



Walking bridge at the Keeper of the Plains. Photo by Thad Pickett

Wichita

visions



The evening Wichita skyline showing the Century II Convention Center lights glowing bright. Photo by Randa Bishop



Written by: *Janet Wright*

Stephen Hung, **Publisher**

Staff for Wichita Visions

Art Director: **Thad Pickett**

Managing Editor: **Barbara Bellesi**

Photography Editor: **Loni Woolery**

Profile Writers: **Jean Butler, Barbara Donohue, Laurie Dove,**

Michelle Emerle, Nick Pena, and Regina Roths

Sales Manager: **Henry Hintermeister**



Brookline, Massachusetts

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First Edition

ISBN: 0-9759736-8-1

Printed in the United States of America

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Dust Jacket Photo by Carrie Yonley

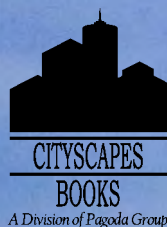




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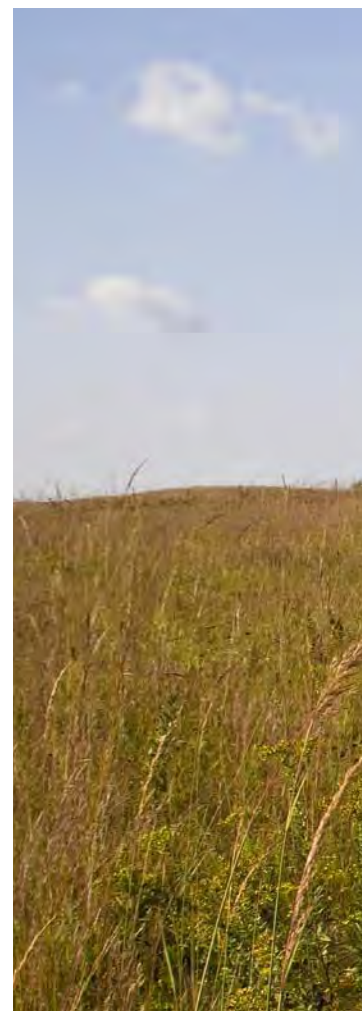
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Bison on the Kansas plains. Photo by Craig Hacker



Horses, Tim and Barney, pull a wagon through the Old Cowtown Museum. Photo by Randa Bishop



Prairie Vision

The year was 1870. Four men had a common vision for a city to be built on the prairie. James R. Mead, William Greiffenstein, Jesse Chisholm, and William Mathewson had come to Kansas to seek their fortunes in trading with the Indians and settlers moving to the West. That year, they incorporated Wichita, named after a Plains Indian tribe, as a village that soon became the county seat of Sedgwick County.

With the advent of the railroad in 1872, Wichita was the place for Texas cattle to be driven and then shipped to the East. The cattle industry, along with grain and milling, contributed to Wichita's expansion. By 1886, Wichita was the chief city in the region.

As legend and folklore have it, somewhere during this time a man named Windwagon Smith sailed a prairie schooner from Westport, Missouri across the plains of Kansas. Whether he actually made it to Wichita is unknown, but since 1974, his tale has lived on through the Wichita River Festival®.

In the 1870s and 1880s, Windwagon Smith would have encountered a town of rough-and-tumble cowboys, where cattle was king and the "first and last chance saloon" was open to thirsty, hot, and tired cowpokes. The area was known as "Delano" and was the location of Wichita's red light district. Wichita was a rough place, despite signs posted at the outskirts of town warning visitors to check their guns before entering town.

By 1880, Wichita's life as a cattle town had come to an end and businessmen were forced to reexamine how to maintain their livelihood. Russian red wheat became the product destined to keep Wichita moving forward as a trading and milling center. Growth brought churches, schools, and other civilizing forces to the small town on the prairie.



Re-invention

Growth also brought notoriety and Carry Nation at the early turn of the 20th Century. The prohibitionist and reformer came to Wichita in 1900. Her visit resulted in her arrest for destroying the bar and the painting above the bar titled, “Cleopatra at the Bath,” in what is now the Eaton Hotel.

Wichita’s ability to reinvent itself from cow town to one of trading, milling, and soon manufacturing continued into the 20th century. New business start-ups included companies like Coleman and the cold medicine manufacturer Mentholatum; soon after, the discovery of oil in Butler County resulted in new wealth and industry coming to Wichita.

The Wright Brothers flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in 1903 caught the imagination of many Americans, including several Kansans, and led to a new industry in Wichita. Men like Clyde Cessna, Walter Beech, and Lloyd Stearman, using capital generated from the oil fields in Butler County, began businesses that today remain the heart and soul of Wichita’s

economy. Within 25 years of the first flight at Kitty Hawk, Wichita was building one-fourth of the world’s aircraft and the City Fathers dubbed Wichita the “Air Capital of the World.”

The airplane companies established during this time flourished despite the ups and downs of the city’s economy and the world market. During the Great Depression, many companies met their payrolls by winning air races or crafting products other than airplanes. Cessna Aircraft Co. at one point made furniture to keep the company afloat. During World War II, Cessna, Beech, and Boeing ramped up employment to meet the needs of a nation at war.

In 1970, amidst the celebration of Wichita’s first century, a new tradition was born: the Wichita River Festival. First begun as a part of the Wichitennial Celebration, the event held such popularity that a group of businessmen formed a non-profit corporation, Wichita Festivals, Inc., to hold the celebration annually. Since 1972, the Wichita River Festival has been Wichita’s celebration of spring, beginning the Friday before Mother’s Day each year. Hundreds of corporations provide funding and numerous individuals volunteer their time to organize and present the annual festival. More than 300,000 people attend the nine-day celebration annually.



The Second Hundred Years

Now, when Admiral Windwagon Smith represents Wichita during the Wichita River Festival, he's representing a prairie city spread over 115 square miles with more than 350,000 people of all ethnicities - Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, and other cultures. Wichita continues to exemplify the stubbornness and independent spirit borne from life on the prairie. The warmth and friendliness newcomers experience frequently leads them to remain in Wichita even after jobs and families could take them elsewhere. Wichitans are generally conservative by nature, both politically and financially, and are sometimes slow to embrace change. But at the heart of our conservatism is a belief in the value of family and friends.

We continue to demonstrate the entrepreneurial spirit of our forefathers. Today, Cessna, Boeing, Hawker Beechcraft, Learjet, and newly formed Spirit AeroSystems produce a majority of the commercial, defense, and private aircraft built in the world. Their leaders have and are positioning their products to meet the needs of the 21st century, along with hundreds of suppliers who provide parts and equipment, not only to local companies, but to companies around the world.

Many national and international businesses, apart from the aircraft industry, have been created here. The Coleman Company, Pizza Hut, Rent-a-Center, Koch Industries, and White Castle Hamburgers are just a few of those who began their existence in Wichita. Many businesses spawned in Wichita have expanded to other markets with great success.

Today, Wichita is a major healthcare hub with specialty hospitals, state-of-the art diagnostic equipment, specialists in all areas of health care, and medical facilities second to none. We've witnessed growth across the city of treatment centers like the Wichita Clinic, rehabilitation hospitals, satellite centers run by major hospitals, and specialized medical centers



The front entrance to the Kansas Aviation Museum. Photo by Thad Pickett

created by entrepreneurial doctors. Within a mile in northeast Wichita, there are two heart hospitals, a spine center, women's health clinic, urology center, a minor medical hospital, and numerous doctors treating a myriad of health issues.

Higher education continues to play an important part in Wichita's economy and educational system. Wichita State University has set itself apart from other schools in the Kansas Board of Regents system with unique areas of study. The University offers specialized programs in engineering, health sciences, business, fine arts, and education that not only teach students, but reach out to local and regional businesses, sharing research and national trends. Satellite teaching centers have made it easier for non-traditional students to take university classes while working full time. Friends University and Newman University have adapted their curriculums to help meet the needs of older, returning students with graduate-level programs designed for the non-traditional student. Butler Community College has expanded its role in the region with an increased enrollment, offering curriculum choices not found in other institutions of higher education.

In the last 15 to 20 years, there has been exciting growth in cultural and entertainment options. Where once we complained there were no great restaurants to choose from, we now have a variety of choices. Development on both the east and west sides of Wichita has brought restaurants unique to the city, as well as chains from around the country. Again, the unique entrepreneurial spirit seen in other industries is also seen in the food industry with many home-grown success stories.

The development of Exploration Place, a science and learning center built along the banks of the Arkansas River downtown has brought a world-class attraction to Wichita. Designed by renowned architect Moshe Safdie, it houses a Cyberdome theatre creating educational experiences for young and old alike and welcomes national touring exhibits usually only seen in cities much larger than Wichita.

In addition to the highly successful Music Theatre of Wichita and the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Wichita is now home to the Wichita Grand Opera, bringing the world's greatest operas to Wichita each season. The restored Orpheum Theatre, Ballet Wichita, and Opera Kansas all bring national and regional talent to Wichita audiences annually.

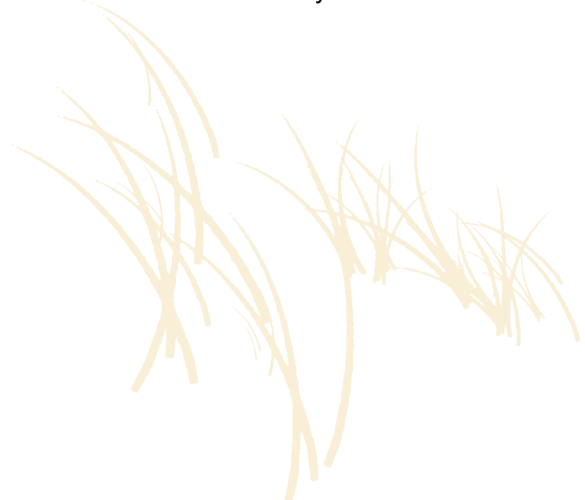
The Hotel at Old Town in downtown Wichita. Photo by Art Scott



The development of Old Town by visionaries David Burk and Rich Vliet has led to a vibrant entertainment and living district in the heart of downtown. With an investment by the City of Wichita and other developers, Old Town is now the home of numerous retail establishments, eateries, a movie theater, and numerous night clubs. Newly restored buildings originally built in the early 20th century now house hotels, condominiums, professional offices, art galleries, and retail establishments. In 2008, Old Town was noted as one of the top ten “Great Neighborhoods in America” by the American Planning Association.

Perhaps the most ambitious project to date is the INTRUST Bank Arena, currently being built in downtown Wichita. When completed in early 2010, the arena will seat approximately 15,000 people for concerts, special events, sporting activities, and other community activities. Along with development of the Water Walk project, located between Main Street and the Arkansas River adjacent to Century II, the arena will hopefully become the catalyst for a revitalized downtown.

Wichita has witnessed explosive growth in the last 15 to 20 years in the northwest and northeast quadrants of the city, both in housing and in retail establishments. The development of Bradley Fair on north Rock Road and New Market Square on north Maize Road now provide Wichitans and Kansans with one-of-a-kind shops and upscale retail stores for their shopping pleasure. New housing areas have seemingly sprung up overnight both east and west of the city, with builders offering homes in all price ranges. This growth is largely due to the entrepreneurial spirit similar to that seen in other segments of our economy: Wichita investors recognizing opportunity for profit and growth and making decisions to invest in our neighborhoods and our economy.





The Warren Theater in Old Town. Photo by Art Scott.

Our Future

One of the more curious realities about Wichita is the self-deprecating nature of our citizens when talking with others about where we live. When asked by others where we're from, our responses are often "You probably don't know where that is" or "It's a great place to raise kids," instead of "It's a great place to live!" We underestimate the importance of what we enjoy every day. We'll never have a mountain range or sea shore to lure visitors, but what we do have are incredibly friendly people, a clean environment with lots of sun, first-class entertainment, a reasonable cost of living, and a wealth of outdoor activities to enjoy.

There's no doubt Wichita will continue to reinvent itself as necessity demands. I think it's borne from the prairie where the winds and the weather change by the minute. I'm encouraged by the efforts of our leaders to look to the future, examining what we can be as a community and the resources needed to accomplish that vision. The hard-working nature of our citizens demonstrates anything is possible. Diversifying our economic base and seeking out new industry for our region seems to me to be critical to our continued growth and prosperity.

Our challenge is to open our minds to new ideas, engage in the process of self-examination, and support new initiatives in order to continue the reinvention and revitalization of Wichita. After all, it's our community.



A stage crew spotlights one of the acts performing at the annual Wichita River Festival. Photo by Craig Hacker



Photo gallery



Photo by Art Scott

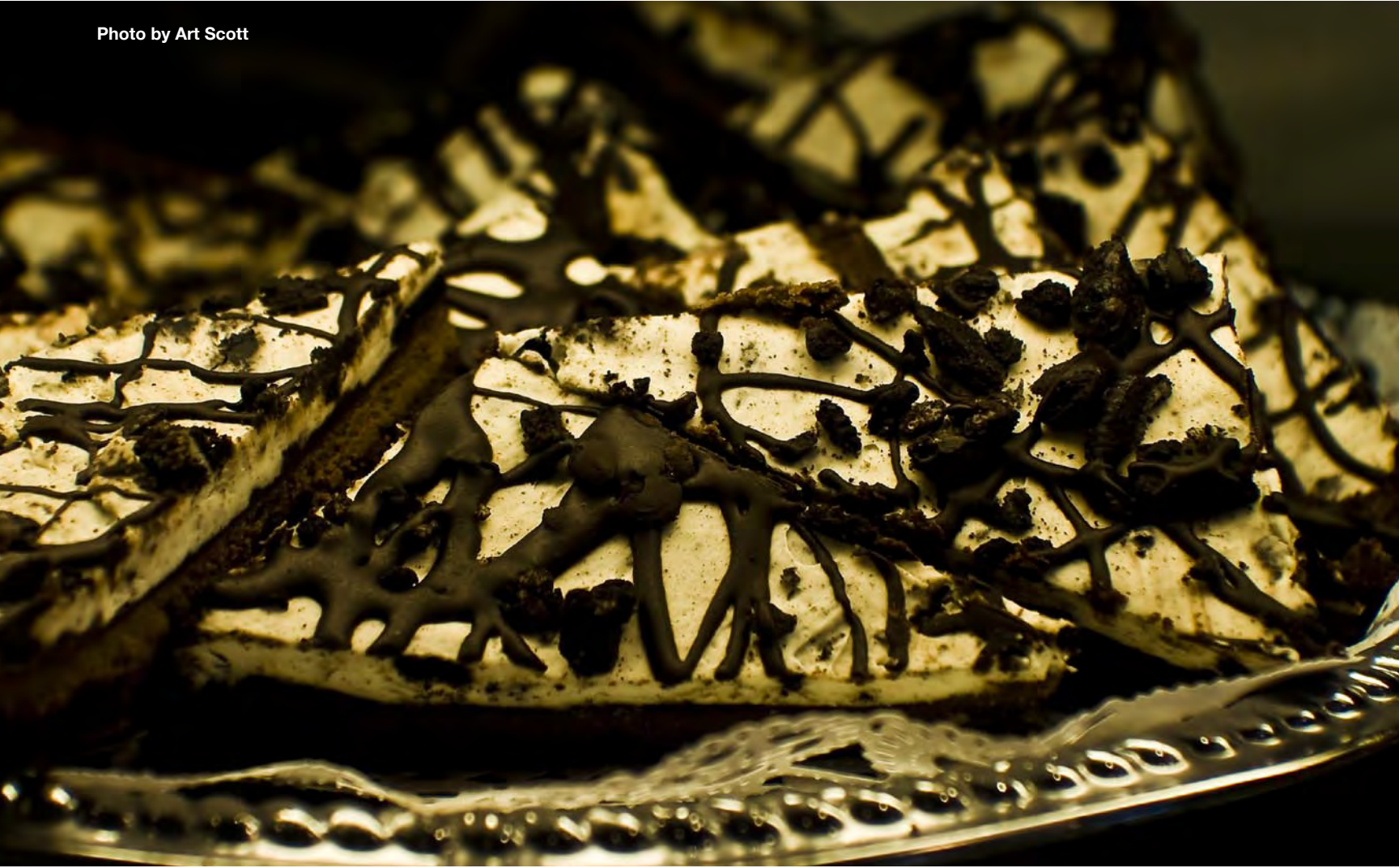


Photo by Randa Bishop





Photo by Gavin Peters



Photo by Carrie Yonley





Art show at Botanica, The Wichita Gardens. Photo by Thad Pickett

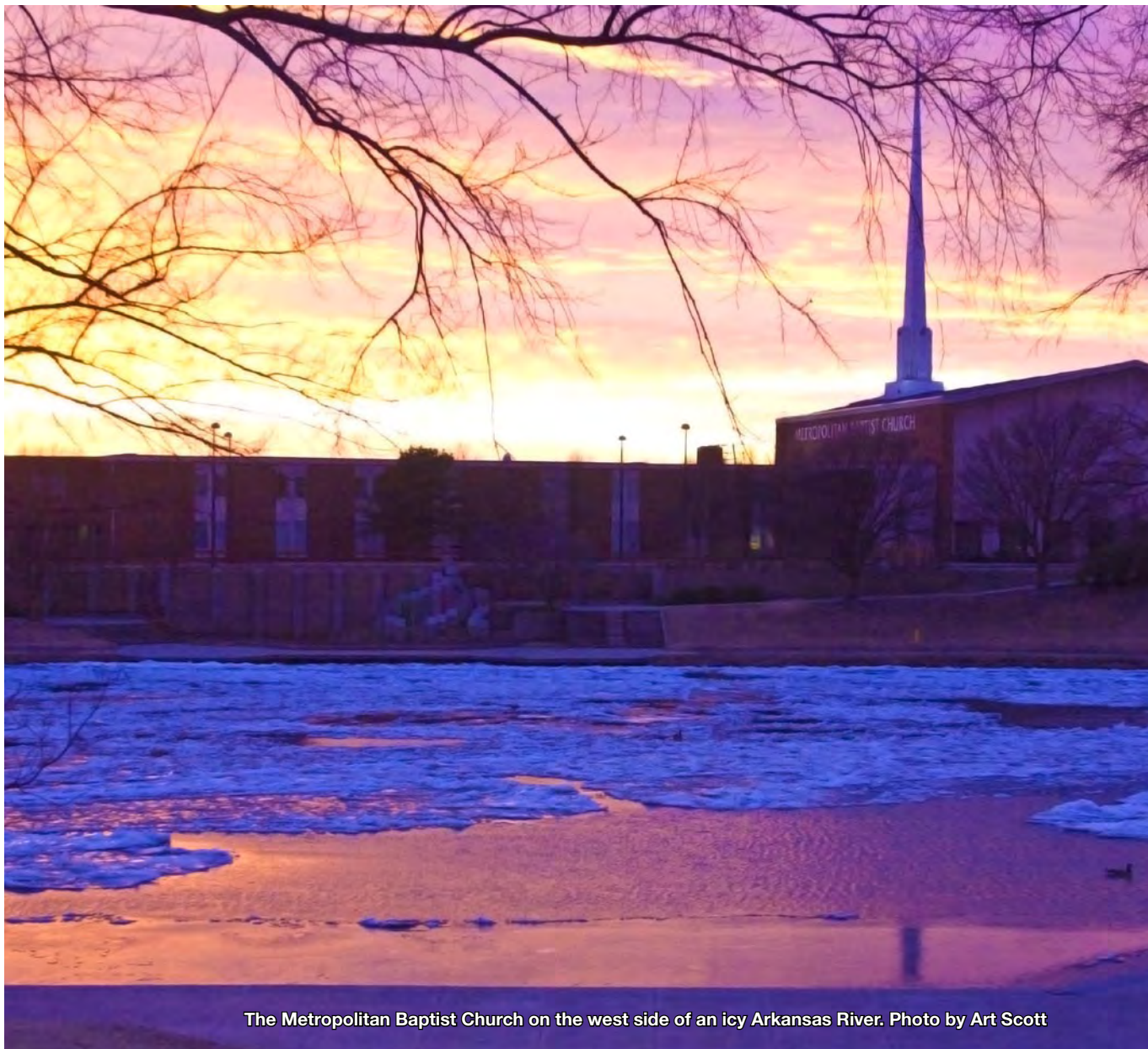


Artist Sharon Connaway exhibiting her paintings at the Botanica, The Wichita Gardens. Photo by Thad Pickett

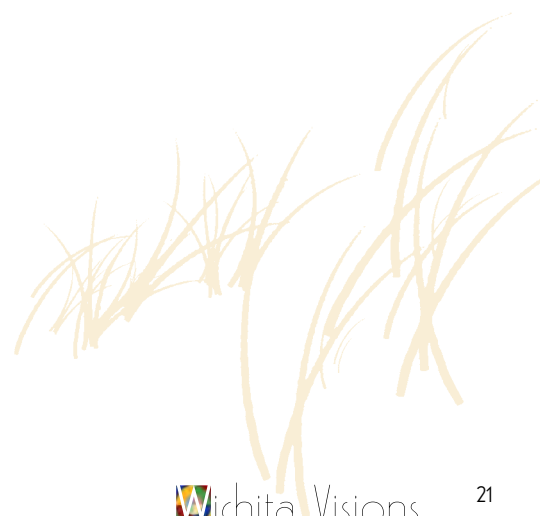
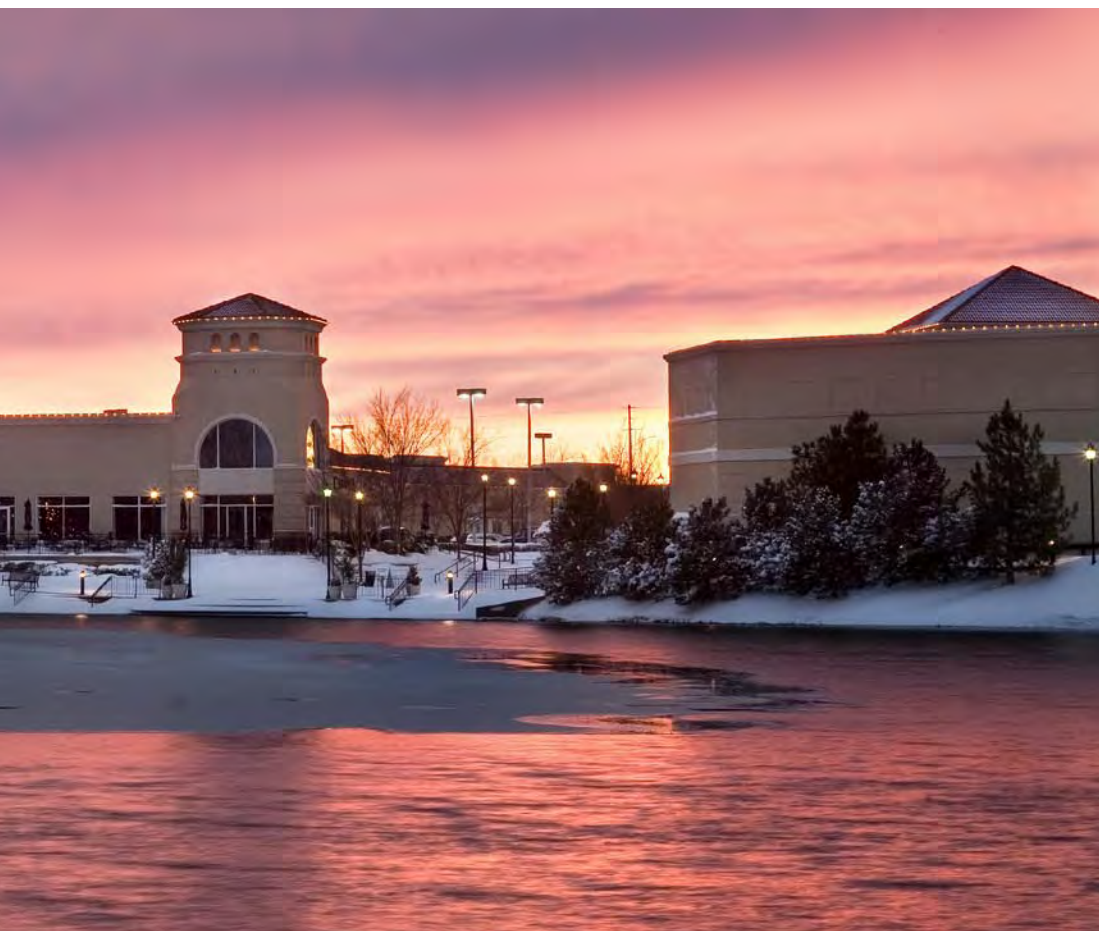
Looking across the Arkansas River at downtown Wichita. Photo by Carrie Yonley



Bradley Fair winter sunset. Photo By Gavin Peters



The Metropolitan Baptist Church on the west side of an icy Arkansas River. Photo by Art Scott



The B-29 Superfortress "Doc" at the Kansas Aviation Museum. Photo by Randa Bishop







Photo by Thad Pickett



Photo by Thad Pickett



Made From Scratch band playing a Friday night gig at Mort's in Old Town. Photo by Thad Pickett





Carriage driver around Christmas time at Bradley Fair. Photo by Gavin Peters

Wichita home in the Christmas spirit. Photo by Art Scott



Christmas lights on Bradley Fair Island. Photo by Gavin Peters



Dwight D. Eisenhower statue and memorial. Photo by Jim Meyer







Looking north up the Arkansas River from downtown Wichita. Photo by Carrie Yonley





Wichita Fire Department firefighter silhouetted against a smoky backdrop at a nighttime fire in downtown Wichita. Photo by Craig Hacker.



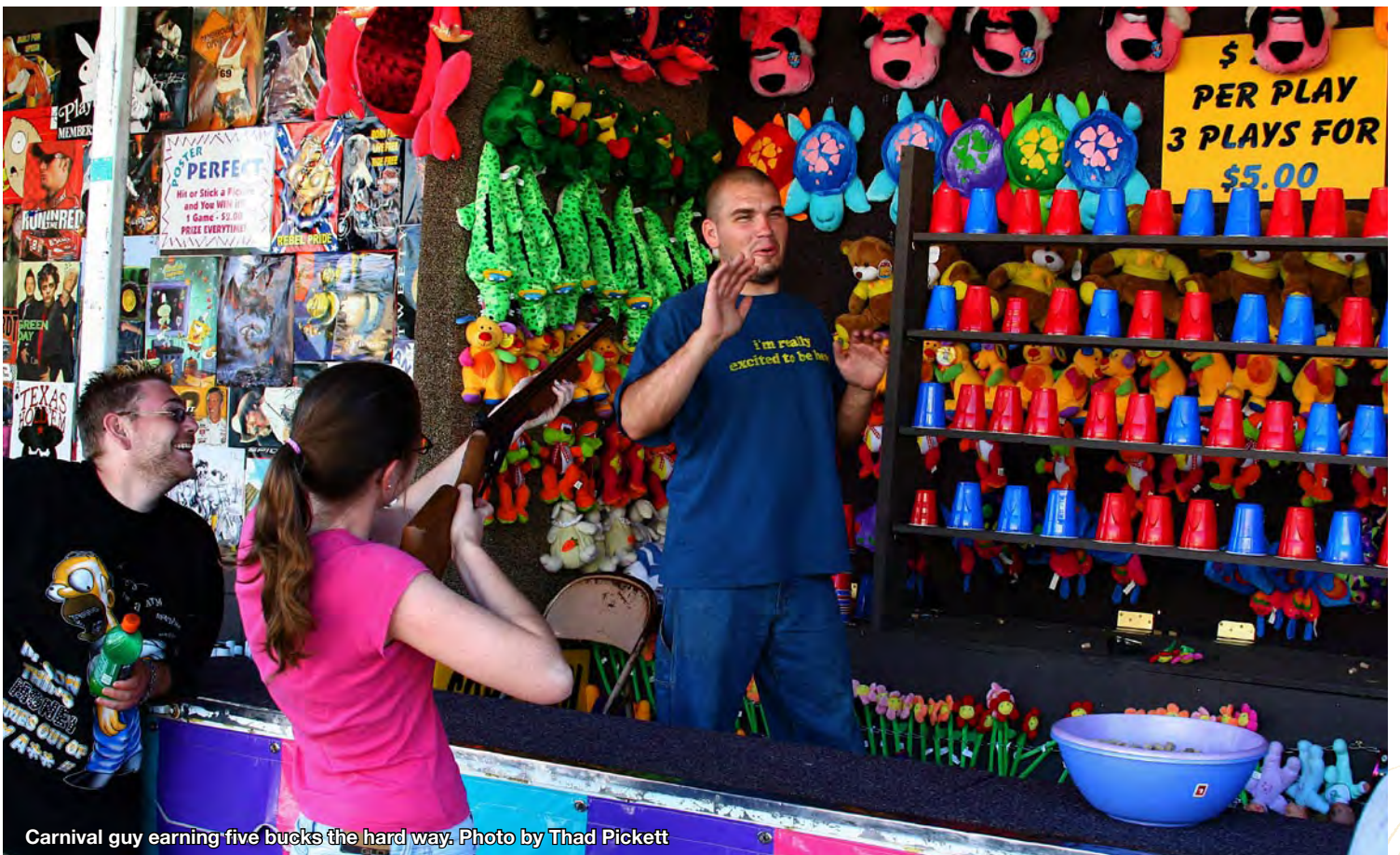
The Wichita Fire Department educates young children at Riverside Park. Photo by Randa Bishop



A highly polished Engine 25 of the Wichita Fire Department. Photo by Thad Pickett



Winning a jumbo stuffed toy at the Kansas State Fair. Photo by Jim Meyer



Carnival guy earning five bucks the hard way. Photo by Thad Pickett



The swing ride, a kid favorite, at the Kansas State Fair. Photo by Jim Meyer



Heading for home after the last show at the 37th. annual Walnut Valley Festival. Photo by Thad Pickett

A huge full moon over the Plaza. Photo by Gavin Peters





“Dreamers Awake” by Tom Otterness at the Wichita Art Museum. Photo by Randa Bishop



The river troll safely imprisoned in a storm drain near the bike path on the Arkansas River. Photo by Art Scott







Relaxing in the Wichita Art Museum main lobby. Photo by Carrie Yonley



Dale Chihuly sculpture "Confetti Chandelier" in the Wichita Art Museum. Photo by Randa Bishop

Kansas Governor, Kathleen Sebelious. Photo by Craig Hacker



Sedgwick County District Attorney, Nola Foulston, conferring with members of her staff. Photo by Jim Meyer





St. Anthony Catholic Church considered to be the oldest church in Wichita. Photo by Randa Bishop



Jesus sculpture at St. Anthony. Photo by Thad Pickett



St. Anthony sculpture. Photo by Thad Pickett

"Keeper of the Plains" sculpture by the renowned Native American artist Blackbear Bosin. Photo by Randa Bishop







Playing in the fountain at Riverside Park. Photo by Thad Pickett





Kids playing in the Bradley Fair Plaza. Photo by Gavin Peters



People enjoying the fountains at the Kansas State Fair. Photo by Jim Meyer



An old brownstone building in the Old Town district of downtown Wichita. Photo by Carrie Yonley

Engine House No. 6 now serves as the Kansas Firefighters Museum and Memorial. Photo by Randa Bishop





The Maxwell Wildlife Refuge on the Kansas plains is home to over 200 bison. Photo by Randa Bishop





Whitetail Deer thrive in the rural areas just a short drive from Wichita. Photo Craig Hacker

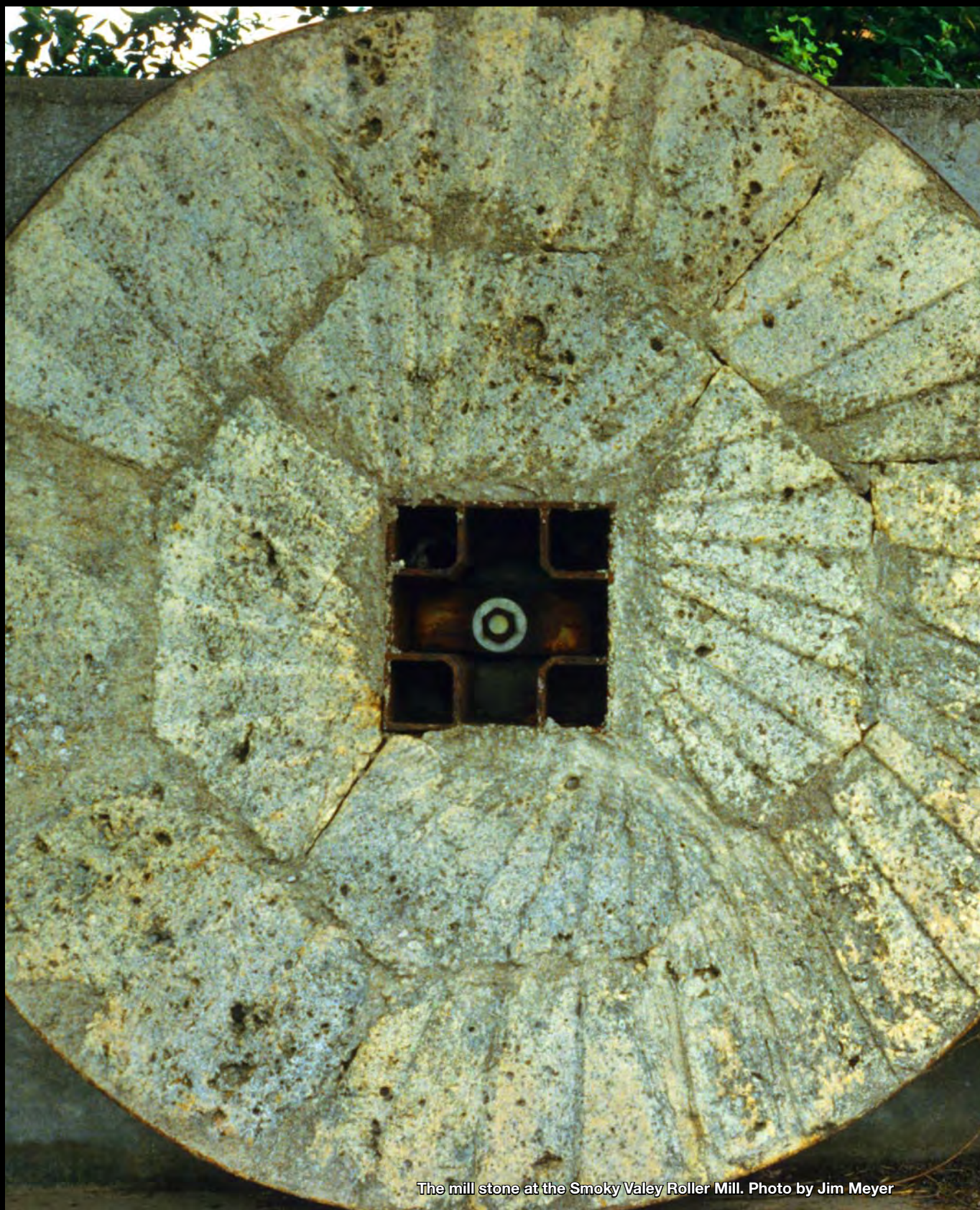


Looking through the windows of the Exploration Place science and discovery center. Photo by Thad Pickett





Smoky Valley Roller Mill north of Wichita. Photo by Jim Meyer



The mill stone at the Smoky Valley Roller Mill. Photo by Jim Meyer





Young men checking out the hot rods at the Darryl Starbird Annual Car Show. Photo by Carrie Yonley



