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# OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

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

## BARTON COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS A KEY LINK FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY & FUTURE SUCCESS

Six years ago, the Chamber assisted a group of eager volunteers in revitalizing the Barton County Young Professionals program. In November 2011, the first networking mixer was held at Straub International with a little over 100 members joining that evening. Since then, the group has grown substantially, boasting over 300 active members and a total roster with more than 700 people on it.

The group is open to anyone who lives or works in the Barton County area between the ages of 21 and 40(ish), and its mission is to “Lead. Network. Volunteer.” All of the events and projects throughout the year revolve around those three goals. 2017 Chair Regan Reif says that this bigger picture goal is what keeps a lot of members engaged.

“We exist to build leadership skills and development opportunities for our members, foster relationships and networking opportunities, and promote volunteerism and community engagement. Studies have shown that millennials desire a sense of belonging and purpose, and our hope is that our members feel that way about BCYP; that they’re connected to a group of peers who also want to be a part of something bigger and be a force for good in their families, workplaces, and communities.”

The group is organized by a Steering Committee and five action teams – membership, community impact, leadership, special events, and public relations. Each of these action teams helps facilitate the three themes of Lead. Network. Volunteer. It may seem obvious, but the Leadership Team oversees leadership development, which includes organizing luncheons several times per year where members can learn about entrepreneurship, civic involvement, personal growth, financial planning, and other topics relevant to 21-40 somethings. They have also helped create training events such as half-day workshops or bringing the national Leadercast Simulcast event to Great Bend.

The Membership team helps welcome new professionals into the group, while the Special Events team plans some of the group’s largest family functions. This includes a summer family event and a popular gathering in October known as Fall Fest (coming up October 8th at Long Pumpkin Patch). – Continued on Page 2

### WHY BCYP IS VITAL:

- **Investment in the Future:** BCYP is a great recruitment tool for businesses looking to relocate employees to our area. With a professional website – bartonyp.com, an active Facebook Page, and a steady stream of events... it’s easy to see that other young professionals are happy to be living and working here!
- **Retention:** BCYP has helped “new to town” residents make lasting connections, helping to keep them interested in staying in the area.
- **Quality of Life:** BCYP events provide a social outlet and networking for residents of Barton County. With opportunities to enhance leadership skills, make professional connections, or volunteer, BCYP works to help connect its members with the community.

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Continued from Page 1

The Community Impact team plans volunteer projects such as the group's

annual Charity Supply Drive. They have also taken on bigger projects in the past such as helping with the United Way Born Learning Trail at the zoo, and fundraising alongside the Rotary Club for the Tot Spot playground at Brit Spaugh Park. The Public Relations team gets the word out about by email and through social media, and all the teams work together to promote networking at every BCYP event.

Sub-committees also form to tackle special interest projects, such as the Fitness Committee who plan and execute the Flatlander Half Marathon & YP5K coming up October 21st. This will be the group's 3rd Annual event, which raises money to support fitness initiatives such as Be Well Barton County.

"Barton County Young Professionals provides a critical quality of life component for young residents," says Andrea Bauer, Director of Business Development for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. "By helping young professionals make connections in the area, we make Barton County a more attractive place to live and work for the long term!"

While the group has seen success and accomplished some huge projects in the past six years, local employers are encouraged to incorporate the Barton County Young Professionals group into their onboarding processes and utilize its recruitment and retention potential for their staff. New members can sign up at any time on the group's website, [www.bartonyp.com](http://www.bartonyp.com), and community members are encouraged to follow the group on Facebook and Twitter. Check out the website for a list of upcoming events, and get your coworkers and employees involved today!



## Spectrum CPA Partners Celebrates Anniversary

Leaders from Spectrum CPA Partners LLC, a professional services firm, today announced that they are celebrating their first anniversary. Rooted in the community, Spectrum CPA Partners LLC, prides themselves on providing clients with professional, technologically advanced tax and accounting services. To celebrate the first year anniversary, an open house will be held Wednesday, October 4th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone interested in touring the office or learning more about Spectrum CPA Partners is invited to attend.



Spectrum CPA Partners LLC provides the same level of sophisticated services as the large firms, but with a personal touch. Catering to small businesses, Spectrum CPA Partners LLC offers a full line of tax and accounting options within a highly advanced technology platform. Spectrum CPA's four partners are David Holste, Barry Bowers, David Zink, and Cynthia Lockwood. Their firm also employs six other professionals on their financial and administrative team offering bookkeeping, payroll, financial reporting, tax return preparation, financial consulting, and now human resources consulting. Spectrum CPA Partners has six QuickBooks ProAdvisors on staff, and is a proudly Endorsed Local Provider for Dave Ramsey. Located at 1400 Polk Street in Great Bend, the firm is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 620-792-5378 or visit [www.spectrumcpa.com](http://www.spectrumcpa.com).



