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# Outlook

## Business Journal

[www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org)

*A Monthly Publication of the Great Bend Chamber  
of Commerce and Economic Development*

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## KANSAS... AT YOUR SERVICE! Free Hospitality Training Now Available

*Contributed by Cris Collier, President of Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau*

**K**ansas At Your Service is the name of a new online customer service training developed by the Tourism Division of Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. Customer service training is an important aspect of all businesses that operate within the state of Kansas. There has been a need for the development of a consistent and accessible program for some time. Finally it's here ....and it's free.

The *Kansas At Your Service* program is a statewide customer service training certification program created to support the development of improved customer relations regardless of the type of business. It provides statewide standardized customer service training, emphasizes the importance of quality service in the tourism industry, and equips employees statewide with tools and resources to better serve their customers.

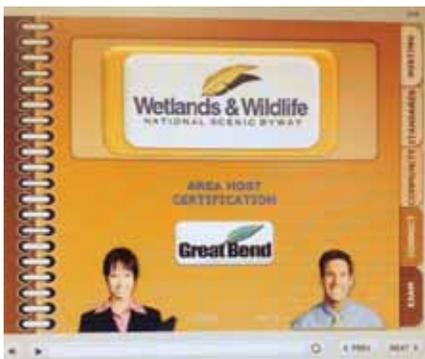
The web-based certification training (available in both English & Spanish) is available at no charge. After completing the *Kansas At Your Service* online program graduates can print out a personalized certificate. These certificates will soon be recognized by employers throughout the state as a symbol of expertise in service and knowledge of the key success factors in Kansas' business and tourism industry.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism collaborated with Peter Starks of the Red Global Group, LLC to create motivating yet common sense training modules. The behavioral vignettes deal with those everyday "transactions" which either make or break an otherwise memorable experience. The modules bring it home, demonstrating that service, attitude, attention and sincerity make the difference.

Once the *Kansas At Your Service* hospitality course is completed, the user will be able to move onto the regional destination courses (where a completion certificate will also be available). The initial two regions offered are for the community of Manhattan and the Kansas Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway.

The Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau along with the Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau are the two destinations that have been instrumental in getting this program off the ground. They first approached the state tourism division over two years ago with the idea for development of this online course. Tourism professional across the state were concerned that many front line service personnel were not familiar enough with the assets of their own community to be able to answer the question...."What's there to do here?"

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1125 Williams,  
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Fax: 620-792-2404

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**KANSAS... AT YOUR SERVICE!**  
**Free Hospitality Training Now Available**

This motivated these two communities into partnership with the state tourism office. They wanted to make sure that good customer service training was available to all businesses along with some regional host training. At least four other regions of Kansas are now in line to develop the regional host portion for their communities and area.

Loren Unruh, hotel and restaurant owner in Great Bend, KS and Chairman of the Great Bend CVB Board of Directors is a firm supporter of the program. He states that, "The development of this online customer service and regional host training is certainly one of the greatest accomplishments by the Kansas tourism industry. It will be a valuable resource for all Kansas businesses and educational facilities."

This program is designed so that students can also take and graduate from this program. Employers looking to hire students will be delighted to see a copy of their certificates attached to job applications.

Kansas' tourism industry is the state's 3rd top employer and is a leading contributor to Kansas' great way of life. It encompasses careers in many fields including hotels, restaurants, museums, performing arts centers, convention centers, retail stores, campgrounds, state parks, national parks, visitor attractions, wineries, tour operators and many, many more tourism professions. The continued success of the state's tourism industry directly depends on first class service that will make our visitors' experience memorable. That's where Kansas At Your Service comes in. The Kansas At Your Service system of customer service will provide the type of service that will keep visitors coming back to Kansas and our regions visit after visit.

For more information visit: [www.KansasAtYourService.com](http://www.KansasAtYourService.com) or contact the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau at 620-792-2750, e-mail: [cvb@visitgreatbend.com](mailto:cvb@visitgreatbend.com)

**Human Resources Roundtable Luncheon October 28th**  
**Topic: "Ideas for Corporate Events & Parties"**

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development would like to invite you to participate in our quarterly Human Resources Roundtable Luncheons that give employers and leaders in the business community an opportunity to keep up with trends and developments in the Human Resources industry. The next quarterly Human Resources Roundtable Luncheon will take place Tuesday, October 28th at 11:30 a.m. in the meeting room at The Page. The luncheon will feature a presentation from Certified Meeting Planner Andrea Bauer on corporate event planning. There will be a buffet-style lunch for \$15.00 per person (due on the day of the seminar in cash or check), which includes a choice of tea or water and your gratuity. If you are planning to attend the seminar, please register online at [www.greatbend.org.ChamberEvents.aspx](http://www.greatbend.org.ChamberEvents.aspx) by Monday, October 27th.



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## Plains State Bank Opens New Loan Production Office in Great Bend

Plains State Bank opened a Loan Production Office located at 2700 10th Street Great Bend, Kansas on August 25th according to D. Gene Dikeman, President and CEO. Joining Plains State Bank in Great Bend are local bankers Christy Kuhn, Lindsay Schartz, and Sarah Cassity.



