

Great Bend
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Outlook

Business Journal

www.greatbend.org

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of Commerce and Economic Development*

January 2015 • Volume 94 No. 1

2015 Great Bend Chamber Board Set, Officers Elected



Kenny Vink, Chairman



Derek Fredrick,
Vice Chair



Dennis Neeland,
2nd Vice Chair



Curt Mauler,
Past Chair



Alan Burton,
Treasurer

With the changing of the calendar year comes a change in leadership and a new set of goals for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Board of Directors.

The Chamber welcomes nine new members to its diverse board, representing a wide range of industries and backgrounds.

— *Continued on Page 2*



Linda Bonewell



Taylor Calcara



Frank Callahan



Matt Dykes



Dr. Matt Fehr



Brent Hanson



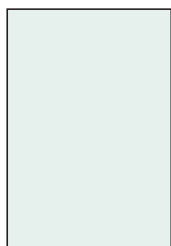
Kevin Keller



Kevin Mauler



Candice Moeder



Rodrigo Razo



Leilani Schenkel



Chris Smith



Paul Snapp



Aaron Spanier



Marty Steinert



Jan Westfall

"Outlook Business Journal"
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Great Bend, KS 67530
Phone: 620-792-2401
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Web address: www.greatbend.org

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Kenny Vink, Office Products Inc.

Vice Chairman
Derek Fredrick, Waters True Value

2nd Vice Chairman
Dennis Neeland, Great Bend Co-op Association

Immediate Past Chairman
Curt Mauler, L&M Contractors

Treasurer
Alan Burton, MPIRE Properties

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Bonewell
Fuller Industries, LLC

Taylor Calcara
Watkins Calcara, Chtd.

Frank Callahan
American Family Insurance

Matt Dykes
Epoxy Poly, Inc.

Matt Fehr, DVM
Animal Medical Center

Brent Hanson
Great Bend Regional Hospital

Kevin Keller
Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency

Kevin Mauler
4M Farms

Candice Moeder
CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions / BCYP

Rodrigo Razo
Playa Azul Mexican Restaurant

Leilani Schenkel, RN
Almost Home, Inc.

Chris Smith
Smith Supply, LLC

Paul Snapp
First Kansas Bank

Aaron Spanier
Innovative Livestock Services

Marty Steinert
Dove Chevrolet Buick / Chamber Ambassador Club

Jan Westfall
Gentiva Hospice

EX-OFFICIO

Cris Collier, Great Bend CVB

Dr. Penny Quinn, Barton Community College

Vicki Berryman, Great Bend City Council

Brad Reed, USD #428

Jennifer Schartz, Barton County Commission

CHAMBER STAFF

Jan Peters, President/CEO
jpeters@greatbend.org

Rachel Mawhirter, Marketing Director
rmawhirter@greatbend.org

Andrea Bauer, Director of Sales & Member Services
abauer@greatbend.org

Roxanne Rich, Office/Business Manager
rrich@greatbend.org

— Cont. from Page 1

2015 Great Bend Chamber Board Set, Officers Elected

Beginning three-year terms are Linda Bonewell (Fuller Industries), Matt Dykes (Epoxy Poly Inc.), Rodrigo Razo (Playa Azul Mexican Restaurant), Leilani Schenkel (Almost Home Inc.), Paul Snapp (First Kansas Bank), and Aaron Spanier (Innovative Livestock Services). Beginning a two-year term is Brent Hanson (Great Bend Regional Hospital). Also serving on the board in 2015 will be Candice Moeder representing the Barton County Young Professionals group and Marty Steinert representing the Chamber Ambassador Club.

Kenny Vink (Office Products Inc) will serve as Board Chairman and Derek Fredrick (Waters True Value) will serve as the new Vice Chairman, while Dennis Neeland (Great Bend Co-op Association) serves as the 2nd Vice Chairman, and Curt Mauler (L&M Contractors) is Immediate Past Chairman. Alan Burton (MPIRE Properties LLC) is Treasurer.

Remaining Chamber Board members are Taylor Calcara (Watkins Calcara Chtd), Frank Callahan (American Family Insurance), Dr. Matt Fehr (Animal Medical Center), Kevin Keller (Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency), Kevin Mauler (4M Farms), Chris Smith (Smith Supply LLC), and Jan Westfall (Harden Hospice Kansas).