## Adams Brown Named Top 200 Accounting Firm

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered (ABBB) is pleased to announce that the firm made INSIDE Public Accounting's (IPA) annual ranking of the Nation's Top 200 Accounting Firms for the third consecutive year. The firm ranks number 189 in this year's Top 200 list.

For the most recent fiscal year, IPA 200 firms range in size from \$16.8 million to \$36.5 million, have close to 1,300 equity owners, and employ more than 12,000 staff.

"We are excited to be ranked as a top 200 public accounting firm again in 2017," said Brian Staats, CPA, CGMA, managing partner of ABBB. "The firm is grateful to our loyal clients and outstanding team for contributing to this accomplishment!"

Founded in 1987, INSIDE Public Accounting (IPA) is published by The Platt Group (TPG). TPG publishes both the award-winning INSIDE Public Accounting newsletter and the award-winning National Benchmarking Report, along with other key reports on the accounting profession. TPG aids firms in becoming more successful through a variety of services. TPG works with managing partners, CFOs and thought leaders across the nation to provide practical ideas, benchmarking data, and information to take firms to the next level of improvement.

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered provides a wide range of traditional and non-traditional CPA and consulting services to clients throughout the United States, including agriculture organizations, construction companies, feed yards, financial institutions, governmental and not-for-profit organizations, manufacturers, medical practices, oil and gas companies, professional service firms, real estate companies and small businesses. Founded in 1945, today the firm maintains 15 office locations throughout Kansas. For more information about Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, visit their website at [www.abbb.com](http://www.abbb.com).



## Mind Sculpt Games Opens in Downtown Great Bend

Mind Sculpt Games is a new family game store at 1401 Main Street. The store is filled with board games, card games, miniatures, paints and more to encourage face to face interactive fun. "We market on events and getting people together. Not only do we have table play space and a free game library at Mind Sculpt Games, but our goal is to help parents sit down and play with their kids, or friends to have fun together looking at each other over a table with a game" said co-owner Darcy Leech.



For the upcoming holiday season, Mind Sculpt Games will have over 200 different board games in stock. Co-owner Daniel Leech explained why the store wants to have such a wide variety. "We want anyone to be able to walk in to our store and find a game that fits their interest, the age ranges in their family or their favorite play style and buy a gift that gives twice – once in the thing itself, and again in the time spent together playing."

In October, Mind Sculpt Games will be offering an ACT Boot Camp lead by Darcy Leech. "When I was teaching AP Language at Salina High School Central, I got into running ACT preparation sessions for local students. One of the best hugs I have ever gotten was from a senior who after trying twice to get a score high enough to get into the school of his choice, took my camp and scored three points above his target. He may have been exaggerating, but while he had me in the air, he told me 'You saved the path of my life.' That's one of my best moments as an educator" said Darcy.

The first Mind Sculpt Games ACT Boot Camp will cost only \$50, include an Official ACT Prep Guide, and begin October 14th. "We built Mind Sculpt Games because we believe that games help build brains, and that a lot of life potential and enjoyment can be unlocked when people sit down face to face and play," said Darcy.

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## UWCK Update - Imagination Library Launches

On September 19th, UWCK kicked off Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Great Bend! This project has been in the works for some time and has finally come to fruition. In conjunction with the Great Bend Public Library Story Hour, UWCK hosted a fun filled event with crafts, treats, and our local "Dolly"



on hand to read. More than 160 people attended and about 65 children got enrolled for the program. Thanks to over 60 community sponsors, enrollment in this program will remain open at the Great Bend Public Library. Proof of address in the 67530 zip code is the only requirement to enroll a child age birth – 5 years old.

The United Way of Central Kansas relies on the support of the community to continue serving 23 Community Partners as well as the invaluable programs they provide to our area children, youth & elderly. As the UWCK board & staff strive to meet their 2018 fundraising goal, please consider making a donation to United Way of Central Kansas, 1125 Williams, Great Bend, KS 67530. Be sure to keep up on all the latest news and announcements by visiting the UWCK website at [uwck.org](http://uwck.org), or follow UWCK on Facebook.

## Wilkins Named President of Benefit Management

Benefit Management LLC is proud to announce Denise Wilkins as their new President. Ms. Wilkins joined the Benefit Management team in June, 2008 and previously served the organization as Senior Vice President of Accounting and Human Resources. Denise has 20 years of health care experience, and will continue to bring expansive experience to the current business.

