



Great Bend
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

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

2015 CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

EAGLE MEDIA CENTER EARNS 2015 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD



Impressive year-on-year growth and a commitment to the Great Bend community are two of the main reasons why the Eagle Media Center was recognized with the 2015 Business of the Year award on Saturday night at the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development's Annual Meeting & Banquet. *-Cont. on Page 6*

COMMUNITY PRIDE EARNS JOHNSON CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Of the 50 years that Sunflower Diversified Services has been serving people with developmental disabilities, Jim Johnson has been at the helm for 42 of them. For his diligent work advocating for an underserved portion of the area population, Jim Johnson received the 2015 Citizen of the Year Award from the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.

-Cont. on Page 2



MATT HISS RECOGNIZED AS NEXTGEN LEADER OF THE YEAR

During the 94th Annual Meeting & Banquet for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, Matt Hiss was recognized as the 2015 NextGen Leader of the Year for his impressive efforts to give back to the Great Bend community. This award program was launched in 2013 as a joint project of the organization's Board of Directors and the Barton County Young Professionals Group to recognize up-and-coming leaders for their volunteer service.

-Cont. on Page 2






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Community Pride Earns Johnson Citizen of the Year

(Cont. from Pg 1) One of Jim's first contributions to the industry was changing the stigma around developmental delays. Prior to the 1970s, people with developmental delays were hidden away, and some were placed in institutions. This started to change in the 1970s, when families wanted to include their children in social and community activities. And a big part of this was about creating independence for that individual. Employment, housing, and activities were among the first projects Jim worked to create. Then in 1980, he was offered the position as Executive Director.

Other programs Jim helped develop include the Early Education Center and Incredible Years Preschool, which emphasizes early intervention for children with developmental delays. "During the years when funding was difficult and policies were changing erratically, Jim would stop by the Early Education Center and look at the babies, some in cribs and some learning to walk or talk," says Jim's wife, Judy Johnson. "He always said seeing the infants reminded him of his purpose, his vision for what could be. Those babies revitalized him."

Jim's passion for serving others has extended far beyond the local level. He has served on many volunteer panels and committees for InterHab, the state association for developmental service providers. His roles include serving on the Employment First Initiative and the Developmental Disabilities Council. "Jim has been an advocate for several policy issues, including early intervention services, guardianship training, governmental affairs, and a new family services waiver," says Tom Laing, Manager for InterHab in Topeka. "Most of all, Jim was a voice for protecting consumer-based principles in addressing provider-based issues across the State. He is a leader in this industry, and a mentor to many."

Sunflower Diversified Services now employs 140 people with a payroll of over \$3 million. The agency serves 150 adults and 251 infants and toddlers, with 61 students in the Incredible Years Preschool. Its payroll for clients is over \$250,000 annually.

Matt Hiss Recognized as NextGen Leader of the Year

(Cont. from Pg 1) Hiss earned a Bachelor of Science in Business with concentrations in Finance and Management in 2008 before returning to Great Bend to join the Hiss Sherman Wealth Management practice, alongside Dennis Sherman and Bob Hiss.

Matt's business education has served him well as a Financial Advisor for the locally owned company, where he serves as a fifth generation business owner. He has developed an innovative risk management system to help protect clients from market crashes, and purchased a practice in Atwood, Kansas. He and his wife, Dena, partnered with another local couple in 2013 to form a business called B&H Development LLC. Together.

Matt served as a Chamber Ambassador for three years, and is currently finishing a two-year term on the Great Bend City Council. The hat Matt has worn most recently in the volunteer sector is the 2015 President for the USD 428 Education Foundation, a board he has served on since 2014. During his term as President in 2015, Hiss came up with the idea to have a computer for every student. He took the idea to the superintendent, and helped find funds to finish the \$330,000 technology investment. Hiss also helped revitalize the Foundation's annual dinner and auction, which resulted in double the revenue from previous years.

Matt and Dena live in Great Bend with their oldest son Graham (2) and their twin boys Ethan and Owen (5 months). Together, the young couple serve as CASA volunteers, advocating for children abused and neglected in the foster care system. They are also active members of the Barton County Young Professionals group, and have both attended classes at the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita.

