

OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Dr. Nels' Story

Dr. Nels' leadership journey really began in 2005 after graduating from Vet school. It was at that point that he realized his place in the work world had changed. Since 6th grade, when he started working on a farm, he had always been told what to do. And after graduation, even as an associate veterinarian he realized all of a sudden people were looking to him for answers on what to do and solutions to their problems.

As his career journey advanced and led into ownership, he had no clue how to lead or manage people. At the time ownership was a means to make more money. What he soon realized was the goal of purely making money didn't grow people and didn't make him an effective leader and didn't get him where he wanted to be.

After the practice was purchased there was a period of rapid growth, adding more people, which unknowingly lead to adding more chaos. Dr. Nels started to realize he had to work to make things better on a day when he found himself speaking to the entire staff in a manner not acceptable to his own personal expectations. He knew he must change how he did things.

Dr. Nels Lindberg

Greatness in leadership occurs through the passionate pursuit of a purpose far greater than yourself

When Dr. Nels Lindberg speaks to an audience - large or small - his message is one of optimism, hope and simplicity.

Dr. Lindberg, DVM, Animal Medical Center senior owner, shares his experiences with groups of a few to as many as over 500 people from coast-to-coast. His presentations are "raw and authentic. They are designed for anyone who wants to get better in life and leadership. I speak

on everyday experiences from a lifetime of my own failures and successes, and those of others."

Topics include: creating contagious and winning core values in business; managing crisis and conflict; bridging all generations; communicating how to lead in a busy world; understanding the intangibles of success; and leading from the trenches.

"If you are a go- — *Continued on Page 2*

— *Continued on Page 11*

Lindberg Continued from Page 1

**Cover image:
Captured Dr.
Nels Lindberg
speaking at
the 2019
VETLeader
Conference.**

**Right: Dr.
Nels, during a
staff meeting,
leading
employees
through
education
and self-
improvement.**



getter, work hard and give it all you've got, you often find yourself in a leadership role," Dr. Lindberg said. "In many cases, no one ever taught us how to lead. But we have learned that to be a great leader, you must first grow yourself.

"Greatness in leadership occurs through the passionate pursuit of a purpose far greater than money," he continued. "As leaders, we help grow and nourish others so they, in turn, can take care of customers and clients."

Most important, he noted, everyone is a leader or has the potential to be one. "This comes from simply being a positive influence on other people and the simplicity of caring for others at all times.

"This doesn't mean you have to be the boss or team leader; everyone can and needs to be a leader. Leadership is a noble opportunity to expand our potential. We must focus on others' needs rather than our own so that others will do the same."

The path to leadership is especially important during the global pandemic, Dr. Lindberg noted.

"Uncertainty and fear create leadership opportunities," he explained. "We can either choose to step up and lead with humility and care, or we can become complacent with fear and paralyzing indecision.

"Your employees and others are counting on you to stand up and lead. It is in these tornadic times that leaders are born to help move organizations and businesses forward."

To be sure, pessimism and negativity often raise their heads. This is why people look to leaders to rise up and be a voice of reason, optimism and hope, Dr. Lindberg commented.

"We do this through action and high levels of communication, which creates clarity and hope – even if we become paralyzed by our own fears. Through this fear, we must feed our faith so we can step up and lead our families and organizations."

The public-health crisis led to the cancellation of Dr. Lindberg's Visionary Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (VET) conference that had been scheduled for July 31 at the Great Bend Events Center.

As for next year, several initiatives are currently in the works, including an inspirational app and a couple of mastermind groups. "We hope to continue our journey to deliver the best and most life-changing value to our national followers," Dr. Lindberg said.

Included in his overall message is the fact that everyone fails from time to time in life and leadership. But there is opportunity in failure.

"We aren't born as leaders," he said. "Leaders are grown through nourishment and intentional studies. Leadership is a noble and just cause; we can change people's lives by taking them to heights they would have never achieved."