Wilkins earned her Masters Degree in Accounting from Kansas State University. Prior to her employment with Benefit Management, she began her career with Ernst & Young LLP in Kansas City, MO with the Assurance and Advisory Services Team. It was in this position that she discovered her true passion for health care, as she audited the majority of major health systems in the metro Kansas City area. Wilkins held positions at The Nebraska Medical Center and Clarkson Nursing College in Omaha, NE, the Catholic Health Initiatives Health System as the Director of Accounting and Reimbursement, and then moved to the Central Kansas market as the VP of Business Strategy and Development. Finally, Wilkins joined the Benefit Management team in 2008 and has been an integral part of the Company's success over the past decade.



Chad Somers resigned from Benefit Management after serving as President and CEO for 15 years in effort to pursue other personal interests. Chad will continue to support BML as a member of the Benefit Management board of directors.

Benefit Management, LLC, founded in 1995, is the largest independent third party administrator (TPA) based in the state of Kansas and is a wholly owned subsidiary of NueHealth of Leawood, KS. BML provides self-funded health plan administration and these services are sold through brokers/consultants to self-insured employers nationwide, with a strong presence in the Midwest. BML also provides Value Based Administration (VBA) services sold directly to providers, health systems, payors, and to self-insured employer health plans nationwide, helping to reduce healthcare costs and improve quality.



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# HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- 1... Cheyenne Bottoms Craft Fest, Kansas Wetlands Education Center @1-5p.m.
- 3... Coffee Talk, Kansas Oil & Gas Museum, 5944 10th St. @9a.m.
- 3... Business After-Hours: Four Corners Oktoberfest, 16th & Main St. @5p.m.
- 4... Ribbon Cutting: Mind Sculpt Games, 1401 Main St. @4p.m.
- 4... Spectrum CPA Partners LLC, First Anniversary Open House, 1400 Polk St. @1-4p.m.
- 5... Chamber Coffee: Barton Community College Bookstore, Student Union @9a.m.
- 5... Lions Club Spaghetti Feed, Elks Club, 1120 Kansas Ave. @4:30p.m.
- 7... Hunter Appreciation Breakfast, KWEC, 592 NE K-156 Hwy @8a.m.
- 7... F&E Collector Auto Auction, Expo I & II, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd. @8a.m.
- 7... Rosewood Rodeo, Expo III, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd. @10a.m.
- 7... Walk to End Alzheimer's, Jack Kilby Square, 1400 Main St. @1p.m.
- 7... Central Kansas Southern Gospel Sing, Crest Theatre, 1905 Lakin Ave. @6p.m.
- 7... GBRC Murder in Sin City, Stone Ridge Country Club, 1438 24th St. @6p.m.
- 8... BCYP Fall Fest, Long Pumpkin Patch – RSVP Required, @5p.m.
- 9-13... Wheatland Electric's Cram the Van, Great Bend All-School Food Drive Competition
- 9... Touched By Cancer Support Group, Heartland Cancer Center, 204 Cleveland St. @4pm
- 10... Dine for Dolly, Freddy's Frozen Custard, 3008 10th St @10:30a.m.
- 11... Chamber Marketing & Member Services Seminar, 1125 Williams St. @10a.m.
- 12... Chamber Coffee: KFC, 2917 10th St. @9a.m.
- 12... Ribbon Cutting: Little Free Library, Brit Spaugh Zoo, 2123 Main St. @10a.m.
- 13... Wheatland Electric's Cram the Van Event, 2300 Broadway Ave. @11:30a.m.
- 13... Test & Tune, SRCA Dragstrip, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd. @7:30p.m.
- 14... Smoky Hills Public TV Family Fun Day w/ Clifford, Brit Spaugh Zoo, 2123 Main St. @9a.m.
- 14... NHRA Summit Points Race #7 & King of the Track, SRCA Dragstrip, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd. @12pm
- 15... KWEC Craft Series: Cold Process Soap Making, 592 NE K-156 Hwy @2p.m.
- 17... Central Kansas Partnership, Barton County Health Depart., 1300 Kansas Ave, #B @11a.m.
- 18... Nex-Tech Lunch & Learn: Digital Marketing Trends, The Page Sunflower Room, 2920 10th St. @12p.m.
- 19... Chamber Coffee: Bling Inc, 2019 Lakin Ave. @9a.m.
- 21... Flatlander Half Marathon & YP5K Run/Walk, Jack Kilby Square, 1400 Main St. @7:30a.m.
- 21... Healing Hearts Rodeo, Great Expo Complex, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd. @3p.m.
- 23... Barton County Historical Society Monthly Meeting, 85 S. Hwy 281 @7:30p.m.
- 24... Lunchtime Learning, The Kansas Oil & Gas Museum, 5944 10th St. @12p.m.
- 26... Chamber Coffee: USD 428 Foundation, District Office, 201 S. Patton Rd. @9a.m.
- 27... Test & Tune, Gamblers Race, SRCA Dragstrip, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd. @7:30p.m.
- 28... NHRA Summit Points Race #7, SRCA Dragstrip, 455 W. Barton Co. Rd. @12pm
- 28... Kiwanis Candy Parade, Jack Kilby Square – Downtown Great Bend @ 11a.m.
- 28... Zoo Boo, Brit Spaugh Zoo, 2123 Main St. @5:30p.m.
- 28... John Wayne Murder Mystery Party, Best Western Courtyard, 2920 10th St. @6p.m.
- 31... Chamber Employer Roundtable, The Page Banquet Room, 2920 10th St. @11:30a.m.