A classic SS Chevelle sets in front of the Pump House. Photo by Thad Pickett



A sweet Camaro cruising Old Town on a Friday night. Photo by Thad Pickett



Nicholas Johnson directs dancers for "Cinderella" at Wichita State University. Photo by Jim Meyer





Cedar Plank Salmon. Photo by Randa Bishop





Chef Rob Smith prepares Cedar Plank Salmon for the SpeakEasy Cafe in the Broadview Hotel. Photo by Randa Bishop



Photo by Art Scott



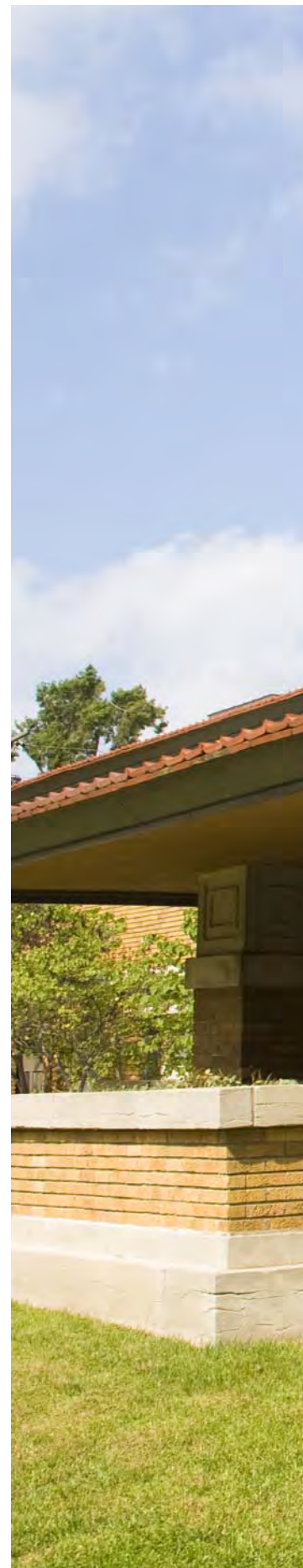
Photo by Carrie Yonley



Campbell Castle built in 1888 by cattleman Burton Harvey Campbell. Photo by Randa Bishop



Terwilliger Home built in 1861. Photo by Randa Bishop





This home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for Henry J. Allen in 1919 is the only residence in Kansas built by Wright. Photo by Randa Bishop



Sedgwick County Sheriff Office pilots pose with their Commander aircraft. Photo by Craig Hacker



Native American dance at the Kansas State Quarter Launch at the Kansas State Fair. Photo by Jim Meyer





Bronze sculpture "Sacred Legacy" by Rhonda Haugh Vickers. Photo by Randa Bishop



Photo by Carrie Yonley



Friday night in Old Town. Photo by Thad Pickett





Youngsters play in the fountain in the Old Town Plaza. Photo by Randa Bishop



Long waiting line to get in Liquid. Photo by Thad Pickett



Photo by Carrie Yonley

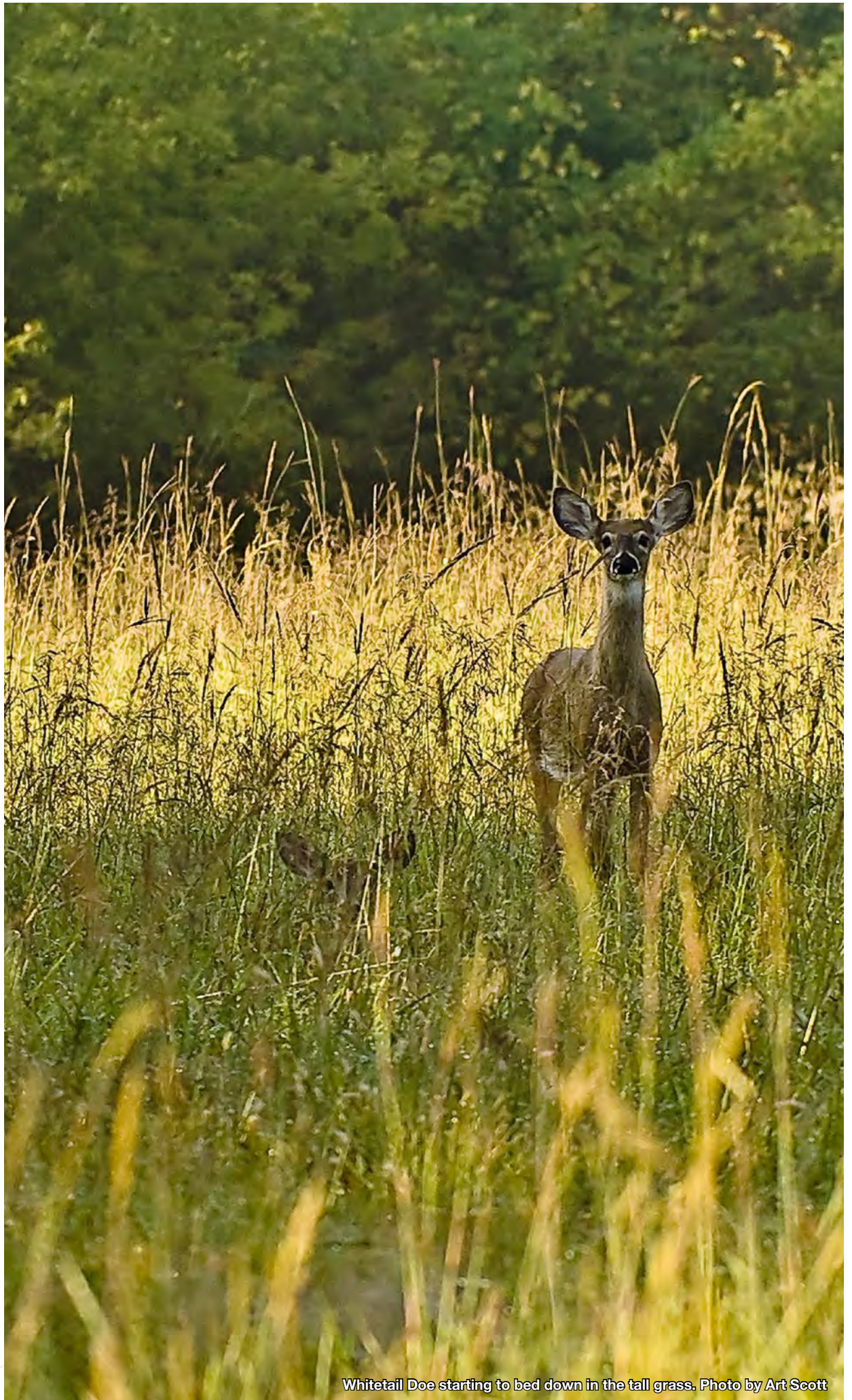




Pheasant and Quail hunting west of Wichita. Photo by Jim Meyer



Canadian Geese in flight over the Arkansas River. Photo by Carrie Yonley



Whitetail Doe starting to bed down in the tall grass. Photo by Art Scott





Live music at Bradley Fair. Photo by Gavin Peters



Blowing the horns at Mort's. Photo by Thad Pickett



Lauren Barlow playing the drums during a Barlow Girl concert. Photo by Jim Meyer



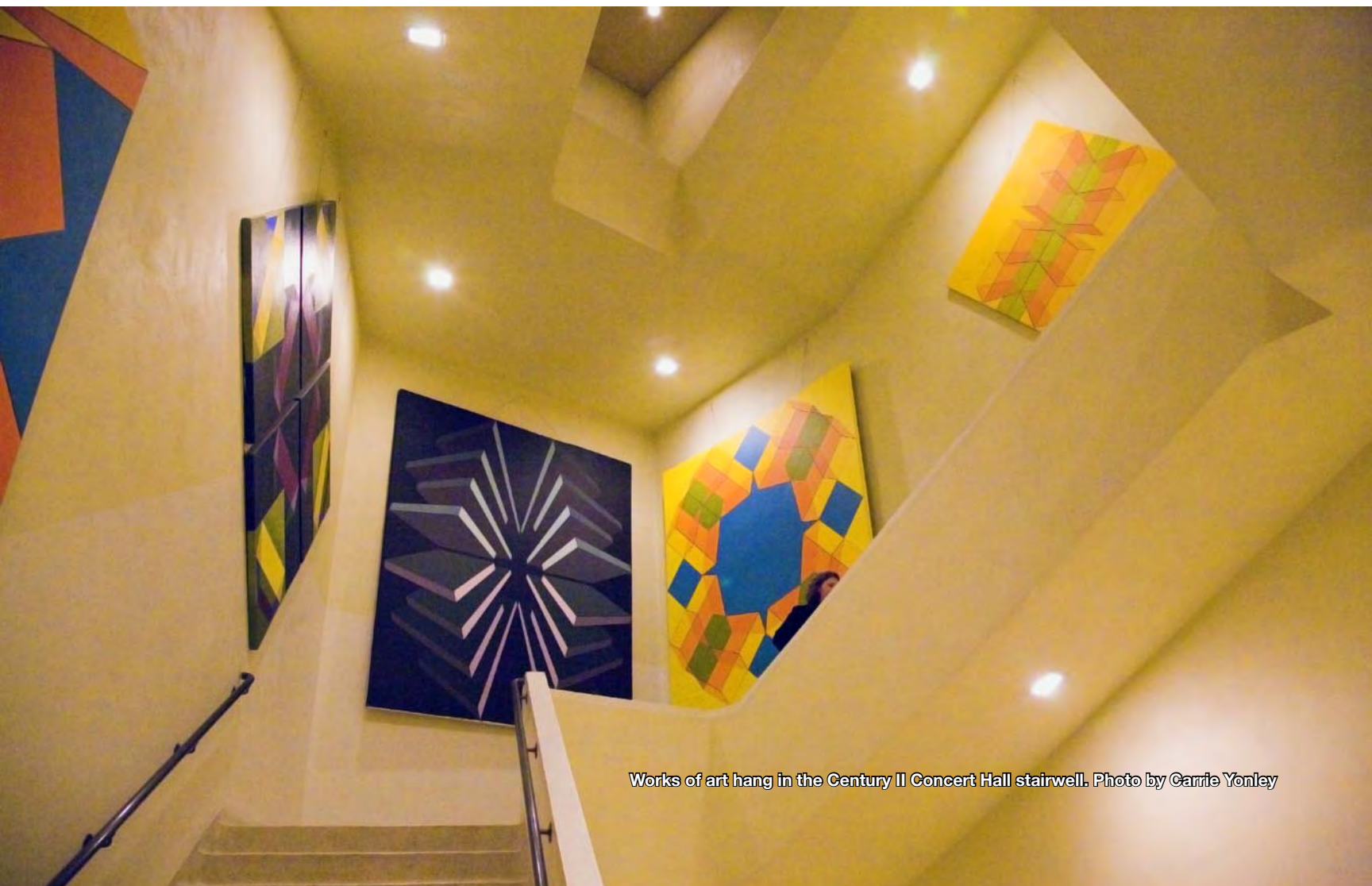
REO Speedwagon's Kevin Cronin entertains the crowd at a Wichita River Festival concert. Photo by Craig Hacker



The colorful interior of the Wichita Art Museum. Photo by Randa Bishop



Larry Schwarm's Greensburg exhibit at the Ulrich Museum on the campus of Wichita State University. Photo by Jim Meyer



Works of art hang in the Century II Concert Hall stairwell. Photo by Carrie Yonley

Robert Henry viewing Jupiter through the telescope at the Lake Afton Public Observatory. Photo by Randa Bishop



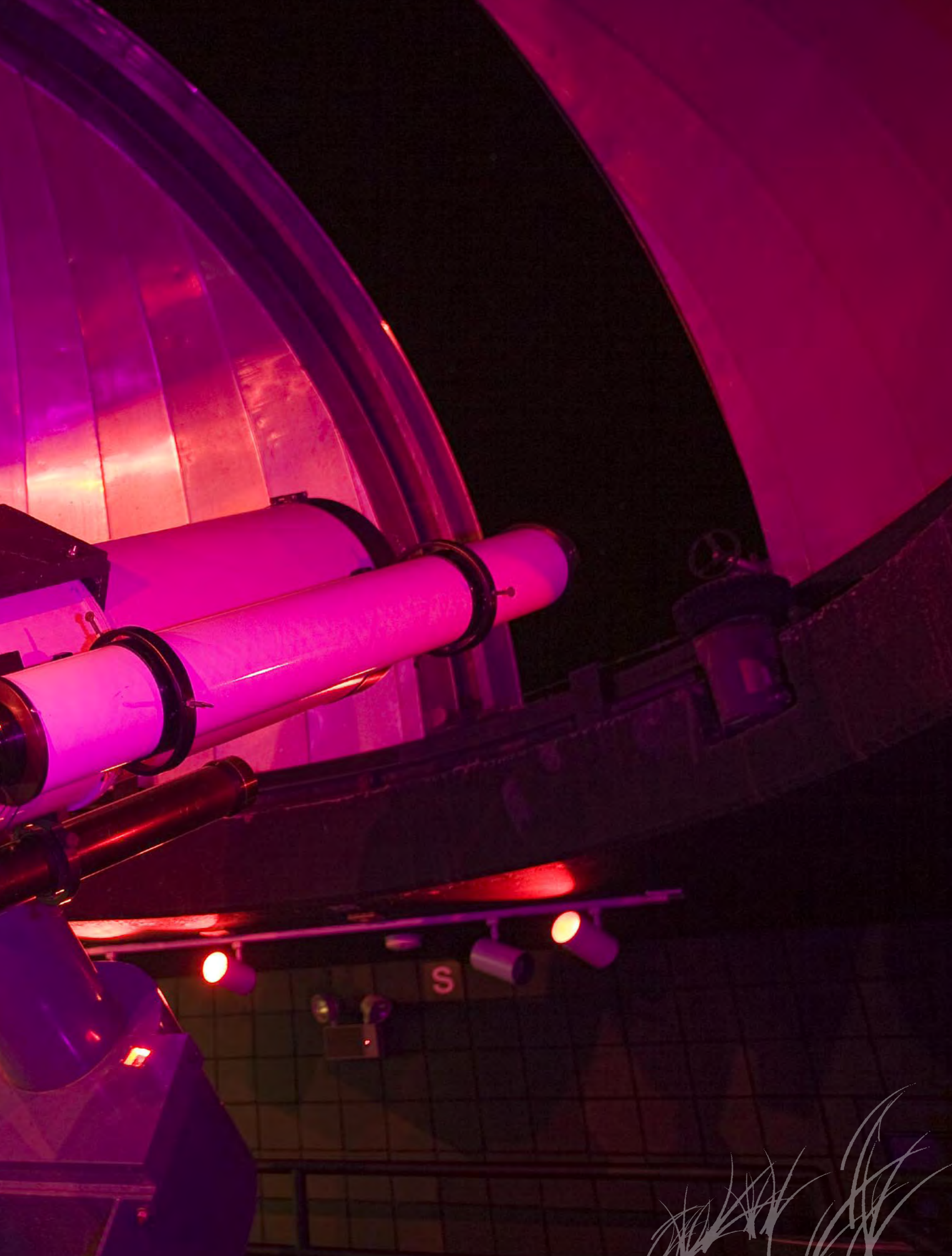
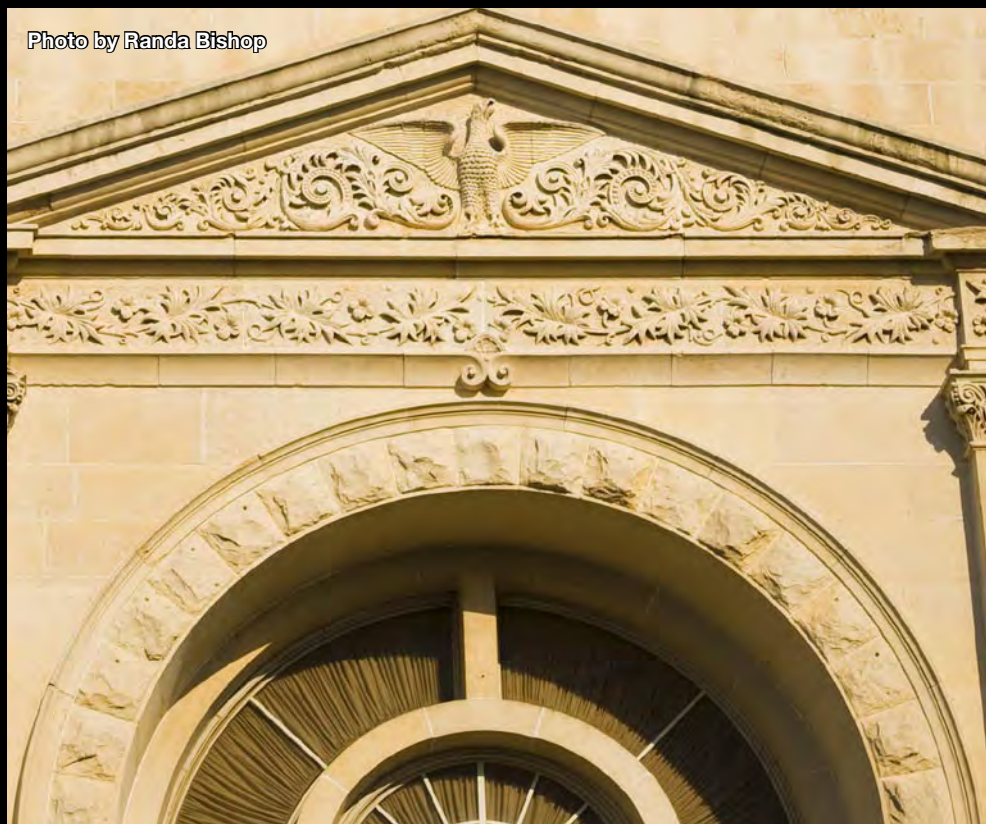


Photo by Randa Bishop



The old Sedgwick County Courthouse built in 1888. Photo by Randa Bishop

The Wichita Scottish Rite Center built in 1908. Photo by Art Scott

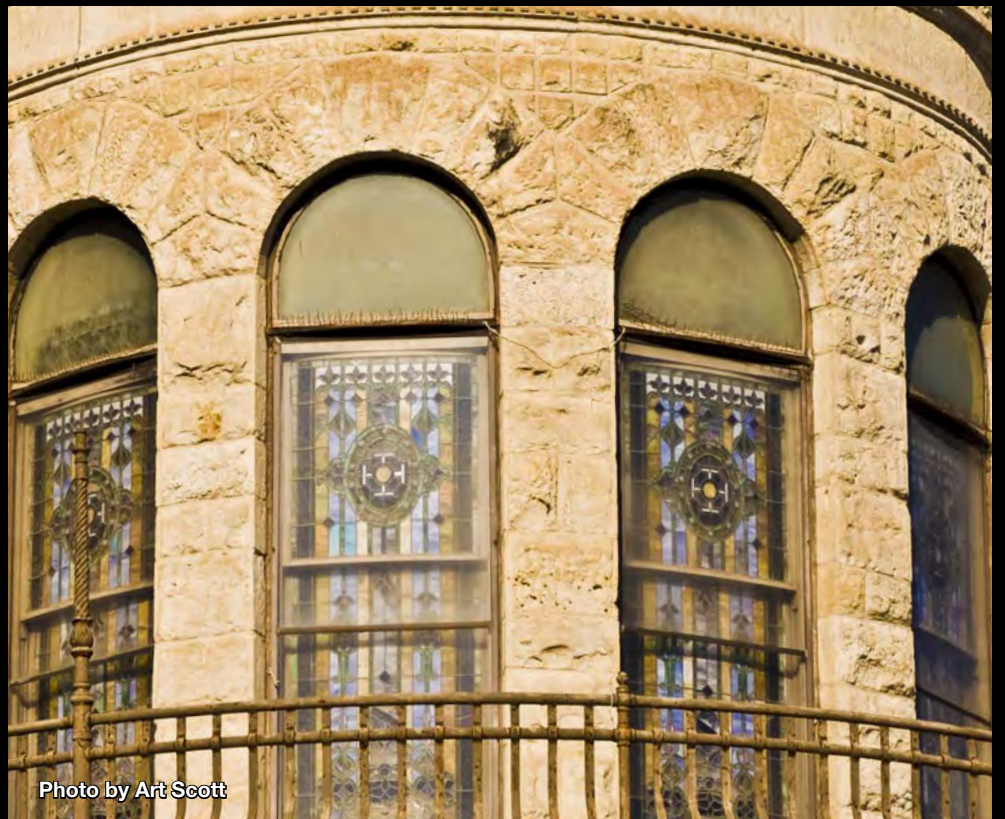


Photo by Art Scott

Tara Shaffer and Barb Schoenhofer back stage at the Mosley Street Melodrama in Oldtown. Photo by Randa Bishop



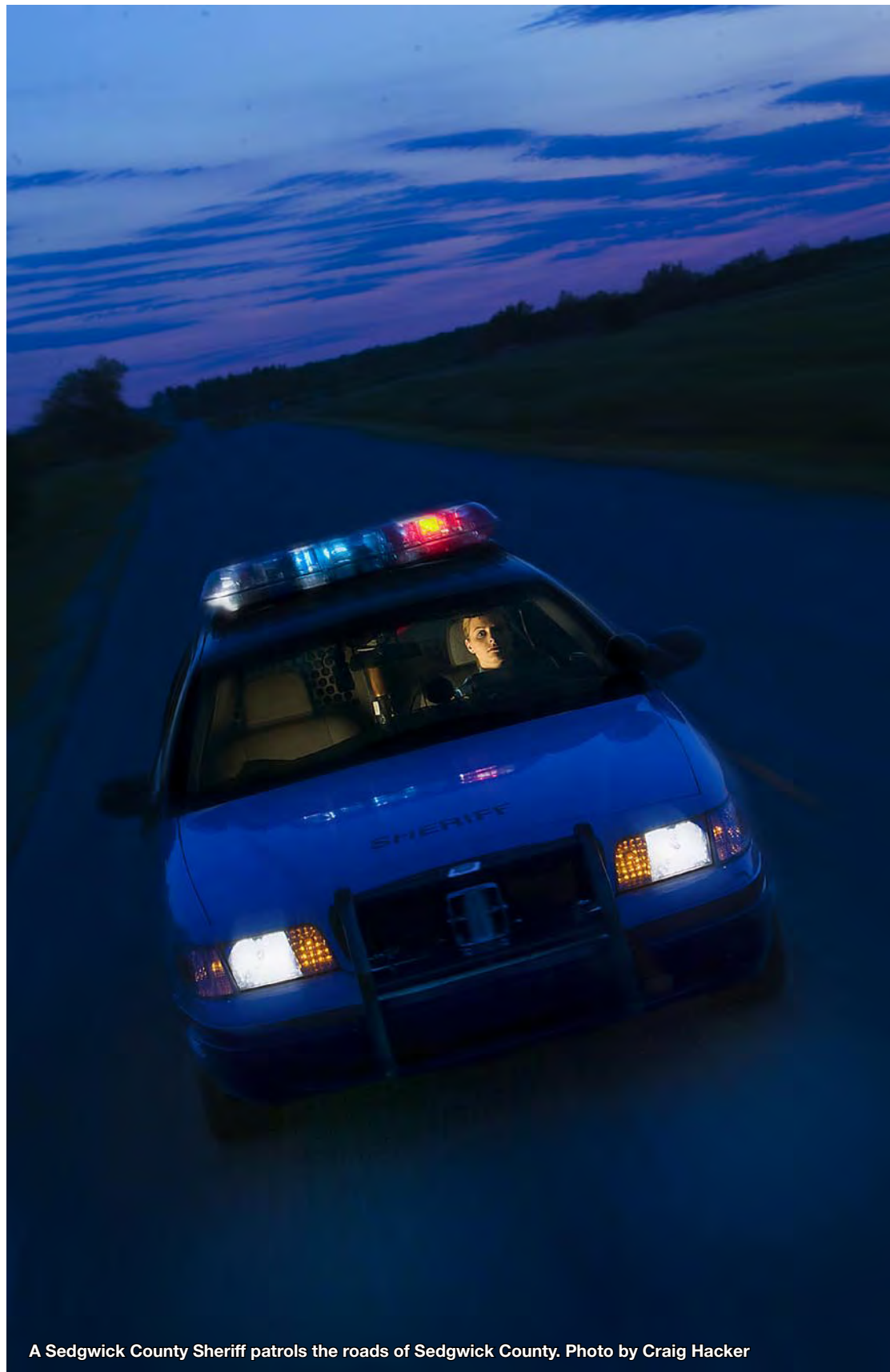
The performance of Little Cookie Shop of Horrors at the Mosley Street Melodrama. Photo by Thad Pickett



Photo by Thad Pickett

A Sedgwick County Sheriff Office investigator photographs a piece of evidence. Photo by Craig Hacker





A Sedgwick County Sheriff patrols the roads of Sedgwick County. Photo by Craig Hacker





Looking down the cobblestone street in Old Town. Photo by Thad Pickett





A gorilla eyes visitors at the Sedgwick County Zoo's Downing Gorilla Forest. Photo by Craig Hacker



The Downing Gorilla Forest at the Sedgwick County Zoo. Photo by Randa Bishop

A youngster poses atop a gorilla statue in the Downing Gorilla Forest. Photo by Randa Bishop





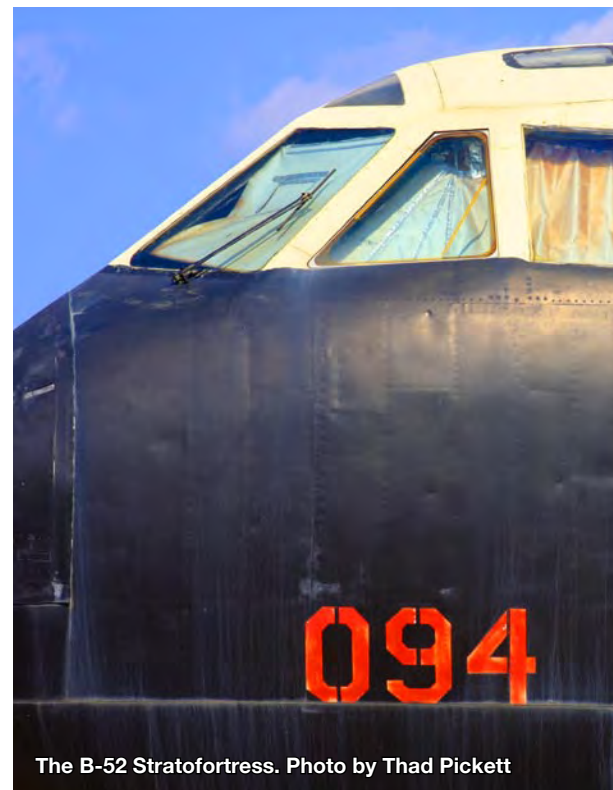
Photographing a stormy sky southeast of Wichita. Photo by Craig Hacker

Photographing a Honey Bee at the Botanica, The Wichita Gardens. Photo by Thad Pickett

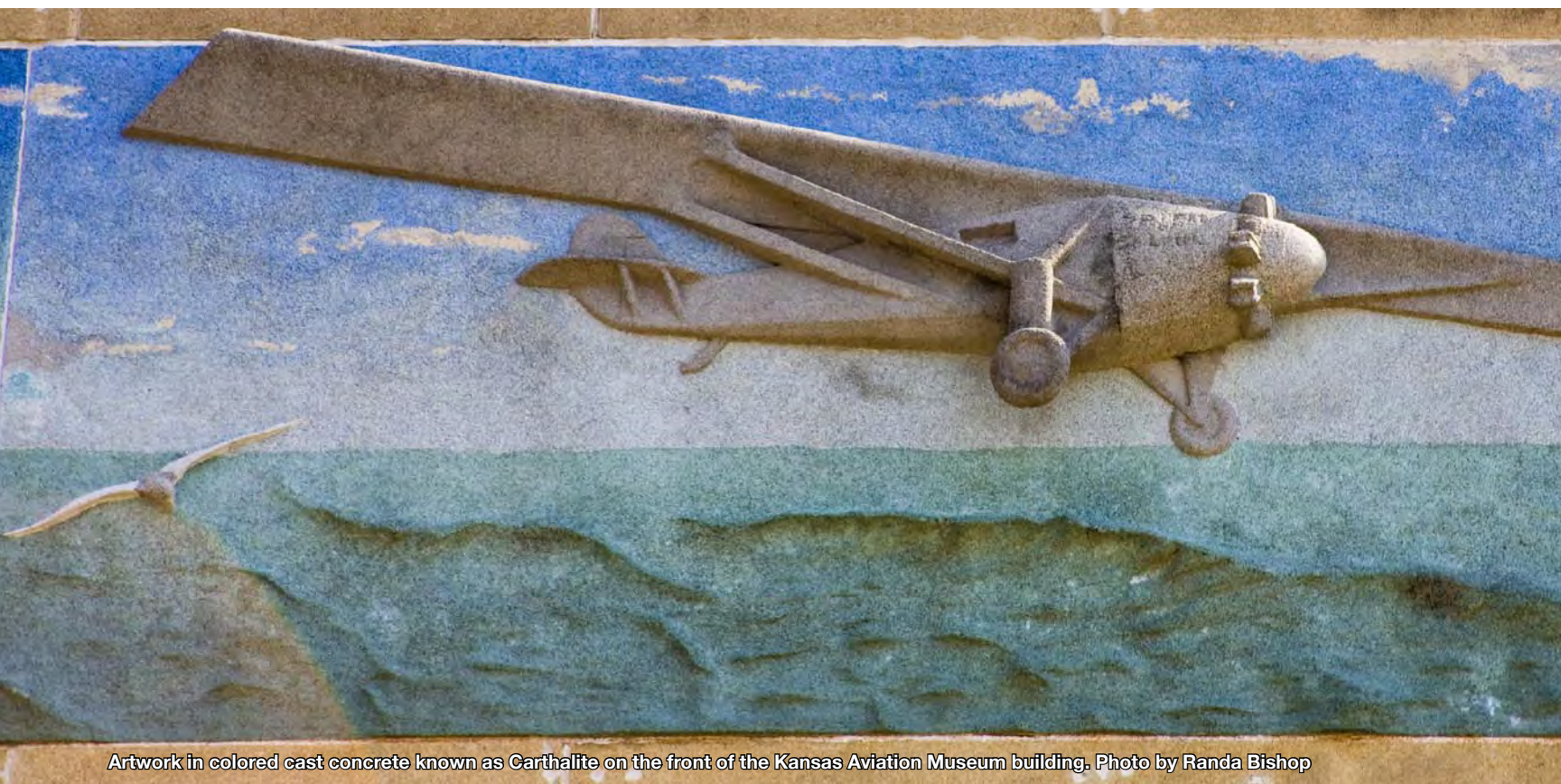




The Lockheed TV-2 fighter jet at the Kansas Aviation Museum. Photo by Thad Pickett



The B-52 Stratofortress. Photo by Thad Pickett



Artwork in colored cast concrete known as Carthalite on the front of the Kansas Aviation Museum building. Photo by Randa Bishop



The Republic F-84F fighter jet at the Kansas Aviation Museum. Photo by Thad Pickett



Detail on the Kansas Aviation Museum building. Photo by Randa Bishop





An Evening at the World Cabaret performed at the Century II Convention Center. Photo by Art Scott



World Cabaret performers at the Century II Convention Center. Photo by Carrie Yonley

Goodbye performance for the seniors at East High School. Photo by Jim Meyer





Photo by Art Scott



Photo by Carrie Yonley

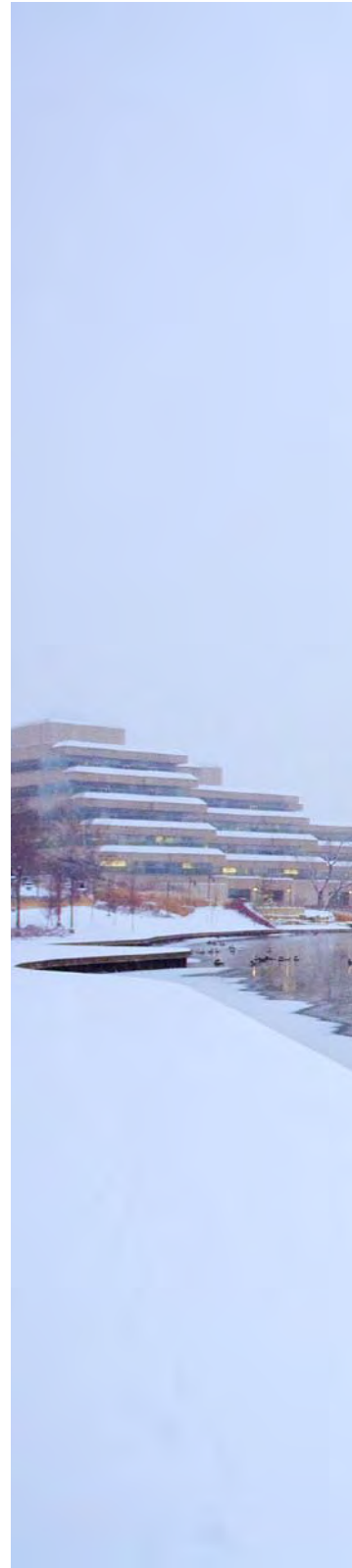






Sledders enjoy a ride down an embankment after a recent snowfall. Photo by Craig Hacker

Fireworks explode over Exploration Place during the annual Wichita River Festival. Photo by Craig Hacker





