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CHAMBER of COMMERCE
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Outlook

www.greatbend.org

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Bikes & Bombers Weekend ***Great Bend Hosts Three Huge Events Sept. 18-20***



**GREAT BEND AIRPORT
AIREFEST**



If you're into motorcycles, historic planes, live music, great food, or almost anything else, you can probably find what you're looking for in Great Bend, Kansas September 18-20, 2015. The Great Bend AirFest and the Hahn Brothers Supercross Shootout are both happening on the same weekend in Great Bend and are collectively known as the Bikes & Bombers Weekend.

Both events will kick off on Friday, September 18th at the Great Bend Municipal Airport and the Great Bend Expo Complex, respectively. A \$5 donation is requested to get in the gate at the AirFest event, and Community Coordinator Christina Hayes anticipates a record turnout for this year. "Planes fly in from all over the region to participate in our three-day fly-in, and spectators can look forward to seeing all sorts of historic war birds including the last flying B-29 Bomber known as "Fifi" and a P-51 Gunfighter," Hayes says. "I would encourage everyone to check out the show, enjoy the food vendors, and stay for the 1940s hangar dance Saturday night."

This year's theme is "A Warbird Tribute – To Honor Those Who Served" and you may even see Dwight D. Eisenhower on site, or at least his look-alike impersonator Bill Nicks. See dozens of WWII planes and memorabilia up close and person, or see it from afar with a helicopter ride up above. The AirFest will continue throughout the weekend, with other attractions such as a pancake breakfast from 8-11 a.m. Saturday morning followed by daytime battle re-enactments and a POW-MIA ceremony in the evening. Event hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday the 18th, 8 a.m. to Midnight on Saturday the 19th, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday the 20th. Learn more at www.greatbendairfest.com.

Just around the corner from the airport, the GBMX Park at the Great Bend Expo Complex will be roaring with motocross racers from all over the state competing for amateur trophies and professional cash prizes! The 3rd Annual Hahn Brothers Supercross Shootout will take place September 18th and 19th, with amateurs practicing and racing on Friday followed by more amateur practice Saturday morning. After lunch, the professionals will take their turn to ride the dirt track before the competitive heats begin at 4 p.m.

— Continued on Page 2

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— Cont. from Page 1

Bikes & Bombers Weekend

The grand finale will be the professional races under the lights after dark. Food concessions, overnight camping, and lots of vendors make this event a unique attraction for racing families and spectators from all over the State.

"Motocross is an expensive hobby, and parents shell out big bucks to help their kids ride tracks all over the state and get as much practice as possible to improve their athletic ability on the bike," says Craig Amerine, co-owner of HAM Enterprises, the operators for the GBMX Park. "We created this event to bring as many of those dollars as we can into the Great Bend economy. Hotels are booked and businesses see a boost in sales."

While bikes and bombers and all the adrenaline-pumping entertainment taking place West of Great Bend is surely going to draw a large crowd, some people may be looking for a more tranquil way to spend their weekend. The Kansas Wetlands Education Center, located 14 miles northeast of Great Bend, will have just the thing. A Butterfly Festival will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, the 19th.

Participants can look forward to tagging monarch butterflies along the nature trail, view displays and demonstrations, study insects up close, capture butterflies with an insect net, try temporary tattoos, play games, and more. The event is free to attend. Door prizes will be presented at the end of the morning and light refreshments will be served. Learn more at <http://wetlandscenter.fhsu.edu>.

Regardless of what you're into, Great Bend is the place to be in September. So why not enjoy all three great attractions – delicious food, unique entertainment, and lots of photo opportunities. Get out and "Explore Great Bend!"



WELCOME to these NEW Chamber Member Businesses!

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Manager
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ANNOUNCEMENTS & News Items from Chamber Member Businesses

• Dr. Nels Lindberg Earns Award from KVMA

Dr. Nels Lindberg with Animal Medical Center in Great Bend, was recently honored by the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA) with their most prestigious award, the Veterinarian of the Year award. The award is given to members that have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the veterinary profession and their community. Candidates are nominated by constituents of the association or by their clients. "Dr. Nels Lindberg has devoted his career to the promotion of veterinary medicine," says Megan Kilgore, KVMA Executive Director. "He has set a professional example for veterinarians across the state of Kansas." *Read the full article on the Animal Medical Center Facebook page.*