## Reoccurring Events:

- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams St. @7:30p.m.
- Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main Rm. 106, 9:00am
- Brown Bag Art Talk Series, Thursdays in October, Shafer Art Gallery @12p.m.
- Long Pumpkin Patch, 163 NE 30 Rd, Weekends in October, Saturdays 10a.m. – 6p.m., Sundays 1-5p.m.



## 2nd Annual Collector Auto Auction Is Back

Mark your calendars to attend the 2nd Annual F & E Collector Auto Auction, presented by CARR Auction & Real Estate, Inc. and The City of Great Bend. This year's event, boasting all the Classics, Muscle Cars, Antiques, Hot Rods, Motorcycles and Automobilia/Petroliana Collections, will take place on Saturday, October 7th at the Great Bend Expo Complex, 455 W. Barton Co. Road. Doors open at 8a.m. with Automobilia/Petroliana starting at 10a.m. and Vehicles at Noon. Admission is just \$5 and Sue's BBQ Catering and Western Beverage Beer Garden will be on hand and available throughout the day! For more information, check out [www.carrauction.com](http://www.carrauction.com).



## Relay for Life Diva Day Oct. 15th

The Relay for Life of Barton County invites you to start your Christmas shopping early at the Fall Diva Day sponsored by the Great Bend Tribune Relay for Life Team. Come and shop with a wide variety of local & regional vendors on Sunday, October 15th from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Best Western Courtyard in Great Bend. Attendees will enjoy free admission & door prizes all day. Contact Kandi Wolf for more information at 620-797-5651.



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## HaysMed Names Edward Herrman as New CEO

The University of Kansas Health System and HaysMed today announced Edward Herrman, BSN, MBA/HCM, FACHE, will become HaysMed's president and chief executive officer. Herrman assumes the position previously held by John Jeter, MD, who announced his retirement earlier this year. "We are pleased to bring Eddie on board with his extensive experience and success in healthcare leadership," said Bob Page, president and chief executive officer of The University of Kansas Health System. "His enthusiasm and knowledge of the local community will help propel HaysMed into the future, as we look to enhance services provided in Hays and strengthen relationships with other providers throughout the region."

Herrman, who is currently president of INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center in Enid, Oklahoma, was selected following an extensive national search. "We interviewed an excellent group of potential candidates and we determined Edward Herrman was the most qualified and best person to become the next leader of HaysMed," said Alan Moore, chairman of the HaysMed Board of Directors. "We are excited about the skills and energy he will bring to the president and CEO position, and we look forward to the positive impact he will make at HaysMed and within the community."

In his current role at INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center, Herrman provides leadership, direction and administration for 207 licensed beds in three non-profit healthcare facilities. Prior to becoming president, he was the hospital's chief nursing officer from 2008-2011. In 2011, he accepted a nurse leadership role at INTEGRIS Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He returned to INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Health Center in 2013 to become president.

Herrman received a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Oklahoma City University and a master of business administration/healthcare administration degree from the University of Phoenix. Herrman served on the board of directors for numerous community organizations in Enid, including United Way of Enid and Northwest Oklahoma, Northwest Oklahoma Blood Institute, Denny Price YMCA, Vance Development Authority and Enid High Education Council. He is past-president of the Oklahoma Organization for Nurse Executives, and a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

## MPIRE Improvements Announces Pella Dealership



MPIRE Improvements LLC, based in Great Bend and serving customers throughout the region, including Great Bend, Dodge City, Pratt, Garden City and Hays, is now a Pella® residential garage door dealer. Pella is known for quality windows, patio doors and entry door systems and has a rich history of making innovative products, providing quality service and delivering on customer satisfaction. MPIRE Improvements LLC is pleased to introduce a variety of Pella garage door options to the local market.

Pella residential garage doors include traditional doors in steel and vinyl; carriage house doors in steel, wood and vinyl; and modern aluminum full-view doors. "Pella is a well-known brand in the industry," Rick Davis, COO, of MPIRE Improvements LLC said. "We're incredibly proud of the Pella name and our ability to offer local consumers a garage door solution from a brand they already know and trust."