A snowy morning on the Arkansas River. Photo by Gavin Peters

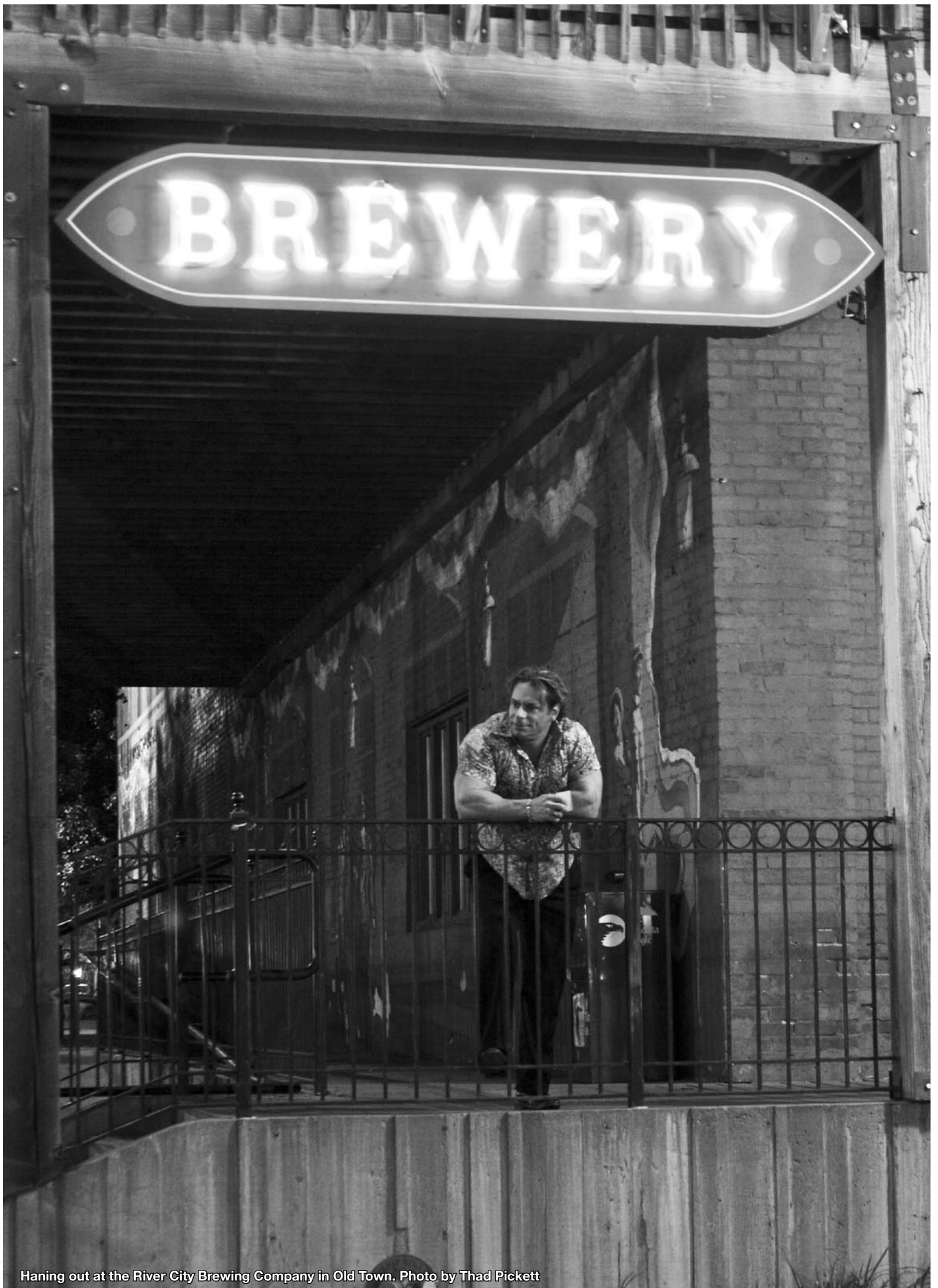




Finn's Lounge on a Friday night. Photo by Thad Pickett

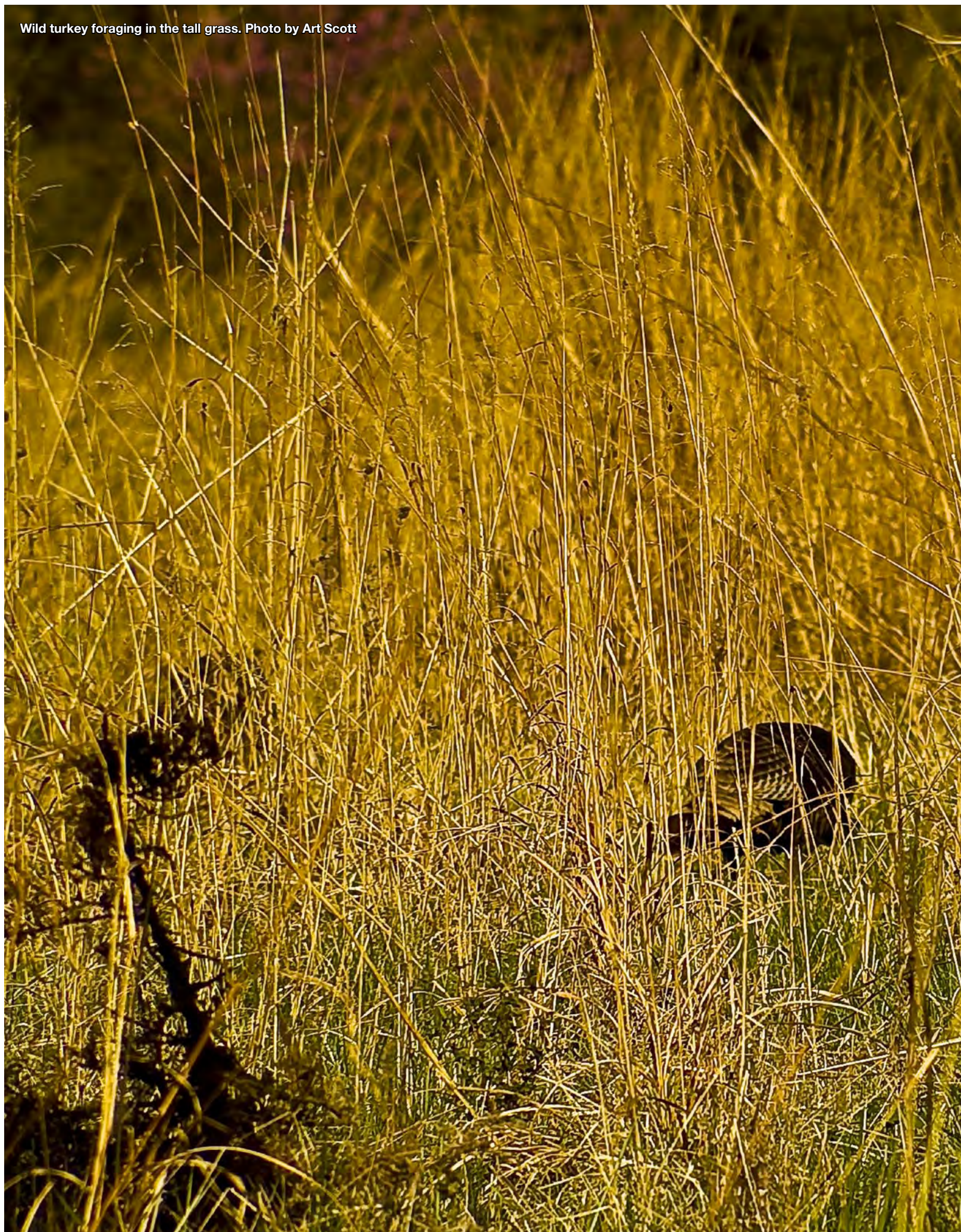


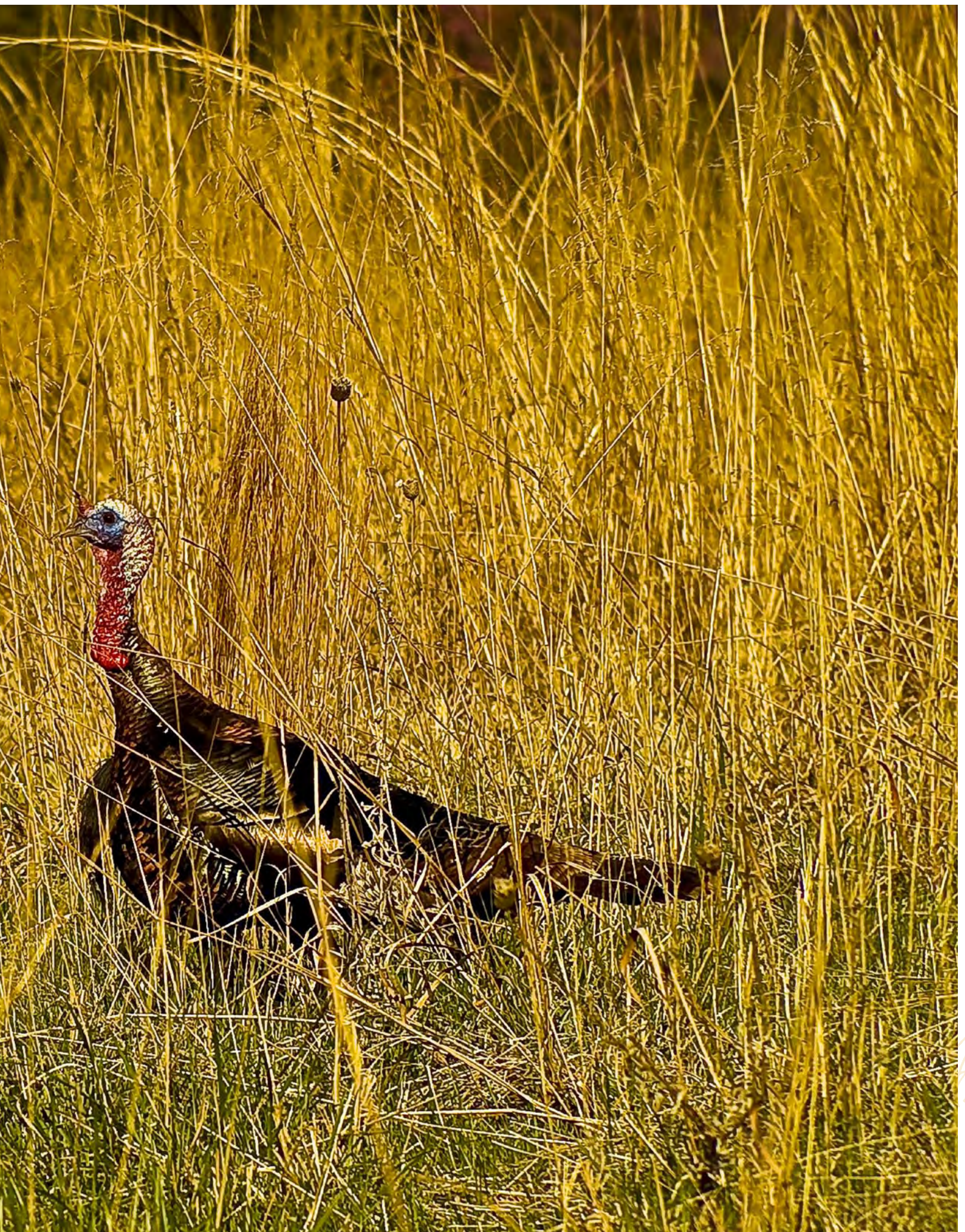
Enjoying the night air on the Loft 150 balcony. Photo by Thad Pickett



Hanging out at the River City Brewing Company in Old Town. Photo by Thad Pickett

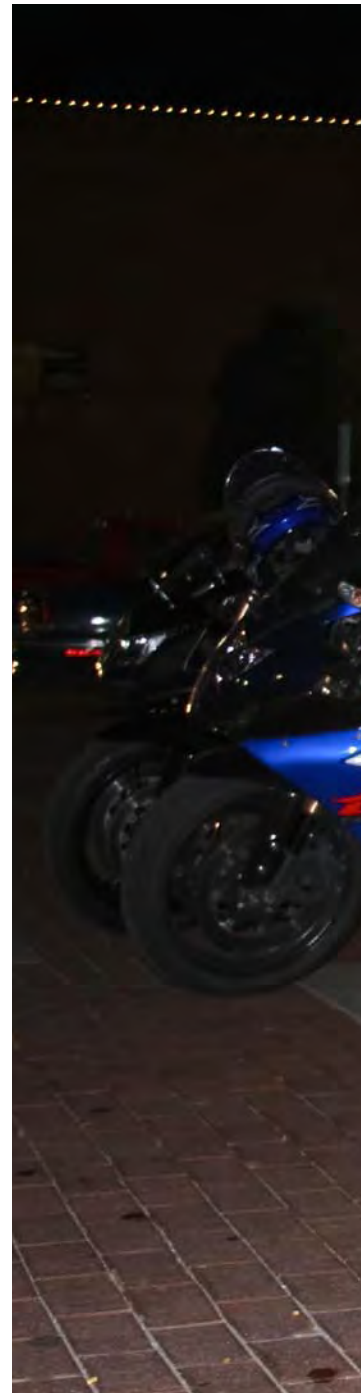
Wild turkey foraging in the tall grass. Photo by Art Scott







A Sedgwick County Sheriff Office Motor Unit on patrol in Wichita. Photo by Craig Hacker



A diversified group of motorcycles in front of the Cycle Station. Photo by Carrie Yonley



A group of guys with their high performance motorcycles hang out in Old Town on a Summer night. Photo by Thad Pickett



Wichita Fire Department trucks rolling out of the station. Photo by Gavin Peters



A grouping of Wichita Fire Department's new fire trucks. Photo by Craig Hacker



The Sedgwick County Fire District Headquarters in Wichita. Photo by Craig Hacker



Greg the farmer at the 1880's DeVore farm at the Old Cowtown Museum. Photo by Randa Bishop



One of the many displays at the Old Cowtown Museum. Photo by Art Scott

Visitors can catch a ride in a covered wagon at the Old Cowtown Museum. Photo by Thad Pickett



Main Street business at the Old Cowtown Museum. Photo by Carrie Yonley







Looking east across the Arkansas River at a well lit downtown Wichita. Photo by Thad Pickett

The “Kansas Best” robotics competition at KOCH Arena. Photo by Jim Meyer



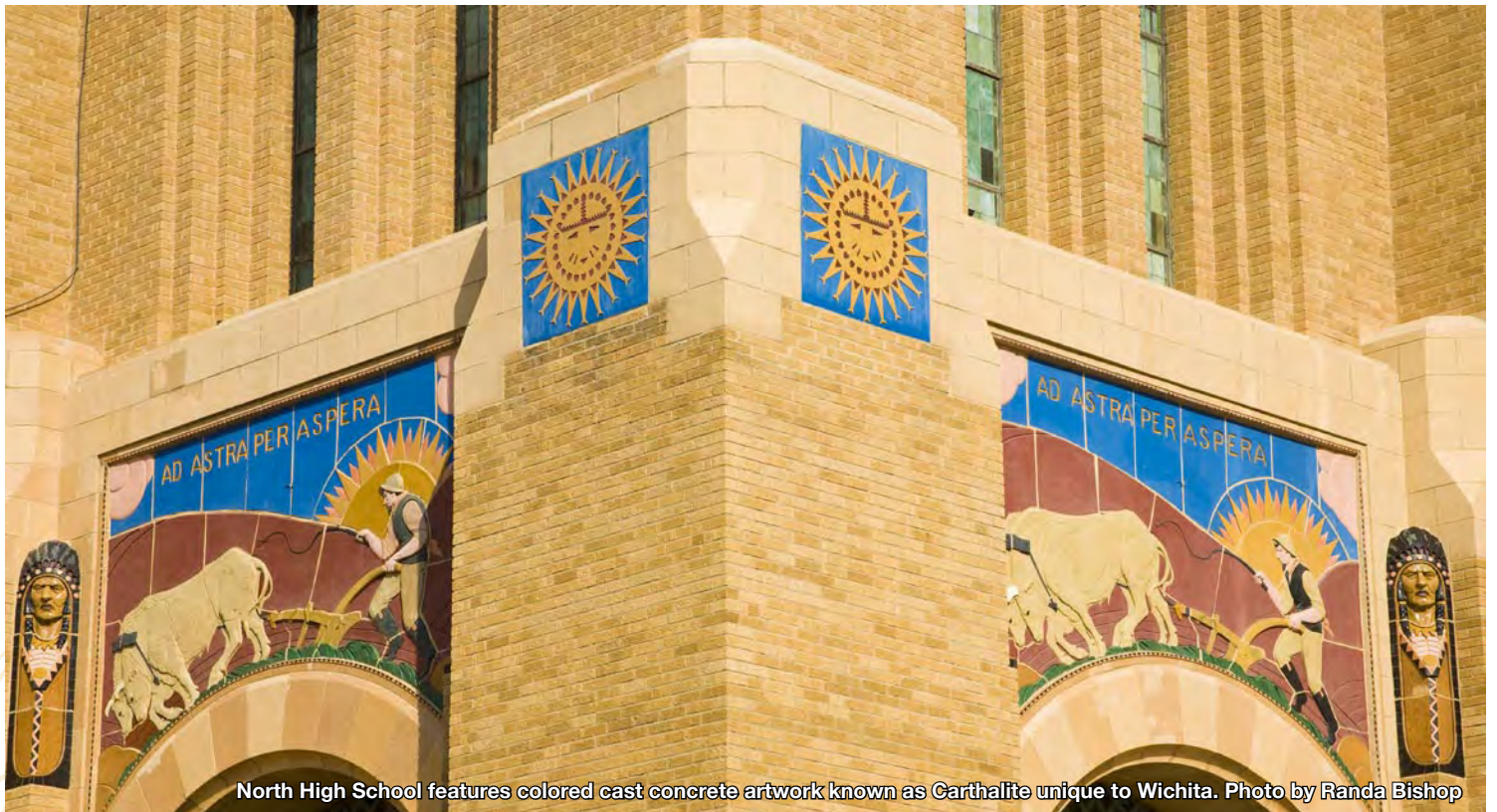
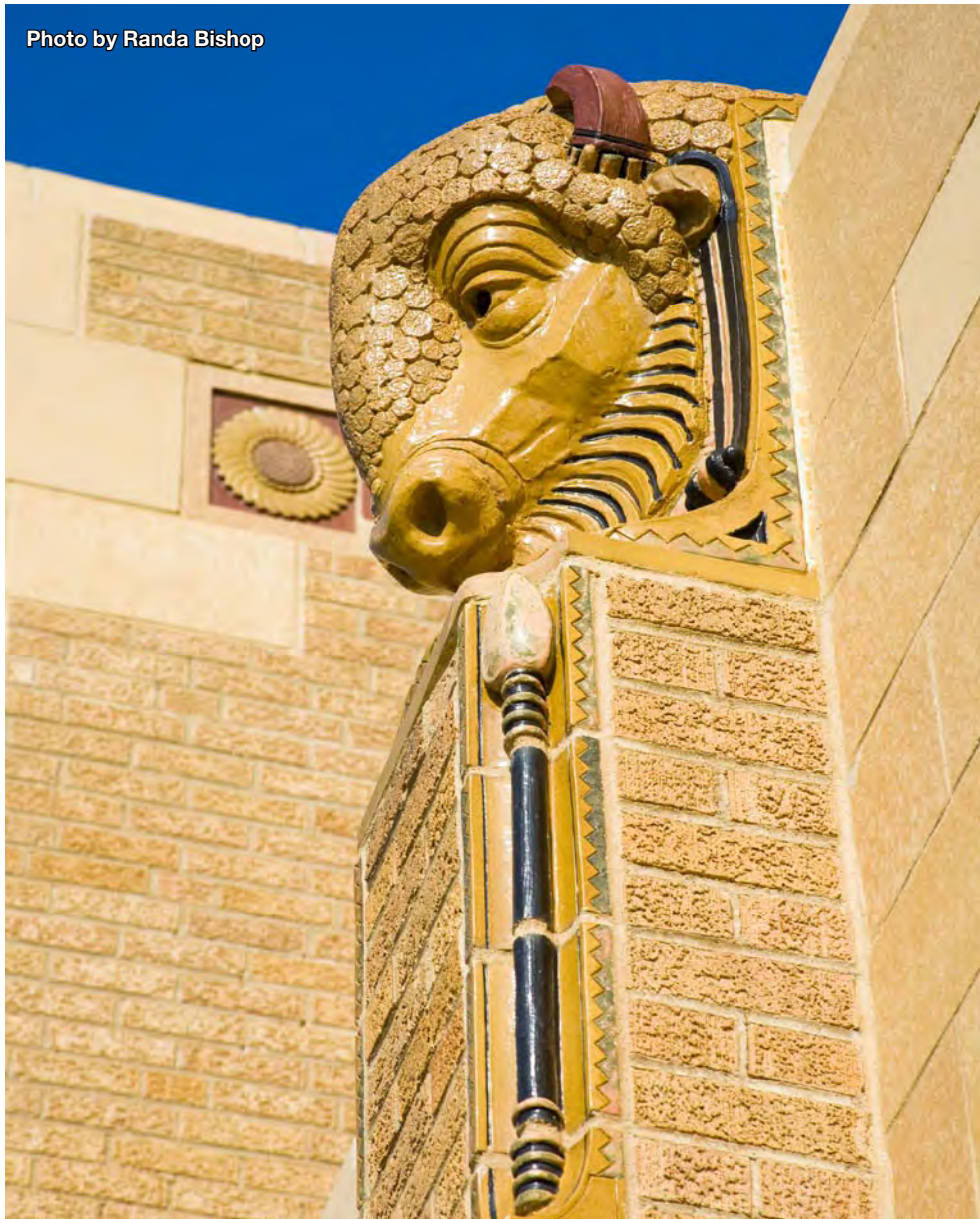


Oscar the Robot greets kids at the Kansas State Fair. Photo by Jim Meyer

North High School was built in 1929 by local architect Glen Thomas. Photo by Art Scott



Photo by Randa Bishop



North High School features colored cast concrete artwork known as Carthalite unique to Wichita. Photo by Randa Bishop





Photo by Art Scott



Jack Kellogg owner of Wichita Hat Works steam forms a new cowboy hat. Photo by Randa Bishop





The beautiful colors of Fall on the campus of Wichita State University. Photo by Jim Meyer



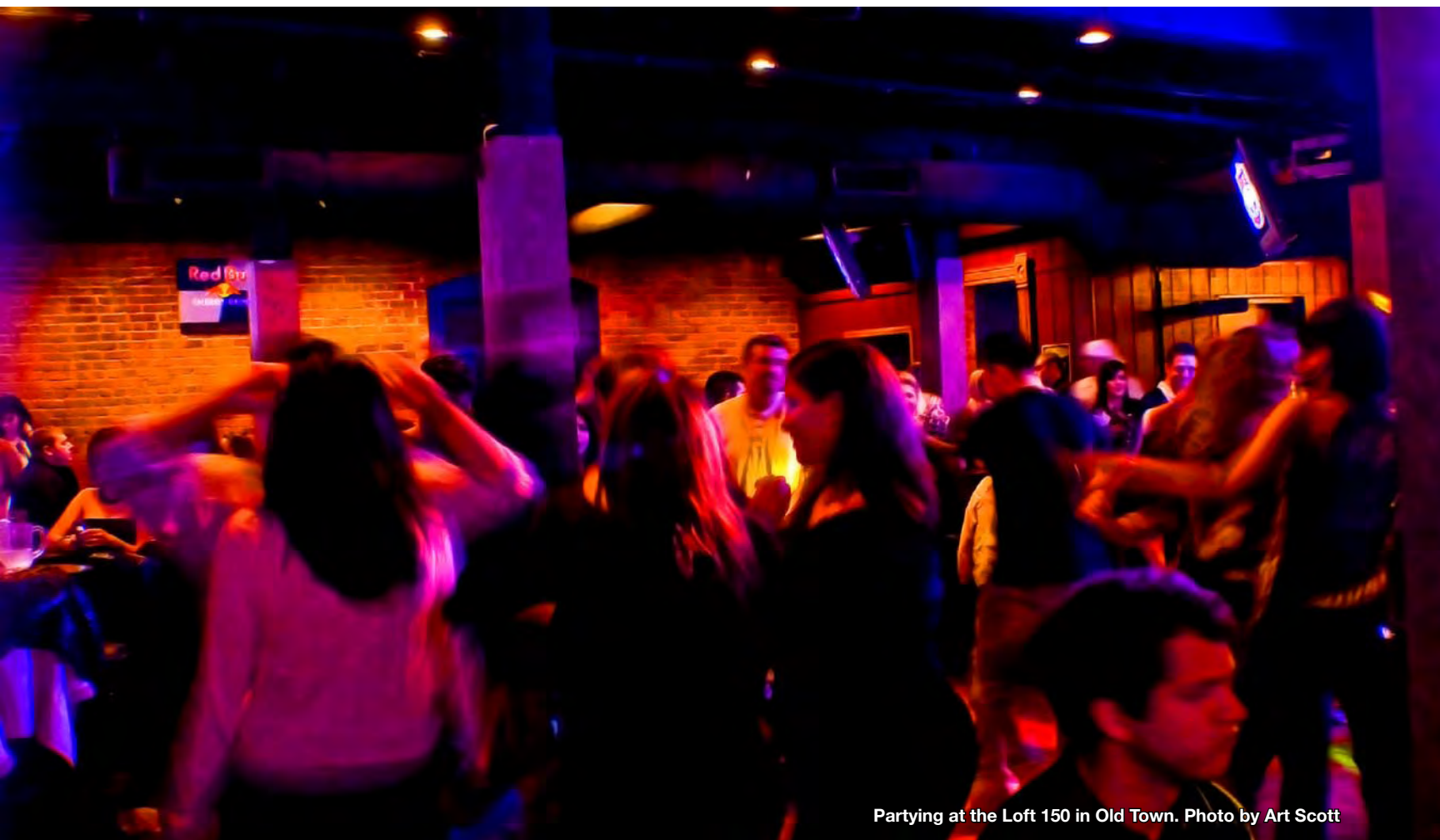
A warm Summer day at the Central Riverside Park in Wichita. Photo by Thad Pickett



Enjoying a sunny Winter day along the Arkansas River. Photo by Carrie Yonley



Receiving drinks at the unique bar in the Fuzion dance club in Old Town. Photo by Randa Bishop



Partying at the Loft 150 in Old Town. Photo by Art Scott

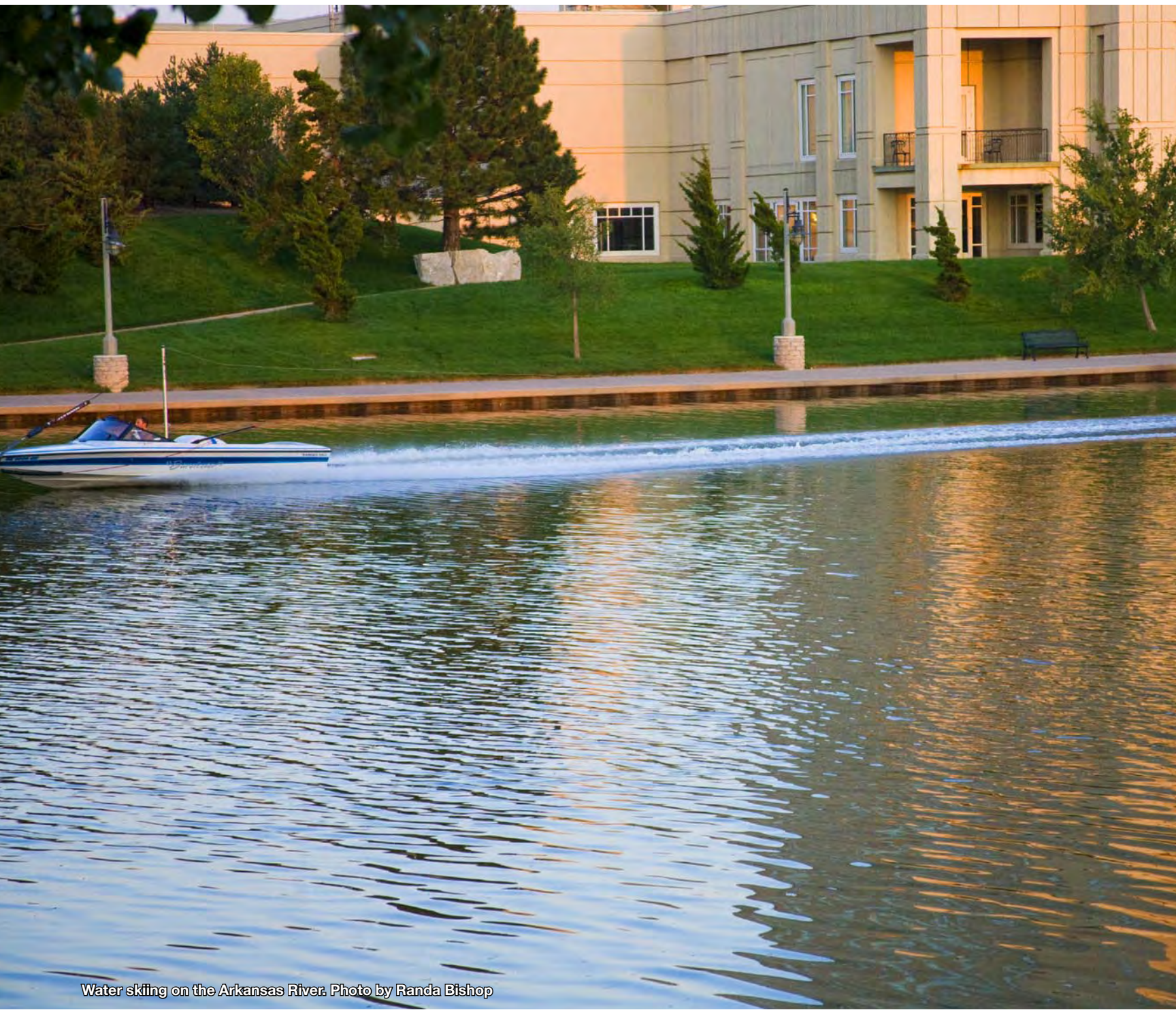


Getting down at Flashbacks which features 1970's decor. Photo by Randa Bishop



Fireworks display at Bradley Fair. Photo by Gavin Peters





Water skiing on the Arkansas River. Photo by Randa Bishop





A wake boarder performs for the crowd at Wichita River Festival. Photo by Craig Hacker



Jorden watches a tornado in action at the Exploration Place. Photo by Randa Bishop



Two girls enjoy the teeter-totter at Exploration Place. Photo by Carrie Yonley



The First Presbyterian Church in Wichita. Photo by Art Scott



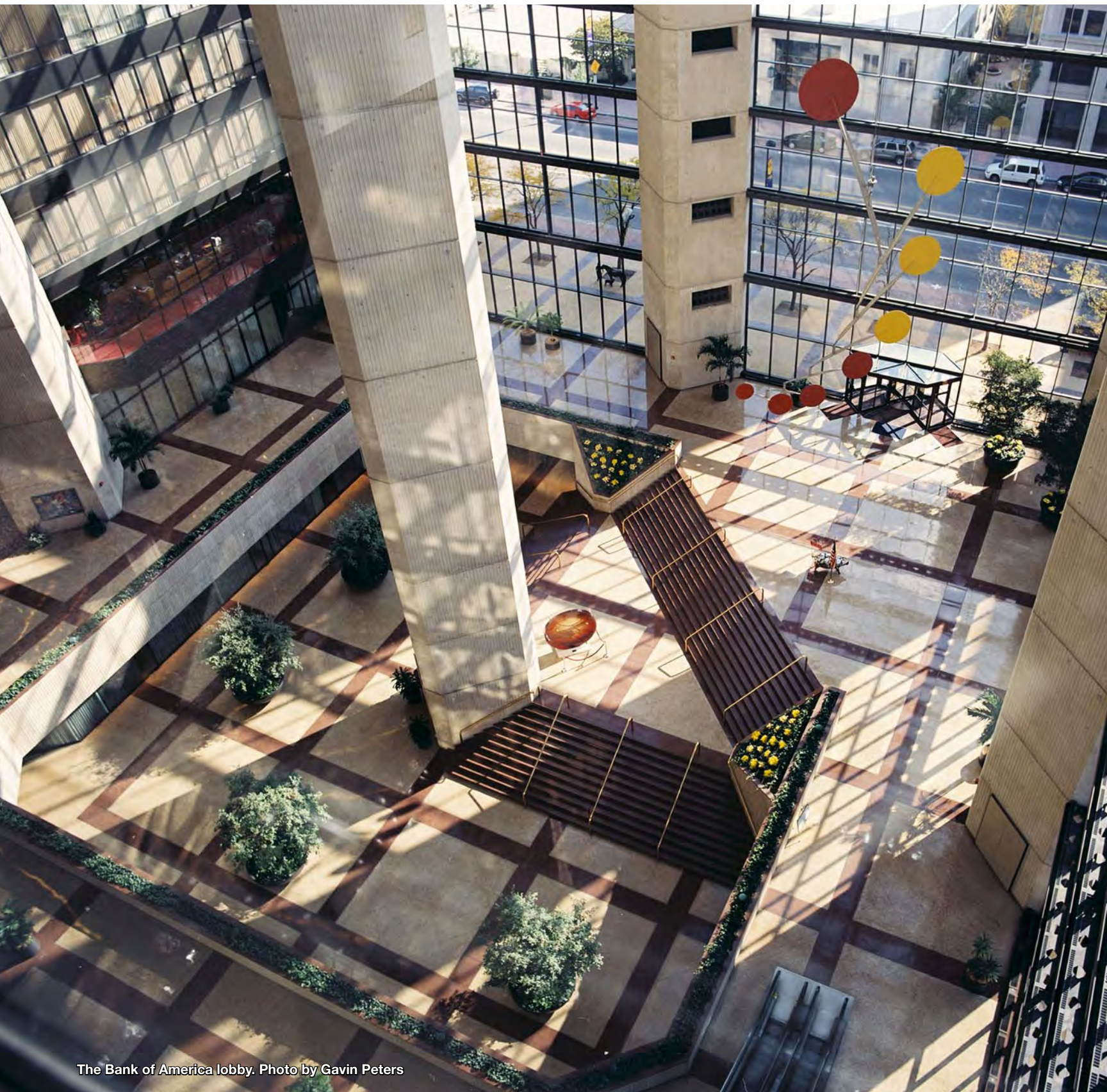
The University Hall located on the campus of Friends University in Wichita. Photo by Thad Pickett



Wichita Fire Department firefighters prepare to attack a fire in a midtown Wichita home. Photo by Craig Hacker







The Bank of America lobby. Photo by Gavin Peters



The Exploration Place lobby. Photo by Carrie Yonley

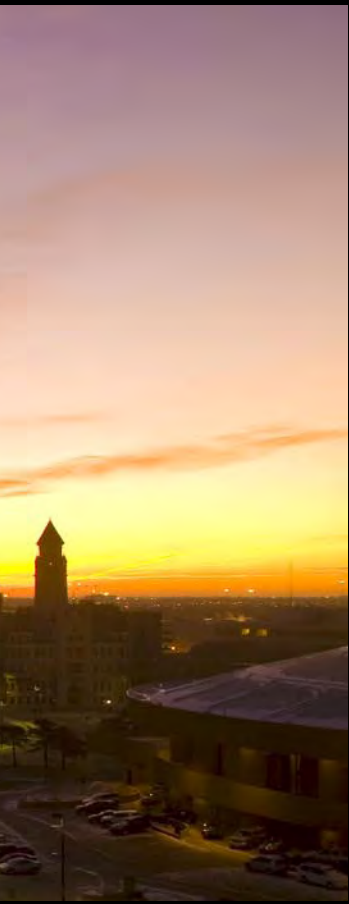


The Wichita skyline at dawn. Photo by Carrie Yonley



The Douglas Avenue Bridge spanning the Arkansas River near downtown Wichita. Photo by Thad Pickett

The 250 Douglas Place apartments at the Garvey Center. Photo by Thad Pickett



Roz Brown plays bluegrass on a harpsichord at Walnut Valley Festival. Photo by Randa Bishop



Linda Tilton signing the words of a song at the Walnut Valley Festival. Photo by Randa Bishop



Linda Tilton, Roz Brown, Bill Barwick, and Dave Stamey performing at the Walnut Valley Festival. Photo by Randa Bishop





Looking south down the Arkansas River at the Wichita skyline at sunset. Photo by Carrie Yonley



