

# OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

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

## MITCH HOLTHUS TO VISIT GREAT BEND JUNE 1-2 FOR CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development is energizing the Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament with the addition of special guest, Mitch Holthus, Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs. Join us for two special events featuring Mitch Holthus:

### INSPIRE LEADERSHIP SERIES – THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST

Hear lessons on sports, life & leadership from the longest tenured and most decorated play-by-play “Voice” in Chief’s franchise history. The event will be held at Stoneridge Country Club from 5-7pm. Registration for the event is \$20 per person and includes heavy hors d’oeuvres & cash bar. Tickets are limited, reserve online at [greatbend.org](http://greatbend.org).

### 12TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT – FRIDAY, JUNE 2ND

The 12th Annual Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament is a way to link business with pleasure, and provides an opportunity for participants to network with other business professionals in a casual and relaxed environment. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with a Shotgun Start at 9 a.m.

Players can look forward to a four-man scramble format with thousands of dollars in prizes and raffle drawings. Golfers will also enjoy top-notch player hospitality, a beverage cart sponsored by Benefit Management Inc., complimentary lunch & a post-tournament Patio Party & Awards Reception provides more opportunities for networking and fun.

Cost to enter the tournament is \$100 per player, or \$400 per team. Hole sponsorships are also still available for \$100 per company, and include signage on a hole and recognition in other Chamber publications.

“We are thrilled to welcome Mitch Holthus to the tournament along with other local ‘celebrities’ as we celebrate the life of Gary Gore, a ‘celebrity’ in his own right,” said Jan Peters, President of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. The tournament memorializes Gore, who died in a watercraft accident at Wilson Lake in 2005. Gore was serving as the Chamber’s Executive Director at the time of his death, a position he held for five years. Proceeds from the tournament support the operations of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.

Look for the insert/registration form in this month’s newsletter packet or for more information, contact the Chamber Office at 620-792-2401.



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## Advanced Therapy Celebrates Grand Opening

Last month, Advanced Therapy hosted a Grand Opening celebration to commemorate their new location at 4801 10th Street in Great Bend. "We are very proud of our new facility, and were happy to be a part of the revitalization effort in this part of Great Bend," says Teresa Malone, PT, owner of Advanced Therapy. "In the last 33 years, we have grown from a 1-man clinic to 3 active clinics in Great Bend, Hays, and Larned."

Advanced Therapy & Sports Medicine was founded in 1984. The Great Bend location has a total of 11 employees. Hays partner Tim Markus has a staff of 5, and Larned partner Kevyn Soupiset has a staff of 5.

"Health care has changed a lot over the years, and we have tried to adapt to continue providing the best care and keeping out-of-pocket expenses to a minimum," Malone says. "Direct Access has helped a lot with this. You can now call for an appointment without a doctor's referral, depending on your insurance."

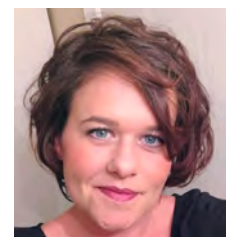
The facility expansion also allows the team at Advanced Therapy to increase the programs they offer, including balance and fall prevention Work Comp rehab, and an expansion of the athletic performance programs. Malone and her team also partner with Barton Community College to offer WorkFit, a post job offer test to help employers with their Work Comp premiums and employee safety initiatives.

Learn more at [ptkansas.com](http://ptkansas.com) or call 620-603-4421 for an appointment. Advanced Therapy & Sports Medicine can also be found on Facebook.



## Shelter Insurance Welcomes Office Manager

Shelter Insurance Deanna Vannoster Agency is pleased to announce the addition of Mandee Solko, Customer Service Representative/Office Manager to our team. Mandee is from the Larned area and recently moved back to Central Kansas from Colorado. She will earn her Property and Casualty licensing by the end of April and is looking forward to fully servicing our customers through sales and service. Mandee previously owned a trucking company and a restaurant and catering business in Central Kansas which utilized her interpersonal skills, strengthened her organizational abilities, and advanced her business experience.



Mandee is a mother to six sons. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, the outdoors, camping, fishing, and hunting with her family. She is excited to join the agency and is looking forward to serving the community.