“Our management team brings over 90 years of highly successful banking experience. Professionalism, outstanding banking skills, integrity and the highest regard for customer service is what this group has for the community. We are investing in this market because we believe in the people and the businesses”, stated Dikeman.

According to Dikeman, the Loan Production Office business model is not new to the State of Kansas. However, several technological advances such as Intelligent ATMs have created cost reduction opportunities that will be passed on to customers via more advantageous loan and deposit rates that will be hard to beat. “We focus on ‘Financing your Future’ with efficient processes and good old fashioned Kansas customer service,” Dikeman says.

Kuhn comes to the bank as the Executive Vice President of Corporate Management and Strategic Development. Kuhn has 27 years of banking experience in the community. Kuhn attended the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Schartz brings 17 years of experience in managing bank operations, bank regulatory compliance, internal audit and branch management. Schartz holds the title of Senior Vice President Director of Risk Management and Operations. Schartz is a graduate of Barton Community College and the Kansas Bankers Association Schools of Banking Compliance.

Cassity joined the bank with 8 years of banking expertise. She serves as Vice President, Director of Human Resources and Digital Media Marketing. Cassity is a Graduate of Friends University and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin – Madison specializing in Human Resource Management.

The Plains State Bank was established in 1906 by the Collingwood Family. The bank prides itself on 108 years of community banking in rural America. The Plains State Bank provides a range of agricultural, commercial and consumer banking services for Kansas communities. Full service banking locations are available at the corporate office in Plains, Kansas and branch location in Lakin, Kansas.

Plains State Bank currently has two loan production offices now located in Great Bend, Kansas and Oakley, Kansas.

For more information, visit [www.plainsstatebank.com](http://www.plainsstatebank.com).

## Tune in to ChamberConnect Radio Show Oct. 2

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 Mawhrter. The October edition of ChamberConnect will air Thursday, October 2nd at 11:35 a.m. This month’s show will be centered around the upcoming programs and services available to members of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development, including the Marketing Seminar October 16th, the Young Professionals’ Fall Fest October 12th, and the HR Roundtable Seminar October 28th.



## Sign Up Online for Our Chamber Marketing Seminar October 16th

All local businesses are invited to attend an informational seminar on Wednesday, October 15th 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, register online at [www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx](http://www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx).

## Don't Miss 4 Corners Oktoberfest Oct. 7

You're invited to the 24th Annual Four Corners Oktoberfest!

Join us for a Business After Hours on Tuesday, October 7th from 5-8 p.m. under the awning at 16th & Main for free bratwurst, beer & all the fixings!



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## Prairie Godmothers to Host First Ever Bag Lady Brunch October 18th



The Golden Belt Community Foundation and its Prairie Godmothers Advisory Committee would like to invite all ladies in Central Kansas to attend the first ever Bag Lady Brunch on Saturday, October 18th at 10 a.m. in the Courtyard at the Best Western Angus Inn, 2920 10th Street.

This event is designed to raise awareness and funds for the Prairie Godmother Funds at the foundation, and update its current and new donors on the grants that have been awarded since the project's inception in October 2013. Ladies can look forward to a casual brunch, mimosas, silent and live auction items, an engaging program, and social networking.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available for purchase at the Golden Belt Community Foundation office, 1307 Williams in Great Bend. Seating is limited, so get your tickets early.

The Prairie Godmother Funds provide grants to improve the health and well-being of Barton County women by addressing critical needs not met by other community resources. Be sure to like "Prairie Godmothers" page on Facebook!

## AT&T Wireless & Internet Services Now Offered in Great Bend Store

RSW Group of Missouri recently expanded their communications and wireless franchise to include an AT&T authorized retail location at 3407 10th Street. Chamber ambassadors and staff members hosted a ribbon cutting in September.



## Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of September, the Barton County Young Professionals group was busier than ever before! The month began with an outdoor family movie on September 5th sponsored by the City of Great Bend. Despite cooler weather, the event was a huge success with lots of families gathering to watch family favorite "The Goonies" in Jack Kilby Square.

Just a few days later, the final Personal Development Luncheon of the year was held September 9th at Pizza Hut. Nearly 20 members gathered to hear local attorney Mark Rondeau give advice and pointers on Wills & Estates.

Then on September 20th, more than a dozen YP members stepped up to volunteer their time at the Big Bend Bike Rally & Hahn Brothers Supercross Shootout. The event attracted more than 2,800 people to the Expo Complex for all the motorcycle festivities, and the YP volunteers helped host the visitors at the entrance gate and the beer garden.

Closing out the busy month was the first ever "Future in Focus" leadership workshop on September 25th, where 12 YP members were asked to create personal and professional goals for the year 2020. The event was sponsored by The 10th Street Eyecare Center and facilitated by the Kansas Leadership Center.

Looking forward to the month of October, things will slow down slightly and take a turn to focus on the family. Fall Fest will be held Sunday, October 12th from 5-7 p.m. at Brining Farms. First Kansas Bank is sponsoring the event, and will provide free food, activities, hay rack rides, prizes, and more. RSVP's for this event are required by October 10th to bartonyp@gmail.com.