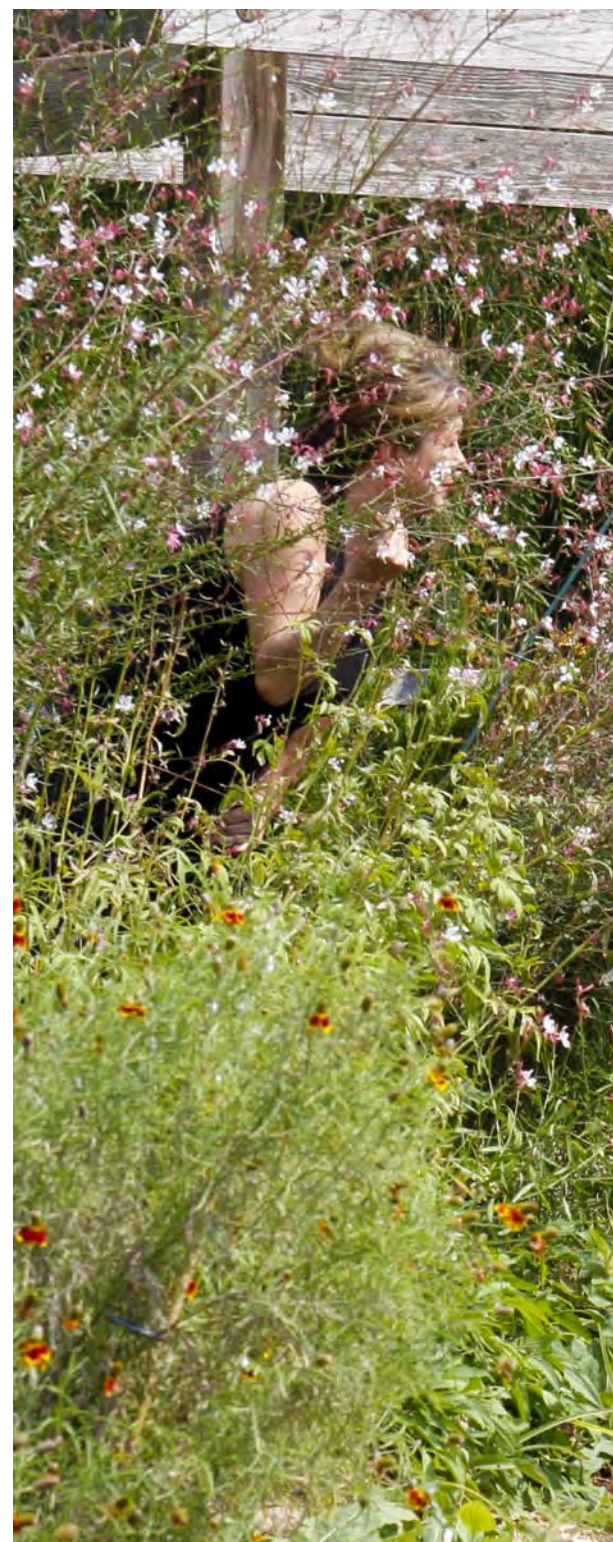
Equipment on display in the Carey Salt Mine Museum. Photo by Jim Meyer



Batman costume stored in the Carey Salt Mine. Photo by Jim Meyer



Photo shoot at one of Wichita's aircraft companies. Photo by Craig Hacker





Posing for a photo among the flowers at the Botanica, The Wichita Gardens. Photo by Thad Pickett

The sun sets over the Division Ranch on the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. Photo by Randa Bishop





RANGE

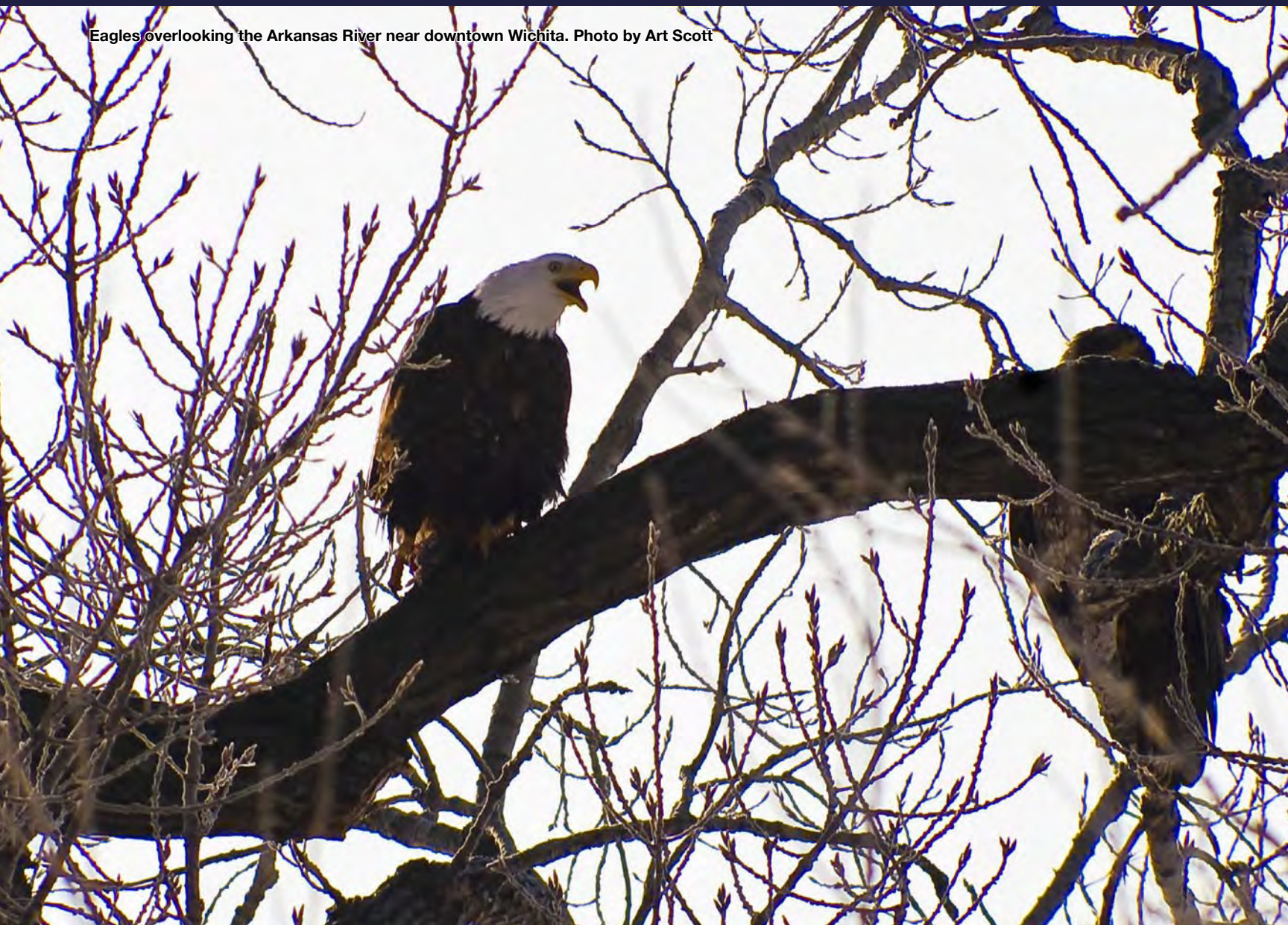
The "Danseuse Espagnole" sculpture by Sophia Vari at Wichita State. Photo by Jim Meyer



"Personnages Oiseaux" by Joan Miro covers one side of the Ulrich Museum at Wichita State. Photo by Jim Meyer



Eagles overlooking the Arkansas River near downtown Wichita. Photo by Art Scott



A juvenile Bald Eagle soaring over downtown Wichita. Photo by Carrie Yonley

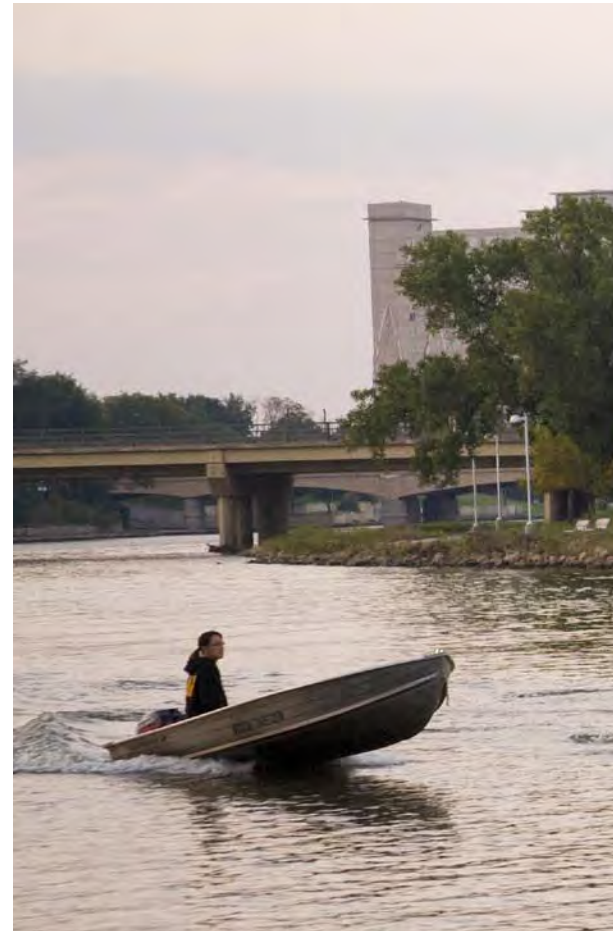
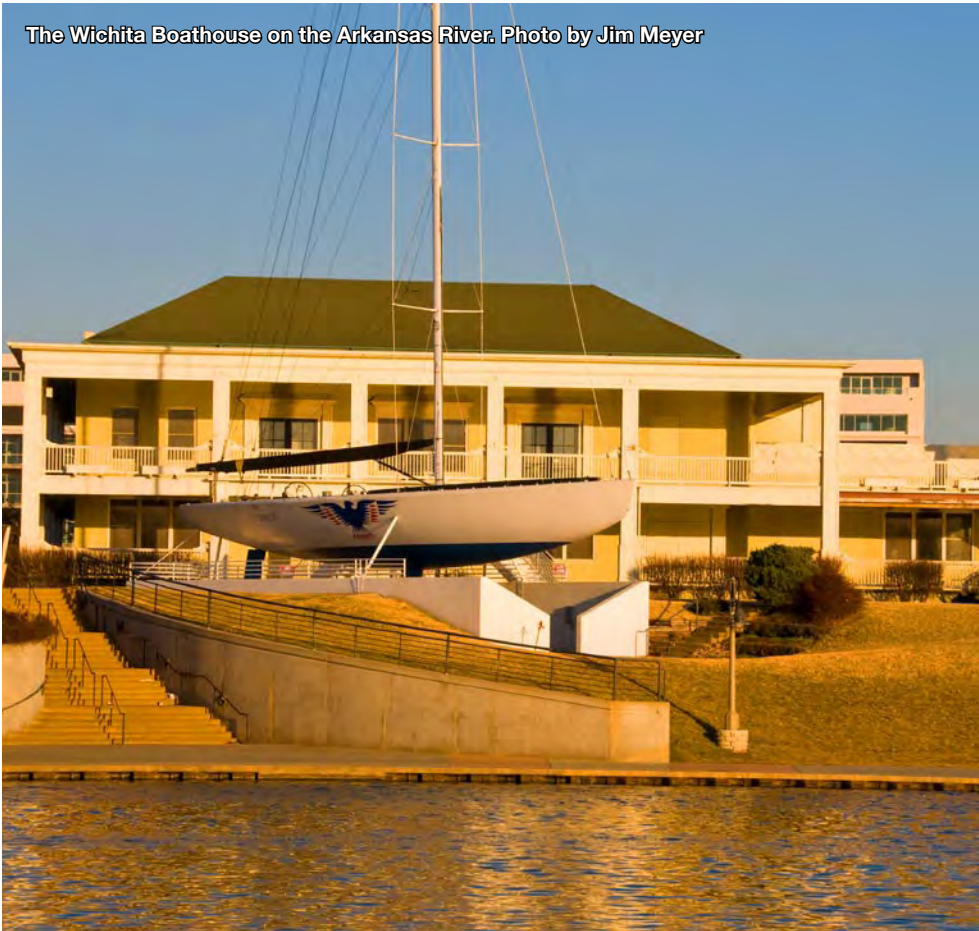




A juvenile Bald Eagle yet to grow it's white head plumage. Photo by Art Scott



The Wichita Boathouse on the Arkansas River. Photo by Jim Meyer



Shocker Rowing team getting ready for practice on the Arkansas River. Photo by Randa Bishop



The Wichita State University's rowing team practicing in the wee hours of dawn on the Arkansas River. Photo by Randa Bishop



Shocker Rowing team from the Wichita State University. Photo by Randa Bishop





The blacksmith for the Old Cowtown Museum demonstrates the forging technique of turning raw steel into tools. Photo by Thad Pickett





A local Wichita youth orchestra. Photo by Jim Meyer



A performance in the Century II Convention Hall lobby. Photo by Carrie Yonley



The Wichita Symphony Orchestra performing at the Century II Convention Hall. Photo by Carrie Yonley





Steve Murillo explains the autumn solstice at his sculpture "Solar Calendar" in Central Riverside Park. Photo by Thad Pickett





A racing airplane receives the starting flag at the Air Race Classic. Photo by Jim Meyer



Thousands gather in downtown Wichita for a concert at the annual Wichita River Festival. Photo by Craig Hacker



ZZ Top performing at the Kansas State Fair. Photo by Jim Meyer



Performance by Jim Dandy 2. Photo by Art Scott





Steve Kestrel's cast bronze statue "Spectre of Ancient Pathway" at the Wichita Art Museum. Photo by Randa Bishop



Photo by Randa Bishop



Photo by Randa Bishop



The Luis Jimenez Jr. sculpture "Sodbuster" on the Wichita State University campus. Photo by Jim Meyer



Three guys hanging out at the Loft 150 in Old Town. Photo by Thad Pickett





A young girl exits the caboose of an excursion train that makes regular trips from Wichita to outlying areas. Photo by Craig Hacker



A steam locomotive on display at the Great Plains Transportation Museum. Photo by Randa Bishop



Flowers in full bloom at the Botanica, The Wichita Gardens. Photo by Thad Pickett







Preparing to ride the Q-Line Trolley from the Keeper of the Plains to Old Town. Photo by Craig Hacker

The Keeper of the Plains foot bridge over Arkansas River. Photo by Carrie Yonley







Performers from the musical comedy revue "Halloween Spooktacular" at the Mosley Street Melodrama in Old Town. Photo by Randa Bishop

Profiles in e x c e l l e n c e

1898	Dondlinger & Sons Construction Company, Inc.
1901	The Coleman Company, Inc.
1916	The Boeing Company
1927	Cessna Aircraft Company
1927	Koch Industries, Inc.
1932	Hawker Beechcraft
1933	Envision
1935	Scott Rice Office Interiors
1939	Star Lumber & Supply Co., Inc.
1940	Heartspring
1946	Wescon Products Company/Latshaw Enterprises
1947	Wichita Clinic
1954	Prairie View
1959	Bombardier Learjet
1962	Cox Communications



KETCH	1963
Great Plains Ventures, Inc.	1969
NCRI - National Catastrophe Restoration, Inc.	1972
CPS - Central Plains Steel Company	1982
Wichita Inn & Affiliated Hotels	1983
Allen Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.	1987
Hinkle Elkouri	1987
iSi Environmental Services	1990
Advanced Orthopaedic Associates	1993
Preferred Health Systems	1993
CNH - Wichita	1999
The Hotel at Old Town	1999
Kansas Heart Hospital	1999
Group Benefit Specialists	2003
Spirit AeroSystems	2005

Dondlinger & Sons Construction Company, Inc.

A forward-thinking firm that “steps up to the plate” to take on some of the most challenging projects—that is the reputation on which Dondlinger & Sons is built. It is a well-deserved and accurate portrayal of the company’s philosophy and approach.

Dondlinger, one of the largest and oldest construction firms in the Midwest, is looking towards the future, while using experience gathered from over 110 years in the industry. The Wichita-based company has positioned itself for success by embracing the latest technologies, investing in the continuous training of its workforce, and expanding and refining its services to meet the changing needs of its clients.



Exploration Place - The Sedgwick County Science and Discovery Center.

THEN AND NOW

Back in 1898, N.L. Dondlinger founded a small construction business that has since grown into a thriving, multifaceted company. Today, Dondlinger & Sons employs 220 people

in five divisions that include: Commercial/Industrial, Bridge, Underground Utilities, Boring, and Earthwork.

Tom, Nick, and Marty Dondlinger, the third generation of this well-respected Wichita family, remain deeply committed to the legacy and tradition of the company, while looking ahead to remain an industry leader.

“BETTER BUILT” BY DONDLINGER & SONS

Dondlinger is proud to have built many of Wichita’s landmark structures, including Exploration Place, Commerce Bank at the Waterfront, the Arkansas River Corridor Improvements, and the Keeper of the Plains Plaza. The firm’s second generation of leadership constructed the 10,500-seat Wichita State University Field House (subsequently

known as Henry Leavitt Arena) in 1954. In 2002, the third generation took on the major challenge of

retrofitting the stadium, now known as the Charles Koch Arena, to bring it up to modern standards. Dondlinger & Sons is currently constructing the latest prominent additions to Wichita’s cityscape—the 15,000-seat INTRUST Bank Arena and the Central Railroad Corridor Project, an elevated, two-mile mainline that passes through the heart of Wichita.

Clearly, Dondlinger does not shy away from large or complicated projects, and clients often seek out the company for that reason. On the other hand, the firm has the drive to construct projects of all sizes and provide multiple delivery systems to its clients with different needs. The firm recently completed several design/build projects within a two-year period – the Courtyard by Marriott in Old Town, Groendyke Transport Facility, and Wickham Glass Company. These were all schedule-driven projects where the owner depended on the Dondlinger team to drive the schedule and budget. On design/build projects, Dondlinger enjoys teaming with some of the most talented architectural firms in the area that have the same desire—to provide a quality project at an affordable cost.

Dondlinger maintains a stellar record of on-time, on-budget completions that meet or exceed the expected level of quality. This reputation has earned the respect of clients, both public and private, who return to Dondlinger time and again for their special projects.



Third Generation of Dondlingers (from left to right) Nick, Marty, and Tom Dondlinger.

Photo by Gavin Peters



Keeper of the Plains and Arkansas River Corridor Improvements.

Photo by Merrill Thomas

A CLOSER LOOK

Behind all of the remarkable landmarks is a company with depth, commitment to the industry, and dedication to its employees and the community. N.L. Dondlinger was a charter member of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kansas, which began in 1941. The company continues to be an active member of the AGC, with second- and third-generation Dondlingers serving as Presidents of the association. Dondlinger has won many awards from the AGC for its outstanding projects, including the coveted “Judges Choice Award” for Exploration Place, Commerce Bank at The Waterfront, and the Stinson Morrison Hecker Building.

When the question is posed to Tom Dondlinger, President, on what he attributes the company’s success, he says without hesitation, “It’s all about the Dondlinger team members – from the office staff, front line supervisors, to the field staff that have the skill sets and dedication it requires to complete the types of challenging projects for which Dondlinger & Sons is noted.” The company is proud of the fact that they have multiple generations of families working for the firm, which creates stability and tradition within the company. The diversity of projects the company takes on enhances the skill set of its employees, which pays dividends to its clients.

Dondlinger & Sons commitment to safety is one of the most important aspects of the firm. The company has a safety department with two full-time safety professionals, whose focus is the health, safety, and wellness of Dondlinger employees. For each project, the firm produces a customized safety plan. This plan, which is shared with the owner, subcontractor, and design team member, establishes priorities for safety on the project site. A strong emphasis on safety enables clients to reach their cost, quality, and schedule goals through better risk management and a safer workplace.



Charles Koch Arena on the campus of Wichita State University.

Photo by WSU Media Relations





INTRUST Bank Arena currently under construction with completion scheduled for January 2010. Photo by Gavin Peters

Dondlinger & Sons philosophy towards safety is to be “proactive, not reactive.” As an example, the company recently partnered with OSHA on the INTRUST Bank Arena project and is one of very few construction companies in the State of Kansas to have done so. This partnership once again displays Dondlinger’s commitment to safety and

The Dondlinger family appreciates the tremendous support that the city of Wichita and the surrounding communities have given to the firm, its employees, and their families throughout the years. To that end, the company feels it is important to give back to the community to which it owes its success. The firm has been

involved in many local cultural and educational institutions, as well as many organizations that serve the needs of the less fortunate. Dondlinger & Sons encourages its employees to be involved in the community with many serving in leadership roles in organizations such as the Boy Scouts, the Junior League of Wichita, Goodwill Easter Seals, and the Urban League of



The Wichita Art Museum renovation and expansion, featuring the Confetti Chandelier by Dale Chihuly.

The company is certainly not resting on its laurels. Dondlinger is taking charge of its future to provide clients with a clear choice in a competitive marketplace. The firm’s clients can be rest assured that their project will be “Better Built” by Dondlinger & Sons.



Downing Gorilla Forest at the Sedgwick County Zoo.

the respect OSHA has for the firm’s continuing efforts in providing a safe worksite for its employees.

Easter Seals, and the Urban League of Kansas, just to name a few.

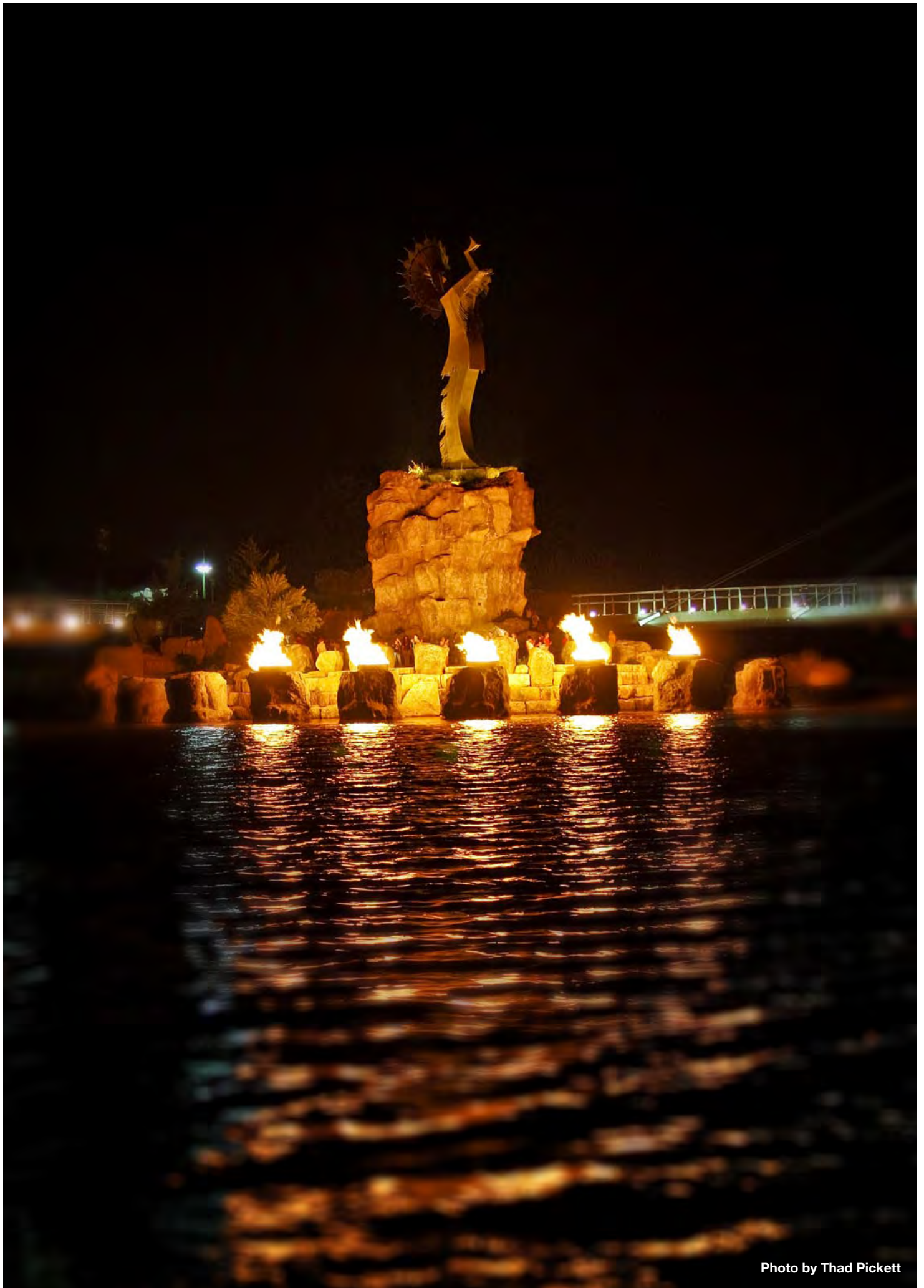


Photo by Thad Pickett

The Coleman Company, Inc.

No company is more synonymous with the Great Outdoors than The Coleman Company, Inc. With humble beginnings more than a century ago, Coleman has evolved into a global leader in innovative outdoor products. Today, the Coleman® brand is one of the most recognized in the world.



W.C. Coleman, the company founder, believed that no product was ever truly sold until it was delivering satisfactory service to the customer.

A PROUD HISTORY

Coleman's legacy began when W.C. Coleman moved his fledgling Hydro Carbon Light Company to Wichita in 1901. Through W.C.'s vision of providing a lighting service rather than merely selling lamps, the company grew rapidly, fueled by the brilliant light of the Coleman® Arc Lamp and later, the Coleman® Lantern. The company evolved from services to manufacturing. When Richard Byrd took a Coleman® lantern on his famous South Pole expedition in 1928, there was no better reference for the performance and durability of Coleman® products.

Coleman expanded its manufacturing to other products in

the 1930s and 1940s, including the famous G.I. Pocket Stove, deemed essential to our forces in World War II. The Coleman Museum, housed in the Coleman Factory Outlet store in Wichita, displays a variety of these products from an earlier era – from air conditioners to ovens to irons.

By the 1950s and 1960s, the American public turned to more leisure activities, and Coleman followed suit by introducing a line of steel coolers, sleeping bags, and tents. The company had created a true niche in the outdoor recreation business, especially in family camping. With a talent for anticipating market changes, Coleman continued a steady pace of product development, including marine equipment and high-performance backpacking gear.

Generations of Americans think of Coleman when they remember their outdoor

experiences, whether they were camping in a national park or enjoying a backyard party. Company President and CEO Sam Solomon is no exception, saying, "I've interacted with Coleman back to my Cub Scouting days, and with my father and grandparents. It's an outstanding feeling to be the leader of a company that delivers those same types of experiences here and around the world."



Declared an essential item of WWII, Coleman's G.I. Pocket Stoves were carried across every battlefield in Europe and the Pacific.

COLEMAN TODAY

As a wholly owned subsidiary of Jarden Corporation, Coleman is focused on product innovation, consumer enjoyment of the outdoors, and improving service to its customers. In addition to traditional retail stores, consumers can find Coleman's products at Coleman Factory Outlet retail stores at various locations in the U.S. and online.

Coleman's global business employs approximately 2,600 people and includes U.S. manufacturing sites in Kansas, Texas, and Minnesota; two manufacturing sites in Europe; a technical center in China; and sales and marketing organizations in 13 international locations. Coleman® products are sold in 160 countries around the world.

The Coleman® LED Quad Lantern carries forward Coleman's reputation for innovative portable lighting.





The Coleman® RoadTrip® LXE Grill is perfect for today's lifestyles, combining powerful cooking with a wheeled stand that can be folded down in seconds.

INNOVATION

Innovation is a key element of Coleman's continued success, and competition is more challenging than ever. "Today, people spend less time outside. Instead of a seven- to 10-day camping vacation, they're grateful if they can get away for an overnight," Solomon states. He adds that Coleman now competes with electronics and other indoor activities for a family's small amount of discretionary time.

"We examine how people eat and drink on the run. We've responded with smaller, lighter products, such as a RoadTrip® Grill that can be used at soccer games or for tailgating," says Solomon. "We are focused on reintroducing Coleman® coolers, stoves and lanterns, all camping staples, as products for use around the home, in the backyard, and as emergency equipment."

A HOME-GROWN COMPANY

After more than a century, Wichita remains Coleman's global headquarters and a key facility for product development, engineering, testing, manufacturing, and customer service. "The Midwest work ethic is alive and well in Wichita. People here are passionate about what they do,"

Solomon remarks. "Like our products, there is an emphasis on working hard and having a lot of fun as well. Where else do you get to figure out what you need to have the best tailgating party?"

REACHING OUT

As an icon in the outdoor industry, Coleman takes a leadership role as facilitator and advocate. Visit the company's website and you'll find a portal to the great outdoors. There are

special events and trips, blogs from adventure travelers, advice on the selection and care of gear, vacation destinations, and even recipes.

The company supports initiatives that encourage people of all ages to enjoy and respect nature, such as Leave No Trace programs; various adventures such as the recent 50-States-in-50-Days highpoints challenge designed to get kids outside and active; the Wounded Warrior Project partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to help severely injured military veterans; the NPS-Coleman partnership to introduce new immigrants to our National Parks; support for major trails; and more. Coleman also supports environmental and social initiatives from recycling to sustainable development. The company recently introduced its patent-pending Coleman® Green Key® tool – a device that makes it easier to recycle the tens of millions of pounds of steel Coleman uses to manufacture single-use propane canisters each year.

The future looks strong for Coleman, as it continues to invest in its business, innovate in its product development, deliver great value to customers, and enable the emotional connections that happen when nature, family, and friends connect outside. That Coleman is "The Outdoor Company" is evident in everything Coleman and its world-class employees do every day, making it easy for consumers to enjoy life in the Great Outdoors.

Coleman's world-class employees are passionate about creating products that make it easy for consumers to enjoy life outdoors.



The Boeing Company

The men and women of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems in Wichita are proud of the support they provide to the nation's warfighters. Boeing Wichita's approximately 2,800 people specialize in the maintenance, modification, and engineering and integrated logistics support for a variety of military aircraft.

Boeing has deep roots in Wichita, going back to the 1920s when the Stearman Aircraft Company was founded in Wichita. In 1930, Stearman, by then a part of Boeing, broke ground for an airplane factory in Wichita, and soon started production of military aircraft, including trainers and bombers. During World War II, Wichita operations took on the task of primarily building B-29 bombers for the war effort, and employment went from about 10,000 to 40,000. Boeing Wichita manufactured thousands of bombers, gliders, and other military craft in support of the war.



AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE WICHITA COMMUNITY

In 2008, Boeing and its employees contributed more than \$1.4 million to nonprofit and educational organizations in Greater Wichita. Benefiting from those investments are nearly 50 local nonprofit agencies, with over 150 programs that focus on health and human services, education, civic, environmental affairs, and the arts and culture. Included in that total is over \$700,000 raised through the annual Employees Community Fund campaign.

More than 850 Boeing employees also dedicated an annual average of 8,000 volunteer hours to more than 50 community programs. Examples of employee engagement are "Boeing Presents Earth Day Kansas" and "Kansas Special Olympics."

Boeing Wichita

is committed to supporting education through several programs. In the Early Development focus area, the nationally acclaimed Raising a Reader program allows family members to learn about research-based reading strategies and ways to incorporate shared book experiences in their daily family lives. Boeing supports Kansas colleges and universities in engineering and education with nearly 50 scholarship

recipients annually in the Upward Bound Math & Science program and Student Support Services. Boeing also provides funding and mentors that seek to stimulate interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the STEM program.



KEEPING THEM FLYING

Boeing Wichita employees provide vital services to the nation. Expert engineers, skilled manufacturing and repair workers, and dedicated support staff provide fast, high-quality, affordable maintenance, modification, and upgrade services to extend the service life critical military platforms.



Today, programs at Boeing Wichita include Global Transport & Executive Systems programs for the U.S. executive fleet, 767 International Tanker, Mission Planning, engineering support for Airborne Laser and 747-8, and Integrated Logistics Support. The Wichita plant also supports weapon system modernization programs, including B-52 maintenance, modification, and upgrades.

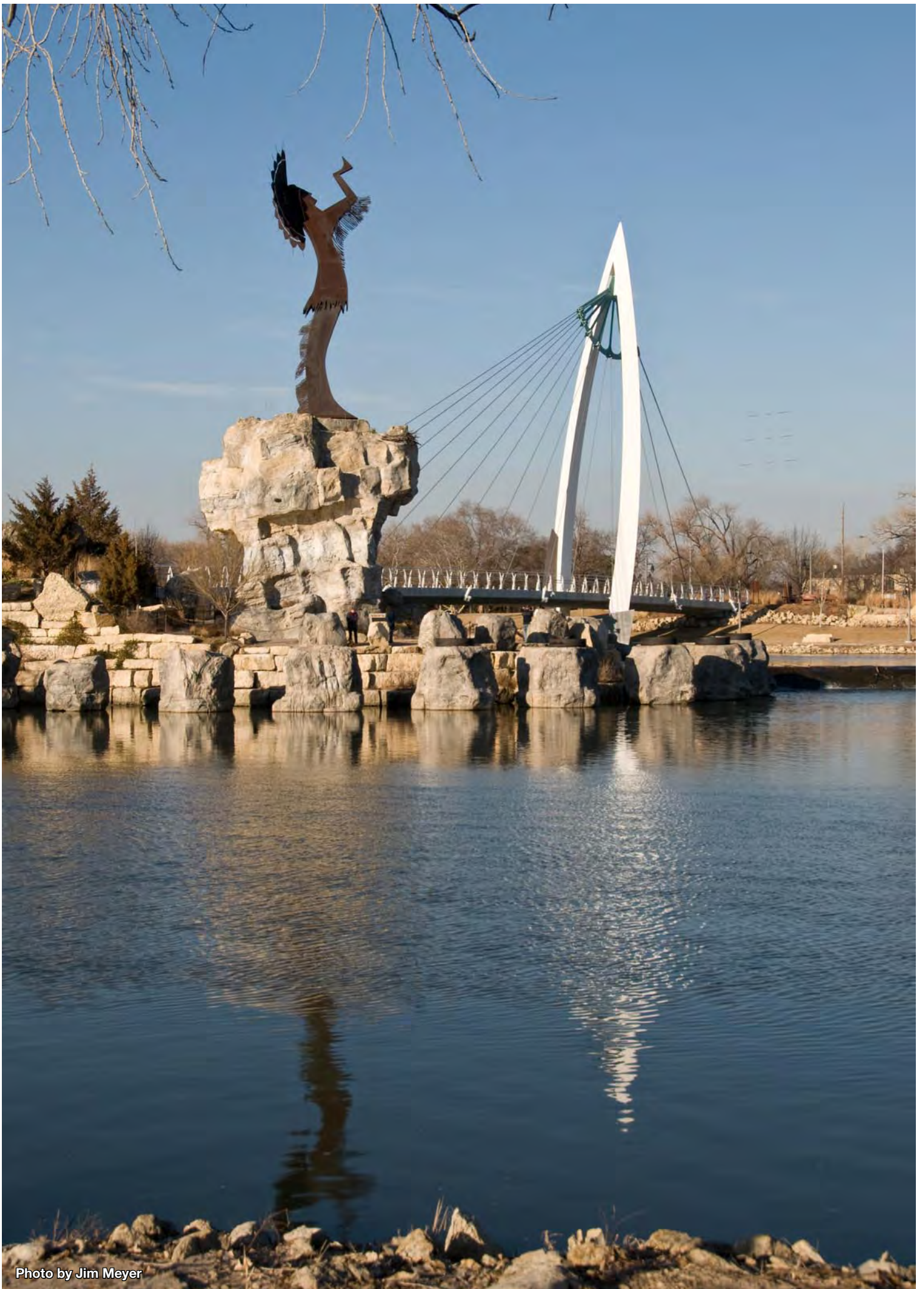


Photo by Jim Meyer

Cessna Aircraft Company

Clyde Cessna was a Kansas farm boy who taught himself to fly. His passion for aviation was first sparked when he witnessed a flying exhibition in 1911 and the rest, as they say, is history.