Ex-Officio Board members are Cris Collier (Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau), Dr. Penny Quinn (Barton Community College), Vicki Berryman (City of Great Bend), Brad Reed (USD 428), and Jennifer Schartz (Barton County Commission).

Finishing their terms on the Board are Mark Bitter (Kustom Floors), Erika Brining (CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions), Dr. Jesse Grove (Grove Chiropractic & Sports Injury), Lynda Jamison (Adams Brown Beran & Ball), Jim Johnson (Sunflower Diversified Services), Julie Smith (United Way), Chris Spray (Venture Corporation), and Kristy Straub (Straub International). Retiring board members will be recognized during the 93rd Annual Chamber Meeting & Banquet on Saturday, February 21st, 2015.

Chamber Offers Two Educational Seminars this Month

HR Roundtable Meeting Jan. 27th

The next HR Roundtable Luncheon will take place Tuesday, January 27th in the meeting room at The Page. Employers are encouraged to send a representative to this informative luncheon.

There will be a buffet-style lunch for \$15 per person, which includes a beverage and gratuity. Register from the Chamber Events page at www.greatbend.org by Friday, January 23rd! Even if you've never participated in one of these exciting and informative luncheons, new faces are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, call 620-792-2401.

Marketing Seminar Jan. 14th

Local businesses are invited to attend a Chamber Marketing seminar on Wednesday, January 14th at 10 a.m. designed to inform current and prospective members about the numerous marketing services available through the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.

There is no fee to attend the one-hour session, and complimentary coffee and rolls will be served. Hand-outs will be provided to all who attend. Register from the Chamber Events page at www.greatbend.org or call 620-792-2401.

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American Ag Credit Celebrates Grand Opening of New Great Bend Facility

American AgCredit announced early last year that they had purchased of a commercial property located at 10th and Patton, in Great Bend, Kansas. On March 6th, numerous representatives of the growing enterprise visited the building site to host a groundbreaking for the new regional office.

On December 18th, the nation's 6th largest Farm Credit cooperative celebrated the grand opening of this state-of-the-art facility with a Chamber Ribbon Cutting. Jan Peters, President & CEO of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development welcomed the new enterprise saying, "It took a lot of work on the part of the real estate developer, the City, the Chamber, the general contractor, and most importantly the dedicated staff at American AgCredit. For your investment in our community, we say a big thank you."

Other dignitaries who spoke at the ceremony included Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer Roger Bastow, Director & Building Committee Vice Chairman Jerold Harris, Regional Vice President Greg Reno, and Building Committee Chairman Greg Ringler.

Founded in 1916, American AgCredit is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, specializing in providing financial services to agricultural and rural customers throughout Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, California, Nevada, and New Mexico – as well as to capital markets customers in 30 states.

The Great Bend facility is just over 6,500 square feet and features a 1,000 square foot meeting room with adjacent kitchen that is available to the community for meetings and business events. With a reception area, eight private offices, four open area offices, a mail and production room, and two smaller conference rooms, the new facility is truly designed to accommodate the American AgCredit clients now

and in the future. For more information about American AgCredit's financial services, visit www.agloan.com or call 620-285-2193.



Invitations Will Be Arriving Soon for the 93rd Annual Chamber Meeting & Banquet

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development invites all our members to attend the 93rd Annual Meeting & Banquet on Saturday, February 21st at the Great Bend Convention Center. This annual event serves as a chance to recognize outgoing and incoming leadership, and to announce the Chamber's award winners for the previous year. Watch the mail for your formal invitation. Tables can be reserved on the Chamber's website at www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx.

EXPANDING #HORIZONS

SAVE THE DATE

for the **93rd Annual Meeting & Banquet**
for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development

Saturday the 21st of February, 2015
at the Great Bend Convention Center
- Cocktail Attire -

6:00 - Social & Cocktail Hour
7:00 - Dinner & Program

Reserved Table of Eight - \$400
Individual Tickets - \$50

Register at the Chamber Office - OR - Online:
www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx
For more information, call 620-792-2401

LEARN MORE...
The Chamber is planning a trip to China!
October 10-18, 2015

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Kiwanis Club Celebrates 75th Anniversary

In late November, the Great Bend Kiwanis Club celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a Chamber ribbon cutting and open house. The club was originally chartered on November 22, 1939 with Sol Brack as president. Coincidentally, Sol's legacy is carried on by his great granddaughter's husband, Rob Bauer, who serves as the current president.

