



OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Visioning 2040: *Just the Beginning* *Outcomes from Workshop & Survey to be Presented at Banquet*



It was a blustery and snowy evening, but that didn't stop 130 community members from attending the first Vision 2040 Community Workshop held at the Great Bend Events Center on November 8th. Sheila Shockey, owner of Shockey Consulting, opened the 2-hour workshop with warm memories of growing up in Offerle, KS and the excitement that came with coming to Great Bend, the "big city". Many share this sentiment and came together to discuss various trends affecting Great Bend and the people residing here.

Tables of 8-10 people allowed everyone to interact in small group exercises to develop a vision for the future. Groups worked to identify high-impact trends affecting the quality of life for residents. Several emerged as trend leaders, such as crime, "brain drain" and wage stagnation.

To add to the excitement of the process, those attending the workshop were entered into a drawing for a \$500 Chamber Gift Certificate! That winner was Megan Wells with Coldwell Banker Real Estate!

Additional opportunities for interactive discussions like the Nov. 8th workshop are available for civic groups and organizations. To have "Vision 2040" presented to your group, please email info@gbbetter.com or call the Great Bend Chamber at 620-792-2401.

The Community and Business Surveys are still live and the Great Bend - Better than Great Steering Committee wants to hear from YOU! Those responding to the survey will be entered to win another \$500 Chamber Gift Certificate. All ages are invited to respond. Surveys will be live into the new year and can be found at www.gbbetter.com. Follow the discussion on Facebook @GBBetter or hashtag #GBbetter.



GET YOUR BANQUET TICKETS TODAY!

Join us for the 97th Annual Chamber Banquet Feb. 23

Reserve your company's table or purchase individual tickets for the 97th Annual Meeting & Banquet for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. Come enjoy cocktails, a gourmet dinner, live entertainment, award announcements, networking, and more. Buy your tickets online at www.greatbend.org.

Phenomenal. Business. Solutions.

Cloud - Advertising - Security - Hardware - IT



nex-tech.com/business • 800-588-6649

New Disc Golf Course Unveiled in Veterans Park

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce was thrilled to host Great Bend native Jeremy Rusco and the Great Bend Recreation Commission during the grand re-opening celebration of the disc golf course on October 23rd. While in town for the opening, Jeremy Rusco, owner of Dynamic Discs took time out to speak to a packed house, as the Chamber's guest for an INSPIRE Speaker Series luncheon. He shared his story and how Great Bend has continued to support his dream.

The new updated course includes 18 holes for regulation play, designed by Dynamic Discs' Eric McCabe. The upgrade will allow for sanctioned tournaments to be held in Great Bend, drawing in visitors and guests.



"It is exciting to see how disc golf continues to grow in Great Bend," Dynamic Discs owner Jeremy Rusco said. "With some updated equipment and a course designed by Eric McCabe, it is a win win for the community."

Thanks to a large grant from Golden Belt Community Foundation, the Great Bend Recreation Commission and the City of Great Bend were able to collaborate on this project at Veterans Memorial Park.



Housing Opportunities Celebrates Completion of Kensington Square Duplex Development

Kensington Square, the latest affordable housing project by Housing Opportunities Inc. is complete and residents have started moving in to the duplex apartments, located in the 3000 block of N. Washington Street.

Since the year 2000, Housing Opportunities Inc. has provided housing to nearly 550 families, over \$40 Million in project funding, nearly \$15 Million in added property values, over \$1 Million paid in property taxes and over \$25 Million paid to local contractors. According to Housing Opportunities Inc, properties may follow income-based guidelines. As such, the units may be available only to individuals/families below certain income levels. Additionally, some properties may be developed solely for the use of tenants who are seniors.

Since 1996, Housing Opportunities Inc. has been providing safe, quality, affordable housing to people in the community. They currently manage single-family homes and duplex-style apartment units across Barton, Pawnee, and Rice counties. For more information call 620-792-3299.



Committed to caring for the Great Bend community.

Providing the Great Bend community greater access to the resources of the only academic health center in Kansas. Together, we are committed to ensuring the continued well-being of this community, close to home.

kansashealthsystem.com/community

New Hires, Promotions & Awards - People on the Move!

ABBB Staff Accountant Jenni Edwards Earns Kansas CPA License

The certified public accounting firm of Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered (ABBB) is pleased to announce that Jennifer "Jenni" Edwards has earned her license as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in Kansas. Since joining the ABBB team in 2017, Edwards has served as a staff accountant in the firm's Tax and Audit Departments. Her previous experience includes two-and-a-half years as a staff accountant at another CPA firm and an internship with ABBB in 2014. Edwards is a 2015 graduate of Sterling College and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting with a minor in Economics. Edwards is a member of the AICPA and the Kansas Society of CPAs. She is also a QuickBooks Online ProAdvisor. Edwards lives in Ellinwood with her husband, Matt.



ABBB Welcomes Jess Camp, New Director of Human Resources

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered (ABBB) is pleased to announce the addition of Jessica Camp, PHR, SHRM-CP to their professional team.