In 1925, Clyde entered into a partnership with Walter Beech and Lloyd Steerman and began the Travel Air Manufacturing Company. In 1927, he ventured out on his own and founded Cessna Aircraft Company, which would eventually go on to become one of the most renowned aircraft companies in the world.

Cessna is widely known for its piston aircraft, including the iconic model 172 Skyhawk, the best-selling, most flown airplane ever. This single-engine workhorse has a reputation as the safest aircraft ever built. Inexpensive and easy to operate, the 172 is used by flight training academies the world over. The convenience and affordability of this particular model also make it very appealing to business owners who frequently travel long distances.



The current line-up of Cessna products from the Cessna SkyCatcher light sport aircraft up to the Citation Columbus, the company's newest member of the Citation business jet family.

years and will remain in business. We've built more airplanes than any other company in the world."

In 1982, Cessna launched the Caravan, an enduring and versatile plane that turned out to be a true success story. Prime users of the Caravan are cargo and shipping companies, such as FedEx, who use it as a feeder into smaller markets. Its utility has made it popular as a mode of basic transportation in remote areas and developing locations. Caravan models are often converted into amphibious float planes.

As the world's largest producer of business jets, Cessna has built and delivered more jets than any other company. Named after the Triple Crown champion thoroughbred horse, the world famous Citation line was introduced in 1969 and has been hugely popular since. The original Citation was delivered

to golf legend Arnold Palmer. Other notable Citation owners include actor Harrison Ford, the late producer and director Sydney Pollack, and various sports figures. The jets are popular modes of transportation for medium- and large-sized companies, as well as fractional ownership companies.

The Citation Mustang is a four-seat entry-level jet, which has proven to be wildly popular due to its size and price. Another famous jet, the Citation X, is Cessna's flagship model.



The X is a Roman numeral for 10 – this is the fastest non-military aircraft in the world with a top speed of Mach .92, just under the speed of sound.



Jack J. Pelton is Chairman, President and CEO of Cessna. He is standing with his restored Cessna 195, once owned by Cessna legend Duane Wallace, nephew of founder Clyde Cessna.

"So many people learn to fly in a Cessna, and it's one of their first loves," says Doug Oliver, Corporate Communications. "They can just trust the Cessna name. If I sum it up in one word, that's what it would be—trust. Customers know the company has been in business for more than 80



Citation business jet assembly line at Cessna's headquarters and primary facility at Wichita's Mid-Continent Airport.

The fastest civilian aircraft in the sky, the Citation X travels at speeds of .92 mach (605 mph), just under the speed of sound. The latest model, the Citation Columbus, launched in early 2008. The largest business jet built by Cessna, this transatlantic-intercontinental work of art boasts a 4,000 nautical mile range and can easily fly from New York to London. With current facilities full of assembly lines, Cessna is building a new 600,000 sq foot facility in Wichita just to handle the demand for the Columbus.

to walk them through the process.” In addition to outstanding quality and unquestionable reliability, Cessna also offers a service network that spans the globe, which ensures that customers are never far from company-owned and authorized service stations. One of the largest buildings in Kansas is the 477,000 sq foot facility in Wichita, which is just one of nine company-owned Citation service centers in the US. Many customers are surprised to find that Cessna still supplies parts for planes that have been out of production for years, highlighting the company's dedication to service after the sale.

“Cessna is all about giving our customers the best value. Our reputation is stellar and owners of Cessna planes are loyal,” says Oliver. “If you learn to fly in a Cessna, chances are you'll move up through the Cessna

line. We are constantly upgrading our planes with the latest technologies. We currently have eight business jets in production, with the new CJ4 in flight testing.”



Cessna's Citation Mustang has proven to be one of the most popular Citations and is a leader in the entry-level business jet market segment.

The CJ4 is the latest and greatest model in the Citation CJ family and is the most technologically advanced Citation ever. Delivery of this aircraft begins in early 2010 (certification comes in late 2009). Also in development is the model 162 SkyCatcher, a light sport aircraft. With this lightweight and cost-efficient model, Cessna hopes to attract more people to flying and make the cost of getting a pilot's license more affordable.

Clyde Cessna would be proud of his home state of Kansas, particularly Wichita. “The people of Wichita really have a sense of the city's place in the aerospace community,” says Oliver. “This is airplane Mecca. It truly is the ‘Air Capital of the World.’”



The Cessna 172 is the most-produced single model aircraft in history and has been the basic flight trainer for millions of people around the world. It is produced at our facility in Independence Kansas.

“We listen to customers and give them what they want. There are some companies that outsource the design process to design houses, but we do all our own interior design and production for the jets. Our interior team spends a lot of time with the customers, making sure the details are just right. Every customer has to come to Wichita or London in order to spec the plane. We've got experts



Cessna's annual participation in the Race for the Cure raising awareness for breast cancer issues.

Koch Industries, Inc.

ADDING VALUE IN WICHITA AND AROUND THE WORLD

The global headquarters of Koch Industries, Inc. is a towering, dignified structure on 37th Street North in Wichita, home to one of the largest private companies in the world. With total revenues of approximately \$100 billion in 2008, Koch companies have a presence in nearly 60 countries and employ about 70,000 people, including more than 2,000 at the Wichita campus.

Koch companies are involved in a wide array of industries including refining and chemicals, process and pollution control equipment and technologies, minerals, fertilizers, polymers and fibers, forest and consumer products, and commodity and financial trading and services.

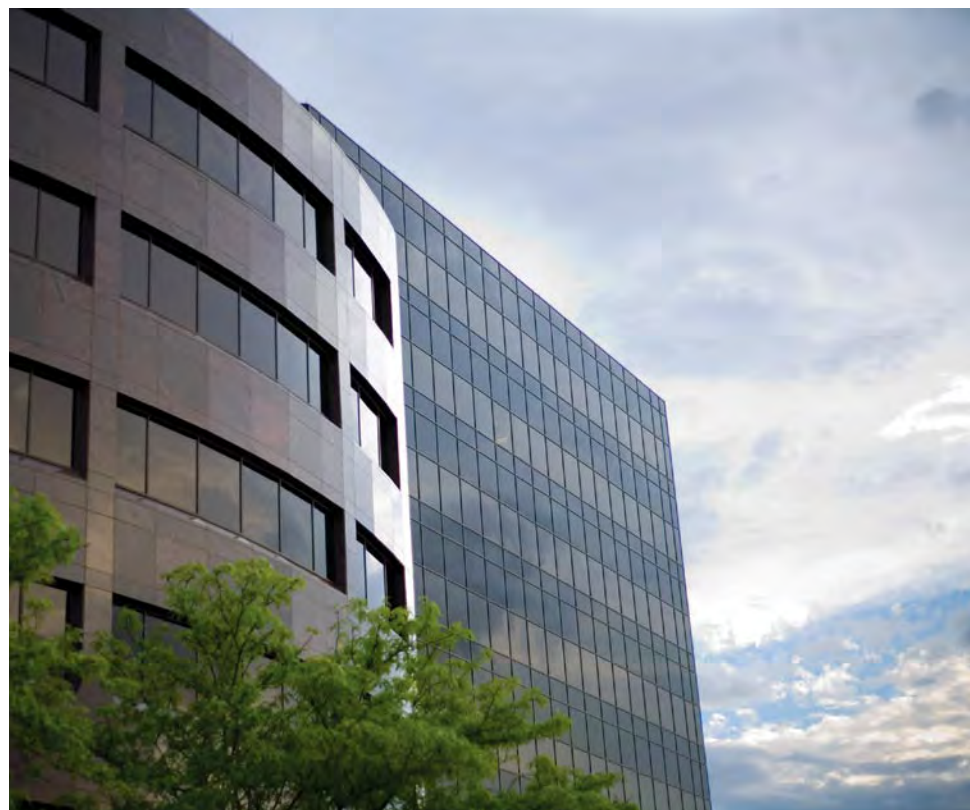
The Koch family's history in Wichita dates to 1925, when company co-founder Fred Koch settled in

Kansas and formed Winkler-Koch Engineering, which eventually became Koch Engineering. In 1927, Fred, a Texas native and graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, developed a highly efficient method for converting heavy oil into gasoline. Though unfairly shut out from doing business in the U.S. by big oil's "Patent Club," Fred was able to market his technology in Europe, building 15 thermal cracking units in the Soviet Union. He eventually won every lawsuit filed against him by the Patent Club, but it took more than 20 years.

In 1940, Fred Koch co-founded the Wood River Oil & Refining Company, headquartered for a while in the KFH Radio building, and then at 321 W. Douglas (in space later torn down to make way for Century II). In 1946, Wood River acquired the Rock Island Oil and Refining Company, based in Duncan, Oklahoma. Included



Koch-Glitsch, LP and its affiliates are global leaders in the supply of mass transfer and mist elimination equipment, as well as other process technologies and related services.



Koch Industries Inc.'s office tower earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's prestigious Energy Star award, the national symbol for superior energy efficiency and environmental protection.

in that purchase was a crude oil gathering system that the company grew into the largest gathering system in North America, establishing a network of pipelines and trucks to transport oil to refineries and distribute it to wholesalers and retailers.

In 1941, Fred Koch entered the ranching business, buying ranchland in the heart of Kansas' Flint Hills in Greenwood County. A subsidiary of Koch Industries now operates ranches and cattle operations in Kansas, Montana and Texas, encompassing nearly half a million acres of ranchland.

Fred's wife, Mary Robinson Koch, was a philanthropist, artist, outdoorswoman and avid supporter of the arts. In 1936, the couple completed work on their northeast Wichita home where they raised their family, instilling a strong work ethic in their four sons. In 1953, Mary Koch established the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation, which focuses its resources on not-for-profit organizations in Kansas that enhance quality of life through arts, environmental stewardship, human services, enablement of at-risk youth, and education.

Charles Koch, who earned a bachelor's degree in general engineering and two master's degrees in nuclear and chemical engineering from MIT, joined the company in 1961. After Fred's death in 1967, Charles became chairman of the board and CEO. The next year, the company was renamed Koch Industries, Inc. in Fred Koch's honor.

In 1970, Charles' younger brother, David, entered the family business and today serves as an executive vice president and member of the board of directors of Koch Industries. David, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering from MIT, is also chairman of the board and CEO of Koch Chemical Technology Group, LLC. Under David Koch's leadership, KCTG has grown into one of the world's largest manufacturers of mass transfer equipment for the chemical industry.

Koch Industries has grown more than 2,500-fold since 1961. Much of the company's success can be traced to Charles Koch's interest in and commitment to scientific and social progress, which led to the development and implementation of the Market-Based Management® business philosophy. The concepts and practice of MBM® are described in Charles Koch's book, *"The Science of Success,"* published in 2007.

Koch writes. "Energy prices have risen and fallen in repeated cycles, global competition has intensified, the geopolitical map of the world has been redrawn, the volume of regulation and litigation has soared, new technologies have transformed industries and businesses, and the pace of innovation has accelerated.

"Koch Industries has grown through these decades because we've learned to embrace change. Change is ever-present in the marketplace. Companies, products, and methods are constantly being replaced by more effective alternatives. ... MBM teaches that we must continually drive constructive change in every aspect of our company or we fail. As a result, we constantly pursue innovations and opportunities through internal and external development and acquisition. Similarly, we shed businesses and assets that

are unprofitable or worth more to others."

Koch Industries is bounded only by its capabilities, not by specific industries or product lines. As a private company, its approach has been to reinvest 90 percent of earnings. This willingness to forgo larger dividends in the short term has allowed Koch Industries to complete more than \$32 billion in

acquisitions and investments since 2003.

In 2004, subsidiaries of Koch Industries, Inc. acquired INVISTA from DuPont and combined it with KoSa, an affiliate since 1998. This created one of the world's largest integrated producers

of polymers and fibers, primarily for nylon, spandex, and polyester applications. With a business presence in more than 20 countries, INVISTA's



INVISTA, a Koch subsidiary based in Wichita, is one of the world's largest integrated producers of polymers and fibers, primarily for nylon, spandex and polyester applications.

global businesses deliver exceptional value for their customers through technology innovations, market insights and a powerful portfolio of global trademarks including: LYCRA® fiber, STAINMASTER® carpet, ANTRON® carpet fiber, and COOLMAX® fabric.

Koch companies entered the pulp industry in 2004, acquiring two mills and other assets from Georgia-Pacific Corp. In 2005, Koch Industries completed its \$21 billion acquisition of Georgia-Pacific. At that time, this was the largest acquisition of a publicly traded company by a private firm in U.S. history. As one of the world's leading manufacturers of tissue, pulp, paper, packaging, building products and related chemicals, Georgia-Pacific has approximately 300 manufacturing facilities across North America, South America, and Europe. Familiar Georgia-Pacific brands include Quilted Northern® bath tissue, Angel Soft® tissue, Brawny® paper towels, and Dixie® cups and tableware. Georgia-Pacific is also a leader in building products and packaging, with such brands as Dens® wallboard and Plytanium® plywood.



Flint Hills Resources' manufacturing capability is built upon six decades of refining experience.

"Our approach to management has enabled us to succeed through decades of dramatic change," Charles



Flint Hills Resources, LP, Koch Chemical Technology Group, LLC and Koch Nitrogen Company, all headquartered in Wichita, are among other Koch companies to grow through mergers and acquisitions in recent years.

In his book, Charles Koch explains that Koch companies strive to bring the productive power of the free market into their operations by systematically applying MBM® through five dimensions:

- **VISION:** Determining where and how the organization can create the greatest long-term value.
- **VIRTUE AND TALENTS:** Helping ensure that people with the right values, skills and capabilities are hired, retained and developed.
- **KNOWLEDGE PROCESSES:** Creating, acquiring, sharing, and applying relevant knowledge, and measuring and tracking profitability.
- **DECISION RIGHTS:** Ensuring the right people are in the right roles with the right authority to make decisions and holding them accountable.
- **INCENTIVES:** Rewarding people according to the value they create for the organization.

MBM requires a “culture of virtue” that encompasses Guiding Principles that include integrity, compliance, value creation, Principled Entrepreneurship™, customer focus, knowledge, change, humility, respect



Charles Koch describes his management philosophy in “The Science of Success: How Market-Based Management Built the World’s Largest Private Company.”



Koch Industries proudly supports Big Brothers Big Sisters. Here, an employee mentor enjoys a company-sponsored lunch with her “Little” in the Koch Café.

and fulfillment. Employees of Koch companies strive for “10,000 percent compliance, with 100 percent of employees fully complying 100 percent of the time to ensure excellence in environmental, safety and all other areas of compliance.”

Together with their employees, Koch companies provide financial and in-kind support, time and talent to add value to their communities.

In addition, nonprofit organizations supported by the Koch family advance philanthropic endeavors around the country. The combination of these philanthropic efforts help programs that advance learning and education; protect, conserve and enhance natural resources; improve quality of life; and support human services and at-risk youth.

When Greensburg, Kansas, was destroyed by a tornado in 2007, Koch companies and their employees, working with the Salvation Army, stepped forward with one of the largest gifts of cash and in-kind services, totaling more than \$170,000, to help residents of the town. In 2008, hundreds of Wichita and Dodge City employees built a Habitat for Humanity home in Greensburg. Also in 2008,

Koch companies donated \$1.1 million in disaster relief to the people of Texas in the wake of Hurricane Ike.



Employees of Koch companies built a Habitat for Humanity home in the tornado-ravaged community of Greensburg, Kansas.

Koch companies support many nonprofit organizations including Boys & Girls Clubs, Communities in Schools, Salvation Army, and Junior Achievement. In 2008, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kansas received the largest donation ever in the history of the organization’s statewide Bowl for Kids’ Sake when Koch Industries donated \$150,000 to sponsor the annual fundraiser. In Wichita, more than 100 employees and their families bowled to raise a record-breaking \$52,000 to help match deserving children with adult mentors.



Koch Industries contributes to many worthwhile community projects, such as the construction of Charles Koch Arena at Wichita State University, completed in 2003.

Rainbows United, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Wichita that provides early child care and education for children with varied abilities, received the largest gift in the agency's 35-year history with 10 acres of land donated by Koch Industries along with \$50,000 from the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation. The combined gift, valued at nearly \$500,000, helped

build an innovative new learning center with specialized therapy spaces and outdoor areas for nature-based play.

Combined four-year donations totaling \$400,000 to Kansas State University by Koch Industries and the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation will help fund programs to recruit and mentor multicultural students. Those gifts were announced in 2008.

A \$1 million gift to the Salvation Army enabled the organization to build the City Command Koch Center where programs are offered such as foster care, youth residential services, emergency social services, homeless services, and disaster services.

Koch Industries also supports Youth Entrepreneurs® Kansas, an organization that

provides high school students the opportunity to learn business and entrepreneurial skills, and values to help them prosper and become contributing members of society. Since YEK's founding in 1991, under the

leadership of Charles Koch's wife, Liz Koch, more than 8,800 Kansas high school students have graduated from the program. In 2006, Georgia-Pacific helped establish a similar program, Youth Entrepreneurs Atlanta. This growing program currently serves five Atlanta public high schools.

Koch companies contribute to the quality of life in Wichita in many other ways, including support for the Wichita Symphony, Music Theatre of Wichita, Sedgwick County Zoo, which houses the Koch Orangutan & Chimpanzee Habitat Exhibit, Great Plains Nature Center, and Wichita Festivals, Inc. through sponsorship of the annual Koch Twilight Pops Concert. Koch Industries' generosity was key to construction of Wichita State University's Charles Koch Arena, completed in 2003. Koch Industries and the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation provided funding to help build YMCA Koch Aquatic Centers in north and south Wichita.

Through philanthropic efforts such as these, and by employing Market-Based Management®, Koch companies demonstrate a compelling determination to create long-term value in Wichita and other communities throughout the world where they do business.



Employees of Koch companies in Wichita spearhead an annual Angel Tree drive for the Salvation Army, donating thousands of toys, bicycles and other gifts to Wichita-area children and their families.



Hawker Beechcraft

Few companies have a history as vivid and rich as Wichita's Hawker Beechcraft Corporation (HBC). Now an iconic leader in the aerospace industry, HBC was once just a humble dream of a man with a passion for flying.

Walter H. Beech partnered with fellow aviation pioneers Clyde Cessna and Lloyd Stearman to form Travel Air Manufacturing Company in 1924. The company produced mono and biplane aircraft such as the Travel Air 2000, until it was sold to the Curtiss-Wright Corporation at the onset of the Great Depression.

In 1932, Beech and his wife, Olive Ann, founded the Beech Aircraft Corporation and produced the classic Model 17 Staggerwing, whose popularity helped to propel the fledgling company towards success. In 1937, Beech purchased Travel Air back from Curtiss-Wright and moved the company into the facilities where it is currently located today. That same year, Beech launched the Model 18, which would be in production for more than 33 years.



this high performance single-engine business aircraft holds the record for the longest continuous production cycle of any plane in the world. The latest Bonanza G36 model boasts a 300-horsepower high-performance engine, a state-of-the-art integrated avionics suite, a top speed of 202 mph, and a maximum range of nearly 1,100-statute miles, outperforming all other aircraft in its class.

Walter Beech passed away from a sudden heart attack on November 29, 1950. His wife was subsequently installed as President and CEO, where she would serve for the next 30 years, working tirelessly to help the company grow and prosper.

1958 through 1963 marked the period when Beechcraft began expanding into the general aviation market. In 1961,

the Baron, a high-performance, six-seat, non-pressurized, double-piston engine aircraft was introduced. The current Baron G58 pushes the boundaries for multi-engine performance with a top speed of 232 mph and a maximum range of almost 1,600 statute miles.

With the 1960s came the introduction of the King Air, which set the bar as the industry standard for corporate turboprops. Incredibly fuel

efficient with a large cabin, the King Air has proven to be a great product and is often used by corporations who do a lot of regional traveling. Whether it's the C90GTI, the 350-mph B200GT, or the 350, which sports the largest double-club cabin in its class, the rugged and reliable King Air is a perfect blend of performance and luxury.

In 1980, Beechcraft became a subsidiary of Raytheon, a diversified electronics and technology company, and the name was changed to Raytheon Aircraft Company. In 1985, the company added its first jet, the Beechjet, to its product line.

Always on the vanguard of technology and innovation, the company launched the experimental Starship in 1986. The first



During World War II, nearly 14,000 Beechcrafters produced more than 7,400 airplanes for the United States and Allied armed forces. Nearly 90 percent of all US Army Air Corps pilots were trained in aircraft derived from the Model 18.

The year 1947 saw the first flight of the Model 35 "V-Tail" Bonanza, one of Beechcraft's most enduring and iconic planes. Celebrating more than 60 years of building the Bonanza,



all-composite, twin-turbine business aircraft, the Starship featured state-of-the-art avionics, a large swept wing, and a forward canard. The futuristic Starship proved to be too ahead of its time and production was halted due to low demand. The Starship project was responsible for the advent of composite manufacturing technology, which was revolutionary due to its strength and light weight.

In 1990, the US Air Force selected the Beechjet for its T-1A Jayhawk program to train student pilots and as transportation for military personnel. Later that year, Beech Aircraft entered its Model MkII into a highly competitive selection process for the US Air Force and Navy Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS). In 1995, the MkII was chosen as the US Air Force and US



decades. Months later, Raytheon acquired Hawker Aircraft, a British company with a state-of-the-art business jets.

The Premier jet was introduced in 1995, which features fully-automated composite construction, the largest cabin in its class, and a top speed of over 500 mph. Delivery on the brand new Premier II jet is expected to begin in 2010. Famous Premier owners include Jack Roush, of Roush Industries and Roush Fenway Racing,

and Kansas native and NASCAR Nationwide Series Champion Clint Boyer.

"We are the only company in the world to have a certified composite fuselage business jet and we actually have two," says Andrew Broom, Director of Communications and

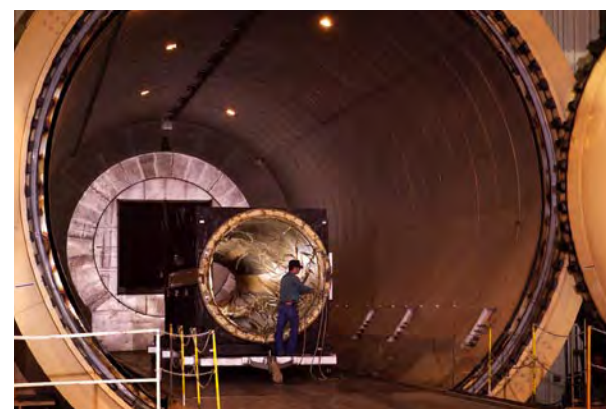
Public Affairs. "We lead the industry in our advanced composite manufacturing technology."

The Hawker 400XP was introduced in 2003 and is touted as a light business jet that offers value, flexibility and low operating costs. The company



Navy's next-generation trainer aircraft, and Beech was awarded with a multi-billion dollar contract for more than 700 aircraft.

On July 6, 1993, Mrs. Olive Ann Beech passed away at the age of 89. She was remembered fondly by Beechcrafters who had worked with her and the Beech family for many



also builds the world's most successful midsize business jet line that has two variants, the Hawker 750 and the Hawker 900XP.

The flagship product is the Hawker 4000, heralded as the world's most advanced super-midsize business jet, boasts an intercontinental 3,280-nautical-mile range.

The brand was changed to Hawker Beechcraft in March 2007, after the company was bought by a group of investors including Goldman Sachs and Onex.

"We are the largest privately-held aircraft manufacturer in the world," says Broom. "Our owners are committed to growing Hawker Beechcraft through enhancing our leadership team, investing in new products and increasing our global footprint."



Envision

When vision impairment creates barriers for an individual, Envision helps ensure that person's life continues to be full and productive. Whether it is employment, vision rehabilitation, or public education, Envision's services work together to promote independence and keep the doors of opportunity open.

"Our mission is to enhance the personal independence of individuals whose blindness or low vision, often accompanied by other disabilities, impacts their opportunities for employment, success, and integration into community life," says CEO and President Linda K. Merrill.



The Envision Low Vision Rehabilitation Center provides a wide array of services to help individuals living with vision loss live independently and safely.

used to manufacture brooms, which became a staple product for years. Late in the decade, the agency landed

a federal contract to produce pillow cases, signaling the beginning of a long-standing relationship with the federal government to produce blind-made products under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (JWOD). In the decades that followed, despite diversifying its product lineup, the agency continued to struggle financially, a problem further compounded by a forced move in the 1970s that sent the agency to a larger building.

Then, in 1986, Merrill came to lead the agency. An industry veteran, Merrill saw right away what Envision

needed to thrive. "At that time we were only providing employment for 23 individuals who were blind or had low vision; based on the size of Wichita we should have employed a lot more," says Merrill. "Plus, we weren't providing any low vision rehabilitation services. We had the physical space capacity and a small endowment, so because there was the need and we had the resources, we began to add programs and grow."

Later, the agency began to produce plastic bags and can liners for government contracts, as well as T-shirt bags for the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). At present, the agency produces more than 3.7 million plastic bags a day from three separate manufacturing facilities.

In the late 1990s, the agency added Envision Digital Print, a commercial printing operation producing high volume printing, large format graphics, and bulk mailing services. Here, as in all Envision operations, sighted employees and



Envision provides low vision rehabilitation services to individuals of all ages, 25% are children.

A non-profit agency, Envision started back in 1933 as a workshop and training school for blind adults. Back then, a dozen employees wove rugs, caned chairs, and created leather goods for retail sale, sometimes relying on loans and contributions from local interests, such as donated equipment



Employment for individuals who are blind or low vision has been paramount at Envision since its beginnings in 1933. All employees are eligible for upward mobility including a paid for college education and assistive technology.



individuals who are blind or have low vision work side by side doing the same jobs. “Individuals who are blind can do anything you and I can do; they just do it a little differently,” explains David Austin, manager of public relations and events. The 1990s also saw the agency begin operating the first of what would become 16 retail stores at military bases around the United States.

Manufacturing Associate Roy Alford, whose career at Envision spans nearly two decades, says he is thankful for the opportunities made possible by the agency’s efforts. “Looking back on it, I thank God for a place like Envision that ultimately gave me a chance, gave me an opportunity. I was able to show what I was able to do, that [blind people] can be compatible with the workforce.”

Today, Envision is the largest employer of blind and low vision workers in Kansas and the surrounding states. Its employment opportunities serve a dual purpose by also generating revenue for the agency to continue its operations.

“Envision is a mission-driven business, with a business-driven mission,” explains Merrill.

In 2000, the agency built a new facility on Water Street, providing space to add low vision rehabilitation. Each year, more than 1,500 children and adults come to the Envision Low Vision Rehabilitation Center to learn the skills they need to live as independently as possible.

Now located at the agency’s newest building on Main Street in Wichita, the center’s comprehensive services range from learning Braille and how to use adaptive aids to learning to manage activities of daily living through the unique Independence Boulevard, with its varying floor surfaces, furnished rooms, working plumbing and appliances, a simulated grocery store, and a mock restaurant complete with seating, salad bar, and cash register checkout. The Main Street building also houses Envision Everyday, a store where

Transportation is often a key barrier to individuals who are blind or low vision securing meaningful employment in the United States. At Envision, transportation options are made available.

anyone can purchase a wide variety of aids designed especially for vision impairments.

Envision also works to raise community awareness through participation in events, collaboration with other agencies, and training for doctors and patients. “Public education is a very important part of what we do at Envision,” says Merrill. “It is anticipated that more than 50 million Americans over the age of forty will suffer from vision loss by the year 2020. Prevent Blindness America and the National Eye Institute identified this potential epidemic resulting from the growing needs of the aging Baby Boomer generation, and we realize we need to be an integral part of educating the public about blindness, low vision, early detection, and the need for services.”

As part of its preparations to serve the largest senior demographic in history, in 2008, Envision embarked on its first-ever capital campaign. “Today, our financial standing is strong, but we have a huge need for employment and low vision rehabilitation to fill,” explains Merrill. “For more than seven decades, we have enabled countless individuals with vision loss to obtain greater independence. That longevity, combined with a visionary board of directors and strong managerial talent, give us a solid foundation on which to grow even more.”



The Envision Everyday store offers a wide selection of adaptive and assistive aids for sale at cost to individuals who are blind or low vision.

Scott Rice Office Interiors

For over 70 years, Scott Rice Office Interiors has been the company of choice for those in search of high quality office furniture and services. Whether your company is large or small, the team at Scott Rice will provide solutions to make your office space the most productive it can be.

The office is where you spend 40 hours of your week, so it should be an environment that is practical, yet attractive, in order to make the most of your workday. That is why Scott Rice, a full-service office interior provider, works to provide the best office solutions for your company's needs. No matter the size of your budget, Scott Rice has a variety of office interiors to meet your requirements. As a full-service company, Scott Rice works one-on-one with each customer every step of the way, from sales and design to project management and installation.



and project management experience, uses surveys in ten different categories of customer satisfaction. By tracking the company's performance, clients benefit from Scott Rice's commitment to honesty and integrity in every client relationship.

Upholding honesty and integrity is a philosophy that also encourages Lee to work with his staff to give back to the Wichita community. Scott Rice supports the various initiatives of United Way, while individual employees dedicate time to volunteering in the community. The high degree of commitment to both clients and the community earned Scott Rice the honor of being one of the 2006 Top 10 Small Businesses, as designated by the Wichita Chamber of Commerce.

In August of 2008, Scott Rice acquired Inks & Images, a Wichita-based company that offers promotional products and services. Lee sees the

acquisition as an opportunity to not only build on Inks & Images' 15-year old reputation of providing excellent service and products, but also to provide even greater resources for Scott Rice's clients.



"We don't sell products; we provide solutions," says Lee.

Scott Rice will be expanding its business to include another location in the center of the city. Scott Rice's local ownership is an important factor to many Wichita business owners and is what has established such a loyal client base. To work with the people at Scott Rice Office Interiors means that your company will have access to the most efficient office solutions that comes with a hard-working staff attentive to your company's needs.



Scott Rice is known for being the only dealer in the Wichita area to carry Steelcase, the world's largest manufacturer of office furniture. The company also sells products from more than 30 name-brand manufacturers at prices that won't break the bank. Additionally, the office supply division of Scott Rice provides a full line of office supplies that can be delivered the next day.

"Our number one commitment is to service performance," says Bill Lee, owner and president. His company might deal with furniture and office interiors, but for him, it goes far beyond the point of sale with his clients. The staff at Scott Rice, which has an average of 16 years of sales



Star Lumber & Supply Co., Inc.

Seldom is there a construction project near Star Lumber that doesn't have at least something that came from Star. Its flooring crews lay carpeting on the Air Force One fleet; its lumber is used to crate airplane parts that are shipped halfway across the continent; and the firm is featured in an entrepreneurship book series published by Wichita State University's business school. Star Lumber & Supply Co., Inc. is not your father's lumber yard, unless you are one of the 22 third- and fourth-generation Goebel family members on staff, or one of many current employees whose families have worked and played alongside the Goebel family since the firm was founded by patriarch Earl Goebel in 1939. This is a company with deep roots in the Wichita community.



Earl Goebel's lumber yard, shrewdly located on what was then Wichita's outskirts, now serves Kansas and Oklahoma with 420 employees in six stores in Wichita, Hutchinson, Salina, and Manhattan, including a new contractor flooring store in Oklahoma City. Star also operates Perfection Structural Components, its truss and wall panel manufacturing business. The company does \$114 million in sales annually, about 90 percent of which is with professional contractors and industry.

SERVING THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

Star Lumber understands the business needs and challenges facing



their professional customers, who are primarily home builders, commercial contractors, professional remodelers, and industrial firms that include the many aviation companies that make Wichita the "Air Capital of the World."

Star Lumber promises high quality materials at competitive prices. "We are always adjusting our product lines, searching for the best in innovative products, materials, and systems," explains owner/president Chris Goebel. "We sort through the many competing options for our customers, selecting the best vendors available. We continually sponsor customer training events, which keep our vendors and our customers in sync."

A professional sales staff is dedicated to streamlining the business side of operations for professional contractors, with an account specialist and sales associate assigned to each account to provide immediate, reliable information and assistance.

As more builders and businesses are opting for 'green' solutions, Star is keeping pace. "Many of our salespeople are now green-trained and certified," says Goebel. "We are constantly searching for greener and more energy-efficient products." Star offers "chain of custody"

documentation of green-certified lumber, which has been grown and produced in accordance with responsible forestry practices.

"WE DELIVER. PERIOD."



Star Lumber prides itself on operating one of the largest delivery fleets in the Midwest. Star's truck-mounted forklifts can place materials on-site exactly where the customer wants them. "We deliver on time, in full. This means the right product, the right quantity, undamaged," Goebel promises. Considering the scale of Star's business, that's an industrial-sized accomplishment. "It is not uncommon for us to have product delivered to five states in one week," says Goebel. Goebel points out that as many as ten trailers each day deliver products to the Fort Riley area in northeastern Kansas, serving the housing needs of thousands of military who live both on- and off-base. Multiple truckloads of lumber go out to both Spirit AeroSystems and Boeing as well as to many other Wichita manufacturing plants each week.





OVER 1,000 YEARS OF FLOORING EXPERIENCE

Star Flooring and Decorating is a division of Star Lumber & Supply Co., and one of the top retailers of flooring and floor coverings in the country, with showrooms in Wichita, Hutchinson, and Oklahoma City. Star's flooring



team draws on over 1,000 years of combined flooring experience to provide the best selection of quality products and installation available anywhere. Star Flooring's highest profile customer is Air Force One – but Star has 70 talented flooring crews out onsite on a daily basis.

GIVING BACK – THE CHARITABLE TRUST

The Goebel Family and Star Lumber consider it a privilege to serve their many markets, and since 1939 have upheld a tradition of giving back to the communities that have made them so successful. "The communities are really part of our extended family," says Chris Goebel.

Star Lumber continues to pledge ten percent of its annual, pretax operating profits to charitable causes that benefit the community as a whole. Through the independently administered Goebel Family STAR LUMBER Charitable Trust, the company has distributed millions of dollars of products and support to dozens of local and national organizations, including the city's



River Festival, Sedgewick County Zoo, Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, Wichita State University, the Special Olympics, United Way, Kansas 4H Foundation, and many others. Several years ago, Star donated



160 acres of property to the Wichita Area Girl Scouts for their nationally acclaimed Camp Starwoods. Star also supports their local Habitat for Humanity organization, which expects to soon complete their second home to be funded and built entirely by Star and its employee volunteers.

When the history of Star Lumber was published in the Barton Business School's entrepreneurship series, it was appropriately entitled "Building Wichita." For 60 years, and in many more ways, Star Lumber & Supply Co., Inc. has been doing exactly that.

Heartspring

A WORLDWIDE CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

For more than 75 years, Heartspring, a nonprofit educational center, has pioneered many breakthroughs for individuals with special needs. Today, Heartspring serves children who have autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, mental retardation, or other developmental disabilities. Heartspring's strength is in recognizing the individual special needs of children and guiding them to their greatest potential in all aspects of their lives.

In 1934, Dr. Martin F. Palmer founded the Department of Speech Sciences at the University of Wichita. Later, he opened the Flo Brown Memorial Laboratory, a facility dedicated to the study and treatment of speech defects in children. In 1940, these organizations were combined to form the Institute of Logopedics.