### 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 information or to join, email us at bartonyp@gmail.com. And be sure to join the group on Facebook!



### Want to Host a Young Professionals Event?

If your business is interested in hosting and/or sponsoring a Young Professionals event, the Steering Committee would love to hear from you. Submit your interest by emailing bartonyp@gmail.com. Sponsorships are available for mixers and family events.

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# Highlighted Events in October

View & post all your community events at [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org)!

- 1... Sunflower Diversified Hump Day Lunch Fundraiser, Sunflower Recycling Center, 5523 10th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 2... Chamber Coffee: Volunteers in Action, 1025 Main Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 2... Chamber Ambassador Club Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 12 p.m.
- 4... Great Bend Renaissance Fair, Brit Spaugh Park, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 4... Heartland Cancer Center Benefit Auction, Club at Stoneridge, 6 p.m.
- 4... Healing Hearts Ranch Rodeo Concert & Auction, Expo III Building, 6 p.m.
- 5... Shafer Art Gallery Opening Reception, 245 NE 30 Rd, 1-3 p.m.
- 5... Heartland Cancer Center Open House & Balloon Launch, 204 Cleveland, 1:30 p.m.
- 5... GBCT Auditions for "Beer for Breakfast", Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin, 2 p.m.
- 6... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 6... St. Rose Annual Golf Classic, Club at Stoneridge
- 6... Grief Support Group Meeting, GBHHH Conference Room, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 6... GBCT Auditions for "Beer for Breakfast", Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin, 7 p.m.
- 6... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 6... BCC Sneak Preview Concert, Fine Arts Auditorium, 245 NE 30 Rd, 7:30 p.m.
- 7... Business After Hours: Four Corners Oktoberfest, 16th & Main, 5-8 p.m.
- 8... Sunflower Diversified Hump Day Lunch Fundraiser, Sunflower Recycling Center, 5523 10th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 8... Hutchinson Clinic Lunch & Learn: What's New in Nutrition, 514 Cleveland, 12 p.m.
- 8... St. Rose ITV Presentation "Depression & Anxiety", 3515 Broadway, 3 p.m.
- 9... Chamber Coffee: Raymond James Financial, 1920 Main, 9:30 a.m.
- 9... Noon Lions Club Spaghetti Feed, Elks Lodge, 1120 Kansas, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
- 11... Hunter Appreciation Breakfast, KWEC, 592 NE Hwy 156, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- 11... Rolling Sculpture Car Show, Historical Society, 85 S. Hwy 281, 12-4 p.m.
- 12... Relay for Life Diva Day Out, Best Western Courtyard, 2920 10th, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 12... Young Professionals Fall Fest, Brining Farms, 131 SW 30 Ave, 5-7 p.m.
- 13... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 13... Grief Support Group Meeting, GBHHH Conference Room, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 15... Submission Deadline for November Outlook Business Journal
- 15... Sunflower Diversified Hump Day Lunch Fundraiser, Sunflower Recycling Center, 5523 10th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 16... Jack Kilby Science Day, Barton Community College, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- 16... Chamber Coffee: Barton County Historical Society, 85 S. Hwy 281, 9:30 a.m.
- 16... Night with Jungle Jack Hanna, BCC Fine Arts Auditorium (sold out)
- 17-18... SRCA Points Race #12, Great Bend Expo Complex
- 17... Movie with a Message "Amazing Grace", 3600 Broadway, 6:15 p.m.
- 18... Prairie Godmothers Bag Lady Brunch Fundraiser, Best Western Courtyard, 2920 10th, 10 a.m.
- 18... Craft Beer Festival, Legion Park in Ellinwood, 2-8 p.m.
- 19... KWEC Workshop "Colors of Nature", 592 NE 156 Hwy, 2-5 p.m.
- 20... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 20... Association of Churches Soup Supper, Prince of Peace Parrish Center, 4100 Broadway, 4:30-7 p.m.
- 20... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 22... Sunflower Diversified Hump Day Lunch Fundraiser, Sunflower Recycling Center, 5523 10th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 23... Chamber Coffee: Central Kansas Dream Center, 2100 Broadway, 9:30 a.m.
- 23... Ribbon Cutting: Central National Bank, 3503 10th (inside Walmart), 10 a.m.
- 23... Flyer Insert Deadline for November Outlook Business Journal
- 27... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 28... Human Resources Roundtable Luncheon, The Page, 2920 10th, 11:30 a.m.
- 28... WorkFit Demonstration, Front Door Facility, 1615 10th, 1-2:30 p.m.
- 28... KWEC Crane Viewing Tour, 592 NE Hwy 156, 5:30 p.m.
- 30... Chamber Coffee: Joiner Construction, 411 E. Santa Fe in Ellinwood, 9:30 a.m.
- 30... BCC Cohen Center History Snapshot, 245 NE 30 Rd, 2 p.m.
- 30... Student Music Recital, Morrison Chapel, 245 NE 30 Rd, 4 p.m.



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## Ambassador Profile - Regan Ochs

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 Big Bend Bike Rally. 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 work at Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chtd. on the Administration team as the HR/ Marketing Associate. My job has primarily three roles: conduct all recruitment efforts for staff and senior staff level accountants, serve as the overall coordinator and college recruiter for the firm's internship program, and manage all internal and external marketing initiatives. Essentially I work to staff all 13 offices with the most promising talent and to market ABBB in all ways.

