

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal

1921



YEARS 2021



## A New Beginning



July 7 - 11, 2021

It's hard to believe that 200 years ago the pioneers and traders established the Santa Fe Trail just South of the current fair grounds. Who would have thought that 200 years later we would be using some of the same route to travel today. As our forefathers were traveling across the trail looking for a new beginning, we too are starting a new beginning after the pandemic that affected our great country.

Several county fairs and communities will be celebrating throughout the summer along the Santa Fe Trail. We are honored to be able to incorporate the celebration of the Santa Fe Trail into our fair, while we also celebrate our 30th anniversary.

Many things have changed since last year, but we have learned many valuable lessons along the way. Like the value of spending time with family and friends. We all have new respect for a place to work, and those we work with. Be in an office or working from home. We have learned a lot about the capabilities of communicating via the internet and through our mobile devices.

The one thing many people miss is the interaction with other people. County fairs offer just that opportunity, to meet and see people and have a good time. While we know things will look a little different at this year's fair, we will be offering the opportunity for people to show off their exhibits in person, attend a concert, and participate in the many events we have planned for this year.

Come enjoy a night out with friends and family as we celebrate 200 years of the Santa Fe Trail and 30 years of the Barton County Fair!

*Welcome to a New Beginning!*

**For More Information and a Full Schedule of Events**  
[www.bartoncountyfair.com](http://www.bartoncountyfair.com)

## Concert Lineup

Live entertainment has been a staple at the Barton County Fair and this year is no different. This year we are hosting two National Acts with a touch of local music that will touch your heart, make you stomp your feet and be part of a great annual event.

**July 8th** Christian artist, Riley Clemmons, will take the stage for **Christian Night** at the Fair. Thanks to the generous sponsors this will be a free concert. Gates will open at 7:00 pm with Kyle Dean Jeffrey as the opening act.

Riley Clemmons is a 21-year-old artist from Nashville, TN who has accumulated over 210 million global streams and 50 million YouTube video views since the beginning of her almost decade long career. After spending years honing her craft in writers' rooms, Riley sky-rocketed onto the scene with her 2017 Capitol CMG debut single "Broken Prayers," which has generated over 30 million global streams since its release.

In 2021, she was nominated as Female Artist of the Year at the 9th Annual K-LOVE Fan Awards, marking a first in her career, in addition to becoming the youngest nominee in the show's history.

An accomplished composer, performer, producer, and recording artist, Riley draws inspiration from life experiences, blending musical influences ranging from pop to classic rock to create music that is as catchy as it is relatable.

Friday night, **July 9th**, will include local sensation Home Brew. These talented entertainers have performed at the Barton County Fair on various occasions but this year they are bringing their talents and sound to the main stage where you will hear a wide variety of rock & roll music throughout the years.

**Country Night** will be Saturday, **July 10th**, with recording artist Ricochet, an American country music band from Oklahoma. The band was founded in 1993. After several years of playing throughout the Southern United States, Ricochet was signed to a recording contract with Columbia Records in 1995. Their self-titled debut album produced three straight Top Ten hits on the Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks (now Hot Country Songs) charts, including the Number One single "Daddy's Money"; the album was also certified gold in the United States.

We are excited to bring this wide variety of music to the Barton County Fair and look forward to seeing everyone there.

Tickets are available at the gate. \$10 per person Country, \$5 per person for Rock and the Christian concert is Free!



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# Farmers Bank & Trust: Celebrating 50 Years of Family Ownership

## Farmers Bank and Trust Member FDIC



W.R. Robbins

Customers and friends are invited to celebrate 50 years of family ownership of Farmers Bank & Trust. Join us for lunch on Thursday, July 8th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Prince of Peace Parrish Center, where Sunflower Diversified will fire up their grills and prepare lunch. Join in the fun and prizes and be sure to register to be a finalist for the Eagle Radio Equinox giveaway, Barton County Fair tickets and other fun contests and giveaways.

Farmers Bank & Trust would like to thank customers and communities for their loyalty over the past 50 years, while under the ownership of W.R. and Yvonne Robbins. Farmers Bank also celebrates 114 years of serving Kansas communities since it was established in 1907 by a group of farmers with roots in Albert, KS. Over the years, Farmers Bank continued to expand their roots started in Albert by adding branches in Great Bend, LaCrosse, Bazine, Kinsley and Larned. In 2001, the bank branched east to Overland Park and Olathe, KS. In 2004 the bank expanded their products by adding a consumer internet mortgage division lead by Monte Robbins.

Under the Robbins leadership, the bank

has grown in size from total assets of \$4 million dollars in 1971 to a milestone of over one billion dollars in 2021. During this same time frame, the bank capital has also grown allowing the bank to continue servicing customers with varying loan and deposit needs.

Farmers Bank employees consistently aim high according to W.R.

Robbins, “Bank employees are instrumental to successful banking relationships by serving customers beyond their expectations in all capacities.” According to Robbins, “Bank leadership is outstanding and employees are highly tenured in our bank locations and sectors, all with the flagship goal of supporting customer needs with progressive products and lasting relationships.”

With Farmers Bank & Trust being the only locally owned community bank remaining in Great Bend, we are excited for the future. The staff of over 145 employees are honored to work with the community leaders and economic development groups to continue to support all customers within each of the communities the bank serves.