At the event, the Kiwanis Club gave away more than \$1,500 to area organizations and awarded its Great Bend Greater Award for 2014 to Mark and Krista Ball for their commitment to community service. Dr. Terry Turner, chairman of the selection committee, said the winner isn't necessarily a member of Kiwanis, but he or she must be someone "whose positive influence has met a community need or enhanced the quality of life in the Great Bend community, (and someone) who demonstrates acts of generosity and kindness."

Mark & Krista Ball have been married for 22 years with eight children, four of whom are adopted. They run several businesses and ministries, such as USA Gym Supply, Everything Under the Sun Christian bookstore, Lasting Life Ministries Inc, and the new Heartland Community Church.

Lasting Life Ministries provides funding to Central Kansas Christian Academy, Hungry Heart Soup Kitchen, Daniel R. Trickey Life Giving Center, Central Kansas Dream Center, assists those adopting from foreign countries, (and provides) financial assistance for those who have received a shut-off notice or eviction notice, among other ministry opportunities.

The Great Bend Kiwanis Club meets at Montana Mikes every Wednesday at noon for a meal, a program, and fellowship with the club's primary focus being on helping children. The club's Defining Statement reads "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time."

The local club has one major fundraiser, the annual Pancake Day, and gives \$10,000 or more each year to local charities and community projects, as well as \$3,000 annually in scholarships.



Young Professionals Spotlight

A monthly update on activities & events for members of the Barton County Young Professionals group.

During the month of December, the Barton County Young Professionals group gathered for the annual Ugly Sweater Christmas Party at Charlie's. Approximately 60 members attended, with \$338 being raised for the group's 2015 Community Impact Project known as The Tot Spot. Shortly after the party, representatives from YP partnered with the Rotary Club to request formal permission from the Great Bend City Council for implementation and financial support for the new playground equipment geared for children under 5 years of age.

"YP is putting a big emphasis on giving back to the community in 2015," says incoming Steering Committee Chair Brandon Steinert. "Our members volunteer on so many boards and committees, but we will also be organizing projects of our own to make a positive difference."

The Tot Spot will primarily be funded by private donations, with support from the City of Great Bend up to \$5,000. The City Parks Department also agreed to install the new equipment, which will save time and money and ensure the equipment is safe for years to come. Anyone wishing to donate to the playground should contact AJ Chrest, achrest@gmail.com.

In January, the group will gather for a Personal Development Luncheon on Tuesday, January 13th at noon at Pizza Hut, 4101 10th Street. The topic will be "Purchasing a Home."

Later in the month, the group will also take on yet another Community Impact Project in the form of a Charity Supply Drive at Wal-Mart on Saturday, January 24th. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., YP and Rotary members will collect non-perishable food and non-food supply donations from shoppers that will be distributed by area charities. This is the third year for the Charity Supply Drive event.

Keep up with news and events for Barton County Young Professionals by joining the Facebook group and by signing up for the YP email newsletter.

Want to Join?

Anyone who works in Barton County between the ages of 21 and 40 is welcome to join the growing group at any time. For more information or to join, email us at bartonyp@gmail.com. And be sure to join the group on Facebook!



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Highlighted Events in January