### Educational Background

I grew up in Hoxie, Kansas before earning my Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Fort Hays State University in May 2013. Before moving to Great Bend shortly after graduation, I worked in the FHSU Department of Leadership Studies as the Student Marketing Coordinator.

### Community Involvement

What attracted me to Great Bend the most was my position at Adams Brown Beran & Ball, but also the opportunities to make a difference in the community, to network, and to gain leadership experience. I enjoy serving many organizations, including the Chamber, Prairie Godmothers, Barton County Young Professionals, and United Way. I am also involved at Prince of Peace Parish, where I lead the Dante Deo Catholic college ministry program.

### As an Ambassador

I have been a Chamber Ambassador since January of this year. What I enjoy most is the opportunity to meet people and volunteer for the Chamber at local events. I especially enjoy plugging other Young Professionals into the many organizations in Great Bend.

### Hobbies & Interesting Facts

In my free time, you will find me volunteering, running, reading, or working on my first house, which I just purchased this summer.

## Central Kansas Dream Center Update Funds Needed for Transportation

We want to share the excitement of what God is doing at the Central Kansas Dream Center (CKDC). Since we became the Dream Center in July of 2014, so much has happened. We have graduated 8 individuals from our 6-month men and women's discipleship program for individuals who are dealing with any kind of life controlling issue, using Teen Challenge curriculum along with other resources.

The Life Giving Center is our shelter for women or women with children who are in a state of homelessness. We are full and have a waiting list for the shelter side. We also have a soup kitchen that feeds anywhere from 35 to 80 meals a day depending on the time of the year which is currently open Monday through Friday with a vision of it being open 7 days a week in the future. We also have an assistance ministry for individuals who have received eviction notices or shut-off notices on their utilities or need a food basket. The Kingdom Klotset has free clothing, linens, household items and some furniture. We are in the process of opening a day program for homeless where they can come get their mail, have devotions and get support to apply for jobs, housing and to do laundry or take a hot shower. In the near future we also hope to start accepting women ages 18 to 21 in our residential program who have aged out of the foster care system with no support.

With all this being said, we have a huge need! We have transportation issues trying to get everyone to church on Sundays and Wednesdays along with other activities such as work study, jobs, and outreaches. We have been using the church's 15 passenger van but have out grown it which is a good problem to have. We are trying to raise the funds to complete the cost of purchasing a bus to better meet our needs. Our passion to do more outreach by taking food to the homeless and hurting when they cannot make it down town is super exciting to us because this bus will equip us to meet those needs along with the everyday needs of the ministry. The bus we are trying to purchase only has 48,000 miles and seats 20 people as is. With some adapting we could accommodate more and would like to be able to repaint it with the Dream Center logo in the future.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to do God's work at the Dream Center and if God lays it on your heart to help with the purchase of the bus and to get it ready for us to use you may make checks out to First Assembly of God and put in the memo 'DC bus'. Checks can be mailed to First Assembly of God, 601 Patton Road, Great Bend, KS 67530. The church will send a statement of your donation in January. For more details, call 620-282-4014. God bless you for your prayers!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Becker, Director  
Lisa Parr, Program Manager  
Randy Parr, Work Skills Manager



## Great Bend Recreation Commission Secures 2015 KSHSAA Baseball & Softball Tournaments

The Great Bend Recreation Commission recently received notice that it will be permitted to host next year's KSHSAA 2A-1A State Baseball Tournament May 28-20, 2015. This will follow the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Baseball and Softball Conference Tournament April 29-May 2, 2015. For more information, visit [www.greatbendrec.net](http://www.greatbendrec.net).

## Nex-Tech Wireless Now Offers iPhone 6 & iPhone 6 Plus

Nex-Tech Wireless recently announced it is now offering iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus, the biggest advancements in iPhone history. iPhone 6 will be available starting at \$149.99 for the 16GB model and iPhone 6 Plus will be available starting at \$249.99 for the 16GB model with a two-year agreement. Nex-Tech Wireless will allow iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus customers to connect to its fast 4G LTE network.



iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus are the biggest advancements in iPhone history, featuring two new models with stunning 4.7-inch and 5.5-inch Retina HD displays, and packed with innovative technologies in an all-new dramatically thin and seamless design that is still comfortable to hold and easy to use. Both models are better in every way and include: the Apple-designed A8 chip with second generation 64-bit desktop-class architecture for blazing fast performance and power efficiency; advanced iSight and FaceTime HD cameras; ultrafast wireless technologies; and Apple Pay, an easier way to simply and securely make payments with just the touch of a finger. For more information on iPhone, please visit: [www.apple.com/iphone](http://www.apple.com/iphone). For more information about Nex-Tech Wireless plans or the new iPhones, call 620-792-3908.