Thanks to Heartspring, children with multiple disabilities are given every opportunity to learn and grow toward attaining his or her potential.

In 1993, the name was changed to Heartspring, and in 1998, Heartspring moved to its beautiful 37-acre campus on East 29th Street North in Wichita.

Over the years, the focus of the organization has grown to serve other special needs, in addition to speech and hearing challenges. Now, programs include the Heartspring School, Heartspring Pediatric Services, the Heartspring Hearing Center, consulting, and the newest program, Community of Autism Resources and Education (CARE).



HEARTSPRING SCHOOL

Heartspring School, a residential and day program, provides a warm, loving environment for about 50 students aged 5 to 21 who have developmental and other disabilities

such as autism, Asperger Syndrome, speech and language impairments, deafness, visual or hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, challenging behaviors, or multiple disabilities.

Staff members, together with parents, develop an individualized education plan for each child, setting priorities for instruction in home living, community living, and personal,

vocational, functional academic, and recreation/leisure skills.

Each child receives personalized instruction and therapies, in support of learning in all these areas. Heartspring's comprehensive approach to each child's needs, and the staff of skilled, caring professionals give parents peace of mind that their child is being given every opportunity to learn and grow toward attaining his or her potential.

Learning at Heartspring goes far beyond the classroom. Students learn to participate in their own self-care and practice everyday tasks such as cooking and cleaning.

Heartspring's beautiful 37-acre campus is located in northeast Wichita.

Community-based instruction, an important part of Heartspring's approach, helps students develop functional life skills in a natural community environment. Students leave the campus often to practice personal, recreation/leisure and community living skills. In this, the city of Wichita is a valuable extension of the school.

Local businesses and citizens welcome the students into the community, where they can use such skills as shopping from a grocery list and being patient while waiting in line. Some students participate in community service. For example, student volunteers, accompanied by staff members, deliver Meals on Wheels. Besides bringing food and



Heartspring Pediatric Services helps over 700 children annually through outpatient therapies.



Heartspring's Donor Hearing Aid Program provides hearing devices at minimal to no cost for those unable to afford new aids.

much-needed personal contact to the elderly, the students practice their social skills at the same time.

Many of the older students participate in vocational training. This enables them to participate in a training program on campus or hold a job with a local company or organization and learn job skills that will help them succeed later in life.



Dedicated staff members ensure each child's success at the Heartspring School.

HEARTSPRING PEDIATRIC SERVICES

Heartspring Pediatric Services offer physical, occupational, and speech therapies, as well as psychology and hearing services, to children from birth to age 21 who live in Wichita and the surrounding communities. Through Heartspring Pediatric Services, families gain knowledge and obtain resources

they need to help their children learn and progress toward realizing their potential.

Annually, more than 700 children received services. Heartspring provides substantial financial assistance to families in need. The KidCheck Program provides free developmental screenings for children ages birth to five. Heartspring also offers free community speech and hearing services in preschool and day care facilities. Funding for this screening program is through a generous grant from Target stores.

HEARTSPRING HEARING CENTER

Heartspring Hearing Center offers services to individuals of all ages. It provides hearing evaluations, hearing aid sales, and assistive listening devices. It also has a Donor Hearing Aid Program that supplies hearing aids at little or no cost to those who cannot afford new hearing aids.

COMMUNITY OF AUTISM RESOURCES AND EDUCATION (CARE)

The CARE program at Heartspring provides opportunities for parents and professionals to increase

their understanding of autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. Services are also available for children and young adults with autism spectrum disorders to help them develop skills for success in their families, schools, and communities.

The CARE constellation of resources for children and families include in-home consultations, SSTAR Scouts, the Autism CARE Walk at Heartspring and Camp SSTAR, a summer camp for children with high functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Founder Dr. Martin Palmer served as a consultant to the World Health Organization, and was personally involved with programs in many countries including Japan and India.

Today, educators from around the world look to Heartspring to learn effective ways of working with children who have special needs. Professional staff from Croatia, Romania, China, India, Malawi, South Africa, and other countries have come to Heartspring for training. A school in India and one in China have sister-school relationships with Heartspring.

After many decades of progress and change, Heartspring still continues Dr. Palmer's devotion to helping children with special needs learn and grow. The dedicated, knowledgeable Heartspring staff work with parents to discover and develop each child's abilities, and help each child to attain his or her full potential.



Lights on the Lake is Heartspring's signature fundraising event, opening up the 37-acre campus to the community as a drive through lighting display.

Wescon Products Company/Latshaw Enterprises

Wescon Controls and Wescon Plastics Divisions of Wichita based Latshaw Enterprises are Wichita's expert manufacturers of mechanical controls and engineered plastic parts that serve companies world wide.

In the mid-1940s, when the power lawnmower industry was in its infancy, two Wichita men formed a partnership to produce mechanical cable controls for the growing fleet of power mowers being purchased by homeowners to tend the grass in their yards. Spurred by the postwar housing boom, the power mower industry grew, and so did the young company, Wescon Controls.

Today, the Wescon Controls Division employs about 250 people and is a leading manufacturer of mechanical controls for outdoor power equipment. This industry includes a wide range of tools and machines run by small gasoline engines: walk-behind and riding mowers, garden tractors, tillers, edgers, and snow removal equipment. Wescon also provides cable controls for other applications, including motorcycles, marine, utility vehicles, work trucks, and military vehicles and tanks.

Light-duty cable controls are used for throttle control and to provide the safety controls required for lawnmowing machines; they are also used to operate brakes and various accessories. Medium-duty controls regulate hydraulic and mechanical



Assorted controls from Wescon's Light Duty product line are supplied to customers such as Toro and Harley-Davidson.

equipment on trucks and off-road vehicles.

Since its founding in 1946, Wescon Controls has built a reputation as a high-quality, technically expert supplier. Customers often depend on Wescon engineering to design the cable controls for their upcoming products, based on the product's mechanical requirements and desired product life.

In the early years, innovations introduced by Wescon such as integral conduit liners and die cast cable terminations were the foundations that gave Wescon the competitive advantage to foster growth. Today, that same innovative spirit allows Wescon to continue to advance the state of the art in mechanical controls.

It patented an improved turn-to-lock mechanism, which is used in applications such as the fastening for the escape hatch in new models of military vehicles. The company also developed a new remote valve control, the first such improvement in 60 years to this important safety system used on heavy-duty vehicles.

Wescon Controls engineers work closely with customers and develop long-term relationships with client companies, understanding their products and their particular needs. The engineer who designs a control assembly also is the one who brings it into manufacturing. This streamlines the product introduction process.

An important factor in the success of Wescon Controls is the flexibility of its manufacturing operation. The factory floor is organized into work cells, each cell a "factory within a factory" set up for a different type of control. For small quantities, one person can do all the assembly for a product run. For large quantities, several operators can work together in a cell, each completing part of the process.

Wescon Controls pursues a vertically-integrated business model, producing in-house the parts needed to assemble its products: extruded cable jackets, stampings, machined fittings, and other components.



Wescon Controls manufactures an assortment of Heavy Duty products for numerous customers including John Deere.

In the 1950s, Wescon began producing molded plastic knobs, handles and parts for its own use. Over time, the plastics molding operation grew to become the Wescon Plastics Division. Now employing more than 100 people, Wescon Plastics still provides parts for Wescon Controls, but also ships about 90 percent of its production to external customers.

Wescon Plastics produces custom functional components such as battery cases, truck parts, HVAC parts, and seals for oil well pumps, injection molded from engineered plastic resin. It also provides a range of smaller parts and packaging to other industries. Wescon's 27 injection molding machines also produce hose couplings, housings for electronic assemblies, automotive valve components and telecommunications equipment, and many other plastic components. Products range from small parts up to battery cases weighing five pounds. Wescon Plastics also offers secondary processes such as hot stamping, hinge pin insertion, hot plate welding, heat transfer labeling, heat sealing, sonic welding assembly, and machining.

Wescon Plastics' expertise in product design, material selection, and mold design draws customers from across the globe. At a time when much of the U.S. plastics molding business is going overseas, Wescon Plastics exports approximately 30 percent of its production to locations in Mexico, Europe and Asia.



Wescon Plastics utilizes high-speed injection molding machines ranging from 65 to 660 tons, equipped with state of the art closed-loop controllers and data acquisition monitoring.

industry, and companies in California that manufacture electrical assemblies, Box builds, and high performance specialty electrical wire and cable mainly for the medical and electronic

As a longtime Wichita business, Wescon Products has supported many area charities and service organizations, including Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas, Inc.; Catholic Charities Harbor House, which offers shelter and support to victims of family violence; Envision, an agency that provides vision rehabilitation and employment for people who are blind or have low vision; the YMCA Strong Kids campaign; the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; Wichita State University events; Big Brothers and Big Sisters; Sunflower neighborhood improvement projects; and the Wichita Chamber of Commerce economic development programs.

After decades of industry leadership, Wescon Controls and Wescon Plastics continue to maintain their position in the increasingly competitive worlds of mechanical controls and injection molding. Company leadership attributes this success to the efforts of the companies' skilled employees, close working relationships with customers, and a commitment to constant improvement in manufacturing.



3D Solid Modeling and Mold Flow software are employed to develop and analyze plastic parts and tooling. Molded part dimensions are verified using 3D Coordinate Measuring Equipment.

Together, Wescon Controls and Wescon Plastics make up the Wescon Products Company, a part of the Latshaw Enterprises, Inc. group of companies. Other Latshaw companies include a Colorado supplier of fittings and tools for the natural gas service



markets. The Latshaw companies employ a total of about 500 people. Latshaw Enterprises encourages the further education of its employees by funding 100% of their accredited education.

Wichita Clinic

In 1947, ten physicians combined their talents to form a medical practice that put patients first. That patient-centered philosophy still guides the care delivered at Wichita Clinic, now Kansas' largest multi-specialty clinic, with some 160 physicians from around the globe practicing more than 40 specialties.

"We've attracted doctors from around the world and, as a result, we have a physician group that is diverse but committed to the same mission—providing high-quality personalized health care," says Chief Medical Officer Robert S. Kenagy, MD.



Wichita Clinic is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care and has provided healthcare services to the community since 1947.

From the beginning, the physicians at Wichita Clinic have controlled all aspects of the practice. "The environment in medicine today is dynamic and it impacts the way physicians practice," explains Dr. Kenagy. "But whatever we do as a group strategically has always been decided by the physicians."

Dr. Kenagy says the clinic's physician-ownership means fewer internal hurdles when implementing changes such as new technology, and its size means better bargaining power with third-party providers.

At Wichita Clinic, physicians work closely with others whose specialties complement their own, either across the hall, in one of the clinic's 12 locations, or at three local hospitals. In fact, it is not uncommon for patients to be seen, tested, and have concerns resolved in a matter of days. "The way we practice is not only very convenient, but it's also very high quality and efficient care for patients because of the collaboration that occurs," says Kenagy.

Ophthalmologist Tamim Qaum, MD, concurs. "Having immediate access to other physicians and departments is a huge benefit," he says. "Patients don't fall through the cracks."

A former resident of London, Boston, and New York City, Qaum joined the clinic in 2006. He says his family loves Wichita for its sense of security, low commute times, and solid Midwestern values. "In Wichita, people are nicer, patients are nicer, my colleagues are nicer—people as a whole are not as rushed and impatient," he says.

As a graduate of Harvard and Cornell, having excellent public and private school options was another important factor for the Qaum family. "When we talk about schools, we're actually focused on the education itself as opposed to safety and other issues that can arise in the school system," says Qaum, who is also impressed with the International Baccalaureate

Wichita Clinic is the area's largest outpatient multi-specialty group practice with over 160 physicians.

program at East High School. The city's multiple universities include Wichita State University, with its abundant resources, and a branch of the University of Kansas Medical School, offering physicians a chance to teach residents.

In addition, Wichita's diverse economy offers plenty of career opportunities in a wide variety of market segments for every member of the family.

Beyond the working day, the Qaums enjoy a host of family activities, from performing arts programs to world-class museums and zoos to sporting venues and more. "I can't say enough good things about Wichita," says Qaum. "I'm glad I made the decision to come here."



Wichita Clinic employs over 1,000 healthcare professionals and currently provides healthcare services at 12 locations in 3 adjoining counties.



Photo by Carrie Yonley

Prairie View

Prairie View is a place of healing. As the only non-profit, faith-based community mental health center in the state, Prairie View has been helping Kansans lead healthier lives for more than 50 years.

The 70-acre campus in Newton provides a diverse array of mental health services, including psychiatric hospitalization, a community support program, outpatient services, employee assistance programs, psychiatric residential treatment facility for adolescents, an accredited day school, and an adventure course.



Six other outpatient locations provide services to children, adolescents, adults, and seniors for a complete range of behavioral and mental health issues, including alcohol and substance abuse, anger, anxiety, cognitive disorders, dementia, depression, eating disorders, family and marriage issues, grief, stress, sexually related issues, and more.

Prairie View has a rich history of providing behavioral and mental health services with compassion, competence, and stewardship in the spirit of Christ. During World War II, nearly 3,000 Mennonites were assigned to work in mental hospitals across the country, where they were appalled by the impersonal and often brutal

treatment of patients. The Mennonite Central Committee believed that the church had much to offer in the way of mental healthcare and began planning the creation of three small hospitals. Prairie View, the third of these hospitals, opened its doors on March 15, 1954.

The organization employs more than 400 people - including psychiatrists, clinical nurse specialists, psychologists, social workers, mental health workers, adventure and recreation staff, school faculty, and support staff - all trained to provide the highest quality of care available.

"Our passion is to help people live well and relate to one another in a positive, healthy manner," says Sara Cook, Director of Communications.

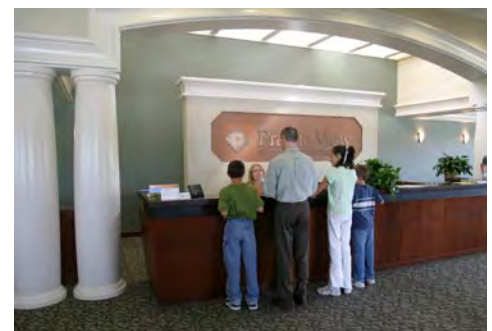
Prairie View's services include individual family and group therapy, alcohol and substance abuse counseling, intensive outpatient programs for adults and seniors, psychological testing, and community support for people with severe and persistent mental illness. Residential and vocational rehabilitation services are offered to help those with mental illness sustain their involvement within the community and continue their contributions to society.

Organizations, schools, and church groups are also invited to learn teamwork, cooperation, and communication on the adventure course. Through games and activities, participants learn to form bonds of trust as they reflect and process their experience together.



"Our vast spectrum of services allows us to provide holistic treatment and comprehensively meet the needs of our clients," says Jessie Kaye, President/CEO. "We want our clients and their families to experience our compassion and feel that they are valued and respected in every interaction."

"The inpatient program has turned my family around," says the mother of a patient. "It taught my son how to deal with his anger and he now has the skills to manage and control his moods. I am a different mother because of the training that your staff gave me. I learned as much as my son. Those experiences will be with me for the rest of my life. I feel like Prairie View saved my family without compromising our values."



For Prairie View, faith and service come together each and every day.

"Some of the secrets to Prairie View's success are our strong faith-based heritage, the integration of our values into all services, and our dedication to our mission and vision," says Kaye. "These beliefs strengthen all that we do."



Photo by Art Scott

Bombardier Learjet

The Learjet name is legendary throughout the aerospace industry. Founded by William Lear in the late 1950s, Learjet is a subsidiary of Bombardier, a Fortune Global 500 company.

Learjet began its life as a Swiss ground-attack fighter aircraft, the FFA P-16, which Bill Lear used as his inspiration in the development of a new business jet. The original Learjet 23 took to the skies in October 1963 and the rest, as they say, is history.

“Learjet is the reason why business jets exist,” says David Coleal, Vice President and General Manager of Bombardier Learjet. “With Bill Lear’s legacy and the flight of the first Learjet in 1963, it was history in the making.”

Subsequent to that first flight, Bombardier Learjet has become synonymous with business jets. Learjet business jets are used to conduct business in countless industries in countries all over the world and are recognized as the pinnacle in aircraft ownership.

Learjet is all about performance. The sheer speed, luxurious interiors, beautiful aesthetics and 51,000 ft. operating ceiling make it the best in its class. To own a Learjet aircraft is to own the absolute best.



Bombardier Learjet’s flagship models include the 40XR, 45XR and 60XR.

Learjet’s flagship models include the 40XR, 45XR and 60XR, each of which can hold four to eight passengers in a double-club configuration. Currently in development is the Learjet 85, an all-new design with composite fabrication and the latest avionic technology. The excitement that customers have for the product and their love of the brand is matched only by the passion and pride that

employees have for their work. Each jet is built by professional and dedicated employees. All customers become part of the Learjet family for life. When customers arrive to pick up their new Learjet aircraft, it isn’t just another transaction; it’s an experience. The customer and their family and friends tour the facility, and a Champagne toast is held in honor of the celebration.

Coleal notes, “With more than 45 years of service, I think the brand itself is legendary. It evokes such a strong emotion from our customers and employees. We still have employees



Bill Lear celebrates seven completed Learjet aircraft.



The new Bombardier Learjet 85 features an all-composite airframe.

here today that worked here when Bill Lear was at the helm. He was an amazing visionary who was relentless in his pursuit of perfection, and all of his basic philosophies still carry through today. We have a very proud heritage and a bright future.”

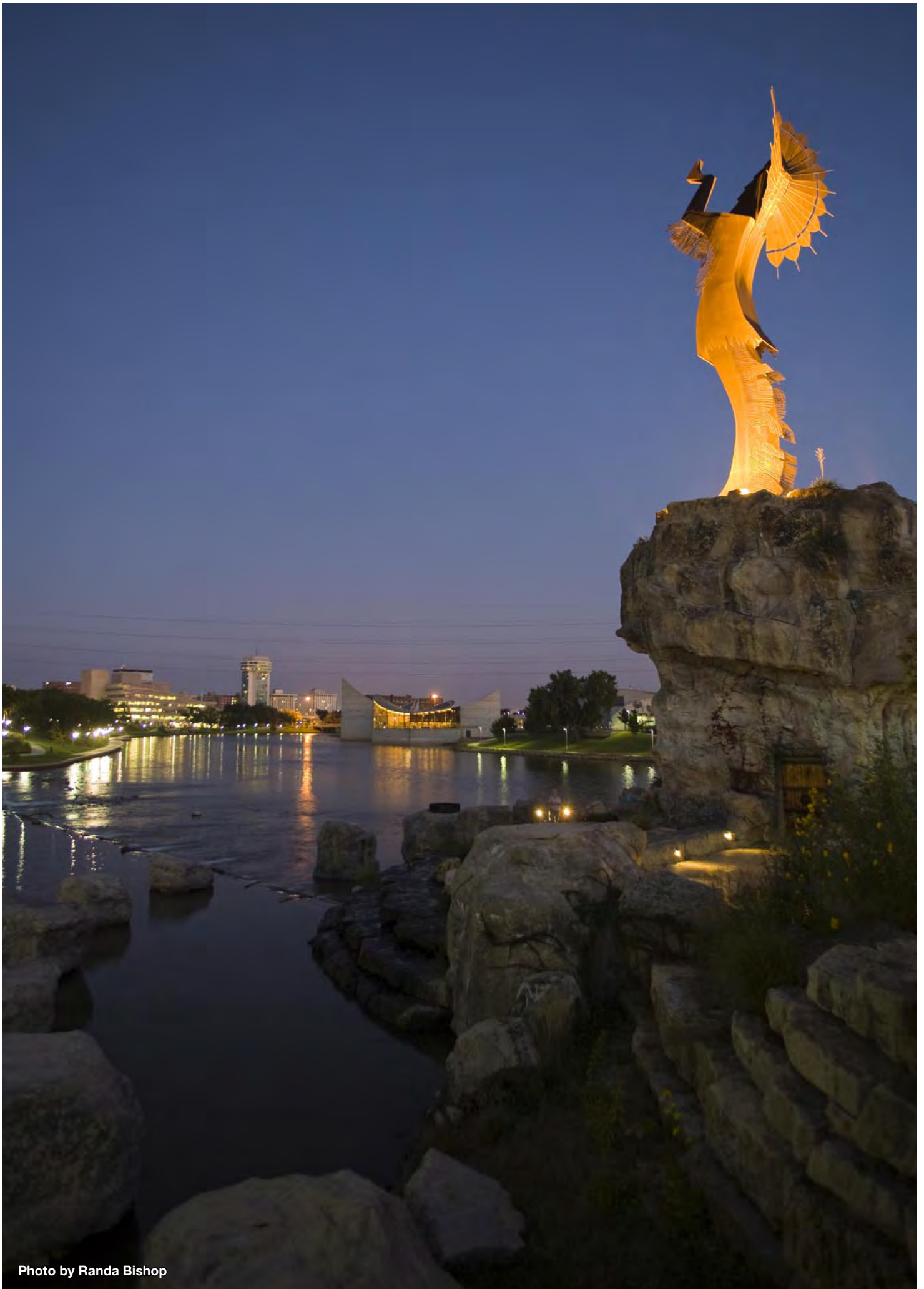
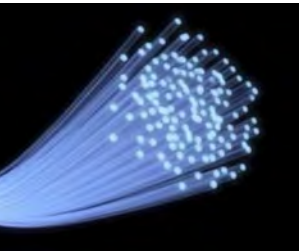


Photo by Randa Bishop

Cox Communications

One of the largest telecommunications companies in the United States, Cox Communications is a multi-service broadband communications and entertainment provider that offers an array of advanced digital video, high-speed



Internet and telephony services over its own nationwide IP network.

Cox Communications is a privately owned subsidiary of Cox Enterprises, which entered the cable television business in 1962. Two years later, Cox Broadcasting Corporation was established as a public company and traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Cox Broadcasting Corporation spun off its cable operations in 1984 and launched Cox Cable Communications, Inc., which was eventually renamed Cox Communications, Inc. Cox established operations in Kansas in 1999 and became a private company once more in 2004.

Wichita, Kan. is the regional headquarters for Cox operations in Kansas and Arkansas.

BUILT TO LAST

Cox employs more than 1,300 people throughout Kansas and serves more than 300,000 subscribers in Kansas alone.

Cox Business is the business-to-business division of Cox Communications, Inc. It is a facilities-based provider of advanced voice, data and video products and services to more than 200,000 business customers in industries ranging from healthcare and hospitality to government and education. The backbone of Cox's capability as a communications provider is its self-owned and self-maintained nationwide IP network. Thousands of miles of fiber-optic cable make up the Cox system, designed for enhanced dependability. With

our state-of-the-art Network Operations Centers monitoring the Cox network on a 24/7 basis, customers are assured of consistent, reliable voice, data and video services for their businesses.

Cox Media is the advertising division of Cox Communications, Inc., offering national and local cable advertising in traditional commercial and new media formats, along with promotional opportunities and production services.

"Cox Communications prides itself on being 'your friend in the digital age,' which means listening to each customer, meeting their needs and helping them navigate today's technology," says Kimberly Edmunds, senior vice president and general manager for Cox Kansas/Arkansas.

EVOLUTIONARY NETWORK

Cox Communications has implemented an advanced fiber optic network to enable the delivery of high definition video, high speed data services and digital phone services in a reliable and cost effective



A Cox technician works to restore services during a Kansas ice storm.

manner across the states of Kansas and Arkansas. This evolutionary network enables Cox to grow and expand as new technological services are introduced. With an advanced transport and data network, Cox Communications has positioned itself

to be the provider of choice for traditional services and next generation Ethernet services across the states of Kansas and Northwest Arkansas.

GIVING BACK

Cox has a strong local presence in the communities it serves. Cox provides more than \$2 million through cash and in-kind donations annually to community organizations and provides more than 1,400 free cable and high speed



Kimberly Edmunds, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Cox Kansas/Arkansas, poses with children from Rainbows United.

Internet connections to K-12 schools in the community, at a value of more than \$1 million annually. In 2007, Cox donated more than \$2.9 million in airtime to nonprofit organizations through public service announcements, while employees volunteered more than 10,000 hours in their communities. Cox also provides more than \$10 million worth of educational and government access channels to local communities annually.

"Cox is proud to support the communities that we serve, whether it's monetarily or with premium gift items and media contributions. We provide goodwill to organizations and causes in need as well as strengthen the social, economic, and educational infrastructure of our communities," says Edmunds.

EDUCATION

Cox supports initiatives that enhance educational efforts and technological curriculum for children, particularly at the K-12 level.



A Cox technician takes time out of his day to show E.L.F. students a look at the Cox bucket truck during Wheel Day!

Extending its commitment to education through industry programs like Cable in the Classroom and Model Technology Schools, Cox brings high-end education technology to schools—exposing parents, students, and teachers to a world of new learning opportunities.



YOUTH

"Cox supports programs targeted toward providing children the essentials they need to grow into self-supporting and contributing members of society," says Edmunds.

In 2003, Cox also became the national technology partner for Boys & Girls Clubs of America, providing video and Internet technology at no cost to their centers in Cox markets. Cox has given these clubs over one million in cash contributions and \$20 million in in-kind services.

Cox also developed the award-winning Take Charge! initiative to help parents create safe boundaries around children's mass media experience. Through national partnerships with

Common Sense Media, John Walsh and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Cox is educating parents and teens on media safety.

Cox strives to make it easy to find great educational TV shows and Web sites, while keeping families safe from content they find inappropriate. Additionally, since 2004, Cox has provided more than \$25 million in advertising time to promote the use of parental controls.

Cox employees and their families make a difference at the South Central Kansas Boys and Girls Club in the fall. From construction work to planting trees, local clubs were grateful for the various needs that were met.

COX CONSERVES

Cox Enterprises has outlined multiple steps to reduce its companywide carbon footprint by at least 20 percent by 2017. These efforts are expected to save 172,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) annually, which is equivalent to the pollution produced by providing power to 26,000 homes.

Since 2000, Cox's Energy Management and Fleet Management Departments have implemented energy-saving measures at many company sites. These efforts include efficient heating and cooling systems, green energy sources, hybrid fleet vehicles and more. As a result, Cox has already eliminated the production of 118,000 tons of GHGs, but there is still much to do. Our current carbon footprint is more than 832,000 tons of GHGs.

Cox is not only a leader in cutting edge technology and innovative communication services; it's also a good neighbor and a valuable asset to the local communities.

"We want you to think of Cox as a resource for your home and business technology."



More than 7,000 concert-goers got "Lost in Love" at the Cox Community Concert featuring Air Supply. The free 90-minute show included a mix of new music and classics like "All Out of Love," "Making Love Out of Nothing at All," and "Even the Nights Are Better."

KETCH

At age 39, David is like many Wichitans. He attends church on Sundays, enjoys his job, and likes the location of his one-bedroom apartment in West Wichita because it's close to a variety of restaurants and a park where he rides his bicycle. David, who is developmentally disabled, is one of the many success stories at the Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped. With the support of his family and KETCH's dedicated staff, David is able to live independently, participate in community activities, and receive positive reviews from his employer of 11 years.



A HISTORY OF CARING

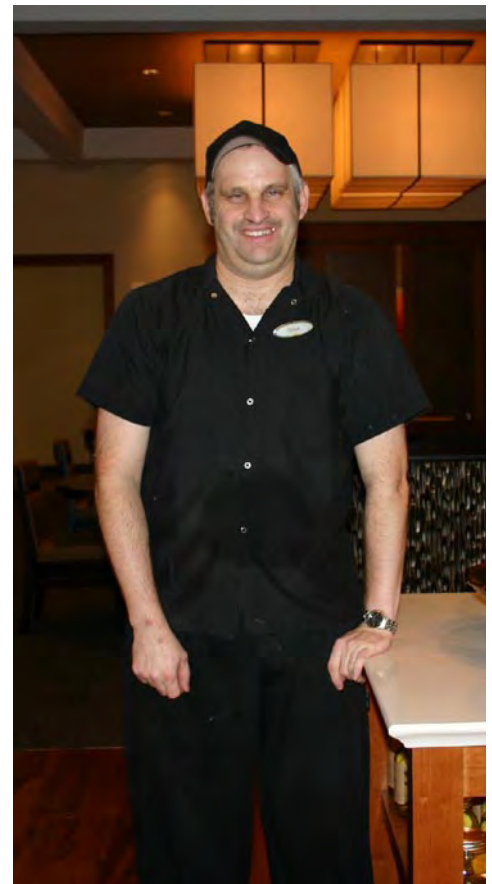
More than 45 years ago, KETCH was established to help people with disabilities live, work, and play in the greater Wichita community. For David, this means having access to a dedicated staff that helps him develop his strengths and support his weaknesses. For example, while David lives alone and has been employed at the Hyatt Wichita for more than a decade, KETCH provides a job coach who follows up on his employment and a community living trainer who makes sure David pays his bills on time and assists him with daily tasks, like going to the grocery store.

"It's all part of KETCH's mission to empower disabled individuals to achieve self-fulfillment at work, at home, and in the community," said Ron Pasmore, KETCH's President and CEO.

Services offered by KETCH include vocational training, residential services, and job placement, along with a program to teach life skills. A specially designed Program for Adaptive Care and

David hard at work at the Hyatt.

Environment uses innovative learning experiences to address the social and behavioral concerns that often accompany autism. Also, a retirement program called Encore assists persons with developmental disabilities who no longer choose to work by providing day activities based on the participants' choices. The organization's Wichita facility also offers training for subcontracting electronics, assembly, and packaging, and for the production of air filters and notebook binders.





Richmond Place, one of the KETCH residences helping to provide independent living.

KETCH is unique in that it serves people with all manner of developmental disabilities. Whether it means meeting the specific needs of someone who has autism or a person who has Down's syndrome, KETCH's staff helps provide a roadmap for life—tailored to each individual.

The organization's newest initiative is a focus on residential housing. Although KETCH has a proven track record of finding safe, affordable housing for the people it serves, this new move will take it one step farther. "We want to develop more affordable housing

SHAKING THINGS UP

For Pasmore, who has spent more than 30 years working with people with disabilities, KETCH provides a way to bring his career full circle. However, it's a far cry from the early struggles he encountered during his first job working in a state mental institution. Three decades ago, the standard of care wasn't rife with choices as it is now. Parents often fought the initial shock of learning their newborn was disabled, only to learn the expected course of action meant institutionalization. Those who bucked the system fought tooth and nail to raise their disabled children, and when they matured, it was equally difficult to find places for these young adults to live and work in their communities.

The children Pasmore worked with at the time didn't experience the benefits of play or education. The expectations, he said, were not very high.

"I saw firsthand the inhumane way we, as a society, dealt with people with intellectual disabilities. They were removed from family and community and put in a place not much different than a prison," he said. "The notion was that these people would never be able to do things for themselves, that they'd always be a burden on someone else."

Pasmore, who by admission likes to "shake things up," questioned the

system in which he worked. "I wanted to know, 'Why can't people choose what they eat?' Simple things like that," he said. It became clear to him why there was a need for an organization like KETCH. Forty-five years ago, the same notion was fueled by parents eager to forgo daily battles to ensure their children experienced life at its fullest.

Today, Pasmore finds it gratifying that some of the babies he once worked with at an institution are now adults served by KETCH. "These same guys now live in their own homes and some work for a living," he said. "How terrible it would have been if they would have stayed in that situation and been written off."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With a variety of programs ranging from job training and employment to life skills and housing, KETCH offers plenty of choices for the several hundred people it serves. So many choices, in fact, that it occasionally takes some getting used to — especially for people who were once living in an institution.

"When people come to KETCH, we give them opportunities. They don't have to fight silly little battles about having rights. I could never think of a better job than to work to help people live regular lives," he said.

for the people we serve," said Pasmore, citing a recently 20-apartment complex featuring below-market rent costs.



Dale, a client in the KETCH day program, learning valuable skills for his future.

Next, KETCH will develop a larger, 30-apartment unit by renovating existing apartments and adding newly constructed units. It's all part of the organization's efforts to help Wichitans with disabilities work, live, and play just like everyone else in their community.

Great Plains Ventures, Inc.

Back in the late 1960s, a jobless Charlie Peer took a chance and built an aerospace valve that a former employer had out for bid. With no other companies interested in making the valve, Peer landed the contract and started Aerospace Systems & Components, the first of several companies that would later become part of Great Plains Ventures, Inc.. Today, Great Plains Ventures, Inc. is a multimillion dollar holding company with three manufacturing subsidiaries—Aerospace Systems & Components, Great Plains Industries, and PowderTech, LLC.

In his first year in business, with a wife and three young children counting on him, Peer sold only a dozen of the original valves. He quadrupled the sales the following year before the aircraft industry took a nosedive, forcing him to look for yet another product to build. The agriculture market was strong and Peer's employees convinced him



"Humble beginnings for ASC & GPI; ASC now occupies over 50,000 sq. ft and GPI over 180,000 sq. ft."



The first valve developed by Charles Peer, many of them are still flying today.

there was a need for an evaporative cooling unit for tractor cabs. With only a prototype in tow, he showed up at a highly popular agricultural event and came home with orders for the units, despite the lack of a factory or materials with which to build them.

Undaunted, Peer convinced two other out-of-work engineers, Lyle Koontz and Ken Rix, to join him in his venture. While Peer contributed drive and an innovative mindset to the team, Koontz had a talent for selling product and obtaining product prices with reasonable profit margins. Rix brought organization and an eye toward accountability.

With the development of a third product, a fuel transfer pump for farm

equipment, the team decided to sell its two agricultural products under a name more suitable to that market segment. As a result Great Plains Industries was born.

Through the years, Aerospace Systems & Components continued its involvement with the aircraft industry and has expanded its list of pneumatic components for aviation. Similarly, Great Plains Industries has become an industry leader in the manufacture of fluid transfer pumps and meters. In 2003, PowderTech, which offers powder-coating as an alternative to wet paint for metals became the most recent member of the Great Plains Ventures, Inc. family.

Over time, other companies were acquired and operated by Great Plains Ventures, Inc. but the group ultimately found it performed best when it stayed with the philosophy of its founder, says Susayn Brandes, Peer's daughter, who is now president and chief executive officer. "We found out that we were not turnaround artists; we really are best at finding a need, engineering a product, filling it, and building that product."



Founder Charlie Peer credited partners Ken Rix and Lyle Koontz as well as employees for the success of the company.

All told, Great Plains Ventures' companies now exceed \$50 million in sales and employ more than 300 people, a quarter of which have been with the organization for ten years or more. It's the family atmosphere and the sense of contribution to the company's success that keeps them at the job they enjoy. "My dad was very paternalistic," says Brandes.

"For him, it was more about job creation and giving back to the community. He was not a flashy person, never drew a big salary. He was one of those people that would readily admit that, had it not been for the bank and the other employees, he would not have made it."

In fact, in a newsletter written some years before his death in August, 2008, Peer commented on how fortunate he was to have found others who had knowledge and skills that complemented his own. "I started this in 1969 with a dream and soon had a large bank debt," he wrote. "Over the years with the support of Ken Rix and Lyle Koontz, a small group of investors that joined me in

1971, and an ever-increasing number of employees, we have succeeded in growing into a group of moderate sized businesses. . . . I am firmly convinced that our profitable growth could not have occurred without the hard work and support of our many dedicated employees, the most valuable asset we have."

