

OUTLOOK

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**SPECIAL EDITION:
102ND ANNUAL AWARDS
CELEBRATES UNSUNG HEROES**

Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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An Enchanted Evening Celebrating our Community Champions

On February 24th, 2024 the Great Bend community came together at the beautiful Corinthians Hill Event Center to honor the outstanding individuals and businesses that make our town truly exceptional. Presenting sponsors of the evening included: Barton Community College, The University of Kansas Health System, and Spectrum CPA.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Sponsored cocktail hour thanks to Equity Bank
- Chamby Awards swept by Cody Harris
- Lavender lemonade made with lavender grown on the property @ Corinthians Hill Event Center
- THREE local caterers used: Lana's Catering & Goodies, Great Bend Coffee, and Proper Boards & Picnics
- 29 total sponsors including 19 corporate tables represented!
- Photo Op area with Shutter Up Photobooth
- Nearly 375 people present to celebrate our community's Unsung Heroes!



2023 Business of the Year:
Spectrum CPA



2023 Citizen of the Year:
Mark Bitter, Kustom Floor Designs



2023 Chamby Award Winner:
Cody Harris, Sunflower Diversified Services



2023 NextGen Leader of the Year:
Kris Sundahl, Edward Jones

“Our future depends on collaboration and highlighting the good in our community,”

Rob Bauer,
Chairman of the Board



CHAMBY'S



The Chamby Awards annually recognize Chamber Ambassadors who truly exemplify the ambassador role. These two awards commend Chamber Ambassadors for their outstanding embodiment of the Ambassadorial role, acknowledging their dedicated contributions and positive impact within the chamber community. The name "Chamby" is coined from the TV series The Office and their Dundie awards. A Dundie is an award bestowed annually by Dunder Mifflin Scranton regional manager Michael Scott. We, here at the chamber, celebrate who "Hosted the Mosted", an award for the ambassador that hosted the most Chamber Coffees. Cody Harris swept the coffees with Dave Storjohann coming in second! Our 2nd Chamby is the "Ribbon Cutting Champion" for the Awmbassador that attended the most ribbon cuttings. Cody Harris won this one as well with Kris Sundahl a close second!



2024 Chamber Ambassadors

- PRESIDENT:** Lindsey Bogner, Barton Community College
VICE PRESIDENT: Kris Sundahl, Edward Jones
 Kimberly Becker, Move Your Mountain Coaching & Consulting
 Patrick Cowan, Adams Brown
 Cadey Dick, Bank of the Plains
 Jake Fryberger, American National Insurance
 Michele Gregg, ICT Insurance Group
 Maggie Harris, Barton Community College
 Amy Herrera, Equity Bank
 Dena Hiss, Legacy Financial Solutions
 Lleraldy Sandoval Holguin, The Buckle
 Lee Ann June, Great Bend Economic Development
 Tarynn Kirmer, Stueder Contractors, Inc.
 Creighton Lahman, Abbey Carpet & Floor
 Richard Lartz II, Shafer Art Gallery
 Kristin McAllister, Sunflower Bank
 Michael Miller, Ronald L Miller Public Accounting
 Andrew Murphy, Great Bend Tribune
 Trevor Olsen, Kansas Trophy Experience
 Charell Owings, United Way of Central Kansas
 Sarah Panning, Nex-Tech Wireless
 Shawn Powelson, Equity Bank
 Aaron Raney, Iron Therapy Training
 Sonya Rein, Edward Jones
 Flor Sanchez, Heart of Kansas Family Healthcare
 Brad Shirey, Retired
 Kyler Sill, Adams Brown
 Edith Solorzano, Identifications Co.
 Amanda Staab, Barton Community College
 Jennifer Stoddard, Harmeke Electric
 Dave Storjohann, Arby's



NEXTGEN LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The NextGen Leader of the Year award is presented annually to an individual creating a meaningful impact as a rising leader in Barton County, Kansas. Nominees are leaders in their work environment, as well as in the community. This award is presented by the Barton County Young Professionals, a program of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. Additional award criteria includes being a member of the chamber and living in the Great Bend area for at least three years.

When Kris Sundahl's family learned he might not be able to attend the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce banquet, they had to get creative. The result was to tell him a big white lie. Kris was taken aside and informed that his mom, Nancy, was going to be named Citizen of the Year and that he must attend the banquet to present her with the award. And, of course, he couldn't say anything to her because the name of the winner is kept hush-hush until the banquet. Little did he know that he would be honored with the NextGen Award at the annual chamber gathering. "He said he would be coaching basketball out of town that weekend and was iffy on getting back in time for the banquet," Nancy recalled. "We had to do something to make sure he came. It is safe to say the NextGen honor would come as a very, very big surprise. Kris demonstrates every day why he deserves this prestigious recognition," Nancy commented. "He is a leader who adds meaning to life, whether at home or at work."

