipients of the 2003 Governor's Award of Excellence and the 2003 Governor's Exporter of the Year award.

Governor Sebelius will present both of the prestigious business awards during the Kansas Cavalry Encampment on June 5 at the Radisson Broadview Hotel, 400 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita. The Encampment begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m., and Governor Sebelius will present the awards at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The Kansas Cavalry is a group of approximately 160 volunteer business and economic development professionals who use their knowledge and credentials to promote Kansas as a pro-business state. Among other activities, the Kansas Cavalry is actively involved in recruiting businesses to Kansas.

The Governor's Exporter of the Year award honors outstanding results by a Kansas company in the area of export sales. The four finalists for this year's award are:

Â·Agtech, Inc. of Manhattan

Â·American Crane and Tractor Parts of Kansas City

Â·CareFore Medical, Inc. of Olathe

Â·CyDex, Inc. of Overland Park

The Governor's Award of Excellence is the highest honor a business can receive from the state. It is presented to a Kansas business that makes a tremendous contribution to the economy and the quality of life in the communities it serves. The winning company is chosen from all companies nominated for recognition during Business Appreciation Month.

"We take great pride in recognizing these outstanding Kansas companies as excellent representatives of the state's business community," said Governor Sebelius. "They deserve praise for the jobs they provide, the support they give to their local communities, and the significant contributions they make to our state's economy."

The Governor's Award of Excellence and the Governor's Exporter of the Year award are both programs of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H). The Exporter award is co-sponsored by the Kansas International Trade Coordinating Council. Last year, the Governor's Exporter of the Year was Butler National Corporation of Olathe. Steel & Pipe Supply Co. of Manhattan earned the Governor's Award of Excellence.

During Business Appreciation Month in June, KDOC&H officials, led by Lt. Governor John Moore, will travel across Kansas to recognize outstanding local businesses in four categories: Distribution, Manufacturing, Retail, and Service. The locations of the regional ceremonies are: Lyons (June 6), Hiawatha (June 10), Clay Center (June 11), Oberlin (June 16), Garden City (June 17), and Eureka (June 19).

For more information about Kansas Business Appreciation Month, contact Kristy Druse at (785) 296-3805 or kdruse@kansascommerce.com. For additional information on the Exporter of the Year award, contact Tim McCall at (785) 296-4610 or tmccall@kansascommerce.com.

Information about the Governor's Exporter of the Year award, the Governor's Award of Excellence, and Business Appreciation Month regional award winners will also be available on the KDOC&H web site at www.kansascommerce.com.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: May 8, 2003

WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED FOR ATTRACTION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Travel & Tourism Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) has scheduled four workshops for groups and tourism entities wishing to apply for funding from the Attraction Development Grant program. Money from the program provides for the development of new tourist attractions and the enhancement of existing ones. The workshops will include an overview of the program, examples of projects, and details about the application process.

The locations, dates, and times of the workshops are as follows:

Parsons

May 28

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Parsonian Hotel

1725 Broadway

McPherson

June 10

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Perkins Restaurant, Garden Room

2111 E. Kansas

WaKeeney

June 17

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

WaKeeney City Library

610 Russell

Topeka

June 24

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

1515 S.W. 10th Ave., Room 101B

There is no charge to attend a workshop, but participants are asked to pre-register by contacting Regina Nicol in the Travel & Tourism Development Division of the KDOC&H at (785) 296-6777 or rnicol@kansascommerce.com.

In December 2002, the KDOC&H awarded $500,000 in Attraction Development Grants to 14 recipients. The Travel & Tourism Development Division will begin accepting applications for the next round of awards on August 18. The deadline for applications is September 30. The grants will be awarded in December 2003.
Source: KDOC&H

For more information, contact:
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Date: June 10, 2003

THE KDOC&H HONORS BUSINESSES IN NORTHEAST KANSAS

Officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) on June 10 recognized several businesses in Northeast Kansas for the important contributions they make to the Kansas economy. A regional awards ceremony was held at the Fisher Community Center in Hiawatha as part of the KDOC&H's celebration of Kansas Business Appreciation Month.

"From the smallest company with just a few employees, to major corporations with thousands of workers, Kansas businesses are the lifeblood of our Kansas communities," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore. "We are proud to honor them for the enormous contributions they make to our economy and our quality of life - they very much deserve it."

Six regional ceremonies are being held statewide throughout the month of June. At each ceremony, one company in each of four separate categories (Manufacturing, Distribution, Service, and Retail) is selected to win a Regional Achievement Award. In the Northeast Kansas region, the winners of Regional Achievement Awards are:

Manufacturing - ScriptPro, Mission

Distribution - SKC Communications Products, Inc., Shawnee Mission

Service - Main Street Auto Body & Tow, Inc., Leavenworth

Retail - Mr. Goodcents Franchise Systems, De Soto

The following companies received Merit Recognition Awards:

Manufacturing: Bisel Inc. d/b/a Minuteman Press, Lawrence; Brown Cargo Van, Inc., Lawrence; Companion Baking Company, Shawnee; Fisher's Fixtures, Topeka; GM Fairfax Assembly Plant, Kansas City; Grandma Hoerner's Foods, Inc., Alma; Hallmark Cards Plant, Lawrence; Heatron, Inc., Leavenworth; McFarlane Aviation, Inc., Baldwin City; Reser's Fine Foods, Topeka; Schuetz Tool & Die, Hiawatha; Unilever Bestfoods, New Century

Distribution: American Eagle Outfitters Distribution Center, Ottawa; PepsiAmericas, Inc., Olathe

Service: AGENDA: Kansas City, Lenexa; Berberich Trahan & Company, P.A., Topeka; BRB Contractors, Inc., Topeka; Eisenbarth Plumbing, Inc., Seneca; Farmers Union Insurance, Seneca; Frank's Plumbing and Heating, Inc., Alma; Hoefer Wysocki Architects, LLC, Lenexa; Huxtable & Associates, Inc., Lawrence; ILC of Topeka and

Lawrence, LLC, Topeka; Kansas Builders Systems, Inc., Topeka; Lang Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick, Inc., Paola; Lansing Auto Repair, Lansing; Larkin Excavating, Inc., Leavenworth; Maximum Realty, Inc., Hiawatha; Orthopaedic Professional Association, Kansas City; Ottawa University, Ottawa; Plum Creek Properties, Inc., Osawatomie; Reece & Nichols Santa Fe Realty, Gardner; Seneca Veterinary Clinic, Seneca; Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Shawnee Mission; Spring Hill Mini Storage, Spring Hill; Spring Hill Veterinary Clinic, Spring Hill; Teague Electric Construction, Inc., Lenexa; Triangle Builders, LLC, Paola; United Excel Corporation, Overland Park

Retail: Bank of Atchison-USB, Atchison; Cabela's, Kansas City; Community America Credit Union, Lenexa; Community National Bank, Seneca; Exchange National Bank & Trust, Atchison; Family Center Farm & Home, Paola; Farmers State Bank, Westmoreland; Fillmore Suzuki & Kawasaki, Inc., Osage City; Heritage Tractor, Inc., Baldwin City; Hiawatha Farm & Home, Hiawatha; Hillsdale Bank Bar B Q, Paola; Jackson Farmers, Inc., Holton; June's Antiques, Leavenworth; Kaw Valley State Bank and Trust Company, Wamego; KFC/Taco Bell of Atchison, Atchison; Long Motor Corporation, Lenexa; McKeever's Price Chopper Grocery and Pharmacy, Louisburg; New Theatre Restaurant, Overland Park; Olathe Ford Sales, Inc., Olathe; Osawatomie Sears, Osawatomie; Queen's Pantry, Leavenworth; Quilters' Quarters, Leavenworth; Puffy's Steak and Ice House, Maple Hill; Rutlader Outpost Complex, Louisburg
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: June 11, 2003

THE KDOC&H HONORS BUSINESSES IN NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS

Officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) on June 11 recognized several businesses in North Central Kansas for the important contributions they make to the Kansas economy. A regional awards ceremony was held at the S.S. Peter and Paul Catholic Parish Center in Clay Center as part of the KDOC&H's celebration of Kansas Business Appreciation Month.

"From the smallest company with just a few employees, to major corporations with thousands of workers, Kansas businesses are the lifeblood of our Kansas communities," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore. "We are proud to honor them for the enormous contributions they make to our economy and our quality of life - they very much deserve it."