• Nex-Tech Fiber Construction Now Underway

Construction continues on Nex-Tech's \$1.7 million fiber optic expansion project in Great Bend. Last month, Nex-Tech placed its new central office at 3700 10th Street, which will house the network electronics and fiber terminations. Nex-Tech Engineering Manager Terry Peterson said crews are installing conduit from the central office to 10th Street, and then extending the conduit west along 10th Street. Construction will be focused on and around a 2-and-one-half mile stretch of the 10th Street corridor in Great Bend. When completed Nex-Tech will be able to offer one-gig symmetrical broadband speeds up to 1 gigabit per second (Gbps) to business customers in the network expansion footprint. *Read more at www.nex-tech.com.*

• Wheatland Electric Announces "Cram the Van"

Wheatland Electric Cooperative will host a Member Appreciation Lunch to benefit the Barton County Food Bank on Thursday, September 17th at 2300 Broadway from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Donate a non-perishable food item and enjoy a hot dog, chips, and water. This event is part of Wheatland Electric's 2nd Annual "Cram the Van" food drive from September 1st to October 31st. In addition to a free lunch, members can also register to win a family vacation package. *Look for the flyer insert in this month's Outlook Business Journal.*

Shoe Sensation Opens Great Bend Location

Shoe Sensation, Great Bend's newest retail store, celebrated its grand opening last month with a three-day event August 6-9, 2015. The new outlet is located at 3407 10th Street in Great Bend, and is a full-family, full-service name brand shoe store carrying all the latest styles for men, women, and children including wide and extended sizes. They also carry backpacks, scarves, purses, shoe care products, socks, work boots, western boots, and more.

"Customer service is our strongest company value. We still measure each customer's feet to ensure the best fit, and we make sure they feel important when they visit our store," says Julie Gagel, Public Relations for Shoe Sensation. "We offer women's shoes up to size 12 and men's sizes up to size 15, along with sports shoes for the athletes. And the year-round layaway program makes it easier for families to afford name-brand shoes in time for back-to-school or special holidays."

Shoe Sensation has been around since 1984 and was founded by a single entrepreneur. When he sold the company in 2007, there were 60 locations. Now the retail company boasts over 120 stores in 17 states throughout the Midwest, with 5-6 more opening in 2015. Great Bend is the third location in Kansas, and will be led by Store Manager Tanya Crofoot and assistant manager Joanna Campa. "We receive new inventory every week, so customers are encouraged to stop by and check us out with the changing seasons," Crofoot says. "We have the largest selection in the area, and the quality brands you want at affordable prices."

Shoe Sensation is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 12-5 p.m. For more information, stop by the store at 3407 10th Street or visit www.shoesensation.com.



Holste & Bowers Offers Quickbooks Essentials

Barry Bowers with Holste & Bowers LLC recently announced the company's affiliation with QBExpress, a national network of accounting professionals and QuickBooks experts who provide comprehensive QuickBooks training, service, and support to U.S. small businesses. Bowers will be facilitating half-day QuickBooks Essentials seminars to give business owners an overview of QuickBooks and answer their specific questions. The first two sessions are scheduled September 24th and October 22nd, and will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Board Room at the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, 1125 Williams. The fee is \$147 per person, with class size limited to eight people. Call 620-792-5378 to reserve a space or visit www.greatbendcpa.com for more details.

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Great Bend... At Your Service Awards Only a Few More Months to Qualify!

Great Bend... At Your Service. That's the name of the contest and award program being co-sponsored by the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce in an effort to stimulate improved customer service and hospitality awareness for front line staff in our community.

The award contest utilizes a free online training provided by the State of Kansas called "Kansas At Your Service" which is available 24/7 at www.KansasAtYourService.com. Every month, the two organizations will recognize up to two different businesses for earning 100% participation amongst their staff. Those businesses receive an award from the Chamber and CVB for their efforts to provide the highest quality customer service. Award recipients receive a photo and write-up in the Chamber's Outlook Business Journal, along with a framed award certificate to display in their business.

If your company is interested in qualifying for this award, encourage your staff to complete the online training at their convenience. Each employee who completes the state and regional training will get a printable certificate that the employer is asked to track until all they have 100% employee participation. Then they should notify the CVB at 620-792-2750 to let them know they have reached the 100% milestone.

As an added incentive, all individuals that complete both the basic and regional portions of the At Your Service training will be entered to win one of three \$100 cash prizes that will be given away later this year. The contest runs until November 1st so employers are encouraged to facilitate the training opportunity prior to that date for maximum participation.

