

# Monthly Update



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MAR. 2016

## Headliner and Date Announced

The De Soto Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce country music star **KawÉ A Country Music Festival**.

McCoy has over 6 million records sold, 15 career albums with five #1 singles and five Top 10 Hits. He is known for being one of the best entertainers in the business.

His accolades include Two Time Entertainer of the Year. *Goodbye* McCoy has conducted 15 USO Tours Around the World since 2001.

The event will be held at De Soto Riverfest Park on Saturday, July 9, 2016. Advanced tickets will go on sale in April at [www.nightonthekaw.com](http://www.nightonthekaw.com). For more information or to find out how you can sponsor this event, please contact Sara Ritter at the De Soto Chamber of Commerce at 31831585 or via-mail at [sriter@desotoks.org](mailto:sriter@desotoks.org)



## City Hires Interim City Administrator



The City of De Soto has hired former Johnson County Administrator Mik Press as their Interim City Administrator.

**Press worked for the Johnson County, KS government for nearly 30 years, the last ten as County Manager before retiring in 2009.**

He has also served the Interim City Administrator for the cities Eudora, Gardner and Edgerton.

The City will soon begin the selection process for a permanent City Administrator. Welcome to De Soto, Mike!

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**De Soto Chamber President**  
by Stephanie Swenson



March! The De Soto Chamber of Commerce has been very busy working on activities and services that benefit you, our valued member.

March is full of various events in the community. Please be sure to attend Thursday, March 10th Chamber Luncheon at Olathe Health Systems. Our guest speaker is Darren Odum, who will provide a brief update on Olathe Health Systems at the Olathe Medical Center.

The State of the County Address is another way to be informed on activities in Johnson County. This is a very informative event to learn all of the various activities that are going on in Johnson County. Be sure to make your reservations by Monday, March 14th in order to attend this sell-out event.

At the local level, the De Soto EDC will host its Membership Meeting on March 23rd. EDC Chairman Mike Rogers, the EDC Board and Staff are working very hard on some exciting projects. If you are not already an active member, please call the Chamber/EDC Office and sign up so that you can attend the quarterly membership meeting and learn about all of the economic development activities we have the privilege of representing the Chamber on the Board and I can tell you that De Soto has some exciting opportunities ahead!

We are also sponsoring the Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, which is scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2016 at GreatLife Golf Course in Burning Tree. Cost is \$45 per golfer or \$180/team. See the flyer that is included in this newsletter @ Y h D g i a U \_ Y i t h e r e k i n g e v e n t f o r y o u r D e S o C h a m b e r o f C o m m e r c e !

I encourage the business community to attend as many of these events as possible. Get out there and learn what is going on in your community and share your comments to help make De Soto better!

**From the Director's Corner**  
by Sara Ritter, EDC, Executive Director



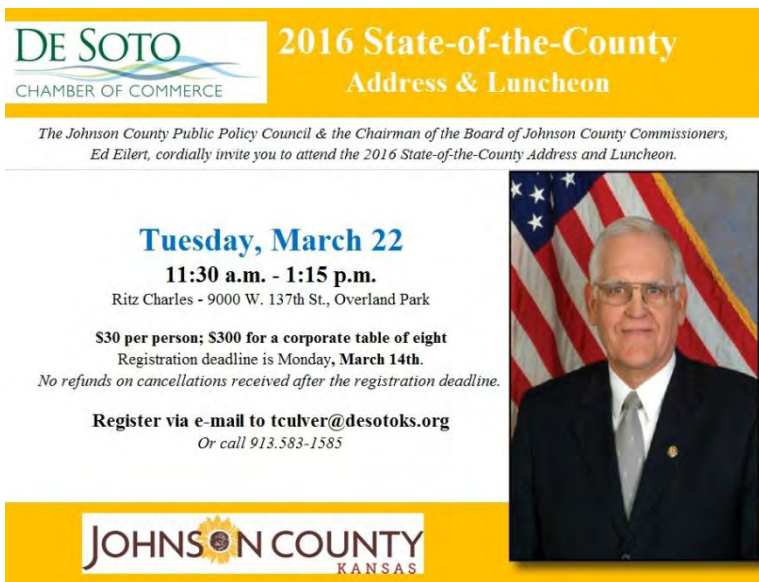
Walmart is finally signing on their ground in Commerce Park. This has been a long time coming to the community and it is finally happening. Congratulations to the City of De Soto and the governing body for all of their hard work, creativity and efforts to make this possible. Now we get to watch the grocery store being constructed. De Soto so that we can have this asset for many years to come.