## CVB Hospitality Program Supports Businesses

As a way to enhance its Hospitality Program, the City of Great Bend's Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) recently added a new service. CVB representatives take to the streets each month to deliver information about upcoming events to approximately 250 locations. The laminated cards and other materials outline activities for the following month, along with lists of featured attractions and hospitality tips.

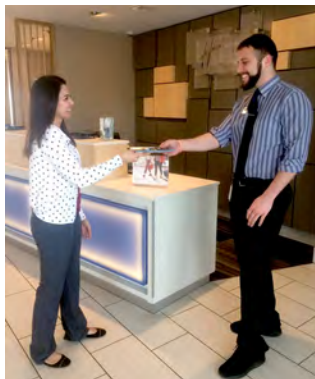
For example, one list in March included: the Kiwanis Pancake Feed; Barton Community College Theater production of "A Servant of Two Masters"; Sunflower Charity Gala; Jazz Festival; Legislative Coffee; Central Kansas Spring Expo; Golden Belt Community Concert; NHRA Chassis Certification & ETI; and BCC baseball dates. "We want to give the front-line business people timely information to help them provide superior customer service," CVB Director & Community Coordinator Christina Hayes said. "It can be especially handy when customers ask about local activities.

"When those who interact with local and out-of-town clientele have this information at their fingertips, it indicates we are welcoming and proud of our community. It gives us a good, positive image."

In addition to Hayes, three others are on hand-delivery detail each month. They are: City Administrative Assistant Larami Parsons; CVB Visitor Coordinator Emily Goad; and CVB Visitor Representative Irma Gonzalez. Team members rotate their routes each month as they visit retail outlets, motels, gas stations, salons, and doctors' and dentists' offices.

"Anyone who wants to be added to our list is encouraged to contact us about this free service," Hayes said. "We want to share the information with as many businesses as possible.

Hayes noted that the Hospitality Program also continues to offer online training for employees of virtually any business. For more information about the program or to be added to the list of businesses on the CVB's route, contact Hayes by calling 620-793-4111 or 620-792-2750. Or visit [www.visitgreatbend.com](http://www.visitgreatbend.com)



## PM Sleep Lab Opens New Location in Great Bend

PM Sleep Lab opened up at 3520 Lakin Ave, Ste. 105 hosting an Open House and Ribbon Cutting on March 29th. PM Sleep Lab chose Great Bend to service patients and physicians who suffer from one of the more than 84 different sleep disorders, such as obstructive sleep apnea, snoring, restless leg syndrome and sleep walking, recognized by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM.) PM Sleep Lab is one of the largest providers of sleep medicine clinics in the Midwest with 17 locations, including 11 throughout Kansas.

Patients of PM Sleep Lab have compared a night there to staying in a 5 star resort because of the comfort. Each patient's sleep study is performed in their own private home-like bedroom with each room containing a flatscreen TV, 600 thread count sheets, and 5 different pillow types to choose from. PM Sleep Lab can be contacted at (620) 292-6031.



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## Everything Under the Son Updates Retail Space

Everything Under The Son celebrated their recent remodel with a special Ribbon Cutting on April 20th. Patrons can now enjoy several quiet corners and nooks while they read and worship. The Christian book and gift store also expanded to include a worship area for larger groups wishing to gather. Groups are invited to come use their worship area for bible groups, singing and praise.

Everything Under The Son is a Christian gifts, music, books and supplies store, as well as coffee shop all in one! Housed in 8500 square feet, the store is the largest of its kind in central Kansas. Check out their unique selection of greeting cards, music CDs, inspirational books and Bibles. Treat yourself to a cup of freshly brewed coffee and enjoy the charming setting that is inviting for all ages.