Thank you for your support over the years. We look forward to celebrating with you.

## A networking opportunity for manufacturers in central Kansas

By COLE REIF Great Bend Post  
 Thursday, May 20 marked the inaugural event of a new association called Central Kansas Manufacturing Network (CKMN). The idea is to help central Kansas manufacturing companies connect with other companies to share best practices.

Jan Peters is the Executive Director of CKMN and said the network hopefully becomes a resource for the manufacturing industry’s growth in central Kansas.

“There has been an overwhelming response to this idea and concept of helping manufacturing companies,” said Peters. “This

Kansas Manufacturing Solutions manages CKMN and also manages a similar association in the greater Kansas City area.

The inaugural event was held at Fuller Industries in Great Bend with a lunch, guest speakers, a tour of Fuller Industries and networking opportunities.

“I can’t talk a CEO’s language, but Chalfant can,” said Peters. “They all have their own unique issues, challenges and opportunities. That is why they want to meet. They can share best practices and learn from other companies.”

Peters said there will be monthly meetings

going forward along with an emerging leaders program and working groups to connect and learn from professionals in similar areas of interest in other manufacturing organizations.



# Barton Foundation honors Rob and Trisha Dove with Distinguished Service Award

Rob and Trisha Dove have devoted nearly two decades of service to the Barton Community College Foundation and were honored for their dedication on June 2 at the Foundation Board of Directors' annual banquet with the Distinguished Service Award (DSA).

The DSA was created in 1981 to recognize individuals who have shown genuine regard for and have performed outstanding service to Barton Community College. The Barton Foundation Board of Directors selects the recipients from nominations received.

"It is hard to imagine donors who exemplify that level of support and loyalty to the Foundation more perfectly than Rob and Trisha," said Coleen Cape, Executive Director of the Barton Foundation. The Doves continue to be loyal and generous donors, and more importantly, great friends of the Foundation.

The Dove family has a long history with the Barton Community College Foundation.

Rob spent 16 years as a board member, serving in every officer position including twice as chair. Rob even worked as the Interim Executive Director during an extended search for a replacement after Darnell Holopirek retired in 2015.

Rob and Trisha have supported every fund-raiser, campaign and initiative of the Foundation. In 2010, they established the Dove Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac annually funded scholarship and the Clarence and Lucille Lebbin Memorial Scholarship in honor of Trisha's mother and father. In addition, in 2014, after the passing of Rob's mother Lois,



Rob & Trisha Dove with Coleen Cape

they established the Dove Family Endowment.

Rob retired in 2018 and he and Trisha now spend winters in Arizona enjoying their grandchildren and the rewards of years of hard work and service.

The Dove family's involvement with the college extends to even before Rob and Trisha. Rob's mother, Lois Dove, was one of the first Foundation Board members.

"Our family has long been dedicated to the funding of and obtaining of a person's education," he said. "What so many people do not realize is that even though you may never have any interaction with Barton, it still is a driving economic force in our community. Employment, goods and services provided to the college and services provided by the college have an enormous impact on everyone."

Rob said he didn't see the award coming.

"Trisha and I are humbled and grateful that the Foundation Board Members were so gracious in considering us for this," he said.

## Shelly Stanton Earns ACR Accreditation

Shelly Stanton, director of imaging, is pleased to announce Pawnee Valley Campus has been awarded a three-year accreditation in mammography as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). Mammography is a specific type of imaging test that uses a low-dose-X-ray system to examine breasts. This accreditation comes after many months of testing and evaluation and is the ACR gold seal of accreditation and represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety.

This accreditation is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Parameters and Technical Standards after a peer-review evaluation by board certified physicians



Shelly Stanton

and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures and quality assurance programs are assessed.

"Having 3D Mammography allows Pawnee Valley to provide both diagnostic and screening mammograms with the most advanced technology. We are so excited to be able to offer this to

our community," commented Stanton.

"This accreditation achievement is a great example of the hospital's commitment to our mission of providing exceptional healthcare," said Melanie Urban, Administrator. "We are so proud of Shelly and her imaging team for their dedication and service excellence."

## Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

### GREAT BEND

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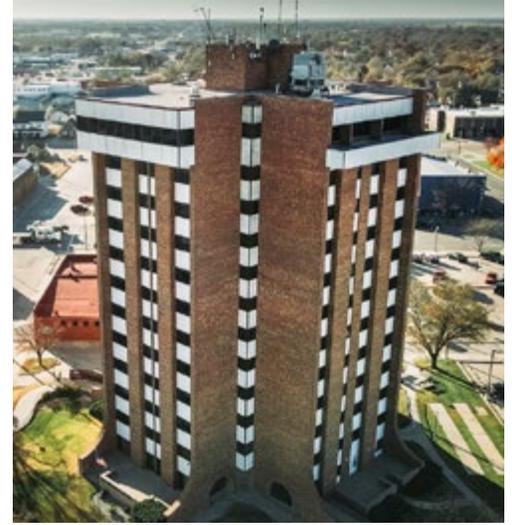
Megan Barfield, President/CEO

Lee Ann June, Communications & Program Coordinator

Taylor Stegman, Office Manager

# GBHA's 15-month remodel has begun

Construction began on the 50-year-old High Rise Apartments building in downtown Great Bend, starting a 15-month long renovation to bring the entire 12-story building up to date. After Great Bend Housing Authority broke ground on the historical building back in April, general contractor Hutton Construction started work in late May on the initial preparations. The first part of the time included putting up an outdoor elevator on the east side of the building for materials to be hoisted to the appropriate floor of the building where construction is underway.



