

Business briefs

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Volunteer Kansas accepting Seed Grant applications

WICHITA – For the ninth consecutive year, Volunteer Kansas is offering organizations in Kansas the opportunity to apply for \$500 Seed Grants to support service projects that will engage volunteers.

Ten grants will be awarded in May for use before Dec. 31.

The application process is simple. Organizations interested in applying for a grant should email the following information to contact@volunteerkansas.org by April 30:

The name address, website, and phone number of the organization, along with applicants name, title, email and phone number; a paragraph about the organization; one- to three paragraphs explaining the project you wish to fund, how volunteers will participate and who the project will benefit; and a budget detailing how the money will be used.

Projects chosen for grants require listing as volunteer opportunities on www.volunteerkansas.org. Projects must utilize at least 20 volunteers.

Winners are required to post project photos/videos to the Volunteer Kansas Facebook or Twitter pages with #comeandgiveit, #volunteerkansas.

New report lists Mount Hope Nursing Center among best in state

MOUNT HOPE – The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care Inc. has listed Mount Hope Nursing Center among the top 10 percent of long-term care facilities in the state.

In fact, the agency's score put it in the top 7 percent of the hundreds of Kansas' long-term care facilities.

The score is determined by assessing more than a dozen National Quality Forum-endorsed long-stay quality measures that represent systems in the long-term care setting.

Some of the quality areas assessed include such important matters as injuries from falls, patients in pain, residents with depressive symptoms, weight loss and other medical issues that can occur in a long-term care facility.

“At Mount Hope, our staff works diligently to ensure all our residents are safe, healthy and provided a wealth of opportunities to be social and active,” said Mount Hope Administrator Gina Terry. “We are proud that our efforts are reflected in this prestigious report, but more

importantly, that it has resulted in our residents receiving the care they need and deserve.”

The foundation is a member of the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network.

Department of Wildlife hosts free hunter ed class at GCCC

GARDEN CITY – The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism will offer a free Hunter Education and Safety class at Garden City Community College on April 20.

This is an internet-assisted class that requires coursework to be completed online before the class on April 20. Registration is at safehunters.com.

The class begins at 9 a.m. at the GCCC Academic Building Lecture Hall, breaks for lunch, and meets again at the Garden City Trap and Skeet Club for the outdoor portion, which includes practice with shotguns and archery.

Course completers will earn a Hunter Education Certificate, which is required to purchase a hunting license. Students must be age 11 or older to participate.

For more information contact Game Warden Angie Reisch at (620) 770-6218.

SBA announces Technology and Manufacturing cluster initiative at K-State

MANHATTAN — The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced the addition of the Great Plains Technology and Manufacturing Cluster to the programs it supports through the nationwide Regional Innovation Clusters initiative.

The program has been awarded \$500,000 for the first year with a four-year option for a total award of up to \$2.5 million over five years.

The Great Plains TMC is led by the Kansas State University Technology Development Institute. It serves the entire state of Kansas and western Missouri and joins a portfolio of programs supported through the SBA's Regional Innovation Cluster program.

The program is designed to support geographically concentrated groups of interconnected businesses, suppliers, service providers and related institutions in a particular industry or field. The goal of this new initiative is to assist manufacturers and technology entrepreneurs, particularly in rural regions, in making the critical connections to innovation resources required to protect, develop, launch and grow new products and businesses in the service region.

The Great Plains TMC is partnering with a wide range of economic development entities, including the Kansas Department of Commerce, NetWork Kansas, the Kansas Small Business Development Centers and a number of rural regional development offices across the service

region to increase awareness, connectivity to resources and collaboration across the Great Plains.

“Whether it be education, engineering, business planning or a combination of all these, our mission is to ensure that individuals and organizations are aware of and have access to the resources available to assist them,” said Jeff Tucker, executive director of the university’s Technology Development Institute.

Additional information about the Great Plains Technology and Manufacturing Cluster initiative can be found at greatplainstmc.org/.

Bluestem PACE Hosting 2nd Annual 5K Walk/Run

MCPHERSON – Bluestem PACE of McPherson, a nonprofit dedicated to helping seniors live well at home, will be hosting its second annual 5K walk/run on April 6. Those interested in registering for the race can do so at bluestempace.org/events.

“Bluestem PACE serves individuals 55 and better throughout central Kansas,” said Bluestem PACE executive director Justin Loewen. “We are hoping this event will not just be McPherson-wide, but will attract runners and walkers from our region.”

The race will be fun for the whole family, featuring tastings from local coffee shops after the race.

Race registration fees will go towards the Bluestem PACE Good Neighbor Fund, which assists program participants who encounter unforeseen circumstances and assists Bluestem PACE in providing high-quality services to seniors and their families.

Pfizer Job Fair looks to fill 500 open posts

Pfizer, the world’s leading pharmaceutical company, will host a career fair to fill approximately 500 open roles at its McPherson and St. Louis, Missouri facilities.

The event will be at the Embassy Suites, 10401 S. Ridgeview Rd., in Olathe from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., March 21.

McPherson and St. Louis are primary sites in the company’s global manufacturing network focused on producing sterile injectable medicines.

Pfizer is seeking candidates to fill open roles in production operations, engineering, quality assurance, skilled trades, operational excellence, laboratory and technical services, and many more.

Jobs require a minimum of a high school diploma or a GED. For some jobs, Pfizer may prefer an associate’s degree for six months of relatable work experience or military experience.

For engineering and professional positions, a higher degree and in some cases relatable experience may be preferred.

Pfizer offers competitive compensation and benefits including health and dental coverage, 401k and more.

Candidates are encouraged to pre-register for the career fair at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pfizer-career-fair-kansas-city-tickets-57141633163%20>and to apply to positions online before the career fair to facilitate the availability of onsite interviewers.

Available positions can be found at <http://pfizer.com/careers/en>. While applying and pre-registering are the best approach, candidates who simply show up will be welcome.

U.S. Department of Labor's overtime proposal open for public comment

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Labor announced Friday that the Office of the Federal Register has published the Department's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would make more than a million more American workers eligible for overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

The official publication in the Federal Register marks the start of the proposal's public comment period, which will remain open for 60 days and close on May 21.

More information about the proposed rule is available at www.dol.gov/whd/overtime2019. The Department encourages any interested members of the public to submit comments about the proposed rule electronically at www.regulations.gov, in the rulemaking docket RIN 1235-AA20. Comments must be received by May 21 to be considered.