Great Bend residents have opportunities daily to accomplish great things, Dr. Lindberg emphasized. "We can change lives and the direction of our community. The greatness of Great Bend comes from everyone doing great work with optimism and positive attitudes."

This doesn't emanate from one person, one group or one organization. "It takes a tribe of people collectively working together, while ignoring the negativity and detractors. We must push each other to do better, be better and get better. This is our optimistic opportunity."

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New Hires:

Bates new production manager at Sunflower Diversified

Shawn Bates has been on the job at Sunflower Diversified Services for just a short time but he already knows “every day is a chance to do something different while making a difference.”

Bates is the new production manager at the non-profit agency that serves children and adults with intellectual disabilities and delays in central Kansas.

“Working with people with special needs is very rewarding,” Bates said. “Sunflower has a profound impact on people’s lives as they become more independent and confident in their abilities.”

In Bates’ new job, he oversees production and recycling operations that employ dozens of adult clients at Sunflower.

“Our recycling facilities and manufacturing plant provide rewarding jobs for people who take great pride in earning their own pay-checks,” Bates said. “Their smiling faces warm my heart every day. This makes the job worth everything.”

Unfortunately, he noted, COVID-19 has caused an interruption in clients’ day-to-day employment.

“People have been staying home during this difficult time,” Bates said. “We want to ensure they are safe and healthy and ready to come back to work when everything gets back to a more normal schedule.

“We have a fantastic staff that has stepped up to assume many responsibilities that are not usually part of their day,” he added. “Their teamwork has helped fill in the gaps and they should be commended.”

For example, Barton County residents asked Sunflower to re-open the recycling drop-off site at 5523 10th. “This great staff made it happen,” Bates noted.

Self-service hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Materials can be placed in containers in front of the west garage door; Sunflower



Shawn Bates

personnel will sort the recyclables.

“I want to thank not only the staff but local and area recyclers for keeping the business running during this public-health crisis,” Bates said. “We will get through this and come out stronger than ever.”

Manufacturing plant employees create welcome mats for customers, as well as wrap about 2,000 hoses per week for Flame Engineering in La Crosse.

Bates’ other responsibilities include job scheduling; inventory; oversight of equipment and plant facilities; quality assurance; customer service; and providing a safe work environment.

Bates grew up on a farm north of Lucas. He started his career as a production manager in a high-volume, injection-molding and blow-molding plant in St. Louis. He has studied various types of machine operations and process training and is a member of the Society of Plastic Engineers. He also has a background in facilities technology and management.

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. It is in its 54th year.

Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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BCYP Casino Night Online Auction open now

Although the annual Casino Night Online Auction Sponsored by Spectrum CPA Partners was canceled due to the pandemic, this is your chance to win some fantastic prizes sponsored by local businesses via an online auction!

Casino Night is BCYP’s only fundraiser throughout the year. Support enables the organization to plan future leadership, networking,

and volunteer events in Barton County. More prizes will be added to the auction as they’re received!

View prizes and start bidding here:

www.32auctions.com/BCYPCasinoNight

Check out the Facebook event page for more information.

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Does your *residence* or *business* have *electronics* in need of *safe and responsible recycling*?

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Rosewood Bargain Barn
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Mon - Fri, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

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www.RosewoodServices.com

New Hires:

MPire adds real estate agent, Nicole Henderson

Nicole is new to the real estate business but excited to start a new adventure. A Barton county native growing up in Great Bend and Hoisington, she attended BCC and later the University of Kansas, studying Psychology.

After living in the KC metro area for a decade she decided it was time to return home. "I enjoyed my time away but returning home was the best decision I have ever made. Our community is unique and welcoming, and I am proud to have decided to come back and put down roots."

She has enjoyed a successful career in the restaurant business, currently employed as the General Manager of Perkins Restaurant and Bakery. "I enjoy serving our community great food with people who are passionate to do the same."

She is also a member of the Great Bend Pilot Club since 2017.

"I chose to get into real estate because I have a love for houses with character and possibilities and I hope to help others find their home, whether that be their first or forever home."