Six regional ceremonies are being held statewide throughout the month of June. At each ceremony, one company in each of four separate categories (Manufacturing, Distribution, Service, and Retail) is selected to win a Regional Achievement Award. In the North Central Kansas region, the winners of Regional Achievement Awards are:

Manufacturing - G.L. Huyett, Minneapolis

Distribution - ASHA Distributing, Inc., Manhattan

Service - Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Center, Manhattan

Retail - Fabric Corner, Emporia

The following companies received Merit Recognition Awards:

Manufacturing: Bell Memorials, Beloit; Brad Portenier d/b/a Bradford Built, Washington; Fastline, Inc., Marysville; Hastco Inc., Emporia; ICE Corporation, Manhattan; Mastercarved Memorials, Inc., Clay Center; McCall Pattern Co., Manhattan;

Menu Food Midwest Corporation, Emporia; Parker Hannifin Corporation, Manhattan; Quaker Food & Beverage, Manhattan; U.S. Stone Industries, Herington

Distribution: Fastenal Company, Inc., Manhattan

Service: Ackerman Lock & Key, Marysville; Brent Bowman & Associates Architects, P.A., Manhattan; Clay County Medical Center, Clay Center; Comcare, P.A., Salina; DS&O Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., Solomon; Ellsworth County Medical Center, Ellsworth; Emporia Veterinary Hospital, Emporia; Kansas Air Center, Manhattan; The Learning Connection, Emporia; Peterson Transport, Inc., Glasco; Ringneck Ranch, Tipton

Retail: Blue Rapids Auto & Hardware, Blue Rapids; Central Office Service & Supply, Inc., Clay Center; Country Gift Shop, Manhattan; Country Kitchen, Junction City; Cypress Bridge, Abilene; Dank's Broadway Market, Marysville; House of Gifts, Abilene; Kidz World, Manhattan; La Prairie', Ellsworth; Made in Kansas-Downtown Deli, Abilene; Mead Lumber Do It Center, Manhattan; Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan; Treasures by Tracine, Abilene; UMB Bank, Glasco; Wise Construction, Inc., Cawker City
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: June 16, 2003

THE KDOC&H HONORS BUSINESSES IN NORTHWEST KANSAS

Officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) on June 16 recognized several businesses in Northwest Kansas for the important contributions they make to the Kansas economy. A regional awards ceremony was held at Gateway in Oberlin as part of the KDOC&H's celebration of Kansas Business Appreciation Month.

"From the smallest company with just a few employees, to major corporations with thousands of workers, Kansas businesses are the lifeblood of our Kansas communities," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore. "We are proud to honor them for the enormous contributions they make to our economy and our quality of life â€“ they very much deserve it."

Six regional ceremonies are being held statewide throughout the month of June. At each ceremony, one company in each of four separate categories (Manufacturing, Distribution, Service, and Retail) is selected to win a Regional Achievement Award. In the Northwest Kansas region, the winners of Regional Achievement Awards are:

Manufacturing â€“ Dessin Fournir Companies, Plainville

Distribution â€“ S&T Telephone Cooperation Association and
S&T Communications LLC, Brewster

Service â€“ Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Oberlin

Retail â€“ Sims Fertilizer & Chemical Company

The following companies received Merit Recognition Awards:

Manufacturing:

A1-Plank & Scaffold Manufacturing, Hays; Cliff's Welding Service, Phillipsburg; Farris Manufacturing, Goodland; Lucas Land Pride, Division of Great Plains Manufacturing, Lucas

Distribution:

Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Goodland

Service:

J & D Publishing, Inc., Sharon Springs; Krier Publishing, Inc./Russell County News, Russell; Pony Express Community Bank of Lucas, Lucas; Wheat Ridge Acres, Goodland

Retail:

Beond Salon and Day Spa, Hays; Big Ed's Steak House & Lounge, LTD, Bird City; Brown's True Value, Atwood; Dream Theater, Russell; Jiffy Burger, Smith Center; Karls Cash Store, Selden; Lucas Motor Company, Lucas; McDonald's of Hays, Russell, and WaKeeney, Hays; Mr. K's Foodtown, Plainville; Russell Days Inn, Russell; Russell Inn, Russell; Russell Video & Office Supply, Russell; Sanity Super Foods, St. Francis; Smoky Hill Taxidermy, Russell; Webster's Super Market, Stockton
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: June 17, 2003

THE KDOC&H HONORS BUSINESSES IN SOUTHWEST KANSAS

Officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) on June 17 recognized several businesses in Southwest Kansas for the important contributions they make to the Kansas economy. A regional awards ceremony was held at the Plaza Hotel in Garden City as part of the KDOC&H's celebration of Kansas Business Appreciation Month.

"From the smallest company with just a few employees, to major corporations with thousands of workers, Kansas businesses are the lifeblood of our Kansas communities," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore. "We are proud to honor them for the enormous contributions they make to our economy and our quality of life â€“ they very much deserve it."

Six regional ceremonies are being held statewide throughout the month of June. At each ceremony, one company in each of four separate categories (Manufacturing, Distribution, Service, and Retail) is selected to win a Regional Achievement Award. In the Southwest Kansas region, the winners of Regional Achievement Awards are:

Manufacturing â€“ Filson Livestock Equipment Company, Protection

Distribution â€“ no companies nominated

Service â€“ EPIC Touch Company (EPIC Touch also received the 2003 Governor's Award of Excellence), Elkhart

Retail â€“ The Flower Shoppe, Pratt

The following companies received Merit Recognition Awards:

Manufacturing:

Ark Valley Wilbert Vault, Kinsley; BOC Gases, Otis; Pawnee Valley Feeders, Inc., Hanston; Southwest Tortilla Company, LLC, Plains

Service:

AIR Systems, Inc., Ellinwood; Bill's Muffler Shop, Kinsley; City Cleaners, Kinsley; Clara Barton Hospital, Hoisington; CPI Qualified Plan Consultants, Great Bend; Edwards County Hospital, Kinsley; Envirotrol, LLC, Garden City; The Heritage Hotel, Dighton; Kinsley Chiropractic, Kinsley; Lane County Hospital, Dighton; Lane County Library, Dighton; Lewis Cooperative Company, Lewis; The Lewis Press, Inc., Kinsley; Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc., Ulysses; Sunflower Home Health, Inc., Garden City; TACS/Waddell & Reed, Kinsley

Retail:

Commercial Federal Bank, Dodge City; Dasco, LLC, Satanta; Davis Motors, Inc., Syracuse; Dodge City Legend, Dodge City; Dozier Vineyard & Winery, Ellinwood; E.M. Stanley Books, Dighton; Kinsley Office Supply, Kinsley; La Crosse Daylight Donuts, La Crosse; Midland Marketing, La Crosse; Neon 57, LLC, Fowler; Starr-Elliott Antiques, Ellinwood
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: June 19, 2003

THE KDOC&H HONORS BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

Officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) on June 19 recognized several businesses in Southeast Kansas for the important contributions they make to the Kansas economy. A regional awards ceremony was held at the Eureka Country Club in Eureka as part of the KDOC&H's celebration of Kansas Business Appreciation Month.

"From the smallest company with just a few employees, to major corporations with thousands of workers, Kansas businesses are the lifeblood of our Kansas communities," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore. "We are proud to honor them for the enormous contributions they make to our economy and our quality of life â€“ they very much deserve it."

Six regional ceremonies are being held statewide throughout the month of June. At each ceremony, one company in each of four separate categories (Manufacturing, Distribution, Service, and Retail) is selected to win a Regional Achievement Award. In the Southeast Kansas region, the winners of Regional Achievement Awards are:

Manufacturing â€“ Grandview Products Co., Inc., Parsons

Distribution â€“ Valu Merchandisers, Fort Scott

Service â€“ Watco Companies, Inc., Pittsburg

Retail â€“ C.P. Communications, Pittsburg

The following companies received Merit Recognition Awards:

Manufacturing:

ABZ Manufacturing Inc., Greenwood; B & W Custom Truck Beds, Inc., Humboldt; Catalytic Industrial Group, Inc., Independence; Coyote Springs Trading Company, Mound City; Hackney, Independence; Neal Manufacturing, Inc., Pleasanton; Poli-Tron, Inc., Pittsburg; Sands Level & Tool, Neodesha; Signature Sportswear, Eureka; Taylor Forge Engineering Systems, Greeley; Tessenderlo Kerley, Inc., Coffeyville; Tower Metal Products, Prescott; Wilson County Citizen, Fredonia

Distribution:

Lybarger Oil, Inc., Garnett; Russell Stover Candies, Iola; Little Ben Transportation, Neodesha

Service:

Accent Dental, LLC, Pittsburg; BPR, Inc., Burlington; Cornerstone Surveying, Independence; Diversified Contracting and Supply, Parker; Eureka Herald, Eureka; Good News Publishing, Inc., Caney; Gran Villa, Greenwood; Greenwood County Hospital, Eureka; Halley Counseling Services, P.A., Girard; Jay Hatfield Mobility, Columbus; KIND Radio, Independence; LaCygne Generating Station, LaCygne; Lieser Construction, LLC, Greenwood; Linn County News, Pleasanton; Medicalodge of Eureka, Eureka; Oakhill Financial Services, Neodesha; Remediation Services, Inc., Independence; Scovel, Emert, Heasty & Chubb Law Firm, Independence; Severy Co-op Association, Severy; Snodgrass, Dunlap & Company, Iola; Yerkes & Michels, CPA, LLC, Independence

Retail:

Alco Implement, Inc., Iola; Bacani Plaza, Fredonia; Barb's Fabric & Etc., Fredonia; Bette & Phil's Hallmark Shop, Independence; Bleacher Gear, Parsons; Brummel Farm Service, Inc., Garnett; Coffeyville Feed & Farm Supply, Coffeyville; Commercial Bank, Parsons; Conley Sprinkler, Pleasanton; Cox Motor Company, Inc., Pleasanton; Doane's New and Used Furniture, Fredonia; Echelon Interiors, LLC, Girard; Eureka Greenhouses, Inc., Eureka; Eureka Thriftway, Eureka; Harlan's Hardware, Fredonia; Messenger Furniture Company, Independence; Oswego Drug Store, Oswego; Porter Drug, Neodesha; Tripco Conoco, Greenwood; True Enterprise, LeRoy; Woods Lumber Company, Independence; Young's Hardware â€˜N Gifts, Independence
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: June 20, 2003

NEMAHA COUNTY RECEIVES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) today announced the award of $225,000 in Economic Development assistance to Nemaha County.