Peer was also emphatic about working to remove barriers to industry and strengthening the business climate. He often wrote to legislators, gave tours of the plants, and talked about the importance of small business and the detrimental affects of overregulation. Bernie Koch, lobbyist for the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce, remembered Peer in his weekly radio commentary, saying, "I wish there were more business people like him who understand the importance of involvement in community and public affairs."

And although Peer could have based Great Plains Ventures, Inc. anywhere, he was devoted to Wichita and wanted to create a stable workplace for the sake of employees

and the community as a whole. "Dad always felt like Wichita provided a pro-business environment and as a result, it's really grown and become a wonderful community," says Brandes. In addition to Peer's involvement in chamber activities and organizations like the Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas, Great Plains Ventures, Inc. has always been a contributor to the United Way of the Plains.

With a second generation at the helm, Great Plains Ventures, Inc. will continue its long tradition of conservatively exploring new markets. Among its current ventures is a focus on filling undeveloped land in its Ventures Business Park in the highly visible area of K-96 and Oliver in north Wichita.

While Brandes admittedly incorporates a different management style than her father, the company still retains the personality of its founder, a man who believed in finding and filling needs and in building a strong business to ensure the future of employees and of a community he called home.

NCRI - National Catastrophe Restoration, Inc.

In times of disaster, assistance is needed immediately. That is why National Catastrophe Restoration, Inc. (NCRI) works both quickly and effectively to repair the damage and devastation caused by natural or man-made disasters. No matter where catastrophe strikes, NCRI is ready with round-the-clock emergency restoration response teams to restore both property and peace of mind. Disaster + NCRI = Total Restoration Solution.



NCRI is proud to have their Corporate Headquarters centrally located in the Heartland.

QUALITY RESTORATION FROM THE HEARTLAND

From fires and floods to tornadoes or hurricanes, catastrophic events are never convenient. Since 1972, NCRI has worked tenaciously to ensure that their nationwide clientele receives the 24-hour emergency services that are a necessity in times of disaster and distress. Headquartered in Wichita, KS, NCRI has five offices around the country to provide immediate service to its client base. NCRI's centralized location allows their restoration teams to reach any location in the U.S. quickly and with a plethora of equipment to mitigate the damage. Associated with over 150 certified affiliates nationwide, NCRI can tackle even the largest of projects no matter where in the world they might happen. To insure that a high level of security is maintained during these projects, NCRI upholds meticulous team member standards including: methodical interviewing,

stringent background checks, and continuous drug testing. NCRI is most proud of the fact that many of its employees are hired right from the heartland itself, allowing the company to develop a crew of technicians with work ethics that far outpace any of its competitors in the industry.

NCRI works with a kaleidoscope of clients ranging from prominent colleges and universities to leading financial corporations, insurance companies, manufacturing groups and highly regarded corporate entities. Their client base is a veritable *Who's Who* of business on both the national and world stage. NCRI is also a GSA Qualified Contractor (Cage Code #C675) and is proud to call the U.S. Government one of its top clients. But even with the biggest of names on their client roster, NCRI likes to take a more personal approach to service. Each client receives a customized emergency response plan that brings a Disaster

Restoration Team to their property immediately in times of need. This plan maps out the who, what, when, where, why, and how a company will operate should their business become incapacitated. Having this type of plan in place with a leading quality restoration contractor like NCRI is a must in today's volatile business world.



NCRI Surveys the damage of a devastating apartment complex fire in Wichita.

NCRI: INNOVATORS IN THE RESTORATION INDUSTRY

As a world leader in restoration contracting, NCRI was the first woman-owned restoration company of its kind in the U.S. to be accredited by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This important accreditation assures NCRI's clients around the globe that its number one priority is providing the highest quality of service delivery on a consistent basis. Another important facet of NCRI's turn-key quality service is their Class A General Contractor status. If a property is severely damaged, the NCRI team is able to not only restore the property, but can reconstruct it through their in-house construction team.



NCRI is on the scene to assist a national banking customer during the Iowa Floods of 2008.

It is this kind of forward thinking that led Nicholas Easter, CEO, to introduce the technique of dry ice blasting to the restoration industry. He had initially seen its successful implementation in Wichita where aircraft manufacturers used the process to strip paint from the airplanes. Easter parlayed this technique into the restoration industry, using dry ice to clean off the residue left in and on property structure after a fire or other disaster. This cleaning method not only cleans the structure, but also removes odors from the damaged materials. The result is an efficient and completely green way of restoring the interior and exteriors of buildings.

Being on top of rapidly changing weather conditions is another top priority for this group and a place where technology and innovation also come into play. NCRI maintains a broadband communications network, connecting their organization to every region of the world, monitoring these weather events both day and night. As a result, NCRI is aware of weather events days before they occur and therefore is able to not only respond immediately, but be pre-staged for their customers in the affected area.



The detailed cleaning of machinery parts after a fire ravaged a large box manufacturing plant in Kansas. Thanks to NCRI's quick response, this manufacturer was able to reopen for business overnight.

Using state-of-the-art methods and techniques, the Electronics Restoration Division of NCRI quickly restores sensitive computer and electronics equipment that is so very vital to a business' daily function. After a devastating fire in the media department of Oklahoma Christian University, the faculty and administration believed that the entire inventory of computer equipment was demolished. Thanks to the unsurpassed skill of the NCRI

technicians and highly specialized cleaning equipment, most of the electronics systems were restored to perfection within a matter of days.

RESTORING PROPERTY, RESTORING PEACE OF MIND

Nicholas and Patricia Easter founded NCRI over 35 years ago based on the idea that emergency services involve not only the restoration of property, but also peace of mind. Whether clearing debris after a tornado or restoring damaged contents after a fire, NCRI's teams remain on the scene to help renew a sense of normalcy for the individuals affected.

"We stay there until the job is done, and many of our clients say they feel we're living it with them," says Patricia Easter. "During the cleanup process, we not only see devastation restored, but lives restored."

A situation that exemplifies NCRI's commitment to restoration is when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005. Having monitored the weather conditions for days prior to the storm, NCRI pre-staged crews and equipment in New Orleans well before the hurricane made landfall and was poised to help in the aftermath. In addition to restoration work, NCRI crews diligently assisted the Coast Guard in rescuing residents stranded on rooftops, as well as distributing food, water, and other supplies for FEMA.

"We're the ones who called 911 that morning and told them the levy broke," says Nicholas Easter. "You don't forget those things; they are life-changing experiences."

Previously in 1999, NCRI was on the scene when Hurricane Floyd pummeled the Bahamas. Tourism is the major industry of this beautiful island nation, and each day that the Sheraton Grand Resort was closed due to water damage and loss of power meant another blow to the Bahamian economy—time was of the essence. NCRI dispatched cargo loads of restoration equipment to the island of Nassau, as well as technicians who could restore the humidity and moisture

balance in the hotel to ward off the imminent threat of mold and bacteria growth. As a result, the Sheraton Grand Resort was ready to reopen for visitors just a few weeks later.

Patricia Easter sums it up by saying, "We take something that has been devastated and turn it into something that is like new again. Taking a situation from a state of shock to a state of glory is the most rewarding part."



NCRI responds after a major tornado rips through a cabinetry manufacturing plant.

NCRI: THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN THE RESTORATION INDUSTRY

The exceptional methods and processes of restoration used by NCRI over the past three decades continue to be a great comfort to clients the world over. The quality service, innovative techniques, and stringent security measures are what lead Joellen Moore of the United Space Alliance at Cape Canaveral to suggest that, "NCRI is the best unknown company I have ever seen."



New Orleans hospital repair work.

While it's no secret that NCRI continues to be an indomitable force against any natural or man-made disaster; for businesses and companies who need NCRI's services in the darkest of hours, NCRI is a secret that is meant to be shared.

CPS - Central Plains Steel Company

Tracing its roots in the steel industry to the 1880s, Central Plains Steel Co. (CPS) highlighted its commitment to the Heartland with the opening of its Wichita plant in 1982. Today, CPS is committed to exceeding the needs of its Midwestern customer base through a combination of state-of-the-art equipment and dedication to quality that is unmatched in the region.



Central Plains Steel Co., a division of Reliance Steel and Aluminum Co., is a full-line steel service center that processes carbon and alloy steels. It offers a wide variety of products, including metal plates, coils, bars, beams, angles, pipe, tubing, and grating. Its capabilities include slitting, cut-to-length sheet from coil, flame and plasma cutting, sawing, shearing, braking, and other first step processing, which ensure orders are cut to exact requirements every time.

CPS services original equipment manufacturers and other end users of steel throughout the Midwest region. CPS provides products and services for machine shops, aircraft maintenance, and original equipment manufacturers, such as construction, industrial, agricultural, and turf mowing equipment. The company also provides service to individuals for hobbies, home repairs, and other projects.



CPS is a member of the Steel Service Center Institute and is ISO 9001:2000 certified, which ensures quality and complete traceability of its products from the time they are manufactured at the steel mill until they are delivered to the customer.

"All of our material is protected from the weather from the time it leaves the steel mill until it's unloaded at the customer," says Gary O'Neal, Division Manager of CPS.

Materials are shipped and transported in covered railcars and trucks. Everything is warehoused in a 100,000 sq foot building, so nothing is stored outside or exposed to the elements. Materials are shipped to customers in covered trucks to ensure they receive a quality rust-free product. With its own fleet of trucks, CPS offers next-day delivery, as well as some same-day or even Saturday deliveries if required.

"Service and quality are the two main reasons people come to us," says O'Neal. "We want our customers to feel like they were taken care of by very pleasant people in a very quick and efficient manner."



CPS is involved with the local community and contributes to the United Way program every year. CPS donated materials for the renovation of the Tripodal statue on the lawn of the Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center and it donated materials used to rebuild the mezzanine level railing of the Kansas Aviation Museum, as well as other local projects.

Perhaps nothing better differentiates Central Plains Steel from the competition than its people and their overriding responsibility to their customers. From plant personnel to front office staff, equipment operators to the sales team, each employee is empowered and expected to provide the highest-quality products and services for their valued customers.

CPS has many long-term employees who have been with the company since the plant opened in 1982; others have been with the company for more than 20 years. Because of its solid reputation within the local community and throughout the region, CPS also has many loyal long-term customers.

"We are really pleased to be in Wichita," says O'Neal. "It's a great place to do business; there are great people here and it's a great community. We want to be a good corporate citizen and help in anyway possible to initiate continued growth in economic development."



Photo by Carrie Yonley

Wichita Inn & Affiliated Hotels

Frequent and occasional travelers depend on the Wichita Inn and affiliated hotels for easy access to corporations, the airport, and other key destinations around the city. Each hotel shares a common thread - a distinctive level of customer service.

What began as one hotel 25 years ago has developed into a group of seven locally owned inns and suites hotels, all serving the greater Wichita area. These include Wichita Suites, Northrock Suites, Wesley Inn, Wichita Inn West (Airport), Wichita Inn North, Wichita Inn East, and Best Western (Airport).

For travelers, locally-owned hotels such as the Wichita Inn offer many advantages. Guests enjoy accommodations and a host of amenities on par with or exceeding those of national hotel chains. The Wichita Inn and its affiliates are committed to this level of quality, but at more affordable rates.



guest has more control over his or her schedule compared to other hotel shuttles, which typically impose limited stops and a pre-set schedule.

In addition, the staff has leeway to cater to individual needs, no matter how small or how large. For example, a guest once requested a local newspaper that happened to be out of stock. The manager drove to the store, purchased a copy, and delivered it to the guest. Another example involved a traveler who contacted the airport Wichita Inn about availability, but the hotel was full that night. The hotel's shuttle driver offered to pick him up at the airport and drive him to a hotel with availability 20 miles away. Most hotels wouldn't go to that level of effort to assist a stranded traveler.

the Wichita Inn group is increasing its commitment to guest services. Travelers recognize the difference and return again and again.

For those who plan an extended stay or prefer to cook their own meals, Wichita Suites offer spacious accommodations with full kitchens. For others who desire more traditional accommodations, the Wichita Inns and Best Western offer well-appointed rooms with the added benefits of a microwave and small refrigerator.

All of the properties provide the key conveniences of wireless Internet service, flat screen televisions, DVD players, movie rentals in the lobby, and laundry valet service, among other amenities. Wichita Suites and Northrock Suites also offer ATMs. Security and safety are paramount at each of the hotels. Top-level surveillance systems and secure entrances contribute to the hotel group's 25 years of safety excellence.



REDEFINING CUSTOMER SERVICE

Another benefit of local ownership is the flexibility given to each hotel to provide personal attention to guests. In an age when choices abound, particularly in the hospitality sector, "customized" customer service makes a difference.

Some hotels in the group offer a complimentary shuttle to and from restaurants, shopping and businesses – all on the guest's timetable, not the hotel's. Using this service, each

AMENITIES

Travelers today want and expect more conveniences and services than ever before. While many of the major hotels are paring down breakfasts and other amenities to save money,



SEASONED PERSONNEL AND QUALITY ASSURANCES

A key to the high level of customer service is the longevity of the managers and staff; each has an average of 20 or more years dedicated to this hotel group. They get to know the customers and their needs. They also have the experience and insight to know when it is appropriate to go above and beyond normal procedures. The guests benefit because they aren't continually dealing with trainees.



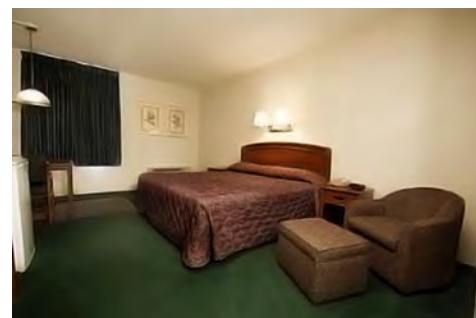
The Wichita Inn and affiliated hotels offer a consistent level of quality at each property. They do this by renovating the buildings often to provide guests with the newest, cleanest, and best accommodations within an affordable price range. In addition, staff members follow strict quality assurance procedures that are subject to random and rigorous inspections.

All of these efforts draw guests who are traveling for a variety of reasons – to conduct business with the aircraft industry, the air force, or various companies around Wichita; attend major sporting events; enjoy leisure activities; or visit family and friends in the Wichita area. Whatever brings you to Wichita, the Wichita Inn and affiliated hotels will make your stay comfortable and stress-free.



WICHITA INN NORTH, 3741 N. ROCK ROAD

With 97 spacious rooms, the Wichita Inn North offers a host of amenities and easy access to Raytheon, Koch Industries, and Wichita State University. Guests enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast, in-room refrigerator and microwave, and free local calls. The hotel is near Willowbend Golf Course, Northrock 14 Movie Theater, and Northrock Lanes Bowling, as well as restaurants that include On the Border, Ryan's, Hotstone Korean Grill, and Carlos O'Kelley's.





**WICHITA INN WEST (AIRPORT),
6335 W. KELLOGG DRIVE**

Travelers appreciate the convenience of this 80-room hotel, which is located just ¼ mile from



Wichita Airport. Frequent guests typically include airline personnel and people doing business with the airport, as well as the general public. The hotel also offers easy access to Interstate 235. Guests enjoy a daily continental breakfast, 32-inch television, refrigerator, and microwave, among other amenities.



**WICHITA INN EAST,
8220 E. KELLOGG DRIVE**

Wichita Inn East is a 93-room property located near Interstates 35 and 135, as well as McConnell Air Force Base. Some guests stay as long as three weeks while doing business with the nearby aircraft companies or the military. The hotel is also close to Town East Square, a regional mall with four department stores and 130 specialty shops.



**WICHITA SUITES,
5211 E. KELLOGG DRIVE**

Wichita Suites offers the ultimate combination of comfort, style and convenience. Located on the east



side of Wichita convenient to Boeing, the four-story hotel consists of 88 attractively decorated suites, including studios, one bedrooms, and two bedrooms with full kitchens. Guests can enjoy a complimentary breakfast buffet, evening social hour, outdoor swimming pool, guest laundry, and many other amenities. The well-known Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant is adjacent to the hotel.





**BEST WESTERN AIRPORT INN AND
CONFERENCE CENTER,
6815 W. KELLOGG DRIVE**



The Best Western offers something for everyone – meeting and banquet facilities, First Flight Restaurant, Wright Brothers Lounge, business center, indoor pool and whirlpool, on-site fitness center, and a spacious



**WESLEY INN,
3343 E. CENTRAL
AVENUE**

The 80-room Wesley Inn is conveniently located across from Wesley Medical Center, close to the Henry Levitt Arena, Wichita State University, Century II Convention Center, and

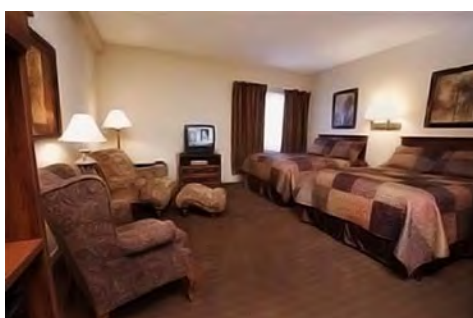
Downtown Wichita. Amenities include a complimentary continental breakfast, business center, in-room refrigerator and microwave, and a discount to a nearby fitness facility. Small pets are permitted for a surcharge. Local restaurants include Bella Luna Café, Chipotle, Great Wall and Panera Bread.



17,000-square foot indoor recreation area with a pool and ping pong tables, as well as other activities. Located near Wichita's Mid-Continent Airport, the hotel features soundproofing in each of its 130 rooms.

**NORTHROCK SUITES,
7856 E. 36TH STREET NORTH**

A stunning collection of original art is just one of the many features of this 98-suite hotel. Travelers can choose from a studio, one-bedroom, or two-bedroom suite. Amenities include an indoor/outdoor pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center, and laundry facilities. Guests are also invited to partake in the complimentary hot buffet breakfast and evening social hour.



Allen Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.

Forward-thinking and innovative aren't the first words that pop into people's minds when describing an accounting firm. Yet Wichita-based CPA and advisory firm Allen Gibbs & Houlik, L.C. (AGH) has thrived on doing the unexpected, forging into areas not typically associated with CPAs, and building a business based on client needs, not industry predictions.

"If you take good care of your clients and help make them successful, everything else takes care of itself," says AGH chief executive Paul Allen. It's a philosophy that's worked for AGH, which has become one of the Midwest's largest CPA and advisory firms through client growth, rather than by acquiring CPA firms.

"Conventional wisdom" wouldn't have predicted AGH's success. Founded in 1938 as Moberly & West and joining a national firm in 1973, AGH's owners bucked industry consolidation trends, pulling away from the national CPA firm in 1987.



Firm leaders Paul Allen, Don Glenn, Steve Houlik, and Gary Gibbs.

They recognized that many Kansas businesses could be better served by a locally owned firm focused on "middle-market" organizations – the closely held and family-owned businesses that make up the majority of this region's leading companies. AGH has also built a large public sector practice and delivers specialized services to some of the area's largest employers.

The result is a hybrid organization Allen characterizes as an advisory firm built on the foundation of a CPA firm. Delivering the rigorous financial expertise of one of the largest tax

and audit teams in the state and complemented by specialized teams in areas ranging from retirement plan services, technology consulting, corporate finance, human resources and outsourcing to organizational development and family business services, the glue holding the organization together is its focus on serving clients as trusted advisors. Two affiliated companies, AGH Wealth Advisors and Insight Wealth Strategies, deliver wealth management services to clients based on a financial planning model.

"Our job goes beyond finishing the audit or the tax return right and on time. The real goal is to help the client become more profitable – to help them build and preserve their wealth," says Allen. AGH's unexpectedly wide range of professionals includes attorneys, certified fraud examiners, construction engineers, senior human resource professionals, certified pension consultants, certified business appraisers, certified system engineers, certified payroll professionals, and certified financial planners. Delivering depth as well as breadth, AGH staff specializations include the construction, manufacturing, public sector, flour milling, financial services, and biofuels industries.

AGH's non-traditional path has fueled its growth into an unusual organization: offering the specializations and staff expertise typically found in larger companies combined with the personal service of a Kansas-based and Kansas-owned firm. Inventing a new model for business, AGH's unique approach has delivered success for its clients.



AGH staffers work hard and play hard. Corporate Challenge team members celebrate a successful competition.



Photo by Randa Bishop

Hinkle Elkouri

Founded in 1987, Hinkle Elkouri has developed a regional and national presence by serving a diverse client base. The firm represents private and publicly held business entities, as well as individuals in need of estate planning, counsel on tax issues, litigation, and other legal matters. The attorneys at Hinkle Elkouri pride themselves on an attitude of involvement in the concerns of their clients, and a willingness to explore every legal option in order to arrive at a satisfactory outcome—as well as a firm belief in community involvement.



A TEAM APPROACH

With more than 40 attorneys and two Wichita locations, Hinkle Elkouri is a River City icon. The firm maintains a business-based planning, transaction, and litigation practice and incorporates a support staff of more than 70 persons, including a number of full-time legal assistants and accountants.

“We try to approach each issue, whether that of an individual, large corporation, or small family-owned business, by becoming part of their team,” says attorney Mitch Herren, the firm’s managing member. “Each client has different needs. We’ve learned that if we view the situation from the client’s perspective instead of giving a ‘legal cookie cutter’ response, we’ll be much more successful.”



With experience in multiple practice areas that are constantly reshaped by new legislation, regulations and rulings, Hinkle Elkouri has set itself apart. While these practice areas present unique legal challenges, they’re also some of the reasons industry leaders nationwide, as well as the individual down the street, seek legal counsel at Hinkle Elkouri.

“You can go to the Internet and get documents or do-it-yourself, but what that strategy doesn’t offer you is the perspective of a lawyer who can become part of your team,” says Herren. “We think strategically with our clients rather than simply providing a legal document.”

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Because of its strong involvement in economic development projects and public service, Hinkle Elkouri demonstrates a significant commitment to the community.

Many of the firm’s attorneys serve on the boards of civic and not-for-profit groups, participate in fraternal associations, and volunteer their time in support of community organizations. The firm also lends financial support to a variety of community organizations and activities, says Herren, who added that Hinkle Elkouri has been recognized by the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce and other organizations for being a good corporate citizen.



“Our deep involvement is important because we aren’t here just to make money. What’s important are the great relationships we have,” says Eric Namee, attorney and certified public accountant, who is personally active at Wichita State University and numerous local and national charities.

In addition, the firm is a sponsor of the Hinkle Elkouri Tax Procedure Award at the University of Kansas, School of Law and the John F. Kuether Memorial Faculty Award at Washburn University School of Law. Hinkle Elkouri also sponsors the Preferred Health Systems Wichita Open, as well as the Via Christi Foundation and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society golf tournaments. The firm regularly contributes to the American Heart Association, Junior Achievement, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and many other local organizations.



multi-billion dollar estates to small family business estates, as well as companies.

“We employ sophisticated techniques for passing businesses from one generation to the next or to key employees,” says Peare, who is a member of the firm’s executive committee. “It’s a very emotional issue for those involved, and there are often financial limitations or goals that make it challenging.”

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS, PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Wichita is an excellent community for legal professionals who want to practice in a family

friendly environment, yet be part of a challenging and dynamic practice, says Eric Namee, attorney and certified public accountant.

“At Hinkle Elkouri we have the highest level of law practice, like that found in a major metro area,” says Namee, who was one of the founders of the firm. “Yet, we are able to keep the personable, close-knit feeling of a medium-size city—a real attraction for those who want to join our firm.”

The firm’s Midwest location allows them to bring in top-quality people. “We give them an opportunity to grow. We don’t have any ceilings,” says Namee, who has seen the firm grow as its members “created something from nothing.” The practice area he heads “now represents hundreds and hundreds of employers and individuals nationwide.” The firm itself represents thousands of clients.



While Hinkle Elkouri continues to grow at a steady pace, it also focuses on continuing its legacy of excellence. “We are entrepreneurial, energetic and forward thinking, like so many quality businesses in Wichita,” says Namee. “That entrepreneurial spirit has been the key to our success.”



A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

When Hinkle Elkouri was founded in 1987, it was primarily a taxation, tax litigation, business, and real estate transactional firm. Through the years, it has grown to include business and commercial litigation, estate planning, employee benefits, employment law, product liability, and corporate matters such as mergers and acquisitions and securities.

Today, the dedication, passion, and proven experience of Hinkle Elkouri continue to attract companies nationwide, who turn to the firm to protect their interests and prepare them for the future.

Hinkle Elkouri’s estate planning department, for example, has experienced tremendous growth. In fact, says attorney Dan Peare, it is now the largest revenue department in the law firm, representing everything from



iSi Environmental Services

A true partner to Kansas business is iSi Environmental Services. Over the past two decades, iSi has played a key role in managing environmental and safety liabilities for its clients, earning local and national recognition for its accomplishments.

iSi is a full-service environmental firm headquartered in Wichita. iSi's services include property transaction due diligence, assessing indoor air quality, asbestos abatement, environmental permitting, safety training, environmental management systems, safety audits, industrial cleaning, hazardous waste management, and sustainability assessments.



An iSi employee performs environmental testing.

SUCCESS IS IN OUR PEOPLE

Due to the diverse talents of its staff, iSi has grown to one of the largest environmental firms in the Midwest. "The key to our success has been our people and their desire to understand our clients' needs," says President Karma Mason. "We work hard at maintaining knowledge of requirements and understanding the needs of our clients."

iSi has a full range of expertise including engineers, geologists, biologists, an industrial hygienist and chemist, and safety professionals. Certifications include professional engineering, professional geology, safety, industrial hygiene, asbestos, lead, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and environmental auditing.



HISTORY

Karma and Gary Mason founded iSi in 1990. The couple started the business in their dining room with a Commodore computer, fax machine, no business plan, and one client, Moore Business Forms in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Early on, Gary and Karma saw the need for environmental compliance for area companies and developed a relationship with Boeing Commercial Airplane Company in Wichita. This relationship brought the firm immediate success, and iSi expanded its knowledge of the manufacturing sector, widening the gap between iSi and its competition. In 2008, *Inc. Magazine* recognized iSi as one of the fastest growing environmental firms, ranked 18th in the nation.



iSi provides environmental, health and safety training in their training center.

iSi Environmental Services' corporate headquarters.

TURNKEY SERVICES

As businesses move to focus on their core strengths, they look for partners to manage their environmental and safety liabilities. iSi is that partner, and provides four primary services to its clients.

➡ **For compliance services:** this partnership can range from overseeing compliance programs, to a complete engagement for on-site management.

➡ **For training services:** this may include outsourcing all environmental and safety training to iSi.

➡ **For waste management:** iSi can daily manage all containers at a company from the point waste is generated to the point it is recycled or disposed.

➡ **For hazardous cleaning or industrial cleaning:** iSi can turnkey these services through a maintenance contract.

Gary Mason, CEO of iSi states, "Over the years, our management team has participated in numerous strategic planning sessions; each and every time, we have concluded that our ability to be a high quality partner has been and will continue to be the key to our success."



Advanced Orthopaedic Associates

Established in 1993, Advanced Orthopaedic Associates, P.A. (AOA) is the premier orthopaedic group in Wichita. AOA's excellent reputation for exceptional orthopedic care is made possible by its highly respected orthopaedic surgeons. These accomplished surgeons provide their patients comprehensive, subspecialty orthopaedic care. All are licensed by the Kansas Board of Healing Arts and certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.



AOA surgeons working at KSRC.

Each orthopaedist is fellowship trained in a specific orthopaedic subspecialty enabling him or her to deliver the highly specialized care which is the hallmark of his or her practice. These subspecialties include: sports medicine and arthroscopic surgery; upper extremity surgery including shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand and microvascular surgery; lower extremity surgery including hip, knee, foot and ankle; total joint reconstruction; pediatric orthopaedics and spine deformities. AOA has the only orthopedic surgeons in the area who are board certified in Orthopaedic Sports Medicine. AOA's sports medicine sub-specialists are the exclusive orthopaedists for the area professional sports teams including the Wichita Thunder, the Wichita Wild and the Wichita Wingnuts. Through their affiliation with Via Christi Sports



The Physicians of Advanced Orthopaedic Associates. Pictured from left to right: (top) Dr. Pappademos, Dr. Fanning, Dr. Prohaska, Dr. Jansson (bottom) Dr. Hearon, Dr. Shields, Dr. Morris, Dr. Klaumann, Dr. Gwyn

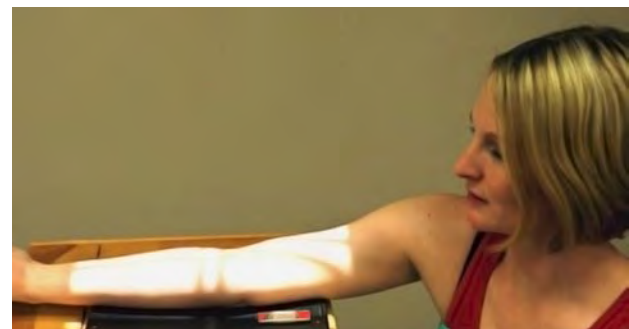
Medicine, AOA surgeons are also the team orthopaedists for many local college and high school teams including the Wichita State University Shockers, the Newman Jets and the Butler County Grizzlies.

AOA's commitment to excellent orthopaedic care is evident in its dedication to educating and training the next generation of health care providers. AOA surgeons serve as adjunct clinical professors at the Kansas University (KU) School of Medicine in Wichita. In their capacity as volunteer faculty members, they mentor local physical therapists, physician assistants, medical students and family practice residents. AOA surgeons instruct KU orthopaedic surgery residents in the latest surgical techniques using training models in our in-office Arthroscopy Skills Lab and the media available in our Orthopaedic Education Resource Center. AOA also supports the efforts of its surgeons to share their expertise by helping to educate foreign orthopaedists through overseas visits.



AOA surgeons have sub-specialty board certification.

AOA offers a full range of in-office orthopaedic services. These services include consultation, casting and splinting, orthotics, computerized radiography, injections, minor surgical procedures and physical therapy. Many surgical procedures and advanced diagnostic tests, such as



On-site radiology facilities are convenient for AOA patients.

MRI evaluations, are performed at the Kansas Surgery and Recovery Center (KSRC), the foremost orthopaedic surgery hospital in Kansas, which is conveniently located adjacent to the AOA office in the Webb Road Medical Plaza.

At AOA, world-class subspecialty orthopaedic care is available right here in Wichita. Our well-trained and well-respected staff is not only committed to providing excellent, state-of-the-art patient care, but also to supporting local community programs and to educating and training future health care professionals. AOA's tradition of excellence is well recognized and its reputation as the premier orthopaedic group in Wichita is well earned.

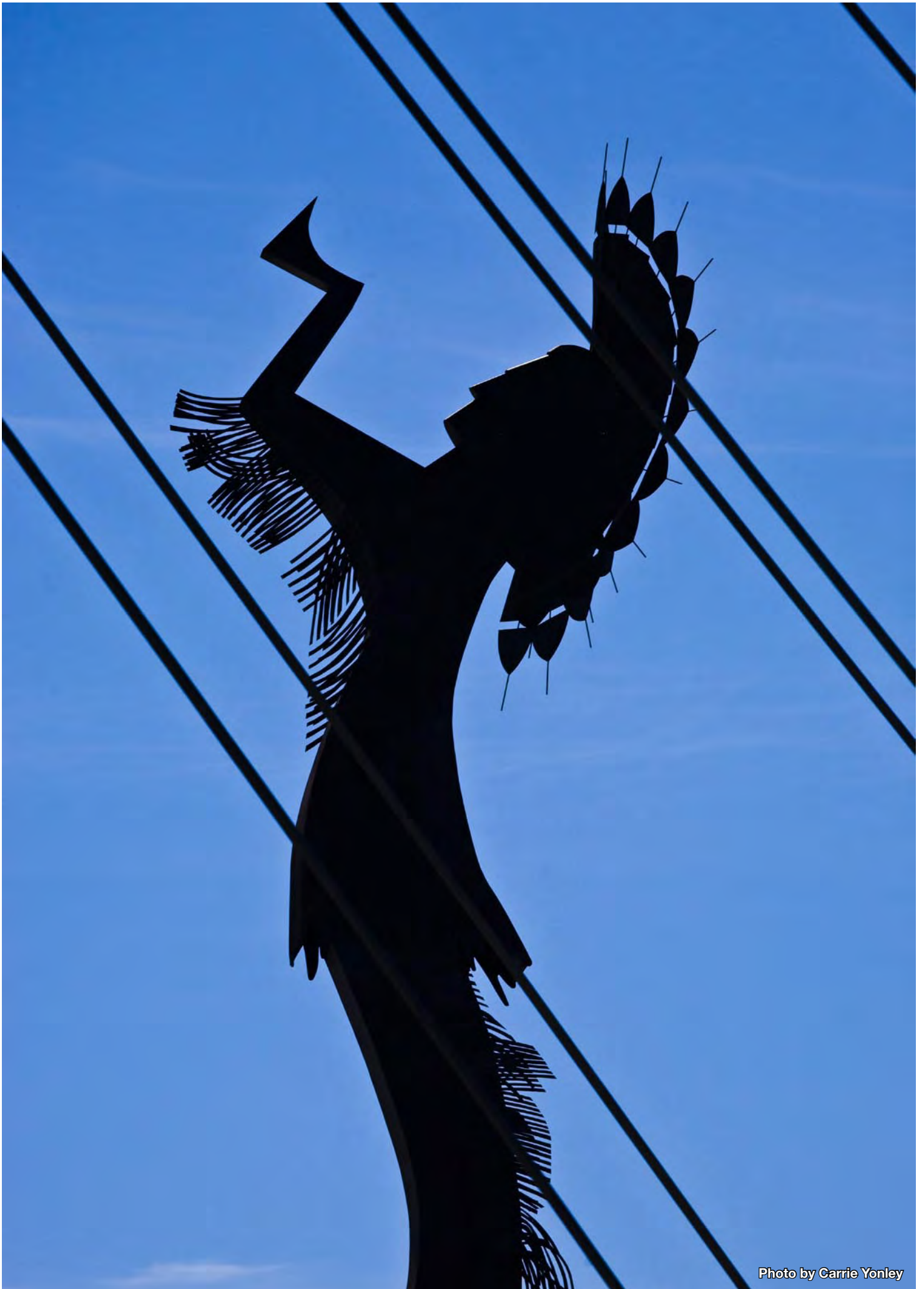


Photo by Carrie Yonley

Preferred Health Systems

Leadership in a changing healthcare landscape isn't about imposing a new idea from above; it's about creating an alliance among all participants and together pursuing creative approaches toward the best and broadest possible coverage at the lowest possible price for members and employers alike.

As a managed care insurance provider, Preferred Health Systems actively pursues new opportunities to maximize health care coverage, provide meaningful health care choices, and promote healthy communities, all while holding down climbing costs. The well-being of 195,000 Kansans in 105 counties is the primary mission of this organization and its owning company, the not-for-profit Via Christi Health System. Preferred Health Systems' Board of Directors includes area physicians, hospital administrators, and business leaders, whose professional insight and commitment to the Wichita community inform their vision for comprehensive health care.

This vision resulted in recognition from the Wichita Chamber of Commerce as their 2009 "Over the Years" award winner. Preferred Health Systems received this nod from the Chamber for exhibiting a long-standing performance as good business citizens and major contributors to Wichita's economic well-being.

At Preferred Health Systems, their health care insurance plans work as hard as you do, helping to control costs, maximizing your health care coverage, and providing your family with the choices you deserve. Preferred Health Systems provides Kansas residents with outstanding health care options and one of the state's largest networks of providers.