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

- 1... Chamber Office Closed
- 1-4... Barton Community College Campus Closed
- 2... Movie with a Message "Faustina", 3600 Broadway, 6:15 p.m.
- 3... Barton Basketball Games, Kirkman Gymnasium, 245 NE 30 Rd, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 4... GBCT Auditions for "2 Across", Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin, 2 p.m.
- 5... YP Steering Committee Meeting, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, 4 p.m.
- 5... Grief Support Group Meeting, GBHHH, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 5... GBCT Auditions for "2 Across", Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin, 7 p.m.
- 7... Barton Basketball Games, Kirkman Gymnasium, 245 NE 30 Rd, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 8... Chamber Coffee: Thrivent Financial, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, 9:30 a.m.
- 8... Ribbon Cutting: Cornucopia – Chaser's, 3017 10th Street, 10 a.m.
- 10... Fruit Order Deadline for 7th Day Adventist School Citrus Fundraiser
- 10... Relay for Life Kick-Off Breakfast, Knights of Columbus, 723 Main Street, 9 a.m.
- 12... Grief Support Group Meeting, GBHHH, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 14... Chamber Marketing Seminar, 1125 Williams, 10 a.m.
- 14... Barton Basketball Games "White Out Night", 245 NE 30 Rd, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 15... Chamber Coffee: A440 Music, 1207 Main Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 16... Shafer Gallery Opening Reception, 245 NE 30 Rd, 6-8 p.m.
- 17... Gallup Strengths Finder Seminar, First Assembly, 601 Patton Rd, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 17... Baseball Hitting Camp, Indoor Practice Facility, 245 NE 30 Rd, 9 a.m.
- 17... Baseball Pitching Camp, Indoor Practice Facility, 245 NE 30 Rd, 12 p.m.
- 17... Miss Barton County & Miss Golden Belt Scholarship Pageant, GBHS Auditorium, 2027 Morton, 7 p.m.
- 19... Grief Support Group Meeting, GBHHH, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 19... Barton Community College Campus Closed
- 22... Chamber Coffee: Dress It Up, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, 9:30 a.m.
- 23-24... Fiber Space 2015, Heartland Farm, 1049 CR 390 in Pawnee Rock
- 24... Baseball Hitting Camp, BCC Indoor Practice Facility, 245 NE 30 Rd, 9 a.m.
- 24... Young Professionals Charity Supply Drive, Walmart Supercenter, 3503 10th Street, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 24... High School Senior Day at BCC, 245 NE 30 Rd, 1:30-9:30 p.m.
- 24... Barton Basketball Games & Hall of Fame Inductions, Kirkman Gymnasium, 245 NE 30 Rd, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 25... Baseball Pitching Camp, BCC Indoor Practice Facility, 245 NE 30 Rd, 12 p.m.
- 25... Grief Support Group Meeting, GBHHH, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 27... HR Roundtable Luncheon, The Page, 2920 10th Street, 11:30 a.m.
- 27... Informational Meeting for Chamber's 2015 China Trip, Chamber Office, 5:30 p.m.
- 29... Chamber Coffee: Ace Hardware, 4903 10th Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 29... Barton Cohen Center History Snapshot, 245 NE 30 Rd, 2 p.m.
- 30... Movie with a Message "Oh God! Bok II", 3600 Broadway, 6:15 p.m.

Other Recurring Events:

Barton County Commission Meetings – Every Monday, 1400 Main, 9 a.m.

Great Bend City Council Meetings – 1st & 3rd Mondays, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Bingo – Every Tuesday & Thursday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.

American Legion Dinners – Every Wednesday & Friday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.



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Recreation inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles and a sense of community which aligns with the mission of the Great Bend Recreation Commission to provide year round quality leisure, cultural, sports, fitness and educational programs that improves the quality of life in Great Bend.

When Diann Henderson, Executive Recreation Director mentions the Great Bend Recreation Commission (GBRC or “the Rec”) is “a lot of things to a lot of people,” she could be accused of making the understatement of the year.

After all, the GBRC offers hundreds of activities to tens of thousands of people each year. Those numbers are the perfect illustration of Henderson’s mission in her role as executive recreation director – to provide comprehensive recreation services to the community. The programs and activities fall into several categories that don’t seem to do justice to the quality and quantity of offerings for all ages. Some basic categories are sports, leisure, seniors, special needs, aquatics, fitness and wellness.

And then there’s the indoor area for walkers, drop-in activities, after-school programs, kids day out, certified hunter-safety instruction, stop and learn educational sessions, classes for parents and their children, special events, art, theater, cooking and contests.



GBRC also is oftentimes the first opportunity for teen-age employment in town, and a welcoming place for volunteers.

To make all this, and more, come together, Diann Henderson, and her staff rely on a myriad of partners. Some of these include the City of Great Bend, USD 428, Barton County, private businesses, the Senior Center, Kansas Wetlands Education Center and other non-profit organizations. She noted, “the Recreation Commission board members and our partners are a dedicated group of individuals and organizations working diligently and collectively in providing additional recreation opportunities with a purpose in mind, whether it’s to affect health, raise awareness around conservation, connecting our community, or providing additional educational opportunities for our youth in after school programs and for seniors at the recreation centers or to simply learn how to enjoy and appreciate nature.”

The Recreation Commission has a long and rich history of providing affordable public recreation programs in Great Bend. The Recreation Commission has been opened for business since 1949. The Recreation Commission moved to the Carl Soden Recreation Building, 1214 Stone, in 1969 and the 3-year-old Activity Center at 2715 18th provides after school activities, exercise classes and sports programs. With this very robust recreation system it is no small task providing these recreation programs, special events and management of 162 part time, seasonal and 7 full time employees.