Nicole and her husband John are working toward rehabbing their 100 year old dream home. In 2018 she became the mommy to Sebastian, that is her favorite title.



Nicole Henderson

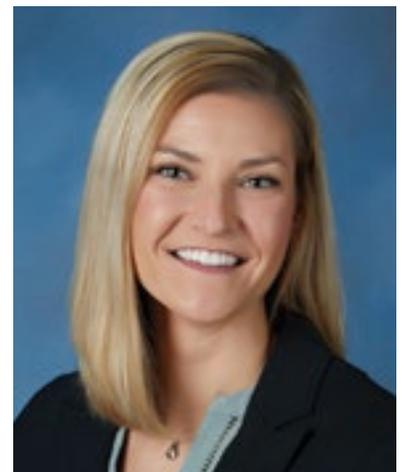
Farmers Bank & Trust welcomes new AVP, Tarynn Stueder Kirmer

Farmers Bank & Trust is excited to announce the addition of Tarynn Stueder Kirmer as AVP, Human Resources Officer. Tarynn is a 2018 graduate of Kansas State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Management, emphasis in Human Resources.

Tarynn was previously employed in the Human Resources Department at Textron Aviation in Wichita, following a summer internship. This past September, she married Benn Kirmer and decided to make a career and location change.

Tarynn is a native of Great Bend and is glad to get back home. "I am very excited to accept this opportunity at Farmers Bank & Trust. I am eager to contribute to the HR needs for the seven different locations across Kansas," said Tarynn. Being back in the area allows her and Benn to spend more time with their families. They have 9 nieces and nephews, three of them under the age of 1!

"We are very excited with the addition of Tarynn to our staff," says Robert Rugan, EVP, Western Market President, "She brings with her a diverse knowledge base in the area of Human Resource management from a large international company. This, coupled with her local roots and commitment to our market, will prove to be a valuable asset for the bank."

Tarynn Stueder Kirmer




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HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN JUNE

1...Chamber Chat, Virtually @ 2 pm via Facebook or YouTube

1...Teen Writing Club Virtual Meeting from 4-5pm online @ <https://www.greatbendpl.info/>

4... Chamber Coffee: United Way of Central Kansas, Virtual Coffee, Program @9:30am via Facebook or YouTube

4...Teen Anime Night from 6-6:30pm online @ <https://www.greatbendpl.info/>

8...Chamber Chat, Virtually @2pm via Facebook or YouTube

8...Lake Barton Golf Course-Board Meeting @7:30pm

11...Chamber Coffee: Great Bend Tribune, Virtual Coffee, Program @9:30am via Facebook or YouTube

15...Chamber Chat: Hosted by Nex-Tech, Inc., Virtually @2pm via Facebook or YouTube

16...Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, Barton County Courthouse @11am

16...Open Book Club from 7-8PM online at <https://www.greatbendpl.info/>

18...Nex-Tech TechEdge Online from 8am-Noon

18...Ribbon Cutting, Sunflower UPS Store, 5523 10th St in Great Bend @9am via Facebook or YouTube

18...Chamber Coffee: Kentucky Fried Chicken, Virtual Coffee, Program @9:30am via Facebook or YouTube

18...Lake Barton Golf Club-Men's Association ABCD Scramble @6pm

20...First Day of Summer

21...Father's Day

22...Chamber Chat, Virtually @2pm via Facebook or YouTube

25...Chamber Coffee: Nex-Tech Wireless, Virtual Coffee, Program @9:30am via Facebook or YouTube

29...Chamber Chat, Virtually @2pm via Facebook or YouTube

Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams St, 6:30pm

Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am

Virtual Chamber Events (Chamber Chat & Virtual Coffees) can be found: via Facebook (www.facebook.com/gbcoc) or YouTube (tinyurl.com/ybepgrt6)

STAY INFORMED AT GREATBEND.ORG

Barton Strong Campaign Exceeds \$20K Goal

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that the Barton Strong campaign has met their goal in selling \$20,000 in gift cards and certificates to participating businesses raising another \$20,000 in matching funds. Matching funds were donated by the Dorothy M. Morrison Foundation and Albert Gumbir Charitable Fund at the Golden Belt Community Foundation.