World's Largest One-day Leadership Conference to be Simulcast in Great Bend May 6th

Leadercast is the world's largest one-day leadership conference, broadcast LIVE from Atlanta and simulcast to hundreds of locations around the world on May 6th, 2016. This year marks the sixteenth year of the annual leadership conference but the first year that First Christian Church will be at hosting the event at their facility in Great Bend, Kansas. The event is presented in partnership with the Barton County Young Professionals group.

The theme of this year's conference is, "Architects of Tomorrow," focusing on visionary leaders who imagine and build a future that is rich in innovation, collaboration and full of hope. A future where problems are solved, questions are answered, and confusion gives way to clarity. The conference will equip attendees to create their own visionary path. Key speakers – visionaries in their own fields – will inspire the more than 150 people who attend locally, and the more than 100,000 people who will attend the event live in Atlanta or at hundreds of other simulcast locations in more than 20 countries.

Among the keynote speakers are:

- Kat Cole—Group President, FOCUS Brands, Inc. (including Cinnabon®, Auntie Anne's®, etc)
- Steve Wozniak—Co-founder of Apple, Inc.
- Henry Cloud—Acclaimed Leadership Expert, Clinical Psychologist, and Best-Selling Author
- Nick Saban—Head Football Coach, The University of Alabama
- Andy Stanley—Leadership Author and Communicator
- James Brown—Network Broadcaster, CBS Sports and News
- Rorke Denver—Navy SEAL Commander and Author
- Chris Barez-Brown—Author and Creativity Guru
- Tripp Crosby—Host of Leadercast, Comedian and Director

For years, Leadercast has brought people together and equipped them to become better leaders, managers, community members, and employees.

For more information and to purchase your ticket or group tickets to the Leadercast Great Bend event, visit the Barton County Young Professionals page on Facebook, or visit www.leadercast.com and search for our simulcast location.

Regional Employment Event Scheduled For Spring

JobFest 2016 will be Great Bend's ninth annual concerted job fair effort as employers gather to provide information about jobs available at their businesses. This year's event is set from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street in Great Bend.

Job seekers travel from all over Central Kansas to attend JobFest to network with the more than two dozen employers who exhibit during the three-hour fair. They also enjoy free refreshments; resume assistance from the Kansas Works Mobile Center, and this year the addition of the Career Clothes Closet. In addition to these services, attendees also have the opportunity to win a laptop computer.

Employers in the seven-county service area are encouraged to sign up for JobFest 2016 by the cut-off April 15. Priority is given to those who sign up by the deadline. Exhibit spaces cost just \$100 per employer and include one table and two chairs, along with access to electricity and wireless internet if needed. Space is limited to register visit <http://bit.do/JobFest2016>.



Outlook Business Journal

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Preliminary engineering to begin for Great Bend shipping facility

A consortium of city and rail interests has been given the go-ahead to begin preliminary engineering for a transload shipping center at Great Bend.



The Kansas Department of Transportation, which will contribute \$3 million for the \$6.8 million project, gave approval for preliminary engineering after reviewing the business plan and financial model proposed by the Great Bend group. The consultant HDR will do the preliminary engineering.

The entities that joined together to craft the development plans include the city of Great Bend, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development, Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad (K&O), and Kansas Transload Services.

"I'm extremely pleased how this group developed its proposal from concept to now beginning the preliminary engineering process and I'm anxious to get construction started later this year," said Mike King, Kansas Transportation Secretary and Director of the Kansas Turnpike Authority. "This facility will have great business benefits for farmers and manufacturers, allow for reduced transportation costs and provide economic development opportunities for Great Bend and the region."

Transloading is the process of moving goods from one mode of transportation to another, or in this case, from truck to rail and rail to truck. By blending the benefits of shipping by rail and local/short haul trucking, a transload facility can provide more flexible, cost-effective solutions for customers who may not have local access to freight rail service or those who need expanded warehousing.

The transload facility will be built west of Great Bend at the airport.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to move forward with this transload project as it will provide a boost to the economy in central Kansas. The contribution from KDOT is what made this project possible," said Mayor Mike Allison. "We are confident that K&O Railroad and Kansas Transload Services will develop a top flight transportation hub for Great Bend."

The state's \$3 million investment in the project will be used for rail improvements. Pat Cedeno, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Sales of Watco Companies, which owns K&O Railroad, said his company is excited about the opportunity to work with KDOT, Great Bend and Kansas Transload Services to serve the central region of Kansas through a multimodal transload facility.