Kris, 45, is a financial advisor at Edward Jones, 2016 19th. He is a single dad with two sons - Jakoby, 12, and Dylan, 10. After he moved back to Great Bend in 2018, "he had the opportunity to work for Edward Jones," Nancy said. "Kris also wanted to get involved in his community and joined the Chamber; he is still an ambassador. He wants to give back to the community that has given so much to him. "Kris has been successful at his job, in part, because of the guidance of Sonya Rein," she added. "Also, he has time to be available to his boys and participate in their activities. They also enjoy the outdoors and finding new places to hike and explore nature."

Kris has a long history of coaching many youth sports, noted his dad, Kevin. "But it is not just about the games; it is about life - the ups and downs, the wins and losses. When things don't go your way or you face obstacles, you find a way to work through it," Kevin continued. "Kris is great coach, has a good work ethic and is an excellent role model for young people."

Kris is a 1997 graduate of Great Bend High School and earned an associate's degree in general studies two years later at Barton Community College. He went on to receive his bachelor's in psychology in 2001 at Kansas State University and a master's in history in 2015 at Wichita State University. From 2002-16, he was in law enforcement at Hutchinson, where he was a school resource officer for the school district. "Kris enjoyed law enforcement but wanted to be able to spend more time with his sons," Kevin said.

Jan Westfall, community leader who nominated Kris for the NextGen recognition, said "he is dedicated to this community and wants to continue to be a vital part of its growth and success. Kris wants to build for the future, not only for himself but for his two boys. It is important to Kris to show his children the benefits of supporting your community and getting involved in civic groups, church and school activities." Westfall also noted the extent of his community involvement. Kris is vice president of the Noon Lions Club; vice president of the USD 428 Education Foundation board; Family Crisis Center board member; and active member of Prince of Peace Parish and supporter of Holy Family School where his children are students. On top of all that, Kris finds time to be a college basketball official and volunteers as a youth coach of basketball, baseball and football," Westfall pointed out.

Sonya Rein, another nominator, said "Kris has spent his life serving others in many capacities; he has a passion for helping others. He exemplifies the Edward Jones mission, which is to partner for positive impact, improve the lives of our clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities and society. His Edward Jones branch continues to rise in the ranks of Practice Level Management," continued Rein, senior branch office administrator. "And most important, Kris is a dedicated single dad who is a perfect fit for the NextGen Award criteria."

More amazing photos from awards night can be found on our website @ greatbend.org.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes outstanding service by an individual who contributes to the quality of life within the community of Great Bend. This award recognizes an individual who has given their time, talent, energy, and shown outstanding service to the community and members of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, or persons who have excelled in their chosen profession giving of their time and talent to enhance the culture and work environment around them.

Mark Bitter is well known about town even though he is often described as the “behind-the-scenes guy.” He quietly goes about his business, while helping make things happen. Mark has played a big role in everything from Final Fridays to the huge downtown-loft project. These ventures, plus many others, are the reason Mark was recognized as Citizen of the Year during the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce annual banquet. “Despite his many contributions to Great Bend, Mark is kind of an introvert,” said Chris Bitter, his wife. “He certainly doesn’t like the spotlight.” Well, he got it anyway when he was presented with the special honor in front of hundreds of guests.

Mark and Chris own Kustom Floor Designs, 1515 Main, which opened in 1979; both work at the family business. When trying to verbalize the reasons Mark deserves the award, one event stands out in the minds of Chris and their daughters, Cori and Lacey – the gathering after the Home for the Holidays Parade. “Mark said “wouldn’t it be cool to have a party?”” Chris recalled. “That led to families gathering for hot dogs, hot chocolate and carriage rides; and it continues to grow. “Mark always insists these community events be free of charge. He wants to engage the community and start family traditions. When he sees young people with families come home for the parade, Mark wants to find ways to encourage them to move back. That was the mind-set with Final Fridays too.” Chris pointed to another illustration of Mark’s drive to help Great Bend prosper. When he is out of town, he checks out the businesses and amenities in other downtowns. “His mind is always thinking about how we could incorporate something of value. And he has me doing the same thing. When I am out of town, I snap pictures because I know he wants to see what I saw.”

