



OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

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

2nd Annual Business Showcase & Teacher Appreciation Event a Huge Success

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development launched a partnership with USD 428 to facilitate a teacher appreciation event last year to help welcome district employees back for the start of a new school year. The second annual event was held Monday, August 15th from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Panther Activity Center at Great Bend High School, and was open to the 700+ employees of USD 428.

“The Business Showcase is a great opportunity to connect the 700+ employees of USD 428 with the Great Bend Business Community. Building on last year’s success, we expected the event to grow and moved the location to the PAC,” says Andrea Bauer, Director of Sales & Membership Services of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. “Doing so we were able to accommodate 60 Chamber exhibitors and still had room to spare,” she continued.



(Left to Right) Chamber Ambassadors Shannon Stafford, Amanda Baxter, and Sarah Adams help pass out goodie bags to district employees at the Great Bend Business Showcase & Teacher Appreciation Event.



Emily Goode, CVB Director and Christina Hayes, Community Coordinator talk with a district employee about the opportunities that the City of Great Bend has to offer.

“USD 428 welcomed 40 new teachers to the district this year this was a great opportunity for us to show them what a great place Great Bend is to live and work all while helping connect them with resources they may not otherwise know where available to them,” stated Jan Peters, Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development CEO.

The Great Bend Business Showcase & Teacher appreciation event is an exclusive opportunity for Chamber members to exhibit and display their businesses and products for free. Anyone that would like to exhibit in next year’s Business Showcase that is not already a chamber member may contact Andrea Bauer, Director of Sales & Membership Services with any questions they have about joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development at abauer@greatbend.org or by calling 620-792-2401.



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Dr. Fleske and Dr. Hildebrand Surpass Milestone Number of Groundbreaking Hip Procedures

The orthopedic surgeons at Great Bend Regional Hospital are well-known in the state of Kansas for their impressive track record and commitment to staying on the forefront of medicine. Dr. LT Fleske and Dr. Randall Hildebrand, the board-certified owners of the Central Kansas Orthopedic Group, recently surpassed a milestone number of groundbreaking surgeries known as Anterior Hip Replacements.



Susan Tucker, Operating Room Supervisor at Great Bend Regional Hospital, prepares the HANA table for surgery.

“We have been doing these surgeries for several years, after we both completed specialized training on the new approach,” says Dr. Fleske. “Some of the benefits include better exposure, decreased blood loss, a smaller incision, and having to cut less muscle tissue.”

Since 2013, the two local orthopedic specialists have performed more than 100 anterior hip replacements at Great Bend Regional Hospital.

The medical industry has traditionally performed total hip replacements with the patient lying on his or her side on the operating room table, known as a posterior hip replacement. But research has shown that for certain patients, an anterior approach from the front can be more advantageous. However, the doctors note that the posterior approach is still the industry standard for a reason. It all depends on the patient’s medical history, their anatomy, and any wound concerns the physician may have.

“At six months post-surgery, posterior and anterior patients will have equal outcomes,” Dr. Fleske says. “While anterior hip replacements work well for some, posterior procedures still work very well and can be the preferred method depending on the patient’s individual needs.”

To better facilitate anterior hip replacements, Great Bend Regional Hospital invested in state-of-the-art equipment that makes the physician’s job as easy as possible. At the beginning of this year, the regional healthcare leader purchased a new hip and knee arthroplasty surgical table, otherwise known as a HANA Table. Its unique positioning capabilities enable the surgeon to replace the hip through a single incision without detachment of the muscle from the pelvis or femur. The table can also be used for some other procedures, and can accommodate x-ray imaging without moving the patient.

“Patients deserve to have access to the latest technology when it is appropriate. We continue to invest in new training and new equipment to stay on the cutting edge of the medical industry,” says Dr. Randall Hildebrand. “This commitment to progressive medicine, along with our track record, is probably a big reason we draw patients from a 90-120 mile radius around Great Bend.”

Dr. Fleske opened the Central Kansas Orthopedic Group in 1980, and was joined by Dr. Hildebrand in 1999 after he completed his service in the United States Army. Both specialists are board-certified, and together they perform approximately 1,300 surgeries per year at Great Bend Regional Hospital.

