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Outlook Business Journal

www.greatbend.org

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY A National Campaign to Shop Local Nov. 29

In 2010, national credit card company American Express founded a marketing campaign known as Small Business Saturday to help businesses with their most pressing need — getting more customers. The day encourages people to shop at small businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The single day has grown into a powerful movement, and more people are taking part than ever before. This year, the big day is November 29th.

In 2011, the day became official when governors, mayors, senators, and even President Obama voiced their support for Small Business Saturday. The following year, American Express provided incentives to people who shopped at participating small businesses, and an estimated \$5.5 billion was spent at independent businesses during the 2012 event. Last year, the campaign started a new program for Neighborhood Champions who pledged their support to help brand the event in their local communities. The result was an overwhelming cry of support.

This year, there are two ways you can participate. Neighborhood Champions are being recruited to serve as the voice for their community. Champions can sign up for free at www.shopsmall.com. Once you're signed up as a Champion, you'll receive Shop Small welcome mats, shopping bags, and other items to make your celebration a memorable one.

But the most notable way that local businesses can take advantage of the free advertising through Small Business Saturday is to sign up as a participating retailer. Owners and managers can visit www.shopsmall.com to add their business to the rapidly expanding list of participating locations. Once they are signed up, they will also receive printable signage to display in their business, free online ads to promote your business, sample email templates and social media posts, a digital copy of the Shop Small logo to use in advertising and promotional items, and more. These resources are provided at no charge to independently owned companies across America.

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development is a proud Neighborhood Champion, and we encourage our local businesses to sign up to participate. It's free, so what do you have to lose?

For more information or to sign up as a Neighborhood Champion or Participating Retailer, visit www.shopsmall.com or find the Small Business Saturday page on Facebook.



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Get Out & Explore Great Bend Every Weekend for a Chance to Win a \$1,000 Shopping Spree

Once again, the City of Great Bend is working with over 30 local businesses this November in a collaborative marketing campaign revolved around "Exploring Great Bend," which presents the best of everything the city has to offer. Explore Great Bend month will paint the city in a festive mood with a unique blend of shopping, promotions, entertainment and a \$1,000 prize to promote local spending. It's a winning combination that will help put Great Bend back on the citizen's map as a place to have fun, shop and experience overall.

"Great Bend has an amazing collection of shopping and entertainment, some just forget or have been shy about getting out there and experiencing it," says Christina Hayes, Community Coordinator. "Explore Great Bend month was created to help give incentive for those who haven't tried out what Great Bend has to offer before they leave town for holiday shopping. This is our third year facilitating this promotion."

A diverse range of retail experiences are available – from bargains, promotions, sales, and unique offers. Drawing boxes will only be put out on Saturdays in November (and Black Friday), and the special events involved will hopefully draw a crowd. To win the \$1,000 first place prize, the \$500 second place prize, or the \$250 3rd place prize, anyone can register for free in any of the participating locations; however only on these dates will registration be available. The date details include:

Nov. 1st

Open Houses

Local businesses will spotlighting their new holiday products and services.

Nov. 8th

Caught Ya Exploring

Shoppers get rewarded with gift certificates to participating stores! What a bonus!

Nov. 15th

Charity Day

Each store chooses their favorite charity, to which they will donate a portion of their sales.

Nov. 22nd

Find a Turkey Day

Look for the little turkey hidden in each store for an extra discount on purchases.

Nov. 28-29

Black Friday & Small Biz Saturday

Doorbuster deals Friday and holiday parade & cookie contest Saturday.

Each individual store and or participating location will put together their own discount or special event. Explore Great Bend has teamed up with the Panther Paw Craft Festival, the Home for the Holidays Parade, the Rosewood Services Cookie Contest, and others to build on these existing events.

Local shoppers are encouraged to show their support by signing up to win the shopping spree giveaways and checking out what great things this City has to offer. Registrants do not have to be present to win the \$1,000 or \$250 shopping spree.

For more information about the shopping spree giveaway or to see a list of participating businesses, visit the Explore Great Bend Facebook page!




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Bag Lady Brunch Rakes In \$11,500 and Four Dozen New Godmothers

Last month, more than 130 members of the Prairie Godmothers group gathered at the Best Western to raise money and awareness for their namesake funds at the Golden Belt Community Foundation during the first ever Bag Lady Brunch.



The event included a casual brunch, mimosas, silent and live auction items, an engaging program, and lots of socializing. "So many people have yet to learn what the Prairie Godmother funds are doing and why it's important," says Advisory Board member Melanie Calcara. "This endowment allows women of all ages and economic backgrounds to be a part of a permanent and sustainable source for emergency grants for women."