The loft space downtown is a big focus now. “This was a vision of Mark’s when MyTown bought the Zarah Building. When he first saw the space, it was a mess to say the least. But he was undeterred. “Mark is aware there are negative comments about the lofts but he has a unique ability to shake them off. He constantly looks at the positives and always says that challenges and problems are opportunities. “People don’t have any idea about the hours and hours of research that go into a project like this. He continues to learn and knows it will work.”

Cori and Lacey didn’t have a difficult time elaborating on the extent of their dad’s commitment to Great Bend. “He doesn’t just talk,” Lacey said. “He figures out solutions; he wants to find ways to fuel the business community. But it’s not just that. He also is concerned about the quality-of-life aspects of Great Bend.” During his research on the lofts, Mark has zeroed in on municipal codes, demographics and the availability of grant funds. “You cannot imagine what has gone into this,” Lacey commented. Cori, who is the painter and finisher at Kustom Floor, noted that her dad mentors so many people in all walks of life. “Again, it’s not just the business side of things. He also mentors about personal development and leadership, while encouraging others to be their best. He wants his neighbors to lead meaningful lives. “What really stands out is that Dad has helped other contractors get their licenses even though they will be our competition. He looks at this as building for generations to come.” Cori and Lacey’s brother, Klint, now works for the family business too.

Sara Arnberger, president of Great Bend Economic Development, mentioned four words that come to mind when she thinks about Mark: inspiration, passion, perseverance and community. “From the moment I met Mark, his innovative ideas and unwavering commitment to our community have propelled me to new heights,” Arnberger said. “Engaging in conversation with Mark infuses one with empowerment and optimism for our collective future. “Mark’s tireless efforts laid the groundwork for Great Bend’s prosperity, fostering the success of numerous events, projects and businesses. His enduring faith in our community, even during times of slow progress, serves as a beacon of resilience and hope. His contagious enthusiasm inspires me daily, and enriches the fabric of Great Bend.”

Sheryl Cheely, MyTown board member, echoed some of Arnberger’s comments and mentioned Mark’s “love of Great Bend. He quietly raises money and is open to discussions about how to make our town better. “During the last 15 years, Mark has helped make MyTown work, with many contributions to Final Fridays and the after-parade party. He also worked with me to bring the Dolly Trolley to Great Bend. Mark is a very good businessman who has his employees’ respect and an eye for making things look beautiful.”

More amazing photos from awards night can be found on our website @ greatbend.org.



BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



The Business of the Year Award is an annual award showcasing companies demonstrating excellence in the marketplace. Companies who are chosen for Business of the Year are members of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and have demonstrated excellence in the following areas: customer service, shown growth, positive response to adversity, community involvement, and innovative business practices. A company constantly improving its products, services, and programs to best serve its customers, vendors, and employees.

It's not just professionalism in the field of accounting that earned Spectrum CPA Partners the Business of the Year Award. It's also the employees' genuine concern for the community they serve. "I know this sounds cliché, but this is an amazing group of people," said Barry Bowers, Spectrum partner. "They are exceptional employees who take care of their clients, while also being plugged in to the needs of their community." For example, Operation Christmas Child has grown every year because of the employees, most of whom are long-time Barton County residents. They also serve Meals on Wheels, and support non-profits, civic clubs and churches. "If we didn't have these people on staff, we wouldn't have this award," Bowers said. "This recognition is about everyone here, the business as a whole. We are selective about who we hire and it pays off every day. It's great when you don't mind coming to work."

In addition to Bowers, Cynthia Lockwood is a partner and Joni Haines is the administrator. Staff accountants are Rick Warnken, Tammy Curtis, Kayla Wimmer, Sheri Yager, John Lane, Ally Stocker and Santiago Talamantes. Penny Dreiling is the receptionist. Lockwood noted these colleagues comprise the team that offers a full-service menu of accounting services at 1400 Polk. This includes: payroll services; QuickBooks training; business consulting and planning; bookkeeping; income-tax services; investment tax planning; financial and estate planning; and human resources consulting. "We also continue to create new services as we stay up-to-date with the many changes in technology," Lockwood said. "These changes happen at warp speed, while we offer more services electronically and remotely." Spectrum appreciates not just the award itself, but also the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors it, she said. "This really is for the whole community and everyone appreciates it. "We come together at the annual banquet and celebrate the business community's many successes. This is bigger than just one company; it speaks to the whole community."