For more information or to schedule a consultation, contact Central Kansas Orthopedic Group at 620-792-4383.

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Barton announces Mental Health Technician Certificate



Barton Community College has announced its latest educational opportunity, the Mental Health Technician Certificate program through a partnership with Larned State Hospital (LSH) with support from the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS).

The 45 credit-hour program is available to current LSH employees. Costs for approved employees, except the required Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) will be covered by the hospital. The program is approved for 10 students with plans to expand. Members of the community interested in the program will be considered if vacant spots are available.

The program includes 11 credit-hours of pre-requisites (required for application to the program) and 34 credit-hours of core classes for those selected to the program. Applications are due October 1, 2016.

Barton Vice President Dr. Robin Garrett said this is an exciting project. "We are pleased to work with LSH to provide their employees with professional growth opportunities to enhance services to their patients," she said. "This partnership will provide students an opportunity to obtain the necessary skills to become an effective and well-trained Licensed Mental Health Technician and demonstrates Barton Community College's continued commitment to serving the needs of the community and employers with workforce training."

KDADS Interim Secretary Tim Keck said the development of this program will be beneficial for the hospital as well as the patients.

"We think it is important to continue to improve the job skills of our workforce," he said. "Successful completion of this training will provide staff with a professional credential they can use throughout their careers. The ability to also hire additional trained mental health technicians will enhance patient care at the hospital because it will free up other hospital professional staff to concentrate on providing care, therapy and treatment to patients."

A mental health technician, also called a psychiatric technician or behavioral health technician, generally works under the direct supervision of psychiatrists or nurses to provide care for patients suffering from mental or behavioral illnesses. A mental health technician's job is to assist various types of psychiatric patients in need and to provide auxiliary support to the primary care providers of patients. The work includes observing the psychiatric patients' response to therapy and processing or reporting the clinical findings to the consultant psychiatrist. Mental health technicians also assist patients in performing routine activities like maintaining oral hygiene, bathing, eating, dressing and walking. They also handle unit management and medication administration.

For more information, contact Dean of Workforce Training and Community Education Elaine Simmons at simmonse@bartonccc.edu or 620-792-9214.

Great Bend chosen as Host Location for KansasWorks Statewide Job Fair

KansasWorks Statewide Job Fair is scheduled for September 27th from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at nine locations across the state allowing employers to choose the most convenient location for them. Locations include Concordia, Emporia, Great Bend, Junction City, Mulvane, Overland Park, Park City, Pittsburg and Topeka. This event will open to veterans, their spouses and families for the first 30 minutes before opening to the public. There is no cost to register and the event will be held at the Great Bend Activity Center located at 2715 18th Street in Great Bend.

Space is limited to register visit www.kansasworks.com or contact Heidi Brittain at the Great Bend workforce center for more information. Call 620-793-5445 or email Heidi.Brittain@ks.gov.



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Ambassador Profile - Amanda Baxter

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 am a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate and feel very privileged to be part of an amazing team of Realtors who are as passionate about real estate as I am.

Educational Background

I am a graduate of Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a background in legal studies.

My Family

I have two children, Dylan (15) and Hattie (4) who keep me on my toes with all of their various activities.

As an Ambassador

This is my first year as an Ambassador with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. As a Great Bend native, the Ambassadors program has allowed me to give back to the community. I am enjoying building new relationships with fellow ambassadors and Chamber members.

Hobbies & Interesting Facts

I am an avid reader and especially enjoy John Grisham novels. In my spare time, you can find me on the Jazzercise dance floor.

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Tickets available for Sunflower's Pancake Dinner

The flipping of the cakes is on the agenda again this year to benefit people with developmental disabilities and delays who rely on Sunflower Diversified Services.

Sunflower's annual pancake dinner is scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15 at the Prince of Peace Parish Center, 4100 Broadway, Great Bend. Tickets are now available for the all-you-can-eat, pancake-and-sausage dinner. Each ticket is \$5 and may be purchased in advance or at the door.

"Chris Cakes and their pancake flipping are always popular with the crowd," said Connie Oetken, Sunflower director of development. "DJ Cain also will return with his enthusiasm and ability to connect with everyone. "Most important," she continued, "we are raising much-needed funds for infants, toddlers and adults with disabilities and delays. Every penny we collect remains in our local communities and directly helps local residents."