The Prairie Godmother Funds were established in October 2013, and provide grants to improve the health and well-being of Barton County women by addressing critical needs not met by other community resources.

During the Bag Lady Brunch, nearly four dozen new members were welcomed as Prairie Godmothers. The grand total for the unique fundraiser was approximately \$11,500 with more donations still arriving by mail. All of the event proceeds will support the endowment, as a generous donation from the Spray and Holt families covered all costs associated with the administration of the event.

"Prairie Godmothers allows us to lend a hand to women who find themselves in dire situations, for a variety of reasons beyond their control," Calcara says. "When other agencies cannot help, their Prairie Godmothers can come to the rescue. It all comes down to women helping women. It's empowering."

The group's next social function and fundraiser will be held on Monday, December 1st from 5-7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Great Bend. The holiday party will be called a "Match & Mingle – Make it a Double!" The Prairie Godmothers will be participating in Golden Belt Community Foundation's Match Day, on Giving Tuesday the following day.



To become a godmother, stop by the Golden Belt Community Foundation, 1307 Williams, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, or mail your tax-deductible donation to their office. For more details, call 620-792-3000. Like "Prairie Godmothers" on Facebook!

Tune in to ChamberConnect Show Nov. 6

Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month to hear Eagle Radio's Patrick Burnett discuss the latest Chamber happenings with Marketing Director Rachel Mawhirter. The November edition of ChamberConnect will air Thursday, November 6th at 11:35 a.m. This month's show will be centered around the Chamber's latest projects, such as the new 2015 Membership Directory, the enhancements for the Central Kansas Jobs program, and the upcoming Membership Appreciation Week.



Prepare to be "WOWED" by the NEW 2015 Membership Directory!

We are pleased to announce our new 2015 Membership Directory and Community Profile. We will be distributing this high quality publication to every member plus circulating the extra books throughout Great Bend and in relocation packets to new residents throughout the year.



We encourage all of our members to take advantage of this valuable resource by making sure your listing is up-to-date, as well as advertising to underwrite costs of this valuable service. Don't delay securing your placement to represent your company throughout our great community! To reserve your spot from last year, or to become a new advertiser, contact fellow member and partner publisher Nancy Rhomberg with MetroMedia Publishers at 620-603-9596 or email nrhomberg@metromediapublishers.com.

The 2015 publication will be have major "WOW" factor and will highlight our Chamber members and a few of the reasons why the Great Bend area is an amazing place to live, work and play. The guide will feature articles and photos that illustrate the strength of our community and all that we have to offer. Not only will all members touch and feel our new publication, but thousands of unique visitors to our chamber website will also see the 2015 edition through the interactive flipbook edition. This flip book is published on our website, facebook page, and by email to further benefit you, our members.

The full-color, glossy copies of the 2015 Membership Directory and Guide are entirely funded by advertising. The distribution includes the Chamber Office, City Office, Relocation Packets, Mailing to approximately 1,200 Chamber member contacts, and mailing to all informational and relocation inquiries throughout the U.S. from prospective residents and businesses.

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Tribune Launches New Bi-Monthly Inspire Health Women's Magazine

Starting this month, the Great Bend Tribune will publish a bi-monthly glossy magazine covering women's health and wellness. The first issue of Inspire Health will be distributed free to Tribune subscribers Nov. 14, along with their daily paper. Additional copies may be found at area establishments.

"This is something new for us," Tribune Publisher Mary Hoisington said. However, "we feel this is a market that is under served and this publication will help remedy that."

Here are some statistics – 91 percent of home purchases are made by women, 50 percent of traditional male products are purchased by women, 90 percent of health care decisions are made by women, 85 percent of consumer goods are purchased by women and 80 percent of auto purchases are influenced by women.

Inspire Health will feature recipes, fitness, fashion tips, inspirational profiles, family activities, health, area resources and more. Each issue includes local content produced by the Tribune staff. The magazine's mission is simple: "Every woman has the power and strength to be the best they can be."

The debut issue includes – fitness tips from a National Football League cheerleader, inspiring holiday gift ideas and glamorous seasonal fashion suggestions. "Each issue will have a wealth of information," Hoisington said. "We are striving to include items that inspire simple, realistic changes that can improve our lives in a significant way."

"Inspire Health is a way for us to reach out to a highly desirable audience," Tribune Advertising Manager Diane Lacy-Trostle said. "It offers a unique opportunity for advertisers to reach a very targeted and influential consumer."

For more information, contact the Tribune at 620-792-1211 or InspireHealth@gbtribune.com.