The county will use the funds to provide an equipment loan and infrastructure improvements to USC LLC, a company that manufactures seed treatment and food processing equipment. The project will create at least 15 jobs within a two-year period.

The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be matched with $255,000 of private financing.

The CDBG program is administered by the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H). Economic Development grants are given to cities or counties that, in turn, loan the funds to private businesses that create or retain permanent jobs. Funding is also available for infrastructure improvements that directly create or retain permanent jobs.
Source: KDOC&H

For more information, contact:
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Date: June 3, 2003

KANSAS MAIN STREET CITIES NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Twelve Kansas Main Street communities have earned national recognition for excellence in the field of downtown revitalization.

Recognized as National Main Street communities for meeting high standards for performance set by the Kansas Main Street Program and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center are: Main Street Chanute, El Dorado Main Street, Emporia Main Street, Downtown Hutchinson Revitalization Partnership, Independence Main Street, Leavenworth Main Street, Marysville Main Street, McPherson Main Street, Downtown Parsons Inc., Russell Main Street, Main Street Sterling, and Wamego Main Street.

The Kansas Main Street program annually evaluates downtown revitalization efforts based on strict criteria such as: broad based public support, historic preservation ethic, active board of directors, adequate funding, a paid professional director and reporting of economic progress by providing statistical information. Kansas Main Street then submits its findings to the National Main Street Center, which decides the communities that will receive national designation.

"The designation for these twelve Kansas communities reflects a well-run downtown revitalization initiative, and the local citizens should be proud of their efforts and maintain their commitment to revitalizing the downtown area," said Kennedy Smith, director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center. "A successful, well-run Main Street program creates a vibrant downtown of many uses, where people come not only to shop but to meet, socialize, or even live. By increasing economic vitality and focusing on reusing historic buildings, it creates a place that defines the community."

Kansas currently has 22 designated Main Street cities. The Kansas Main Street program is part of the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H). For more information, contact Jeanne Stinson with Kansas Main Street at (785) 296-3485, jstinson@kansascommerce.com, or TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487.
Source: KDOC&H

For more information, contact:
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Kansas Main Street Program
Phone Number: (785) 296-3485

Date: June 30, 2003

BERN TO BUILD COMMUNITY BUILDING WITH VOLUNTEER LABOR

June 30, 2003
Residents of the City of Bern will build a brand new community building, using volunteer labor and a popular self-help program administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H).

The KDOC&H has awarded Bern a $350,089 KAN STEP grant. The funds will be used for materials and professional services to construct the community building. A local citizen is donating land valued at $15,000. With the value of volunteer labor and equipment estimated at $224,471, the total project cost is $589,560.

KAN STEP is part of the KDOC&H's federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The KDOC&H started KAN STEP in 2000 to give small Kansas communities an opportunity to do major community improvement projects they couldn't otherwise afford.

For more information on the program, contact Marilyn Graham in the Community Development Division of the KDOC&H at (785) 296-4856, comdev@kansascommerce.com, TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487, or visit www.kansascommerce.com.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: June 6, 2003

ELKHART COMPANY WINS GOVERNOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The winner of the top business award in the state is EPIC Touch Company of Elkhart, Kansas. Governor Kathleen Sebelius tonight presented the company with the 2003 Kansas Governor's Award of Excellence.

The presentation was made at the Radisson Broadview Hotel in Wichita during the Kansas Cavalry Encampment. The event traditionally kicks off Kansas Business Appreciation Month, an annual tribute to Kansas businesses sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H).

"The Governor's Award of Excellence comes as a tremendous honor," said Bob Boaldin, president of EPIC Touch Company. "It is an exceptional compliment to our company and our employees."

In presenting the award, Governor Sebelius said, "EPIC Touch is a company that exemplifies the major role that Kansas businesses have in our communities. It not only provides important employment and training opportunities for Kansas citizens, it supplies a valuable service and supports community activities."

EPIC Touch is a rural telecommunications service provider with 35 employees serving nearly 2,700 customers with a wireless PCS network in southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma panhandle. The family-owned and -operated company was established in 1956 and has invested $6.5 million in expansions over the past ten years. EPIC Touch was also recognized for having an excellent training and education program for its employees, its generous scholarship program for high school seniors, and its extensive involvement in community activities. The Morton County Economic Development Committee nominated the company for the prestigious Governor's Award of Excellence.

In addition to honoring the winner of the Kansas Governor's Award of Excellence, KDOC&H officials are traveling across the state in June to pay tribute to hundreds of Kansas businesses for the significant contributions they make to their local communities and to the state. Business Appreciation Month ceremonies are taking place in Lyons (June 6), Hiawatha (June 10), Clay Center (June 11), Oberlin (June 16), Garden City (June 17), and Eureka (June 19).
Source:

For more information, contact:
Kristy Druse
Marketing Representative
Phone Number: (785) 296-3487

Date: June 6, 2003

THE KDOC&H HONORS BUSINESSES IN SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS

Officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) on June 6 recognized several businesses in South Central Kansas for the important contributions they make to the Kansas economy. A regional awards ceremony was held at the Rice County Activity Center in Lyons as part of the KDOC&H's celebration of Kansas Business Appreciation Month.

"From the smallest company with just a few employees, to major corporations with thousands of workers, Kansas businesses are the lifeblood of our Kansas communities," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore. "We are proud to honor them for the enormous contributions they make to our economy and our quality of life â€“ they very much deserve it."

Six regional ceremonies are being held statewide throughout the month of June. At each ceremony, one company in each of four separate categories (Manufacturing, Distribution, Service, and Retail) is selected to win a Regional Achievement Award. In the South Central Kansas region, the winners of Regional Achievement Awards are:

Manufacturing â€“ JACAM Chemicals, LLC, Sterling
Distribution â€“ ARKCO Industrial Fastners, Inc., Arkansas City
Service â€“ Hospice Care of Kansas, Wichita
Retail â€“ Sonic Drive-In, Arkansas City

The following companies received Merit Recognition Awards:

Manufacturing: Big Dog Motorcycles, LLC, Wichita; The Boeing Company, Wichita; CertainTeed Corporation, McPherson; Form Systems, Haysville; Kiser Manufacturing, Argonia; Little Ol' Cookie House, Little River; Pioneer Balloon Company, El Dorado; Rubbermaid Home Products, Winfield; Superior Lifts, Inc., Valley Center; Vanguard Piping Systems, Inc., McPherson

Distribution: National Cooperative Refinery Association, McPherson; SBC, Wichita; The Wichita Eagle, Wichita

Service: Augusta Family Dentistry, Augusta; Complete Landscaping Systems, Wichita; Cowley County Broadcasting, Arkansas City; Get Fit Bee Fit, Valley Center; Krueger Insurance Management, Inc., Newton; Memorial Hospital, Inc., McPherson; Newton Medical Center, Newton; Prairie View, Inc., Newton; Print Source Direct, LLC, Hillsboro; Winfield Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Winfield

Retail: Chisholm Trail State Bank, Park City; El Dorado Ace Hardware, El Dorado; Hotel at Old Town, Wichita; INTRUST Bank, N.A., El Dorado; PizzaCo, Inc. and Affiliates, McPherson; Stained Glass Overlay, Valley Center; Ziegler's True Value Hardware, Winfield
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: July 1, 2003

COMMUNITY SERVICE TAX CREDITS AWARDED

The Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce) has awarded $4.13 million in Community Service Tax Credits to 27 nonprofit organizations around the state. These future Kansas income tax credits are used as a major fundraising tool for community organizations engaged in services for children and families, health care, or crime prevention. Businesses and individuals that contribute to the awarded organizations are able to receive a 70 percent tax credit in rural areas, or a 50 percent tax credit in urban areas.

