



GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A DIGITAL VERSION OF THE *OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL*, A PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE

online

Register Now!

JOIN US FOR THE 97TH ANNUAL
CHAMBER BANQUET & AWARDS CEREMONY



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development is proud to present the 97th Annual Chamber Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, February 23rd, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street. Last year's theme, "The Art of Community," continues once again, but with a new twist! Instead of the visual arts on display at last year's event, this year will shift to celebrating the performing arts with a variety of live entertainment throughout the evening.

The popular social event and celebration starts with a cocktail and social hour at 6 p.m., followed by a delicious catered dinner prepared by A & G Catering. The meal will include a fresh garden salad, 21-day-aged KC strip steak, potatoes, a veggie, and a mouth-watering dessert. The Prairie Winds Quartet will provide live instrumental dinner music. The group is comprised of Marc Webster, Steve Lueth, Greg Pohl, and Kurtis Koch.

Before the special recognition of community award winners, this year's line-up will also include a sprinkling of other performances, including vocal music from Great Bend High School teacher, Shelly Duvall. Duvall studied music education at Fort Hays State University, and has many years of experience performing in college singing groups, local musicals, and other productions.

Great Bend native Bryan Pinkall will also grace the stage to share his Grammy Award winning talents with the crowd. Pinkall is an Assistant Professor of Music for the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Kansas State University.

And to keep things moving, students of Danceography, in Great Bend, will share one of their competition performances that will be sure to set the stage for not one, but TWO other surprise performances also planned to dazzle banquet guests and provide an experience to remember!

The evening will conclude with the announcements of community award winners for Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, and NextGen Leader of the Year, as well as a special Legacy Award. Visit greatbend.org to reserve a table or purchase individual tickets. Or, stop by the Chamber office, 1125 Williams, during normal business hours.



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NEW Recycling Location Available in Downtown Great Bend, Open 24/7

The community's reaction to the new downtown recycling drop-off site, unveiled in December, has already exceeded expectations. Organizers had anticipated unloading the trailer twice a month. But it is filling up quickly and the timetable has been moved up to accommodate the amount of collections at 18th and Williams.

The trailer was the brainchild of the Barton County Young Professionals (BCYP). "Many of our members had voiced their desire for more recycling opportunities. And Sunflower Diversified Services and the City of Great Bend made it happen," said Megan Hammeke, 2018 BCYP Steering Committee Chair.

The project began a few months prior when BCYP members sat down with representatives of Sunflower, the City of Great Bend and the Barton County Landfill to discuss the future of recycling in Great Bend. Kendal Francis, City Administrator, had high praise for BCYP's foresight in initiating this project. "The young professionals wanted to be part of the solution," Francis said. "The communication between their group, the City and Sunflower was great. We could all sit down, collectively think about it and take the appropriate action."

After talking with BCYP and Sunflower, Francis followed through by taking the idea of a downtown drop-off site to the Great Bend City Council. After the Council learned the details, the vote was unanimous to buy the trailer, which was located by Sunflower Diversified Services staff at a steeply reduced price. "Recycling is gaining momentum and we wanted to take this next step," Francis said. "All of us appreciate the community's cooperation."



The trailer is available 24/7. Other recycling services, including confidential paper shredding, are still offered at Sunflower Recycling, 5523 10th Street, where services remain the same. Visit the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & E.D. Facebook page to see more photos of the new recycling trailer.



ON THE ROCKS Liquor Store Moves to New, Larger Location

New owners, Brett and Shari Middleton, welcomed the Chamber Ambassadors for a Ribbon Cutting at the newly expanded and renovated location for On the Rocks Liquor Store at 4010 10th Street (just two doors west from the former location in the same suite of business spaces).

Purchasing the business in mid-2018, the Middletons jumped right into this new adventure bringing their daughter, Hannah, along for the fun.

Just before the holidays, the liquor store moved into their newly remodeled space, equipped with a walk-in cooler and a large selection of beer, wine and spirits! The displays include a vast array of wines to suit all budgets and tastes, beautifully organized on wooden wine racks built by the Middletons themselves. Shari and Hannah pride themselves on their ability to help every customer find the perfect wine or cocktail mixers, and they also offer gift items.

On the Rocks Liquor Store is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12-8 p.m. To see the latest arrivals, be sure to follow "On the Rocks - Liquor Store" on [Facebook](#).



SAVE THE DATE - "Great Bend, Better Than Great" Continues

Responses from the first Community Vision Workshop were so overwhelmingly positive that more just like it were requested and asked for by the public. Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 7th when "Great Bend: Better than Great and Vision 2040" continues with a second workshop. Similar to the first event, this will be open to the public with solution-driven conversations around common concerns and issues facing our community. Meet your friends, family and neighbors around the tables, talking face to face, bridging gaps while having meaningful conversations.

COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

Thursday, February 7th

6:30 - 8:30pm

Best Western Courtyard
2920 10th Street, Great Bend



Meet the 2019 Members of the Chamber Ambassador Club

If you've ever attended a Chamber event such as our weekly Chamber Coffees, or an After-Hours, you've undoubtedly crossed paths with our Ambassadors, often times seen wearing a red shirt. In addition to Chamber Coffees and After-Hours, they can be found at the Annual Banquet, Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament, Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo, Ribbon Cuttings, groundbreaking ceremonies and more! They are sprinkled into everything we do here at the Chamber, our eyes and ears, listening to what it is our members need. This group of volunteers work tirelessly to strengthen and support our business community!

Join us in thanking our 2019 Chamber Ambassador Club Volunteers!

President: Curtis Wolf, KS Wetlands Education Center

Vice President: Sonya Rein, The Errand Lady

NEW in 2019:

- Michael Adamyk - Great Bend Public Library
- Rich Baskerville - Landmark National Bank
- Eric Fox - American State Bank
- Lindsay Herl - Credit Union of America
- Debbie McCormick - Sunflower Diversified Services
- Heather Nicolet - SS Graphics
- Kris Sundahl - Edward Jones
- Brad Shirer - Retired
- Megan Wells - EZ Tan & Coldwell Banker
- Bailey Zink - Yours Truly

Continuing their Service:

- Brett Behrends - Behrends Tax Accountants
- Traci Burns - USD 428
- Gaila Demel - United Way of Central Kansas
- Megan Hammeke - Great Bend Rec Commission
- Cody Harris - Sunflower Diversified Services
- Dale Hogg - Great Bend Tribune
- Chelsea Kaundart - Barton Co. Young Professionals
- Melinda Kurth - MagnaDry
- Dale MacKinney - First Assembly of God
- Jessica Milsap - MPIRE Realty Group
- Shelly Peacock - TCI Answering Service
- Lexie Schneider - The Beauty Bar
- Cole Schwarz - Anderson Schwarz Financial
- Shannon Stafford - Eagle Radio
- Dave Storjohann - KFC
- Deanna Vannoster - H&H Roofing

Retiring Ambassadors:

- Barry Bowers - Spectrum CPA Partners
- Cindy Brooke - Heartland Taxes & More
- Jake Deutsch - Great Bend Co-op Association
- Sarah Panning - Nex-Tech
- Cole Reif - Eagle Radio
- Tiffany Schoendaler - Central Plains Computer Service
- Brandon Steinert - Barton Community College
- Amanda Swigart - MPIRE Realty Group
- Steve Swigart - Sunflower Bank



About the 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 in a number of ways. They host the weekly Chamber Coffees, attend Business After Hours and Ribbon Cuttings, serve on Chamber committees, and assist with member recruitment and retention efforts.

They also volunteer at numerous Chamber events, such as the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo, Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament and the Annual Banquet and Meeting.

LEARN MORE:

www.greatbend.org/ambassadors

GET INVOLVED:

Call us to get on the list: 620-792-2401

Join Us for Upcoming Legislative Coffees

Two Opportunities to Network with Legislators Feb. 2 & Mar. 9

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development recently announced that it will host two Legislative Coffee events in the coming weeks, designed to give local constituents the chance to network directly with their elected officials serving in Topeka.

The dates for the 2019 Legislative Coffees will be Saturday, February 2nd and Saturday, March 9th with both held at 10:00 a.m. in the Spray-Holt Family Board Room at the Chamber office, 1125 Williams in downtown Great Bend.

"We invite all of our Kansas representatives and senators who represent Barton County to the coffees," says Jan Peters, President/CEO of the Chamber. "After a brief update from each legislator who attends, the audience can ask questions about the topics facing our state government."

These events are open to the public. The 2019 Legislative Coffees are sponsored by Hutchinson Regional Medical Center.



Special Recognition for Outgoing Council

With a new year comes many new faces to several surrounding boards and organizations. The City Council is no exception, with three departing council members who were thanked for their service at the January 8th city council meeting.

Cory Zimmerman (3rd Ward), Vicki Berryman (1st Ward), and Joel Jackson (2nd Ward), the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development thanks you for your service and commitment to Great Bend.

Incoming council members in 2019 to join Brock McPherson, Andrew Erb, Dan Heath, Jolene Biggs and Cory Urban include: Jessica Milsap, Chad Somers and Dana Dawson.



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ONE Day. BIG Impact. USD 428 Community Service Day Returns Apr. 24

Great Bend High School is making plans to send over 900 students and staff beyond its walls and into the community on April 24th. The 7th Annual Community Service Day is a highly anticipated day for both students, and for the organizations they serve.

"Community Service Day has been a huge success at GBHS by giving us one day where we can show our entire community that 900 teenagers can and do make a difference in this city," said Great Bend High School Principal, Tim Friess. "The day is a great way to give back a little to those that have helped us and to show the value of helping others. Our students seem to get as much satisfaction out of the day as those who are being helped".

Businesses and not-for-profit organizations are encouraged to participate by either hosting a "work project" for students or by making a financial contribution to the event. The annual t-shirt is just one avenue to consider. Worn by all 900+ students and teachers, sponsor logos are highly visible for great advertising. Interested organizations are encouraged to learn more on the Community Service Day website as the deadline to submit projects is quickly approaching on March 1st.