As the firm's Director of Human Resources, Camp is responsible for coordinating and supervising all HR functions, including performance management, employee benefits, recruiting, compensation administration, and labor relations. She brings with her nearly 13 years of human resources management experience. Camp graduated from Kansas State University in 2005, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources. She is currently affiliated with the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) and the Employment Practices Network of Kansas City (EPN-KC). Raised in Claflin, Kansas, Camp and her husband, Tracy, currently reside in Overland Park with their daughter, Emma. In addition, Camp's step-daughter, Kirsten, is a junior at Kansas State University.



MPIRE Realty Group Welcomes New Agent, Katie Homolka

Great Bend's most progressive real estate brokerage, MPIRE Realty Group, is pleased to welcome licensed Realtor® Katie Homolka to their growing team. Over the last 40 years, Katie Homolka has lived and worked in Central Kansas on the family homestead where she and her husband Jim raised four children. In addition to those responsibilities, Katie recently retired from teaching at USD 428. Along with a master's degree in exercise psychology and a master's in administration, her 30 years of experience in education have honed her communication, organization and team building skills, making her an invaluable educator for our community. As head of the Physical Education Department, she developed new curriculums and programs to enhance the health and wellness of the students.

When she's not showcasing properties or tending to her plants at Scorched Stone Farm, she's traveling with her children and grandchildren. Learn more at www.mpirerealtyks.com.



First Kansas Bank Promotes Perla Hernandez to Compliance Officer

Perla Hernandez has been promoted to Compliance Officer according to Paul Snapp, President and CEO of First Kansas Bank. Snapp commented that, "Perla has experience as a banker in addition to a strong accounting background. Her knowledge and credentials position her to provide leadership in the compliance function of our Bank."

Perla was born and raised in Great Bend and graduated from Great Bend High School. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Columbia College in Columbia, Missouri. Perla was admitted to Phi Theta Kappa academic honor society during college. Perla makes her home in Great Bend with her son Max and fiancé Miguel Poblano. First Kansas Bank has offices in Hoisington, Claflin, Great Bend and Hays.



"People on the Move" Announcements Continued on Page 4

Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1125 Williams,
Great Bend, KS 67530
Phone: 620-792-2401
Fax: 620-792-2404

Web address: www.greatbend.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman

Taylor Calcara, Watkins Calcara Chtd.

Vice Chairman

AJ Chrest, Aflac District Coordinator

Immediate Past Chairman

Paul Snapp, First Kansas Bank

Treasurer

Taylor Dirks, Adams Brown Beran & Ball

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aaron Andrews

MPIRE Realty Group

Todd Armatys

Edward Jones Investments

Cindy Brooke

Heartland Taxes / Ambassador Club

Austin Coyan

Adams Brown Beran & Ball / Young Professionals

Gaila Demel

Unitetted Way of Central Kansas

Rebecca Ford

Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas

Casey Harbour

Watco Companies

Diann Henderson

Great Bend Recreation Commission

Teresa Mazouch

Wheatland Electric Cooperative

Dr. Scie Murray

Murray Chiropractic Center

Jon Prescott

Sunflower Diversified Services

Lacey Schofield

Best Western Angus Inn

Julie Spray

The Fieldhouse

Nancy Sundahl

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Rick Taylor

Nex-Tech

Pete Wesner

CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions

EX-OFFICIO

Vicki Berryman, Great Bend City Council

Christina Hayes, Great Bend CVB

Jennifer Schartz, Barton County Commission

Dr. Carl Heilman, Barton Community College

Khris Thexton, USD #428

CHAMBER STAFF

Jan Peters, President/CEO
jpeters@greatbend.org

Laura Blankenship, Business Development Director
lblankenship@greatbend.org

Megan Barfield, Member Relations Coordinator
mbarfield@greatbend.org

Kim Wiens, Business Manager
kwuens@greatbend.org



Website Design
Video Production
Facebook Marketing
Logo Design
Business Cards
Brochures & Rack Cards
Postcards & Flyers
Advertising Design
& Lots More!

SEE SAMPLES & PRICING AT
 MARKETINGMAVENCONSULTING.COM
 CALL TODAY: 620-786-4896



Any customer who has
 Comfort Pro install a new
 furnace in the month of
 December gets to choose from
 one of our charities and we'll
 donate **\$100** in your name!

See our website for the list of eligible charities!

(800) 937-3030



*OFFER VALID FROM
 DECEMBER 1-31

New Hires, Promotions & Awards - Cont. from Pg. 3

Andrea Bauer Joins USD 428 Staff as Public Information Director

USD 428 is proud to announce and welcome Andrea Bauer as the district's new public information director. With a career shift from the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, Bauer brings strong community connections and experience in marketing and public relations to the district.

In this role, Bauer will work to develop and implement strategies for communicating with district employees as well as with the community.

"In my career, as well as my volunteer roles, I strive to be an advocate and cheerleader for our community," said Bauer. "It's my goal to make sure the general public is connected to and participating in the great things happening at USD 428, in the classroom and beyond."

