



OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

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

JCPenney Store Sunsets July 31st *Chamber Providing Career Resources During Transition*

In a show of support and concern for JCPenney employees, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development hosted a May 15 reception at the store. The 94-year-old Great Bend store will close its doors on July 31.

"We wanted to show our appreciation and support to the Penney's employees who will soon be displaced," Chamber President & Chief Executive Officer Jan Peters said. "Their years of service, along with a commitment to customers and the community are not going unnoticed. The Chamber and the local business community pledge to do all we can to offer guidance to these employees."

This support includes referring the Penney's staff to KANSASWORKS and centralkansasjobs.com. "We are encouraging employees to collaborate with these two great local entities if they are looking for another job," Peters said. "KANSASWORKS and the jobs website both have access to up-to-date information about employment opportunities."

"We cannot control corporate decisions but we can support the employees," she added. "The community is encouraged to rally around them; they deserve our appreciation and support."

When commenting about the changing landscape of retail in this digital world, Peters referred to a recent issue of The Kiplinger Letter. This publication has been offering information and advice to investors, business professionals, executives and entrepreneurs for more than 90 years. "The retail upheaval is only going to get worse this year and beyond as foot traffic at malls declines and more retailers opt to shutter struggling stores," a recent article states.

The Kiplinger Letter notes that the forces affecting retail sales are e-commerce, and stores and fashion outlets that offer deep discounts. It also predicts 15 percent of malls nationwide will close during the next decade, with those in smaller towns being hit the hardest. *[Continued on Page 2]*



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JCPenney Store Sunsets July 31st

Chamber Providing Career Resources During Transition

LOCAL HISTORY OF JCPENNEY:

- JCPenney opened at 1417 Main in Great Bend on Aug. 25, 1923, one of 104 new stores opened by the company that year.
- Glenn E. Smith, former assistant manager of the Emporia store, was promoted to become Great Bend's first store manager. Subsequent managers here included W.C. Simmons, P.R. Morgan and Albert Ellis Strong.
- Strong guided the store through the lean years of the Great Depression, merchandise shortages during World War II and the boom times of the post-war years. After 25 years of service, he retired from the company in 1952. When Strong became manager in 1928, sales totaled \$179,013; sales came to approximately \$436,400 in the year of his retirement.
- In 1955, the store was expanded. The basement was opened for retail sales, a new heating and ventilation system was installed, and the store received a new coat of paint. Sales rose to \$543,887 in 1956.
- The store relocated to 1500 Kansas in 1966, with a grand opening on Nov. 16 that year. Richard Lohmuller was the new store manager. The new location was much larger and featured a six-bay automotive center. It was completely remodeled in 1979.

JCPenney



Photo Credit - Barton County Historical Society

Chamber Offers Marketing Seminar June 14th

All local businesses are invited to attend an informational seminar on Wednesday, June 14th designed to inform current and prospective members about the numerous marketing services available through the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. The session will begin at 10 a.m. in the Chamber Board Room, and will include coffee and rolls at no charge to participants. During the presentation, members will learn about all the ways they can utilize Chamber services to the benefit of their companies. This is also a great way to share ideas and network with other businesses. The session will conclude in less than an hour, so you can get in and out with new ideas get started on! Hand-outs will be provided to all who attend. To RSVP for the free informational seminar, register online at www.greatbend.org. Questions may also be directed to Megan Barfield, Member Relations Coordinator: 620-792-2401.



New Real Estate Group Launches in Great Bend

A new real estate brokerage in Great Bend known as MPIRE Realty Group announced its launch late last week. Licensed realtor Aaron Andrews brings over 12 years of experience in banking, finance, and real estate and will be leading the sales team for the new enterprise. "My partners and I are committed to creating an agency where every client gets exceptional service from agents who work hard to collaborate internally and externally," Andrews says. "We are excited about using the latest technology to improve the way people shop for homes in a digital world."