"Planning an event of this magnitude is not always easy, but the outcome is always better than expected," said Andrea Stalcup, GBHS Community Service Day coordinator. "Overall the feedback from the past Community Service Day events has been positive. Adjustments are always required due to weather or cancellations, but the general goal of allowing students to feel a sense of worth and pride in giving back is still evident."

Donations of any size are welcome to help underwrite the cost of Community Service Day. In 2019, community support will extend beyond the one day, with Kans for Kids being selected as the beneficiary of any excess funds. To learn more or to sign-up as a sponsor or job site, please visit greatbendschools.net. For more information or questions, please contact Andrea Stalcup at andrea.stalcup@usd428.net.



WIN A FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Anyone who leaves a positive review on Comfort Pro's Google Listing in the month of February will be entered to win a family movie night bundle complete with gift cards for dinner on the town, tickets at Golden Belt Cinema 6, and all kinds of popcorn, candy, and snacks!

No purchase necessary.
Visit www.comfortproks.com for details.

Comfort Pro Inc.

Revive the Church. Redeem the City.

Many Local Churches Parter for Revival Feb. 10-15

The churches that brought Super Sunday to Great Bend have come together again to invite the public to their event, "Revive the Church & Redeem the City."

A week-long revival will take place February 10th - 15th with nightly worship services at 6:30PM daily at the Great Bend Events Center. Messages will be given each night from various local pastors and ministers with a youth event following the Friday evening service.



Nightly offerings will be received to cover the costs of future Super Sunday Events including the Revive & Redeem meetings, Serve the City Community Service Day (set for April 27) and Super Sunday II, scheduled for September 1. Check out the Super Sunday Facebook Page and share: facebook.com/supersundaygreatbend.

Realtor of the Year. Wayne Rathbun

from Keller Agency Receives Recognition

Congratulations to Great Bend's very own Wayne Rathbun on receiving the 2018 Great Bend REALTOR of the Year award from the Great Plains Association of REALTORS! The criteria for this award is based 40% on REALTOR spirit, 25% Local Board involvement, 20% Civic involvement, 15% Business/Production with at least 3 years membership in the Board. The team at Keller wishes thank and congratulate Wayne on his success and commitment to Great Bend!



P&S Security Moves to A New Location

We are moving! P & S Electric and P & S Security is moving to 255 W. Barton Cty Road, ½ mile West from 10th and Patton, South Side. Electric has already moved in but the Security store will be closed at their current location, February 1-10 and open at the new Barton County Road location on February 11th at 8:30am. Watch for more information on a grand re-opening, happening sometime in April.

4 out of 5 dogs over the age of three have gum disease

During the month of February, get

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April 10-12, 2019

www.greatbendfarmandranchexpo.net

April 10th 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 11th 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

April 12th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reserve your exhibitor space today!



WELCOME to Our **NEWEST** Chamber Members

BARTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Sara Martinz, District Manager
926 Patton Road
Great Bend, KS 67530
(620) 792-3346 Ext 303
sara.martinz@ks.nacdnet.net

Non-Profit, Agriculture, Education

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Churches

Challenge Accepted. Giving Tuesday Raises Over \$200K

Oh, what fun it is . . . to celebrate Giving Tuesday! Golden Belt Community Foundation completed its fifth Giving Tuesday campaign in 2018, wrapping up and announcing the results during a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Coffee in December. GBCF issued a "Take the Giving Challenge" by supporting one or more charitable organizations that is meaningful to them. And with over 650 gifts made this year, the challenge was accepted by many people raising a total of \$204,375.48.

"This year we invited all charitable organizations in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford counties to participate," stated Christy Tustin, Executive Director, "There were 23 new organizations participating, and about half of the organizations opted to the gifts as grants to be put to immediate use supporting a wide variety of missions and causes."

During their Chamber Coffee, over \$71,000 in grants were awarded, plus another \$10,000 in matching funds and \$5,000 in giving incentives and drawings. Twelve area elementary schools also participated in Giving Tuesday by having a classroom contest to raise funds. The classroom at each school raising the most received a \$500 grant.

Nikki Omenski, Development Director, presented the winners of the incentive drawings. Each winner was then asked to select a charitable organization to receive an additional grant. There were twenty organizations selected to receive these special grants. "This year there were several new names appearing in the Top 10 list of organizations that raised the most funds," Omenski stated.

"GBCF's Giving Tuesday campaign is only possible because of everyone who supported a cause they care about," said Tustin, "thank you for your support, participation, and spreading the word about Giving Tuesday."

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. In 2019 Giving Tuesday will be celebrated on December 3rd.

For questions about Golden Belt Community Foundation or Giving Tuesday, please contact the foundation at gbcf@goldenbeltcf.org or (620) 792-3000.