A native of Great Bend, Bauer earned a bachelor's degree in Entertainment Business from Oklahoma City University before working in corporate event planning in Kansas City, MO. Andrea and her husband Rob Bauer returned to Great Bend for their careers and to raise their family - they have three future Jefferson Jets; Brock, Wesley, and Mason.

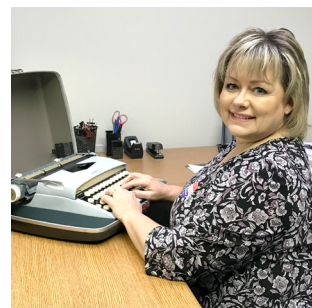


Sunflower's McCormick Expands Role to Launch Consignment

Anyone who is wondering what to do with vintage items that could be put to good use is encouraged to contact Sunflower Diversified Services. The non-profit agency is starting a brand-new consignment venture to raise money for infants, toddlers and adults with developmental disabilities and delays in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. "We are looking for vintage items made before 1970," said Debbie McCormick, Sunflower's director of marketing. "Research tells us these types of items will sell pretty quickly."

This is how the new internet-based program works. Items can be donated and Sunflower will keep 100 percent of the selling price. Or items can be accepted on consignment and Sunflower will retain 25 percent of the selling price as a fee for making the sale. "We will attempt to sell the items on eBay and other websites," McCormick said. "We will take care of everything."

Some examples of vintage items are cars, and car parts and motors; artwork; jewelry; guns; tools; typewriters; carnival glass; and other collectibles. For more information or to offer items for sale, contact McCormick by calling 620-792-1325 or 620-639-0049. Sunflower is in its 52nd year.



Stueders Congratulates Brian Wahlmeier on Recent Retirement

Terry Stueder from Stueder Contractors would like to thank Brian Wahlmeier for 30 years with the company. "The key to running a successful business is to have outstanding employees and we are proud to say we have the best," Terry stated.

Stueder Contractors has been in business for over 34 years and Brian Wahlmeier has been along for the ride for 30 of those years. Brian started when we had just 5 employees and has grown with the company through many changes.

"We are proud of the experience and knowledge that Brian gives to our business and we know that we could not be where we are without people like him." Congratulations, Brian Wahlmeier on 30 years of service, and we thank you!



HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- 1... KWEC Holiday Open House, 592 NE K-156 Hwy, 9a.m. – Noon
- 1... Jingle Bell Swing Big Band Holiday Dance, Great Bend American Legion, 1011 Kansas Ave. @ 8p.m.
- 2... Barton Planetarium Holiday Open House, Barton Planetarium, 245 NE 30 Rd @ 1p.m.
- 2... Shafer Gallery Holiday Open House, 245 NE 30 Rd @ 1:30p.m.
- 2... Caregivers Count Support Group, First Christian Church, 5230 Broadway Ave. @ 2p.m.
- 2... 3rd Annual Christmas Gala, St. Joseph Parish Center, Ellinwood @ 5:30p.m.
- 3... Barton Holiday Concert, Fine Arts Auditorium, 245 NE 30 Rd @ 7:30p.m.
- 4... Chamber Lunch & Learn: USD 428 Master Plan, Spray-Holy Family Board Room, 1125 Williams St. @ Noon
- 4... USD 428 Community Feedback Meeting, GBHS Auditorium, 2027 Morton St. @ 5p.m.
- 6... Chamber Coffee: Family Crisis Center, 1924 Broadway Ave., Program @ 9:30a.m.**
- 6... Christmas Open House at BTI, 248 SE 10 Ave., 3p.m. – 5p.m.
- 6... Chamber Connect on KVGB 1590AM or 97.7FM @ 11:30a.m.
- 7... BCYP Party with a Purpose, Shafer Art Gallery @ 6p.m.
- 7... Adult's Night Out Movie, Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams St @ 7p.m.
- 8... Breakfast with Santa, Perk's, 1216 Main St. @ 9a.m.
- 8... Photos with Santa at MPIRE Realty, 3520 Lakin Ave., 10a.m. – Noon
- 9... GBCT's Open Audition for "Almost, Maine", 1905 Lakin Ave., 2p.m. – 6p.m.
- 10... Family Storytime with Santa, Public Library, 1409 Williams @ 6:30p.m.
- 9... GBCT's Open Audition for "Almost, Maine", 1905 Lakin Ave., 7p.m. – 10p.m.
- 11... Dine for Dolly at Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, 3008 10th St, all day
- 12... United Way Holiday Luncheon, Best Western Angus Inn, 2920 10th St. @ 11a.m.
- 12... GBHS Jazz Band Concert, Public Library, 1409 Williams St. @ 12p.m.
- 13... Chamber Coffee: Community Bank of the Midwest, 2220 Broadway, Program @ 9:30a.m.**
- 16... Brunch with Santa Claus, Stoneridge Country Club, 1438 24th St. @ 11a.m.
- 18... Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, 1300 Kansas Ave #B, @ 11a.m.
- 19-20... Chamber Member Appreciation Days, 2401 Williams St, 9a.m. – 5p.m.**
- 20... Chamber Coffee: Golden Belt Community Foundation, Prince of Peace Parish Center, 4100 Broadway, Program @ 9:30a.m.**
- 20... GBHS Madrigal Pops Concert, Public Library, 1409 Williams @ 12:15p.m.
- 27... Chamber Coffee: Chamber Ambassadors, Spray-Holy Family Board Room, 1125 Williams, Program @ 9:30a.m.**