Announcements from Champion Service

Champion Service has two big announcements for the Great Bend area! The locally owned company would like to welcome back former employee Max Roberts, who rejoined the staff in October.



The pest control company is also proud to now accept credit cards for customer convenience. For more information, contact Champion Service at 620-792-4351.

Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of October, the Barton County Young Professionals group focused on the family with their annual Fall Fest event, sponsored this year by First Kansas Bank. Members brought their families to Brining Farms to enjoy free food, games and activities, crafts, a costume parade, face painting, and more. Approximately 250 people attended, with several new members joining at the festival.

In late October, the group celebrated a major milestone by surpassing 600 members. The first BCYP mixer was held in November 2011, with 100 people in attendance. "To grow by 600% in just three years is incredible, and it just shows how important this program really is," says Candice Moeder, current chair for the BCYP Steering Committee. "We will celebrate this milestone at our next event, and we encourage new people to get involved by attending."

On Friday, November 7th, Animal Medical Center will host the last quarterly networking mixer for this calendar year. From 6-9 p.m., YP members and guests can come enjoy free food, an open bar, networking opportunities, and enter to win nearly \$1,000 in gift certificates! Prizes being given away include a \$400 P&S Security gift card, a \$400 High Call Outfitters gift card, and a \$150 Animal Medical Center gift card. The mixer will take place in the barn behind the clinic, 622 McKinley, and door prizes will be drawn at 7:30 p.m. No RSVP's are required, so bring a friend!

Then on Tuesday, November 18th the group will gather for a Personal Development Luncheon on "Employer Benefit Programs" at 12 p.m. at the Pizza Hut Buffet, 4101 10th Street. There is no fee to attend, but everyone pays for their own meal.

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 November

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

- 1... Explore Great Bend Open Houses, Participating Retailers
- 2... Royal Family Kids Camp Soup Supper, First Assembly, 601 Patton, 12:30-2 p.m.
- 2... KWEC Presentation "A Shadow Over the Earth", 592 NE 156 Hwy, 2-5 p.m.
- 2... Holiday Décor (formerly Holiday Tables), Flavored Celebrations, 1315 Stone, 2-4 p.m.
- 3... Barton Ice Scraper Giveaway (while supplies last), Barton Library, 245 NE 30 Rd
- 3... Young Professionals Steering Committee Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 3... American Legion Auxiliary Membership Dinner, 1011 Kansas Ave, 6 p.m.
- 5... Groundbreaking: Overland Property Group, 600 Grant, 4 p.m.
- 6... Chamber Coffee: Moeder Oil Company, 2302 Railroad Ave, 9:30 a.m.
- 6... ChamberConnect Radio Show Airs, KVGB 1590 AM, 11:35 a.m.
- 6... Chamber Ambassador Club Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 12 p.m.
- 7... Young Professionals Mixer, Animal Medical Center, 622 McKinley, 6-9 p.m.
- 8... Explore Great Bend Registration Caught Ya Exploring Day, Participating Retailers
- 8... Dominican Sisters Annual Mission Bazaar, 3600 Broadway, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 8... United Way Casino Night, Sidewinders Clubhouse, 21 N. Main in Ellinwood, 7 p.m.
- 10... Shafer Art Gallery Exhibit Opening, 245 NE 30 Rd, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 10... American Legion Soup Supper, 1011 Kansas Ave, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 11... Veterans Day Celebration, American Legion, 1011 Kansas Ave
- 12... Technology Roundtable, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, 11:30 a.m.
- 13... Chamber Coffee: Great Bend Floral & Gifts, 1913 Lakin, 9:30 a.m.
- 13... Ribbon Cutting: The Beauty Bar, 1908 12th Street, 10 a.m.
- 14... Movie with a Message, 3600 Broadway, 6:15 p.m.
- 15... Explore Great Bend Charity Day, Participating Retailers
- 15... Heartland Farm Naturally Clean Workshop, 1049 CR 390 in Pawnee Rock, 9 a.m.
- 15... Submission Deadline for December Issue of Outlook Business Journal
- 18... Young Professionals Luncheon "Employer Benefit Programs", Pizza Hut, 12 p.m.
- 18... Shine a Light on Lung Cancer, Heartland Cancer Center, 6 p.m.
- 18... Barton Basketball Games, Kirkman Gym, 245 NE 30 Rd, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 19... Dress Down the Town for United Way, Participating Businesses
- 20... Chamber Coffee: Grace Community Church, 210 McKinley, 9:30 a.m.
- 20... Ribbon Cutting: Bank of the West, 1200 Kansas Ave, 11 a.m.
- 20... Clara Barton Hospital Addition Grand Opening
- 20... Flyer Insert Deadline for December Issue of Outlook Business Journal
- 20-21... Barton Theatre Student Production, Planetarium, 245 NE 30 Rd, 7:30 p.m.
- 20-23... GBCT Play "Beer for Breakfast," 1905 Lakin, 8 p.m. Thurs-Sat, 2 p.m. Sun
- 21-23... Community Musical "A Christmas Carol", BCC Fine Arts, 245 NE 30 Rd, 7:30 p.m. Fri-Sat, 2 p.m. Sun
- 22... Explore Great Bend Find a Turkey Day, Participating Retailers
- 25... Barton Women's Basketball Game, Kirkman Gym, 245 NE 30 Rd, 5:30 p.m.
- 26-30... Barton Campus Closed for Thanksgiving
- 27-28... Chamber Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 28... Explore Great Bend Black Friday, Participating Retailers
- 28... Quilts of Valor Presentation, American Legion, 1011 Kansas Ave, 6:45 p.m.
- 28... Barton Basketball Classic, Kirkman Gym, 245 NE 30 Rd, 1-9 p.m.
- 29... Explore Great Bend Small Business Saturday, Participating Retailers
- 29... Home for the Holidays Parade, Downtown Great Bend, 5:30 p.m.