MPIRE Realty Group will offer all types of residential and commercial real estate transactions, but specializing in coaching clients through the processes of buying and selling a home. "We want to be the best in the business, and we plan to do that by offering advice and expertise when it's needed," Andrews says. "Education will be a key part of our core values, especially with first time homebuyers. We want to help them learn about home buying, home ownership, maintenance, and real estate investments which will be a huge advantage to our clients."

Andrews is a 2000 graduate of Great Bend High School, and a 2005 graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. He and his wife, Jenna, live in Great Bend with their 6-month old son.

Learn more about the new real estate company on their website, www.mpirerealtyks.com, or contact Aaron and the real estate team at 620-792-4133.

About MPIRE Companies

Based in Great Bend, Kansas are several different and independent companies connected to the MPIRE brand, including MPIRE Properties, MPIRE Improvements, and now MPIRE Realty Group. The first is a property management company with over 270 residential and commercial rental properties all over Central and Western Kansas. The second is a remodeling company specializing in kitchen and bathroom remodeling as well as garage doors, siding, guttering, windows, and doors. The new entity specializes in real estate buying and selling transactions. All three entities are independent, but serve the housing industry from start to finish, from renting and leasing to buying and home improvement.

Lincoln School Raises Money for Dream Center

Lincoln Elementary School STUCO recently completed a coin challenge called "Change for CHANGE!" to raise money for the Central KS Dream Center (CKDC). Every class was encouraged to bring pocket change; the whole school participated and raised a total of \$717.00.

The CKDC used the funds to buy patio furniture for the residents of the facility to enjoy in the coming spring and summer months. The CKDC extends a sincere "thank you" to Lincoln school for their blessing, "you are part of touching the lives of those we serve," said Kimberly Becker, CKDC Director.

The CKDC is a non-profit 501c-3 that provides residential and outreach services to the hurting, the hungry, the homeless and the addicted. The CKDC receives no federal, state or United Way dollars, we simply run off of private donations and local community grants. The CKDC's motto is Reaching hurting people, restoring families and realizing dreams. Learn more at centralksdreamcenter.org.



Outlook Business Journal
A monthly publication of the



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Web address: www.greatbend.org

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Barton County Young Professionals Spotlight

The Barton County Young Professionals group, a program of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, has been busy the last few months with service projects and networking events. In late April, the group gathered for a Networking Mixer at the Shafer Gallery, sponsored by Barton Community College. A delicious Italian buffet, wine samples, and art galore made for a fun and relaxing evening conducive for professional networking and socializing. The group's next events will include a Luncheon in June on Real Estate and Home Buying Tips, followed by a summer pool party for BCYP members and their families. Stay up to date with Young Professionals events and volunteer projects by subscribing to their Facebook posts (facebook.com/barttonyp) and be sure to visit www.barttonyp.com to join the email list!



Professional Organizer Offers Move Management

Sonya Rein of 2B Organized is excited to bring her Move Management Services to Central Kansas. As a professional organizer, Sonya knows that moving can be a very stressful and time consuming endeavor. Most people dread opening up those closets and cupboards to sift through daunting amounts of "stuff" that have accumulated over time, and with summer upon us, many houses are going up on the market.

A professional organizer can greatly minimize the amount of stress felt during a move and offer peace of mind when it comes to selling one home and moving into another. Statistics show that organized and staged homes spend 73% less time on the market and sell for more than 6% above asking price.

"Our 2B Organized Move Management Services include assistance with deciding what items to purge before a move and then arranging for these items to be donated or discarded," says Sonya Rein, 2B Organized.

Glenna Achatz with Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate has had success with these services on her client's home as well. She says, "As a Realtor, my job is to help my customers get their house ready to sell! Sonya has helped me get that process done and my customers are relieved and happy with the results!"

"More and more people are downsizing and she is very sensitive to a customer's needs, which makes moving more manageable!" Glenna added.

Sonya recommends people take control of their move, and embrace the excitement of a fresh start with the help of a professional organizer. While movers haul your boxes from points A to B, an organizer navigates packing and unpacking your possessions.

Ready to meet with your 2B Organized Professional Organizer? Contact Sonya Rein at 620.617.8195 or by email, sonya@2b-organized.com. Like us on Facebook.