The staff of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development recently received 100% participation. If we can do it, you can do it too! Learn more: 620-792-2750



Chamber Office Closed on Labor Day

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development will be closed Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day. We will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, September 8th. For more information, visit www.greatbend.org or contact the Chamber Staff, 620-792-2401.

Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of August, the Barton County Young Professionals hosted two huge events. The first was a quarterly networking mixer, hosted by the Barton County Historical Society and sponsored by MyTown and Leadership Golden Belt on August 21st.

The event included a fried chicken dinner, sweet tea vodka lemonade, a BINGO game, and door prize drawings for gift baskets and a Leadership Golden Belt scholarship!

At the end of the month, the Young Professionals group celebrated the grand opening of The Tot Spot after months of planning and fundraising alongside the Rotary Club. These two groups hosted a public grand opening ceremony on August 29th at the new playground, located in Brit Spaugh Park. After a few brief remarks and a ribbon cutting photo, the Rotary Club hosted a huge family picnic for dozens of families who attended. Be sure to like "The Tot Spot Great Bend" on Facebook.

In September, the group will host a Personal Development Luncheon on Tuesday, September 22nd from 12-1 p.m. at the Pizza Hut Buffet, 4101 10th Street in Great Bend. The topic for this meeting will be "An Update on Health Care" featuring Mike Minton from Benefit Management Inc (BMI).

The presentation will be designed to help inform YP members about the various types of health coverage available, with everything from health insurance to flex plans being discussed. There is no reservation necessary to attend, but each person must pay for their buffet meal before leaving.

Keep up with news and events for Barton County Young Professionals by signing up for the YP email newsletter and like the Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/bartonyp.

Want to Join?

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



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Expires Sept. 30, 2015



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- 3... Chamber Coffee: Heartland Collision, West 10th Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 3... ChamberConnect Radio Show Airs, KVGB 1590 AM, 11:35 a.m.
- 3... Chamber Ambassador Club Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 12 p.m.
- 3... Business After Hours: K-96 Block Party, 1649 K-96 Highway, 5-7 p.m.
- 6... Concert on the Rock, Historic Pawnee Rock State Park, 7 p.m.
- 7... Chamber Office Closed for Labor Day
- 8... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 9... 21st Annual Kids Ag Day
- 10... Chamber Coffee: United Way of Central KS at Adams Brown Beran & Ball, 2006 Broadway Suite 2A, 9:30 a.m.
- 11-12... NRHA Summit Points Race #8, SRCA Drag Strip
- 12... Glow for Life Suicide Awareness Run, Veterans Memorial Park, 7 p.m.
- 12... Heartland Farm Open Farm Day, 1049 CR 390 in Pawnee Rock, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 14... Free Shred Day at Landmark Bank, 1623 Main Street, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- 15... Submission Deadline for October Outlook Business Journal
- 15... KSBD Workshop, Spray-Holt Family Board Room, 1125 Williams
- 17... Chamber Coffee: Sunflower Diversified Services, 8823 4th Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 17... Wheatland Electric Cooperative Member Appreciation Lunch, 2300 Broadway, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- 17... Golden Belt Community Concert, Municipal Auditorium, Lakin & Stone, 7:30 p.m.
- 18-20... Great Bend Airfest, Great Bend Municipal Airport
- 18-19... Hahn Brothers Supercross Shootout, GBMX Park, Expo Complex
- 20... Harlem Ambassadors Benefiting United Way, Barton Community College, 245 NE 30 Rd, 7 p.m.
- 21... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 22... YP Personal Development Luncheon "Health Care Update", Pizza Hut Buffet, 4101 10th, 12-1 p.m.
- 23... Chamber Marketing Seminar & New Member Orientation, 1125 Williams, 10 a.m.
- 23... Flyer Insert Deadline for October Outlook Business Journal
- 24... Chamber Coffee: Doonan GMC, Junction Hwy 56 & 156, 9:30 a.m.
- 24... Workmen's Compensation Symposium, Barton Community College, 10:30 a.m.
- 24... QuickBooks Essentials Training by Holste & Bowers LLC, 1125 Williams, 9 a.m.
- 25-26... NHRA Summit Points Race #9, SRCA Drag Strip
- 26... St. Rose Blood Screenings, 3515 Broadway, 6:30-10 a.m.
- 26... Nex-Tech Wine in the Wild, Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo, 6-9 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS

- Barton County Commission Meetings, Mondays, Courthouse Room 106, 9 a.m.
- GBHHH Grief Support Group Meetings, Mondays, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- American Legion Bingo, Tuesday & Thursday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.
- Free Story Time at Everything Under the Sun, Thursdays, 407 McKinley, 10 a.m.
- Dinner Served at American Legion, 1011 Kansas Avenue, Wed. & Fri. at 6 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE - K96 BLOCK PARTY

Join a collection of host businesses to celebrate the K-96 business corridor on Thursday, September 3rd from 5-7 p.m. under the tent in the Waters True Value parking lot. Hamburgers, baked beans, chips and soft drinks will be served. Door prizes from each participating business and a grand prize will be drawn at the end of the evening. Must be present to win.

HOST BUSINESSES: Great Bend Health & Rehabilitation, E-Z Tanning, Dr. Mike Allison DDS, Waters True Value, L & M Contractors, Buff Car Wash, Mark A Judd OD, 20/20 Optix, Credit Union of America, Kansas Doors, Sunflower Electric Supply, Landmark National Bank, P & S Security, Sunflower Diversified Services



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The Great Bend Public Library



When Harry Willems reads the headlines about the printed book being on its way out the door, he might think ‘yeah, it’s going in and out the revolving door at the Great Bend Public Library.’ After all, circulation is up and more books were printed last year than ever before. Summer reading circulation has increased nearly 20 percent over last year and “even teenagers still prefer the printed book,” said Willems, library director. “They may try something on a device but they prefer printed to digital. They want a physical book. It is not going away any time soon.”

Nevertheless, Willems is a realist. He understands the book inventory must share space with other items and activities to accommodate the 100,000 patrons who visit the library annually. The list of those items and activities is long. It includes special programming for children, teens and adults; internet access for those who don’t have a computer at home; a wide range of computer classes; movie and magic nights; TV series episodes; DVDs; the Book Store; Paperback Swap; and book clubs. And, yes, the list also includes digital and audio books.

The vision behind these many offerings is captured in the library’s slogan – “Beyond the Book.” But it takes the focus of individuals to turn this vision into reality, Willems noted. “The success of the library depends on strong, capable and independent-thinking department heads. I serve as director but the library counts on those leading the charge in each area.”

This team includes Dayna Ball, children’s librarian; Diane Bott, head of circulation; Erin Ferguson, head of adult services; and Romona Newsome, head of technical services. In addition, the library recently welcomed Diedre Mapes, young adult and marketing librarian, to the staff. She replaced Jennifer King who served four years with many success stories to her credit, Willems said.

“These people make the library work,” he commented. “I take care of coordination and lead staff meetings but they are the backbone of the organization. We concentrate on hiring the best people and have been successful. You could probably say the director position has to have the overall vision and department heads bring it to life.”

Willems started zeroing in on his vision when he came on board seven years ago. “During this time, we have updated virtually all aspects of the library – from the grounds to the interior layout to the décor,” he said. “For example, we took the circulation desk from a fortress position to a welcoming position. We moved shelves and furniture for more efficiency and aesthetics.



“We have been hearing good comments from people about the changes,” he added. “We got rid of the deadwood that wasn’t being checked out and it’s easier to find what you need. Deadwood can get in the way of the good stuff that people really want. Too many choices can be overwhelming. The library just looks fresh.”

Inter-library loan also is available so that if the local facility doesn’t have a certain item, it can rely on 52 other libraries; they all share the same catalog and collaborate with one another. “We can get something in a matter of days,” Willems said. “This helps us and it enhances the capabilities of smaller libraries too.”

The library also has a couple of meeting rooms for rent. The classroom accommodates 20 people and a larger room holds about 150. Oh yeah, and dozens of styles of cake pans are available for check out.

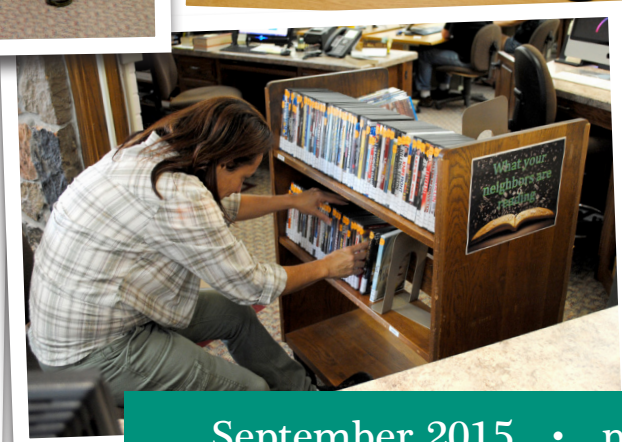
In addition to Willems’ library duties, he is also director of the Central Kansas Library System (CKLS). He described it as a “quasi municipality” that covers 16 counties. “The Central Kansas Library System provides continuing education and grants to libraries,” he explained. “The goal is better library service to rural patrons. We can even mail a book to those who can’t get to the library.