The pancake feed is just part of the kick-off to Sunflower's annual Sunrise Campaign; a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Coffee has been scheduled for 9:30 a.m. the same day as the pancake feed. "We are especially excited about the chamber coffee this year because it will be at Sunflower's new Westside Market," Oetken said. "We are eager for even more members of the community to see our varied inventory."

Proceeds from the Sunrise Campaign are used for children's programs, as well as wheelchair modifications, communication devices, and help with medical and dental treatment. "These are a few of the items not covered by insurance or tax revenues," Oetken commented. "There are many financial gaps to fill and this campaign helps us with at least some of them."

Rosewood AKTION Club Completes Zoo Service Project

Prolific American anthropologist Margaret Mead once spoke the now-famous words, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world" Rosewood Miracle Workers AKTION Club has been putting Mead's inspirational words to the test this summer.



Rosewood Miracle Workers AKTION Club members Keith Boyer (left) and Jason Ehrentraut shovel rubber mulch at Great Bend's Brit Spough Zoo on Aug. 4 as participants in the AKTION Club's service project.

Most recently, more than a dozen Rosewood AKTION Club members completed a service project at Great Bend's Brit Spough Zoo, on Aug. 4. Several of them worked on shoveling out rubber mulch from a walking path on the west side of the zoo grounds, an area which is getting a refreshed look with new mulch and a new wooden border.

"We enjoy all the help we can get and we appreciate their efforts," said lead Zoo keeper Ashley Burdick about Rosewood's volunteers. "They are doing such a great job. We are slowly getting this project completed. They now have a hand in helping to make this area look a lot nicer than it was before."

Following completion of the projects, as a special "thank-you" to AKTION Club volunteers who attended, Burdick allowed them to meet some of the zoo's furry inhabitants. Club members interacted with a bearded dragon, an armadillo and a chinchilla.

"Our AKTION Club members like the zoo very much," said Frankie Pelster. "When we were discussing possible service projects, the first organization mentioned was our zoo. They have been excited to get the opportunity to come out and help our zoo and community."

Rosewood AKTION Club members have also held two garage sales this summer to help cover costs of club activities and to prepare for a future community project. And in June, eight club members attended the annual Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas Conference in Topeka. The SACK Conference provides an opportunity for people with developmental disabilities to meet, share and learn from each other and experts in the field. Conference participants had the opportunity to choose from different workshops during four breakout sessions.

Rosewood AKTION Club is an affiliate of the national Kiwanis organization that promotes service in action for people with developmental disabilities. The area club allows Rosewood clients to be actively involved in the community and to positively impact the lives of others.

Cricket Wireless Establishes New Location in Great Bend

Cricket Wireless celebrates their Grand Opening in Great Bend on August 11, 2016.

At Cricket, consumers can enjoy the benefits of a reliable, nationwide 4G LTE network where you can talk and surf simultaneously, all without an annual contract.



23rd Annual Kids Ag Day September 7, 2016

In celebration of "National Ag Week", the Ag Committee of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development looks forward to welcoming over 350 area 4th graders for a day of farm exploration & education! With the primary goal of helping students gain a better understanding of the agriculture industry and its importance to our local economy, community support is welcome in the form of sponsorships or volunteer time. Contact the Chamber Office for more information!

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Building A New MPIRE

When Jason Mayers returned to Great Bend after college graduation, he couldn't find a decent, affordable place to call home. Never one to settle for the status quo, Mayers, along with his dad and uncle set out to build a duplex, which laid the foundation for MPIRE Property Management Inc. Mayers is the founder and chief executive officer of the multi-faceted company that reaches into many parts of Kansas.

"My dad and uncle, having built their own homes, had the skills to build a residence. I lived in half the duplex and the other half was rented out," Mayers said about the 2810 Jefferson property. "This is what gave me the motivation to jump right in," he added. "Several members of my immediate family were involved from the outset and we opened in 2004."

Mayers was able to use his 2002 Kansas State University dual degree in accounting and financial services, and a minor in economics to handle the financial part of the business. Today, MPIRE, which until recently was located at 2019 Lakin, oversees 260 residential and commercial rental units in Great Bend, Ellinwood, Hoisington, Sylvan Grove, Ulysses, Pratt, Glasco, Concordia and Abilene.