Henderson has been in this business for 32 years. She has been involved in all aspects of the organization. As a Great Bend native, her college academic interest was concentrated on education and computer technology at Barton Community College. She graduated from Friends University with a degree in business management. She grew up as a competitive softball player, volunteer softball coach and runner. She ran track on the first girls’ track team at GBHS.

Six other full-timers round out the administrative staff and support staff. “The seven of us have over 67 years of experience in the public recreation field,” she said. “These recreational professionals are certified through state and national affiliations, and each has expertise in certain areas.”

“The staff also strives to provide a positive sports environment,” she continued. “We visit with coaches and parents about sportsmanship and have a code

of ethics for both. Our volunteer coaches are the backbone of our sports programs and they participate in the NYSCA Certified Coaches Continuing Education program. This year we certified 101 volunteer coaches in our sports programs. An economic development benefit for Great Bend, Henderson noted that this year there were 169 baseball or softball teams that came to Great Bend for tournaments. This included the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Regional Baseball-Softball Tournaments and the KSHSAA 2A-1A state tournaments and Hap Dumont tournaments.

Currently, the Recreation Commission organizes 276 youth and adult sport teams the opportunity to play outdoor soccer, football, indoor soccer, baseball, softball, basketball and volleyball. Staff works very closely with the City of Great Bend and the USD #428 in utilizing public and school facilities for these programs.

The Recreation Commission produces a program activity guide three times a year that is mailed out to all USD #428 patrons. In addition communicate to families and patrons are made through Facebook, the GBRC website. www.greatbendrec.net and through newsletters.

Great Bend is an active and engaged community because of Great Bend Recreation Commission. All this programming caught the eye of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas last year when it bestowed its prestigious Blue CHIP Award to GBRC, the city, school district, Barton County Extension and Eldercare.

Even considering the lengthy list of programming that the Recreation Commission provides, Henderson doesn’t hesitate to say that she and her staff are actively engaged in seeking new partners, discovering new trends of recreation programming and are always looking for ways to meet the needs and wants of our community. —

St. Rose Foundation Transfers \$1.8 Million Assets to Golden Belt Community Foundation

All assets of one local non-profit entity are currently being transferred to another to ensure donors' contributions will be used for their intended purposes. The Central Kansas Medical Center/St. Rose Foundation is transferring its approximately \$1.8 million in assets to the Golden Belt Community Foundation (GBCF). In the near future, the plan is that St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center's name will change to St. Rose Health Center; it will be co-owned by Hays Medical Center and Centura Health, which is St. Rose's current umbrella organization.

"This is good for St. Rose because the efforts of our donors and board members will continue to be recognized for decades to come," Mingenback added. "This plan guarantees funds will be used for their intended purposes."

The structure of the three newly established St. Rose endowment funds at GBCF is designed to honor the donors' requests, he said. St. Rose Health Center Endowment Fund money will be distributed annually to St. Rose Health Center for various St. Rose services, similar to the mini-grant process in the past. A second fund is called St. Rose Health Center Endowment Fund for Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice. The third new entity is the Heartland Cancer Patient Care and Support Endowment Fund. This cancer fund also will help finance support groups, educational programs and partnerships.

St. Rose is part of Centura Health, which connects individuals and families across western Kansas and Colorado with more than 6,000 physicians, 15 hospitals, seven senior-living communities, physician practices and clinics, and home-care and hospice services.

Remodeling Progresses at St. Rose Facility

This rendering of the new Medical Office Building (MOB) will house the St. Rose Health Center, formerly known as St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center. The remodeled facility will include a new entrance on the southeast side; first floor occupants such as St. Rose Family Medicine & Urgent Care, infusion and specialty nursing, laboratory collection, occupational testing, and imaging and diagnostic services; second floor occupants such as the Specialty Clinic, Great Bend Internists, and the licensed ambulatory surgery center.

The parking lot will be directly south of the lobby, outside the new entrance. Weather permitting, the MOB will open early next spring.



Great Bend Regional Hospital Promotes Hospitalist Designation

Submitted by Brent Hanson, GBRH CEO

The Choice is Still Yours.



You're capable of making your own medical decisions - we simply want you to know Great Bend Regional Hospital remains your choice for hospital care in Great Bend.

Great Bend Regional Hospital is excited to take this opportunity to announce the launch of our new hospitalist program. The program ensures we are fully capable of taking great care of you and your loved ones in the event you require hospitalization; no matter who your Primary Care Physician is we can and will welcome you in an emergency or urgent situation, as well as a direct admit from your doctor's office. At your request, you can be admitted right in Great Bend rather than at a facility more than an hour away.