## Rosewood Services Riders Win 2nd World Championship



Nine Rosewood Ranch horse riders competed in the National Snaffle Bit Show at Ford Truck Arena in Tulsa, Oklahoma in August. For the second time in three years, Rosewood Ranch brought home a World Championship Trophy to central Kansas. "We are so proud of our riders," said executive director Tammy Hammond. "Seeing the dedication and hard work put in by the riders, staff, and many volunteers is humbling. It is an honor to be the only program in Kansas to earn a World

Championship. For our riders to accomplish this twice in three years is amazing."

In addition to the World Championship performance, Rosewood Ranch riders also earned a third-place trophy and they claimed seven more Top-10 finishes. Rosewood horses performing in the World Show were: Daisy (with riders Jamie Crone and Mary Minear), Dolly (Krystal Thorne and Shaun Ledesma), Moe (Robin Bethel and Chris Devine), Sheik (Jeremiah McCutchen and Josh Trimmer), Dottie (Charles Bortz). This year 14 horse handlers and volunteers traveled along with the nine Rosewood riders. Those individuals were Juan Bodine, Carolyn and George Devine, Herbie Douglass, Brian Freeman, Eric and Tammy Hammond, Debbie Larkin, Jennifer Stoddard, Melinda Suppes, Harold Thorne, Brett and Susan Swonger, and Terese Wilson. For more details, visit [www.rosewoodservices.com](http://www.rosewoodservices.com).

## Symmetry Massage Hosts Chamber Ribbon Cutting to Debut Therapeutic Services

Launching a new career after over a decade in the education system was no small decision. But Liz Bowman knew she wanted to help people relieve pain and discomfort through therapeutic massage. After pursuing the craft to help a loved one, she realized how much good it can do the body to experience a proper massage.

Bowman became a certified massage therapist at Colby Community College by logging over 500 hours of hands-on training. Shortly thereafter, she started offering evening and weekend appointments to a small client base. Word of mouth and social media buzz resulted in a client base that was expanding so rapidly, Bowman made the courageous decision to resign her position with USD 428 as the high school art teacher and pursue a full time business. In July, Bowman earned her national licensure for Massage Therapy.

"Massage decreases stress hormones and increases endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals, which helps boost your mood naturally," Bowman says. "I enjoy helping my clients find peace and relaxation, and some notice drastic health improvements."

Symmetry Massage is located inside Murray Chiropractic Center at 2100 Kansas Avenue, and books appointments Monday through Saturday by appointment, usually between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Bowman offers Swedish massage, deep tissue massage, sports massage, hot stone massage, Chinese cupping therapy, and aromatherapy. She can also incorporate range of motion stretches as needed. "I am excited to bring my unique style of services to Great Bend," Bowman continues. "In life we often lose balance literally and metaphorically, so my business name reflects the balance that I hope to help my clients restore in their lives."

Rates for all massages are \$35 for a half hour, \$55 for one hour, \$80 for 90 minutes, or \$100 for two hours. To book an appointment, call 620-282-1492 or email [lizbowman4@gmail.com](mailto:lizbowman4@gmail.com). Be sure to like the Symmetry Massage page on Facebook!

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*Oil Related*

### Alan Schremmer

2617 Broadway Avenue

Great Bend, KS 67530

*Individual*



## Sign Up Now for Explore Great Bend & Holiday Calendar of Events Promotions

### Publish Your Events on the Holiday Calendar:

It's hard to believe it's that time of year already, but the City of Great Bend is gathering events and happenings from around town for the holiday season. To be part of the Great Bend Holiday Calendar, there is absolutely no cost!



Businesses and organizations simply need to submit the events form to Community Coordinator Christina Hayes. Request a form or provide details over the phone by calling 620-793-4111. Deadline for forms is Oct. 5th so hurry and get yours included today. <http://greatbendks.net/DocumentCenter/View/647>

### Be Included in Explore Great Bend Month Advertising:

For three years now, Great Bend Stores have been unifying efforts to get people shopping during the month of November and to reward them for shopping local. Consumers sign up at participating businesses for a drawing held after the Home for the Holidays Parade. First place winner gets \$1000, second place gets \$500, and third place gets \$250. It's part of the fun and theme of trying to get people to shop Great Bend before December gets here, while raising awareness for what all Great Bend stores have to offer. The theme changes each Saturday, and the only days to sign up are on the Saturdays and Black Friday in November. Here are the dates below:

- Nov. 1: Open Houses
- Nov. 8: Caught ya Exploring
- Nov. 15: Charity Day
- Nov. 22: Find a Turkey Day
- Nov. 28: Black Friday
- Nov. 29: Small Business Saturday, Cookie contest and Home for the Holidays Parade & Activities

Be sure to sign up to be part of Explore Great Bend Month to receive collaborative advertising and extra traffic! To sign up, contact Christina Hayes at [chayes@greatbendks.net](mailto:chayes@greatbendks.net) or 620-793-4111. <http://greatbendks.net/DocumentCenter/View/648>

## Healing Hearts Ranch Benefit Rodeo Oct. 4

The 2nd Annual Healing Hearts Ranch Benefit Rodeo & Auction will be held October 4th at the Great Bend Expo Complex. Family fun and the auction start at 3 p.m., and the rodeo will begin at 6 p.m. Before the event starts, come enjoy pony rides, buggy rides, a barrel train, bounce house, and more. Admission is \$1 per person, and all proceeds benefit Healing Hearts Ranch. For more information, contact Scott with Healing Hearts at 620-792-5173.