Two of its more well-known entities in town are MGM Properties and Superior Self Storage. (See adjacent story.) The firm has eight employees, including: Chief Operating Officer Rick Davis; Chief Financial and Compliance Officer Alan Burton; and Office Manager Janelle Riner. "They are the backbone of this venture and allow me to maintain my full-time career. The rental business is not easy, but through teamwork we seem to get through

whatever challenges we face. None of this could happen without this professional staff, along with our other dedicated employees," Mayers emphasized. "We are native Kansans who want to help our communities prosper."

In addition to relying on staff expertise, the company contracts with local businesses to increase job opportunities, which allows money to circulate here at home. "Since a primary function at MPIRE is rehabilitating properties, we use local contractors, labor and vendors," Mayers explained. "We help our neighbors

by re-investing in our communities. The neighbors like to see us coming, especially when a deteriorating house is in foreclosure or a structure is just not being maintained. "We will do anything from a simple paint job to a complete remodel," he continued. "We will do whatever it takes, as can be seen by one of MPIRE's most recent projects - its newly remodeled office at 1015 McKinley.

When MPIRE tenants have a leaky faucet or other problem, they can reach the company quickly by phone, email or text. "We even have an emergency line," Mayers said. "With our experience and ability to respond quickly, we enjoy a good reputation with tenants and contractors.

"People appreciate this because they want their homes clean and safe," he elaborated. "We rent them out that way and keep them that way. If something isn't working, we fix it. We know how important your home is to you, which is why we treat our properties as more than just rentals. We search for quality residents and provide them the best property at every price point. Our tenants take pride in their homes and so do we."

Mayers indicated his company can find rental units to fit most any budget - from low-income to high-end units. As a member of the National Apartment Association, MPIRE stays abreast of the latest trends and changes in housing. In addition, Mayers noted, tenants can count on MPIRE to be available for the long haul with a full-time staff. "This is a unique business and we have a unique set-up in that several owners are also employees. And we are always looking for ways to expand; we are constantly talking about the next step."



Superior Self Storage

Superior Self Storage, run by MPIRE Property Management, currently offers 321 units. Its locations are 2331 Kansas, 821 Washington, 210 N. Washington and 25th and Washington.



The newly relocated headquarters is at 1015 McKinley. Storage unit sizes range from 5 by 10 feet to 42 by 60 feet; some outdoor space is available too.

"We constantly strive to make our storage units as secure as possible," said Jason Mayers, MPIRE CEO. "Security lighting and cameras are provided, and we drive through regularly. Our best resources are the community and our neighbors. Our local law-enforcement officers are extremely helpful too."



Back Row: Jason Mayers, Alan Burton
Front Row: Janelle Riner, Rick Davis



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Young Professionals Spotlight

Wrapping up the month of August BCYP volunteers spent time at the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo touching up the born learning trail. BCYP partnered with the United Way of Central Kansas to install the activity trail in 2014.

With school back in session BCYP presented as an exhibitor at the 2nd annual USD 428 Business Showcase & teacher appreciation event. The event was open to all USD 428 employees and was held at the Panther Activity Center on August 15th. Members volunteered their time to work the booth and inform district employees about Barton County Young Professionals.



(Left) AJ Chrest, YP Membership team leader and (Right) YP member Julie Stoss repaint one of the activity stations on the Born Learning trail located inside the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo.

BCYP & The Panther Booster Club invite you to kick-off the football season with a spirited tailgate event! The event will take place from 5:00-6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 9th at the GBHS Memorial Stadium. As we welcome nearly 40 new teachers to USD 428 this year, the event is a great opportunity for YP members to meet many of these new residents to Great Bend and help them make connections in the community. New teachers to USD 428 are invited to attend at no charge, in addition, BCYP & First Kansas Bank is picking up the tab for the first 80 YP members to arrive! Be sure to "Check-In" at the BCYP table to get your meal coupon!