2018 Top Ten Giving Tuesday organizations are:

1. Prairie Godmother Funds \$51,214.77
2. Barton County Emergency Aid Association \$18,590.20
3. Holy Family School \$13,225.96
4. Almost Home, Inc. \$12,851.83
5. FOREVER Rozel & Burdett Endowment \$7,961.44
6. Golden Belt Humane Society \$6,720.15
7. United Way of Central Kansas \$6,197.35
8. Community Food Bank of Barton County \$5,748.10
9. Meals on Wheels of Barton County \$5,237.00
10. Sunflower Diversified Services Foundation \$5,231.20



Fiber Space At Heartland Farm

February 8th - 9th

Come and learn another fiber art or just get started. Choose from our offered trainings available at both sessions: knitting, crocheting, spinning and weaving.



Program Dates:

Friday – Saturday,

January 18 – 19, 2019

Friday – Saturday,

February 8 – 9, 2019

Times:

Friday: 7pm – 9pm

Saturday 9am – 4pm

Come enjoy a full weekend event where you can learn a new craft or build your skills with fiber art. Come for each day or stay the night.

We love to use our alpaca's fiber here at the Farm and look forward to offering help to develop skills to spin, knit, crochet or weave.

We have a number of looms, spinning wheels, drop spindles, crochet hooks and knitting needles available for your use or you may bring your own.

To learn more and sign up visit our website

<https://heartlandfarm-ks.org> and look under 'Experiences'

or call us at 620-923-4585



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People on the Move - New Hires & Promotions

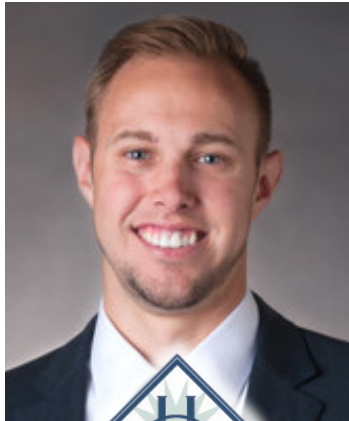
Kyle Mauck Joins Hiss Sherman Wealth Management in Wichita

Kyle Mauck is joining CenterPointe Wealth Management and Hiss Sherman Wealth Management as Financial Advisor.

Prior to joining the firm, Kyle was with American Century Investments for almost 9 years. His most recent role was Sr. DCIO Internal Sales Specialist covering NJ, PA, DE, and WV. Over the past 3 years in this role, he consulted with advisors whose primary clients were 401(k)/retirement plans in helping them select the most appropriate fund options for their 401(k) plans and participants. During his time at American Century, Kyle also worked with financial advisors in CT, NY, FL and high net worth individuals across the country. Kyle earned a bachelor's degree in Marketing and minor in Organizational Leadership from Mid America Nazarene University helping him establish strong work ethic and his foundation of faith.

Compassion, integrity, and a passion for sharing his multi-faceted perspective sets Kyle apart for his clients. He believes in more than quick investment advice. He enjoys visiting with and hearing each person's unique story and is energized by the challenge of creating a plan for financial independence specifically for each person's individual needs.

Kyle is happily married to his beautiful bride Sharaya and has two daughters. He and his family have recently moved from Kansas City to Wichita where they are excited to integrate into the community through volunteering and church. Away from business Kyle enjoys spending time with family and friends, church, traveling, golfing, and watching sports.



Barton Co. Conservation District Hires New District Manager, Martinz

The Barton County Conservation District recently announced that Sara Martinz was hired as the new District Manager.

Sara was born and raised in Barton County with a short time spent in Los Angeles during high school. Martinz returned home to raise her family and continue her education, receiving her degree in Agriculture Business Management in 2015. While in college she worked for United Ag Services. She soon realized her heart was with resource conservation. Hired with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a contracted employee where she assisted with the program development of conservation plans,

Martinz started her new position with the District on December 1, 2018. She hopes to work with more towns and rural areas of Barton County while continuing to provide services to Great Bend, including conservation education with Barton County schools.

To learn more about the services and offerings of the Barton County Conservation District, located at 926 Patton Rd, Great Bend, call Sara Martinz at (620) 792-3346, ext. 3 or email sara.martinz@ks.nacdnet.net. Keep up to date by finding them on [Facebook](#), [@BartonCoConservation](#).



Movies with a Message Return

The Heartland Center for Spirituality invites the public to their monthly "Movies with a Message" at 6:15p.m. in the Auditorium of the Motherhouse, 3600 Broadway. Movies in the series: Blackbeard's Ghost (Feb. 5), Greatest Showman (March 5), The Long Walk Home (April 2) and Summer in the Forest (April 30).