## Dove's to Celebrate 60th Anniversary this Month

Great Bend's Dove Chevrolet Buick Cadillac dealership marks 60 years of quality, service, passion, and superior products in Great Bend, KS this year! The Dove family has been in the transportation business for four generations extending back to Great Grandfather Dove who raised, trained, and sold mules to the settlers headed West on the Oregon Trail in the 1880s! Dee Dove purchased the Buick dealership at 12th and Kansas in May of 1957. He then moved into their new location at 4217 10th Street in 1967 where previously there was nothing but alfalfa fields. The Cadillac and Oldsmobile franchises were also added in 1967. In 1988, Rob and Trisha Dove purchased the business from Dee and added the Chevrolet franchise in 2009. Remodeling in 2012 allowed Rob and Trisha to offer the largest selection of Chevrolet and the very best quality dealership in Western Kansas. Most recently, Dove bought the lot next to the dealership for future expansion. More information on that to come!

Rob remembers having a conversation with his father where Dee asked, "Rob, what business are we in?" to which Rob responded, "The car business, Dad". Dee's reply, "Wrong answer, son! We are in the people business!"

Dove Chevrolet Buick Cadillac is proudly hosting a 60th anniversary Chamber coffee and ribbon cutting on May 18th at 9 a.m. to celebrate! With monthly themes from customer testimonial contests and a big car giveaway, there will be lots of fun during the May through August celebration!





## HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN MAY

- 1... Saint Francis Community Services, TIPS-MAPP classes for Foster/Adoptive Parents, Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, 2101 Jackson St @ 6pm
- 1... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 1... City Council Meeting, City Hall, 1209 Williams @ 7:30pm
- 2... 100 People Who Care Meeting, Best Western Courtyard, 2920 10th @ 5:30pm
- 4... Chamber Coffee: Aflac, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams @ 9am
- 5... Leadercast Great Bend, First Christian Church, 5230 Broadway @ 7am
- 6... Cinco De Mayo Celebration, Jack Kilby Square, 1400 Main @ 11am - 11pm
- 7... Model Railroad Association Open House, First United Methodist Church, 2123 Forest @ 12-4pm
- 8... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 9... Dine for Dolly, Freddy's Frozen Custard, 3008 10th St @ 10:30pm - 10pm
- 11... Chamber Coffee: Edward Jones Jim Vopat, 2421 10th @ 9am
- 11... 10th Street Eyecare Center Sunglass Show, 2601 10th St @ 11am - 6pm
- 11... Art & Wine Walk, Downtown Great Bend, 4-7pm
- 12... Test & Tune, SRCA Dragstrip, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd @ 7:30pm
- 13... NHRA Summit Points Race, SRCA Dragstrip, 455 W. Barton County Rd @ 12pm
- 14... Great Bend High School Graduation Ceremony, Memorial Stadium @ 5pm
- 15... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 15... City Council Meeting, City Hall, 1209 Williams @ 7:30pm
- 18... Quickbooks Workshop - Desktop, Spectrum CPA, 1400 Polk @ 9am - 1pm
- 18... Chamber Coffee: Dove Chevrolet Buick Cadillac, 4217 10th @ 9am
- 19... Shafer Gallery 25th Anniversary Works Reception, 245 NE 30 Rd @ 6:30pm
- 20... Make a Movement: 2017, Family Crisis Center Fundraiser, Various Locations
- 20... KWEC Digital Photography Seminar, 592 NE 156 Hwy @ 9am - 4pm
- 22... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 25... Chamber Coffee: Great Bend Zoological Society, Raptor Center, 2123 Main @ 9am
- 26... Mental Health Awareness Day at The Center, 5815 Broadway @ 10am - 2pm
- 26... Test & Tune, Gamblers Race, SRCA Dragstrip, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd @ 7:30pm
- 27... NHRA Summit Points Race, SRCA Dragstrip, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd @ 12pm
- 29... Memorial Day: Chamber Office Closed
- 30... Barton County Commission Meeting, Courthouse Room 106, 1400 Main @ 9am
- 1... Inspire Speaker Series ft. Mitch Holthus, Stoneridge Country Club @ 5-7pm
- 2... Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament, Stoneridge Country Club @ 9am
- June 2-4... June Jaunt Festival, City of Great Bend

## Cherry Village Raising Funds for Technology

When Pam Lewis learned about a resource that could enhance the quality of life for Cherry Village Benevolence residents, she began seeking more information. The result is a fundraising campaign for a large touch-screen computer with software that can specifically help people with anxiety, depression and dementia.