## Refined Medley Earns Beautification Award for Upcycling & Repurposing

Refined Medley, located at 1601 Kansas in Great Bend, is a "unique little shop with a lot of passion," according to its founder and owner Carol Maser. Each room in the shop has a different purpose and a different theme, with the decorations and colors changing from season to season. "I try to give the shop a new look each month to correspond with the holidays," Maser says. "It's important to keep things fresh so that my customers enjoy coming back to see what is new."

But Maser was recently recognized, not for the work she does inside the shop, but for the immense improvements she has made to the outside of her store. Refined Medley is housed in the former Yellow Freight Dock at 16th & Kansas. Before that, the building served as a passenger train station depot for Missouri Pacific Railroad. From 1882 until the 1970s, tracks ran from Hoisington to Great Bend, and a train traveled back and forth twice each day.

"To think about who, what, and where and the reasons why people were going on their journey from young to old... That is what this building holds. If only walls could talk," Maser says. "In a way, you can say I have taken something old that could not be put back and instead placed it on a new journey."

Maser has planted numerous flower beds, landscaped, decorated, and installed some other historic fixtures to go along with her historic building. Street lamps and iron railings from the Hoisington Post Office grace the front steps at Refined Medley, for which Maser is very proud. "Repurposing is the foundation of Refined Medley. We upcycle and transform items to make them beautiful again," Maser explains. "For example, the bird tree out front is a piece I designed to show pride in our Cheyenne Bottoms wildlife by using old pipes, old rebar, and old milk cans as bird houses."

Maser wants her customers and passersby to enjoy a unique experience in her store. "The meaning of the shop is simple. 'Refined' is taking something old and placing it on a new journey, while 'Medley' is a little bit of everything."

Refined Medley is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more details, find them on Facebook or stop by the store to meet Carol.



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## Sunflower Diversified Services Continues Sunrise Campaign with Hump Day Lunches

When the topic is “personal independence,” children are not usually the first people that come to mind. But at Sunflower Diversified Services, one priority is supporting infants and toddlers so they have opportunities to lead more independent and productive lives, Executive Director Jim Johnson said.

Therefore, children as well as adults will be the beneficiaries of the non-profit agency’s 14th annual Sunrise Campaign. It officially began with last month’s Chamber Coffee and pancake feed. “Children and adults benefit from our Sunrise Campaign,” Johnson said. “Our priority is to ensure every child and adult who comes to us for help will get it. Sunflower is the only entity in central Kansas that provides services for people with developmental disabilities and delays to all ages – from birth through retirement.”

To continue toward their fundraising goal, Sunflower Diversified Services will host “Hump Day” lunch fundraisers on four of the five Wednesdays this month. Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on October 1, 8, 15, and 22 supporters can stop by the Recycling Center at 5523 10th Street to enjoy a hamburger, chips, and drink to-go for just \$6 per meal, and pre-orders can be made the day prior.

“Our Sunrise Campaign is in its 14th year,” Oetken noted. “Its proceeds are even more important today than ever before. Families’ needs are growing, costs are increasing and tax revenues have been drastically cut.

“Nevertheless, we must continue to support the people who come to us for help,” she added. “Insurance and tax dollars don’t even come close to paying for critical services and equipment. Donations from the community are the only way to fill those gaps.”

For more information, contact Sunflower Director of Development Connie Oetken by calling 620-792-1321. Sunflower, which is in its 48th year, serves people in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties.

## BCC Hosts WorkFit Demonstration Oct. 28

Barton Community College’s WorkFit program gives employers the opportunity to find out if a new hire really has the strength to do the job they are being hired for, if a new employee will bring an old injury with them to their position at your company, or if an employee is ready to return to the same job after an injury.

To give local businesses an opportunity see how this program works and what it is all about, the college will host a free WorkFit Demonstration on Tuesday, October 28th from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Front Door, 1615 10th Street in Great Bend. The staff will be demonstrating the Physical Capacity Profile testing machine, which is ADA, EEOC, and HIPAA compliant. Registration is due by October 23rd. To sign up for this free demonstration, call 620-786-7575 or email [training@bartonccc.edu](mailto:training@bartonccc.edu).

## Almost Home Inc. Launches Adult Day Care & Respite Care Services

Toni Ely of Great Bend acknowledged that she battled strong feelings of guilt when it was time to find a new home for her mother. But thanks to the recent opening of a new non-profit venture in town, Ely has found relief from those feelings. Her 82-year-old mother is one of the full-time residents at Almost Home Inc., the completely remodeled house at 1919 Van Buren. It is the first of its kind in Great Bend, and offers full-time residency, adult day care and respite care for families.

Ely’s mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s four years ago. “I was living with her the last two years but she developed other medical conditions,” Ely said. “I still thought I could care for her at home but I couldn’t.”

The next stop was St. Rose’s Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice, which provided in-home care to Ely’s mother. She said the Golden Belt home-health nurses “were great” but it became obvious her mom needed 24-hour supervision and more social interaction. Golden Belt then gave Ely a brochure from Almost Home.