HIGHLIGHTED FEBRUARY EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

- 1... Adult's Night Out Movie, Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams St @7pm
- 2... Legislative Coffee, Chamber Board Room, 1125 Williams St @10am**
- 2... CASA Chocolate Auction, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St @6pm
- 3... Caregivers Count Support Group, First Christian Church, 5230 Broadway Ave @2pm
- 5... Movies with a Message: Blackbeard's Ghost, Dominican Sisters of Peace, 3600 Broadway Ave @6:15pm
- 7... Chamber Coffee: Central Kansas Christian Academy, 215 McKinley St, Program @9:30am**
- 7... Chamber Connect on KVGB 1590AM or 97.7FM @11:30am**
- 7... Community Vision Workshop, Best Western Courtyard, 2920 10th St @6:30pm**
- 8... Fiber Space at Heartland Farm, 1049 CR 390, Pawnee Rock @7pm
- 9... Fiber Space at Heartland Farm, 1049 CR 390, Pawnee Rock @9am
- 9... Life and Works of Laura Ingalls Wilder, Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams St @10am
- 9... Battle of the Barns, Barton County Fairgrounds @12pm
- 12... Dine for Dolly, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, 3008 10th St, All Day
- 12... Employer Roundtable: Employee Community Involvement, The Page Banquet Room, 2920 10th St. @11:30a.m.**
- 13... Western KS Human Resource Management Association Meeting, Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays @11:15am
- 14... Chamber Coffee: Cornerstone Interiors, 1405 Main St, Program @9:30am**
- 14... BTI Celebrates 75 Years, 248 SE 10 Ave @11am
- 15... Great Bend High School Hall of Fame Luncheon, Stoneridge Country Club @11:45am
- 16... Golden Belt Community Concert: Under the Streetlamp, Municipal Auditorium @7:30pm
- 19... Central KS Partnership Meeting, Barton County Health Department, 1300 Kansas Ave #B @11am
- 21... Chamber Coffee: TCI Answering Service, 901 E 10th St, Program @9:30am**
- 21... 72nd Barton County Conservation District Annual Meeting, Knights of Columbus, 114 N Main, Hoisington @5:30pm
- 23... 97th Annual Chamber Banquet, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St @6pm**
- 28... Chamber Coffee: Hammeke Electric, 167 N US 281 HWY, Program @9:30am**

Recurring Events:

- Revive the Church / Redeem the City Community Revival, GB Events Center, 3111 10th St, Feb 10th - 15th @ 6:30pm each night
- GB Community Theater Production: Almost Maine, 1905 Lakin Ave, Feb 14th-16th @7:30pm, Feb 17th @2pm
- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams St, 6:30pm - February's second meeting will be held on TUESDAY, the 19th
- Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am - February's second meeting will be held on TUESDAY, the 19th

Visit greatbend.org/events/calendar for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!



SAVE THE DATE **Job Fest Slated April 25**

Mark your calendars for the return of the 12th Annual Job Fest slated for Thursday, April 25th. Employers looking for employees and added exposure are encouraged to register early with Sponsorship Opportunities available. This is also a great service to Chamber Members to have their promo items included in registration packets handed out that day to all registered employers. Watch for more information as they become available on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GBJobFest

light *up the* night

Saturday, March 2nd

Join Us at the Great Bend Events Center

5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Social Hour
Dinner Catered by The Classic Inn
Silent & Live Auctions
Deal or No Deal
Putt 'N Play
Open Bar & Wine at Each Table
and More!

Featured Auction Item:

Kansas State University Golf Cart,
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People on the Move - New Hires & Promotions

Traci Burns, CPA Joins USD 428 as School District Accountant

USD 428 is proud to announce and welcome Traci Burns as the district's new accountant. Burns started at USD 428 in late 2018 and brings CPA experience as well as corporate accounting.

USD 428 has an annual operating budget of \$60 million and 700 employees. "USD 428 has a strong financial foundation," said Khristen Thexton, USD 428 superintendent. "Traci's expertise will ensure our financial operations support the vision and goals set by the board of education and move us into the future."

Burns grew up in Oakley, KS. She received a bachelor's of science in business administration from Kansas State University before completing her Masters of Accountancy in 2012. Traci met her husband, Logan Burns at KSU and the couple lived in Kansas City before relocating to Great Bend. Her career experience includes time at KPMG, LLC in Kansas City, Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, and most recently Benefit Management, Inc. here in Great Bend. Traci and Logan have one daughter, Nora (2), with another child expected in May of 2019.

"When my daughter starts school in a few years, and for the next 20+ years, what's going on with the school district is going to affect my family greatly," said Burns. "As a parent, resident, and now as an employee, I'm personally invested in how the district is receiving and using its funding and look forward to supporting the financial operations of USD 428."



To ensure a seamless transition, Burns is working closely with Jan Keeley, assistant financial manager, who will retire in February after a 20 year career with USD 428.

Cooper Named Roots & Wings Foundation Director for Rosewood

Sue Cooper is taking over a program that is based on helping people with developmental disabilities to spread their wings. She started her new role as director of Roots & Wings Foundation for Rosewood Services on Dec. 17, after serving for more than 6 years as program officer for Golden Belt Community Foundation.



"Rosewood Services is progressive and innovative in how it serves people with disabilities and the community," said Cooper. "Roots & Wings is an open book for me. It allows me to put the leadership skills I've developed into action and facilitate goals to see what will develop from them. In a sense, it is me spreading my wings for this amazing cause."