This past month economic development activity is at an all-time high. EDC Consultant David Anderson and I have been extremely busy meeting with realtors and developers to market De Soto as a great place for residential development. Currently, we are very short on developable lots in De Soto, so we have identified several goals and objectives to help us with our efforts. We are currently working with developers and the owners of property to see what we can do to help encourage residential growth in De Soto. As President Swenson mentions in her update, the EDC Quarterly Meeting is a fantastic way to learn what the EDC staff has been up to, and we value your opinion and ideas!

On the industrial side of economic development, we have submitted for several projects and expect to have site announcements with you this coming year!



## State of the County Address Scheduled



**DE SOTO**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE


**2016 State-of-the-County  
Address & Luncheon**

*The Johnson County Public Policy Council & the Chairman of the Board of Johnson County Commissioners,  
Ed Eilert, cordially invite you to attend the 2016 State-of-the-County Address and Luncheon.*

**Tuesday, March 22**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**  
Ritz Charles - 9000 W. 137th St., Overland Park

**\$30 per person; \$300 for a corporate table of eight**  
Registration deadline is Monday, **March 14th.**  
*No refunds on cancellations received after the registration deadline.*

**Register via e-mail to [tculver@desotoks.org](mailto:tculver@desotoks.org)**  
*Or call 913.583-1585*



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The Johnson County Library has a variety of eLearning tools to make your life easier. Would you like to increase your computer skills? Try Lynda.com, Universal Class, or Computer Skills from Learning Express for easy-to-follow class instructions and practice. Maybe you want to learn a new language. Try Mango.com for fun and engaging learning in your own home. If you need help with a cover letter or resume, try the Job Career Accelerator eLearning site with tools that make applying for jobs easier. Explore the applications and more on the Johnson County @JVFUMDg website.  
<https://www.jocolibrary.org/elibrary/elearning>



### City Council Liaison Changes to EDC Board

The EDC Board of Directors is pleased to welcome De Soto Councilperson Lori Murdock as one of two Council Liaisons. Murdock replaces longtime EDC Board Member and City Councilman Rick Walker.

In addition to Murdock, the City has two additional liaison positions, one for De Soto Mayor Tim Maniez and the other for City Councilman Bill McDaniel. The City Administrator is an ex-officio position.

The EDC Board of Directors would like to express our sincere gratitude to Councilman Walker for his leadership and participation on the EDC Board. The group meets monthly, and a Quarterly EDC Membership Meeting is not held

### Our Newest Chamber Members

Protocol96 represented by Justin L. Hennis

### Quarterly EDC Membership Meeting Date Set



The Quarterly Membership Meeting of the De Soto Economic Development Council will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at Goodcents Franchise Systems, located at 8500 Commerce Drive in De Soto.

This meeting is open to all EDC members. There is no charge for the meeting, but reservations are required to ensure adequate seating. Please contact Tracey at 913-583-1585 or via email at [tculver@desotoks.org](mailto:tculver@desotoks.org).





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## Unemployed or Looking for a Job?



This mobile van will be at DeSoto Neighborhood Library once a month! No appointment needed. For further info, call (913) 826-4600 or stop by and ask next time you are at the Library.

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

DeSoto Neighborhood Library | 33145 W. 83<sup>rd</sup> St., De Soto, KS  
[www.jccolibrary.org](http://www.jccolibrary.org)

### Mobile Van Features:

#### BASIC SERVICES

- Internet workstations inside
- Resume & cover letter advice
- Job matching
- Career exploration and skills assessment
- Veterans services
- Training

#### INTENSIVE SERVICES

- Career action planning
- Veterans Case Management
- Job placement

#### TRAINING SERVICES

- Literacy assistance
- Occupational skills

#### BUSINESS SERVICES

- No-cost job listing on Kansas Works.com
- Candidate screening
- Customized training

This free service is provided through the Kansas Workforce Partnership  
[www.workforcepartnership.com](http://www.workforcepartnership.com)



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USD #232 Update  
by Alvie Cater

† V K #



Unified School District No. 232 leads Johnson County in graduation rates

The Kansas State Department of Education measures graduation rates for every school district. This information is released annually on each district's report card. The most recent graduation rates are included for USD #23 Valley, Olathe, Shawnee Mission, Gardner-Edgerton, and Spring Hill.