Lewis, Cherry Village administrator, said she has already received a \$400 anonymous donation for the computer that will cost between \$1,200 and \$1,400. In addition, a portable, adjustable-height computer stand will be necessary. Its cost will be \$500 to \$800. Cherry Village is a non-profit, 501c3 long-term-care facility. "This computer promises to enhance quality of life by engaging residents in "For example, music can take us back to another time frame," she said. "Our residents can then share fond memories of another time with family and friends."

For more information about the computer or to make a donation, contact Erin Lewis, marketing director at Cherry Village, 1401 Cherry Lane, Great Bend, Ks. 67530. Her number is 620-792-2165.



## Sunflower Bank Celebrates 125th Anniversary with \$1,892 Giveaway

Sunflower Bank is celebrating its 125th birthday with special events, gifts, and by giving away \$1,892 commemorating the year the bank was founded. "In this day and age, this is a momentous milestone," commented Mollie Carter, President and CEO of Sunflower Bank. "Over 125 years, our bank has developed some very strong roots. It's a great time to reflect on the people that have made this possible."

The bank was originally founded as Farmers National on May 24, 1892. It opened its doors with \$100,000 of capital, deposits of \$101,096 and loans equaling \$295. Today, Sunflower Bank has \$1.9 billion in assets, deposits of \$1.5 billion, and loans totaling \$1.5 billion. Through the years, the bank has maintained its commitment to customers and a dedication to providing innovative financial solutions to enable it to grow.

To register for a chance to win the \$1,892, visit any Sunflower Bank location now through May 19, 2017. The winner will be notified on May 24, exactly 125 years after the founding of the Bank.

### About Sunflower Bank -

Sunflower Bank is a \$1.9 billion community bank, offering a complete line of personal checking, saving, mortgage and loans options, as well as business deposit, loan, and treasury management services and trust and wealth management services. For more information, please visit [SunflowerBank.com](http://SunflowerBank.com). Member FDIC. EHL.



Register to Win \$1,892 at Sunflower Bank in Great Bend & Ellinwood!



# Z's ENTERPRISES

## Building an American Dream & A Family Legacy

Joey Zimmerman was a mere 17 years old when he bought Zip's Service Station at 10th and Williams on June 4, 1977. It was just a couple of weeks after his graduation from Great Bend High School.

That first transaction led to nine more and today Zimmerman owns 10 businesses, including six convenience stores, in Great Bend and Ellinwood.

"I bought Zip's Service from my dad, the late Don (Zip) Zimmerman; he built it on this corner in 1968," Zimmerman said. "As the years went by, I knew I wanted to get the third generation involved."

He got what he wanted – in spades.

Employees of the family business include: Brent and Abby Zimmerman, son and daughter-in-law; Meredith Joiner, daughter; Jared Zimmerman, son; Georgia Zimmerman, daughter; and new son-in-law Nick Schwager. Joey's wife, Sara, is president of Zip's Oil on Railroad Avenue. "Sara has been instrumental in all our ventures," her husband said. "She was there from the beginning to do bookkeeping and even wash cars. And she has been understanding about my work schedule, which I'm sure wasn't easy for her."

Joey is president of the service station, six Zip Stops, Z's Liquor, and Z's Service Inc., which is a trucking company on Railroad Avenue that he bought in 2008. It was the last business he purchased. "My dad was self-employed and I wanted to do the same. I wanted to work for myself and be my own boss," he said.

During his first two years at Zip's Service, Zimmerman was the only employee. "I ran this by myself for those two years, seven days a week, from opening to closing. "And that was when it was full-service for everything, including vehicle repair and maintenance. We were open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.," he added.

Zimmerman said that back in 1977, there were no convenience stores in Great Bend. The first one, Dart In on Washington Street, came along around 1980. At the same time, there were 22 service stations.

The first expansion of Zimmerman's enterprise came in 1985, when he bought the service station in Ellinwood. The following year, he purchased the convenience store at 19th and Main. "I bought the convenience stores from competitors at good locations such as 10th and Main, 19th and Main and 10th and Grant," Zimmerman recalled. "But demographics change. For example, the traffic count varies because of changes in neighboring businesses.

