

2023 Great Places to Work

2022 SPRING EDITION
**GREAT
PLACES
TO WORK**



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differentiate your workplace from others!

Springfield Business Journal will provide local businesses the opportunity to share with our readers, in your words, why your business is a Great Place to Work. Based on results from SBJ's recent Growth Survey, an independent survey of approximately 700 business leaders, Workforce Development continues to be a pressing issue.

Highlight:

- Employee Awards
- Employee Benefits
- Workplace Culture
- Feature Key Employees
- Diversity
- Community Involvement
- Work/Life Balance
- Company Awards
- Successes
- Key Projects
- Team Recognition
- Company Milestones
- And More!

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Natural Connection

Chamber leadership group heads to northwest Arkansas for first time

by Mike Callahan - mcallahan@sbj.net

For the first time in three years, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Leadership Visit hit the road. It was a relatively short trip in terms of distance, as 40 Springfield-area business people headed to northwest Arkansas - a

first-time destination in 28 years of the annual program. While the CLV typically centers on a single city, this year's midday trip, held Sept. 20-26, focused on a

single, all-time destination included in the CLV agenda - Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers and Springfield - range 300 to 100 miles from Springfield.

The Natural State trip follows the chamber's decision last year to examine its own region. The Springfield-based agenda was the second for the chamber's program, as it moved to the Ozarks in 2018.

See ARKANSAS on page 38



Mike Callahan

Ready, Willing and Able

People with disabilities often are overlooked, says workforce chief

by Karen Orsiga - korsiga@sbj.net

Local employers continue to feel the effects of a labor shortage, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics reporting the unemployment rate for the Springfield metro area at 2.6% in August and being up from 2.4% in July.

For people with disabilities, the unemployment rate - that is, the percentage of people who are actively looking for work - is typically twice that of those without disabilities, suggesting employers might find the workers they need if they broaden their view of potential hires.

Historically, those with disabilities have had the highest unemployment rate, but they're sometimes overlooked when we're talking about current economic and labor market issues," said Kelly Pryor, the city of Springfield's director of workforce development.

Pryor said caution on the part of employers may be a leading cause. Many believe hiring a disabled worker means

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Chamber member Kelly Pryor is author, in center of Bradley Blumens & Williams, which employs three. With her is service dog Abel.

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