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Comfort Pro Inc.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN JUNE

- 1... Chamber Coffee: Clara Barton Hospital Foundation, 250 W 9th in Hoisington @ 9am
- 1-4... NHRA Lucas Oil Division 5 Race #1, SRCA Dragstrip West of Great Bend @ 8am
- 1... INSPIRE Speaker Series: Mitch Holthus, Stoneridge Country Club @ 5pm
- 1... Jack Kilby Square Band Shell Re-Dedication, Jack Kilby Square @ 8:15pm
- 1... Chamber Ambassador Lunch, Spray-Holt Board Room @ 12pm
- 2... 12th Annual Gary Gore Golf Tournament, Stoneridge Country Club @ 9am
- 2-4... K-96 June Jaunt Festival, City of Great Bend
- 2... Golden Belt Glow for Life, Veterans' Memorial Park, @ 7:15pm
- 4... United Way Hot Dog Feed, Veterans Memorial Park, @ 11am
- 5... City Council Meeting, City Hall, 1209 Williams @ 7:30pm
- 5... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 8... Chamber Coffee: Blue Lily Floral, 1622 Main Street @ 9am
- 9-10... Horsepower On the Plains at the SRCA Dragstrip West of Great Bend
- 10... United Way Duck Race at Santa Fe Trail Days, 5th Street in Larned @ 11:30am
- 10... Adopt A Pet at Nex-Tech, 3700 10th Street @10am - 1pm
- 12... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 13... Dine for Dolly, Freddy's Frozen Custard, 3008 10th St, 10:30am - 10pm
- 14... Chamber Marketing & Member Services Seminar, 1125 Williams @10am
- 14... Young Professionals Luncheon: First-Time Homebuyer Panel, Pizza Hut, 4101 10th @ 12-1pm
- 15... Chamber Coffee: The Beauty Bar, 1908 12th Street @ 9am
- 16... Clara Barton Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament, 673 N. US Hwy 281 @ 8am
- 19... City Council Meeting, City Hall, 1209 Williams @ 7:30pm
- 19... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 22... Chamber Coffee: Barton Community College Foundation, 1025 Main @ 9am
- 22... Quickbooks Online Workshop, Spectrum CPA Partners, 1400 Polk St @ 9am
- 23... SRCA Test and Tune, SRCA Dragstrip @ 7:30pm
- 24... NHRA Summit Points Race #4, SRCA Dragstrip @ Noon
- 24... Relay for Life 5k Walk/Run, Veterans Memorial Park @ 7am
- 26... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 26... Barton County Historical Society Program, 85 S. Hwy 281 @ 7:30pm
- 29... Chamber Coffee: Shelter Insurance - Deanna Vannoster Agency, 3720 10th @ 9am
- 29... Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Great Bend Transload Facility @ 11am
- 30... 2nd Annual Rig Brew, Kansas Oil & Gas Museum, 5944 10th @ 6pm

Save the Date - Transload Facility Grand Opening

The public is invited to join the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, the City of Great Bend, and their many partners for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, June 29th at 11 a.m. The Great Bend Transload Facility is located at the intersection of 8th Street & C Street near the Great Bend Airport. Attendees will enjoy a unique ribbon cutting ceremony with brief remarks from project partners. Be on the lookout for more information.



Community Events to Plan Around this Summer

June Jaunt Festival June 2-4

Three jam-packed days of family friendly events in Jack Kilby Square and City parks centered around arts, music, food, and summer! Magicians, car show, live music, yard games, glow run, outdoor movie, antiques, bounce houses, and so much more!

Summer Street Stroll, City Band Concerts & Outdoor Movies

This downtown open-air evening market takes place in Jack Kilby Square every Thursday from 4-8 PM throughout the summer. Stop by for fresh fruits and veggies, honey, art, and handmade crafts and explore downtown retailers. Stay a little later for one of the City Band Concerts or Movies in the Park held at the historic bandshell.