"And there is more competition today. I never had a problem competing with grocery stores and big box stores. But then some started tying gas prices into the amount of groceries you buy. Therefore, our volume is going down."



Joey and Sara Zimmerman, owners of the numerous Z's businesses, pose for a photo with their adult children and their team members. Meredith Joiner, Joey's daughter, is pictured in the center wearing a favorite plaid shirt that belonged to Ronald "Roon" Zimmerman, Joey's brother that passed away in January after battling cancer. "It really is a family business, and we treat our employees that way too," Meredith says.

In response, Zimmerman offers discounts on gasoline – six cents off a gallon with cash and three cents off with a debit card. "We do this every day, and there is no keeping track of points or cards," Zimmerman said. "And we don't make you patronize our other businesses."

Zimmerman credits his employees with much of his success over the years. Of his 40 current employees, one has been with the business for 36 years. Others are in the 20-plus-year range, and "quite a few" have been on the job for more than 10 years. "We wouldn't be here without them," he said. "We owe our success to all the employees and to our banker. Bill Robbins at Farmers Bank & Trust has always treated me like a son. He can be hard on me but good to me at the same time."

Another aspect of Zimmerman's success is that "I understood duplication. Even as a kid, I knew I wanted multiple locations."

But before that could happen, Zimmerman had to train himself. For instance, "I learned how to run the gas station; then I got a second gas station. Then I taught someone else. Next came a convenience store and I learned how to run that.

"I was able to take these skills and teach them to others. You have to know what you are doing and be willing to delegate. I can't be in 100 places at once. There is a lot of multi-tasking. I always try to think three steps ahead. I have to."

The Zimmermans were born and raised in Great Bend, "which has been good to us. A recent survey indicated 4,000 people a day patronize our locations. "And I like to think we have been good for Great Bend too," Zimmerman added. "We have integrity and a good reputation."

Zimmerman still works seven days a week and tackles the same jobs as his employees do. "I'm in my 40th year in business. Maybe I will slow down one of these years and let the kids handle it."





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## **Barton Nursing Program Accredited Until 2022**

Barton Community College's Nursing Associate Degree Program has been awarded full accreditation through 2022 by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) as of March of 2017.

The accreditation means Barton's program meets the six standards set forth by ACEN, which are to have a strong mission and administrative capacity, sufficient quantity of qualified and credentialed faculty, appropriate student policies and high caliber support services, curriculum relevant to contemporary healthcare environments, sustainable and sufficient fiscal, physical and learning resources and strong learning outcomes.

The accreditation process is rigorous and intense, said Executive Director of Nursing and Healthcare Education Kathy Kottas. It includes two 100-page reports, and a three-day on-site program review.

"This is an extremely time consuming and arduous process and our faculty have all worked countless hours to evaluate, support and improve our nursing program to meet all of the standards for national accreditation," Kottas said. "We have an incredible nursing faculty team and I am extremely proud of all of their work on this accreditation process and their support of each other through this process. It has been exemplary."

Kottas said it's easy to find purpose in her work at Barton as a producer of qualified healthcare professionals in a rural area.

"You cannot walk into any hospital within approximately a 90-mile radius and not find a Barton grad," she said. "We feel a strong sense of responsibility to our communities, our students and our profession to provide high quality, safe and competent nurses."

Barton's program produces about 30 licensed practical nurses and 30 registered nurses each year. Kottas said numbers are not the goal. Rather, they are an indication of the nursing faculty's commitment to the learning process.

"We strive to provide the highest quality education to our students and want to set them up to be successful in the nursing profession," she said. "We not only produce nurses that will care for our communities and our neighbors, but we produce nurses that will take care of us and our families. We want them to be compassionate, competent, safe and knowledgeable. We have highly qualified and caring nursing faculty that make this all come together. I personally think our faculty are second to none."