"Secretary King's vision created this tremendous opportunity for the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad to provide car supply and rail service to the facility. We look forward to building new relationships with the community and the customers we will be serving at the facility," Cedeno said.

Great Bend is one of two communities that emerged from a group of seven selected to make a formal presentation in August 2015 before the Transload Facility Site Analysis Selection Committee, which includes private sector representatives. The other city selected for development of a transload facility is Garden City, which has yet to receive final approval for preliminary engineering.

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MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

View & post all your community events at www.greatbend.org!

Tuesday, March 1st

Repurposed, Barton Community College & Shafer Art Gallery, 245 NE 30 Rd, Showing February 26 – March 24, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 3rd

Chamber Coffee: Hosted by ElderCare, Inc, Great Bend Senior Center, 2005 Kansas Ave, 9:30 a.m.

Kiwanis 58th Annual Pancake Feed, Great Bend Expo 1, 455 W Barton County Rd, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 5th

Corrugated Cardboard Craziness, Barton Community College & Shafer Art Gallery, 245 NE 30 Rd, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 8th

National President of the American Legion Auxiliary visits Argonne Unit 180 Auxiliary and members, American Legion Post #180, 1011 Kansas Ave, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 9th

Story Time, Barton Community College & Shafer Art Gallery, 245 NE 30 Rd, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Ribbon Cutting: Amber Meadows Housing Complex, 2251 Prairie Rose Drive, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 10th

Chamber Coffee: Hosted by 2B Organized, Spray-Holt Family Board Room, 1125 Williams, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 12th

Legislative Coffee: Hosted by Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, Spray-Holt Family Board Room, 1125 Williams, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 13th

Taste of Wild Kansas, Kansas Wetlands Education Center, 592 NE K-156 Hwy, 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 17th

Pizza with a Purpose, Gambino's Pizza, 1309 Main Street, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Golden Belt Community Concert: Mike Farris, Municipal Auditorium, Lakin & Stone, 7:30 p.m.

Chamber Coffee: Hosted by Great Bend Coffee Company, Great Bend Coffee Company, 2015 Lakin, 9:30 a.m.

Open House, Holiday Inn Express, 3821 10th St, 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 19th

Barton County Young Professionals Casino Night, Knights of Columbus, 723 Main St, 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 24th

Chamber Coffee: Hosted by Central Kansas Whitetails, Central Kansas Whitetails Lodge, 656 W Barton County Road, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 31st

Chamber Coffee: Hosted by Nex-Tech, 3700 10th Street, 9:30 a.m.

RECURRING EVENTS

Barton County Commission Meetings, Mondays, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main Room 106, 9:00 a.m.

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Bingo, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1011 Kansas Ave., 7:00 p.m.

Dinner Served at American Legion, Fridays, 1011 Kansas Ave., 6:00 p.m.

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Eagle Media Center Earns 2015 Business of the Year Award

(Cont. from Pg 1) Prior to a rebrand in 2015, the local media company was known as Eagle Radio since 1986 when Bob Schmidt purchased KHOK and founded the brand. In 1995, he acquired the FM and AM KVGB stations, with the AM station being on the air for nearly 80 years now. But in 2011, the company's notable efforts to expand and diversify started with the addition of the Great Bend Post, a website offering local news, weather, calendar listings, and so much more. In 2012, the media company added a digital billboard at 10th & Main in downtown Great Bend. Around the same time, they also became a Google Partner, giving them the ability to help their clients advertise online as well as on-air.

The growing media enterprise is locally owned by its employees, which is why they are still "local and live" at 1200 Baker in Great Bend. Local programming, leading news content, and sports broadcasting are a few of the reasons why their loyal listeners tune in day after day.