Recurring events:

- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams St, 6:30p.m.
- Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9a.m.
- Christmas Craft Mall returns in 2018 and is located at the Central Baptist Church, 3301 Lakin Ave. The Craft Mall will be open through December 27th. Hours are Mon. – Sat., 10am – 6pm and Sun., 1pm – 6pm.
- Visit Santa and Santa's Around the World exhibit in downtown Great Bend, 1223 Main St. Hours are Thursdays & Fridays, 4pm – 6pm, Saturdays & Sundays, 1pm – 6pm through December 23rd.
- Visit www.greatbend.org/events/calendar for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!



Be Santa for a Senior With ElderCare's Tree

Because of the amazing community support last year, ElderCare Inc. is sponsoring its second annual Be a Santa to a Senior project, Executive Director Brandi Gruber said. "We collected gifts for more than 60 of our home-services clients in eight area counties last Christmas," Gruber recalled. "We hope even more area residents will benefit from the community's generosity this year."

Be a Santa to a Senior provides much-needed items to senior citizens who are short on finances and have limited mobility. A Christmas tree has been trimmed with decorative tags that represent clients and their particular needs. Actual names are not used because of privacy concerns. Anyone is welcome to choose a tag and return a gift at the ElderCare office, 5611 10th in Great Bend, or call 620-792-5942. There is still a little time for additions to the tree. "Many seniors, especially at Christmastime, need to know their neighbors are thinking about them," Gruber said. "They need some basic items and we encourage businesses and individuals to take on the role of Santa Claus."

Items could include blankets, warm clothing, food and toiletry items, crossword and word-search books, and gift cards for a few staples at the grocery store. It could also include a favorite candy or food item specific to each gift recipient. ElderCare's home services include personal care, household tasks and respite for caregivers. Registered nurses offer medication management, wellness checks and companionship. For more information, call 620-792-5942.



10TH STREET EYECARE CENTER

"Your Family Optometrists"

Dr. Russ McCaulley
Dr. Chad Premer
Dr. Nicole Miller
Dr. Sarah Stueder

620-792-2020

Open 6 Days a Week
2601 10th Street
in Great Bend, KS
10thStreetEyecare.com

Almost Home Receives Praise During Hospice Month

Justin Van Meter, Rozel, knew his wife needed more than he and their sons could give. She was facing the end of her life and the family needed hospice care. Once they realized this, Justin followed up on a recommendation to visit with Leilani Schenkel, R.N., executive director at Almost Home Inc. The Great Bend residence at 1919 Van Buren designates two rooms for end-of-life care.

Justin and his sons, Spencer, 19, and Harrison, 17, shared their Almost Home experience in observance of National Hospice & Palliative Care Month in November. Their wife and mother, Darcey, passed away Oct. 8, 2015, from colon cancer at age 45; she taught second grade at Pawnee Heights. Darcey spent the last two weeks of her life at Almost Home; the colon-cancer diagnosis was made about three years earlier. "I saw what was being done for her at Newton Medical Center. I knew we couldn't do this at home and didn't want our family to go through it alone," Justin recalled. "The staff at Newton led us here; I couldn't be more grateful."

"We had two children active in school; Darcey didn't want our lives to stop," he added. "She wanted us to keep doing things we would normally do."

Justin knew at the outset that his family made the right decision and would recommend Almost Home "in a heartbeat. Leilani and the staff are very caring. She sat down with me when we first got here and took care of the paperwork. And then I didn't have to worry about it anymore. That was a huge relief."

Spencer, who attends Butler Community College, and his brother, Harrison, who attends Pawnee Heights High School, also praise Almost Home and its staff. "Mom's care was excellent in every way you can imagine," Spencer said. "While mom was conscious, the nurses were right there to see if she needed anything. If she was sleeping, they were always checking on her."

Spencer noted that his mom believed in God "and her faith was important to her. Leilani is a person of faith too. We could rely on our faith to get the answers we needed. This made the grieving easier to digest. "Leilani kept us in the loop about how the disease was progressing," he added. "It was not easy, but she did it with grace."

The Van Meter family noted that when they suggested a candlelight vigil, Almost Home accommodated. More than 50 people attended in the backyard. An added benefit, they commented, is the Retreat House on the Almost Home property. Harrison said this "gave us a place to relax as much as we could. Sometimes you just have to get away and think for yourself. We will always be grateful. "The staff always greeted us at the door and told us anything we needed to know," Harrison continued. "We knew Leilani was busy but she always had time for us. Almost Home is so comfortable, warm and inviting."

Almost Home also offers full-time residency, adult daycare and respite. For more information, contact Schenkel by calling 620-617-1634.