“We have also started serving school districts by offering consulting services to school libraries,” he elaborated. “This is especially helpful for schools that don’t have a professional librarian on staff.”

While Willems and his staff tend to their regular library and CKLS duties, they are also preparing for the annual Friends of the Library Book Sale scheduled for Oct. 11-14. Donations to the sale are always welcome.

“But if you are bringing in a large number of books, please call ahead,” Willems said. “If we know you are coming, we can help you unload the books. We want to do whatever we can to accommodate our patrons in any way we can.” —

GBPL
1409 Williams
620-792-2409



Central Kansas Dream Center Celebrates 2nd Anniversary in Operation

Kimberly Becker, Executive Director for the Central Kansas Dream Center, welcomed Chamber Ambassadors and community members to the non-profit ministry's facility at 2100 Broadway last month for a ribbon cutting to commemorate the organization's 2-year anniversary. Modeled after the Dream Centers in Los Angeles and Phoenix, the umbrella organization exists to meet the needs of hurting people in the Central Kansas region. "The Barnett Family started the first two dream centers with the goal of being the church that never sleeps," Becker says. "They have been great mentors for me, helping us develop programs for our community based on the successes they have seen."

The Central Kansas Dream Center is one facility that encompasses numerous programs. The one that most people are familiar with is the Hungry Heart Soup Kitchen, which now offers expanded serving hours every day from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and a Monday evening Bible Study. The Life Giving Center is a homeless transitional shelter for women and children that provides a place to stay for 60 days while employment is secured and housing can be found. Lasting Life Ministries financial assistance program is another program operated by the Dream Center, and provides financial assistance to people in need.

"The Life Giving Center had been using this old Roosevelt Junior High building for several years, but what I saw was a big empty building that needed to be filled up to help the hurting people in our community," Becker says. "We became the Dream Center in July 2013, and have since expanded our programs drastically, some of which are even open to the public."

Some of these new programs include the Kingdom Closet, a boutique offering free clothing, linens, and household items for those served by the Dream Center. Another is a mailbox program that allows homeless individuals to receive mail and use the Dream Center as their physical address so they can apply for jobs and get an I.D. Other programs include a café, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, and a daycare for the residents to use while they find employment along with those working for Lasting Life Ministries and Central Ks Dream Center's foundations. The Dream Center also started a program for girls who age out of the foster system with no support.

But perhaps the most impressive of the Dream Center's accomplishments is the implementation of a 6-month residential discipleship program that utilizes Teen Challenge curriculum to transform the lives of people facing life controlling issues, such as broken families or substance abuse. While participating in the 6-month program, residents are in the classroom three days per week, they are in chapel on Friday mornings, and spend the other two weekdays being mentored by local employers. "The students volunteer their time learning work skills from local employers who serve as mentors two days a week," Becker says.

"During the six months the employer makes a tax-deductible donation to the Dream Center to help us cover program costs. We've only had one graduate not offered a job at the end of his internship. Most employers are very impressed with our students."

To date, 16 individuals have graduated from the discipleship program. The Dream Center is trying to raise \$150,000 to renovate the west side of the second floor to accommodate additional bunks, a staff apartment, and a multi-stall restroom. Once these improvements are complete, they can expand to offer a program for boys who age out of foster care and house more discipleship students. The Dream Center is entirely funded by private donations, community grants, and by Lasting Life Ministries. They receive no state or federal funding. "If we can raise up healthy families, their employees won't need off work for therapy, community corrections, court appearances, etc.," Becker says. "We can break that destructive cycle in the family unit, and change our community one person at a time."