Barton County Fair July 5-9th

"Strike it Rich" at the Barton County Fair this year! 4-H exhibits, carnival rides and entertainment galore - make plans to visit the Fair at the Great Bend Expo Complex this July. Visit www.bartoncountyfair.com to learn more!

Party in the Park August 12th

The Annual Party in the Park is a full Saturday of family fun at Veterans Memorial Park, including the Tuff Enuff Obstacle Race, OozeFest Mud Volleyball, Fun in the Dog Park, Kids Zone, Vendors, Twinkie Eating Contest, Car Show, Concert & Fireworks! Learn more by visiting the Explore Great Bend facebook page.

Great Bend Bat Cats Baseball Games in June & July

The first game for the Great Bend Bat Cats baseball team will take place June 2nd in Great Bend, with games continuing throughout June and July as part of the Jayhawk League against teams from all over Kansas and Oklahoma. Games will take place at Al Burns Memorial Field. See a game schedule at greatbendbatcats.com.

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Comfort Pro Expands to Russell in Acquisition

Comfort Pro, the area's largest plumbing and HVAC contractor, recently announced that it will be expanding to Russell, Kansas with the acquisition of R & M Heating and Cooling. Rick and Karen Gates founded R & M in 1987, and are well-known for providing heating, cooling, and refrigeration in Russell and the surrounding communities. "We are excited to work with Rick and Karen over the next few months, as they will be staying on to help us during the transition," says Barry Stalcup, owner of ComfortPro. "Their technicians, William and Bob, will be staying on to help us serve the residential and commercial customers in North Central Kansas."



With the expansion to Russell, ComfortPro will now be able to offer plumbing installation and repair services along with water treatment. "Before now, Russell residents had a hard time getting plumbers to serve their community, but we now have 25 vans and will be available 24/7 for the heating and cooling they've come to rely on, as well as the plumbing services that were hard to find previously," Stalcup says. "This includes installing and servicing water heaters, water softeners, and reverse osmosis systems."

The facility in Russell is currently under renovations, but will remain at R & M's previous location at 337 W. Wichita Street. The local phone number will also stay the same, 785-483-6568. A grand opening event will be announced soon.

Comfort Pro is the area's fastest growing plumbing and HVAC contractor with 25 vans operating all over Central Kansas and store locations in Great Bend, Larned, and Russell. Learn more at www.comfortproks.com, or call toll free 800-937-3030. You can also follow them on Facebook.

Xelmar Welcomes New Massage Therapist

Xelmar Medical Spa, located at the corner of Lakin & Polk in Great Bend, is proud to introduce Roxi Sandell as a new Massage Therapist. Roxi is knowledgeable and compassionate, graduating with honors from the Massage Therapy program at PIMA Medical Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She then sat and passed the MBLEX state licensing exam. She went on to receive her certification in Prenatal Massage at the the Institute of Somatic Therapy. She has training in all areas of massage and muscle education, with extensive training in Prenatal, Deep Tissue, Neuromuscular Therapy, and TMJ treatment. Roxi successfully owned and operated her spa in Rio Rancho, NM before moving to Kansas with her family. She is a highly skilled professional who takes time to customize each session to her clients' individual needs. Make an appointment by calling (855) 440-4442 or stopping by the Spa at 3421 Forest.



Pilot Club Donates to Incredible Years Preschool

The local Pilot Club recently donated \$500 to Incredible Years Preschool, which paid for 14 magnetic boards along with letters that adhere to those boards, as well as a few trikes and ride-in vehicles for the playground. The preschool is owned and operated by Sunflower Diversified Services, serving children 2-and-a-half to five years of age. It is located at 1312 Patton Road. Pilot Club exists to raise brain education awareness.

St. Rose Expands Physical Therapy

The St. Rose Health Center Physical Therapy Department is not quite a year old and it recently expanded again. It began with one physical therapist last June and another joined the St. Rose family several months later. Now, the department has added 1,000 square feet and new equipment to better accommodate patients, St. Rose Executive Director Zena Jacobs said. "The number of patients continues to grow and we want to offer more physical therapy equipment, as well as more space for the sake of patient comfort," Jacobs said. "The extra square footage allows us to care for more people and their treatment needs."