“The original construction broke ground in 1971, so it isn't by accident that we're breaking ground on the revitalization of this landmark building fifty years later,” says Lynn Fleming, Executive Director for Great Bend Housing Authority. “We're converting most of the studio apartments to 1-bedroom apartments by combining two units into one, and also renovating all the existing units with new fixtures, cabinetry, flooring, countertops, and more.”

renovated unit on the top floors.

“Our current tenants will have first dibs on the brand new units, and we'll allow time between the phases of construction to allow them time to move higher up in the building before more construction gets underway in the lower floors,” Fleming says. “Once the remodel is complete, we'll have 81 brand new housing units and can continue to serve the community for years to come.”

Hutton Corporation says that their plan for the \$16 million project is to renovate one floor at a time, starting with the very top floor of the building. “We are aiming to complete the entire project by August of 2022,” says Andy Fahrmeier, Hutton's Area Office Leader. “We'll keep working diligently to finish each floor efficiently, utilizing several different subcontractors where necessary, and with local superintendents on the ground overseeing the progress.”

Besides the massive facelift happening in all twelve floors of the building, including the lobby, offices, and common spaces, the High Rise will also be undergoing an operational change as well. While GBHA has always served low-income individuals, the High Rise Apartments are now going to focus more on the 55+ population. “We are prioritizing individuals 55 years of age or older, but up to 20% of our units can be rented to individuals under that threshold.”

All the tenants still living in the building have been relocated to the bottom few floors so that construction noise is isolated away from the people residing at the High Rise. Once construction is completed in the top five floors, current tenants will then be

moved to the newly

The High Rise Apartments are non-smoking, pet friendly, and within walking distance from numerous restaurants, retail stores, and entertainment venues. In addition to operating the High Rise Apartments, Great Bend Housing Authority also operates a Section 8 voucher program for people that want to live elsewhere

in the City of Great Bend. For anyone wanting to learn more about the High Rise Apartments, the Section 8 voucher program, or the qualifications for each program, more information can be found on the organization's website at [www.gbhaks.com](http://www.gbhaks.com).



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The Mission of Rosewood ecycle is to provide work-related training and employment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities.

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# HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN JULY

- 1...Chamber Coffee: T & L Fireworks: 159 N US-281 Hwy, Great Bend. Doors open 9am, program 9:30am**  
 1...City Band Concert: Jack Kilby Square. Program begins at 7:00pm to 8:00pm.  
 2...Batcats vs Cheney Diamond Dawgs: Al Burns Memorial Field. Game starts at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.  
 3...Batcats vs Cheney Diamond Dawgs: Al Burns Memorial Field. Game starts at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.  
**4...Independence Day**  
 7...Back Yard Bible Blast: Foundry Church 5401 Broadway Ave, Great Bend. 10am - 12:30pm, PreK-12th Grades.  
**8...Business Appreciation Breakfast: Barton County Fair 30th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting, 7:30am to 9am**  
 8... Farmers Bank & Trust family-owned for 50 years Lunch, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Prince of Peace Parrish Center  
 11...Batcats vs Derby Twins: Al Burns Memorial Field. Game starts at 3:00 to 5:00pm.  
 12...Great Bend Rotary Club, noon Great Bend Public Library basement, KARL: Extraordinary Leadership for Extraordinary Times - For details 620.285.8709  
 13...KSN Summer Road Trip, 11:30 - 1pm, Jack Kilby Square  
 13...Sew Secret Fox Coffee Cozy: Great Bend Public Library, Program begins at 6:15pm to 7:15pm.  
 13...Batcats vs Derby Twins: Al Burns Memorial Field. Game starts at 7:00pm to 9:00pm.  
 14...Back Yard Bible Blast: Foundry Church 541 Broadway Ave, Great Bend. 10:00am - 12:30pm, PreK-12th Grades  
**14...Employer Round Table: Workforce the Next 10 Years & How to Thrive! With Mike Henke, The Page Banquet Room, 11:00am - 1:00pm. Cost is \$35.00 for Chamber Members**  
 15...Summer Sidewalk Sale: Jack Kilby Square, Starts at 8:00am  
 15... Infantry Band Community Concert, 7 pm - 8 p, Jack Kilby Square  
 15...Free Outdoor Movie & Fire Dept Meet & Greet, Jack Kilby Square  
**15...Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Azria Health Great Bend, 1560 K96 Hwy Great Bend, 9 am**  
**15...Chamber Coffee: Iron Therapy Training, Anytime Fitness, 3721 10th St. Doors open 9am, program 9:30am**  
 16...Back Yard Bible Blast: Foundry Church 541 Broadway Ave, Great Bend. 10:00am - 12:30pm, PreK-12th Grades  
 17...Reduced Cost Lab Fair: Clara Barton Hospital. 7:00am - 9:00am  
 17...Dilly & Doc Pop-Up Market, 1119 Main St, 10 am - 4 pm  
 19...Batcats vs Andale Warhawks: Al Burns Memorial Field. Game starts at 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
 20...Central Kansas Partnership Meeting: Barton County Courthouse, 11:00am - 12:00pm.  
 20...Open Book Club: Great Bend Public Library, 7:00pm - 8:00pm  
 21...Stuff the Bus: Multiple Locations 10:00am - 6:00pm [www.uwck.org](http://www.uwck.org)  
 21...Back Yard Bible Blast: Foundry Church 541 Broadway Ave, Great Bend. 10:00am - 12:30pm, PreK-12th Grades  
 22...Discovery Camp II: Ks Wetlands Ed. Center, Program begins at 9:00am to 3:00pm, Cost is \$20.00.  
**22...Chamber Ribbon Cutting: GTR Good Times Roll, Great Bend Events Center 3111 10th St., 9am**  
**22...Chamber Coffee: Barton Community College Foundation, Best Western Courtyard, 2920 10th St. Doors open at 9am, program at 9:30 am.**  
**22...Chamber Night at the Bat Cats, Al Burns Field. Doors open at 6:30pm Game starts at 7:00pm, BBQ meal for the first 100 fans!**  
 23...Batcats vs Haysville Aviators: Al Burns Memorial Field. Game starts at 7:00pm - 9:00pm  
 23...Family Movie: Great Bend Public Library. Program begins at 8:30 - 10:30pm  
 24...Batcats vs Haysville Aviators: Al Burns Memorial Field. Game starts at 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
**24...Barton County Young Professionals Mixer, hosted by DAT Fitness, 926 South Main, 6 pm - 8 pm**  
 25...Batcats vs Haysville Aviators: Al Burns Memorial Field. Game starts at 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
**26...Chamber Chat - What's Up Great Bend: 2:00pm - 2:30pm**  
 28...Back Yard Bible Blast: Foundry Church 541 Broadway Ave, Great Bend. 10:00am - 12:30pm, PreK-12th Grades  
**29...Chamber Ribbon Cutting:**  
**29...Chamber Coffee: Eagle Communications/Eagle Radio, 1200 Baker, Doors open at 9am, programs at 9:30 am.**  
 30...SRCA Test & Tune: SRCA Dragstrip  
 30...Harry Potter Fantastic Beasts: Great Bend Public Library. Program begins at 7:00pm - 8:30pm  
 31...Summit Points Race #4 King of the Track Wally Race: SRCA Dragstrip

## Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St, 6:30pm  
 Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Mon., Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am  
 Great Bend Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market: Great Bend Courthouse Square. Thursdays 4:00pm to 7:00pm.  
 Visit [greatbend.org/events/calendar](http://greatbend.org/events/calendar) for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!

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

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## Adams Brown Wins Two Awards at Accounting Marketing Summit



Adams Brown, Strategic Allies and CPAs, received two national awards during the recent Association for Accounting Marketing (AAM) Summit.

One award was for integrated branding programs and recognized the firm's recent rebrand and above+beyond tagline showcasing its commitment to client service. The second award was in the collateral and content marketing category and recognized the firm's new brochure that emphasizes how the firm delivers on its brand promise.

Twenty-five total awards were presented during AAM's Marketing Achievement Awards (AAM-MAA) ceremony in categories including advertising, branding, business development, collateral and content marketing, events, PR campaigns, videography, website, and more. Experts in marketing, advertising, communications and professional services judged more than 92 entries from firms across the nation. The winning firms were recognized for accomplishing a specific goal or objective, strategic execution of the project, and measurable results.

The Association for Accounting Marketing (AAM) is a national trade association and one-of-a-kind network of marketing, business development and growth strategists. The association was formed in 1989 to provide education, community and resources for accounting firms, CPAs, consulting firms and sales professionals, partners, firm administrators and representatives of businesses offering products and services designed for the accounting industry and marketing professionals. AAM is dedicated to promoting excellence and elevating the professional stature of marketing, business development and other practice growth professionals at all career levels by directly impacting their professional development and careers through education, networking and thought leadership to grow people and accounting practices. Learn more about AAM at [www.accountingmarketing.org](http://www.accountingmarketing.org).



# Our Community Connected

## REFLECTING ON GB RADIO, RANDY GOERING'S UPCOMING RETIREMENT FROM RADIO, AND HOW RADIO CONNECTS US ALL

Randy Goering's job titles over the years illustrate the concept of the well-rounded radio-industry employee, which means he was a perfect fit for Eagle Media Center, 1200 Baker.

Goering has been the sales manager, sports director and an on-air personality. He currently is market manager, a title he will hold until Aug. 6 - retirement day.

"That is the day we are giving away the Chevy Equinox," Goering explained. "I want to see this through. I want to hand over the keys to the winner and then hand over the keys to my office to the new market manager."

Matt Althouse has accepted this position and will take the reins when Goering leaves.

Goering began his Great Bend radio career in 1984 at KVGB AM & FM. Then he went to KHOK in 1990 and in 1995

KHOK acquired both KVGBs.