Another reason is the radio personalities who have built a following over the years, such as Rick Nulton who recently retired in 2015 after nearly 30 years on the air. Scott Donovan, Randy Goering, Phil Grossardt, and John O'Conner are other names people have heard from their car stereo countless times and for good reason. The broadcasters at Eagle Radio have won awards from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters virtually every year, and some have been permanently recognized for their contributions to the industry:

- Randy Goering - Great Bend Hall of Fame Inductee & Past Winner of the Hod Humiston Award given to the Sportscaster of the Year in Kansas
- Steve Webster - Fort Hays State University Hall of Fame Inductee
- Phil Grossardt - Medium Market Announcer of the Year from KAB
- Scott Donovan - Past President of Kansas Association of Broadcasters

"Gone are the days of tuning in from a stereo at home," says Market Manager Randy Goering. "Our listeners follow us on every platform - tuning in from the car, streaming radio online, engaging with us on The Great Bend Post and Facebook, participating in our community promotions. We give businesses so many ways to connect with their customers."

For several years now, Eagle Radio has organized shopping local promotions a couple times each year to get consumers into local businesses. Their efforts go far beyond the for-profit sector, though. The Kans for Kids Radiothon has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the local charity serving cancer patients over the last five years, due largely in part to the dedication and enthusiasm of the employees who organize the event. Countless non-profit organizations are aided and supported by the awareness raised through local news and event announcements on-air and online through Eagle Media Center.

"We are so honored to be selected as Business of the Year," Goering says. "We have put together a terrific team that values community and works every day to keep the community connected and encourages shopping local first."

Eagle Media Center has 15 full time employees and 4-5 part time employees at any given time. For more information, visit them online at www.greatbendpost.com.



First Ever Legacy Award Given Posthumously to Skip Yowell, Co-Founder of JanSport

During the 94th Annual Meeting & Banquet for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, Skip Yowell was posthumously recognized as the first ever recipient of the Legacy Award for putting Great Bend on the map through life-long advocacy for the outdoor industry and for proudly hailing his roots in Great Bend, Kansas wherever he went.

Harold "Skip" Murray Yowell was born in July 1946 in Hays, Kansas. His father worked in the oil well business, while his mother was a homemaker taking care of Skip and his three siblings. Skip graduated from Great Bend High School in 1964 before attending Wichita State University and then Fort Hays State University. While he never completed a formal college degree, his enthusiasm and entrepreneurial spirit gave him the foundation for his eventual success.

A few short years after high school, Skip and his cousin, Murray Pletz, founded the outdoor sporting good company in 1967 in a spare room above a Seattle office belonging to Skip's uncle. Pletz had been working on an idea for an adjustable external-frame backpack for hikers. His idea won some money in a design competition, so he enlisted the help of Skip and other family members to start a company. The pair named JanSport after Murray's girlfriend, Jan Lewis, who later became his wife. The trio worked hard to make quality products and market their brand. Jan helped with the sewing, while Murray led the design work. Skip was the salesman, and advocated for the importance of marketing their brand.

While the initial focus for JanSport was on external-frame backpacks, the type commonly used by hikers, a change in the industry and a hugely positive response from the student population resulted in a massive shift of focus. Day packs, the kind students carry books and pencils in, made up half their sales by the 1980s. "Things just took off," Mr. Yowell once said. In the beginning, he added, his major worry "was whether I was going to have enough money to go skiing."

Skip's lifelong love of nature had material results. He and Mr. Pletz came up with the idea for a dome tent after being caught in a snowstorm on Mount Rainier, which diversified the JanSport brand even further. The growing brand caught the attention of the VF Corporation, a lifestyle brand based in Greensboro, North Carolina. VF purchased JanSport in 1986, and has helped evolve the company's backpacks to meet the needs of a changing world. Since customers are more likely to be students than hikers these days, the backpacks need to be water resistant to protect electronic devices and product styles have changed with fashion trends over time.

On its website, JanSport still offers a rugged-looking line of backpacks inspired by Mr. Yowell. While some designs may come with pockets for laptops and tablets, the timeless leather details and classic style are a throwback to Skip's early days at the company. For a time, they even manufactured a bag named after Great Bend.

In 2007, Skip published a book called "The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder & Other Mountains," and it was that year that he returned to Great Bend to give a keynote address at the Chamber's Annual Meeting & Banquet. The way he shared his story of success with such humility, always giving credit to his education in Great Bend, Kansas, won over many in the crowd.

He returned to Great Bend many times in the years to follow, speaking to student groups, offering lectures at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center, and donating his time to raise awareness for Cheyenne Bottoms and its natural resources.