"These tax credits will generate almost $7 million in donations that will directly benefit Kansas citizens through improvements in health care and services for children and families," said Lt. Governor/Commerce Secretary John Moore.

The organizations receiving Community Service Tax Credits, and the amount of their credits, are as follows:

Blair Center for the Arts

Belleville

$200,000

This award will be used to renovate the historic 1928 Blair Theater to serve as a community educational and cultural center.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City

Kansas City

$120,000

This project will be used to purchase new equipment in the newly constructed Heathwood Youth and Families Community Center.

Buhler Sunshine Home

Buhler

$200,000

This award will be used to renovate and improve the common area and residential rooms of Wings 1 and 2 of the skilled nursing facility at Sunshine Meadows Retirement Community.

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

Shawnee Mission

$60,000

This project includes renovations and equipment purchases for a Family Support building in Leavenworth.

Community Care, Inc.

Clifton

$36,000

The donations raised with this award will help replace the 45-year-old nurse call system and for the purchase of a new van for transporting the residents.

Cross-Lines Cooperative Council, Inc.

Kansas City

$190,000

This award will allow for the construction of a new 14,000 sq. foot support facility and the purchase of neighboring property to aid in extending the feeding and commodities programs to the homeless and needy.

Family Services & Guidance Center of Topeka, Inc.

Topeka

$210,000

This project is part of a $2.8 million campaign to expand the facility at S.W. Frazier and the Child and Family Academy.

Flint Hills RC&D/Chase Co. Youth Technology

Strong City

$99,600

This award will be used to renovate the building and purchase new computers for the youth technology center and new equipment for the production and editing of programming on the local access TV channel.

Fredonia Regional Hospital

Fredonia

$238,000

This project will renovate the x-ray room and replace the old radiographic equipment in the hospital.

Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation

Quinter

$239,900

This award will be used to replace the radiology/fluoroscopy equipment.

Gracious Promise Foundation

Kansas City

$225,000

This project will be used to acquire property for "Grandma's House," which will be used to care for babies born to women in prison.

Greater Barber County Historical Action Association, Inc.

Medicine Lodge

$225,000

This award will help build the Heritage Center to include a large community room that will be used for educational, health, community activities and display space for historical artifacts.

International Educational & Cultural Services, Inc.

Lindsborg

$135,000

This project is a scholastic chess school. It includes acquisition of a building and new equipment and development of the curriculum and a pilot scholastic chess-teaching program in the school. World chess champion Anatoly Karpov has agreed to help adapt his curriculum to this project.

Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters, Inc.

Wichita

$200,000

The donations raised with this award will be used to renovate the building and purchase equipment for central service center operations statewide. KBBBS will be serving 92 of 105 Kansas counties from this new center.

Kearny County Hospital

Lakin

$157,000

This award will be used to purchase a new radiographic (x-ray) machine and a hematology analyzer for the hospital.

Mitchell County Hospital

Beloit

$200,000

This project is the construction of a new Wellness Center to be used by hospital patients, the community, and in educational opportunities with the vocational technical college.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving-Kansas State Office

Topeka

$20,000

The donations raised with this award will help purchase supplies for the statewide victim services program for victims of drunk driving crashes.

Olathe Good Samaritan Center

Olathe

$25,000

This project has already redesigned the interior of the facility and implemented a neighborhood concept of caring for the residents. New furniture, window treatments, and accessories will complete the project.

Parsons Community Foundation

Parsons

$179,000

This award will be used to construct a new 4,000 square foot Senior Citizens Wellness Center in the community that will also be used for area youth programs.

Salina Presbyterian Manor

Salina

$200,000

This is a part of a $2.4 million construction and expansion project to address the needs of dementia and assisted living patients.

Railroad Heritage

Topeka

$188,000

This award will be used to acquire and revitalize the area around the Great Overland Station in an effort to expand the historical attraction and help eliminate a high crime area.

Reno County Historical Society

Hutchinson

$168,000

The donations raised with this award will be used to help with the construction of the new underground salt museum.

Rice County Community Foundation, Inc.

Lyons

$235,000

This project will construct a new indoor youth agricultural facility that can be used by the community for many events year round.

Sedan City Hospital

Sedan

$44,000

This award will be used to purchase new telemetry and wheelchair scales equipment for the hospital.

Sherman County Community Service, Inc.

Goodland

$87,500

The donations received in this project will be used to acquire the land and construct a building to house the local carnival equipment.

TLC for Children & Families, Inc.

Olathe

$37,500

This project will purchase three passenger vans to help transport youth and staff daily from various community resources, including counseling, medical and dental care, education and organized recreation.

YMCA of Greater Kansas City

Kansas City

$210,500

This award will be used for new equipment in the newly constructed New West Family YMCA in Kansas City.

For more information on Community Service Tax Credits, contact Bill Acree in the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce at (785) 296-3485, e-mail bacreee@kansascommerce.com, or TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487.
Source: KDOC&H

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Date: August 28, 2003

COMMERCE AWARDS FUNDS TO BUILD EMERGENCY STORM SHELTERS

The Kansas Department of Commerce(Commerce) has awarded $414,433 for the construction of emergency storm shelters in ten counties where tornadoes struck in May of this year. These grants will pay for the construction of a total of 18 shelters that will help protect 644 Kansans.

The awards are as follows:

Allen County

Grantee: LaHarpe

$60,000

Osage County

Grantee: Scranton

$45,000

Miami County

Grantee: Miami County

$64,000

Anderson County

Grantee: Westphalia

$47,800

Woodson County

Grantee: Woodson County

$16,000

Woodson County

Grantee: Neosho Falls

$20,000

Allen County

Grantee: Ellsmore

$20,000

Woodson County

Grantee: Toronto

$20,331

Anderson County

Grantee: Kincaid

$48,000

Allen County

Grantee: Humboldt

$73,302

Total
$414,433

The awards were made in counties that were declared disaster areas by Governor Sebelius. In all cases, grantees will have one year from the date of the award to complete their projects.

Money for the grants is from the federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urgent Need program. These awards assist in meeting community needs created by a severe natural or other disaster, which poses an immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and for which no other financial resources are available. The Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce administers the grants. For more information, contact Salih

Doughramaji at (785) 296-3610 or salih@kansascommerce.com.

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas.
Source: COMMERCE

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Date: September 19, 2003

TAIWAN DELEGATION TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS WHEAT COMMISSION

A delegation from Taiwan will be in Kansas next week to enhance agricultural trade relations between Taiwan and the Sunflower State. As part of its goodwill mission, the Taiwan Flour Mills Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) will sign a Joint CommuniquÃ© with the Kansas Wheat Commission, signaling Taiwan's willingness to purchase Kansas wheat.

Details of the signing ceremony are as follows:

AGRICULTURAL GOODWILL MISSION FROM TAIWAN

Signing Ceremony

9:00 a.m.

Friday, September 26

Old Supreme Court Room

Kansas State Capitol

Topeka

The Joint CommuniquÃ© will be signed by David Frey, Executive Director of the Kansas Wheat Commission; and Chen-hsiang Ho, Director of the Taiwan Flour Mills Association; and witnessed by Adrian Polansky, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture; and Jo-chin Wang, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City.

The Joint CommuniquÃ© will come on the heels of a Letter of Intent between U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc. and the Taiwan Flour Mills Association that will be signed in Washington, D.C. on September 24. In the Letter of Intent, Taiwan will express its willingness to buy 1.7 million metric tons (equivalent to more than 62 million bushels) of U.S. Hard Red Winter Wheat, which is primarily grown in Kansas, during 2004 and 2005. The purchase will amount to approximately $266 million worth of wheat. Actual terms, quantities, prices, and conditions for the purchase of wheat will be negotiated

privately between importers and private suppliers.

In 2002, Taiwan was the second largest market for U.S. corn, the fifth largest market for U.S. soybeans, and the seventh largest market for U.S. wheat. Grains imported from the U.S. account for 95 percent of Taiwan's total grain imports.

The Taiwan Agricultural Goodwill Mission is being organized by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City. The In addition to visiting Kansas, representatives of the Agricultural Goodwill Mission from Taiwan will travel to Indiana, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas.

The Agriculture Marketing Division and the Trade Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce are helping coordinate the Taiwan delegation's visit to Kansas. For more information on the mission, contact Patty Clark, Director of the Agriculture Marketing Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, at (785) 296-5253 or pclark@kansascommerce.com.

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas.
Source: TAIWAN DELEGATION TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS WHEAT COMMISSION

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Date: September 2, 2003

KANSAS! MAGAZINE FOCUSES ON GREAT FALL ADVENTURES

From Main Street Kansas to time travel along U.S. 36, great adventures await readers in the Fall 2003 issue of KANSAS! magazine, the four-color, quarterly periodical published as the official state magazine by the Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Development Division.