***Admission to the game is required and will be the responsibility of BCYP members. \$5 adult admission, kids 5 and under are free.**

Also, do not forget to mark your calendars for the 2nd annual BCYP 5K & Half Marathon. There is still time to register before the early bird deadline. Funds raised for the first BCYP 5K & Half Marathon were used to purchase bike racks that were distributed to Ellinwood, Claflin, Hoisington, and Great Bend to help promote "Be well Barton County."

The Barton County Young Professionals group has three main goals: Lead. Network. Volunteer. The group is free to join, and is open to anyone between the ages of 21 and 40 that lives or works in the Barton County area. For more information, visit www.bartony.com and like the group's page on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bartony.com). BCYP is a program of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.



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Campaign Kickoff a Huge Success and 2017 Co-Chairs Announced

The United Way of Central Kansas hosted their annual Kickoff Event on August 13th and the Stars & Stripes, United Way Forever was a huge success. This fundraiser is the largest of the year and regularly raises \$25,000 to help fund 23 Community Partners. With the expansion into Hoisington, the pressure was on to raise even more this year. This year's event brought in over \$30,000.00. This patriotic theme inspired by and executed by Carol Dema and Leslie Mingenback, included special recognition of Veteran's in the crowd, and included a prayer led by Mark Mingenback.

Auction items donated by local businesses helped to make the night a huge success. Donors included T & L Fireworks, 2B Organized, LaSada Sporting Clays & Hunting Service, Walnut Bowl, Truly Yours, Kat King with Flavored Creations, Friends of the United Way, Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals, World War II Museum, and Nadine Jones donated for the Raffle Items. Live Auction items were donated by Crosby Wild Game Adventures, Eldridge Fencing, Alan & Gail Moeder, and Kustom Floor.

At the Kickoff, United Way announced their Co-Chairs for the 2017 Campaign. This year's Co-Chairs are Kevin and Kista Holt, representing Larned; Chuck and Meg Wilson, representing Ellinwood and Great Bend; and Cole and Regan Reif as Young Leaders.

Kevin and Kista Holt grew up in Larned, settled in Olathe after college and then returned to Larned in 2007. They own Tabler Furniture in downtown Larned. Kevin manages the store while Kista teaches at Northside Elementary. Both are civic minded and actively involved in the community and their church. They have three young daughters: Kathryn, Abigail, and Olivia.

Chuck and Meg Wilson have been married for 33 years and moved from Smith Center to Great Bend in 2010. They are members of the Prince of Peace Catholic Parish and their grown children, Nickolas, Jenna, and Braden, all live in the Kansas City area. Chuck is a graduate of Kansas State University and taught Agricultural Education and FFA for 9 years. Chuck is currently Vice President with Community Bank of the Midwest in Ellinwood. Chuck is the President of Central Kansas Catbackers, President/elect of the Ellinwood Rotary, and serves on the Prince of Peace building committee. Meg is a graduate of Doane College with a M.S. from FHSU. She has been dedicated to the education profession for over 34 years serving as a teacher, junior, and senior high school principal. In July, Meg began to provide administrative services at Westside High School at the Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility for SHESC.

Cole and Regan Reif were married in December 2015 and are active Young Professionals in the Great Bend Community. Cole is employed by Eagle Communications and is the Sports Director for Great Bend's Eagle Radio. Cole announces basketball games for Barton Community College and calls football games for Hoisington High School. He is a Board Member for the Cougar Booster Club at Barton and an ambassador for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. Originally, from Great Bend, Cole graduated from Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science in Information Networking & Telecommunications. Regan Reif is employed as the Marketing & Executive Administrator at Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, Chtd. Reif is a 2013 summa cum laude graduate of Fort Hays State University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership. She is active in the community serving as an Ambassador for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development and as the 2016 Chairperson of the Barton County Young Professionals (BCYP) organization. Regan is a member of the Barton Community College Business Advisory Board and serves as a Mentor in the Voss Advanced Leadership Undergraduate Experience (VALUE) program at Fort Hays State University

Once the Kickoff was complete, United Way & Dianne Call moved their focus to Stuff the Bus. Events were hosted in Hoisington, Ellinwood, and Great Bend where hundreds of pounds of non-perishable food items and "wish list" items for local agencies were collected. Thank you to Town & Country Supermarket, Dillon's #51, Wal-Mart, Ellinwood Community Library, and Sunflower Bank for serving as our collection drop off locations.