After a long battle with cancer, Skip Yowell passed away in October 2015 in St. Peter, Kansas. He is survived by his wife, Winnie; a daughter, Quinn; a stepdaughter, Wesley Kingsbury; a stepson, Hunt Kingsbury, and a brother, Lindsey.

"Skip's legacy is hard to sum up in a few sentences, but the best way to describe him was as an advocate - an advocate for nature, an advocate for spending time in the great outdoors, and most of all an advocate for his hometown of Great Bend, Kansas," says Jan Peters, President/CEO for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. "His contributions to the global outdoor industry are immeasurable, and he has left an imprint on the hearts of the Great Bend community. His legacy is something we can all be proud of."



Diana Crouch, Skip's sister accepts the Legacy Award.



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Young Professionals Spotlight March 2016

During the month of February, the Barton County Young Professionals group gathered for two events in the first half of the month. On Wednesday the 3rd, the Personal Development Series continued with a presentation from Barton County Administrator Richard Boeckman on "Local Government." NEW this year, the series presentations were available at two different times to accommodate professionals with varying work schedules – one over the lunch hour and one at dinnertime. Both were well-attended, and this format will continue for future presentations. Then on Thursday the 11th, several dozen members gathered at the Crest Theatre to take in the Great Bend Community Theatre's 100th production called "Kitchen Witches", a perfect date night right before Valentine's Day.

In March, the group will focus on Community Impact and Networking, with two huge events. The first is the 4th Annual Charity Supply Drive on Saturday, March 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers will be working the doors at both Dillons stores in Great Bend to collect donations for the Barton County Food Bank. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact C.I. Team Chair Traci Burns, tburns@abbb.com. Learn more from the Facebook event, www.facebook.com/bartonyyp.

Also returning for the fourth consecutive year is the group's annual Casino Night on Saturday, March 19th. The event is organized by a group of volunteers known as the Special Events Team, and includes a three-course dinner, keynote addresses from the NextGen Leader of the Year and Barton County Young Professionals committee officers, a photo booth, door prizes, and casino games. Tickets are available online for \$30 per individual or \$350 for a VIP Corporate Table of Eight, which includes special advertising and perks for VIP guests! Learn more or purchase tickets from the Facebook event.

Learn more about upcoming BCYP events at BartonYP.com, or like our page on Facebook!

A "Taste of Wild Kansas"

Outdoors writer/photographer Michael Pearce will present "Savoring the Kansas Outdoors, One Bite at a Time" at 2:30 p.m. on March 13 at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center.

Pearce will be talking about the book and sharing tips on how to make wild game into restaurant-quality meals. He will conduct cooking demonstrations, and share game cooked with some of his favorite recipes for tasting. Recipes include everything from venison and elk to turkey and fish, with tantalizing titles: Venison pumpkin chili, grilled walleye ribeyes with lime and rock chalk gobbler gumbo.

His book, "Michael Pearce's Taste of the Kansas Outdoors Cookbook, features 53 of his recipes for Kansas wild game and plants, more than 100 photos and a selection of stories from the Eagle. The book was named a prestigious "Notable Book of Kansas" by the state library association.



Great Bend Regional Hospital Named Blue Distinction + Center for Maternity Care by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas

In an effort to help prospective parents find hospitals that deliver quality, affordable maternity care, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas announced the first hospitals in its 103-county service area to receive the Blue Distinction Center or Blue Distinction Center+ for Maternity Care designations under the national Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.



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Blue Distinction Centers and Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care, an expansion of the national Blue Distinction® Specialty Care program, are hospitals recognized for delivering quality specialty care safely and effectively, based on objective measures developed with input from the medical community. To receive a Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care designation, a hospital must meet the same quality criteria as Blue Distinction Centers while also meeting requirements for cost efficiency.

Hospitals were assessed using a combination of publicly available quality information and cost measures derived from Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies' medical claims. Great Bend Regional Hospital was at the top of the list of hospitals being recognized as a Blue Distinction Center+ for Maternity Care, along with fifteen other facilities around the state of Kansas.

"Improving quality of care is integral to transforming the health care system, so we are proud to recognize these 16 hospitals for demonstrating higher levels of quality and expertise resulting in better maternity care for our members," said Andrew C. Corbin, BCBSKS president/CEO. "This designation requires a tremendous commitment to quality in all phases of a hospital's maternity care program. The fact that 15 hospitals were further recognized for attaining cost efficiency in delivering quality care is commendable."