"Eagle Communications is a great company to work for; we have great people who are well-rounded and can perform multiple jobs," Goering said. "I also like the company's footprint, with properties in Kansas, Nebraska and St. Joseph, Mo.

"If we need help, I can call managers at any station in our Midwest market area. They know what I am talking about. It is not like I am calling someone in New York City. It is a great community of peers."

The biggest benefit of an Eagle job is the Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), Goering noted.

"I tell everyone who interviews for a job that 'if you are coming here as just a stepping stone, ESOP is not all that important. But if you want a career, it is the biggest benefit you can find.'"

The late Bob and Pat Schmidt started the company, announcing in

the mid-1990s they wanted to sell. "They sold it to the people who made it profitable for them," Goering said. "Employees receive shares in the company every year as part of their regular compensation."

In this situation, "you say to yourself that 'I will do whatever I can to make this an even better, more profitable company.' It is a real incentive. We are very thankful every quarter," Goering laughed.





In addition, if an employee chooses to contribute to a 401-k, Eagle will add a percentage as a match. Goering, who began

his career in 1974, has seen many changes in the radio business and noted a few in particular.

“In the past, we always needed to have a person onsite,” Goering recalled. “Now, because of technology, stations can be up and running with no one in the building.”

Another big change was the computerization of much of Eagle’s programming. “There are no compact discs or LPs here anymore. The programming is ready for us and on-air talent fills the gaps,” Goering explained.

Also, Goering noted that when he was at KHOK only, there were 12 employees. Now there are 15 for all four stations

– KHOK, both KVGBs and KBGL. Eagle operates KBGL but doesn’t own it.

During the last decade or so, Eagle’s digital products have opened up new doors. These include website development and Google products that can, for example, “help us find key words so that your company’s name can be at the top of the list when someone conducts a web search.”

Eagle also uses Geofencing on behalf of its clients. This sends information about a local business to a patron of a similar local business.

“We can also place ads on channels that are streaming. This is a huge growth area,” Goering noted. “Our goal has been to have radio-station billings be comparable to digital billing; we have been successful. Digital opens a whole new realm of possibilities.”

Throughout Goering’s tenure “Great Bend has been a real good location. Even during the pandemic, we remained profitable, with no furloughs or layoffs. Our stability has been strong in an industry that has a lot of turnover.”

The staff continued to

deliver local and national news, the community events calendar and various promotions. Goering did acknowledge that it is a relief to offer live remotes again.

“Our motto is “Our Community Connected,” Goering mentioned. “This has been very important to me over the years. In everything we do, we focus on how it connects our community. We want Eagle to be the heartbeat of the communities we serve.”

But come Aug. 6, Goering will take a few months to unwind even though “my wife and daughter have some honey-do projects in mind,” he smiled. “Maybe we’ll do a little traveling, weekend getaways. I don’t want to spend all my time playing disc golf and solving Sudoku puzzles, though I do intend to do some of both.”

At first, Goering thought he wanted to have things lined up and know in advance what he will be doing. “But now I am more at peace with just stepping back and relaxing at first.”



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## Ribbon Cuttings!

### Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Aster Estates Grand Opening with a Ribbon Cutting



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador's Club hosted a Chamber Coffee and Ribbon Cutting at Aster Estates, a new Home Plus facility that opened this spring. With three employees and a growing list of residents, the senior living facility can accommodate up to seven residents at a time. "Home plus is a senior living option that many people are not familiar with," says Pam Lewis, Director. "But it's a quickly growing industry for many reasons. We are proud to bring this new option to the Great Bend area."

For anyone with a loved one needing a better quality of life for the same price as a nursing home, the friendly staff at Aster Estates can schedule a private tour or visit by phone to determine if Home Plus is the right fit. Visit [www.asterestates.com](http://www.asterestates.com), or call 620-617-4281 for more information.

### Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Youth Core Ministries/Tropical Sno with a Ribbon Cutting



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador's Club hosted a Ribbon Cutting at Tropical Sno, at the corner of Washington and 10th Street. Youth Core Ministries opened the Tropical Sno Shaved Ice trailer a month ago. "In 17 days in the month of May we served close to 1,000 servings of our shaved ice products. So, we serve hundreds of customers., "said Steve Hopkins, Director of Core Life Great Bend. Steve went on to say that 100% of all proceeds go to support our youth ministry, Core Life Great Bend. Core Life Great Bend is a youth outreach program here in Barton County.

Come by the trailer at the corner of 10th and Washington, find them on Facebook, or reach out to Steve Hopkins on his phone (316) 347-5825. Summer hours are Monday through Saturday from 1 pm to 9 pm.



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## Wells earns Elite-Level Recognition

President & CEO M. Ryan Forman of Coldwell Banker Real Estate congratulates Megan Well of Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate on her exceptional sales performance that has earned her an elite-level recognition and ranks among the top Coldwell Banker independent sales professionals across the globe. We're excited and proud to present to her the Coldwell Banker International President's Elite Award. This remarkable accomplishment is well deserved. Her expertise, market knowledge and dedication to clients, separates her from her peers and has helped her earn her place among the top agents company wide.