The Kansas Main Street program is breathing new life into Kansas towns â€" 22 of them and all worth visiting. Writer Sally M. Snell and Photographer Michael C. Snell tell you where to find them. A few of the Main Street communities are along U.S. 36, a Kansas highway that Writer L. Candy Ruff, and Photographers Debra Lamborn and Connie Parish explored from the eastern border to the west, using only a 1941 road map and a 1930s WPA Guide.

If you enjoy hunting and fishing, Kansas offers a number of lodges for today's outdoor enthusiasts. Writer/Photographer Robert I. Egbert and Photographer Kyle Gerstner take you to a few. And here's a place where you really got to go...Elk Falls hosts its annual Elk Falls Outhouse Tour and Contest, providing plenty of off-the-cuff humor, written and photographed by Diana West.

For a spooky tour, take the trolley in Atchison, one of the most haunted towns in Kansas. Writer Kim Gronniger and Photographer Michael C. Snell dared to explore the town and also braved a tour of ghost-inhabited Fort Riley.

Fill your senses with the sights and scents of autumn with a story by Writer Jessica Levine and Photographers Earl Richardson and Del Ruff on candle and soap makers, and our photo gallery featuring Fall scenes by your favorite contributing KANSAS! photographers.

Marci Penner takes us on a tour of pumpkin patches that offer some good old-fashioned family fun.

KANSAS! has been published since 1945 by the Kansas Department of Commerce. Individual copies may be purchased at area retail stores including, American Indian Art Center and Short Stop, Abilene; Phil Stop, Arkansas City; Boot Hill Gift Shop, Christian Book House, and Kansas Heritage Center, Dodge City; Carrolls Books Music & Video and Town Crier, Emporia; Knott Just Books, Goodland; Ellis County Museum Gift Shop and Sternberg Museum Store, Hays; Bette & Phil's Hallmark Shop, Independence; Carroll Mansion Gifts and Corner Pharmacy, Leavenworth; Barnes & Noble, Leawood; Borders, Circle S Guest Ranch, Kansas Union Book Store, Prairie Patches, Raven Book Store, and Spencer Museum of Art

Gift Shop, Lawrence; Claflin Books, Kansas Kollection, and University Bookstore, Manhattan; Land Mark Inn, Oberlin; Borders and Hollywood at Home, Overland Park; Kansas Museum Gift Shop, Washburn University Bookstore, and Kansas Sampler Store, Topeka; and Botanica Gift Shop, Historical Museum Shop, Marriott Gift Shop, Old Cowtown Museum, The Sunflower Shoppe, and Watermark Books, Wichita. Subscriptions to KANSAS! are available for $15 per year. For more information, contact KANSAS! magazine, Kansas Department of Commerce, 1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-3479.
Source: Commerce

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Date: September 29, 2003

PRIDE DAY 2003 WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Kansas PRIDE communities celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the Kansas PRIDE program with an awards ceremony in Great Bend on September 27. The awards topped off this year's PRIDE conference held at the Holiday Inn-Great Bend.

Communities of Excellence Awards are presented to communities that have implemented a comprehensive approach to community and economic development during the past year. This year's award winners are: Alton, Argonia, Basehor, Beattie, Burns, Eskridge, Goff, Greeley, Grinnell, Highland, Lakin, Lucas, Melvern, Potwin, and Rossville.

The PRIDE STAR Award recognizes an outstanding project that meets an identified need, enhances the quality of life, and furthers the community development process. Winners of this year's STAR Awards are: Almena, Frisbee Golf Course and Rejuvenation of Almena Park; Alton, The Annex; Argonia, City-wide Clean Up Day; Beattie, Main Street Project; Burns, Burns Community Center; Clearwater, Clearwater Wellness Center; Formoso, Jewell County Fire District #6 Fire House; Fort Scott, Fort Scott Fall Festival and Appraisal Fair; Greeley, Gazebo Trail at the 1856 Gerth Log Cabin; Grinnell, Christmas in Grinnell; Highland, Prairie Trail Days; Lansing, Fourth of July Celebration; Lucas, Community Smithsonian Exhibit; Melvern, Community Building; Potwin, Community House Renovation.

PRIDE also presented Youth Leadership and Youth Community Service Awards to recognize outstanding youth who have contributed to community improvement efforts. The Youth Leadership recipients were Sara Mettlen of Lucas, Michael Reichenberger of Mt. Hope, and Whitney Whitman of Park City. The Youth Community Service Awards were Danielle Lloyd of Ft. Scott, Kody Pounds of Glasco, Katrina Ostmeyer of Grinnell, Joel Schneider of Lucas, and K.C. Arnold of Park City.

Sixty-five Kansas communities currently participate in the PRIDE program. The Kansas Department of Commerce and Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service co-administer the program, providing technical assistance and training opportunities. For more information, contact Beverly Wilhelm in the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce at (785) 296-3485 or bwilhelm@kansascommerce.com; or Dan Kahl with K-State Research and Extension at (785) 532-5840 or dkahl@oznet.ksu.edu.

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas.
Source: Commerce

For more information, contact:
Beverly Wilhelm

Date: September 4, 2003

KANSAS! WINS REGIONAL MAGAZINE AWARD FOR COVER DESIGN

KANSAS! magazine received a Silver Award in Cover Design for its Fall 2002 issue at the 23rd annual International Regional Magazine Association (IRMA) awards ceremony in Wintergreen, Virginia, on August 27.

"We're honored to receive this award," said Nancy Nowick Ramberg, KANSAS! editor. "Our goal is to provide a premier publication for Kansansâ€”one that reflects our state in a positive light and encourages tourism within the state. It's rewarding to see judges from the magazine industry also appreciating the beauty of Kansas."

Freelance Photographer Kevin Sink, who also sells his work through MidweStock, took the photograph for the winning cover; and Art Director Sean Duggan of Callahan Creek, Lawrence, designed the magazine. Other winners in the Cover Design category were The Iowan Magazine, Bronze, and IRMA Magazine of the Year Texas Parks & Wildlife, Gold. An award of merit went to Adirondack Life. The covers were chosen out of a field of 27 entries.

Thirty-nine magazines were represented at the Virginia IRMA conference. IRMA is a non-profit organization that acts as a channel of communication, encouraging free flow of information among regional magazines. IRMA members are magazines that have a general interest, lifestyle, or tourism editorial content about a specific state or region.

KANSAS! magazine is a four-color, quarterly periodical published as the official state magazine since 1945 by the Travel & Tourism Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Subscriptions to KANSAS! are available for $15 per year. For more information, contact Nancy Nowick Ramberg at (785) 256-7066, or KANSAS! magazine, Kansas Department of Commerce, 1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66612.

Funding for some programs of the Kansas Department of Commerce is provided by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF), which is derived from state lottery proceeds.

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas.

Date: September 4, 2003

KANSAS MAIN STREET CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN EMPORIA

Anyone interested in learning about downtown revitalization is encouraged to attend the annual Kansas Main Street conference on October 7-9 in Emporia. The highlight of the conference will be the presentation of the Governor's Awards of Excellence on Main Street the evening of October 8.

Lt. Governor John Moore will be on hand to present awards to Main Street cities in recognition of their accomplishments.

GOVERNOR'S AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE ON MAIN STREET

William Allen White Civic Center

111 East Sixth Ave.

Emporia

Wednesday, October 8

6:30 p.m.

Community leaders from throughout the state will attend the conference, which opens at 9:30 a.m. on October 7. The theme of this year's conference is "Camp Main Street." Some of the topics to be addressed include: team building, strategic planning for downtowns, fundraising efforts, and leadership.

Registration for the Kansas Main Street conference is required by September 19, 2003. To register, call (785) 296-3485 or e-mail skampschroeder@kansascommerce.com. If you will need special accommodations, contact the Kansas Department of Commerce. Please make your request at least five business days in advance of the meeting. Phone (785) 296-3481, fax (785) 296-3665, or TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487.

There are currently 22 designated Kansas Main Street Cities. The Kansas Main Street program, administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, uses a common-sense approach to tackle complex issues of revitalizing a community's central

business district. The program, which started in 1985, provides management training, consultation visits, local program evaluation, design assistance, business enhancement strategies, incentive dollars, and on-going training in the National Main Street Center's four-point approach.

For more information on the Kansas Main Street program, contact (785) 296-3485, comdev@kansascommerce.com, or www.kansascommerce.com.

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas.
Source: Commerce

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Date: September 9, 2003

NORTHERN IRELAND COMPANY TO OPEN FACILITY IN JUNCTION CITY

UPU Industries Ltd, a subsidiary of Steve Orr Ltd of Northern Ireland; Junction City- Geary County Economic Development; and the Kansas Department of Commerce announced September 9, 2003, that the company will establish a new manufacturing facility in Junction City, Kansas.