Other Recurring Events:

- Barton County Commission Meetings – Every Monday, 1400 Main, 9 a.m.
 Great Bend City Council Meetings – 1st & 3rd Mondays, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
 American Legion Bingo – Every Tuesday & Thursday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.
 American Legion Dinners – Every Wednesday & Friday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.



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Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball (ABBB), 2006 Broadway, has been serving corporate and individual clients since 1945. Dexter Miner planted the firm's roots in Great Bend and hired James F. Adams in 1947. Adams recently passed away. Today, Brian Staats is the managing partner of ABBB; John Cross is the Great Bend office manager; and the other local partners are Sheryl Schamaun, Vickie Dreiling, Vaughn Goerl and Michelle Schneider. The firm has a total of 14 partners.

Of the 140 people ABBB employs, 40 are in Great Bend, which is home to the firm's administrative team and the information technology experts. In addition to the home office in Great Bend, Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball has offices in 12 other communities including Hays, McPherson, Hutchinson, Colby, Wichita, St. John, La Crosse, Lyons, Hillsboro, Ness City, Atwood and WaKeeney. "We always look for opportunities to expand," said Sheryl Schamaun, CPA and shareholder. "We consider the geographic area, the client-base possibilities and the culture of a region. One or two people serve the smaller offices but there is always a CPA manager for each."

Each employee plays a role in providing ABBB's long list of services in many fields of expertise. These include agriculture, construction and contractors, manufacturing, municipal auditing, oil and gas, professionals, real estate, small business, and retirement, pension and estate plans. No matter what role is being played in the day-to-day operation, the goal is the same – serve the client.

"A bigger client may need payroll and investment services, along with financial statement preparation," Schamaun said. "Audits are probably the biggest service we provide, for both businesses and employee benefit plans. But we also assist the individual who needs help at tax time, and we serve many municipalities such as cities, counties and colleges."

Adams Brown Beran & Ball is licensed in many states, with clients all over the country. This is largely due to word of mouth and client loyalty, even after they move away. "In this day and age, there are individual tax software out there, that ask you some standard questions to prepare a return," Schamaun says. "But we help our clients look for other possible deductions or tax credits, and we customize our approach based on the client's needs."



Six of the fourteen partners at Adams Brown Beran & Ball are based out of the Great Bend office, which also serves as the firm's headquarters. Pictured from left to right are John Cross, Sheryl Schamaun, Vicki Dreiling, Brian Staats (Managing Partner), Vaughn Goerl, and Michelle Schneider. ABBB was founded in 1945.

ABBB provides a wide range of accounting and bookkeeping services for businesses of all sizes. "We may do payroll for a farmer with one employee or a hotel with 200 employees," Schamaun said, noting some companies retain ABBB so they don't need to hire a full-time bookkeeper.

Vickie Dreiling, another CPA and shareholder, noted that the bottom line is ABBB will tailor services to fit exactly what the client needs.

"You don't have to be a big company – we design services to fit you," Dreiling explained. "Maybe it's just figuring sales tax. It could be a one-time engagement or a relationship that lasts for years."

She also noted that ABBB sometimes suggests a "fixed-price agreement" for a client. This means that for a flat rate, the firm will perform certain tasks for a certain fee.