- Indoor Pool & Hot Tub
- Fitness Center
- Business Center
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free Netflix
- Mini Fridge, Coffee Maker, Microwave & Iron in Each Room
- Two Restaurants & Bar On Site
- Indoor Courtyard, Perfect for hosting reunions, parties & vendor shows!

Shafer Gallery Offers Friends Exhibit Through Dec. 8

A wide range of local artists' work will be on display at the Shafer Gallery as part of the Barton County Arts Council Friends and Acquaintances exhibit now through Dec. 8. The show is underwritten by the Bill J. McKown Memorial Endowment distributed by the Golden Belt Foundation.

Great Bend watercolorist and Barton Community College Coordinator of Workforce Training Events Krystall Barnes is a featured artist of the exhibit. "The exhibit offers an opportunity to see in vivid detail what is going on in the creative environments of our own backyard," Shafer Gallery Director Dave Barnes said. "Every style and approach to making art you can think of is on display here. We are grateful for the support of the Barton County Art Council for helping us give local artists a chance to shine."



Best Western.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS
2920 10th Street • (620) 792-3541
Take a virtual tour at bwangus.com/

620-792-3541

ECF Inmates Celebrate Educational Milestones & Brighter Future



Jason Schaffer was incarcerated at age 16, and hasn't known freedom for the last 25 years. His first chance at leaving is a parole opportunity still more than a decade away. Until then, he has plenty of time, and he has a choice about how to view his past, use his present and approach his future. His

focus has been education, and he graduated with an associate degree in general studies from Barton Community College last month at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility Learning Celebration.

"I've been in prison my whole life; I didn't know anything about the world when I started taking classes in the facility," he said. "I had failed sixth grade twice, which is when I started getting locked up, so I came here with a fifth grade education. When I got here, I got curious and found out that I like to learn."

Schaffer learned to weld and landed a welding job, then used the income to pay for earning his high school diploma through the GED exam while he was incarcerated at El Dorado Correctional Facility. Transferring to ECF opened up new possibilities through Barton, of which he took full advantage. He earned several industry certificates before earning his associate degree, which was earned with highest honors, holding onto a 4.0 grade-point average.

Schaffer is determined to earn a bachelor's degree through correspondence education, then a Master's in Business Administration. "I want to be employable and do more than just weld. I want options and more than one field open to me when I parole," he said. "If it weren't for these classes, I wouldn't know how to use a phone or turn on a computer. Learning keeps me going. I have 12 (years) left on a 38 (year sentence). I'm going to make every minute of this sentence count so I can feel like I did my time as a man. I want to know I squeezed as much juice out of this time as possible."

Schaffer was joined by three other inmates who received their associate degrees that evening, along with more than 130 others receiving industry certificates and high school diplomas.

For more information about Barton's BASICS program and how inmate education impacts society and the economy by reducing crime and recidivism, visit bartonccc.edu/breakthecycle.

K-State Global Campus to Offer Ag Law and Economics Course Online

A leading expert in the field of agricultural law and economics will teach a Kansas State University three credit hour online undergraduate course on the topic to interested students in the spring 2019 semester.



Roger McEowen, the Kansas Farm Bureau professor of agricultural law and taxation at Washburn University School of Law and adjunct professor with Kansas State University's agriculture economics department, will teach the online course. McEowen conducts hundreds of seminars across the United States to farmers, agricultural business professionals, lawyers and other tax professionals. He hosts a weekly RFD-TV program and has a wide following on his blog, *Agricultural Law and Taxation*.

The course is designed to provide the legal framework for decision-making by farm firms, families and individuals. Topics covered in the course focus on agricultural applications to common legal issues:

- Contracts
- Financing
- Bankruptcy
- Tax issues, real estate ownership and usage
- Estate and business planning
- Cooperatives
- Civil liabilities, including trespass, self-defense & recreational use
- Tourism
- Negligence and nuisance issues
- Manufacturer's liability
- Employer liability
- Fence law
- Criminal liabilities
- Water, environmental and regulatory laws

Visit global.k-state.edu/ag/online to learn more about the course and to enroll.

Veterans at Sunflower Diversified Services Honored for their Military Service

Five Sunflower Diversified Services employees recently were surprised to be in the spotlight when their co-workers honored them for 36 years of combined military service. Those honored, their service branches and Sunflower positions are: Kent Yetsche, U.S. Army National Guard, residential services; John Lichter, U.S. Army, director of facility maintenance; Ron Heine, U.S. Navy, General Public Transportation driver; Dennis Steele, U.S. Army, recycling manager; and Meg Trapp, U.S. Army, day services.

"All of these veterans demonstrated their giving hearts when they were protecting our country and our freedoms," said Jon Prescott, Sunflower executive director. "That legacy continues today as they serve Sunflower individuals with developmental disabilities and delays. This recognition was a total surprise to them," Prescott noted. "None of them had ever been honored at a job site before."

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults with developmental disabilities and delays in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush & Stafford counties. Learn more: sunflowerdiv.com.



