



The Economic Development Agency for Montgomery County, KS

# 2ND QUARTER 2025 ECONOMIC UPDATES

## CREATING AND RETAINING JOBS

**\$4,000 recruitment bonus to Sofia Carreno of Textron Aviation**



Our talent attraction program focuses on recruiting and retaining talent in Montgomery County.

Talent Campaign Update (as of June 28, 2025)

- Signed incentive agreements: **61!!**
- ARPA grant funds **LEFT TO GIVE: \$43,000**

In the month of April alone we obligated \$35,500 to MontCo workers!! We are excited to supplement the account with the profits of our Taste of Montgomery County Fundraiser coming up in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter!

## EXPANDING THE TAX BASE

### SPEARS EXPANSION



R.W. Spears, LLC is planning a 120,000 sq. ft. addition adjacent to its existing plastic pipe and pipe fitting manufacturing plant at 1200 S. State Street in Caney, Kansas. The expansion will support increased production of products for a variety of industries.

- \$13.2 Million Building Expansion
- \$ 9.0 Million Machinery & Equipment
  - 181 New Jobs
  - Rail Spur Expansion

# PROMOTING ECONOMIC DIVERSITY



## Celebrating Growth Across Montgomery County!!

**Born to Blossom** was the recipient of our **Curtis Lavine Entrepreneurship Award**. They were founded by Ali and Chelsey Wilbert and provide behavioral therapy for children with autism and developmental disabilities in Southeast Kansas. Driven by a passion to support rural families, they expanded from Pittsburg to Coffeyville and Baxter Springs, offering personalized, compassionate, evidence-based care where it's needed most.



**ABC Coffeyville's Christian Pre-School & Childcare** were the recipients of our **Perl Schmid Golden Shovel Award**. They are building a 24-hour childcare center—one of the first in Kansas—to support working families, especially those with non-traditional hours. Launched in 2023, groundbreaking began in June 2024. The center aims to strengthen the workforce and attract businesses by offering flexible, reliable childcare.

**Dean Hayes** was the recipient of our **Rob Gill Community Spirit Award**. For over five years, he has served on the City Commission for Independence—including a term as Mayor and his current role as Vice Mayor—where he brings not only strong leadership but also a servant's heart. His dedication is seen not just in his official capacity, but in the countless hours he devotes to hands-on service, approaching every effort with humility, vision, and an unwavering commitment to community.



# ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL



**Fighting to keep ROZ in Montgomery County**

As of June 2, 2025, Montgomery County along with 22 others were eliminated from the Student Loan Repayment program-- a valuable tool we use to attract MontCo's younger workforce. The Student Loan Repayment programs population limit has been reduced from 40,000 to 15,000 population-- a 62.5% reduction in one year.

This quarter MCAC has made trips to Topeka to discuss this change of standards with lawmakers and have taken time at local meetings to educate community members about losing this valuable program.

**CELEBRATING NEW MCAC MEMBERS!**



**Small Business Client Spotlight**

MPAC Aviation Services of Independence received a \$5,000 FORGE Grant. The FORGE Grants (Fostering Opportunities for Research, Growth, and Entrepreneurship) program is designed to create access to capital infusion opportunities for small business owners in Southeast Kansas, focusing on targeted key sectors. The program offers offers two types of grants:

- Capital Improvement Grant: Up to \$5,000
- Technical Services Grant: UP to \$2,500

# Marketing Montgomery County

New guides promoting our county for business and workforce! Check out the digital versions or request a print copy from our office.

OPPORTUNITY AWAITS!

*Choose*  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
KANSAS  
for business

Deceivably rural with a modest population laidback pace, Montgomery County, Kansas is poised for an economic explosion other small counties can only dream about.

WELCOME HOME!

*Choose*  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
KANSAS  
to live, work and play

Refreshingly rural and pleasingly progressive, Montgomery County, Kansas, offers an enviable quality of life with just the right balance of diversity, safety, affordability, opportunity and community.

## TASTE OF *Montgomery County*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH 5:30-8:30 AT LAKESIDE CEDAR LODGE, CHERRYVALE!**

**COME CELEBRATE MONTGOMERY COUNTY WITH FOOD, DRINKS, RAFFLES, AND GAMES! ALL FOR A GREAT CAUSE!**

14  
138  
22  
131  
9  
166  
95  
5 179  
88 81  
114 107



21+



"Dean is bringing a hammer, guiding a policy, or inspiring others, Dean leads with humility, energy and a deep love for this community." Congratulations, Vice Mayor Hayse. | Courtesy Photo

## Montgomery County Action Council doles out community awards at annual meeting

■ Indy Vice-Mayor awarded Rob Gill Community Spirit Award

BY BREA SANFORD  
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The Montgomery County Action Council (MCAC) held its annual meeting Thursday evening at the Coffeyville Country Club. While the meeting was short, it was a full day of...

## Keeping up the momentum with MCAC

BY BREA SANFORD  
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The Montgomery County Ac-

temporary and long-term employees to fill important job functions within their companies. Nick McCollum, manag-

MCAC staff has been doing. The have joined with Team Kansas and have been to numerous nationwide site selector events,

& look out for more MCAC updates in your local newspaper!

SAVE THE DATE



3rd Quarter: Sept. 18 in Cherryvale

4th Quarter: Nov. 20 - Independence