Those who nominated Spectrum for the Business of the Year Award shared a few comments. Mark Mingenback, local businessman, said "Spectrum is an excellent example of a truly local firm being a great corporate citizen. It offers an outstanding professional team of CPAs, staff accountants and support staff." Mingenback also noted the company's "significant involvement with many local projects, along with financial donations. Employees give countless volunteer hours to the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, Samaritan's Purse, Great Bend Foundation, Golden Belt Community Foundation, Boy Scouts and the Chamber. I'm sure there are many more." "The bottom line is that Spectrum's staff members live here and genuinely care about Great Bend's prosperity."

Scott Donovan of Eagle Radio also noted that "it truly is the entire team that deserves this recognition. I see Spectrum staff at events all the time. When they sponsor a table for a worthy cause, and it fills up, they sponsor another table. This team really knows how to give back." On the business side, Spectrum accountants understand what customer service is all about, Donovan added. "They add services that are requested by their clients and fulfill the needs of the business community. If you need help with payroll services, they can do that. If you have questions about running a company, tax advantages or profit sharing, they offer a business consulting service. "A trusted partner is hard to find but Spectrum is that partner for many companies in Great Bend and beyond."

Haley Ruble, of FreeStyle Marketing, echoed comments from Mingenback and Donovan, while noting "Spectrum stands as a beacon of excellence and community commitment, deserving of every accolade – especially the prestigious Business of the Year Award. What sets Spectrum apart is their financial expertise and unwavering dedication to the community. "Their ongoing support of non-profits and participation in local events exemplify their role as more than just a business entity. They are a true community partner." And it is not just a "mere corporate responsibility; it is a genuine passion ingrained in their ethos," Ruble continued. "Spectrum contributes to causes that uplift and empower those in need. This commitment is not just a one-time gesture but a sustained effort, which fosters a sense of trust and goodwill." Furthermore, she noted, Spectrum's involvement "serves as a testament to their belief in the strength of community connections. They contribute to the vibrancy of our local culture and economy and showcase their business acumen and their genuine interest in fostering a thriving economy. Spectrum is more than a financial-service provider. It is a cornerstone of community development."

More amazing photos from awards night can be found on our website @ greatbend.org.



UNSUNG HEROES

This year, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is shining a spotlight on the businesses and individuals quietly impacting our community. We believe that true heroes don't always wear capes; sometimes, they wear work boots, aprons, or business suits, dedicating their time and efforts to make Great Bend a better place for us all.



Join us in applauding Great Bend Police Department's Ethan "The School Cop" Thomas, whose dedication and selfless spirit make him an invaluable asset to our schools and beyond. Not driven by obligation but fueled by genuine care, he consistently exceeds his required duties to make a lasting difference.

Here's a glimpse into the extraordinary efforts that make Officer Ethan Thomas stand out:

****Monthly School Lunches:**** Not just an educator, but a friend to the youth, Officer Thomas shares monthly meals with designated elementary schools, fostering a positive relationship with each child.

****GBMS Cafe:**** A familiar face at Great Bend Middle School, Officer Thomas not only enjoys meals with the students, but actively helps monitor the cafeteria once a week, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment.

****Organizing Tournaments:**** Officer Thomas takes the initiative to organize various tournaments throughout the year, from video games to spike ball and basketball, keeping our kids engaged and away from potential trouble during wait times.

****Building Lasting Relationships:**** Officer Thomas prioritizes building relationships with the students, creating a comfort level that encourages them to reach out whenever needed. His presence at recess and PE classes further strengthens these connections.

****Expanding Teaching Role:**** Going beyond the norm, Officer Thomas has taken on CKCA as an additional school, teaching D.A.R.E. and conducting safety lessons for K-2nd graders in the spring.

Let's take a moment to express our gratitude to Ethan "The School Cop" Thomas. Your positive influence and dedication do not go unnoticed. Follow "The School Cop" on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gbschoolcop>



Meet our next Unsung Hero, Vicki Richardson! Nominated by peers and recognized by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, Vicki is a shining star in our community.

Vicki serves as the Family Engagement Coordinator for the Kansas Children's Service League, building lasting relationships with families that span a lifetime. Her dedication doesn't stop there – as a community member, Vicki generously shares her time and knowledge with various organizations, including Central Kansas Partnership, L.H.E.A.T., Great Bend Pilot Club, Rise Up Central Kansas, Youth Crew, and United Way of Central Kansas, just to name a few.