Win FREE FOOD FOR A YEAR

*ONE 17.5 LB BAG OF SCIENCE DIET
FOOD PER MONTH

620-792-1265



My Favorite Furnishings Joins the Great Bend Chamber

Welcome to My Favorite Furnishings, located in downtown Larned! Owned by Jim and Suzan Haynes My Favorite Furnishings boasts seven showrooms full with quality, fair-priced Furniture, Appliances, Mattresses, and Flooring. The design team at My Favorite Furnishings has many years of combined experience in design and customer service and are experts in helping the customer turn their house into a beautiful home. When making your house a home, think of shopping My Favorite Furnishings!

Connect with them on Facebook and online at MyFavoriteFurnishings.com or by visiting the store at 401 Broadway in Larned, KS.



PM Sleep Lab Now Selling Weighted Blankets

PM Sleep Lab and Advanced Medical DME in Great Bend is pleased to announce that they are now offering Sleep Tight weighted blankets. The sleep tight weighted blanket is a therapeutic blanket designed to give you the sensation of a hug!

There are several conditions that benefit from a weighted blanket, such as: insomnia, autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, restless leg syndrome, anxiousness and sensory disorders, and more!

Several different weights of blankets are available for purchase at PM Sleep Lab and Advanced Medical DME, located at 3520 Lakin Avenue in Great Bend. Call 620-292-6031 for more information.



Barton Quartets Available for Holiday Serenading



Anyone interested in surprising loved ones, coworkers or friends with some holiday cheer, or adding some festive flair to their event, can hire a quartet to perform traditional religious or secular holiday music selections.

Barton vocal music students have formed a handful of quartets for hire to offer caroling services any time between December 2-21.

Performances will be 15 minutes long and can be purchased for a donation of \$100 or more. The music can be as background or foreground. All performers are members of the newly formed Barton Community College student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA).

Proceeds will be used to pay for the students' admission to the ACDA national professional development convention. To book a quartet, call Sara Oberle, at (620) 792-9395 or oberles@bartonccc.edu.



**1111 MAIN STREET
GREAT BEND, KS**

620-793-7060



Trek Dealer

Bicycle Service

Weekly Group Rides @ 6pm

TUESDAYS: Group Gravel and Road Rides

THURSDAYS: Employee Opinion Survey

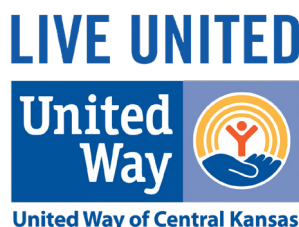
United Way Recaps 5-Year Community Impact

With the Holiday Season upon us, United Way of Central Kansas would like to thank all of their donors for past contributions. With the generous support of our community, UWCK has been able to support 23 Community Partners with nearly one million dollars over the past five years. These dollars have supported the 23 Community Partners who work hard each and every day to lend a hand to those in the community who need it most. Their work has provided drug and family counseling, utility assistance, programs to keep teens out of trouble, protecting and encouraging domestic abuse survivors, advocating on behalf of children who have been abused, as well as providing meals and ensuring the safety of seniors. Given the current economic climate, these services are much needed.

Past donations have also supported Community Impact programs. Putting books in the hands of children with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, preparing kids for school with Literacy Kits, teaching students what life is like after school with Reality U, and delivering Boxes of Love to homebound seniors on Valentine's Day.

As you are spending time during the holidays with family and friends, enjoying meals and time together, please consider offering your financial support to United Way of Central Kansas, again. With 99% of all monies raised staying local and all financial decisions being made by a local Board of community representatives, you can rest assured that your donation will be put to good use. No contribution is too small and the gift of giving is the most incredible contribution you can share with this community. United Way of Central Kansas wishes you a wonderful Holiday Season and is thankful for this amazing community and people like you.

"You were born with the ability to change someone's life. Don't ever waste it." - Unknown



American State Bank to Hold 1st Annual Holiday Hero Contest

There's no time like the holiday season to celebrate our heroes. Who's your hero? Maybe it's your mom, your best friend, a teacher, or a police officer. Someone who is always there when others need them. People trying to do good and make a difference. Here's your chance to say thanks to these Everyday Heroes in a big way. Send American State Bank an email telling them about your hero and what makes them so special. One hero will be selected to receive \$1,000 cash just in time for the holiday season. Send your hero's name and the reason why you are nominating them to contests@asbt.bank.

Emails must be received by midnight on December 11, 2018. Winner will be announced on Friday, December 17, 2018.

SS Graphics Opens New Retail Store in Great Bend

What started as a hobby for stay-at-home Mom, Heather Nicolet, is now a store-front business providing customized printing on a variety of items. SS Graphics is located at 2114 Washington St. Stop in and see the many products she has available for your customization needs.

Items include shirts, koozies, towels, hats, ornaments, puzzles, photos and more! Find SS Graphics

on Facebook and online at SSGraphics.org. Nicolet is excited to be a new Chamber member and proudly accepts Chamber Gift Certificates!