## **10th Street Eyecare Hosts Sunglass Show May 11**

The 10th Street Eyecare Center, located at 2601 10th Street in Great Bend, will host its Annual Sunglass Show on Thursday, May 11th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the corner of 10th & Washington. The indoor/outdoor event gives patients and the public an opportunity to check out the latest fashions in outdoor eyewear. All sunglasses will be on sale! Everyone who attends gets the opportunity to register for door prize drawings, as well as spin a prize wheel to determine whether they save \$15-50 on a pair of sunglasses. A representative from Oakley will be on hand to showcase new products and answer questions about custom frames and lenses. Join the Facebook event, and watch for more details online. The team at 10th Street Eyecare Center can be reached at 620-792-2020 or 10thstreeteyecare.com.

## Sunflower Diversified Nets \$47,100 from Gala

The central Kansas community showed its support for people with developmental disabilities and delays by raising a net total of \$47,100 at the recent Sunflower Diversified Services Charity Gala. Included in this total is \$6,655 for Sunflower's Invest in Kids Club, which supports the non-profit agency's Early Education Center and Incredible Years Preschool.

"It is gratifying to be reminded of the extent to which people will go to support their neighbors who need a helping hand," said Connie Oetken, director of development. "Everyone who donated auction items, money, time or talent can be assured all proceeds will stay in our local communities."

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. The money raised will be used for services and adaptive equipment, including wheelchairs and ramps; and medical and dental appointments.

"With the uncertainty of state finances, private donations become even more important," Oetken commented. "Proceeds from our Gala and other fundraisers make it possible to follow through on our commitment to provide children's services, as well as programs that assist adults in achieving the most independent lifestyles possible."

Oetken noted the 12th annual Gala fulfilled its promise of helping people with disabilities while offering a fun evening at the same time. "Auctioneer Mike Niedens and Emcee Scott Donovan kept the crowd involved all evening," Oetken said. "Jane Isern and Gail Carpenter once again hosted our basketball arcade and Putt N Play to raise money and entertain our guests."

The Sunflower version of Deal or No Deal and the Diamond & Champagne fundraiser were also successful. Emma Bieker, Great Bend High School sophomore, played the keyboard and Sister Eloise Hertel gave the invocation. The city of Great Bend, which operates the Great Bend Events Center, and Classic Inn, which catered the meal, also played instrumental roles in the Gala's success, Oetken said. "So many individuals and businesses helped the Gala Committee and volunteers to support people with disabilities," Oetken said. "We cannot possibly thank everyone enough but we will always try."

The 13th annual Gala is set for March 3, 2018. Sunflower is in its 51st year.

## Employers Encouraged to Register for Leadercast

Leadercast is the world's largest one-day leadership conference, broadcast LIVE from Atlanta and simulcast to hundreds of locations and 100,000+ people around the world on May 5, 2017. The event will be presented in Great Bend by First Christian Church, in partnership with the Barton County Young Professionals, for people of all ages and industries in Central Kansas! The theme of this year's conference is, "Powered by Purpose". What does it mean to be powered by purpose? To be part of a purpose-driven organization? To work with a team of people who understand the meaning in addition to the metrics? To recognize that why you do what you do matters as much or more as what you do. Where defined values drive a strong culture and intentional leadership inspires amazing results.

Keynote speakers include Tyler Perry, Molly Fletcher, Daniel Pink, Andy Stanley, Suzy Welch, Dr. Henry Cloud, Donald Miller, Jess Ekstrom, Jim McKelvey, and other guests. Tickets are \$60 per person, but employers registering four employees get a fifth spot FREE! Coupon codes are also available to BCYP members. Learn more about the event, or register online at [www.bartonyp.com](http://www.bartonyp.com). Registration is due May 1st, but walk-ins are accepted.

**Leadercast**  **Great Bend KS**

## 6th Annual Farm & Ranch Expo Deemed a Huge Success!

Thank you to the countless volunteers and local businesses who stepped up to support the 6th Annual Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo that took place the first week of April. Hundreds of exhibitors, and thousands of spectators enjoy the show, and the economic impact of the 3-day event is almost immeasurable. Be sure to check out lots of photos from the exposition on the Chamber Facebook page!