Together, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce along with the Golden Belt Community Foundation and United Way of Central Kansas invited consumers to rally around Barton County businesses and the individuals and families who live and work here and negatively impacted during this global pandemic. United together, these organizations launched Barton Strong: Shop Small, Give Big, where shopping local meets giving local, on April 20th.

"The concept was simple: consumers purchase gift cards from their favorite

businesses and a matching gift was made, dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact and bolstering the community as we rebound from COVID-19," said Great Bend Chamber

of Commerce President, Megan Barfield.

Seven days in, eager shoppers purchased over \$10,000 from 26 different businesses in Barton county garnering the first \$10,000 from the Dorothy M. Morrison Foundation. Director of the Foundation,

Katherine Opie noted, "The Barton Strong campaign shows the willingness of our citizens to support each other during the most difficult times, by investing in local businesses and families and showing faith in the future of our community."

Today, there are 48 businesses consumers can shop in one location. While the matching gifts goal of \$20,000 was met, the site will continue to offer consumers an easy way to support their community indefinitely.

— Continued on Page 8



Reopening Business

Digital Resource Center provided by the US Chamber of Commerce

As America's businesses look to reopen safely and keep employees and customers healthy and informed, employers are facing countless new questions and unprecedented new challenges.

As part of the US Chamber of Commerce Path Forward initiative, this Digital Resources Center provides the latest state guidelines, sector-specific guidance, small business advice, and other tools and resources to help employers and employees return to work safely and successfully. The US Chamber regularly update these tools and resources as new information becomes available.

Information available on the following:

- State-Specific Guidance
- Sector-Specific Guidance
- Small Business-Specific Guidance
- Additional Tools and Resources
- Path Forward Webinar Series

The step-by-step guide to help your company reopen safely and keep employees and customers healthy and informed as restrictions lift across the country. The playbook includes safety and sanitation guidance, communications advice, and other best practices information. This guide is attached as an insert in this month's Outlook Business Journal, but can be found on the website below.

Go to <https://www.uschamber.com/reopening-business> to find more downloadable guides and signage to print and post.

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Dr. Sarah Stueder



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Top left: Young Tom Barnes, he is the “T” in T & L Fireworks. This is a photo from the “early days” of the business, in front of the wooden stand in front of their house on 24th Street.

Bottom left: The 4th generation of T & L Fireworks, Colton Klein (left) and Gannon Klein (right) join the fun.

Bottom center: These pictures are from the 1980s & 1990s. The first picture has Linda Barnes (co-owner), Craig Neeland (customer), and Tom Barnes (co-owner). The second picture captures a Chamber Coffee from 1996.

Bottom right: Four generations of T & L Fireworks family came together to celebrate the kick-off of the 50th year of business.

Top right: These young ladies may look familiar to customers of T & L. The three are part of the 3rd generation. Top picture is Ashley (Kuhn) Klein. Middle picture is Katelyn Kaiser, and bottom picture is Cara (Kaiser) Moore.



T&L Fireworks is gearing up for Saturday, June 27th, the opening day of their 50th year celebration as well as looking forward to the next 50 years. Tom and Linda Barnes and their family, 2nd generation, Christy Kuhn and husband, Eric, Kathy Kaiser and husband, Steve, 3rd generation, Ashley Klein and husband, Tyler, Katelyn Kaiser, Cara Moore and husband, Brady, have been working hard as this milestone season approaches. In training are Gannon and Colton Klein, 4th generation.

T & L's family and staff are looking forward to partnering with both the Hoisington Chamber of Commerce and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and the community to host the Chamber Coffee live and in-person on Thursday, July 2nd, beginning at 9:30 am at our main location.

In addition to the Great Bend and Hoisington Chamber of Commerce, T & L Fireworks is also a member of the National and Kansas Fireworks Associations.