Melanie Schroeter and Holly Milligan, who earned their doctorates in physical therapy, see patients on the west end of St. Rose's second floor. A doctor's referral is not necessary. St. Rose is co-owned by Hays Medical Center and Centura Health.

Milligan Offers Fascial Counterstrain

A St. Rose Health Center physical therapist is one of only a handful of professionals in Kansas and neighboring states that is trained in a specialized technique called Fascial Counterstrain. Holly Milligan has successfully completed training in the specialty and is offering the service to St. Rose patients.



While most people understand the basics of physical therapy, Fascial Counterstrain is probably a new term to many, Milligan said.

"It involves the shortening of fascia, while most other fascial techniques attempt to stretch through the fascia," she explained. "The shortening allows for a much faster and typically pain-free release. Fascial Counterstrain addresses the fascia around arteries, veins, nerves and organs, as well as muscles. When the fascia is released, it allows the body to return to its natural state of function."

The technique can help alleviate symptoms of urinary incontinence, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation and headaches. Those suffering the effects of a stroke also may find relief in relaxation of tension.

Milligan, who is originally from Larned and now lives in Great Bend, earned her undergraduate degree in kinesiology at Kansas State University in 2004. She then received her doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 2007. Learn more about St. Rose and its many affiliated services at www.strosehc.com.

Shelter Insurance Foundation & Local Agent Award Scholarships

This spring, the Shelter Insurance Foundation awarded a \$2000 scholarship to Ashtin Heath, a graduate of Great Bend High School, and Chelsey Beiberle, a graduate of Central Plains High School. Shelter Agent Deanna Vannoster sponsored and partially funded these scholarships.



Two committees of local high school officials and community leaders selected Ashtin and Chelsea as the recipients. The committees considered each applicant's scholastic achievements, educational goals, citizenship, moral character and participation and leadership in school and community activities. The scholarships are given without regard to race, disability, religion, national origin or gender of applicants.



The Shelter Insurance Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation for charitable and educational purposes. It is sponsored by the Shelter Insurance Companies – offering auto, home, life, farm and business insurance services to customers in 14 states via a network of local insurance agents and headquartered in Columbia, Missouri.

New Endowment Founded at GBCF

When Alice Wondra was considering how she could memorialize her parents, she kept the phrase "people in need" in the forefront of her mind. The result is the Andrew and Elsie Wondra Memorial Fund for People in Need, an endowment that has been established at the Golden Belt Community Foundation (GBCF). The first grant from the fund has been awarded to the Barton County Emergency Aid Association. "My parents considered giving back to their community just as a part of life," Wondra said. "They were good neighbors and would do what they could to respond to the needs of others. This memorial fund seemed like a good way to honor them and to continue their contributions."



Wondra's father was a farmer and stockman, while her mother was a registered nurse and homemaker. The Wondras lived on their farm northwest of Great Bend and both were active in their church and community.

Learn more by calling 620-792-3000, or at goldenbeltcf.org.

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We are offering half price spay & neuter procedures for cats and dogs in the month of July. It's our way of helping control the pet population in the Great Bend area.

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Coldwell Banker Welcomes Jessica Milsap

Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate has announced the appointment of Jessica Milsap as a full time sales associate, according to Glenna Achatz, Broker. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate, Jessica met the Kansas real estate licensing requirements and completed the comprehensive Coldwell Banker training program.

Jessica is a native of Great Bend and a graduate of Great Bend High School and Barton County Community College. Prior to coming to Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate, she worked for the last 14 years at Eyecare of Great Bend. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family and friends and is also very passionate about health and fitness. Jessica understands the importance of a Realtor being there from the beginning to the end of the home buying or selling process.

"We are excited to have Jessica Milsap on the Coldwell Banker team," said Glenna Achatz, Broker. "Jessica has an excellent background and is very knowledgeable about the community. She is committed to customer service, which is the cornerstone of the Coldwell Banker philosophy."

Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate is located at 4000 10th Street, Great Bend, Kansas. Since 1906, the Coldwell Banker® organization has been a premier provider of full service residential and commercial real estate. Coldwell Banker is the oldest national real estate brand in the United States and today has a network of nearly 85,000 agents working in more than 3,000 offices in 47 countries worldwide.



Luerman Completes Banking Fundamentals

Jay Luerman, Credit Analyst, for First Kansas Bank in Great Bend, graduated from the 2017 School of Banking Fundamentals in Grand Island, Nebraska. The School of Banking Fundamentals is sponsored by the Kansas and Nebraska Bankers Associations.

The School is designed to instruct students in core banking concepts as they relate to the overall functioning of a bank. Completion of this course assists students in developing skills that will allow them to better serve their communities, customers and bank.

Jay grew up in Ashland, Kansas and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agri-Business from Fort Hays State University. Jay is married to the former Joanna Reimer from Ashland and they make their home in Great Bend.

First Kansas Bank has offices in Hoisington, Claflin, Great Bend and Hays.



OPI Welcomes Brandon Holley, Supply Sales

After 16 years of working for large corporations, Brandon Holley was "curious" about how a family-owned business would compare. His curiosity has been satisfied after just a short time at Office Products Inc. (OPI), where he has found an enhanced level of customer service. Holley is the new supply sales representative at OPI, a local family-operated business.

Holley graduated from St. John High School in 1994 and attended Abilene Christian University in Texas. Holley works in the Great Bend store at 1204 Main Street.



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Announcements from United Way

Julie Bugner-Smith Resigns After Seven Campaigns

In May, United Way of Central Kansas said good-bye to their Executive Director, Julie Bugner-Smith after 7 campaigns. "On behalf of the Directors, I would like to thank Julie for guiding our United Way to new horizons. Her vision and commitment are like no other. We wish her well on her new adventure and are so thankful for her leadership the last seven years," says Desa Marmie-Behr, UWCK Board President.

New Executive Director Announced

Gaila (Nielsen) Demel from Ellinwood will be the new Executive Director for UWCK. Gaila has been involved with the Ellinwood community for more than 40 years and was inspired by the opportunities and involvement she had with UWCK as a United Way Agency in her previous position with ElderCare, Inc. "These are big shoes to fill and I'm so humbled by this opportunity. The organization of the day-to-day duties is ready and waiting for the start up with a new campaign, this is just a great time to begin this journey."



Demel is a current City of Ellinwood Council Member, a Great Bend Chamber Ambassador as well as a member of the Board of Directors, and a Board Member of Housing Opportunities, Inc. She will officially begin her duties with United Way of Central Kansas on June 1st.

New Website Launched

United Way of Central Kansas debuted a new website design in May, making it more mobile friendly, and with more content about what UWCK does and who UWCK is. To check out this new, mobile friendly website, go to www.uwck.org.



Imagination Library in Hoisington

On May 11th, UWCK kicked off Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Hoisington! Children age 0-5 in the 67544 zip code will now be able to receive books for free thanks to Hoisington sponsors for the program USD 431, First Kansas Bank, and Wilson State Bank.

Hot Dog Feed & Duck Race in June

On Sunday June 4th, come out to Veterans Memorial Park for hot dogs, chips, and water served up by our Board Members for a free will donation. Your donation at this event will go directly towards bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to children in Great Bend. Also in June, UWCK will be hosting a Duck Race at the Santa Fe Trail Days in Larned on Saturday, June 10th at noon. You can get your ducks at Dillons in Great Bend or Larned, or contact any UWCK Board Member or Community Partner. Ducks are \$10 each or 6 for \$50, with a chance to win up to \$1,500!



Nex-Tech Hosts Adopt-A-Pet June 10th

The community is invited to join Nex-Tech and The Golden Belt Humane Society at the Great Bend Nex-Tech Store to help rescue dogs and cats find their forever homes! Stop by Saturday, June 10th between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at 3700 10th Street in Great Bend.

Adopt any pet and receive a \$100 Nex-Tech Gift Card or a \$50 Visa Gift Card!