Leilani Schenkel, R.N., executive director and operator, indicated that Ely’s story is all too common. “For example, a husband or wife can basically be held hostage while caring for an ailing spouse,” Schenkel said. “They can’t run errands or take a little time for themselves. Almost Home can be the answer.”

Adult day care is offered on an hourly basis, up to 24 hours. Almost Home is the only licensed provider of adult day care in Great Bend on an hourly basis. Respite care allows someone to live at Almost Home for up to 30 days to give a family time for a vacation or other pursuits.

The non-profit entity officially opened in March and now has four full-time residents, with a capacity for 10. It employs 18 people – two registered nurses, and certified nurse’s aides and certified medication aides. It is staffed 24 hours a day. In addition to full-time residency, and day-care and respite services, Almost Home has two private rooms for those who need end-of-life hospice care.

Schenkel fulfilled the licensing requirements of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. Almost Home is faith-based, she added, noting she views it as a ministry instead of a job.

Financial options at Almost Home include private pay and long-term-care insurance. The Veteran’s Administration sometimes helps, and Medicaid certification is pending. Donations are accepted. For more details, call Schenkel at 620-617-1634.



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## St. Rose ASC Announces Major Campus Re-Construction & Remodeling Plans

Structural and other changes at St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center will result in a more convenient and modernized facility that will continue to house current and new services, Senior Vice President Leanne Irsik said. Re-construction and remodeling will begin this fall.

The main building, which opened 50 years ago, will be razed, as will the neighboring Allied Services Building (ASB) that has been vacant for more than four years. Other options for the ASB were considered but rejected because of infrastructure problems. The first floor of the newer Medical Office Building (MOB), which opened in 2009, will be remodeled, while plans for its open second floor are still being considered.

The ASB razing will allow a convenient and attractive approach to the MOB, as well as ample parking, Irsik said. The entire project will take close to a year but plans are to move into the MOB next spring.

"We were faced with many challenges in maintaining this aging, oversized facility after changing from a hospital to an outpatient center in 2011," she continued. "Maintenance costs have been significant, and it is time to consolidate and modernize."

Irsik also noted that St. Rose owns the office building just south of St. Rose; that building's currently unused space will accommodate some personnel and services. Throughout this transition, St. Rose will continue to focus on family medicine, urgent care, internal medicine, and home-health and hospice services. In addition, radiology, laboratory and cardiopulmonary services remain priorities, Irsik said.

"St. Rose's commitment to caring for people with high-quality diagnostic services and professional doctors and nurses remains strong," the vice president said. "The heavy financial burden of this facility has made it difficult to be as efficient as we can be."

"With the move to a more efficient space, we understand there is the very real side effect of not needing as many people to do the same things we did before, when the space was larger and more inefficient," Irsik continued. "We are working through the planning now on those very difficult decisions on how we manage that new staffing plan with the dedicated and loyal associates who have served us well for many years."

"They are challenging plans and our priority is to treat our associates who might be affected by these changes with the respect, reverence and fairness that they have shown for us during their affiliation with St. Rose. It has been a long journey for many."

"While we have always had exceptional services and staff, the physical plant has been a financial and operational handicap," Irsik commented. "Eliminating unnecessary costs will benefit our patients, families and staff. Cost savings can be used to recruit physicians, update equipment and technology, and offer competitive wages for our top-quality people."

For more information, visit [www.stroseasc.org](http://www.stroseasc.org).

## New Christian Radio Launched - 100.1 FM

The Seventh Day Adventist Church would like to announce the launch of a new Christian radio station at 100.1 FM on the radio dial. Throughout the Golden Belt area from Ellinwood to Hays, to Hoisington, to Ness City, to Larned, to St. John and beyond, the area's newest radio station will blanket the area with a new type of radio. Featured is Life Talk Radio, which provides programming for all ages and covers a wide variety of music, public interest subjects, news, as well as the gospel. This ministry will provide announcement times for local churches and other public service organizations that would like to spread their news. If interested, call 620-617-6095.

## Sunflower Bank Announces Merger with First Western Financial in 2015

Kansas-based Sunflower Financial, Inc. and Colorado-based First Western Financial, Inc. recently announced the signing of a definitive agreement to merge.

The pro forma combined company will have approximately \$2.5b in banking assets and approximately \$5.5b in trust and investment assets under management. The transaction creates a strong, focused regional institution with a unique private bank that will initially serve six states. The transaction partners a well-established and well-capitalized bank in Sunflower with a growth-oriented private bank and wealth management platform in First Western. The combined company's fee income business will contribute approximately 40% of the pro forma company's revenues. The combined banking footprint will include 45 offices in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Wyoming, Arizona and California.

Mollie Hale Carter, Chairman and CEO of Sunflower, will serve as Executive Chairman of the holding company. Scott Wylie, Chairman and CEO of First Western, will be the Chairman and CEO of the combined bank and investment management subsidiary, as well as CEO and President of the holding company.

The transaction has been unanimously approved by the board of directors of both Sunflower and First Western and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2015, subject to shareholder and regulatory approval and other customary conditions.