All Pella garage doors offer a range of insulation choices and door thicknesses to provide the energy efficiency that consumers desire. In addition, Pella garage doors are engineered for quiet operation with premium hardware and come in a wide range of sizes and options to suit almost any residential need. "Whether your home, or the home you're planning, is traditional, contemporary or another style, Pella garage doors add beauty, curb appeal and long-lasting value," Davis said. "Call us to find the Pella garage door that fits your own style and budget."

For more information about Pella Garage Doors, please contact MPIRE Improvements at 620-603-0872.

## Stinemetz, APRN Joins Great Bend Internists

Alisha Stinemetz is the new full-time APRN at St. Rose's Great Bend Internists (GBI). She brings to the job a variety of nursing experiences.

As an APRN, Stinemetz treats illnesses and conditions including heart disease, diabetes and lung disease. "This treatment is provided by conducting health screenings and comprehensive physical exams," she said. "We are able to offer primary wellness and preventive health-care services, while managing long-term illnesses through assessment and diagnostics."

While GBI specializes in internal medicine for patients 18 and older, Stinemetz noted she can care for all ages if she is needed in St. Rose's Convenient Care Walk-in Clinic. She also noted she has valuable experience in women's health. "I am eager to work with my new colleagues who demonstrate a strong commitment to patients and the community," Stinemetz said.

Most recently, Stinemetz was a traveling nurse for Supplemental Health Care in Garden City. She also has been a registered nurse at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, Hodgeman County Health Center and Southlake Hospital/Elite Medical Staffing in Clermont/Altamonte Springs, FL. She served as clinical instructor at Hutchinson Community College.

Stinemetz earned her bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Central Florida in 2006 and her master's in nursing at Fort Hays State University earlier this year. She is certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support, as well as Pediatric Advanced Life Support.

St. Rose Health Center specializes in primary care, prevention and wellness. Services include St. Rose Family Medicine, Convenient Care Walk-in Clinic, Great Bend Internists, Imaging, Cardiac Rehab, Physical Therapy, Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice and a comprehensive Specialty Clinic.



## K-State Launches Executive Education Program

In an effort to create a concentrated, unique learning environment for executives that helps build high-performing and effective organizations, Kansas State University will launch a noncredit Executive Education program

in fall 2017. In a unique collaboration between Kansas State University Global Campus and privately-owned Aspen Business Group, K-State's Executive Education programs are designed for a variety of business leaders, with unique programs for high-level executives, middle managers and emerging leaders. Each of the programs consist of 12 day-long sessions that meet quarterly over a three-year period in Manhattan, Kansas.

The first program to launch, The Executive Coach, will begin on Oct. 19 and is targeting high-level executives who wish to take their organizations – and themselves – to the next level through proven and innovative leadership methods. "This is a rare opportunity to plan for the future, determine how best to get there, and strategize about what's most pressing in each participant's business right now," said Russell Disberger, facilitator of the program. "It's a chance to gain new insights from other executives in other industries and other parts of the country. Participants will come away with prioritized, concrete action steps, new tools, and a plan for the next 90 days."

Each workshop features a subject-matter expert from private industry or K-State faculty. The program features round-table discussions with an opportunity to network with your group, but also to work with a dedicated coach who provides one-on-one follow-up accountability sessions between workshops. An application for the program can be found at [exec.k-state.edu](http://exec.k-state.edu).

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## Thelma Faye Harms Trust Donates to BCC

A lab dedicated to employee training and professional development at Barton Community College was made possible by funds from the Thelma Faye Harms Trust.

The project transformed room L-136 in the Learning Resource Center with 24 new computer stations, an instructor station, new chairs and a branded window tint to allow instructors to dim the lights.

The need for such a lab became apparent when the college was scheduling four training sessions, each of which were three days long involving 30 employees.

All the computer labs and classrooms that could accommodate the requirements of the training were taken by classes. The lab will be available to third parties to host seminars through the Workforce Training and Community Education Division.

Local attorney Mark Calcara, who helps determine which projects receive funding from the Harms Trust, said helping the college with its need to better train its staff and instructors was a good fit for the trust's mission.

"We see the value and importance of college," he said. "This enhances the college, which educates our future leaders. It's very much in line with the values and wishes of Mrs. Harms."

Calcara said the trust has had a major impact on the community, funding many brick-and-mortar projects. At the college, Harms' generosity can be found in the recently renovated auditorium, state-of-the-art gear for the nursing program and more.

Keep up with the latest Barton news at [news.bartonccc.edu](http://news.bartonccc.edu).

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## **Barton Foundation Auction Collected \$40,000**

The proceeds from items sold, underwriters, program ads and ticket sales netted \$40,000 at the 39th Annual Big Benefit Auction in late August. These funds benefit students directly through scholarships and program enhancements at Barton Community College.

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement Coleen Cape said she feels fortunate to have reached the foundation's goal. "The success of this year's 39th Annual Big Benefit Auction was a true community event," she said. "If not for the dedication of our volunteers during the acquisition phase and the businesses and individuals who donated items, services and cash for catalog ads, our auction could not have succeeded."