Clara Barton Golf Tournament & Dinner Returns June 16th

Clara Barton Hospital Foundation's 24th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament, Dinner, and Auction will feature some 'high rollin' fun on Friday, June 16th! The Foundation has been "on a roll" as they strive to meet the \$1.4 million Complete the Dream... Continue the Vision capital campaign goal, funding the Therapy Services and Laundry Department at Clara Barton Hospital.

This year's annual event will again consist of a golf tournament, dinner, and silent and live auctions. The golf tournament will feature a four-man scramble at Lake Barton Golf Course, with tee times beginning at 8 a.m. through 12:50 p.m. Cost to enter the tournament is \$90 per player or \$360 per team. Registration deadline is Monday, June 12th. The benefit dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hoisington with doors opening at 6 p.m. Tickets for this year's "Viva Las Vegas, On a Roll" dinner are \$20.00 per person and must be secured in advance.

To register for the golf tournament or to purchase your dinner tickets please visit www.clarabartonhospital.com, call Michelle Moshier at 620-653-5012, or email foundation@clarabarton.hpmn.com.

EXPLORE GREAT BEND REC



Great Bend
Recreation Commission
1214 Stone Street
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Great Bend
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Great Bend Native Featured in '50 People' Profile

A business magazine for Kansas and Missouri known as **Ingram's** recently spotlighted one of Great Bend's natives Jeremy Rusco in an annual profile called "50 Kansans You Should Know." The idea was conceived to recognize those who have excelled, lighting a path to a better state, one that works for everyone who bears the label of Kansan.

Jeremy Rusco graduated from Great Bend High School in 2002 and founded his frisbee golf company Dynamic Discs in 2005 in Emporia, Kansas. Read Rusco's profile:



Remarkably enough, it started with eBay. Jeremy Rusco made his first sale in 2005, and just like that, Dynamic Discs was born. His college hobby at Emporia State has blossomed into a manufacturing and retail enterprise, selling the necessities of disc golf at three locations, staffing a distribution center and, since 2012, coordinating production with a Swedish company specializing in their manufacture.

"I never thought Dynamic Discs would be my full-time job or career, and never had ambitions for it to be anything more than my college hobby," he says. Of course, a lot of 12- and 16-hour days were required to give the company its national profile in the sport, but now, says, "I'm blessed to be working with the best team in the industry and love that I consider each and every one of them my friends."

Disc golf, he says, is the fastest-growing sport in the U.S.—there are more than 5,000 courses nationwide—in large part because it appeals to all ages, abilities, and walks of life, and doesn't require the skills of an Olympic athlete."

GBCF to Participate in REDPIN Workshops

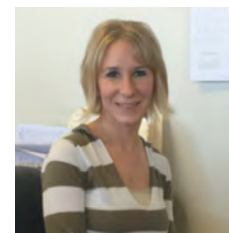
Nine community foundations from across the United States have been selected to participate in an 18-month peer learning network exploring philanthropy's role in rural economic development. The Golden Belt Community Foundation was selected as one of these nine foundations. These workshops have been named the Rural Economic Development Philanthropy Innovator's Network (REDPIN).

REDPIN will expose participants to a range of economic development practices and provide them with an environment of peer advising and support. As part of the network, each participating foundation will analyze their local economy and apply community and economic development tools to improve their region's prospects, with a special emphasis on helping low-income families, communities and businesses do better. The first gathering of selected foundations will take place in late spring.



Oetken Promoted at C&V Home Improvement

Local home improvement and commercial door company C&V Kansas Doors is making additional changes to the company structure to assure 100% customer satisfaction. Most recently, sales and promotion of C&V Kansas Door's Premier Portable Buildings division has been awarded to Lacey Oetken, current office manager. "Giving all of our customer's 100% satisfaction is of utmost importance to C&V Kansas Doors," says Matt Hoisington. "Lacey is the best person for the sales and promotion of our Premier Buildings. She took it upon herself to learn about and promote the buildings and will be able to give our clients the best information and sales experience possible." Premier Portable Buildings are built by skilled Mennonite craftsmen from across the United States. To contact Lacey, call C&V Kansas Door at 1-800-848-2086 or email Lacey@cvkdPROS.com.