While the community is familiar with the main location at 159 North 281 HWY, just ½ mile north of 24th and Main Street, T & L Fireworks proudly announces the addition of a brand new location, managed by the 3rd generation of the Barnes family. Stop by to satisfy your



A Half Century For T & L Fireworks

fireworks desires from June 27th thru July 4th at the new air conditioned location on the west end of Great Bend at 5215 10th Street, just west of Playa Azul.

Everyone is invited to stop by any T & L location to register to win a \$1,000.00 shopping spree. The shopping spree is one of our favorite traditions, the winner will have the opportunity to fill their shopping carts with anything in the store.

More chances to win with T & L

To honor the 50th year serving central Kansas, the Great Bend locations will be taking part in several radio remotes to highlight this occasion. To show customers appreciation, T & L will be offering many ways to win! T & L certificates will be given away on the T & L Facebook page and on the Eagle Radio Facebook page. In addition, they will have many other giveaways within the locations for customers to check out.

T & L Fireworks' family has enjoyed expanding the business locally while keeping the same values and vision that was established back in 1970. They pride themselves on quality customer service and helping customers find products they and their families will enjoy. Customers may view displays of many products on TVs placed onsite at both Great Bend locations as they shop.

All locations enjoy air conditioning, and accept debit cards, major credit cards and have the convenience of shopping carts. Gift certificates are available and make awesome gifts. Message them on Facebook to purchase.

The T & L Fireworks' family would like to express their sincere thanks to the many dedicated patrons they have met along this journey. Stop by and help them celebrate their 50th year!

MAIN LOCATION

159 North US HWY 281
Great Bend

NEWEST LOCATION

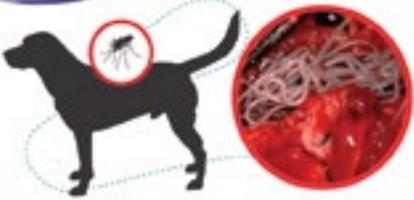
5215 10th St Great Bend (just west of Playa Azul)

LARNED LOCATION

718 Fort Larned Ave, Larned
(Operated by First Christian Church)



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BartonStrong Continued from Page 5

Thrilled to be a part, Gaila Demel, Executive Director of the United Way of Central Kansas says, "We are so grateful to be a part of a collective project that brings people, resources and community spirit together. This truly has been an innovative way to continue to support businesses and make an impact on the most vulnerable in our community facing challenges today."

Christy Tustin, Golden Belt Community Foundation Executive Director further explains, "The matching funds will be granted to Barton County food banks, as well as to Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas and Barton County Emergency Aid Association. These organizations are ready to help individuals and families who may be in need of assistance, whether it is help with utilities, food, housing, or other needs."

A local business looking to give back stepped up to offer the public an additional way to participate in the Barton Strong campaign. Heather Nicolet, Co-Owner of SS Graphics, a screen printing and promotional product business in Great Bend, created a website intended to unite under the Barton Strong: Shop Small, Give Big logo.

"SS Graphics is passionate about the community and when we saw an opportunity to give back, we jumped right in! We were happy to present a check to Christy Tustin with the Golden Belt Community Foundation," says Heather Nicolet. By teaming up with the Golden Belt Community Foundation, Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, and United Way, SS Graphics launched a merchandise fundraiser for the #BartonStrong campaign selling shirts, cups, and tote bags.

Both the #BartonStrong site (greatbend.org/bartonstrong) and the fundraising shop (bartonstrong.spiritsale.com) will remain open with 25% of all proceeds being donated to Golden Belt Community Foundation for those in need. Shoppers are encouraged to continue shopping the many businesses through Barton Strong until all our businesses have successfully reopened. Questions can be directed to gbcc@greatbend.org or by calling the Chamber at 620-792-2401.



SS Graphics Co-Owner, Heather Nicolet, presents the first check to Christy Tustin, Golden Belt Community Foundation Executive Director, outside the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce May 18th. Also pictured are Gaila Demel (United Way of Central Kansas) and Megan Barfield (Great Bend Chamber of Commerce).