Becker is the only full-time staff person, with three additional part-time staff, two missionaries who help out, and numerous volunteers. More than ten churches actively participate in the Dream Center's activities every month. Becker commented that she is often asked how the Dream Center makes a difference in the lives of their discipleship students. She shared a testimonial about one of their graduates' transformations:

"I picked up one of our students off of a bench in front of Towne East Mall in Wichita. At the time, she was homeless, was a drug addict, and involved in prostitution. She had lost custody of her kids and her son had been involved in a horrible abuse case. Now that she graduated from our program, she has a job, paid cash for her vehicle, has a safe home, and has full custody of her kids. Shortly after that, we got a call from the Salvation Army in Olathe, Kansas about a homeless girl that needed help. The girl came to the Dream Center in Great Bend and we found out that these two women were biological siblings. That is a God thing. We are seeing lives changed every day!"



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Great Bend Regional Hospital Awarded for "Golden Hour" Policy

Babies that receive early skin-to-skin care are two times more likely to be exclusively breastfeeding at 3-6 months as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatricians. With early skin to skin care, mothers experience less engorgement and pain at three days post-birth as well as experiencing less anxiety. For babies, less crying is noted. Heart rate, respirations, temperature and blood sugars remain stable.

Based on these facts, Great Bend Regional Hospital implemented "The Golden Hour" following a non-surgical birth two years ago. For that first hour, the baby lies skin to skin on mom's chest. Until recently, mothers undergoing cesarean births were separated from their babies very soon after birth. In the past year, GBRH has implemented keeping the mother and new baby together as much as possible. At this time, after the surgical delivery of the baby, it is placed on mom's chest while the surgery is completed as long as mom and baby are not experiencing any abnormal symptoms. No matter how the baby is delivered, nurses complete treatments and assessments and visitors are restricted for approximately one hour while mother and baby get to know each other. Beginning the Golden Hour has increased patient satisfaction.

In June, GBRH was awarded the Gold Level Breastfeeding Employees Support Award by the Business Case for Breastfeeding and the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition. GBRH created two rooms that breastfeeding mothers can use to pump during their workday.



Tickets for 'Wine in the Wild' Now on Sale!



The first annual Nex-Tech Wine in the Wild zoo benefit will be held at the Great Bend-Brit Spaugh Zoo on Saturday, September 26th, from 6-9 p.m. Guests will enjoy an evening stroll through the Great Bend-Brit

Spaugh Zoo, sampling a variety of local wines from Rosewood Winery and food from around the world all while listening to music from a live band and the company of the Zoo's wild animal residents. Guests will also have the opportunity to bid on items from local merchants at the silent auction.

Tickets are now on sale for \$30 each or \$50 for a pair. Your ticket also includes a commemorative wine glass. All proceeds benefit the Great Bend Zoological Society. Tickets are limited. To learn more or purchase tickets online, visit www.nex-tech.com/wild.

Overland Property Group Celebrates Grand Opening of New Apartments



The Reserves at Trail Ridge, Great Bend's newest apartment complex located at 811 Grant Street, celebrated its grand opening in late August with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony. In addition to remarks from the developer, Overland Property Group, additional comments were offered by U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development President/CEO Jan Peters, Mayor Mike Allison, and representatives from the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation. The 48-unit income-qualified apartment complex is the first new housing development to be built since the 1970s, and meets a need that had been present for many years.

This first phase will feature 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, knotty alder cabinets, walk-in closets and a wide variety of amenities including brand new appliances and an on-site playground and 24-hour fitness facility.

"This all started because of solid relationships, and we hope Overland Property Group will consider Great Bend for future development projects."

The leasing company for the new apartments had one of the two buildings completely leased at the time of the grand opening, with plans to have the remainder of the units leased by early September. "The response has been overwhelming, but that just speaks to the need in the community," said Matt Gillam, VP for Overland Property Group. "We are proud to be in Great Bend."

Overland Property Group was founded in 2002 and operates offices in Leawood, Kansas and Austin, Texas. From market analysis, site selection, financing, design and construction to marketing and management, OPG has become not only one of the fastest growing firms in the Midwest but also the most sophisticated. As one of the largest owner/developers in the Region, OPG has more than 40 developments, totaling over 2,000 units and \$250 million of both "affordable" and "market-rate" apartments.

Teresa Malone, PT
Megan Beahm, PT
Dan Quillin, PT
(620) 792-7868

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Ambassador Profile - Candice Moeder

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 how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact us, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org.



Where I Work

I am the HR Specialist for QS Nurses Kansas, LLC. After several years in a different industry, I recently switched and am excited to see where this new opportunity will take me.

Background

After graduating from Ellinwood High School, I earned a Bachelor of Business Communication from Fort Hays State University.