Megan has been involved as a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, serves on the CASA Chocolate Auction committee is involved in other community activities and loves to promote Great Bend. Glenna Achatz and Kim Vink, brokers of Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate congratulate her on her exceptional performance which exemplifies the best and the brightest in real estate today. She is dedicated to being a trusted real estate advisor to her customers, lenders and other real estate industry professionals. Achatz and Vink applaud her on her natural ability to communicate with her customers helping them find their dream home.



Megan Wells



## New Hires:

### Beck brings experience to Pawnee Valley Campus Emergency Department

Angela Beck became familiar with The University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus during her final clinical rotation and is now caring for patients there.

Beck recently joined the staff in the hospital's Emergency Department (ED) as an advanced practice registered nurse.

In her new position, Beck manages health conditions and coordinates patient care in the ED.

"I provide medical and emergency interventions based on the healthcare needs of each patient," she commented. "I also prescribe and monitor medications administered to patients."

Beck brings more than 11 years of ED experience to Pawnee Valley Campus.

The advanced practice registered nurse is certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Basic Life Support, Trauma Nursing Core Course and Pediatric Advanced Life Support.



Angela Beck, APRN

### Wilhite accepts admissions manager position at Pawnee Valley Campus

A long-time Larned resident recently was appointed to the position of admissions manager at The University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus.

In her new role, Angela Wilhite supervises the admissions/registration process at the hospital.

In addition to her new duties, Wilhite assists the hospital's Auxiliary and serves on the Patient Family Advisory Council and Culture Committee.

Prior to joining the Pawnee Valley Campus staff, Wilhite worked at Hays Medical Center for about a year in Human Resources. She served as the benefit coordinator and analyst in that department.

Other previous employment includes six years in long-term care, six years at Larned State Hospital and three years at a medical staffing agency.

Wilhite and her husband, Chris, have four children and three grandchildren.



Angela Wilhite

## Clara Barton begins construction of a new Great Bend clinic



It should take about a year to build the new Clara Barton Medical Clinic in Great Bend. A groundbreaking ceremony was held to mark the beginning of construction on the facility that will be located just south of the intersection of 10th and McKinley Streets. Clara Barton Foundation Director Michelle Moshier said the new building will offer more health care for people in Great Bend. Moshier said progress is being made in furnishing the clinic. The foundation created an adopt-a-room campaign to pay for exam tables, patient chairs, and medical devices. The Great Bend clinic's grand opening is expected to take place next spring.

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# GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## FEATURED AMBASSADOR

*Sarah Panning*

*Nex-Tech/  
MPIRE Realty Group*



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

I am born and raised a farm kid here in rural Great Bend! We still spend plenty of time at my parent's farm on the weekends. I did attend college at FHSU, received my degree in beerology and Jagermeister.....then decided it was time to return home, you know, to share what I had all learned. My first job out of college was with the Great Bend Coop at Ampride. That is where I learned that customer service is something I'm really good at. From there I eventually ended up at Nex-tech, which is where most of you know me from. I love the hometown pride you can find here. You can feel the refreshing change that is happening around Barton County. There isn't any other place I would want to raise my 3 girls.

**Where do you work and what do you do there?**

My Nex-tech job consists of lots of things through the day. Turning phones off and on to make them work, and waiving magic wands over them to fix whatever issues they are having. Jk, jk. I can help you upgrade to that latest phone, get some internet hooked up, or take care of whatever business needs you have! And at MPIRE Realty, well I hustle houses and real estate So if you are in the market to buy or sell, please contact me at 6206395533! :) Either way, customer service is my jam! I would be glad to help you at either job of mine.

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

My dream job would be a radio or event DJ....or to own a liquor store. I'm a big fan of the Twilight Series. I'm a huge baby when it comes to spicy food. Piña Colodas are my favorite fruity drink.

**What energizes you and brings you excitement?**

The ladies in my life are my inspiration! My 3 littles keep me on my toes. Paisley is 6 and has a full schedule of her own. Dance, sports, and church activities keep her on the go! Paxtynn is 2 and is my wild child, hands down. She will be every bit of payback for my wild days. Paitynn is 10 months and already walking....yes, its true! She will forever be my baby and the end of my girl circus. My Bonus daughters are more help than I could ever thank them for. Kailee is 20 with her own 2 little people, Brysten and Brynleigh. Jaelynn is 18 and has her own little guy on the way come November. If that's not enough to inspire a person, I don't know what is!

**At what job, would you be terrible?**

I'm sure there is a long list of jobs that I would be terrible at. Anything along the lines of having to be quiet all day, sit in a cubicle (oh the CPI days), work from home, work by myself, or not interact with people would be a long day at the office for me!

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

I have been an ambassador for a long time! I was one for 6 years, took a year off (I think it's in the rules you have to) then was voted back in because the group just couldn't go on with out me, or something like that! I believe I'm on year 2 of round 2. I do love my time as an ambassador though. Having the chance to chat with others about the Chamber and see you all at weekly coffees adds an extra perk to my day!

**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 in a number of ways. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact Lee Ann June at the Chamber office, 620-792-2401, marketing@greatbend.org, or www.greatbend.org/ambassadors

## Air Conditioners are Latest to be in Short Supply Due to the Pandemic



The pandemic has caused many items to be in short stock through the past year – air conditioners are next on that list. Between rising demand caused by hot temperatures and a nationwide shortage, replacing your air conditioner or finding replacement parts might prove more difficult than imagined.