Both the #BartonStrong site (greatbend.org/bartonstrong) and the fundraising shop (bartonstrong.spiritsale.com) will remain open with 25% of all proceeds being donated to Golden Belt Community Foundation for those in need. Shoppers are encouraged to continue shopping the many businesses through Barton Strong until all our businesses have successfully reopened. Questions can be directed to gbcc@greatbend.org or by calling the Chamber at 620-792-2401.

Better Together Great Bend campaign has begun

The Better Together Great Bend campaign is up and running! Organized by new Chamber member, Getting Noticed, Better Together Great Bend is all about giving businesses in the community a boost during a time where sales are down and/or businesses have been closed. Getting Noticed would like to extend an invitation for all businesses to participate or offer them a chance to nominate a business they think could benefit from the program.

How does it work? Getting Noticed has designed a Better Together Great Bend t-shirt (pictured to the right) which will sell for \$20, with every purchase the consumer will select a business of their choice to receive a \$10



donation. That's right, with each shirt purchased, a local business will receive \$10.

If you know of a business who could use a boost or your business needs a boost, check out the website for more information. If your business would like to be involved fill out the form (also located on the website) and send your logo to bettertogethergreatbend@gmail.com.

gmail.com.

The ordering site is: bettertogethergreatbend.itemorder.com or for more information go to: www.bettertogethergreatbend.com or visit their Facebook Page: facebook.com/bettertogethergreatbend.

Great Bend 2 Go comes back with new ownership

“We are really excited about bringing this opportunity to Great Bend. We have owned and operated Hays 2 Go since June of 2016. Since opening, we have had continuous growth and success,” said Kelly DePiesse, owner. They hope to bring the same opportunity to Great Bend. Great Bend 2 go is co-owned by a husband and wife team, Sarah and Kelly DePiesse, and partner, Angela Keller.



The goal for Great Bend is to match and exceed the success in Hays through great relationships with the restaurants, customers and drivers. “We love to stay involved with the community and support local events and organizations”, added Kelly.

Outside of the delivery company, Kelly DePiesse is a paramedic/firefighter and his

wife, Sarah, an accountant. Together, they reside in Russell, KS with their four daughters and a variety of pets. Business partner, Angela Keller, has a son and sees to the day-to-day activities for the Hays branch. She is very attentive at keeping restaurants and drivers on the same page and sees that the business is ran smoothly. She has been with us since the beginning and when we decided to expand, we couldn't think of anyone better to bring on as a partner.

Kelly said that the key to success has been consistency, transparency and quick response. They value every interaction and maintain an open line of communication. This process ensures they provide the partnered restaurants and

customers quality service with the ability to adapt and grow. They take the partnerships extremely serious as they understand they are invariably an extension of the restaurant. It is crucial that the services either match or surpass that of the restaurant. Simply put, customer service and restaurant relations are paramount.

“We are beyond excited to bring this service to Great Bend and believe our partnered restaurants and drivers will find mutual success. We are certain the community will find our service beneficial, convenient and positive as well,” said Kelly.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact Kelly at Kelly@mytown2go.com or call (785) 483-8026.



Angela Keller & family



Kelly and Sarah DePiesse & family

Gallons of gifted hand sanitizer make their way to non-profits and public safety departments

Throughout the month of April, Fuller Industries has generously been donating gallons of hand sanitizer to United Way of Central Kansas to be distributed to organizations who are on the front-lines of the COVID-19 Pandemic. To date, over 30 gallons have been donated and distributed in Barton and Pawnee Counties.

United Way of Central Kansas has distributed these to 16 different local non-profits and public safety departments including UWCK Community Partners: Hoisington Community Food Bank, Caring Hands Daycare, ElderCare, Inc, Meals on Wheels, Great Bend Children's Learning Center, Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, Hoisington Commission on Aging Trolley, Family Crisis Center, and the Barton County Men's Organization & Youth Care. In addition to the Community Partners, gallons were also given to the Great Bend Police Department & Fire Department, Barton County Sheriff's Office, Welcome Inn, Dream Center, and GPS Kids.