As an Ambassador

I have been an Ambassador for a little over a year, and enjoy the opportunity to network with other members and community leaders. It is an amazing opportunity to volunteer and meet other people in the community as well.

KSBDC Offers Three Small Business Workshops in Great Bend Sept. 15

The FHSU Kansas Small Business Development Center is hosting a series of small business and contractor tax workshops on Tuesday, September 15th in Great Bend, Kansas. Register for one, two, or all three seminars. **ALL FEES HAVE BEEN WAIVED!** Workshops will be held in the Spray-Holt Family Board Room at the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.

SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOP - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Kansas Retailers' Sales Tax, Kansas Retailers' Compensating Use Tax, Goods and Services Subject to Sales Tax, Record Keeping & Filing Requirements, Form Preparation, Exemption Certificate, Withholding Requirements

UNDERSTANDING LABOR RELATIONS - 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

D.O.L. Providing Forms & Information

CONTRACTOR WORKSHOP - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Sales Tax on Materials, Sales Tax on Labor, Project Exemption Certificates, Sales Tax Returns, Billing

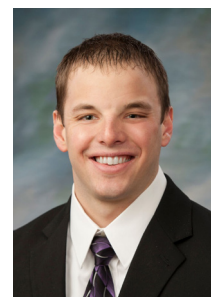
Advanced registration is required and space is limited. To register, visit <http://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com> or call 785-628-5615.

Schoendaler Completes Ag Lending School

Eric Schoendaler, Loan Officer, for First Kansas Bank in Hoisington, graduated from the 2015 Agricultural Lending School in Topeka, Kansas. The Agricultural Lending School is sponsored jointly by the Kansas and Nebraska Bankers Associations.

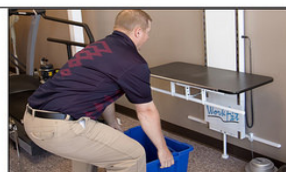
The course is designed and lead by national level instructors teaching students agricultural lending concepts and practices to enhance their effectiveness as agricultural loan officers. Completion of this intense course assists students in developing skills that allow them to better serve their customers multiple financial needs.

Eric holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Fort Hays State University. While growing up, he worked in the family farming operation near Grinnell. Eric is married to the former Tiffany Guthrie and they live in Hoisington. First Kansas Bank has offices in Hoisington, Claflin, Great Bend and Hays.



Save The Date

Workmen's Compensation Symposium



Thursday, September 24, 2015
Barton Community College
Fine Arts Building, F-30
10:30 am - 1:30 pm
(Lunch included)

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- 2 Corinthians 5:17

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Upcoming Fitness Events - No Excuses Now!

Learn more about each of these events by using the calendar feature at www.greatbend.org.

- Glow for Life Suicide Awareness Run Sept. 12**
 The 3rd Annual "Golden Belt Glow for Life" event will be held Saturday, September 12th at Veterans Memorial Park in Great Bend. The Suicide Prevention & Awareness event will include a Remembrance Ceremony, a 5K Glow Run, and a Glow Walk at sunset. Registration begins at 6 p.m. followed by the remembrance ceremony and Glow Run starting at 7 p.m. The mission of the Golden Belt Run for Life is to raise awareness of suicide prevention and provide for community suicide prevention education.
- Walk to End Alzheimer's Returns Oct. 3**
 Several area care facilities have partnered together to facilitate the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, October 3rd in Jack Kilby Square. Registration begins at 1 p.m. and the 2-mile walk starts at 2 p.m. The Alzheimer's Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. There is no registration fee for Walk. However, we ask every walker to make a personal donation and commit to raising funds in the fight against Alzheimer's.
- First Ever #YP5K and Half Marathon Oct. 10**
 The Barton County Young Professionals group would like to invite the public to participate in the first ever YP5K and Half Marathon (#YP5K on social media) taking place Saturday, October 10th at Vets Park in Great Bend. Between the 5k and Half Marathon race event finishes, there will be a Family Fun Zone with activities for the entire family, even if you did not participate in the races. There will also be a photo contest using the hashtag #YP5K on social media with prize giveaways! Proceeds will be used to sponsor bike racks at strategic locations throughout Barton County.

Tune in to ChamberConnect Show Sept. 3

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 Director Rachel Mawhirter. The September edition of ChamberConnect will air Thursday, September 3rd at 11:35 a.m. This month's show will be centered around upcoming events such as the Great Bend Airfest, Hahn Brothers Supercross Shootout, and the Chamber's New Member Orientation.