# EXPLORE

## GREAT BEND REC



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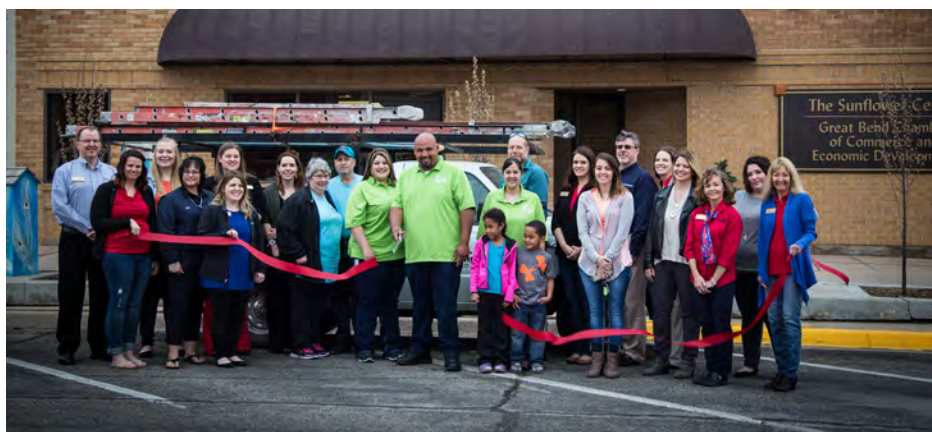
## Marketing Maven Opens New Video Studio

Marketing Maven Consulting, located at 2817 9th Street inside The Fieldhouse, recently celebrated the addition of a new video production studio. The locally owned brand management firm specializes in mobile-friendly websites, social media management, print and digital design, and video production. In addition to expanding their footprint, the team has also expanded to three marketing professionals since the business opened last November – Rachel Mawhirter, Owner; Josh Blankenship; Digital Marketing & Video Specialist; Shara Stettinger; Office Manager. They also have an opening for a Graphic Designer and Social Marketing Specialist. Learn more at [www.marketingmavenconsulting.com](http://www.marketingmavenconsulting.com), or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



## I.M. Painting Joins the Great Bend Chamber

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce welcomed I.M. Painting into the Chamber business community on March 23rd with a Ribbon Cutting. I.M. Painting is owned by Ivan Martinez and his wife, Breana, of Ellinwood. Ivan started his career with Stephenson Painting and now has over five years of experience. I.M. Painting provides painting for both commercial and residential properties, interior and exterior. Call (620) 282-7125 for a free quote. I.M. Painting can also be found on Facebook.



## Be Sure to Check Out Cinco de Mayo May 6th

Great Bend will once again host its annual Cinco de Mayo celebration on Saturday, May 6th in Jack Kilby Square. Festivities may begin before and after that date, but be sure to check out the parade starting at 11 a.m. Saturday morning, followed by the Queen Crowning, food vendors, dancing, singing, raffle prizes, piñatas and so much more! It's a fun, cultural experience for the entire family. Free admission.



**THANK YOU**  
to the 200+ volunteers  
who gave of their time and  
talents to make this year's  
event a huge success!

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**April 4-6, 2018**  
[www.greatbendfarmandranchexpo.net](http://www.greatbendfarmandranchexpo.net)



## Club 1 Fitness Celebrates 43rd Anniversary

In 1974, Martin Casey had a vision for the Great Bend area. He wanted to provide a healthy lifestyle for the whole family under one roof, and so he founded the Town & Country Racquet Club which was later renamed Club 1 Fitness. Now his daughter, Caron, carries on his legacy as owner of the popular local gym. "There have been many changes throughout the years, but the vision remains the same," Caron Zager says. "We are always looking for new ways to invest in our facility and provide more amenities for our members."

Club 1 Fitness is the only gym in the area to offer an indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, and steam room. They are also the only fitness facility with free childcare for family memberships. Indoor tennis and racquetball courts also separate Club 1 from its competitors, along with free group fitness classes offered in a variety of settings at different times throughout the week. Members can enjoy everything from Zumba and Yoga to Cycling and Kick Boxing, all free of charge with a membership. Expert personal trainers are available to help members stay committed to their fitness goals, each specializing in different areas.

"We are so much more than just a place to exercise," says Chris Berger, General Manager. "We truly provide something for the whole family, including a place to have birthday parties or get year-round swimming lessons. We invite everyone to stop in during our 43rd anniversary celebration and see why Club 1 has been Great Bend's most popular gym for over four decades."