“We were honored when Fuller Industries reached out to us to partner on this project to ensure that our Community Partners who are working tirelessly through this pandemic but who may struggle to afford and obtain a product that was desperately needed got into the right hands. With their generosity, we were not only able to help our Community Partners, but also many other agencies who were in need of hand sanitizer. Each agency and public safety department who has received a donation has been grateful for the product to help them ensure that they can do their jobs safely.” Gaila Demel, UWCK Executive Director.

In the coming weeks, United Way of Central Kansas hopes to build on this project in a partnership with Kansas Gas Service to purchase and install hand sanitizer stations at nearly 100 locations throughout Barton & Pawnee Counties. Follow United Way of Central Kansas on



Facebook to stay up-to-date with all the latest on how you can help and where you can get help.

Ambassador Profile: Richard Baskerville, III First Kansas Bank



What brought you to Great Bend? What keeps you here?

After beginning my career in banking in Northeast Kansas in 2011, I found opportunity to advance and grow in my career with a job offer as a Commercial Banker in Great Bend. I personally moved to Great Bend in April of 2018 with my family joining me in June of 2018 following my daughter's completion of Kindergarten. I have since changed employers having started with First Kansas Bank at their Great Bend location at the end of February 2020.

The wonderful City of Great Bend is what keeps the Baskerville Family here. My wife and two kids very much enjoy Great Bend. We love the numerous family-centric events seemingly available every weekend. Great Bend provides plentiful opportunity for activities including its wonderful parks and the Brit Spaugh Zoo, to name a few, that we enjoy as much as we are able. We have moved into a nice neighborhood with fantastic neighbors. Great Bend feels like home.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I have been with First Kansas Bank since the end of February, 2020. As is the nature of small community banks and their personnel, I have various roles at First Kansas Bank including Compliance Officer, BSA Officer, CRA Officer, and Loan Review Officer, among others. My primary role is that of Compliance Officer. It is my responsibility to ensure that the Bank adheres in practice to current regulations, stays abreast of changing banking regulations, and overall operates a sound financial institution.

What's one thing about you that would surprise people?

People may not know that I am artistic. Along with participating in mandatory art in elementary school, I electively took art through Junior High and High School. I won multiple "Best of Shows" at art contests throughout high school with my first being my very first competition as a freshman. Media I concentrated in included acrylic painting, acrylic palette knife painting, oil painting, pastels, charcoal, and pencil. Although our current residence has not been fully settled, select pieces of mine tend to be displayed throughout our home.

Although I cannot claim all of the genetics involved, given my wife is a graphic designer by trade, this trait has been passed along to our children. Our daughter, Amelia, won 1st place in the 1st Grade of the 2019 Smoky Hills PBS Writer's Contest for Central and Western Kansas. The contest includes illustrations along with the narrative. Additionally, our son, R.J., won first place for his age division in the 2019 Great Bend Public Library Easter Egg Decorating Contest.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

I love spending time with my family. I have an amazing wife, Lindsey, and two beautiful children, Amelia (8) and RJ (5). We always look forward to taking family trips and participating in activities together. We love establishing our own traditions and keeping with old ones passed onto us. The kids certainly help keep Lindsey and me young.

To that end, we all love being a part of the community whether that is getting together with friends, attending a work-related gathering, or partaking in a local event. We are people persons.

At what job, would you be terrible?

I would make a horrible electrical lineman. I am deathly afraid of heights, so you can include any occupation with that dynamic for that matter. I could imagine that, even if I were to muster the courage to ascend to the peak of a pole, I would accomplish no work and would ultimately have to be rescued as I would be frozen in fear clinging to the pole.

How long have you been a Chamber Ambassador and what do you like most about it?