UPU Industries Ltd. will invest $14 million in the new state-of-the-art facility, which is expected to employ approximately 70 workers. Plans call for the new facility to be operational in June 2004.

The new facility will produce high performance round bale netting and baler twines. During the last five years UPU Industries Ltd, based in Dromore, County Down, Northern Ireland, has developed significant sales of agricultural blade crop products in the United States market. UPU Industries is currently exporting to more than 23 countries.

UPU Industries contacted the Kansas Department of Commerce more than a year ago, expressing interest in locating a new facility in the United States. The company considered several locations in the Midwest before selecting Junction City for its new facility. The Department of Commerce worked closely with UPU Industries to encourage a Kansas location. Junction City-Geary County Economic Development officials also worked hand-in-hand with the company for the past several months in its site selection process.

Group Managing Director Philip Orr, said, "This year has seen unprecedented demand for UPU Industries Ltd products in the U.S.A. market. In order to expand and develop the business in America, the company realizes that it is now vital a manufacturing presence is established. This commitment will enhance service to existing and prospective customers."

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower businesses and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas. The mission of the Junction City-Geary County Economic Development Commission is to encourage and support the growth of existing and future businesses in Geary County.

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Stephan Bras, Kansas Department of Commerce (785) 296-4598

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Source: Commerce

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Date: October 13, 2003

COMMERCE AWARDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

The Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce) today announced the award of $2,215,000 in Economic Development assistance to four communities: Arkansas City, Bourbon County, Harper County, and Yates Center. The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be matched with $2,777,749 of private financing. The projects will create a total of 87 jobs within a two-year period.

Arkansas City will receive $750,000 of CDBG funds on behalf of Kan Pak, a developer and marketer of snack food products utilizing aseptic packaging. The loan proceeds will be used in the construction of a warehouse building and minor street improvements. The CDBG funds will be matched with $1,076,248 of bank and company financing. The project will create 25 jobs.

Bourbon County will receive $500,000 of CDBG funds on behalf of Third Millennium Industries, a manufacturer and marketer of aluminum horse trailers. The loan proceeds will be used to acquire an existing building and to fund working capital needs. The CDBG funds will be matched with $500,000 of private equity. The project will create 20 jobs.

Harper County will receive $750,000 of CDBG funds on behalf of Elkhorn Valley Packing, a specialty processor and marketer of beef products. The loan proceeds will be used to renovate an existing building into a beef fabricating and boxing plant. The CDBG funds will be matched with $896,501 of internal company resources. The project will create 35 jobs.

Yates Center will receive $215,000 of CDBG funds applied on behalf of D & S Meats, a custom slaughterer and meat processor. The loan proceeds and private investment will enable the company to construct a building, purchase equipment, and fund working capital needs. The CDBG funds will be matched with $305,000 of bank and equity funding. The project will create seven jobs.

The Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce administers the CDBG program. Economic Development grants are given to cities or counties that, in turn, loan the funds to private businesses that create or retain permanent jobs. Funding is also available for infrastructure improvements that directly create or retain permanent jobs. For more information, contact Terry Marlin in the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of

Commerce at (785) 296-4703, e-mail tmarlin@kansascommerce.com, or TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487.

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas.
Source: Commerce

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Date: October 16, 2003

COMMERCE FUNDS KANSAS INDUSTRIAL RETRAINING PROJECTS

The Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce) has announced the funding of several workforce training projects throughout the state. Funding through the Kansas Industrial Retraining program is provided by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF), which is derived from state lottery proceeds, and administered by Commerce.

Kansas Industrial Retraining Program

The Kansas Industrial Retraining (KIR) program is designed to help companies offset the cost of retraining employees who are likely to be displaced due to obsolete or inadequate job skills or knowledge. Eligible firms include those that are restructuring their operations through the incorporation of existing technology, development and incorporation of new technology, diversification of production, or development and implementation of new production activities. Eligible training expenses under KIR are similar to those eligible under the KIT program. Matching funds are required from the participating company. Commerce is funding the following KIR projects:

Excel Industries, Inc. â€“ Hesston

Excel Industries, Inc. primarily manufactures commercial turf maintenance equipment. The company is restructuring its administration, accounting, and production control organization with the implementation of a fully integrated, enterprise-wide (ERP) manufacturing data system. As a result of this project, 103 existing employees will receive a variety of training related to the new software. The Kansas Department of Commerce will invest $100,000 in KIR program funds, with Excel Industries providing matching funds of $181,210.

Knit-Rite, Inc. â€“ Kansas City

Knit-Rite, Inc. manufactures quality textile products and a full range of distribution supplies for the Orthotic and Prosthetic industry, along with compression hosiery and diabetic footwear to pharmacies and other outlets. Knit-Rite, Inc. is implementing a fully integrated software-based system for manufacturing and distribution management. As a result of this project, 40 existing employees will receive training.
The Kansas Department of Commerce will invest $48,400 in KIR program funds to support the training, with Knit-Rite providing matching funds of $55,885.

T&C Mfg. & Operating, Inc. â€“ Great Bend

T&C Mfg. & Operating, Inc.'s consulting division provides engineering and geological services to the oilfield, underground storage cavern, and other markets. T&C has increased its consulting services for underground storage cavern wells due to the most recent regulations by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. As a result, five existing employees will receive training on new equipment. Commerce will invest $10,000 in KIR program funds for the training, with the company providing matching funds of $42,314.

TradeNet Publishing, Inc. â€“ Gardner

TradeNet Publishing, Inc. manufactures a complete line of advertising specialty products. In order to improve efficiency and revenues, the company is bringing the make and repair of dies needed for magnet and mouse pad production in-house, purchasing new equipment, and implementing new software. As a result of this project, 42 existing employees will receive training. Commerce will invest $8,296 in KIR program funds for the training, with the company providing matching funds of $8,300.

Trane Kansas City â€“ Lenexa

Trane Kansas City designs, installs, and maintains efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC) and equipment. Due to technology changes, new skills are being required of the company's service technicians with an emphasis on HVAC controls. As a result, 71 existing employees will receive training on the new equipment and technology in addition to training on the new software. Commerce will invest $30,092 in KIR funds, with the company providing matching funds of $30,093.

K.C. Strings â€“ Merriam

K.C. Strings manufactures and repairs musical string instruments. In order to make the company more efficient and keep up with the demands of customers and the marketplace, the company is installing equipment to improve production. This new equipment will allow new manufacturing techniques such as bow and violin repair as well as violin making. As a result of this project, 16 existing employees will receive training. Commerce will invest $16,000 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $28,850.

Haldex Brake Corporation â€“ Iola

Haldex Brake Corporation produces air brake systems for semi-truck tractors and trailers. The company needs to implement ISO/TS 16949:2002, quality requirements for the automotive industry, in which certification will provide global recognition for supplier sourcing across the automotive/truck industry. As a result of this project, 230 existing employees will receive training. Commerce will invest $21,620 in KIR program funds for the training, with the company providing matching funds of $21,621.

Commercial Aircraft Products LLC â€“ Wichita

Commercial Aircraft Products LLC manufactures and assembles aerospace components and assemblies. The company is seeking to improve its competitive position by the development and implementation of a documented AS9100A Quality Management System. As a result, 24 existing employees will receive a variety of training related to the AS9100A Quality Management System. Commerce will invest $9,198 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $9,198.

D-J Engineering â€“ Augusta

D-J Engineering provides precision machining and forming for the aerospace industry, serving markets across the U.S. To improve its competitive position, the company is developing and implementing a documented ISO 9001:2000 AS9100(a) Quality Management System. As a result, 90 existing employees will receive a variety of training related to the Quality Management System. Commerce will invest $12,058 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $12,059.

Great Bend Cooperative Association â€“ Great Bend

Great Bend Cooperative Association is a grain wholesaler that buys grain from its patrons and provides the patrons with fertilizers, fuel, feed, seed, and farm and vet supplies. The Great Bend Coop is implementing a new AgTrax database system that will expand the location of their market by providing Internet capabilities. As a result, 26 existing employees will receive instruction in the new database system. Commerce will invest $13,900 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $14,000.

Frito-Lay, Inc. â€“ Topeka

Frito-Lay, Inc. is the premier salty snacks and convenience foods manufacturer in the world. The Topeka location includes a manufacturing facility, warehouse, and traffic center. Frito-Lay, Inc. is developing and implementing Continuous Improvement (CI) processes and culture. CI processes will equip production floor team members with the appropriate business knowledge, skills, and resources to make daily business decisions and use their knowledge to foster long-term productivity growth and innovation. In addition, the company is implementing Supply Chain Optimization, which will result in real-time changes to production schedules and distribution systems. As a result of this project, 800 existing employees will receive a variety of training. Commerce will invest $100,000 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $331,915.