It's your right as a patient to choose where you're hospitalized. We're here for you should you choose to exercise that right and we hope that you do. The convenience of receiving quality healthcare in your own community has been and will continue to be made available by Great Bend Regional's hospitalists.

There is no need to switch Primary Care Physicians should you choose to be admitted with us; our hospitalist will care for you during your stay, but we will happily coordinate post-discharge care with your current doctor.

What's a Hospitalist?

As defined by the Society of Hospital Medicine, a hospitalist is a "physician whose primary professional focus is the general medical care of hospitalized patients. Their activities include patient care, teaching, research, and leadership related to Hospital Medicine."

A hospitalist typically spends most of their days working inside the hospital rather than in an outpatient setting or office; this affords patients the benefit of being cared for by a physician who's focused entirely on hospitalized patients. If necessary, they'll work directly with your physician to determine the best treatment. The hospitalist will also be available to you and your family to answer questions regarding your care during your stay.

We're available to answer any questions you might have about how the Great Bend Regional Hospitalist program can help accommodate you in your time of need.

<http://gbregional.com/hospitalist-program>

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NEW! Discover China October 2015

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development invites YOU to come with us to Discover China during a nine-day, all-inclusive tour of Beijing, Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. The trip is scheduled October 10-18, 2015 in partnership with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce is working with Citslinc International to provide its members with an unforgettable travel experience to one of the world's fastest growing commerce centers. They have extended an invitation to our Great Bend Chamber and its members to join in their adventure and experience the Orient while networking with other Kansas professionals on the journey of a lifetime.

The 9-day, all-inclusive trip begins and ends in Los Angeles, California. Once you cross the international dateline, the dynamic itinerary features a mix of individual and group activities designed to immerse you in the Chinese architecture, culture, and commerce.

Trip highlights include Tian An Men Square, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Great Wall of China, Ming Tombs, Temple of Heaven, Linger Garden, Tiger Hall, Lingyin Temple, and the beautiful West Lake. Other optional tours are also available for purchase while you are on the trip.

The trip includes round trip international airfare from Los Angeles, accommodations in 4 and 5 star hotels, three meals per day, all in-country transportation, deluxe bus tours, fluent English speaking tour guides, entrance fees for attractions.

Plan to join us for a **FREE informational meeting on Tuesday, January 27th at 5:30 p.m.** in the Chamber Board Room. Let us know you're coming: www.GreatBend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx.



**Information Meeting
January 27th @ 5:30
Chamber Office**

Community Theatre Auditions Jan. 5-6

Auditions for the Great Bend Community Theatre production of *Across*, by Jerry Mayer, will be held Sunday, January 4th at 2 p.m. and Monday, January 5th at 7 p.m. at the Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin, Great Bend. There are roles for 1 man and 1 woman. Performances will be held February 19-22, 2015. For more information or to check out a reading copy of the script, contact GBCT at (620) 792-4228.

Defy Expectations Clothing Co. Celebrates Retail Grand Opening

Erica Stos has dreamed of owning her own retail store for several years. She now jokes that waiting until she had two small children was the perfect time. Her new business, Defy Expectations Clothing Company, is now open at 1915 Lakin in downtown Great Bend.

"The idea started attending motocross events with my husband," Erica says. "Kids want a certain type of clothing, and it really wasn't readily available in Great Bend. So now we are trying to fix that."

Defy Expectations carries trendy clothing for pre-teens, teenagers, and young adults, with most of the brands being released by athletes, artists, or celebrities relevant to today's youth. Brands include Metal Mulisha, FMF, One Industries, True Honor, Affliction, Sinful, Ink Addict, Sullen Clothing, Jambo Headphones, Black Flies, Fatal and more.

Currently, the retail store employs two part-time staff in addition to Stos. "In the future, we'd eventually love to carry denim and shoes as well," Stos says. "We want to sponsor local events and be involved with our core customers."

Defy Expectations is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sundays from 12-5 p.m. For more information or to see product images, find them online at www.defyclthingcompany.com or on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.



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Bank of the West Branch Celebrates New Leadership with Ribbon Cutting

Last month, Great Bend's Bank of the West branch celebrated its new leadership by welcoming Branch Manager & Vice President January Pecora with an open house and Chamber Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Pecora brings her vast banking experience to the local team of professionals who offer personal, commercial, and small business services to Central Kansas and beyond.

