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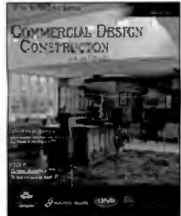
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## Chris Howell takes reins at UMB in Wichita

BY CHRIS MOON

UMB Bank has a new top executive for the Wichita market.

Chris Howell, a longtime commercial lender for the Kansas City, Mo.-based bank, has been named community bank president for the city. He will report to Bill Watson, UMB's chairman and CEO for the Kansas region.

"We needed someone who would be our point person in interfacing with the community," Watson says. "He gets along very well with the team. He has a very strong ability to

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CHRIS MOON / WBJ

Chris Howell is a graduate of Southeast High School and The University of Kansas.

## UPSWING

### Area bank earnings perked up in 2010

BY CHRIS MOON

Wichita-area banks in 2010 regained some of the momentum they lost during the recession, most of them posting increases in earnings even as they worked more bad loans off their books.

Thirty-five of the 57 banks and thrifts that do business in the metropolitan area reported increased earnings during 2010. Most of the city's largest banks — Fidelity, Emprise, Equity and Commerce — saw earnings perk up.

The notable exception was Intrust Bank, which saw net income slide 11 percent on the year.

Nine banks posted losses.

The performance data for all the metro's banks was compiled by the Wichita Business Journal from recently released year-end reports made public by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

A full chart with the data can be found on page 33.

"That's moving up," says Wichita State University Finance Professor Rick LeCompte, about the earnings power of local banks. "Part of that has to do with the fact that the Federal Reserve is keeping the interest rates low, so their deposit costs are still close to zero. They're letting the banks earn their way out of their troubles."

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## Central Care Cancer Center eyes return to Wichita market

BY JOSH HECK

Central Care Cancer Center is preparing to open a location in Wichita.

The site will be the sixth clinic for the Salina company, which also has a location in Newton on the campus of Newton Medical Center.

Central Care focuses primarily on radiation therapy, chemotherapy and surgery.

"They've been a good partner with our hospital and our community," says Steve Kelly, CEO of Newton Medical Center.

But it's not Central Care's first venture into the Wichita market.

In the mid 2000s, the company operated a clinic at 1152 Clifton, north of Via Christi Health's hospital on East Harry. That

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## Benyshek is back, and so is the commute

Bruce Benyshek is back.

The longtime Wichita accountant three years ago left the Air Capital and Wichita's Equity Bank to take what he called his dream job as CFO of Salina-based Sunflower Bank. It was an obvious move for several reasons: Benyshek took control of the finances at a much larger institution in the \$1.7 billion Sunflower Bank, where he had worked earlier in his career.

And the move was convenient. Benyshek long has lived in Salina and commuted to Wichita for more than a decade, first to work at Allen, Gibbs & Houlik LC and then at Equity Bank.

But the dream job wasn't what it was cracked up to be. Benyshek has left Sunflower and is back as CFO of Equity, a \$486

million bank.

"Equity needed a CFO, and Brad (Elliott, Equity's CEO) contacted me. First, I said 'no' and then I changed my mind," Benyshek says. "I'm a much better fit at Equity."

Asked to elaborate, Benyshek noted the company's "management philosophy, how things get done, the pace. ... I like Brad. He and I think alike. He gets things done quickly. He's a decision-maker and so am I."

And at Sunflower? "I can't really describe it," Benyshek says. "I'm just a much better fit. I'm right at home here."

Of course, the commute is back.

See BIZ NOTES, Page 3



Steve Kelly, CEO of Newton Medical Center, says Central Care Cancer Center has been a good partner with the hospital for more than 10 years.



FILE PHOTO

## CENTRAL CARE: Increasing options

FROM PAGE 1

site became the Via Christi Immediate Care, Mother Mary Anne clinic in 2007.

Central Care CEO Alfredo Lopez declined to give specifics about the health care provider's plans to return to Wichita, but did confirm the company's plans to locate a clinic here.

Company spokeswoman Katie O'Connor says Central Care is considering two possible sites in Wichita.

Location plans, she says, could be finalized in the next week or two.

**'They've been a good partner with our hospital and our community.'**

Steve Kelly  
Newton Medical Center

The providers Central Care will align with in Wichita also will be decided in the coming weeks.

A Central Care clinic in Wichita will add another cancer treatment option to the local market.

Cancer Care of Kansas PA offers medical oncology services at two Wichita locations and one in Newton.

Via Christi is working on a \$13.4 million cancer institute at its hospital on St. Francis. That facility is expected to open in July.

Radiation services also are offered at the local hospitals.

### MIXED FEELINGS

Central Care has eight oncologists and 50 related medical personnel, such as medical physicists and dosimetrists, across all of its locations.

Dr. Shaker Dakhil, president of the Cancer Center of Kansas, says his practice has for years competed with Central Care's physicians who come to Wichita to see patients.

"There's nothing new about oncologists coming to Wichita from their group," Dakhil says.

But he questions whether Central Care can sustain a satellite location here full time.

He cites the location Central Care closed in Wichita.

Dakhil says Central Care has been talking about opening another clinic in Wichita for the past three years, but nothing has materialized.

Others, however, say Central Care has a record of providing quality cancer care in this region.

Kelly, of Newton Medical, says the hospital has worked with Central Care for more than 10 years.

"They have provided a lot of great care," Kelly says.

He says Central Care has added personnel recently, such as a breast cancer specialist, to broaden its services.

Victory in the Valley Inc., an independent, nonprofit cancer support organization, also works with Central Care.

Diana Thomi, executive director of Victory in the Valley, says volunteers with the organization periodically provide food for Central Care's patients in Newton and Wichita.

"Like any doctors group, they are very patient-focused," Thomi says. "When they call on us, we are glad to serve the patients. Our goal is to serve cancer patients in any way we can."

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