“Our suppliers gave us a heads up about a potential shortage, which allowed us to increase our stock at the beginning of the summer,” Barry Stalcup, owner of Comfort Pro said. “We invested in a large stock of all size units to try and minimize the impact of this shortage on our communities.”

Heating and air companies are having to wait weeks to months in order to get new air conditioners and parts in from their suppliers.

“Our best recommendation is to not wait until there is an issue to have your air conditioner looked at,” Stalcup said. “If we can identify a problem before your entire system shuts down, that saves you from being without air during these 100° days.”

In addition to typical demand for new air conditioners, the 2020 R22 Freon phase out has homeowners with

older units seeking to upgrade due to increased costs of Freon.

“Charging your system with freon is going to continue to increase as freon becomes harder and harder to come by,” Stalcup said. “We have seen a lot of homeowners with these older systems decide to upgrade to a new system rather than pay for a freon recharge. That has demand even higher than originally forecasted.”

Multiple factors have caused a nationwide shortage for air conditioners and replacement parts. According to industry experts, getting your air conditioned checked out before it goes out is the best way to keep your family from being impacted by these shortages.

Comfort Pro is a locally-owned and operated heating and air company with locations in Great Bend, Larned and Russell. They specialize in heating, cooling, plumbing and air quality. With 25 trucks serving the area, they are the largest provider in Central Kansas and boast the fastest turnaround times. Learn more about Comfort Pro on their website at [www.comfortproks.com](http://www.comfortproks.com) or call at 1-800-937-3030.

## United Way Stuff the Bus Gearing Up



United Way of Central Kansas is gearing up for their annual Stuff the Bus initiative, to be held this year on July 21st across Barton County.

UWCK Community Partners and volunteers will be in Hoisington, Ellinwood, and Great Bend collecting items for our 22 Community Partners. These items are used to fill backpacks for students, fill food shortages for families, and provide our Partners with the supplies they need to do their work.

### What UWCK is requesting:

- School supplies to fill backpacks and stock classrooms
- Cleaning supplies
- Personal Hygiene products
- Infant/Child care basics
- Non-perishable snacks/drinks
- Senior products

The items requested are used to stock backpacks for students in need, items for the non-food pantry at Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, toiletry supplies for Family Crisis Center, as well as supplies for the individual agencies to use throughout the year to help keep expenses down. School supplies donated will not only support local backpack programs, but also be distributed to the school districts to have additional supplies on hand throughout the year.

If you would like to help Stuff the Bus, come out and see the volunteers on July 21st.

- In Great Bend–Wal Mart and both Dillons locations from 10:00–6:00
- In Hoisington–Town & Country Supermarket and Dollar General from 10:00–6:00
- In Ellinwood–Ellinwood Family Foods and Dollar General from 5:00–7:00

We also encourage businesses to collect items beforehand and deliver them the day of the event for a photo op with our amazing volunteers. For more information, follow United Way of Central Kansas on Facebook, check out our website, [www.uwck.org](http://www.uwck.org), or give us a call at 620-792-2403.

## Rotary hosts Extraordinary program

“KARL: Extraordinary Leadership for Extraordinary Times” will be the PowerPoint presentation of Jill Zimmerman and Susan Sankey, president and vice president of Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership, at the Monday noon, July 12 meeting of the Great Bend Rotary Club in the basement of the Great Bend Public Library.

The public is invited. For details please contact Lee Musil, program co-chairman, at 620.285.8709



Susan Sankey

Jill Zimmerman



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Dr. Curt Thompson, Interventional Radiologist  
Natalie Williams, PA, Pulmonology

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Ellinwood Medical Clinic / 611 N. Main  
Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Cardiologist

### HOISINGTON:

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# CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Every Thursday | Doors Open at 9am | Program at 9:30am

Tune in on Facebook or YouTube for Virtual Coffees

July 1, 2021

## T & L FIREWORKS

159 North 281 HWY | Great Bend

2021 will be served by the 1st and 2nd generations at the main location at 159 North 281 HWY, just ¼ mile north of 24th and Main St, the huge white & blue superstore, while the 3rd generation is proud to serve the community at their air-conditioned location at 5215 West 10th St, just west of Playa Azul. T & L Fireworks will be open June 27th through July 4th.

July 8, 2021

## BARTON COUNTY FAIR

Barton County Fair Grounds | Great Bend Expo II Complex

The Barton County Fair is dedicated to the enhancement of Agriculture and the Youth of Barton County and the surrounding area, while providing opportunities for all people to gain a sense of pride in their community. *Business Appreciation Breakfast & Barton County Fair 30th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting, 7:30 am to 9:00 am. Program is at 8:30 am with the Ribbon Cutting to follow immediately.*

July 15, 2021

## IRON THERAPY FITNESS

Anytime Fitness | 3721 10th St | Great Bend

At Iron Therapy Training, they offer customized coaching, tailored fitness plans, and a private environment where you can thrive from day one. Iron Therapy Fitness Training is perfect for: Fitness beginners searching for weight loss and improved health. Busy professionals who wish to implement healthy lifestyle habits. Men and women looking for entire lifestyle transformations. Anyone looking for healthy, sustainable results!