"We can get the services wrapped up into an agreement, say for one year," Dreiling elaborated. "Then we can re-visit it and maybe renew for another year."

Both Schamaun and Dreiling have high praise for all ABBB employees. The staff includes CPAs, staff accountants, administrators, professional staff, client services specialists, and clerical and support personnel. Seasonal help is hired at tax time.

"We have a lot of people with expertise in areas that sometimes clients don't think about," Dreiling commented. "Our biggest asset are our employees. We recruit at universities in Kansas to find the best people and we are a family-oriented firm. Many of our employees have been here a long time – one for over 40 years."

"Our valuable clients and employees are the reasons for our longevity," she elaborated. "We have grown into the largest regional accounting firm in western Kansas, and are in good standing with all state and federal licensing entities. We are known for our integrity and ethics, and hold ourselves to a high standard."

That high standard is not only practiced within the walls of ABBB's offices, however. Employees donate to a fund that supports charitable causes in the communities they serve; so far, those donations total \$34,000. The firm also hosts Red Cross blood drives six times a year.

"At ABBB, our roots run deep. We have built our business on a commitment to exceptional service and a promise to deliver added value to the clients we serve," says Chief Operating Officer (COO) Nancy Peschka. "The secret to our success is our people and our culture, both of which are 100% focused on providing our clients with the personalized attention they deserve." —



Award Winning Service

LEA Global, an international professional association of accounting firms, recently awarded Adams Brown Beran & Ball with one of its prestigious Edge Awards for 2014 at its global conference in Montreal. Each of LEA's highly competitive awards is inspired by the cutting-edge innovations and best practices that differentiate LEA members from their competitors. (Pictured at right)

Adams Brown Beran & Ball was also awarded the Business of the Year Award from the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development in 2004 for leadership and growth despite adversity.



It's in our Nature to Inspire!

Column by Cris Collier, President
Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau



It's hunting season again in the Heart of Kansas! Hunters are good business for Great Bend and the surrounding area. Hunters return every year (when there's water) to enjoy our hunting and our hospitality. Great Bend is a nationally known hunting destination. Cheyenne Bottoms is a natural treasure for hunters and we have a wealth of walk-in hunting and private hunting available in Barton and the surrounding counties.

Kansas Secretary of Wildlife & Parks, Robin Jennison, recently shared some interesting facts about hunting and the revenue it brings to the State of Kansas.

- Each year, about 200,000 hunters spend an average of 5 days hunting in Kansas.
- Each hunter spends \$185.00 per day on food, gas, lodging, and equipment.
- This translates into \$185,000,000.00 for the Kansas economy!

Barton and the seven counties directly surrounding it (Russell, Ellis, Rush, Pawnee, Stafford, Rice, & Ellsworth) boast 301 walk-in hunting tracts encompassing 78,297 acres. The Walk-In Hunting Access Program has been a great success and is one of the reasons out-of-state hunters are attracted to Kansas. They like the wide-open spaces and the Kansas hospitality they find here from land-owners and communities.

The Convention & Visitors Bureau has a hunting guide that we send to out of town hunters and we invite local businesses to stop by the office and pick up a supply to have on hand for visiting hunters. It covers everything from motel dog policies, locations to purchase licenses, and local businesses that cater to hunters. We also have copies of the Kansas Hunting Regulations and the Walk In Hunting Atlas. Come to the Bureau office and we'll be happy fix you up with all of these publications as you prepare to hunt or host hunters. You can also visit the Kansas Wildlife & Parks website for lots of information about what game is in season, bag limits, and hunting conditions www.kdwp.state.ks.us/hunting/



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Centura Health & Hays Medical Center to Co-Own St. Rose ASC

Centura Health and Hays Medical Center (HaysMed) have signed a letter of intent to become co-owners of St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center. The two organizations share a common vision of providing a high level of quality care for residents living in Great Bend and surrounding communities. Through easily accessible, affordable and coordinated care, the two organizations are working to optimize health value and support population health management.

When the agreement is finalized this winter, the name will change to St. Rose Health Center. Construction will also begin to renovate the current medical office building as well as expand and modernize the health campus to offer residents greater access and convenience. The organizations are committed to developing customized services to support optimal health at every stage of life.

"St. Rose has a significant medical history in the Great Bend area and is synonymous with the quality health care started by the Dominican Sisters," said John H. Jeter, M.D., HaysMed president and chief executive officer. "We are committed to serving the needs of the residents by dedicating our efforts to provide a positive patient experience, along with keeping care local through coordinated care between primary care and specialty physicians."