Roots & Wings Foundation was founded in 1998 to help advance the physical and mental needs of individuals with disabilities. It funds educational, instructional, therapeutic and recreational opportunities by providing wheelchairs, technical and assistive equipment, dental and medical care and legal assistance. It also strives to enrich the life experiences of disabled individuals by funding trips to museums, concerts and other activities.

Beyond her experience with Golden Belt Community Foundation, Cooper earned a bachelor's degree in Organizational & Leadership Management from Friends University. She brings a wealth of knowledge with more than 12 years of experience working with federal and local grants.

Over the past several years, she has served on committees and boards for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, 100 People Who Care Barton County, and Prince and Peace Parish in Great Bend.

Follow the Chamber on Social Media

Be sure to follow the Great Bend Chamber on social media to see pictures and business news! **@GBCOC** on Facebook or **gbchamber** on Snapchat

10TH STREET EYECARE CENTER

"Your Family Optometrists"

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

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in Great Bend, KS
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Paying it Forward. Kindred Hospice Patients Get Wishes Granted

A local hospice recently worked with patients and their families to make wishes come true. "Our goal is excellent care, and part of that is to find new ways to brighten our patients' days. Two of our Great Bend patients came back with very simple wishes," said Missy Pflughoeft, Kindred Hospice Specialist.

It all began with a conversation, and then blossomed from there.

The care teams at Medicalodges in Great Bend and Kindred Hospice discussed how their patient, Grace Drennon, used to enjoy going out to the salon for pampering. Knowing this could really make a difference to Drennon, Pflughoeft and her team made it their mission to see this happen. Partnering with the team at Studio C Salon; Chris Meade, Bonny Ramirez, and Melanie Schaffer, Drennon was able to receive a full spa day.

"When Kindred Hospice contacted us about partnering with them to help with Grace's wish, we were honored to be given such an opportunity. To spend the day with a beautiful, wonderful lady like Grace, and to pay forward to another patient meant a lot. Kindred took excellent care of my mother during her last days while she fought cancer, and now with this, it feels like we have come full circle," said Meade.

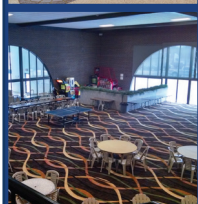
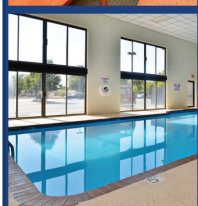
The second patient, David Webster, when asked what would brighten his day said, "I wish I could have one last date night with my wife, to make her feel special again."

Pflughoeft, working with Webster and his Kindred care team, asked what would that look like, "Something low key here at home, a good meal, like prime rib, and her and I getting to spend time together," shared Webster.

In Kindred Hospice fashion, Pflughoeft began making contacts to help Webster's vision happen. "When I asked around who had the best prime rib, several people mentioned Lone Wolf Restaurant & Catering in Ellinwood, KS. Once I contacted Randy and Jimmie Haddon, they were happy to pay it forward also. The Kindred team took care of Randy's father before he passed too," said Pflughoeft.

"Dave and I wish to thank Kindred Hospice and Lone Wolf for our wonderful meal. It meant a lot to us to have this special time together. It was a nice break in our day to day lives dealing with Dave's illness," said Ann Webster, David's wife.

Kindred Hospice provides care for those with life limiting illnesses. To learn more on how you can help grant wishes or about Kindred's health services, please contact Missy Pflughoeft, Hospice Specialist, at (620) 664-5757.



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Employer Roundtable Scheduled Feb. 12 "Community Involvement"

Are you a business owner or an HR professional? Do you have employees? Then you could benefit from our quarterly Employer Roundtables. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 12th at 11:30 a.m. Join us for a panel discussion where we will share ways to promote and support community involvement in the workplace!

Registration for the informative roundtable is \$20 and includes a buffet lunch.

Register: www.greatbend.org

Dedicated to His Profession. Lewis Earns Agribusiness Certification

SJeremy Lewis, a licensed insurance agent employed by Panzer Insurance, recently completed several in-depth courses to become certified as an Agribusiness & Farm Insurance Specialist (AFIS). Panzer Insurance is an independent agency at 1023 Jackson in Great Bend's Jackson Square.



"The courses covered everything from the basics of insuring farm equipment to the unique liabilities associated with farming and agribusiness," Lewis said.

"Our agency specializes in this area and provides coverage to local and not-so-local farmers, ranchers and agribusiness operators.

"Shawn Panzer and I want our clients to know that we work hard to bring them the best insurance products and knowledge."

Lewis noted that the knowledge we have gained will help us make sure there are no gaps in coverage, which results in peace of mind. "Our clients can trust us with their livelihood because we have the experience, training and products to protect them and increase their bottom line. This AFIS certification shows my commitment to honing my expertise on the unique risks associated with farm, ranch and agribusiness, as well as to knowing which carriers are the best fit for individual needs."