For more information on these projects, or the Kansas Industrial Training and the Kansas Industrial Retraining programs, contact the workforce training staff of the Kansas Department of Commerce at (785) 296-5298, busdev@kansascommerce.com, or visit www.kansascommerce.com.

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas.
Source: Commerce

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Date: October 9, 2003

KANSAS MAIN STREET AWARDS PRESENTED

Kansas Main Street cities have been recognized for outstanding achievements in revitalizing their downtowns. Lt. Governor John Moore last night presented the Governor's Awards of Excellence on Main Street at the annual Main Street conference, held this year in Emporia. The awards presentation was the highlight of the conference, which was attended by community leaders from throughout the state.

"We congratulate our Kansas Main Street communities for the commitment they have shown to revitalize their downtowns," said Lt. Governor Moore. "These awards acknowledge the vision, hard work, and dedication of countless community leaders." The 2003 Governor's Awards of Excellence on Main Street are as follows:

2003 Award for Excellence â€“ Design:

Wamego Main Street...DeLacey's Lane

Downtown Hutchinson...Parkside Patisserie

Leavenworth Main Street, Greenamyre Family-Development...Landing Building

Winfield Main Street, Bickers & Bromlows...Facade and Rehabilitation

El Dorado Main Street...Facade Renovation

Marysville Main Street Design Committee...Dank's Broadway Market

Leavenworth Main Street, Greenamyre Family-Development...Choctaw Lofts

Wamego Main Street...Wamego Drug Store

Marysville Main Street Design Committee...Sunflower U.P. Credit Union

Downtown Augusta, Inc...Darcy Herold, La Bella Flower & Gifts

Downtown Manhattan, Inc...Danenberg Jewelers

Downtown Parsons, Inc. Design Committee, City of Parsons...Streetscape

Emporia Main Street, City of Emporia...Streetscape

The Emporia Gazette & Chris Walker...Mural Project

Hutchinson Reno County Cultural Commission & Steve Braun...Public Art

2003 Award for Excellence â€“ Economic Restructuring:

Downtown Parsons, Inc., Dave & Julie Maddox...Business Relocation & Expansion

Wamego Main Street, Curio's Bath & More...New Business Development

Main Street Neodesha, Unique Baskets, Greta Spears...Business Expansion

Main Street Neodesha, CG Designs, Chanda Grogan...Business Development

Main Street Neodesha, Beverly Thompson & Lou Greaves...Business Expansion

Downtown Hutchinson Revitalization Partnership...Antique District

Belleville Main Street, Economic Restructuring Committee...Farmer's Market

McPherson Main Street, The Upper Room...Keith & Evelyn Birkhead

Marysville Main Street...Charlotte's Koester House Restaurant

Downtown Hutchinson Revitalization Partnership...Dalton's Steakhouse & Tavern

Emporia Main Street, Outstanding Merchant...L&L Pets, Lane & Lisa Hollern

Leavenworth Main Street, Outstanding Merchant...Hart's Paint & Decorating Center, Dave Hart

2003 Award for Excellence â€“ Promotion:

Downtown Parsons, Inc. Promotion Committee...Dawg Daze Sidewalk Sale

Main Street Chanute...Grinch That Stole Christmas

Wamego Main Street...4th of July Celebration

Leavenworth Main Street, Jerry Stube, Quilter's Quarters, Inc...Quilt Shop-Hop

Winfield Main Street Promotion Committee...All-American Town Night

Downtown Fort Scott Program...Downtown Fall Festival

Downtown Manhattan, Inc...Downtown Jingle

McPherson Main Street, Inc...The Pink Line Project

McPherson Main Street, Inc., Promotion Committee...Shop the Night Away

2003 Award for Excellence â€“ Organization:

Marysville Main Street, Organization Committee...Image Development

Downtown Parsons, Inc. Organization Committee...Progressive Social

Independence Main Street...Organization Committee & Kid's CREW

Emporia Main Street...Multimedia Marketing Campaign

Main Street Chanute...Hometown Hoe-down Fundraiser

El Dorado Main Street...Membership Campaign

2003 Award for Excellence â€“ Downtown Supporter:

Leavenworth Main Street...Tom Throne

Emporia Main Street...Mike Turnbull

2003 Award for Excellence â€“ Volunteers of the Year:

Ronald Kelley, Downtown Hutchinson Revitalization Partnership

Jean Plummer, El Dorado Main Street

Peggy Weidert, Downtown Parsons, Inc.

Steve Hanschu, Emporia Main Street

Mikel Hadachek, Belleville Main Street

2003 Reinvestments:

$3 Million...Downtown Parsons, Inc.

$3 Million...Peabody Main Street

$30 Million...Emporia Main Street

2003 Emeritus City:

El Dorado Main Street

There are currently 22 designated Kansas Main Street Cities. The Kansas Main Street program, administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, uses a common-sense approach to tackle complex issues of revitalizing a community's central business district. The program, which started in 1985, provides management training, consultation visits, local program evaluation, design assistance, business enhancement strategies, incentive dollars, and on-going training in the National Main Street Center's four-point approach.

For more information on the Kansas Main Street program, contact (785) 296-3485, comdev@kansascommerce.com, or www.kansascommerce.com.

Funding for the Kansas Main Street program is provided by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF), which is derived from state lottery proceeds.

The mission of the Kansas Department of Commerce is to empower business and communities through bold leadership using strategic resources to realize prosperity in Kansas.
Source: Commerce

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Date: December 1, 2003

KANSAS! MAGAZINE REDISCOVERS LEWIS & CLARK AND MORE

Rediscovering Lewis & Clark, gearing up for the 150th anniversary of the Kansas Territory, and seeking out the state's gorgeous and unique stained glass windows are part of the mix in the Winter 2003 issue of KANSAS! magazine, the four-color, quarterly periodical published as the official state magazine by the Kansas Department of Commerce Travel & Tourism Development Division.

Writer Mary Remboldt Gage and Photographer Bill Stephens take readers on the trail of the past that includes the first Fourth of July celebration west of the Mississippi, and lets us know what's coming up to mark the historic 200th anniversary of Lewis & Clark's Corp of Discovery. The American Indian perspective to the Corps of Discovery is explored by Christie Appelhanz Eckert in light of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial events scheduled during the summer of 2004.

Writer Bobbie Athon gives the historical perspective of the 150th anniversary of the Kansas Territory, and Marci Penner tells readers where they can do some related exploring.

Stained-glass windows have a way of warming up the cold winter light, touching our spirit with their beauty. Michael C. Snell presents a photo essay of unique stained glass windows throughout Kansas.

You've heard of trains, planes and automobiles, but what about planes, horses and motorcycles?

Writer Harold E. Davis and Photographer J.D. Mann take us back to World War II at the Olathe Naval Air Station where the Ghost Squadron is still flying high. Fred Solis shows readers that horse sense and entertainment can be combined at EquiFest of Kansas, an equine exposition enjoyed by all.

And Ann Parr and Photographer Dale Cole discover what makes the Cassoday Cafe a biker's paradise. It might have something to do with home-cooked food served just for the motorcycle crowd the first Sunday of each month.

KANSAS! has been published since 1945 by the Kansas Department of Commerce. Individual copies may be purchased at

area retail stores including, American Indian Art Center and Short Stop, Abilene; Phil Stop, Arkansas City; Boot Hill Gift Shop, Christian Book House, and Kansas Heritage Center, Dodge City; Carrolls Books Music & Video and Town Crier, Emporia; Knott Just Books, Goodland; Ellis County Museum Gift Shop and Sternberg Museum Store, Hays; Bette & Phil's Hallmark Shop, Independence; Carroll Mansion Gifts and Corner Pharmacy, Leavenworth; Barnes & Noble, Leawood; Borders, Circle S Guest Ranch, Kansas Union Book Store, Prairie Patches, Raven Book Store, and Spencer Museum of Art Gift Shop, Lawrence; Claflin Books, Kansas Kollection, and University Bookstore, Manhattan; Land Mark Inn, Oberlin; Borders and Hollywood at Home, Overland Park; Kansas Museum Gift Shop, Washburn University Bookstore, and Kansas Sampler Store, Topeka; and Botanica Gift Shop, Historical Museum Shop, Marriott Gift Shop, Old Cowtown Museum, The Sunflower Shoppe, and Watermark Books, Wichita. Subscriptions to KANSAS! are available for $15 per year. For more information, contact KANSAS! magazine, Kansas Department of Commerce, 1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-3479.

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Source: Commerce

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Date: December 11, 2003

COMMERCE FUNDS KANSAS INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PROJECTS

The Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce) has announced the funding of several workforce training projects. Funding through the Kansas Industrial Training and the Kansas Industrial Retraining programs is provided by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF), which is derived from state lottery proceeds, and administered by Commerce.