Best of all, as a Kansas company, they are able to provide the friendly, local service you expect from a health care partner. They focus on serving Kansans because Kansas is their home. And like a good neighbor, they are always available to help when you need them.



Driven by the values of integrity, commitment and excellence, the vision of Preferred Health Systems is: Innovation and excellence in health plans and insurance products to promote healthy communities.

HEALTH PLANS THAT WORK

Through incentive programs like Vitality and Preferred REWARDS, Preferred Health Systems partners directly with its members to promote wellness through education, prevention, fitness, and a healthy lifestyle. Through a combination of status levels and Vitality Bucks™, Vitality participants can earn rewards such as discounts on travel packages, airline miles, and fitness club memberships, as well as products from popular retailers including iTunes, Apple, Cuisinart, and Sony.

Preferred REWARDS is offered to all members through participating vendors; discounts encourage members to take advantage of fitness center memberships and equipment, vision and hearing treatments and products, complementary and alternative therapies, a stop-smoking clinic, and lifestyle benefits including travel, pool and patio products, and meal preparation.



Hundreds of Preferred Health Systems employees and their families attend the 12-week Financial Peace @ Work program.



There's always a party on the 17th green at the Crestview Country Club during the Preferred Health Systems Wichita Open.

COMMUNITY

Community is at the heart of Preferred Health Systems. And at the heart of community are people. Preferred Health Systems has long been recognized as a leader within



the community for supporting athletic competition from high schools to Wichita State University. Helping those in need has also been a priority as employees have sacrificed their time and finances to support Via Christi's Children's Miracle Network, the United Way, and Envision, to name a few.

As a sponsor for one of the state's largest events, the Preferred Health Systems Wichita Open plays host to some of golf's best talent. Since 2002, Preferred Health Systems has been involved with the PGA Nationwide Tour event, with proceeds donated to local charity. Building on the philosophy of supporting the community, the Preferred Health Systems Wichita Open was able to give \$100,000 to local non-profits in 2008. And with a commitment to the event through 2012, Preferred Health Systems is excited to see how the event will continue to positively impact the community.

VIA CHRISTI HEALTH SYSTEM

Preferred Health Systems offers members the benefits of a strong

Via Christi Regional Medical Center offers leading-edge technologies in its Kansas hospitals, including a CyberKnife® Center.

affiliation with the Via Christi Health System, the largest provider of health services in the state, whose antecedent ministries have been serving Kansans for more than 100 years.

In recent years, Via Christi Regional Medical Center has been recognized repeatedly for clinical excellence by HealthGrades, an independent reviewer of hospital quality. It is the only Kansas hospital — and one of only 150 hospitals of the nation's nearly 5,000 non-federal hospitals — to receive HealthGrades' Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence three years in a row. "It's reaffirming to make the list of the nation's top-performing hospitals — particularly so to have made that list for three years in a row," said Michalene Maringer, president and chief executive officer for the Via Christi Wichita Health Network. "It recognizes our day-to-day commitment to attaining and sustaining quality outcomes for patients and their families."

Preferred Health Systems believes that everyone — insurers, health care providers, employers, and members — can be part of a solution that makes good health care available for all in today's health care environment.

CNH - Wichita

From improvements to roads and bridges to the building of new schools and hospitals to the management of farms and fields, the equipment made at CNH is helping people make the world a better place.

CNH was formed in 1999 through the merger of Case Corporation and New Holland NV, two companies noted for innovation. While Case's history dates back to the mid-1800s, when J.I. Case developed a thresher for agriculture and a steam engine used in road construction, New Holland's reputation as an agricultural pioneer began when the company introduced a portable feed mill in the late 1800s.

Today, CNH is part of Fiat Group, Italy's largest industrial company. Over the years a number of agricultural and construction machinery makers and brands entered the Group. These included brands such as Ford, which captured the majority of the farm tractor market by 1920; International Harvester, which was the largest agricultural equipment company for much of the 20th century and was founded by the inventor of the first grain reaper, and Fiat, which made a name for itself with an Italian-made tractor; as well as Braud and Leon Claeys, two names that have long been synonymous with quality harvesting equipment.



J.I. Case from the past into the future.

While agriculture accounts for the largest segment of CNH's worldwide operations, the Wichita plant is uniquely focused on two types of equipment commonly used in construction: skid steer loaders and compact track loaders. From design and engineering to frame and engine assembly to customizing and final detailing, every aspect of these machines is managed here.

The Wichita operation traces its history back to 1968 when J.I. Case acquired Davis Manufacturing, which

produced a line of trenching machines and was located in central Wichita. In 1974, Case opened its current plant on Hoover Road and a decade later moved all of its local production to the site. Production of Case skid steers began here in 1987 and within five

years, the plant had become a primary global resource for the equipment.

In 2001, New Holland skid steer loader production was relocated from Pennsylvania to the Wichita site, making it the sole worldwide producer for the machines.

At the time of the New Holland move, CNH had already produced its 100,000th Case 1800 Series Skid Steer Loader. Six years later, the company's 200,000th New Holland skid steer loader would roll off the line. Since then, the company has added compact track loader models to its lineup.

From agriculture and industrial to demolition and road construction, to landscaping and foundries, the multitude of applications for CNH skid steers and track loaders are enhanced by a wide variety of interchangeable attachments including augers, backhoes, dozer blades, bale handlers, brooms and sweepers, buckets for every material and weight, mowers and graders, forks and trenchers, tree spades, and more.

In addition to producing versatile equipment, CNH provides top-notch service through its global network of manufacturing sites, research and development centers, dealers, parts, and factory-trained technicians. The company's products retail in 160 countries through more than 11,000 dealers and distributors. Some 15



Fiat 1919 tractor.



Early New Holland tractors were used to help farmers to be more productive in agricultural industry.

product lines and 90 models comprise the Case Construction Equipment lineup, while New Holland's products include 13 families and 80 different models.



Current New Holland Compact Track Loader.

To ensure quality throughout such a wide range of customizable products, CNH employs more than 600 people in Wichita with a broad range of skills and expertise. Together, they dedicate

themselves to world-class excellence by participating in the World Class Manufacturing process, a globally recognized rating system designed to involve employees in initiatives to improve performance, eliminate losses, and enhance standards throughout the plant's operations. The plant has already received much recognition for its attention to excellence, having been awarded a 10-year contract from the United States Army to produce thousands of units to be used overseas for road maintenance, residential and infrastructure reconstruction, repairs to public buildings, and material handling within the military compound.

CNH impacts the local economy as well by counting on more than three dozen companies in Wichita and Kansas for its parts and supplies and by welcoming visitors from around the world with tours of its operations.



In addition, we financially support our employees to attend seven local colleges and universities.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Beyond the working day, CNH and its employees are dedicated to making their community stronger by providing monetary and hands-on support for organizations such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters and United Way of the Plains. For the Salvation Army, CNH annually organizes a Plant Bike Challenge to obtain funds to purchase bicycles for those who cannot afford them. In 2008, with a matching contribution for the corporation, employees raised \$10,640 for this cause alone.

At the popular Wichita River Festival, CNH shows up in force, coordinating more than 200 volunteers and 10 activities for the Buckaroo & Buckarette Rodeo. Besides being an evening of family fun for community members, the rodeo allows CNH employees, their families, and other volunteer groups a chance to participate in the city's largest event. CNH also hosts the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department's child



Current Case Compact Track Loader.

identification program at the festival and annually supports their Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. And when disaster strikes, the Wichita group mirrors its corporation's global heritage of giving by donating equipment and assisting with cleanup efforts for people in stricken areas.

CNH Wichita and its people know that whether they are on the job or in the community, they are part of a group of talented, community-minded people whose heritage has always been to make a big impact on the world.

Early Case Uni-loader unit.

The Hotel at Old Town

Anyone traveling to Wichita for business or pleasure will find The Hotel at Old Town to be a unique experience. Set in an historic building that was once used as a warehouse in the heart of vibrant Old Town, the hotel is a destination all in itself.

In an era where chain hotels are the norm, The Hotel at Old Town offers the best of new and old—115 spacious suites with fully-equipped kitchens all located in a landmark building with a distinctly Victorian flair. In addition to the various onsite amenities at the hotel, guests have access to 10,000 square feet of meeting space at the Old Town Banquet Hall, located across the street. The hotel is a popular place to hold meetings because of its central location in the revitalized Old Town district that offers shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and movies—all within walking distance.



The hotel offers a variety of spacious studio and one-bedroom suites, each with a décor reminiscent of the early 1900s. Other guest amenities include a fitness facility, complimentary laundry facilities, and same-day dry cleaning service.

A UNIQUE HISTORY

Built in 1906, the four-story Hotel at Old Town once served as a busy warehouse facility for the highly successful Keen Kutter brand of products. Designed by the firm of Mauran, Russell, and Garden, the warehouse employed state-of-the-art construction and was known as not only the strongest building in Wichita, but also the largest warehouse in the world. The building also was identical in design to the famous Cupples Building located in St. Louis. The Keen Kutter warehouse was virtually fireproof, with water-tight floors and corbelled walls that slowed air currents. Additionally, a cupola on the roof housed 20,000 gallons of water, ready to douse any fire on the premises.

Nearly a century later, local hotelier Jack DeBoer, founder of the Residence Inn and other suite hotels, purchased the Keen Kutter warehouse with the idea of creating a truly unique hospitality experience. What others saw as a time-worn structure DeBoer saw as a blank canvas for something

wonderful, and so he closely managed a major renovation and restoration of the warehouse. Thanks to DeBoer's vision, The Hotel at Old Town opened for business in 1999, giving the Keen Kutter building a second life.

In celebration of its illustrious history, The Hotel at Old Town conducted a major search for Keen Kutter brand tools, silverware, dishes, and sporting goods, which resulted in the largest authentic collection ever assembled. These items are displayed on each floor in museum-quality cases adjacent to magnificent photos of early Wichita. The collection serves as a lasting tribute to the hotel's history.

What was once the site of a bustling industry is now the relaxing and amenity-rich destination for business trips or vacation getaways. In all, The Hotel at Old Town offers the best in hospitality within a truly unique setting.

STYLE AND CONVENIENCE

Upon arrival, guests are welcomed into a stunning four-story, naturally lit atrium, complete with a fountain and Victorian-era furnishings. A complimentary hot breakfast buffet is offered here each morning. Just off the atrium, guests relax in the Keen Kutter Piano Bar, which hosts entertainers on most evenings.





Photo by Randa Bishop

Kansas Heart Hospital

Founded on the principle of patient-focused health care, the Kansas Heart Hospital unites human resources and technological advances for a single purpose: to provide each and every patient the best possible outcome.

From education and prevention through diagnosis, treatment, and cardiac rehabilitation, Kansas Heart Hospital's physician specialists have treated tens of thousands of patients, one patient at a time. Simply put, Gregory F. Duick, MD, Chairman and founding cardiologist of the Kansas Heart Hospital, states, "At Kansas Heart Hospital, we believe in excellence beyond competence and provide a compassionate medical care environment which places the patient first."

CHANGING MEDICAL LANDSCAPE

The 1990s saw the development of corporate healthcare (ie., managed care) invade the Midwest which, in turn, rapidly and decidedly changed the medical hospital landscape forever. Cost containment, vertical integration of delivery services, reduced reimbursement to hospitals, and the advent of hospital-employed physicians all demanded a new way of providing care to patients. "There was a lot of consolidation in the medical community which, inadvertently, was marginalizing physicians' importance, as well as physicians' traditional input into hospital decisions, priorities, and nursing staff

which led, ultimately, to both a perception of decreased quality of patient care and diminished employee morale," comments Dr. Duick.

At the same time, physicians and their nursing healthcare partners were shouldering more and more paper work, spending less time with patients, and there were fewer RNs to care for patients. Dr. Duick recalls, "Nurses and doctors alike were frustrated with these mega-changes and general negativism in their hospitals."

For cardiovascular specialists and surgeons, the time had arrived to take a bold move. The ability to change existing institutions was formidable, if not impossible, and to accept managed care and its negative impact on the practice of cardiovascular medicine and surgery was unacceptable. A vision in which patient-centered nursing surrounded by cardiac physician specialists, supported by the latest technology in an independent hospital facility was the natural choice. The solution was to build one's own heart hospital.

On February 15th, 1999, the Kansas Heart Hospital opened its doors and admitted its first patient from Garden City, Kansas. Since that time, the Kansas Heart Hospital has continued to serve and treat patients throughout the state of Kansas and from northern Oklahoma.

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Since its beginnings in 1999, the Kansas Heart Hospital has become a premier destination for cardiac care. For the better part of its existence, the Kansas Heart Hospital has performed the highest volume of open-heart surgeries in the state of Kansas and has received, on multiple occasions, the designation as the Best Cardiac Surgery, Heart Valve Surgery, and Peripheral Vascular Surgery recognition award for the state of Kansas by a nationally recognized healthcare rating agency. All cardiologists and vascular and cardiac-thoracic surgeons are board certified. Three full-time anesthesiologists practice exclusively

at Kansas Heart Hospital. Additionally, 75-plus board certified specialists consult and assist with patient care at the hospital.

The Kansas Heart Hospital is the only hospital in the states of Kansas and Oklahoma which mandates fixed nursing ratios: in ICU, there is one nurse for two patients; in the inpatient Telemetry unit, there is one nurse for four patients; and in the short-stay or One-Day Care Center unit, there is one nurse for three patients. Streamlined administration is the hallmark of efficiency at the Kansas Heart Hospital. Dr. Duick credits "an understanding of spending human capital and resources at the bedside by hiring RNs rather than supervisors and intermediary administrators," supporting the concept of personal care. Said differently, all managers or supervisors are working

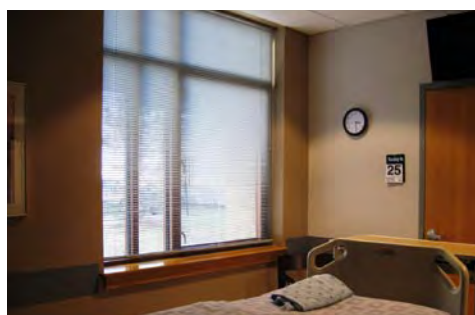


managers who work with and alongside their employees. Kansas Heart Hospital managers understand the issues, problems, and potential solutions to problems as they arise "on-line" on the nursing floor. All managers, however, also have immediate access to the hospital's Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Chief Operating Officer (COO), and

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), which facilitates effective communication and problem solving for nurses and administration alike. By charter, the CEO at the Kansas Heart Hospital must be a physician, whereas traditionally, both the CFO and COO are non-physician administrators. This fluid structure has served the Kansas Heart Hospital well over the past number of years, likely accounting for both a high employee retention rate and exceptional patient satisfaction surveys.

PATIENT-CENTERED CULTURE

At Kansas Heart Hospital, patient care is immersed in a deeper meaning of patient culture which starts at the admission office, continues throughout the hospital, and culminates with dismissal. "When I truly thought about



what was important in taking care of patients, I felt it centered on the individuals who spent the most time with their patients. In a hospital, that should be an RN. Thus, I felt it was important to develop a paradigm which fostered as much time as possible for nurses to spend with their patients and their families in order to provide the best continuity of care," notes Dr. Duick. Thus, the introduction of standard 12-hour shifts throughout the hospital was developed, as well as fixed nursing ratios in order to maximize nursing exposure to both the patient and their family. In order to further enhance quality and patient care, only cardiovascular nurses, rather than nurse aides or nurse technicians, are hired by the hospital to staff the ICU, Telemetry in-patient unit, and the One-Day Care center. Dr. Duick proudly states, "This commitment to nursing has been the cornerstone of the Kansas Heart Hospital and a signature affirmation of our cardiovascular culture."

Although nursing is at the center of the cardiovascular culture at Kansas Heart Hospital, it is by no means an oasis. Each and every employee, each and every healthcare provider, from x-ray technicians to the laboratory and



Dr. Gregory Duick, Chairman of the Board; Steve Smith, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Thomas Ashcom, Chief Executive Officer; and Lynn Jeane, Chief Operating Officer.

pharmacy staff, as well as all other departments in the hospital, take ownership and pride in fulfilling their job commitment and patient stewardship. It is unique and it is palpable.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

On May 4th, 2007, Via Christi Regional Medical Center, the largest non-for-profit hospital in the state of Kansas, purchased a 49 percent partnership interest in the Kansas Heart Hospital, recognizing the importance of cardiovascular care for their patients and acknowledging the cultural and professional success of the Kansas Heart Hospital. In the spring of 2008, the Kansas Heart Hospital initiated its fourth expansion, a \$4.1 million project to expand and renovate its clinical laboratory, pharmacy area, respiratory therapy, and sonography departments, as well as the addition of a 64-slice state-of-the-art CT scanner. Completion of this current building project was completed in February, 2009, which also included an expanded employee locker area and exercise facility for the hospital staff. Recently, an outpatient Sleep Laboratory has opened on the Kansas Heart Hospital campus in the Kansas Heart Office Plaza, a medical office complex adjacent to the Kansas Heart Hospital.

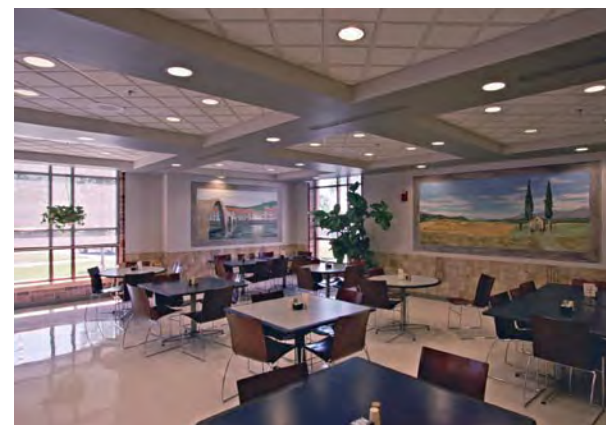
PERSPECTIVE

The success of the Kansas Heart Hospital has been a collaborative effort of vision and support by the hospital's administrative team and its employees. However, without the support of the cardiovascular physicians and selected

local Wichita businessmen, who provided both leadership and initial capital, there would have never been a Kansas Heart Hospital.

Dr. Duick, who was an original co-founder, firmly believes that it "is those physicians who shared the same cardiovascular vision in 1996 that made Kansas Heart Hospital a reality and continue to support the hospital ten years later. They include cardiologists, Thomas Ashcom MD, PhD (current CEO), Layne Reusser, MD, Roger Roberts, DO, Richard Steckley, MD, Darrell Youngman, DO, as well as cardiovascular and peripheral vascular surgeons, Steve Hutchinson MD, Thomas Estep MD, Gyan Khicha MD, William Murphy MD, Douglas J. Milfeld MD, Alex Ammar MD, and the original administrative team, Mr. Lynn Jeane, COO and Mr. Steve Smith, CFO."

Kansas Heart Hospital has faced challenges in the past, coupled with enormous success and professional satisfaction. For Wichita and the surrounding area, it has been a signature referral center for heart and vascular care. No small task, but a beacon for future cardiovascular care for all Kansans.



Group Benefit Specialists

Insurance benefits often comprise a considerable amount of a company's payroll, which is why it is helpful to have an insurance brokerage firm like Group Benefit Specialists to provide the best insurance options for companies and employees. From health benefits to life insurance, the staff at Group Benefit Specialists works hard to meet the needs of each and every employer and employee in its client base.

Group Benefit Specialists (GBS) was created in December of 2003 when Mark Isley, President, acquired the employee benefits division of Manning & Smith Insurance. In just a few short years since its inception, GBS has grown to be one of the most prestigious insurance brokerage firms in the Midwest, with offices in Wichita,

firms whose presence is only known when premiums are re-negotiated, GBS is available year round for on-site, personalized service to their clients as they handle benefit related issues on a daily basis, at a new employee's initial orientation, and as part of the yearly open enrollment team. It is almost as though the firm is an actual employee of every company it works with.

"We are, in an essence, an extension of the company's Human Resource and Accounting departments. CEOs look to GBS to help them manage the complex business of providing affordable, quality, and innovative Employee Benefits so they can concentrate on their own business," says Isley.

GBS corporate offices since 2007.

Photo by Vicki Hofer-Holdeman

to attracting top-notch employees. It is not surprising, then, that 90 percent of Group Benefit Specialists' work involves health insurance, which is a very personal aspect of many individuals' lives. From families with children to single men and women, GBS' daily work involves researching and securing the best options for its clients.



Dedicated staff with over 170 combined years of insurance experience. Photos by Vicki Hofer-Holdeman

Garden City, and Osborne. The staff members of GBS combine decades of experience in insurance. Several staff members worked together in the employee benefits insurance field before coming on board with the company, bringing with them not only years of valuable experience, but a camaraderie that is parlayed through every client relationship they form.

More than simply a representative for insurance plans, Group Benefit Specialists works as a liaison, forming a strong connection between employers and their insurance providers. Unlike some brokerage

Group Benefit Specialists is a company that is devoted to building and sustaining client relationships. It works with clients of varying sizes, from two to 12,000 employees, but the dedication of GBS is the same for any client, regardless of size. The company works with clients in large-scale industries in both the private and public sectors, including construction, lodging, manufacturing, education, and health care. GBS also has clients at various levels of government throughout the region.

Employers know that a strong health insurance benefits package is key

"We are matchmakers in the loving world of insurance," quips Karol Roadhouse, Account Executive.

Group Benefit Specialists has a long track record of client satisfaction, but it is not a company to rest on its laurels. Rather, it is constantly analyzing the market and determining what the best options are for both the companies and employees.

After all, a good benefits package keeps employees happy, and when employees are happy, it's a benefit for the company, too.



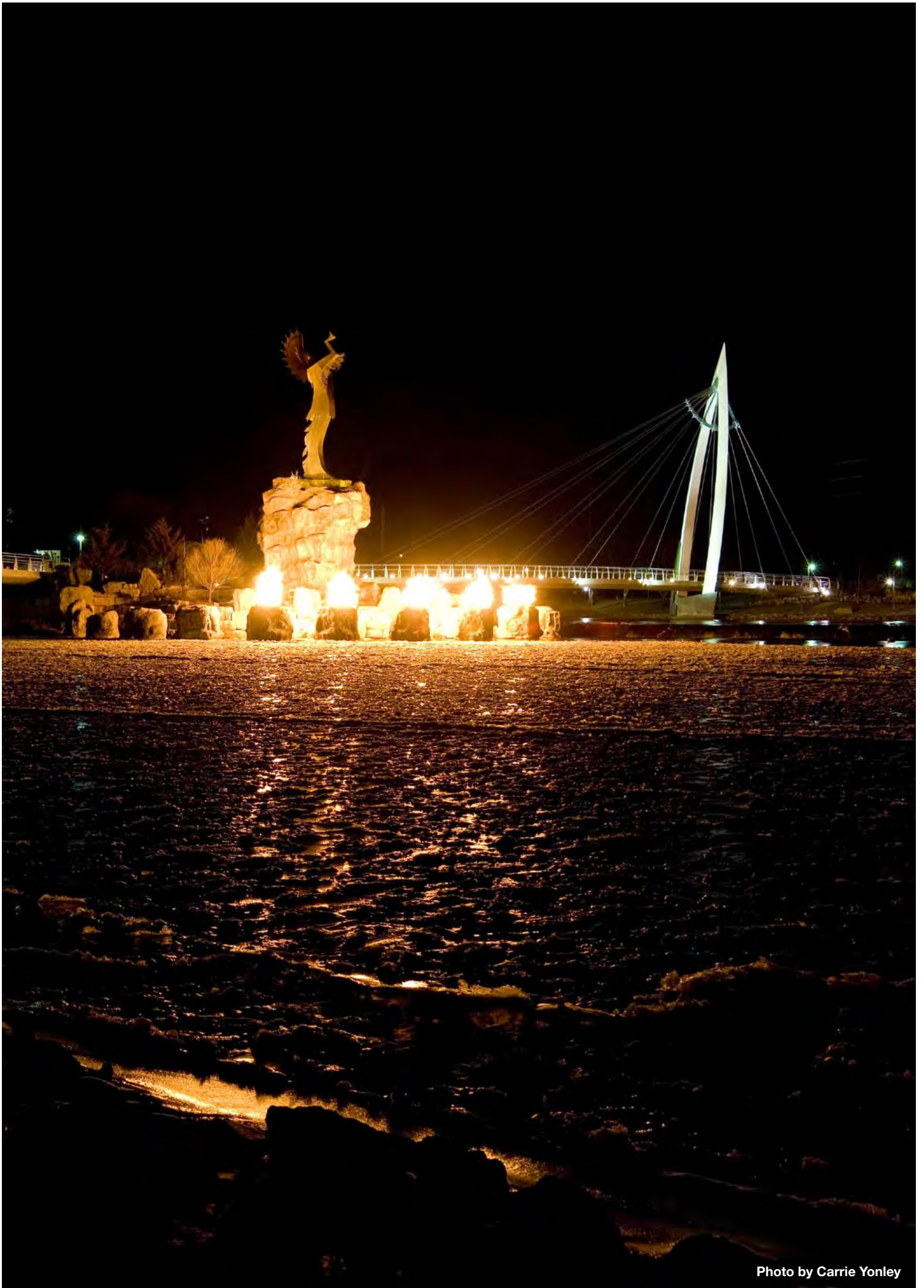


Photo by Carrie Yonley

Spirit AeroSystems

Some have called Spirit AeroSystems “a brand-new company with 75 years experience.” A young company with roots in the early aircraft industry, Spirit AeroSystems is now the world’s largest supplier of assemblies and structural components for commercial aircraft.

The origins of Spirit AeroSystems lie in early 20th century Wichita where the aircraft industry first started to flourish. Founded by aircraft pioneers, the young business soon became part of The Boeing Company.

In June of 2005, this homegrown aerospace business started a new life as an independent entity when it was divested from Boeing. In the relatively short time since then, Spirit has grown and expanded with great vitality worldwide, offering a broad line of products and services for aerospace design, construction, support, spare parts, and repairs. Spirit AeroSystems has become the largest supplier of assemblies for Boeing and Airbus commercial aircraft.



Spirit provides aftermarket customer support services, including spare parts, maintenance/repair/overhaul, and fleet support services in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Spirit AeroSystems offers high-quality, cost-competitive products and services for the commercial airliner industry. World-class engineering and manufacturing capability provide an



Spirit designs and builds the composite forward fuselage for Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner.

international customer base with wings, under-wing components, fuselages, and other components, specializing in composite construction, and offering spares and repairs, including overhaul services, to the best-known aircraft manufacturers worldwide.

Nine Spirit AeroSystems facilities – operating, planned, or under construction – are designed to serve customers’ diverse needs. In addition to the Wichita location, facilities in the U.S. include two in Oklahoma and a new facility in North Carolina that will build the center section of the Airbus A350 fuselage and similar components. Overseas expansion has included two locations in the United Kingdom, and a new manufacturing facility in Malaysia that produces subassemblies for Airbus and other customers.

Partnerships across the globe increase Spirit AeroSystems’ reach. A joint venture in China will provide aircraft component construction and

also aftermarket service – overhaul, repair, and spares – joining the existing maintenance centers in Wichita and the UK. An engineering center in Moscow, also a joint venture, provides aircraft engineering expertise difficult to find in the U.S.

COMPONENTS AND CARE

The primary focus for Spirit AeroSystems is design and construction of major aircraft components. For Boeing, Spirit AeroSystems builds fuselages for the 737, also forward (nose) sections and wing structure components for other Boeing aircraft including the new 787 Dreamliner. Spirit AeroSystems also



Boeing Next-Generation 737 fuselages are shipped from Spirit’s Wichita, Kansas, facility to Renton, Washington, for final assembly.

designs and produces pylons (which attach the engine to the aircraft) for the Mitsubishi Regional Jet program.

After starting out making components and assemblies mainly for large commercial airliners, Spirit AeroSystems has now entered the business jet market. It produces engine nacelles (housings) for Gulfstream business jets, including engine nacelles for the G650 ultra-large-cabin, ultra-long-range aircraft, and wing assemblies for the G650 and the new G250 mid-size business jet.

Spirit AeroSystems has won contracts to build the entire fuselage for the Cessna Citation Columbus



Spirit designs and builds engine pylons and struts for commercial, regional and business jets.

business jet in Wichita and to produce the empennage (tail section) in the United Kingdom. Spirit AeroSystems has also entered the military rotary

market, winning the contract to design and build the composite cockpit and cabin for the Sikorsky CH-53K heavy lift helicopter for the United States Marine Corps.

In addition to building components, Spirit AeroSystems also provides a range of services to help keep sophisticated, hardworking aircraft safely in the air. Aftermarket Customer Support maintains and repairs structural components such as fuselage doors and control surfaces, and provides spares, overhaul services, and fleet support, as needed.

PART OF THE WICHITA COMMUNITY

As the descendent of longtime Wichita-based companies, Spirit AeroSystems maintains a strong commitment to the local community. Employees enthusiastically volunteer in local service projects and participate in charitable causes.

The Good Neighbor Fund employee giving program, a certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was created by employees and is governed by the employees on its board of directors. The Fund collects employee donations by automatic payroll deduction, and disburses funds as determined by the Fund's board. The Fund donates a significant portion to the United Way annually, and to other non-profits that

serve people in the communities where Spirit AeroSystems employees live.

Employees also give back by volunteering their time and talents



Spirit employees help assemble food packs for the Kansas Food Bank; our employees enjoy giving their time, talent, and treasure to those in need.

to many worthy causes. Every year special Spirit projects include a food drive for local food banks. During the school year, employees go to the local food bank to prepare food packages for children who do not have food at home on the weekends. Around the holidays, adopt-a-family programs provide food and support to local families. Employees give personalized, hand-made stockings filled with gifts to children with special needs at Heartspring School and Rainbows United. Special Olympics Kansas events draw many volunteers from Spirit AeroSystems for preparation, tournaments, and the Special Olympics Kansas competition.

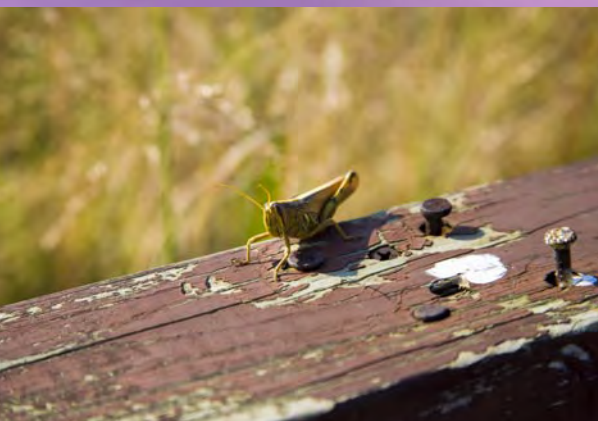
SPIRIT

In just a few short years, Spirit AeroSystems has become a worldwide presence and major supplier to its chosen markets. From engineering in Russia to manufacturing in Malaysia, in U.S. locations and in the United Kingdom, Spirit AeroSystems' impressive growth reflects an understanding of what it takes for success in the world marketplace: a global perspective, willingness to develop the best in engineering expertise and manufacturing technology, and a commitment to building long-term relationships with customers.



Employees at Spirit AeroSystem's Wichita, Kansas., facility work to complete a Boeing Next-Generation 737 fuselage section.

Photographer biographies



Randa Bishop:

Randa Bishop is a Las Vegas-based travel journalist and photographer. Her photographs have appeared in leading American and international magazines and newspapers from *The London Times* to *National Geographic Society* publications. Her coffee-table book, *Las Vegas, Nevada – A Photographic Portrait* was published recently, and her latest guidebook is *CitySpots New York*. She started out photographing spot news in the Big Apple, then concentrated on portraits for business magazines, and feature stories for *National Geographic World*, with wide ranging subjects from solar-powered airplanes, to children learning to be astronauts. After turning to travel photography, she covered over 60 countries and 50 islands worldwide, contributing to over two dozen guidebooks. She is a member of Travel Journalists Guild and American Society of Media Photographers.



Craig Hacker:

Craig Hacker began his professional photography career at 17 when his hometown newspaper, *The Harper Advocate*, published his first spot news photographs. In the 22 years since, his work has appeared in newspapers, magazines, public relations campaigns and advertisements throughout America. He loves to photograph interesting people who work in public safety, farming, ranching and music, but his favorite subject is his 11-year old daughter, Hannah. In 1999, one of Hacker's photos appeared in *Sports Illustrated* magazine's "The Century's Greatest Sports Photos" issue. This led to inclusion in a worldwide traveling sports photography exhibit launched at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. He has awards from the National Press Photographers Association, the NPPA/ University of Missouri Pictures of the Year competition, the Society of Professional Designers and the Kansas Press Association. Today, Hacker splits his time between the Wichita and Kansas City areas, shooting mostly PR and commercial assignments. But he also maintains his newspaper ties, working as a freelance photo correspondent for *The Los Angeles Times* and *USA Today*.



Jim Meyer:

Jim Meyer has been a commercial photographer in the Wichita market for over 30 years. Jim uses available light, studio lighting and all formats of film cameras, as well as digital. He has had a close working relationship with a large number of advertising agencies and corporations. One of the longest running client relationships is with the Kansas State Fair spanning 34 years. The clients have spanned aircraft and limousine manufacturing, food photography, small and large products as well as the service, financial and medical industries.

Gavin Peters:

In a business filled with high-powered personalities, Gavin Peters is someone that makes long shoots fun and short ones not nearly long enough. Hailing from the land of grain and sky, Peters charges his photography with a surreal realism that captures the true essence of an image. Peters lends a photographic eye that is duplicated by none while always keeping a good pair of pliers handy.



Thad Pickett:

A freelance graphic designer and photographer, Thad graduated with a degree in visual communications from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale in 1990. Living in rural southern Iowa where he works from his studio, he uses state-of-the-art Mac computers and professional Canon digital camera equipment for his design, photography and videography business. Specializing in book design, he has designed more than 100 books of diverse subject matter, each specially customized to the publisher's needs. Integrity in business, quality craftsmanship, the love of art, and treating others as you would like to be treated is the model Thad uses for success.



Art Scott:

Art Scott is a destination photographer based in Wichita, Kansas. With more than 30 years experience in both film and digital photography, he has built an immense catalog of high-quality images from around the United States and Europe. His portfolio includes such diverse subjects as classic European castles and North, Central and South American Indian POW WOW dancers in Wichita. He has photographed intimate concerts at small, smoky bars from his home town of Wichita Ks to San Francisco, California, to some of the Mid West's largest concert venues and children's toys in an Amish hardware store in Yoder Ks. From bull riding to opera, from wedding vows to skateboard tricks, Art has captured special moments and memories for clients near and far. Art is looking ahead eagerly to another 30 behind the lens, Art says his primary motivation is to catalog today's experiences for tomorrow's generations, "when the now becomes the very distant past."



Carie Yonley:

As an avid photographer and lover of the outdoors, Carrie has recorded the natural world around her for decades. In her day-to-day life, and during her widespread travels and adventures, she has produced an extensive library of images from across America, capturing the spirit of the moment - of the light - of the mood - of the texture. In her portfolio, she showcases the diversity of our land - landscapes from the intimate to the panoramic, delicate Ozarkian flora, majestic images of the West, abstractions of color and light, and the character of American cities and towns; with dramatic cityscapes being one of her hallmarks. Carrie's work has been published in a number of coffee table books, and is used in offices and by business in literature and exhibits. Carrie exhibits in local art establishments at home in mid-Missouri, and she has been recognized in juried competitions.



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