Farms and ranches present unique challenges for insurance professionals, Lewis noted. "There are autos, animals, machinery, irrigation pivots and liability, in addition to one or more residences," he explained. "It takes knowledge of the industry and the carriers to determine how to cover all these components, while ensuring there are no gaps and finding a competitive premium.

"Most important," he continued, "we understand and respect that this is someone's livelihood. There is no room for error and we have to communicate with precision so there are no surprises when a claim arises. Yes, it is a challenge, but a fulfilling challenge."

In addition to farming and ranching, Lewis also focuses on other large and small businesses, hard-to-place risks, home, auto and Medicare supplements.

"Panzer Insurance is a one-stop shop," Lewis commented. "Whether it is stand-alone auto insurance or an entire farming operation, we can accommodate."

The International Risk Management Institute (IRMI) offers the AFIS certification and other continuing education. It is a nationally recognized insurance education institute.

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February 7, 2019

CENTRAL KANSAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

215 McKinley in Great Bend

Central Kansas Christian Academy is a non-denominational community Christian school, which provides an exceptional educational opportunity for children in Kindergarten through the Eighth grade. Our strong curriculum not only promotes learning, but also growth in the student's Christian spirit. CKCA combines Christian character training with an excellent academic program that we believe will build a strong foundation for your child's future.

February 14, 2019

CORNERSTONE INTERIORS

1405 Main Street in Great Bend

Cornerstone Interiors is nationally published in Cowboys and Indians and several other magazine publications. Debbie Deutsch has been practicing interior design and residential interior architecture for thirty-nine years.

February 21, 2019

TELE-COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (TCI ANSWERING SERVICE)

901 E. 10th Street in Great Bend

TCI is a 24/7/365 Answering Service that provides customer service to commercial accounts all over the United States. TCI specializes in answering and dispatching calls for contractors, funeral homes, oilfield accounts, medical offices, veterinarians, roadside assistance companies and more. Never miss a call with TCI on your team!

February 28, 2019

HAMMEKE ELECTRIC

167 N. US Hwy 281 in Great Bend

Hammeke Electric Inc. is a full service electrical contractor. No job is too big or small. Tim and Kim Hammeke established the company in 2001 and have not stopped growing since.

March 7, 2019

GREAT BEND COFFEE

2015 Lakin Avenue in Great Bend

We want to thank everyone for their support for the past 4 years. In 2018 we started a full breakfast with eggs, pancakes, waffles and all the extras. Serving breakfast 7-10a.m., Mon-Fri and 8-10a.m. on Saturdays.

We have 65 different sandwiches, salads, wraps, and pizzas with specials daily. We take reservations for Friday & Saturday evening dinners with a full menu including steaks, pasta, seafood, as well as other specials. AND we Do Coffee! Come and see us at 2015 Lakin Ave.

Show Them Some Love. United Way, ElderCare, and Others Assembling Boxes of Love for Homebound Senior Citizens



Boxes of Love will be delivered once again this year on Valentine's Day to homebound seniors in Barton & Pawnee Counties. As Valentine's Day approaches, there is still time for you to be a part of bringing a smile to the faces of these individuals in our communities who are all too often, forgotten.

United Way of Central Kansas, along with ElderCare Home Services, Meals on Wheels, and RSVP/Volunteers in Action have collected all the items donated around the communities, but cash donations are still being accepted to make sure that each box is stuffed to the brim with both necessities and some fun items for these seniors. Then each box is topped off with homemade Valentine's Day cards made by children from Great Bend Children's Learning Center and Caring Hands Daycare. Sponsors of this project include Midwest Energy, Thrivent Financial, and Dillons. UWCK would also like to thank all the businesses that were drop-off locations for this year's project. Those businesses include: Clara Barton Hospital, Ellinwood Hospital & Clinic, University of Kansas Health Systems-Pawnee Valley Campus, First Kansas Bank, Trinity Lutheran Church, First Christian Church, Sunflower Bank, Farmers Bank & Trust, and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce.

Help us brighten their day and warm their hearts by contributing to show these individuals that they have not been forgotten and that they are an integral part of our community.



New Year. New Benefits Added to ABC Program. Sunflower Bank's Program Supporting Education Kicks Off Its 18th Year

Elevating the Community Banking Experience



First National 1870



Sunflower Bank's annual signature ABC Program has raised over \$1.2 million since 2001 for local schools and students in its Sunflower Bank and First National 1870 communities. The ABC Program runs January 1 through March 31, 2019 and supports approximately 300 schools across Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico and Texas. Recipients use the ABC Program funds for much needed educational supplies, equipment and books.

"We believe in solving problems and making possibilities a reality for our customers and our communities," said Mollie Carter, Chairman of Sunflower Bank. "We continue to expand the ABC Program through outreach to new schools and communities."

Based on community participation, the bank provides money to benefit local schools by making ABC Program donations based on every Spend & Sign & Save checking and savings account package opened and registered to a participating school, and through "Cash for Swipes" when school-registered debit cards are used for signature transactions. In addition, Sunflower Bank and First National 1870 branches invite all students to bring their report cards to their local branch for a chance to earn up to \$100 for their As. Five report card winners per branch are chosen from entries by students. This year registered schools receive a matching donation if one of their student's report cards are chosen.