Jim Vopat, Edward Jones Moves to New Location

Jim Vopat and his staff welcomed chamber coffee go-ers to their new location at 2421 10th Street on May 11th. The new, larger office will allow Vopat to continue offering his clients the best in service and expertise. Vopat credits his success of the last 20 years to his dedicated staff, clients, and wife, Kathy. Clients are encouraged to visit the new location and stop in to say, "Hi!" Business hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 4:30.



Dove's Celebrated 60th Anniversary in May

Dove Chevrolet Buick Cadillac celebrated 60 years of quality service, dedicated employees, and superior products on May 18th with a Chamber Coffee and ribbon cutting. Over 100 people came to share in coffee and cookies and give their congratulations. Former long-time employees, community members, loyal car buyers, and even competitors were all there to congratulate the Dove family on their achievement and service to the community.

"Dove Chevrolet Buick Cadillac has been a part of Great Bend for 60 years for one reason," Rob Dove stated, "and that reason is people, our dedicated employees and our wonderful customers. We will continue to keep our focus on our people, just like my Dad taught me many years ago."

Dove also announced their expansion to the lot next door. They recently purchased the lot and will tear down the current building making way for more new and used cars. Everyone at the dealership is looking forward to the summer-long 60th anniversary celebration with discounted car pricing, employee acknowledgements, a customer testimonial contest, and the grande finale Chevy Cruze car giveaway in August.

For more information on any of the celebration events or special pricing at Dove Chevrolet Buick Cadillac, visit www.deedove.com, 620-603-0531, or on Facebook.



Welcome to Our NEW Chamber Members

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MIZUMI SUSHI & STEAK LLC

Michael Zhang, Owner
1318 Kansas Ave.
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-796-2221
Restaurant

Chamber Radio Show Airs June 1st on KVGB

Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month to hear Member Relations Coordinator Megan Barfield discuss the latest happenings and upcoming Chamber projects and events with one of Eagle Radio's talented hosts. This month's show will air on Thursday, June 1st at 11:35 a.m. You can also keep up with Chamber events and happenings at www.greatbend.org. KVGB 1590 AM is operated by Eagle Radio.





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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Every Thursday at 9:30 AM

June 1, 2017

CLARA BARTON HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
250 W. 9th Street in Hoisington

(Please park across the street in the west parking lot to allow parking space for patients.) Clara Barton Hospital serves local communities, keeping our future healthy. The Foundation is dedicated to fundraising for the non-profit hospital. Join us in preparation for the Annual Benefit Event!

June 8, 2017

BLUE LILY FLORAL
1622 Main Street in Great Bend

For the best and freshest flowers in Great Bend, Blue Lily Floral Creations has exactly what you're looking for! Check out our wide selection of flower arrangements to make your next occasion memorable. Call us at 620-282-3320 or visit us online at www.bluelilyfloral.com.

June 15, 2017

THE BEAUTY BAR
1908 12th Street in Great Bend

Visit The Beauty Bar to achieve your own unique and fresh look to send you into the world with confidence. We carry a full selection of hair care products, including the Lanza Style line.
Hair. Nails. Lashes.

June 22, 2017

BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION
1025 Main Street in Great Bend

The Barton Community College Foundation is 50 years old. It was established in 1967 as the non-profit arm of the college to raise the funds to build BCC. From that day to this, the mission of the foundation has been to raise private sector funds in support of the college and to prudently manage all gifts and donations in support of scholarships and college initiatives and program enhancements.

June 29, 2017

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July 6, 2017

BARTON COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION
Expo II Building @ 7:30-9:00 AM

In conjunction with the Business Appreciation Breakfast, join us bright and early for a pancake breakfast with all the fixings! Outstanding door prizes provided by the 4-H Clubs will be drawn throughout the morning. The 2017 Barton County Fair runs from July 5-9th, with something for everyone! Learn more at www.bartoncountyfair.com.



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