Graduation Rates

De Soto USD 232	97.2 %
Blue Valley	96.1 %
Gardner Edgerton	92.2 %
Shawnee Mission	92.1 %
Olathe	89.9 %
Spring Hill	50.4 %

Five -Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate

The fiveyear cohort graduation rate is the percentage of students in a cohort, adjusted for transfers into or out of school, district, or state, who graduate with a regular high school diploma within five years of entering high school. A student who graduates during his/her fifth year of high school will not be counted as a graduate in the cohort graduation rate, but will count as a graduate in the five year rate.

The fiveyear cohort graduation rate formula for 2015 is:

# 2015 graduates (# of cohort members earning a regular HS diploma by September 30, 2015)

# of first-time 9th graders in fall 2010 plus transfers in minus students who transfer out, emigrate, or die during 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Source: Kansas State Department of Education

Continued on page 10

## USD #232 Update , Continued

Three seniors named Finalists for National Merit Scholarships  
Top 1 percent of all high school seniors

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named three high school seniors in USD 232 as Finalists in National Merit Scholarship Program. Jaycie Thamer of De Soto High School, Justin Curto and Allison Kubiak of Mill Valley High School are among the 15,000 Finalists in the prestigious scholarship program, placing them among the top one percent of all high school seniors in the country. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to compete for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be awarded in the spring.

About 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which served as an initial selection program entrants. The nationwide pool includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of Finalists in a state is proportional to the state's population.

To become a Finalist, the student and his/her high school must submit a detailed scholarship application, including information on the student's academic record, leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have demonstrated outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school teacher or administrator, and have participated in school and community activities.

Jaycie Thamer  
De Soto High School



Justin Curto and Allison Kubiak  
Mill Valley High School



### Steps in the 2016 Competition

All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from the group of Finalists. Merit Scholarship designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

### National Merit Scholarships

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2016. Every Finalist will compete for a National Merit® \$2500 Scholarship that will be awarded on a state-by-state basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 250 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as child-rearing, community service, and other criteria. About 190 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 3,900 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2016 will be announced in nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 100 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholarship title.





**De Soto Chamber of Commerce  
Golf Outing & Networking**

**Friday, April 29, 2016  
GreatLife Golf & Fitness – Burning Tree**

**Location:** *Burning Tree Golf Course  
7909 Wyandotte St.  
De Soto, KS 66018  
913-301-3000*

**Event:** *18 Holes/4 Person Scramble*  
**Registration:** *11am – 11:30am*  
**BBQ Lunch:** *11:30am – Noon*  
**Shotgun Start:** *Noon*

**Entry Fee:** *\$45 per golfer or \$180 per team  
(Includes lunch, green fees, cart, prizes, raffle)* *Mulligans will be available for purchase*

**Contact:** *De Soto Chamber of Commerce Office  
Tracey Culver  
[tculver@desotoks.org](mailto:tculver@desotoks.org)  
PO Box 70, De Soto, KS 66018  
913-583-1585*

*Burning Tree Golf Course  
Stephanie Swenson  
[Stephanie.swenson@greatlifegolf.com](mailto:Stephanie.swenson@greatlifegolf.com)  
913-301-3000*

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**Player's Names:**

1: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

3: \_\_\_\_\_

4: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Due: April 22, 2016...Space is limited, so form your team and send in your entry form!**

De Soto Chamber of Commerce Luncheon  
Thursday, March 10, 2016  
11:30 a.m.

Location: Olathe Health Systems (in the Olathe Health Education Center Building)  
21201 West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street, Olathe, KS 66061  
Underwriter: Olathe Health Systems  
Cost: \$12/members and \$17/nonmembers

RSVP by February 19, 2016 or call 913-583-1885 or email [Yculver@desotoks.org](mailto:Yculver@desotoks.org)

## MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 De Soto City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. De Soto City Hall	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 De Soto Chamber Lunch, 11:30 am, Olathe Health Systems	11	12
13	14	15	16	17  Ú c È Á Ú æ c i æ	18	19
20	21	22 State of the County, 11:30 a.m. , Ritz Charles, O.P. , \$30/pp PREPAID ONLY	23	24 De Soto City Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. De Soto City Hall	25 	26
27 	28	29	30	31 Deadline to remit Chamber/EDC Membership Dues		Items in <b>BOLD</b> indicate Chamber Events