Kansas Industrial Training Projects

The Kansas Industrial Training (KIT) program is designed to help new and expanding companies offset the cost of training workers for new jobs. Eligible businesses include those that are adding one or more new jobs and are involved in manufacturing, wholesale distribution, regional or national service, agriculture, mining, research and development, interstate transportation, and tourism activities aimed primarily at attracting out-of-state tourists. KIT can pay the negotiated cost of pre-employment, on-the-job, and classroom expenses. Examples of eligible training expenses include instructor salaries, curriculum planning and development, travel expenses, minor equipment, training aids, textbooks, materials, and supplies. Commerce is funding the following KIT projects:

ADI Inc. â€“ Chanute

ADI, Inc. supplies wire and cable products to the recreational vehicle, marine, automotive, agriculture, and construction industries. The company is expanding its product lines to include air hose assembly for the commercial trailer industry. As a result of the expansion project, ADI is creating two new jobs at its Chanute facility. Total estimated cost of the training project is $8,450. Commerce will invest $2,000 in KIT program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $6,450.

Custom Polishing Pros Inc. â€“ Wichita

Custom Polishing Pros Inc. provides metal finishing and polishing services. Custom Polishing is creating six new jobs at its Wichita facility. The new employees will receive instruction in computer software, tax seminars, bookkeeping, human resource management skills, quality control, inventory management, machine operation, and leadership skills. Total estimated cost of the training project is $5,515. Commerce will invest $3,000 in KIT program funds, with the company

providing matching funds of $2,515.

Companion Baking Co. â€“ Shawnee

Companion Baking Co. offers a large variety of artisan breads that are produced fresh daily to customer specifications. Headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, the company recently expanded into the Kansas City metropolitan market and located a new facility in Shawnee. The company is creating 16 new jobs at the Shawnee facility. The new employees will receive instruction in artisan baking basics; health, safety, and sanitation; formulation and mixing; and customer care. Total estimated cost of the training project is $67,440. Commerce will invest $16,000 in KIT program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $51,440.

Oldcastle APG Midwest, dba Miller Material Co. â€“ Bonner Springs

Oldcastle APG Midwest, dba Miller Material Co., manufactures concrete products including concrete masonry units (CMU), concrete landscaping stones, segmented retaining walls (SRW), and concrete paving stones. The company is expanding its production capabilities in the Kansas City area by building a large-pallet production facility in the Bonner Springs Industrial Park. As a result of this expansion, the company is creating 40 new jobs. Total estimated cost to train the employees is estimated at $272,670. Commerce will invest $60,000 in KIT program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $212,670.

Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc. â€“ Kansas City

Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc. (AWG) is a retailer-owned cooperative, which provides food, general merchandise, and retail services to its members. AWG recently acquired some new distribution centers. As a result of this expansion, the company is adding 43 new jobs per hour at its corporate headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas. The new employees will receive instruction in new employee orientation, management development, and job specific skills training. AWG in-house trainers will provide a combination of on-the-job and classroom instruction. Total estimated cost of the project is $35,872. The Kansas Department of Commerce will invest $30,000 in KIT program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $5,872.

ElDorado National â€“ Kansas, Inc. â€“ Salina

ElDorado National â€“ Kansas, Inc. manufactures commercial small- and mid-sized buses, commercial van conversions, and retail van conversions for customers in all across the United States and Canada. In response to increased customer demand for its products, the company is adding 14 new jobs at its Salina facility. Total estimated cost of the training project is $40,886. The Kansas Department of Commerce will invest $14,000 in KIT program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $26,886.

Carlisle Power Transmission Products, Inc. â€“ Ft. Scott

Carlisle Power Transmission Products, Inc. manufactures wrap-molded v-belts for agricultural and power transmission products. The company has recently expanded to add a new line of molded poly-v belts for household appliance applications. As a result of the expansion, Carlisle is adding 50 new jobs at its Fort Scott facility. Total estimated cost of training the new hires is $123,480. Commerce will invest $50,000 in KIT program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $73,480.

For more information on these projects, or the Kansas Industrial Training and the Kansas Industrial Retraining programs, contact the workforce training staff of the Kansas Department of Commerce at (785) 296-5298, busdev@kansascommerce.com, or visit www.kansascommerce.com.

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Source: Commerce

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Date: December 11, 2003

COMMERCE FUNDS KANSAS INDUSTRIAL RETRAINING PROJECTS

The Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce) has announced the funding of several workforce training projects. Funding through the Kansas Industrial Training and the Kansas Industrial Retraining programs is provided by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF), which is derived from state lottery proceeds, and administered by Commerce.

Kansas Industrial Retraining Program

The Kansas Industrial Retraining (KIR) program is designed to help companies offset the cost of retraining employees who are likely to be displaced due to obsolete or inadequate job skills or knowledge. Eligible firms include those that are restructuring their operations through the incorporation of existing technology, development and incorporation of new technology, diversification of production, or development and implementation of new production activities. Eligible training expenses under KIR are similar to those eligible under the KIT program. Matching funds are required from the participating company. Commerce is funding the following KIR projects:

MartinLogan, LTD â€“ Lawrence

MartinLogan, LTD designs and manufactures high-end loudspeaker systems. The company is implementing an automated costing system that will allow for more accurate inventory counts and implementing total quality management training that will be focused on lean manufacturing. As a result of this project, 58 existing employees will receive instruction in costing modules, inventory stock, and total quality management. Total estimated cost of the training project is $13,931. Commerce will invest $6,965 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $6,966.

MedPlans 2000, Inc. â€“ Ft. Scott

MedPlans 2000, Inc. provides outsourcing services for healthcare claims processing and adjudication. The company is implementing a new software system to increase the speed of claims processing. As a result of this project, 106 existing employees will receive instruction in the software system. Total estimated cost of the project is $83,162. The Kansas Department of Commerce will invest $40,500 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $42,662.

Amcor PET Packaging North America â€“ Lenexa

Amcor PET Packaging North America manufactures plastic for the food and beverage industry. The company is implementing and training on a new software system. As a result of this project, 149 existing employees will receive instruction. Total estimated cost of the training project is $24,750. Commerce will invest $12,375 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $12,375.

Harlan Corporation â€“Kansas City

Harlan Corporation manufactures and designs towing vehicles and components for other off-road equipment manufacturers. The company is implementing a new software package to allow it to forecast, reduce inventory, and readily retrieve information from the system. As a result of this project, 69 existing employees will receive instruction in the new computer software. Total estimated cost of the training project is $172,501. Commerce will invest $86,250 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $86,251.

Heatron, Inc. â€“ Leavenworth

Heatron, Inc. custom designs and manufactures engineered industrial heating elements, Metal Core Thick Film circuit boards, LED light engines, power resistors, and other custom designed and manufactured electronic products. The company is implementing a new software system to transition from a paper system to a streamlined computer management of accounts, production, material maintenance, and billing. As a result of this project, 216 existing employees will receive instruction in the new system. Total estimated cost of the training project is $49,957. The Kansas Department of Commerce will invest $24,978 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $24,979.

Hillsboro Industries, Inc. â€“ Hillsboro

Hillsboro Industries, Inc. manufactures a comprehensive range of transport trailers and truck bodies. To compete effectively in the market, meet customer's expectations of quick turnaround, and deliver customization to specifications the company is implementing new software for its engineering staff. As a result of this project, five existing employees will receive instruction in AutoCAD Inventor software. Total estimated cost of the project is $14,243. The Kansas Department of Commerce will invest $7,121 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $7,122.

S and Y Industries, Inc. â€“ Winfield

S and Y Industries, Inc. is a high quality electronic contract assembly/manufacturing firm that produces circuit boards and wiring harnesses. The company is implementing ISO 9001:2000 standards and certification to improve current processes, cross-train current employees to be more flexible, as well as add a marketing tool that is recognizable worldwide. As a result of this project, 27 existing employees will receive instruction in the standards of ISO 9001:2000. Total estimated cost of the training project is $21,194. Commerce will invest $10,597 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $10,597.

Machine Laboratory, LLC â€“ Lenexa

Machine Laboratory, LLC manufactures highly complex precision components for the automotive, communication, military, and aerospace industries. The company is making a $10 million investment in equipment that will allow it to expand from servicing small companies to servicing larger companies. As a result of this project, ten existing employees will receive instruction in operating and repairing the machines, measuring the quality of the parts, and examining parts and processes for exceptional quality measures. Total estimated cost of the training project is $76,946. The Kansas

Department of Commerce will invest $10,000 in KIR program funds, with the company providing matching funds of $66,946.

For more information on these projects, or the Kansas Industrial Training and the Kansas Industrial Retraining programs, contact the workforce training staff of the Kansas Department of Commerce at (785) 296-5298, busdev@kansascommerce.com, or visit www.kansascommerce.com.

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