To celebrate the anniversary, Club 1 Fitness is offering 43% off all t-shirts sold at the front desk. For more information or to join, stop by Club 1 Fitness at 3806 Broadway in Great Bend, call 620-792-1366, or visit [www.club1fitness.net](http://www.club1fitness.net). And be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



## Comfort Pro & MPIRE Donate Water Fountains

Holy Family School School received a major upgrade last month when Comfort Pro and MPIRE Properties partnered to donate three new water fountain and bottle filling units. Both companies are proud supporters of Holy Family School and many other local charities. "We really appreciate Comfort Pro and MPIRE donating our new water fountains and our new bottle refilling stations," says Karen Moeder, Principal for Holy Family School. "The kids and the staff have really come to appreciate them, and we all love them."



Learn more by visiting the locally owned companies' websites at [www.mpireproperties.com](http://www.mpireproperties.com) or [www.comfortproks.com](http://www.comfortproks.com). You can also see a video from the water fountain delivery on either of their Facebook pages.

## Chamber Radio Show Airs May 4th on KVGB



Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month to hear Member Relations Coordinator Megan Barfield discuss the latest happenings and upcoming Chamber projects and events with one of Eagle Radio's talented hosts. This month's show will air on Thursday, May 4th at 11:35 a.m. You can also keep up with Chamber events and happenings at [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org).



## Welcome to Our NEW Chamber Member

### COX COMMUNICATIONS

901 George Washington Blvd  
Wichita, KS 67211  
[www.cox.net](http://www.cox.net)  
Cable Television

### PRIMUS STERILIZER

3707 North Main  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
620-793-7177  
[www.primus-sterilizer.com](http://www.primus-sterilizer.com)  
Manufacturers

## Incredible Years Preschool Now Enrolling

Early enrollment for the summer and fall terms at Incredible Years Preschool is happening this month.

Summer Discovery is a four-week program that begins June 5; its main themes this year are pets and oceans.

Sessions are scheduled for 8 to 11 a.m. and breakfast is served. Younger children, beginning at age 2-and-a-half, attend on Mondays and Thursdays, while older ones attend Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The summer term also allows new families to become acquainted with Incredible Years and determine if it is a good fit for their children.

The fall semester begins Aug. 17 and classes are held in the afternoons too. Tuition is on a sliding-fee scale based on income.

Incredible Years is located at 1312 Patton; the number is 620-792-4087.





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1.800.779.6979



## CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

### Every Thursday at 9:30 AM

**May 4, 2017**

**AFLAC - AJ CHREST**

**Spray-Holt Family Board Room at Chamber Office, 1125 Williams Street**

Aflac is a Fortune 500 company, providing financial protection to more than 50 million people worldwide. When a policyholder or insured gets sick or hurt, Aflac pays cash benefits fairly, promptly and directly to the insured. For nearly six decades, Aflac voluntary insurance policies have given policyholders the opportunity to focus on recovery, not financial stress.

**May 11, 2017**

**EDWARD JONES – JIM VOPAT**

**2421 10th Street**

We've moved! Join us at our new location for a Chamber Coffee and Ribbon Cutting celebrating our move to 2421 10th St. As an Edward Jones financial advisor, I believe it's important to invest my time to understand what you're working toward before you invest your money. It's also important to understand the level of risk you're comfortable accepting when investing so we can balance it with the steps necessary to reach your long-term goals.

**May 18, 2017**

**DOVE CHEVROLET BUICK CADILLAC, INC.**

**4217 10th Street**

Dove Chevrolet Buick Cadillac of Great Bend, KS has been in service since 1957, with satisfied customers throughout all of Kansas! We carry an extensive selection of new and used Buick, Cadillac, and Chevrolet models in the central Kansas area. Your Central Kansas and Western Kansas Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac Alternative.

**May 25, 2017**

**GREAT BEND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Raptor Center, 2123 Main Street**

The Great Bend Zoological Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity providing advocacy and fund raising support for the Great Bend Brit Spagh Zoo.

**June 1, 2017**

**CLARA BARTON HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**

**250 W. 9th Street in Hoisington**

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



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

**McDonald's**

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.