Visit a local branch or SunflowerBank.com/ABC to learn more about the ABC Program and to register a Debit Card to a specific participating school in support of education. As a new program benefit in 2019, the school that raises the most money in each participating state receives \$500 toward a school spirit celebration.

OB/GYN CARE NOW AVAILABLE at the Only Clinic Dedicated to Women's Health, The University of Kansas Health System

When Jodi Henrikson, MD, explains the services at what is now this region's only obstetrics and gynecology clinic, he sums it up pretty quickly. "We take care of women who are pregnant and women who are not pregnant," he summarized. "This includes comprehensive care before, during and after pregnancy, as well as annual exams and routine care for women of all ages."

As part of The University of Kansas Health System, all OB/GYN services have been consolidated under one roof at the Great Bend Campus Medical Pavilion, 514 Cleveland St. Dr. Henrikson's colleagues are Veerayyagari Annapurna, MD, and Sheila Hein, advanced practice registered nurse. "All of us work together to offer the highest-quality healthcare for women," Dr. Henrikson said. "We do all we can to ensure we are providing the most appropriate care for each individual patient."

Both physicians are trained to treat women with high-risk pregnancies, such as those that involve diabetes and high blood pressure. In addition, the clinic cares for patients with incontinence and prolapse, which entails "bulging where it doesn't belong, such as in the bladder, rectum and uterus," Dr. Henrikson explained. "We also take care of inflammation of the bladder. There are not a lot of providers in this area that do this."

"In regard to gynecological surgeries, we do everything except operate in situations that involve cancer. However," he noted, "we offer follow-up care and monitoring after cancer surgeries. And in obstetrics, there is not much that we don't take care of."

Both physicians also offer pre-conception counseling and infertility treatments. Being part of The University of Kansas Health System allows the clinic to enhance its services for patients and their families.

"In a large healthcare organization such as this we have the resources to offer many services locally, along with access to specialists if a referral is necessary," Dr. Henrikson said. "And since our office is on the second floor of the hospital, we are quickly available for any situation that needs our attention."

"There is a general surgeon right down the hall and The University of Kansas Health System Family Medicine is nearby," he continued. "All of this means we can be even more efficient and patients can enjoy more convenience."

Dr. Henrikson has 14 years of experience in practice, while Dr. Annapurna has seven. Hein has 42 years of experience caring for women.

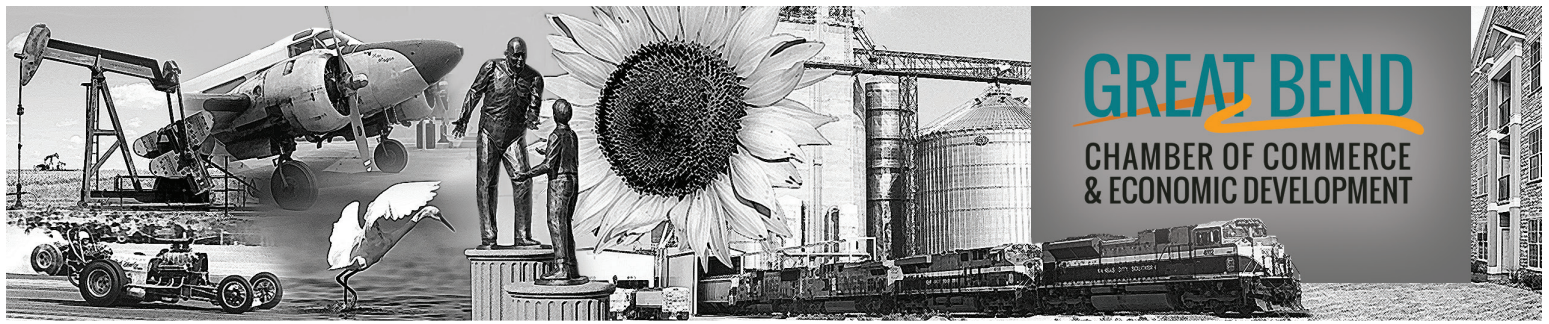


Nex-Tech News. Advertising Solutions Division Earns Google Partner Status.

Nex-Tech is pleased to announce that the Advertising Solutions division has achieved Google Partner status and is listed on the Google Ads partner page. The Google Partner badge is for businesses that demonstrate Google Ads skills and expertise. This requires the business have at least two employees certified in Google Ads products that maintain the latest product knowledge, and meet monthly criteria for the successful use of advertising options with Google.

Digital Marketing Specialists Aubree Broyles of Hays and Daniel Schwindt of McPherson are the Nex-Tech employees that maintain certification in Google Ads. Their team provides expert Google Ads services and wide variety of digital, design, web, social media and consulting services to nearly 100 businesses throughout the United States. Schwindt says, "It's really an honor to be trusted by so many clients to manage these complex campaigns and influence the digital presence of their businesses."





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