United Way of Central Kansas

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 Office Phone: (620) 792-2403
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Submitted by Executive Director Julie Smith

United Way Campaign Update

United Way of Central Kansas wants to thank all of our sponsors and attendees at our 2016 Campaign Kickoff Event, "Truth, Justice, & the United Way." It was a huge success, starting us off for a great 2016 Campaign. Our goal this year is to raise \$275,000 to help support our 19 Community Partners and every dollar that is raised goes towards this goal. "Without our amazing sponsors, this event would not be the success that it is this year, and we would not be able to have the outreach that we do in Barton & Pawnee Counties", Julie Bugner-Smith, Executive Director.

September is a busy month at United Way and it all starts on September 10th with the Chamber Coffee which is being hosted by Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd. ABBB is a 2015 Pacesetter Company with 100% participation in their annual Payroll Deduction Campaign. On September 20th, UWCK is excited to welcome the Harlem Ambassadors to Great Bend. The Harlem Ambassadors will be playing a basketball team against the United Way Super Heroes in a unique brand of Harlem-style basketball, featuring high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball-handling tricks, hilarious comedy routines, music, dancing, and games for the kids. You won't want to miss this one-time event to help support our 19 Community Partners. See our flyer insert for more details.

The following weekend, on September 27th, we will be working with Walnut Bowl to host our annual Bowl N' One Event. We will be at Walnut Bowl for some competition from 1-4 p.m. Get your 4-person team together to compete in bowling, golf, or both. A single event will only cost \$30 per team or you can do both events for \$50. This is a come and go event and winners will be announced the following week. If you are interested in signing up, contact the United Way or Walnut Bowl for registration forms.

We will be out doing our Payroll Deduction presentations also throughout the month of September, and through the end of the year. If your business hasn't scheduled their presentation yet, or you are interested in becoming a Payroll Deduction business, please contact us at 620-792-2403. Keep up with all our activity on our website, www.uwck.org and follow us on Facebook! If you are interested in volunteering, call us at 620-792-2403!



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Chamber Hosts New Member Orientation & Marketing Services Seminar Sept. 23

All local businesses are invited to attend an informational seminar on Wednesday, September 23rd designed to inform current and prospective members about the numerous marketing services available through the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. The session will begin at 10 a.m. in the Chamber Board Room, and will include coffee and rolls at no charge to participants. During the presentation, members will learn about all the ways they can utilize Chamber services to the benefit of their companies. This is also a great way to share ideas and network with other businesses. The session will conclude in less than an hour, so you can get in and out with new ideas get started on! Hand-outs will be provided to all who attend. To RSVP for the free informational seminar, find the calendar event at www.greatbend.org.



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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Thursdays at 9:30 am

September 3, 2015

Heartland Collision • 283 W. Barton Co. Road

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September 10, 2015

United Way of Central Kansas Hosted at Adams Brown Beran & Ball • 2006 Broadway Suite 2A

United Way of Central Kansas is Community Partnering with 19 local agencies, and funds various projects promoting Health, Education, and Income. Of the money raised over 98% stays locally in our communities.

Adams, Brown Beran & Ball will be hosting the coffee as a Pacesetter company they are, #3 in giving to UWCK and have 100% employee payroll participation.

September 17, 2015

Sunflower Diversified Services • 8823 4th 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 49 years. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!

September 24, 2015

Doonan GMC • Junction 56 & 156

Doonan GMC - 60 years | Doonan Peterbilt - 50 years

We are looking forward to seeing all of you for these two (2) major milestones for our family at Doonan Corner. Please mark your calendar for this event at the home of, "Where a handshake still means something."

October 1, 2015

Office Products Inc. • 1204 Main Street

After 56 years in business, Office Products Inc. has become the area's leading supplier for office technology and supplies in Great Bend, Larned, and Russell. The Vink Family would like to invite you to attend their Chamber Coffee and learn about all the new things OPI has to offer!



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McDonald's

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.

Employment – Barton County

	June 14	June 15
Labor Force	17,746	15,515
Employment	17,136	14,815
Unemployment	610	700
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	4.5%
KS Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.5%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report

	June 14	June 15
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$482,910	\$407,488
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$249,718	\$221,235

Building Permits

	June 14	June 15
Commercial – GB	NA	NA
Residential - GB	NA	NA

Sources:

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