Vicki isn't just a partner; she's an active participant and a wealth of information. Her commitment to making a positive impact doesn't go unnoticed. Beyond her professional role, Vicki volunteers for multiple United Way Laundry Love programs across the entire region, showcasing her selfless spirit.

Let's take a moment to thank Vicki for the incredible work she does, showing up every time and ready to help in any way she can. Her dedication makes our community stronger, and we're grateful to have her as an Unsung Hero.



As the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce's Unsung Hero campaign continues, we're thrilled to introduce our next hero. Nominated by peers and recognized for their outstanding service, we proudly shine a light on the incredible Great Bend Alive volunteers!

"Downtown is important because it's the heart and soul of any community. If you don't have a healthy downtown, you simply don't have a healthy town," - Ed McMahon.

Great Bend Alive, part of Great Bend Economic Development, is on a mission to impact positive change in the downtown corridor through development, design, promotion, and preservation. This passionate team, consisting of 34 total members, is the driving force behind transformative initiatives like Fridays on Forest, downtown loft grants, and the upcoming "March Through Times" parade and festival. And let's not forget the first-ever Snow Ball Drop retail event held this past January at the Chrest Theater.

Let's show our gratitude to these unsung heroes! Together, we celebrate those who make Great Bend thrive!



Nominated by peers and recognized by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, Sutherlands is a beacon of community support, truly embodying the spirit of the Unsung Hero campaign. Sutherlands has gone above and beyond, opening its doors after hours during the July 2023 summer storm, ensuring that local businesses and contractors had access to emergency supplies and lumber. Their generosity extended to nursing homes that suffered damage, providing crucial supplies to keep residents safe.

Continuously supporting the community, Sutherlands has been a lifeline for local contractors, providing supplies, tools, and equipment to repair homes and businesses impacted by the storm. Their dedication goes beyond business, making extra trips to other Sutherlands stores to expedite services. Actively involved in the Chamber, Sutherlands donates to CASA fundraisers, supports GBHS athletic programs, sponsors tailgate events, and participates in community events like the Wall That Heals, Woman's Expo, and more.

Sutherlands is not just a business; they are community champions. Several members of their management team were recognized on Senior Athletic Night for their impactful leadership. Let's take a moment to thank Sutherlands for their outstanding service and commitment to making our community stronger. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we salute you!

We are thrilled to announce the incredible Barton Arts Movement as the next Unsung Heroes, nominated by their peers and recognized by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce's Unsung Hero campaign.

Barton Arts Movement, driven by the belief in creating community pride through public art, has left an indelible mark on Great Bend. Their recent large-scale murals, including the eye-catching "Welcome to Great Bend" at 10th St & Washington and the stunning Sunflower/Blue Jay mural on the Sunflower Center at 12th & Williams, showcase their commitment to enhancing the aesthetic appeal of our city. But their impact doesn't stop there! The Art Alley collaboration with Great Bend Alive's Fridays on Forest, investments in youth through various initiatives, and pop-up art exhibitions have all played a crucial role in fostering a vibrant and artistic community. In 2023 alone, Barton Arts Movement completed four remarkable murals, leaving an artistic legacy for all to enjoy.

Let's take a moment to express our gratitude to Barton Arts Movement for their tireless efforts and dedication to transforming Great Bend into a hub of creativity and community pride. Without their passion for public art, the landscape of our city would undoubtedly be different.





We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on Buzz and Clifann Birney, a true community champion nominated by his peers for his outstanding contributions. Most recently, Buzz organized and set up a warming station in a local church, providing a safe haven for those in need during the cold winter temperatures. His selflessness knows no bounds, and he continues to make a significant impact in the lives of many. Buzz is the embodiment of community spirit, acting out of faith and compassion. As the founder of Live Like Jesus Today Ministries and Kingdom Campus, he dedicates himself to serving others. From youth events to outreach programs for the homeless, Buzz's commitment is unwavering.

Let's show our appreciation for Buzz & Clifann!

UNSUNG HEROES

Nominated by her peers and recognized by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce's Unsung Hero campaign, Linn is making a monumental impact on our community through her selfless service. As the director of Volunteers in Action of Central Kansas, Linn dedicates herself to matching volunteers of all ages with agencies and individuals in need. Her work is crucial, bridging the gap between limited resources and those who require assistance. Linn's efforts extend to vital services like Meals on Wheels, medical transportation rides, Red Cross blood drives, food box distributions for low-income seniors, and numerous other projects that keep our non-profit organizations running smoothly. The thousands of volunteer hours she coordinates save thousands of dollars, enabling these groups to serve those in need. But Linn goes beyond her role as a director; she actively volunteers herself, serving on the boards of various local organizations. She truly practices what she preaches, embodying the spirit of community service.