Centura Health and HaysMed are working together to add additional physicians to the organization. The staff at St. Rose will be employed and managed by HaysMed. The St. Rose Health Center Board will select an administrator and there will be equal representation by both Centura Health and HaysMed on the board of directors.

Animal Medical Center Adds Groomer

Animal Medical Center is proud to introduce Jeannie Spanke as the new full time groomer on the AMC team. Jeannie came to us from Dallas, Texas and has been grooming professionally for 14 years. She enjoys all breeds of dogs and cats. Jeannie likes to visit personally with pet owners to find exactly how prefer their pet be groomed. Call Animal Medical Center at 620-792-1265 to schedule your pet's grooming today. And be sure to clip our coupon from page 4 of the Chamber newsletter every month! Visit www.myamc.com for info!



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*Credit amount is dependent upon the type and condition of phone. Customers must purchase a new Nex-Tech Wireless device. This program is not available for WOV. Nex-Tech Wireless is eligible to receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in designated areas. As a result, Nex-Tech Wireless must meet reasonable requests for service in these areas. Questions or complaints concerning service issues may be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0022.



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Announcements from the Finance Industry

Emerson Completes Compliance School

Aaron Emerson, Compliance and Information Technology officer for First Kansas Bank, recently attended the 2014 Bank Compliance School. Paul Snapp, President and CEO of First Kansas Bank commented, "The Bank Compliance School adds to the strong compliance foundation Aaron already possesses. Aaron has the experience, education and credentials to lead this important function of the Bank."



The Bank Compliance School was held August 17-22 in Grand Island, Nebraska and is sponsored by the Kansas and Nebraska Bankers Associations and endorsed by the West Virginia and Wyoming Bankers Associations. The School is designed to provide compliance and audit personnel with information regarding all federal regulations covered in an on-site Compliance Examination by Federal Regulatory Agencies. Bankers attending the School were also provided with thorough reference materials and techniques to assist their bank in complying with the extensive federal and state regulations. For more details on First Kansas Bank, visit www.firstkansasbank.com.

Farmers Bank & Trust Awarded A+ Rating for Stability

Farmers Bank & Trust has been awarded an A+ in DepositAccounts.com's independent Bank Financial Health Rating System for the quarter ended June 30, 2014. The A+ rating is defined as the highest distinction in terms of relative financial strength and stability, according to their standardized measurement system. The service gives consumers information on the relative financial strength of U.S. commercial banks, savings institutions and credit unions. "In today's economic climate, it's important for consumers to trust that their money is protected. "Earning an A+ is a strong indicator of strength and stability, said Ken Tumin, co-founder of DepositAccounts.com.



Each quarter DepositAccounts.com evaluates the financial health of every federally insured bank in the United States—more than 6,500 total. Each institution is graded on a number of factors, including capitalization, deposit growth and loan to reserve ratios, in order to determine a comprehensive health score. For more details on Farmers Bank & Trust, visit www.farmersbankna.com.

Also Read: Central National Bank Ribbon Cutting, Pg. 11

Beautiful Beginnings Bridal Boutique Adds Brands & New Ways to Shop

Although Beautiful Beginnings still has a large selection of Bridal gowns and Bridal accessories, the business is not just for brides anymore. The business carries a large array of ladies casual tops and bottoms, dresses and accessories with name brands such as Brighton Jewelry, SPANX, Squeem, Foxcroft, City Girl and UR Rebel. In keeping up with their customers' busy lifestyles, Beautiful Beginnings Boutique has developed new more convenient ways of shopping. The business offers private in-store parties, suitcase shopping, and at-home trunk shows.

Private parties are scheduled after hours, and incentives are provided to hostesses with specials for all the guests. Suitcase shopping allows customers to call in and explain what they are looking for so the staff can pack a suitcase to be taken home to try on. Trunk shows let customers shop on-the-go at a special event or in their home. Employees pack a trunk of items and bring them to the place of choice. After a short demonstration on the latest fashion trends, guests can shop in a relaxed environment. Beautiful Beginnings also offers shopping online through Facebook and Square Market. Store hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10 to 5:30, Wednesday 11 to 4, Thursday 10 to 7, and Saturday 10 to 4:30. For more details, visit BeautifulBeginningsGB.com.



An Update from the Great Bend Pilot Club

Pilot International was founded in 1921, and is a volunteer service organization offering its members vast opportunities to make a positive difference in their communities while promoting brain safety, brain research, and brain disorders. Pilot Club volunteers conduct programs, projects, and fundraisers that include many areas of charitable service at the local level.