Nearly four million babies are born in the U.S. annually, making childbirth the most common cause of hospitalization. This new maternity care program evaluates hospitals on several quality measures, including the percentage of newborns that fall into the category of early elective delivery, an ongoing concern in the medical community. Compared with babies born 39 weeks or later, early term infants face higher risks of infant death and respiratory ailments such as respiratory distress syndrome, pneumonia, and respiratory failure, among other conditions. These babies also have a higher rate of admission to neonatal intensive care units.

In addition, hospitals that receive a Blue Distinction Center for Maternity Care designation agreed to meet requirements that align with principles that support evidence-based practices of care, as well as having initiated programs to promote successful breastfeeding, as described in the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative by Baby-Friendly USA or the Mother-Friendly Hospital program by the Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) through its "Ten Steps of Mother-Friendly Care." The program also evaluates hospitals on overall patient satisfaction, including a willingness to recommend the hospital to others.

Since 2006, the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program has helped patients find quality providers for their specialty care needs in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacements, spine surgery, and transplants. Research shows that compared to other facilities, those designated as Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better quality and improved outcomes for patients. On average, Blue Distinction Centers+ are also 20 percent more cost-efficient than non-Blue Distinction Center+ designated health care facilities.

The Center For Counseling & Consultation Presents Longevity Awards

The Center for Counseling & Consultation recently hosted its Annual Employee Appreciation Dinner and presented longevity awards to staff. The Center also presented a special recognition to Board of Director's member Dan Murray for his contributions to the agency. Murray for a number of years has refurbished and donated bicycles to the children of the Center's Community Based Services program. He is affectionately known by the children as Dan the Bicycle Man.



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Barton Community College Celebrates Opening of New Welding Lab

Barton Community College in conjunction with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development hosted a coffee followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for its new welding lab January 28 in the Technical Building, room T-172.

The public was invited to view the new welding lab and enjoy coffee, catered food and door prizes. Followed by comments from Barton President Dr. Carl Heilman, Foundation Director Nancy Wiebe and Executive Director of Workforce Training and Economic Development Mary Foley.

Barton's welding program was created when the Workforce Training division's administrators spoke with industry leaders and recognized a need for trained professionals in the industry.



Convention and Visitors Bureau Hires New Director

The City of Great Bend is excited to announce that a new Convention and Visitors Bureau Director has been selected. Emily Goad, a Great Bend native, officially accepted the position and is eagerly ready to get started and build something for Great Bend that enhances what attractions we have and brings visitors to stay and enjoy.

Goad graduated from Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Organizational Leadership and a Minor in Management. Goad has interned with the City of Great Bend, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development and held a Marketing Internship with the Hays Area Chamber of Commerce.



The selection committee was made up of Mayor Mike Allison, Finance Director Amit Patel, Retired Human Resource Director Terry Hoff, Hotel Owner Loren Unruh and Community Coordinator Christina Hayes. The committee interviewed three potential candidates and Emily's interview shined brightly.

"This was a tough decision, we had some great candidates, the committee felt that Emily best fit the needs/requirements of the Director, her excellent organizational and computer skills were a great plus also she was dedicated to City and Chamber events even while she worked outside of Great Bend" Said Christina Hayes.

GREAT BEND FARM & RANCH EXPO

IT'S OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY!



AMERICAN HAT COMPANY, INC.

April 6-8, 2016

www.greatbendfarmandranchexpo.net

April 6th 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

April 8th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reserve your exhibitor space today!



Country Place Senior Living Celebrates 13 Years

Country Place Senior Living assisted living residence celebrates 13 years as part of the Hoisington community.

"We are very thankful to the people of Hoisington for their ongoing support. Our staff and residents enjoy participating in community events and especially look forward to groups visiting our residences to share their special and unique talents," said Missy Pflughoeft, Director. "This month we celebrated 13 years of providing Life as you want it...Care as you need it® to area seniors and we look forward to many more to come!"

Country Place has maintained a respected reputation as a leader in the assisted living industry. The Hoisington campus provides both Assisted Living and Memory Care residences that are welcoming, well-designed and care focuses on the specific needs of each resident. Individual care and comfort are stressed, and the residences are staffed to provide the appropriate level of assistance for each resident.