Hammeke Electric Moves to New, Expanded Facility

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development recently helped Hammeke Electric celebrate the opening of their new location at 167 N. US 281 Hwy. Lots of hours and hard work were evident when viewing the four building now occupied by Hammeke Electric, owned by Tim and Kim Hammeke. With 18 employees serving residential and commercial electrical needs, Hammeke's have expanded into the security business with Brant Harms leading the charge for both home and business security options. Congrats to Hammeke Electric and thank you for your commitment to the Great Bend community! To learn more, call (620) 793-6704.



Christmas Tree at GB Coffee to Provide Bright Christmas

Christmas will be a little merrier for children who might not otherwise have a package to open this year, thanks to a local non-profit agency and a Great Bend business.

Infants and toddlers served by Sunflower Early Education Center (EEC) and Incredible Years Preschool, and some siblings will benefit from the activity sponsored by Great Bend Coffee, 2015 Lakin. The tree is decorated with tags, each representing a child enrolled in the EEC's early intervention program or the preschool; some siblings also are included. Participants are asked to select a tag and then place a gift under the tree no later than Dec. 10 so they can be delivered before Christmas in Sunflower's five-county service area. Sunflower EEC provides early intervention services for infants and toddlers with delays or disabilities at no charge to families. Learn more at www.sunflowerdiv.com.



SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Monday, December 4th
6:00-8:00 PM
City Auditorium

ENTERTAINMENT, CRAFTS, SANTA, & LOTS OF
HOLIDAY FUN!




Great Bend Rec
620.793.3755
greatbendrec.com

Cirrus Dental Celebrates Move to a New Location

Patients will never feel the same about a trip to the dentist once they've visited the brand new location of Cirrus Dental Group. Now located at 4811 10th St., Suite 500, Dr. David Hart and his staff have created an eye-pleasing and vibrant space for the whole family to achieve the best in dental care.

Dr. Hart has a special interest in surgery, pediatrics, and sleep apnea treatment. He provides all dental services including extractions, crowns, fillings, and root canals.

His practice is a contracting provider for Delta Dental and Blue Cross Blue Shield, and also accepts most major dental insurances.

To learn more, call 620-792-5523 or visit them online at CirrusDentalGroup.com.



BBE Signs/That Hipster Place Holds Grand Opening

10th & Williams is now home to BBE Signs and Designs / That Hipster Place, owned by Jerry and Kristie Carmichael. The store is now open, just in time for the holiday and full of boutique

style home gift decor and gifts for the gift buying season! Jerry and Kristie believe that home is less about furnishings and more about the memories created. Their goal is to merge the two by building a space that fosters community. That Hipster Place is open Monday through Saturday, 10am - 6pm, but closes early on Tuesdays. Find them on Facebook @ BBESIGNSandDESIGNS.



TCI Launches Referral Program & Well Check Calls

Who's Answering Your Phones? TCI Answering Service has implemented a new Referral Program. Any current customers of TCI will receive a \$25 credit on their next invoice for referring a fellow business owner to TCI. The new customer simply needs to mention the current customer's name when signing up.

NEW! Well Check Calls. TCI is now offering Well Check phone calls. If you have a loved one that could use some checking in on please give us a call. TCI can call twice a day and check on them and report back any possible concerns or issues to you. TCI can even remind them to take their medication if needed. Ideal for the elderly and those with special needs. Call TCI Answering Service today! 620-792-1291



3 Reasons to Hire The HR Pro



You have employees but can't afford your own Human Resources department.



Your company needs assistance tackling a special Human Resources project.



Your H.R. department needs a boost from a seasoned industry expert.



Erika Brining
SPHR & SHRM-SCP
620-793-0985



Ambassador Profile - Brett Behrends, Accountant

What brought you to Great Bend? What keeps you here?

My wife and I both having been raised in Great Bend, liked the idea of raising our family in Great Bend close to both of our families, so when a couple of job opportunities in 2012 open up we made the leap and moved back home.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I currently work/co-own Behrends Tax & Accounting Solutions, LLC. We provide a wide range of services such as tax preparation for individuals and businesses, bookkeeping, business consulting, and more.

What's one thing about you that would surprise people?

No surprises for this guy. I'm an open book what you see is what you get.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

Lots of things energize me. Spending time with family and friends, a round of golf on a nice day, and a good weightlifting session, just to name a few.

At what job, would you be terrible?

Can't think of any job I would be terrible at, but anything that involves me getting filthy dirty I would probably hate.

How long have you been a Chamber Ambassador and what do you like most about it?

I have been an Ambassador for 2 years now. Getting to know and interact with people in the community is the best part of being a chamber ambassador for me.

About Chamber Ambassadors:

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Ambassador Club is made up of 30 men and women from the Great Bend business community who represent the Chamber as volunteers. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact the Chamber: 620-792-2401.



Chamber Welcomes Laura Blankenship to Staff

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development is pleased to announce the recent hire of Laura Blankenship. Laura is a motivated and driven professional with a background in event planning and volunteer coordination. She brings with her excellent communication skills and an eye for detail to the table, as she begins her role as the Business Development Director.