The Great Bend Pilot club has been active in the community for over 25 years. Fall is an active time. In October, the club sponsored the Walk to End Alzheimer's and raised over \$1,000. They also hosted a Fall Workshop for the western part of the state. Members are busy making quilts and blankets for foster children through the "Warm Embrace" project.

This month, they will be helping make "Body Venture" presentations to fifth grade students, and promoting Care & Kindness Week, which celebrates the main tenants' of being a Pilot to Care more and Do more, Be more. Check out our Facebook page, Great Bend Pilot Club.

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Ambassador Profile - Terry Lewis

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 am currently the Managing Funeral Director / Embalmer at Charter Funerals in Great Bend, where I have worked for the past three years. Prior to living in Great Bend, I owned and operated funeral homes in several Nebraska cities.

Educational Background

I graduated from the Spencer School of Business in Spencer, Iowa with an Associate's Degree in Accounting. I then earned an Associate's Degree from the Indiana College of Mortuary Science in 1979 and have been a licensed funeral director and embalmer since 1980.

My Family

I have four grown children ranging in age from 24-32 years of age, who live in Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri. I also have four grandchildren.

As an Ambassador

I have been an Ambassador for one year, and enjoy the opportunity to network with other members and community leaders. I was attracted to Great Bend because of the strong business climate here. I see a bright future for Great Bend and the surrounding area.

Hobbies & Interesting Facts

I enjoy woodworking and barbecuing. I am an active member and usher at First Assembly of God Church.

News & Events from the Hoisington Chamber Submitted by Executive Vice President Kristi Lovett

Dizzying carnival rides, a national Country act, a packed Demo Derby, a stormy street dance and a hugely entertaining annual parade rounded out this year's 118th Annual Hoisington Labor Day Celebration! The staff and Board of the Hoisington Chamber of Commerce were extremely pleased with the turnout at each of the events and would like to thank all of the volunteers and chairpersons who made this year's celebration such a success! They also would like to give a warm "Thank you!" to everyone from out of town who visited and enjoyed the full and diverse schedule of events. That weekend would not be possible without both groups, for sure.

The Hoisington Chamber Board and Labor Day Committee are already making plans for the 119th Labor Day Celebration! If you have any suggestions or ideas for 2015, please give the Chamber office a call at 620-653-4311.

Upcoming Hoisington Events:

Nov. 3-20 - Chamber's "Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway!"
Nov. 21 - Hoisington Main Street "Ladies Night Out", 5:30 - 8:30
Nov. 28 - Hoisington's Annual Christmas Lighting, 5:30 p.m.

Sunflower Bank Supports Veterans Through Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF)

Sunflower Bank is partnering with Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF) to support injured military service members and their families. Sunflower has set a goal to contribute up to \$50,000 to YRF. To reach this goal, Sunflower will donate \$3 for every new account opened and 3¢ for every swipe of a Sunflower Bank debit card, now through December 31, 2014.

Since 2005, the Yellow Ribbon Fund has been filling gaps in services for injured service members and their families, with 83 cents of every dollar spent going to services and programs. During the recovery process, YRF offers free rental cars, taxi rides, hotel stays, and apartments; support for family caregivers; and social events, outings, free tickets to sporting and cultural events, and career and education mentoring. After they return home, YRF's nationwide network of volunteers continue to provide practical support.

Sunflower is hosting veteran appreciation events in many of their communities during the month of November. Customers and non-customers can also donate to YRF at any Sunflower Bank branch. For more information on YRF and to learn how you can join the support of YRF, please visit www.SunflowerBank.com.



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- 2 Corinthians 5:17

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Central National Bank Introduces New Loan Specialist & Two New Locations

Central National Bank announces Amanda Proffitt as their newest Lending Analyst for the new Great Bend Lending Services Office. She joins Central National Bank with 12 years of banking experience. "We are thrilled to welcome Amanda to the Central National Bank team," said Chad Steffan, President and Commercial/Ag Lender. "Her leadership, commitment to the community, and past experience will be a benefit to our organization and to Great Bend."

Proffitt attended Fort Hays State University and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She currently resides in Ellinwood and has served on the Ellinwood Rotary Club Board, the Ellinwood Recreation Commission Board as well as the St John's Child Development Center Board. She enjoys spending time with her husband Spencer, and their children, Cooper and Aliyah. In her free time she participates in volleyball and bowling leagues and enjoys watching NASCAR and reading.

The Central National Bank Lending Services Office recently settled into their permanent office at 1916 Main Street in Great Bend. "We look forward to serving the community of Great Bend," Steffan continued. "Amanda will be a great advocate for community growth and offer customized service with our full suite of lending programs."