Kansas CPA Firm Named in INSIDE Public Accounting's Annual Nation's Top 200 Accounting Firms

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered (ABBB) is pleased to announce for a second year in a row that the firm made INSIDE Public Accounting's (IPA) annual ranking of the Nation's Top 200 Accounting Firms. The firm ranks 190 in this year's Top 200 list.



For the most recent fiscal year, IPA 200 firms range in size from \$15.6 million to \$34.2 million and from 65 to 190 staff.

"Ranking in the top 200 accounting firms for two consecutive years is a great accomplishment for our firm," said Brian Staats, CPA, managing partner at Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball. "We are honored to receive this designation and would like to thank our loyal client base and our exceptional team for contributing to this accomplishment!"

The Platt Group publishes both the award-winning INSIDE Public Accounting newsletter and the award-winning National Benchmarking Report. The Platt Group works with managing partners, CFOs and thought leaders across the nation to provide practical ideas, benchmarking data and information to take firms to the next level of improvement.

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Women's Expo Returns September 27th

For nearly two decades, it has been eagerly anticipated by area women and businesses alike. Now, this September tradition is on its way for another appearance.

The 18th installment of the Great Bend Tribune's annual Women's Expo takes center stage at the Great Bend Events Center, 3017 10th St., from 3:30-7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 27. Admission is FREE and tickets are available at the Tribune office, 2012 Forest, or at the door.

Diane Lacy-Trostle, Tribune Advertising Manager said they do ask attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Barton County Food Bank. Each year, hundreds of pounds of food are donated.

The event has become a September tradition for the hundreds of women who attend and vendors reaching out the community's most influential shopping decision demographic. "It has really grown into something spectacular," said Tribune Advertising Manager Diane Lacy-Trostle. "It has become an important part of the social calendar." The Tribune is currently reserving booth space for the event, she said. Booths are assigned on a first-come first-served basis and last year's event booked full. Vendors are encouraged to have product samples. Retail sales are permitted.

"It's a fun and easy way to give your business a boost, reconnect with current customers and create new ones," Lacy-Trostle said. "The Women's Expo gives area businesses and organizations personal contact with individuals that may not normally walk through their doors. Expo attendees get the chance to learn about products and services they may not otherwise be exposed to." The expo is also a chance for women to see what is going on in the worlds of fashion and beauty, health and fitness issues, home life and other issues as well as an opportunity to sample products and services at little or no charge. It also provides the forum for expo goers to ask questions they might not otherwise get to ask on a one to one basis.

For more information or to reserve your booth space, contact Lacy-Trostle at the Great Bend Tribune, 620-792-1211.

Hoisington Rodeway Inn & Suites Wins Hotel of the Year

Hoisington Rodeway Inn & Suites was awarded the prestigious Hotel of the Year Award by [Choice Hotels International, Inc.](http://ChoiceHotelsInternational.com) (NYSE: CHH), one of the world's leading hotel companies. The property was recognized for its superior customer service and operational excellence. Co-Owner and Managing Member Phil Griffin received the award on behalf of the hotel's owners and staff at the Choice Hotels 62nd Annual Convention in Las Vegas. Choice Hotels' Hotel of the Year Award winners are selected by the Choice Hotels Owners Council and are presented to properties that demonstrate lodging excellence and offer guest experiences that set the standard for the industry.



"The entire Rodeway Inn & Suites Hoisington team continues to impress guests with their attention to detail and commitment to customer service, which shines through in their guest satisfaction scores," said Anne Smith, vice president of brand strategy for Choice Hotels. "We are so pleased for Phil and his entire team on this deserving win."



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St. Rose to Relocate GBHH&H and Physical Therapy Services



Two St. Rose Health Center services will relocate to the main building in the near future to increase efficiency, Site Manager Zena Jacobs announced. Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice (GBHH&H) and St. Rose Therapy Services will move to the facility's second floor; they are currently located at 3520 Lakin, just south of St. Rose.

"It will be nice to have everyone under one roof," Jacobs said. "It will provide better communication among staff members, which means we can better serve our patients and visitors. It also will be much more cost effective to be in one convenient, streamlined location."