What sets Linn apart is her dedication to our community at a broader level. She collaborates with state and national entities to ensure that communities like ours receive the attention and services they need.

Let's take a moment to thank Linn for her outstanding contributions! Your support and gratitude can make a world of difference.



We're thrilled to shine a spotlight on Tim Friess, nominated by peers. Tim's dedication to our community is truly inspiring. After an incredible 41 years with USD 428, Tim will be retiring from his position as GBHS principal. His journey started as an elementary school PE teacher, and he worked his way up to assistant principal at the high school before concluding his remarkable career as principal. Throughout his tenure, Tim has consistently put the kids first, embodying a perfect balance of discipline and grace. His leadership has made a significant impact on thousands of young lives, leaving an indelible mark on our community. Tim's commitment goes beyond the typical "day job" as he invests countless hours attending various sporting events and programs, showing unwavering support for the students.

What sets Tim apart is his belief in the power of grace and fair treatment for all students. His words of encouragement and role-modeling have left an everlasting positive impact, as evidenced by the heartfelt comments on his retirement post found on social media. It's truly incredible to see the multitude of lives he has touched, making him a beacon of inspiration and a true Unsung Hero.

Our next Unsung Heroes, Billy Eldridge and Trevor Olsen, nominated by their peers and recognized as part of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce's Unsung Hero campaign, are honored to shine a light on their incredible contributions.

Billy Eldridge and Trevor Olsen, co-owners of Kansas Trophy Experience, are not just successful entrepreneurs, but also pillars of generosity and community service. Trevor, a realtor for M-Pire and part owner of Olsen and Eldridge Enterprise, and Billy, part owner of Kansas Trophy Experience, Olsen and Eldridge Enterprise, Eldridge Trucking, and Eldridge Fencing, have taken their businesses to new heights. Over the past year, they've not only sold and installed deer blinds across the USA, including South Carolina, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Kansas but have also diversified their ventures. KTE and O&E Enterprise now boast a Pheasant farm and organize Pheasant hunts, showcasing their commitment to wildlife preservation and responsible hunting. What truly sets Billy and Trevor apart is their dedication to giving back. Through the Outdoor Mentors program, they take kids on unforgettable hunting experiences, fostering a love for nature and wildlife. Additionally, their contributions to the Trophy to the Table program demonstrate a commitment to addressing food insecurity and creating positive impacts beyond their business ventures.

Join Us in Thanking Billy & Trevor for going above and beyond for our community.



The Visionaries & Contributors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors whose generous support has made our event a resounding success. Your commitment to our Chamber of Commerce demonstrates not only your dedication to fostering economic growth but also your belief in the power of community collaboration. Together, we are shaping a vibrant future for our business landscape, and we are immensely grateful for your partnership and investment in our shared vision. To The University of Kansas Health Systems, Barton Community College, Spectrum CPA and Equity Bank: Thank you for making a meaningful difference and for being integral to the success of our endeavors.

To KanEquip, Hammeke Electric, Nex-Tech Wireless, ValueHealth Benefit Administrators, Corinthians Hill Event Center, Parr Sound & Light, and Magna-Dry: Your unwavering support and belief in our endeavors helped make this event a success.



Corporate Table Sponsors - We THANK YOU!!!!

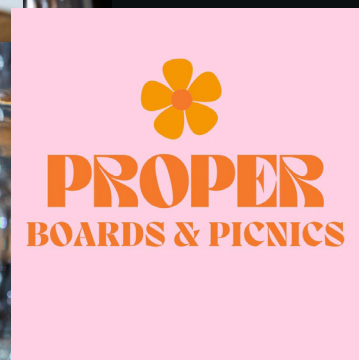
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- Nex-Tech
- Nex-Tech Wireless
- Pawnee Valley Community Hospital
- Peoples Bank and Trust
- Sunflower Diversified Services
- Sunflower Electric Power Corporation



Great Bend Chamber of Commerce presents



102nd Annual Awards Ceremony
February 24, 2024



The Creative Minds Behind It All



To ALL of our vendors, volunteers and staff whose unwavering dedication and exceptional service helped create a truly magnificent and successful event for the Chamber of Commerce. Your professionalism, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence were instrumental in bringing our vision to life and ensuring a seamless experience for all attendees. From catering to décor, technical support to logistics, each of you played a vital role in making our event a resounding success. Thank you for your hard work, creativity, and tireless efforts in contributing to the success of our Chamber's endeavors. We look forward to future collaborations and continued partnership in shaping impactful events for our community.