Central National Bank also recently opened a new bank branch facility inside the Walmart Supercenter store at 3503 10th Street in Great Bend. This full-service retail banking location offers extended hours of operation, 7 days a week. Customers enjoy E-Statements, Online Banking, Mobile Banking, Mobile Deposits, Online Bill Pay as well as insurance and investment services.

Central National Bank is based out of Junction City, Kansas. Founded in 1884, Central National Bank has bank locations in 22 communities across Kansas and Nebraska. Their mission has always been to support and strengthen local communities through employee involvement, corporate citizenship and technological innovation. For more information, visit www.centralnational.com.



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

UWCK is still rolling along! We are at 60% of our campaign goal of \$270,000 and we can still use your help! If you would like to contribute or schedule a payroll presentation for your company's employees, please contact United Way of Central Kansas, unitedwaycentralks@hotmail.com or send your contribution to 1125 Williams in Great Bend. We have several other ways to get involved!

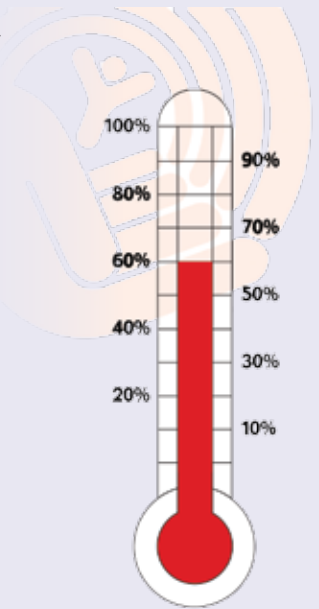
November 8th - Casino Night is November 8th from 7 to 10 pm. This is a fun night out, and the Sidewinders Club helps out by putting this on each year. The Casino Night is at their clubhouse 21 N Main in Ellinwood. \$20 Donation gets you in the door and the prizes are listed on the website, everyone has a great chance of winning! Special Donation this year is a Honda Camo generator generously donated by Great Bend Farm Equipment! Don't miss this event!

November 19th is National Philanthropy Day and United Way has teamed up with the Buckle for a "Dress Down the Town" jeans day. See the insert for more details or contact our office at 620-792-2403 and ask how your business can get involved and we can show the community the difference a dollar can make!

December 6th - Light to Unite from 5:30 to 7:30. This is a lighted up Bike ride and Ugly Sweater Run through the Trail of Lights, details on the website, all proceeds go to United Way of Central Kansas, please contact Volunteers in Action at 620-792-1614 to get involved! Volunteers are needed!

Thanks to everyone involved with the campaign, volunteers, Co-chairs, Board members, agencies that help make our community a better place to live!

Check out what is happening at United Way on our Facebook page or online at www.uwck.org.



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November 6, 2014

Moeder Oil Company • 2302 Railroad Avenue

Moeder Oil's main business is delivering products to farm, oil field and industrial sectors of central and western Kansas. Moeder serves a 100-mile radius surrounding the City of Great Bend with gasoline, diesel fuel and propane.

November 13, 2014

Great Bend Floral & Gifts • 1913 Lakin Avenue

Great Bend Floral & Gifts is proud to provide an expansive array of flowers, plants and gifts to suit any occasion. Our experienced staff will work with you to create a one-of-a-kind gift you're sure to love. Enjoy the convenience of ordering online and the ease of pick-up or delivery in Great Bend area. www.greatbendfloral.com

November 20, 2014

Grace Community Church • 210 McKinley Street

Grace Community Church exists to lead people to an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ so they may abound in fruitfulness to God's glory and their most profound joy. (John 15:1-11) Join us at the Chamber Coffee or visit our website for more information.

www.GraceGreatBend.org

November 27, 2014

No Coffee • Happy Thanksgiving!

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development would like to wish all of our members a very safe and happy Thanksgiving! Our office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27-28, 2014.

December 4, 2014

Habitat for Humanity • Chamber Office, 1125 Williams

Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that builds or rehabilitates homes so they are safe, decent, affordable housing for low income families in the Barton County area. These homes are purchased through zero-interest mortgages, so their payments can be used to fund future projects. www.facebook.com/BartonCountyHabitat



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McDonald's

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.

Employment – Barton County	August 13	August 14
Labor Force	16,583	17,879
Employment	15,859	17,295
Unemployment	724	584
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	3.3%
KS Unemployment Rate	5.9%	4.9%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report	August 13	August 14
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$426,211	\$455,886
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$223,586	\$243,470

Building Permits	August 13	August 14
Commercial – GB	6	4
Residential - GB	30	25

Sources:

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