GBHH&H has been serving central Kansas since 1979 and physical therapy is a recent addition to the St. Rose family. They will join the many other services and clinics at St. Rose. These include Great Bend Internists, Cardiac Rehab, Convenient Care Walk-in Clinic, St. Rose Family Medicine, laboratory services and imaging.

St. Rose also continues to offer cardio-vascular screenings, 4-D sonograms and monthly blood screenings. In addition, the St. Rose/HaysMed Specialty Clinic hosts numerous specialists who see local and area patients on a regular basis. Their areas of expertise include orthopedics, urology, obstetrics and gynecology, cardiology, general surgery, pulmonology and on-site radiology for biopsies. "This long list of options for central Kansans demonstrates St. Rose's commitment to offering the best in health care," Jacobs said. "We take seriously our mission to keep up with the health-care needs of our neighbors. And we hope they enjoy the convenience of having GBHH&H and physical therapy here in the main facility. "Staffing levels have been adjusted to meet the consolidation of services under one roof," she added.

In addition to in-house services, St. Rose also collaborates with Children's Mercy Hospital, Mid-Kansas ENT and Galichia Medical Group to provide local outreach clinics. Chief Executive Officer Shae Veach noted that St. Rose's goal is to offer a comprehensive list of options to the community. "Patients and families want choices and St. Rose is the best choice for quality health care," Veach said. "The face of health care is different and changing all the time. Our priority at St. Rose is to continue to provide as many local services as possible."

Barton County Bag-A-Bite Food Packaging Event



Numana has announced that the international hunger relief organization will join efforts with Barton County area churches, schools, and businesses to support the Barton County Bag-a-Bite Event, benefitting children in Rwanda.

On October 16, 2016, volunteers will gather at the Great Bend Expo Complex from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the goal of packaging 130,000 meals. At the cost of 30 cents per meal, local organizations are currently raising funds to cover the cost of the event and meal goal. Volunteer registration is available online and people of all ages are welcome to help pack the rice-based meal. Once packaged, the meals will be shipped to Africa New Life Ministries in Rwanda, where 5,000 children eat Numana meals everyday in schools.

For more information about Barton County Bag-a-Bite, go to www.numanainc.com/events or contact Lindsay Mills at lindsay@numanainc.com.



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 Marketing Coordinator Maddi Kinkelaar. This month's show will air Thursday, September 1st at 11:35 a.m.

Welcome to Our Newest Chamber Members

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www.cricketwireless.com

Cellular Service

Gilmore Solutions

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Sterling, KS 67579
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Save the Date!
YP Fall Fest
October 2, 2016

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Long Pumpkin Patch
163 NE 30 RD

Sponsored by



**Chamber Office Closed
on Labor Day**

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development will be closed Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day. We will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, September 6th.



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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Every Thursday at 9:30 am

September 1, 2016

Ellinwood Hospital Foundation – Grove Park Golf Club, Ellinwood

Ellinwood Hospital Foundation is a non-profit, philanthropic organization dedicated to the improvement of healthcare, through the services of Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic and its cooperating organizations. Learn more about the exciting new services offered in Ellinwood, and see the facility improvements being made!

September 8, 2016

United Way of Central Kansas @ Marmie Ford – 1815 10th Street

Marmie Ford, Marmie Chrysler and Marmie Collision all participate in the UWCK payroll campaign and are a UWCK Pacesetter company. UWCK funds 23 agencies and 5 community impact programs. Join us to learn more about the new **Reality U** program happening in October!

September 15, 2016

Sunflower Diversified Services – Westside Market – 5523 10th Street

Sunflower Diversified Services is the original full service provider for children and adults with developmental disabilities in the area. SDS has been supporting Central Kansas for 50 years. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!

September 22, 2016

Salvation Army – 2445 10th Street

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

September 29, 2016

Kansas Oil & Gas Museum – 5944 10th Street

The museum's goal is to provide educational information about present industry activities, to preserve the past history of the oil and gas industry in Great Bend and surrounding areas and to honor those who have dedicated their lives to the industry. Join us for the Chamber Coffee to learn more!

October 6, 2016

KFC – 2917 10th Street

KFC has served the Great Bend area for 45 years with the Colonel's original recipe chicken and all the other great foods! Our buffet is open 7 days a week from 11am – 8pm for our guests.



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