With the auction being the largest fundraiser for the Foundation each year, it is important for everything to come together. Successfully orchestrating this event is something both Cape and the Foundation Board of Directors know would be impossible without support from the community.

"This event is like a game of Jenga – it is a huge puzzle and if you remove a vital part of that puzzle the entire thing falls apart," Cape said. "The Foundation Board of Directors and the Foundation staff could not be more grateful to each and every member of this community who touched this event with their generosity and support."

A large amount of community support was seen in the auction of a single item that nobody even gets to take home: Old Bill. It raised nearly 37.5 percent of the auction's funds coming in just short of \$15,000, all to be awarded in scholarships for the 2018-19 academic year in honor of Rob and Trisha Dove.

For more information about the Foundation, contact the Foundation office at (620) 792-1136 or visit [www.bartonccc.edu](http://www.bartonccc.edu).



## **Cherry Village Recognizes Housekeeping Staff**

Since much of what the housekeeping and laundry employees do at Cherry Village Benevolence is behind-the-scenes, their co-workers wanted to take advantage of a special week to recognize their diligence.

The five women were honored in observance of Environmental Services & Housekeeping Week, Sept 10-16. They are Maria Gonzalez, Maria Arana, Lucia Almaraz, Angelica Escobedo and Marable Villegas.



"Our team of housekeeping professionals does so much for Cherry Village and our residents," Director of Marketing Erin Lewis said. "Their hard work is vitally important to everyone here, and results in a pleasing first impression for visitors. "We often hear compliments about our cleanliness," she continued. "Each member of the housekeeping staff should take pride in the valuable services they perform. We appreciate everything they do."

Cherry Village is a non-profit, short- and long-term-care facility. "The housekeepers tell us they think of Cherry Village and our residents as an extension of their families. We think of them the same way," Lewis added. "We are blessed to have such an amazing team of caring individuals."

A local family has managed Cherry Village, 1401 Cherry Lane, since it opened in 1978. Learn more at <https://www.cherryvillageitc.org/> or like their page on Facebook.



## Marketing Maven Consulting Welcomes Acker

Marketing Maven Consulting, a brand management firm located in Great Bend, Kansas, is pleased to announce the addition of a new full time employee to help with social media and design projects.

Haley Acker, a native of Hoisington, Kansas, is the newest addition to the growing firm. "I am excited to bring my experience and knowledge back to the Great Bend community," Acker says. "It will be fun serving so many different types of businesses in my new role."

Previously, Acker was the social media and web communications specialist for the Wichita Public Schools. Haley holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication from WSU and is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration from her alma mater.

"Haley is the perfect personality for our team, because she is very intelligent and has lots of great skills, but she also has a great sense of humor and can really help our clients think outside the box on their social media strategy," says Rachel Mawhirter, Owner of Marketing Maven Consulting. "We are also proud to recruit a native of Barton County home to Central Kansas."

Marketing Maven Consulting is a full service brand management consulting firm, specializing in mobile- friendly websites, social media management, print and digital design, and video production. The locally owned company employs four full time marketing professionals, and services much of Central and Western Kansas. Learn more at [www.marketingmavenconsulting.com](http://www.marketingmavenconsulting.com), or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



## Join Us - October 13 Cram the Van

The community is invited to help "Cram the Van" and enjoy lunch at the Great Bend Wheatland Electric Office on Friday, Oct. 13th! Bring a donation (cash or can) in return for a hot dog or brat, chips and a drink. All donations go to the Barton County Food Bank. Cram the Van 2017 will take place at the Wheatland Electric office located at 2300 Broadway on Friday, October 13th from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Expanding to schools this year, your donations can help your favorite school win a cash prize! Canned food will be collected Oct. 9th – 13th at all Great Bend schools. Cash prizes in the amount of 1st – \$500, 2nd – \$300 & 3rd – \$200 will be awarded to the schools that collect the most food. Special thanks to Hiss Sherman Wealth Management for donating the prizes.

## Canon Awards 30-Year Dealer, Office Products Inc.

When Office Products Inc. (OPI) was recently recognized for its 30-year partnership with Canon USA Inc., Joey Bahr immediately was able to explain the reason for the longevity of "this amazing brand loyalty."

As OPI technology sales manager, Bahr said "it all comes down to customer service by our local, family-owned business and by a national leader in the manufacture of reliable copiers. Canon provides great customer service to OPI and we pass this along to our clientele. "Canon is the top of the line," Bahr added. "Early on, OPI sold other brands but we eventually became a single-line dealer. Canon has proven to be the best machine out there. In addition, Canon should be commended for providing factory training at Dallas, as well as updates right here at OPI and online."