2024 Awards Planning Committee

Shelly Peacock, Lindsey Bogner, Amanda Staab, Jessica Milsap, Amy Herrera, Rob Bauer, Megan Barfield, Jaimee Beckwith, Ashley Hickman, Julie Mazouch, Sydney Mattison, Arlen Schroeder

This event was created in part by these amazing local vendors!

Jay Bennett Jazz Quartet - Marc Webster, Greg Pohl, Steve Lueth and Kurtis Koch
Gary Parr w/ Parr Sound & Light for charting new waters with us like a boss!
Barton Community College for the use of their stage, golf cart, dance theater team, and so much more!
Our Dinner Caterers:

--Great Bend Coffee - LaResa Likes and her team for an amazing dinner
--Lana's Catering & Goodies - Lana Pelton and her team for dinner and cupcakes.
Shutter Up Photo Booth - Lydia Burress

Proper Boards & Picnics - Paxton Rein for her charcuterie grazing tables
Rosewood Winery, Rent-A-Center, Golden Belt Printing
Brandon Steinert Photography, Maggie Lee's writing services
Emcees - Scott Donovan & Shannon Towns, Bathroom hospitality from The Beauty Bar Salon, Identifications Co. for awards and plaques

These local providers are what kept the staff and volunteers going through many, many hours of work and planning meetings: Crazy 8 Nutrition, Jimmy Johns, Delgados, Queen Bee Nutrition, Town & Country Supermarket, and dozens of additional local vendors.

WE THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to Corinthians Hill Event Center - Debbie Deutsch, Lisa, Felicia and event staff. We could not have been more impressed. You and your team made this event seamless, smooth, 10 times easier than ever before and more beautiful than it has ever been. Your locally grown lavender in the lavender lemonade, your special coffee, the custom Chamberlini drink, your sweet treats during planning meetings, and numerous hours of labor and planning were evident in making the night a success. You and your team are passionate about what you do and it shows. Our community is blessed to have such a gem right here





2022 Citizen of the Year Scott Donovan Retires After 40 Years on the Radio

Friday, March 1st marked the 20th year that Scott Donovan has been a Marketing Representative for Eagle Communications in Great Bend. And after over 40 years of being on the air, March 1st was also his last day with Eagle Communications of Great Bend.

Donovan started his radio career in July of 1983 as a nighttime radio DJ on KHOK. Host of the famous "Dedication Hour." On July 13, 2022, Scott wrapped up 33 years as the morning show host on KHOK. And he remembers when the station switched from a Pop/Rock Format to 100.7 Eagle Country in 1994. "We changed the way people listened to radio. At least we stilled played music from the Eagles."

Scott is an Eagle Employee Owner who has been recognized 28 times by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters with awards in radio production, programs, and promotions throughout his 40 plus year career. He was the Chairman of the KAB in 2002 and has served as the President of the KAB Foundation Board. Scott also received the "Sonny Slater Award" in 2017, the Bob Schmidt "Community Service Award" in 2018 and the Mike Oatman Award for Broadcast Sales Excellence in 2021. He has been recognized as the Eagle Communications Great Bend Market Leader in radio sales for 19 years from 2005 to 2023. He was also recognized this past month as Eagle Communications' Top Gun Award winner, for the 5th time, with a sales total of \$949,044 in 2023.

Building relationships with people and helping businesses grow is the key to success in Sales. "Local and Live" are Scott's two favorite words in this industry.

Locally Scott is the President of the Great Bend Knights of Columbus Club. He is also a board member of Sunflower Diversified Services, Great Bend High School Site Council, Eagle Communications 2020 Leadership Class. He was a former member and past president of the Great Bend Optimist Club, twice, Central Kansas CASA, Great Bend Zoological Society, Great Bend Noon Lions Club, and Job Fest. He was a member of the Pastoral Council for 8 years and the Prince of Peace Confirmation Life Teen Committee. Scott was the 2006 chair of the Barton County Relay for Life and a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ambassador for 6 years. He also volunteers as an emcee for many local fundraising banquets and events.