Laura has an extensive background and passion for music, having served as the Worship Leader at LifeQuest Community Church in Belton, MO for four years. She is also an accomplished songwriter with several works published by Sunset Gallery Music.

Originally from the suburbs of Kansas City, Laura, her husband Josh, along with their two boys, Lincoln and Jackson, relocated to Great Bend two years ago and are excited to call this community their home.



Spectrum CPA Champions Operation Christmas Child

Spectrum CPA Partners is part of a year-long effort to provide gifts for children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine and disease around the globe. The local accounting firm is in its second year of supporting Operation Christmas Child and recently assembled 32 shoe boxes, up from 6 in its first year. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization.



GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WELCOME to Our **NEWEST** Chamber Members

BBE SIGNS AND DESIGNS / THAT HIPSTER PLACE

Jerry Carmichael & Kristie Zenner,
Owners
2100 10th St.
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-639-1896
Facebook @BBESIGNSandDESIGNS
Retail

BRAD & SARAH SHIRER

2100 White Sage Ct
Great Bend, KS
(620) 786-6747
bshirer@sbcglobal.net
Retired

CIRCLES OF CENTRAL KANSAS

Jamie Baldwin, Representative
1010 Taft St
Great Bend, KS
620-282-9332
jraeb0306@gmail.com
facebook.com/Circlesofcentralkansas
Non-Profit

PERKS COFFEE SHOP

January Pecora, Owner
1216 Main St.
Great Bend, KS
(620) 786-2334
perkslocalfirst@gmail.com
www.perkscoffeeshop.com
Coffee Shop

FOUNDRY METHODIST CHURCH

Aaron Withrow, Pastor
5401 Broadway Ave.
Great Bend, KS
(620) 617-8700
waituponthelord4031@yahoo.com
foundrymethodistchurch.org
Churches



**CELEBRATING OVER 52 YEARS
OF SERVING PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES!**

There is a Difference.

EARLY EDUCATION
CASE MANAGEMENT
DISABILITY SUPPORTS
RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE
COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT
RECYCLING & MANUFACTURING
GENERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
& MUCH MORE!

620-792-1321

WWW.SUNFLOWERDIV.COM

Hutchinson Clinic Physicians Serving the Great Bend, Hoisington & Ellinwood Areas

GREAT BEND:

Hutchinson Clinic Great Bend / 3715 6th Street
Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Cardiologist
Dr. Aaron Thiessen, Ear Nose & Throat
Dr. Curt Thompson, Interventional Radiologist
Tricia Gilligan, PA, Pulmonology
Natalie Williams, PA, Pulmonology

ELLINWOOD:

Ellinwood Medical Clinic / 611 N. Main
Dr. Lindsay Nordwald, OBGYN
Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Cardiologist

HOISINGTON:

Clara Barton Medical Clinic / 250 W 9th St
Dr. Costy Mattar, Cardiologist
Dr. Christine Sanders, OBGYN
Dr. Curt Thompson, Interventional Radiologist

Exceptional Care Close to Home



Call for an appointment: 620-669-2500
www.hutchclinic.com

CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE **Every Thursday | Doors Open at 9am | Program at 9:30am**

December 6, 2018 **FAMILY CRISIS CENTER** **1924 Broadway in Great Bend**

The Family Crisis Center, Inc., based in Great Bend, Kansas, provides advocacy and support to all survivors and secondary victims of domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect while encouraging social change through awareness, education and prevention. From our 24-hour crisis hotline to supportive services to professional training, we offer hope and healing for families experiencing domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect.

December 13, 2018 **COMMUNITY BANK OF THE MIDWEST** **2220 Broadway in Great Bend**

Community Bank extends a Holiday warm welcome to the Chamber Coffee on December 13th, providing entertainment and sweets in a festive atmosphere, to give back to the community for the many years of success.

December 20, 2018 **GOLDEN BELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** **Prince of Peace Parish Center | 4100 Broadway in Great Bend**

Join Golden Belt Community Foundation as we give back over \$20,000 in matching funds, incentives, and classroom grants to local charities and schools. We will highlight the impact of this year's Giving Tuesday event and recognize top organizations and donors that made this event possible.

December 27, 2018 **GREAT BEND CHAMBER AMBASSADOR CLUB** **Spray-Holt Family Board Room | 1125 Williams in Great Bend**

The Chamber Ambassador Club is taking center stage at this week's Chamber Coffee! Join us as we introduce our members and recognize retiring and incoming Ambassadors for 2019. The Ambassadors work hard throughout the year representing not only the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, but also their businesses and community. Help us give thanks to this AMAZING group of volunteers.

January 3, 2018 **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: BARTON COUNTY AREA** **Spray-Holt Family Board Room | 1125 Williams in Great Bend**

Habitat for Humanity has been in Barton County since 2001. Our non-profit organization gives a hand up, not a hand out. Every donation received is used to build or remodel homes for our partner families, who then purchase the home through a zero-interest, 25-year mortgage.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

McDonald's

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.