For more information about deposit accounts, lending services, investments, wealth management, or insurance service, contact Pecora at 1200 Kansas Avenue in Great Bend, 620-792-1771.



GBHHH Welcomes New Chaplain, Schumacher

Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice would like to welcome Larry Schumacher, the new chaplain for the healthcare organization. "I was called to the ministry later in life – about 12 years ago," said Schumacher, 59. "So when I heard about the opening here at Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice, I knew it was a God thing."

The new chaplain is replacing John Grummon, who recently retired. Schumacher, who also is pastor of the Assembly of God Church in Lyons, serves part-time at GBHH&H. He received his formal education from Global University, which is affiliated with Assembly of God, and Assembly of God Kansas School of Ministry.

His community outreach has included serving on the Great Bend City Council and Barton County Fair Board; he also was active in the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce.

Schumacher and his wife Maryln, who is branch manager of Farmers Bank & Trust in downtown Great Bend, have two grown children, Ryan and Amanda, and 5 grandchildren.

GBHH&H, which is part of the St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center family, has been serving central Kansans since 1979. Its service area is Barton, Pawnee, Rush and part of Stafford counties.

Schneider Elected 2015 KSPCA Chair

The Kansas Society of CPAs held its Annual Meeting on November 19, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Michelle Schneider, Great Bend, was elected 2014-15 Chair of the 2,700-member Kansas Society of CPAs (KSCPA) at the Annual Meeting.



Schneider is a Principal with Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd. in Great Bend. She has over 20 years of experience as a CPA. Her expertise is working with individuals and businesses in the areas of tax planning and preparation, estate planning, consulting, bookkeeping and auditing. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Central Kansas Chapter of Certified Public Accountants. Michelle served as the President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Central Kansas Chapter of Certified Public Accountants. She has also served on the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants Board of Directors and subsequently on the Executive Committee. She is the Champion of the Professional Development task force.

Other elected officers of the 2014-15 Executive Committee are: Vice Chair, Matt List, BKD, LLP, Wichita; Secretary-Treasurer, Jim Boomer, Boomer Consulting, Inc., Manhattan and for Immediate Past Chair, Melinda Hitz, City of Garden City, Garden City.

Elected to three-year terms on the Society's Board of Directors are: Brandi DiGiorgio, MarksNelson LLC, Kansas City, MO; Michele Herzog, Herzog Financial Solutions, LLC, Overland Park; Christine "Chris" Johnston, Marsh and Company PA, Overland Park, and Lori Wenrich, EY, Wichita.

Continuing Officers are: Chad Allen, Cochran Head Vick & Co., PA, Merriam; Matt Bellomo, MC Bellomo, P.A., Overland Park; Stephanie Bowen, Flint Hills Resources, Wichita; Mitch Fiser, Fiser Group, PA, Lenexa; Amber Goering, Amber K. Goering, CPA, P.A., Overland Park; Gregg C. Goodwin, Bever Dye LC, Attorneys at Law, Wichita; Kate Grant, Kirkpatrick Sprecker & Company, LLP, Wichita; Daniel F. Kjergaard, Mayer Hoffman McCann, P.C., Leawood; Jay Langley, Clubine & Rettele, Chtd., Salina; Christina Ricke, Kennedy and Coe, LLC, Wichita; Robert J. Schuster, Kennedy and Coe, LLC, Wichita and Damon Ward, Spirit AeroSystems, Inc., Wichita.

The Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants is a 2,700+-member, voluntary association dedicated to implementing strategies that enhance the well-being of its members, the accounting profession and the general public.



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Gallup Strengths Finder Seminar Comes to Great Bend January 17th

First Assembly of God is pleased to announce a public training opportunity on Saturday, January 17th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at their Great Bend facility, 601 Patton Road. Seasoned writer and consultant Dr. Sondra Cave will be present to facilitate a Gallup Strengths Finder Seminar for business leaders and individuals in Central Kansas. Dr. Cave has been recognized by the Gallup organization with the "Strengths-Architect" Award for her work writing strengths curriculum and training seminars, advocating for people to discover their God-given talents, and training others. She has been involved with the Gallup Organization and strengths development since 2001.

This training is designed to help businesses, individuals, boards of directors, volunteer groups, civic clubs, and families identify their members' strengths using the Gallup Strengths Center's assessment tool and interactive curriculum. This assessment has been utilized by more than ten million people around the world to determine which of the 34 Gallup strengths they bring to the table, and how their strengths compliment the strengths of their colleagues.