Canon copiers are multi-functional machines, with the capability to copy, print, scan and fax, as well as connect to the Internet. A major feature for OPI is the ability to automatically report maintenance information, Bahr noted. "This feature can be compared to the check-engine light in your car," Bahr explained "We can access this and other background information to help us better troubleshoot and diagnose any problems," the technology sales manager said.

Asger Hansen, Canon technical sales executive said "we are proud to present OPI with a 30-year dealer award. OPI has a decades-long history of providing exemplary service to Canon customers in the central Kansas marketplace."

OPI is located at 1204 Main in Great Bend; 516 Broadway in Larned; and 724 N. Main in Russell. Learn more at [www.opigreatbend.com](http://www.opigreatbend.com) or by calling 620-793-8479.



## Cheyenne Bottoms Craft Fest Oct. 1

Join us at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center on October 1st from 1-5 pm for an afternoon of appreciating our local artisans! From soapmaking and spinning to woodcarving and weaving, meet local folks who practice old crafts. There will be a wide variety of hands on activities, including opportunities to try your hand at the presented crafts.

Past workshops have included papermaking, basket weaving, cold process soapmaking, and even dyeing yarn with plants found in our area. With so many people excited about learning hands on crafts, a craft festival featuring local artisans was a natural next step.

Spend an hour with us, or stay the whole afternoon learning about these historic arts. For more information about this free event, call the KWEC at 1-877-243-9268.

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## Crisis Center Receives Over \$10,000 in Gifts

Earlier this month, the Family Crisis Center was one of three charities to give a presentation at the third quarter meeting of the 100+ People Who Care group. The Family Crisis Center is a nonprofit organization based out of Great Bend that serves victims of sexual and domestic violence all over Central and Western Kansas. After all three charities presented a 5-minute pitch and answered questions, the philanthropic group took a vote on which charity would win all the members' donations. The Family Crisis Center is pleased to announce that their organization was named the winner, and received more than \$10,500 in donations from the group's growing list of over 105 members.



Joanne Wondra, Executive Director of the Family Crisis Center, "We plan to use these funds to make improvements to our women's shelter here in Great Bend, to meet code requirements so that we can start utilizing another level of the home and house more victims."

The idea behind the relatively new group, which was founded in January of this year, is that every member commits \$100 per quarter so that over \$10,000 can be raised in just one hour at each of the four meetings throughout the year. "Not only is this a great way to impact the charity that wins the donations at the meeting, but it's also a great opportunity for exposure to a group of caring donors who might not have been exposed to the charities otherwise," says Julie Mazouch, Chair for the group's volunteer Steering Committee. "It's an easy way that we can come together and raise a large amount of money with a very small time commitment. And it is a lot of fun too!"

The vision of the Family Crisis Center is a community free from domestic and sexual violence, abuse, and neglect. The organization was founded over 30 years ago, and has expanded its services and its outreach numerous times since then. More than 25,000 survivors have been helped in that time, and that number is growing every day. "Until we can put ourselves out of a job by overcoming these vicious cycles of abuse, we will continue to help victims escape their abusers and prosecute those responsible," Wondra says. "These donations from the members of 100+ People Who Care will be a huge blessing in helping us expand our women's shelter operation in the future."

To learn more about the Family Crisis Center, visit their website at [www.familycrisiscntr.org](http://www.familycrisiscntr.org) or contact Joanne Wondra at 620-793-9941. And be sure to like the organization's Facebook page. The next meeting for the 100 People Who Care group will be held Tuesday, November 7th at 5:30 p.m., at which time Wondra will return to provide an update on their progress utilizing the \$10,000 gift. More details can be found on the group's website, [www.100bartoncounty.org](http://www.100bartoncounty.org), or on their Facebook page.

## RSVP Offers Medicare Enrollment Assistance

Each year Medicare beneficiaries have the opportunity to review their health and drug coverage for the next year during the Open Enrollment Period October 15 through December 7. RSVP of Central Kansas SHICK counselors are available to answer questions and assist beneficiaries with their shopping and enrollment. There is no fee for this service.

# RSVP

RSVP of Central Kansas is one of two agencies in Barton County that sponsors the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) program. This is a free program offering Kansans an opportunity to talk with trained, community volunteers and get answers to questions about Medicare and other insurance issues.

SHICK provides you with many resources that will help you with your questions about Medicare, including Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage), employment and Medicare information, Disability and Medicare information, supplemental rate comparisons, and more. Call the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to schedule an appointment: 620-792-1614.