I have been a Chamber Ambassador since January of 2019. Being a transplant to Great Bend, the Chamber Ambassadors has been very beneficial in developing relationships both personally and professionally. I am happy to call many of the Ambassadors I serve with my friends. I very much enjoy being able to participate in and help with Chamber events as well as promoting the many wonderful and unique businesses that call Great Bend home.

About Chamber Ambassadors:

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Club is made up of 30 men and women from the Great Bend business community who represent the Chamber as volunteers. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact the Chamber: 620-792-2401 or marketing@greatbend.org

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GBED encourages community to participate in new Business Summit

Local business owners that want to collaborate with their peers in this era of COVID-19 are encouraged to participate in a new Great Bend Economic Development Inc. program.

GBED will host a Business Summit through several small group sessions with individuals from diverse backgrounds, President Jessica Milsap said.

“We want to support local business owners as they search for creative solutions that will help their companies thrive,” Milsap said. “Individuals from a variety of industries who are equipped with a range of skill sets can learn from one another.”

The sessions will be virtual or in-person, depending on the circumstances; the number of sessions depends on the number of responses to the Business Summit. There is no charge for this program.

“We want to discuss ways in which businesses are struggling or flourishing,” Milsap said. “If we know what the current needs are, maybe we can help one another fill those needs. The goal is a thriving local economy.”

“Brainstorming is a good technique for arriving at innovative ideas,” she added. “We can share with a diverse group of business owners, marketing professionals, information technology gurus and many others about how we can not only survive but prosper.”

Solutions to business problems could entail patronizing local businesses more often than in the past and creating more of a local supply chain where appropriate, Milsap summarized.

“If there was ever a time to shop locally, this is it,” Milsap emphasized. “When we shop in town we show our support for the whole community.”

“Local dollars build a stronger economy while contributing to the tax base, both of which help everyone in the community,” she continued. “This leads to job retention and job creation and a true sense of community. All of us need to patronize our neighbors’ businesses or lose them.”

For more information about the Business Summit, contact Milsap by calling 620-796-2407 or send her an email, jmilsap@gbedinc.com.



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Dr. Nels' Story Continued from Page 1

This set Dr. Nels on a new adventure to his journey of self-improvement where he realized he was the problem and the solution. He learned that before he can lead anyone he had to grow and improve who he was as a person.

Over a 10 year journey, Dr. Nels mission has changed from making money to a much more noble mission of changing people's lives through very intentional teaching, required reading for all those involved, and very specific daily practices.

He suddenly went from enjoying making money to helping and watching people grow. What excites Dr. Nels the most is watching people change their life by leading them to places they would never go without the right leadership.

Today Dr. Nels has been in practice as the vision and guidance for its mission. He is also a veterinarian feedlot consultant working to dive deeper into the people aspect of the feedyards he consults. He is also a founding partner in multiple other businesses working to provide his people growth and development skills, leadership practices and development, as well as tactical and strategic thought processes to those partnerships.

Today Dr. Nels is a sought after speaker on business, life, and leadership. He consults entrepreneurs and businesses on those topics as well as diving deeper into daily tactics, and future strategic planning for the business and its people.

WANT TO JOIN THE CHAMBER?

If your company is interested in joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, fill out the online application on our website:

www.greatbend.org.

Membership is quick and easy to get started, and it is affordable, too!

For more information on your member benefits or questions, please contact the Chamber office.

Call 620-792-2401 or email marketing@greatbend.org

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Every Thursday | Program at 9:30 am

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June 4, 2020

UNITED WAY

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June 11, 2020

GREAT BEND TRIBUNE

Great Bend Tribune, providing news, information and promotion for Barton and Pawnee Counties. Read your local news in print and online at gbtribune.com

June 18, 2020

KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN

KFC is an American fast food restaurant chain headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, that specializes in fried chicken. It is the world's second-largest restaurant chain after McDonald's, with 22,621 locations globally in 150 countries as of December 2019. KFC is known for its buckets of fried chicken, plus wings & sides.

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Chamber CHAT

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