Mollie Hale Carter stated, "This is an exciting transaction for our associates, our clients and shareholders. We believe the expanded wealth management expertise of First Western as well as the additional growth opportunities in our adjacent markets will provide a meaningful path to our success for years to come."

For more information, visit [sunflowerbank.com](http://sunflowerbank.com) or [myfw.com](http://myfw.com).



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## THANK YOU to all the 7th Annual Big Bend Bike Rally Volunteers!

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## United Way of Central Kansas

1125 Williams in Great Bend, KS 67530  
Office Phone: (620) 792-2403  
unitedwayofcentralks@hotmail.com

Submitted by Executive Director Julie Smith

## United Way Campaign Update

The campaign is officially underway! The Kick-Off event was held August 16th and was a hugely successful (and very funny) evening, thanks to the Board members, volunteers, co-chairs, and sponsors that made the evening possible.

But even before the kick-off event in August, the new Born Learning Trails were completed in the Great Bend Zoo and at the Claflin Recreation Center. This set of valuable activity trails for toddlers and small children was made possible by the Cities of Great Bend and Claflin, CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions, the Thelma Harms Trust, the Barton County Young Professionals group, and United Way volunteers. Special thanks to Board members Steve Kummer and Desa Marmie Behr for taking on this project on behalf on United Way, along with Christina Hayes representing the City of Great Bend and Richard Hayes representing the City of Claflin. Also driving progress for this project were YP steer committee members Candice Moeder, Megan Hammeke, Christina Hayes, Rachel Mawhirter, and Brandon Steinert. And finally, there were several community members who helped, including Nancy Sundahl, Sarah Mauler, and Camryn Dunekack. Be sure to take the children in your life to visit the Born Learning Trails in Great Bend and Claflin!

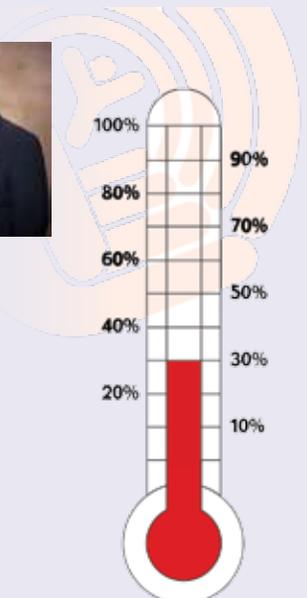
Last month, dozens of volunteers from our 19 agencies staffed the Stuff-the-Bus supply drive at Sunflower Bank, Wal-Mart, Dillons, and Shopko locations in Great Bend and Larned. This project helps provide non-monetary support to the 19 United Way agencies.

Finally, I would like to officially welcome and congratulate our 2015 campaign co-chairs. Pictured from right to left are Laura and Jim Smith, Dr. Charlie and Denise Joslin, and Dr. Perry and Krista Smith. Rick Chochon is serving as the Pacesetter Chair.



I am excited to work with these wonderful community leaders in the upcoming campaign.

As you can see, United Way is making a difference in your community! We have "pay it forward" cards at our office to give out to anyone who wants them. Check out our website for more details, upcoming activities, coffees and community happenings! Keep on paying it forward!





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**October 2, 2014**

**Volunteers in Action • 1025 Main Street**

Volunteers in Action is a full service Volunteer Center designed to connect people with volunteer opportunities to suit interests, skills and passions and to be a resource for non-profit organizations seeking volunteers.

**October 9, 2014**

**Raymond James Financial • 1920 Main Street**

Keating & Associates, an independent firm, with financial advisors who offer securities through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC, spans six cities. We offer personal financial planning, insurance services for individuals, employee benefit administration and business consulting.

**October 16, 2014**

**Barton Co. Historical Society • 85 S. Hwy 281**

Visit the Barton County Historical Society Museum & Village for a fascinating glimpse into the past. Located on five acres, just south of Great Bend on across the Arkansas River Bridge, the Village boasts several authentically furnished period buildings and collections which tell the story of this area from the Paleo Period through the Indian Wars to World War II and beyond.

**October 23, 2014**

**Central Kansas Dream Center • 2100 Broadway**

A little over one year ago, the Central Kansas Dream Center was born from the Daniel Tricky Memorial Life Giving Center in the old Roosevelt school building. CKDC is a homeless transition shelter for women and their children, a soup kitchen and a financial assistance program. CKDC is also home to a 6 month residential rehabilitation program.

**October 30, 2014**

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Employment – Barton County	July 13	July 14
Labor Force	16,771	17,938
Employment	16,035	17,285
Unemployment	736	653
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	3.6%
KS Unemployment Rate	6.2%	4.9%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report	July 13	July 14
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$490,234	\$452,754
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$259,374	\$244,229

Building Permits	July 13	July 14
Commercial – GB	8	7
Residential - GB	26	39

**Sources:**

City of Great Bend, [www.greatbendks.net](http://www.greatbendks.net)  
 Kansas Department of Revenue, [www.ksrevenue.org](http://www.ksrevenue.org)  
 Kansas Department of Labor, [www.klic.dol.ks.gov](http://www.klic.dol.ks.gov)