Prior to the January 17th training, those who register to attend will be asked to complete the online assessment and print their results to bring along with them. Dr. Cave will help attendees navigate those results and provide meaningful insight into how the positives and negatives associated with those characteristics.

Strengths are the unique combination of talents, knowledge, and skills that every person possesses. People use these innate traits and abilities in their daily lives to complete their work, to relate with others, and to achieve their goals. But most people don't know what their strengths are or have the opportunity to use them to their advantage.

People who do focus on their strengths every day are six times as likely to be engaged in their jobs. They are more productive too, both individually and in teams. And they are more than three times as likely to say they have an excellent quality of life.

Cost is \$45 per person, which includes the online assessment you'll be asked to complete ahead of time along with your lunch and training materials on the day of the seminar. This is HALF the cost of similar trainings in other communities! You will receive further instruction regarding the online assessment in your confirmation email after completing this registration form. To register, visit www.tinyurl.com/GallupStrengths or call 620-792-5211.



Reserve Tickets for NEW Valentine's Day Fundraiser & Comedy Show

Habitat for Humanity has made a name for itself by hosting an annual dinner theater known as "Barton



County's Got Talent" every year since 2010. However, several factors have led the nonprofit organization's board to take a new direction for this year. The first ever "Barton County's Got Flavor" event will be held Saturday, February 14th, catering to those who want a unique Valentine's Day experience.

The new fundraiser will feature a food and beverage pairing competition followed by a professional improv comedy show. Guests will serve as judges for the tasting competition, sampling ten different pairings of food and drink. Tasting stations will be split between the Legends Gallery above the Rosewood Wine Cellar, 1901 Lakin, and the lobby of the Crest Theatre next door, 1905 Lakin, from 6-7:30 p.m. Once they have cast their vote for the best pairing, they will make their way to the auditorium for a comedy show at 8 p.m. that will surely have them rolling in the aisles.

"We are excited to bring a professional comedy duo known as The Foolish Toms to Great Bend for this Valentine's Day event," says Rachel Mawhirter, fundraising volunteer for Habitat. "If you enjoyed the television show 'Whose Line is it Anyway?' then you'll love this hilarious improv comedy show."

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund rehabilitation and Brushed with Kindness projects in Barton County in the coming months. "We are actively working on securing our next rehab project that will be started in the spring of 2015," says Kim Vink, Habitat Board Member. "Once we purchase a home, we will find a family in need who qualifies to purchase it through a zero-interest loan and then begin working side-by-side to help them put in enough sweat equity hours on the project."

Tickets are now available for just \$60 per couple, which includes the tasting competition and the comedy show. Tickets may also be purchased for the comedy show by itself for \$15 per person. For more information or to reserve tickets, contact Mawhirter at 620-786-4896 or email habitatbartoncounty@hotmail.com.

"Movie with a Message" Series Continues

Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend will show the movie "Faustina" in their continuing program "Movies with a Message" on Friday, January 2, 2015. The movie begins at 6:15 p.m. at the Dominican Sister Motherhouse, 3600 Broadway. Refreshments will be served. A free-will donation is requested. Other movies in the series include: Oh God! Bok II (January 30), October Sky (February 27), Life is Beautiful (March 27) and Powder (April 24).

WELCOME to our NEWEST Chamber Members!

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January 8, 2015

Thrivent Financial Services • Chamber Office, 1125 Williams

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January 15, 2015

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January 22, 2015

Dress It Up • Chamber Office, 1125 Williams

Providing the latest in ladies fashion and accessories, Dress It Up is a community owned and operated ladies dress shop in Larned. Funded by local stock investors and run by volunteers, we look forward to showcasing some of our inventory to the Great Bend Chamber!

January 29, 2015

Ace Hardware • 4903 10th Street

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February 5, 2015

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Employment – Barton County	October 13	October 14
Labor Force	16,527	17,940
Employment	15,957	17,500
Unemployment	570	440
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	2.5%
KS Unemployment Rate	5.6%	4.4%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report	October 13	October 14
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$424,568	\$473,573
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$227,077	\$246,951

Building Permits	October 13	October 14
Commercial – GB	10	8
Residential - GB	30	30

Sources:

City of Great Bend, www.greatbendks.net
Kansas Department of Revenue, www.ksrevenue.org
Kansas Department of Labor, www.klic.dol.ks.gov