July 22, 2021

## BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Best Western Courtyard | 2920 10th St. | Great Bend

The Barton Community College Foundation was established in 1967. The original intent of the founding members of the board of directors was to serve as the catalyst to raise the funding necessary for the construction of the college. Once the construction was complete the focus of the foundation evolved into raising private sector funds to support all academic programs, enhancements and initiatives of the college to directly benefit both the students and the citizens of the communities it serves.

July 29, 2021

## EAGLE RADIO

1200 Baker | Great Bend

Eagle Communications strives to be the leader in economic revitalization in the rural American communities they serve, dedicated to bringing relevant information, entertainment and business services to the businesses and families therein. They are committed to enhancing the quality of life by providing services and leveraging partnerships.

August 5, 2021

## URBAN DEFENSE DYNAMIC

916 Williams | Great Bend

UDD is here to help you get peace of mind for your personal safety, home or business through training and programs. They offer Conceal Carry, Basic to advance weapons training courses and can tailor a program to fit your needs.



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**JULY  
22,  
2021**

For every Blizzard we sell on July 22, we will make a donation to Children's Miracle Network. Every cent we raise will stay in Kansas to help local kids. Last year we set a new record with 1,113 Blizzards! We challenged you to help us sell over 1,000 and you came through, so we doubled our donation to CMN. Same bet this time, but we're setting the bar at 1,300. Spread the word, nag your boss, load up on Blizzard gift certificates—whatever it takes to win!

For large orders we are requesting that you use the form on the flip side and submit it to us by Wednesday, July 21st. This is Kansas and we're familiar with the weather. This method allows us to give you a quality product that won't be melted by the time you're ready to eat it. It also helps our machines handle the extra load.

We're able to sell gift certificates on that day that can be redeemed at a later date. This is handy for those businesses that have people in and out all day, or can't have treats while at work. They can also be saved for employee perks or future events where prizes are awarded. All sales that day count, and every dollar we make goes straight to our kids in need.

Our phone is 620-793-8961 and the CMN email is [lunsforddqcakes@yahoo.com](mailto:lunsforddqcakes@yahoo.com). Please help us to help Kansas kids!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pick up Time: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>* All Prices tax included</b>	Mini \$3.02 #	Small \$3.67 #	Medium \$4.10 #	Large \$4.54 #
1. Animal Cookie				
2. Banana Split				
3. Brownie Batter				
4. Brownie Dough				
5. Butterfinger				
6. Cherry Cheesecake				
7. Chocolate Dip Cherry				
8. Chocolate Dip Strawberry				
9. Cookie Dough				
10. Cotton Candy				
11. Drumstick				
12. Girl Scout Mint				
13. Hawaiian				
14. Heath				
15. M&M				
16. Oreo				
17. Pecan Cluster				
18. Raspberry Bliss				
19. Reese's PB Cup				
20. Snickers				
21. Strawberry Cheesecake				
22. Xtreme				
<b>Total #</b>				

# Workforce the Next 10 Years & How to Thrive!

*with Mike Henke*

**The Workforce Crisis that we face will be more challenging in the future, but there are solutions for both Recruiting and Retention that will work for organizations in any industry, and for companies both large and small. Hear what we can do to best utilize our current workforce, how to be proactive for the future success of your organization, and how we can adapt to attract and develop quality talent in the future! We all know the current challenges, so this workshop is focused on strategies that are easy to implement, cost little or no money, and can guarantee that you are the “Cool Place to Work” moving forward!**



## *Mike Henke bio:*

**Mike Henke is a national speaker who has a passion for building strong teams and has innovative solutions that have helped numerous organizations that are outside of metro areas. Mike has created over 50 innovative training programs, and his upbeat, interactive style gets great reviews, but also provides the solutions to having a Winning Workplace Culture!**



**Register by July 5th | [www.greatbend.org/eventregistration](http://www.greatbend.org/eventregistration)**

**July 14th | 11 am - 1 pm**

**The Page Meeting Room | Lunch Included**

**\$35 for  
Chamber  
Members  
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Member**



# CHAMBER NIGHT



at the

# BAT CATS

**THURS  
JULY 22  
2021**

**GATES OPEN @ 6:30 PM  
FIRST PITCH @ 7:00 PM  
FREE ADMISSION**

*Thank You to Our Sponsors:*



Mark your calendars! The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, along with Office Products, Inc., Joiner Construction and Z's Liquor, invite you to Chamber Night at the Bat Cats! This is a family-friendly event and is FREE to attend! Help us fill the stands at Al Burns Memorial Field, and cheer on the home team as they take on the Dodge City A's. BBQ meal to the first 150 starting at 6:30p.m. And \$1 Beer!

## BCYP & DAT FITNESS

# Mixer

**JULY 24 | 6 - 8 PM**



Join BCYP July 24 at DAT Fitness for the first Networking Mixer of 2021! Stay tuned for further details. @bartonyp on Facebook  
About the Sponsor: DAT Fitness is an elite personal training and group fitness gym founded by David and Rebecca Tudor. They offer unlimited fitness sessions, nutrition counseling, and more to help you reach your fitness goals. They create and maintain healthy relationships in a variety of settings. David and Rebecca are passionate about helping people achieve their health and fitness goals.