To learn more about Country Place Senior Living or Country Place Memory Care, please call Missy Pflughoeft, Director at 620-653-4129.

Ambassador Profile - Matt Aycok

The 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 and the Annual Banquet.

To find out more, contact us, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org.



Where I Work

I have served as the Minister of Congregational Growth and Care at First United Methodist Church for almost three years. Effectively, it means I am the associate minister for First UMC: I am a lay minister who is employed by the church and tasked with coordinating and providing for most of the internal ministries of the church.

Educational Background

After earning my Bachelor's in History from Mississippi State University, I spent a year exploring a call into vocational ministry. I am now back in school earning my Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from Friends University.

My Family

In June 2011, I married Jean, the smartest, most beautiful woman I have met. We do not have any children but we do have a dog, Rosie; an aquarium full of fish; and a cat, Ludo.

As an Ambassador

Jean and I moved to town when she took a job at KVEC, and the people of Great Bend quickly reached out to us to welcome us into the community. Over the past three and a half years, we have grown to love Great Bend and to call it home. Being a Chamber Ambassador gives me a chance to give back to the community that has been so welcoming to my family.

Hobbies & Interesting Facts

In my spare time, I like to read science fiction/ fantasy novels, historical novels, and histories. I also enjoy playing board games with friends and family. I am fond of a good debate and appreciate getting to know people.

Chamber Radio Show



Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month to hear Eagle Radio's Patrick Burnett discuss the latest Chamber happenings with Director of Member Services Andrea Bauer. This month's show will air on Thursday, February 4th at 11:35 a.m.

Human Resources Roundtable Luncheon "Office Ergonomics"



Tuesday, April 26,
11:30 a.m. at The Page

Legislative Coffee Date

Representative John Edmonds
Representative Troy Waymaster
Representative Greg Lewis
Senator Mitch Holmes
Invited to Attend

Saturday, March 12, 2016

The Great Bend Chamber of
Commerce & Economic Development,
Spray/Holt Family Board Room
1125 Williams, Great Bend

Sponsored By





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Located at 4217 W. 10th Street
Great Bend, Kansas | 620-792-8266

CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Every Thursday at 9:30 am

March 3, 2016

ElderCare, Inc.

Great Bend Senior Center, 2005 Kansas Ave.

ElderCare, Inc proudly serves older Kansans in partnership with communities, Senior Centers and Meals-On-Wheels organizations. The agency through its Friendship Meals division administers the Nutrition Services in the 28 counties of Southwest Kansas. The Home Services division provides in-home care in 10 counties. Join us to kick-off March For Meals – our annual celebration to increase awareness and community engagement in supporting senior nutrition programs.

March 10, 2016

2B Organized

Great Bend Chamber, Spray Holt Family Board Room, 1125 Williams

2B Organized is a locally owned franchise. Our professional organizing services help those too busy, too confused, too tired or too stressed to deal with clutter. We offer an objective, experienced opinion and resources to help you move forward with your goals. 2B Organized services include Residential and Commercial Organizing, Relocation & Move Management, Home Staging, Meeting and Event Planning, Seminars & Speaking Engagements.

March 17, 2016

Great Bend Coffee Company

2015 Lakin Ave.

Great Bend Coffee provides an extensive menu, serving breakfast & lunch 6 days a week in addition to weekend dinners. Find Great Bend Coffee on Facebook to view the menu as well as daily/weekend dinner specials!

March 24, 2016

Central Kansas Whitetails

656 W Barton County Road (4.5 Miles west of 10th & Patton)

Central Kansas Whitetails provides guided hunts and lodging. With over 15,000 acres of private property that borders the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, these refuges are home to some of the largest bucks in the state. Owned by Kristy Straub, the Chamber Coffee will be hosted in the Central Kansas Whitetails Lodge.

March 31, 2016

Nex-Tech

3700 10th Street

Join Nex-Tech on March 31 at their new location to learn how your business can benefit from the new fiber technology coming soon to select areas of Great Bend.

April 7, 2016

No Chamber Coffee – Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo

Celebrating its 5th Anniversary, the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo will take place April 6-8th at the Great Bend Expo Complex just two miles West of Great Bend. Featuring nearly 700 exhibitors with indoor and outdoor exhibits, and no admission fees – check it out!



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

McDonald's

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.