## Ribbon Cuttings - Exciting Things Happening!

**BLING INC** - In late August, we officially welcomed Bling Inc. to the Chamber of Commerce family. Founded in Scott City in 2008, Bling started with the faith of a mustard seed and only \$500 in the bank. Carrying women's boutique style clothing, shoes, handbags and the Kendra Scott Jewelry Collection, Bling stores can be found in nearly nine locations across the state of Kansas. Bling was also named the 2012 Kansas Women Owned Business of the Year. Great Bend Store Manager, Shannon Stafford encourages the community to explore Bling at 2019 Lakin Ave. for your next special occasion! Be sure to follow Bling on Facebook and Instagram @BlingGB.



**MAURICES** - Have you shopped maurices recently? If not, shoppers will now experience a fresh, new look at the 3511 10th St. location. Celebrating the remodel, Bailey Ziegler, Store Manager, welcomed the Chamber Ambassadors to the store on September 7th. With the holidays approaching, shoppers are sure to enjoy the fresh vibe created by the remodel. maurices specializes in women's clothing, sizes 0-26! Follow maurices on Facebook @greatbendksmaurices.



**GB2GO** - There's a new delivery service in town! The next time you're hungry and seeking the convenience of delivery, go online at [www.mytown2go.com](http://www.mytown2go.com) or download the MyTown2Go app on your phone. New to Great Bend, Great Bend 2 Go is the newest franchise of My Town 2 Go.

The Chamber of Commerce welcomed them to the area with a Ribbon Cutting on September 14th. Nikki Londene, Owner, wants people to know that she and her drivers are ready to deliver your next meal. Food can be delivered to any zip code within 15 miles of the restaurant. Ellinwood and Hoisington residents - that means you! But wait, there's more! All Chamber Members are invited to use Promo Code: GBChamber, to receive 5% off all future orders made through the website or app. Great Bend 2 Go is currently partnered with 9 local Great Bend restaurants and growing every week.



## GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Welcome to Our NEW Chamber Members

#### MYLAWN! TURF & TREE

Jeremy Elliott - Owner  
2022 Kansas Ave.  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
[choosemylawn@gmail.com](mailto:choosemylawn@gmail.com)  
[www.choosemylawn.com](http://www.choosemylawn.com)  
**Lawn Care & Weed Control**

#### FRIENDS OF SANTA FE TRAIL: NEW LIFE INVESTMENTS LLC

Wilmer Wegele, Charter Member  
194 Regents Rd.  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 603-1104

**Attractions, Museums**

#### GREAT BEND 2 GO

Nikki Londene - Owner  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
[nikki@mytown2go.com](mailto:nikki@mytown2go.com)  
[www.mytown2go.com](http://www.mytown2go.com)

**Delivery Service**

#### PAWNEE VALLEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Julie Bugner-Smith - Foundation Coordinator  
923 Carroll  
Larned, KS 67550  
[julie.bugnersmith@haysmed.com](mailto:julie.bugnersmith@haysmed.com)  
[www.pawneevalleyhospital.com/foundation](http://www.pawneevalleyhospital.com/foundation)

**Non-Profit Organizations**

## Chamber Radio Show Airs Oct. 5 on KVGB



Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month at 11:35 a.m. to hear the latest happenings and Chamber projects.



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## CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

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

**October 5, 2017**

### **BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOOKSTORE**

Upper Level of the Student Union  
245 NE 30 Road in Great Bend

The Barton Bookstore is proud to host the Chamber Coffee, and give members a chance to check out what we have to offer in the way of books, clothing, and specialty items. Please join us for Coffee, refreshments, and door prizes.

**October 12, 2017**

### **KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN**

Community Based Services Facility  
2917 10th Street in Great Bend

KFC has served Great Bend since 1970 serving our Original Chicken with great service and value. Stop by for our buffet or for that special event, ask about our catering.

**October 19, 2017**

### **BLING INC.**

2019 Lakin Avenue in Great Bend

Bling started with the faith of a mustard seed in 2008 with only \$500. We are now in nearly nine locations across the state of Kansas, and were named the 2012 Kansas Women Owned Business of the Year. Still a zero debt company, we continue to grow and cannot wait to see what's next!

**October 26, 2017**

### **USD 428 EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

201 S. Patton Road in Great Bend

The USD 428 Education Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises funds to provide mini grants for teachers in the Great Bend public school system. Over the past 30 years, the foundation has funded more than \$350,000 in minigrants that have positively impacted teachers and students in the classroom. Their annual fundraiser is coming up on Tuesday, November 21st and more information will be provided at the Chamber Coffee. Tickets will also be on sale!

**November 2, 2017**

### **ANGELS CARE HOME HEALTH**

Spray Holt Family Board Room - 1125 Williams in Great Bend

Angels Care Home Health is the premier provider of home health services in the community. We provide skilled nursing care, restorative therapy and medical social services to patients in their homes or wherever they reside, including assisted living facilities and retirement communities. Medicare covers all services at 100% for those who qualify.



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**McDonald's**

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.