He was the recipient of the 2008 Great Bend Greater Award from the Great Bend Kiwanis Club. He and his family were recognized as the Dodge City Diocese Knights of Columbus "Family of the Year" in 2006. Distinguished Graduate Award from St. Patrick's Catholic School in 2007 and is a National Distinguished Service Award winner from the Boy Scouts of America in 1986. And was the North Central Region Chief for the Order of the Arrow from 1982-1984. The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce named Donovan their 2022 Citizen of the Year for the service and leadership displayed in everything he does.

Scott and his wife Mary are the parents of two beautiful girls Michala and Emma, who live in Salina and Kansas City. He is also a cancer survivor and a lifetime resident of Great Bend.



Donovan in 1990; West 10th Studio

GBCF appoints Jason Murray as new executive director



Jason Murray, a Hoisington native and long-time Larned resident, is set to assume the role of the new executive director of the Golden Belt Community Foundation (GBCF) starting March 4. Murray expresses his eagerness to connect with central Kansans, stating, "I have a passion to build relationships in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford counties." His immediate plans involve meeting residents to understand their needs and initiating programs like come-home scholarships to encourage youth to return to their communities.

"I can relate to being born in a small town, raised in a city and then raising a family in rural Kansas," Murray said. "One thing all rural Kansans have in common is pride in their hometown, which made them who they are today. Some may leave but they always want to go back to where they were raised. We want to encourage them to come home."



Murray underscores the importance of endowments, stating, "Without endowments, long-term goals are difficult to achieve." He emphasizes that endowments are vital for non-profits and scholarship funds, enabling visions of growth to become reality. According to him, the GBCF lifeline involves engaging with local residents to build stronger relationships through respect, trust, and communication.

Reflecting on his background, Murray, who has lived in both small towns and cities, aims to tap into the common pride shared by rural Kansans for their hometowns. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master of accountancy from Kansas State University. With diverse experiences as CFO in various organizations, Murray's leadership roles extend to city council, healthcare, and education.

"The experiences I have gained from serving on boards and committees, and teaching in the classroom have instilled in me a deep passion to evaluate community needs and find a way to fulfill them.

"During my years of city council experience, we have solidified our infrastructure and improved amenities, while keeping our tax valuation constant. I will use this background to work with citizens and the board of directors to resolve problems."

GBCF President Kara Jecha praises Murray's comprehensive qualities, stating, "Since he lives here, Jason understands the Golden Belt area and is passionate about community and youth involvement." She adds, "Jason actually exceeded our expectations," highlighting his strong financial background, business acumen, and experience in philanthropy and strategic planning. Jecha emphasizes that Murray quickly rose to the top among the pool of candidates, checking all the boxes for the executive director position.

MARKETING MAVEN TEAM GROWS



Stephanie Todd, a Kansas native, started with Marketing Maven Consulting last month as a Communications & Projects Coordinator. Stephanie is a great fit for this role because she's a stellar communicator, genuinely enjoys working with people, and weaves laughter into just about everything, while simultaneously striving for excellence. Meet the rest of the team at marketingmavenconsulting.com.

MYLAWN WELCOMES KIT SMITH



MyLawn Turf & Tree recently introduced their newest team member, Kit Smith! Kit joined the team February 19th as their new Director of First Impressions, bringing her amazing, warm and personable touch to the MyLawn clients. Connect with MyLawn on

Great Bend Economic Development awarded a \$4.38M grant for an innovative, community center focused on childcare, entrepreneurship, workforce, and healthcare

In a significant move to address the growing childcare needs in Kansas, Governor Laura Kelly, in collaboration with the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, has announced the allocation of nearly \$28 million in Capital Projects Fund Accelerator (CPF Accelerator) awards. This substantial investment will result in the creation of 458 new childcare slots across seven communities in the state.

Great Bend, a key recipient, will receive \$4,382,493 through Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) and Advancing Barton County Childcare (ABCC). These funds will be utilized to establish an innovative community hub, featuring overnight childcare facilities, a makerspace, a workforce center, and health screening services.



Collaborating partners from the University of Kansas Health Systems, KansasWorks, Barton Community College, and ABCC have joined forces to introduce services currently unavailable in the region. GBED President,

Sara Arnberger, expressed enthusiasm, stating, "We are excited to bring this one-of-a-kind center to Barton County." The center addresses the pressing demand for overnight childcare in Barton County, supporting the local workforce's growth. The allocated funds will contribute to the construction of the multi-purpose community facility, expanding licensed childcare slots, providing high-speed internet access, and accommodating programs that enhance work, education, and healthcare monitoring.

Governor Laura Kelly highlighted the crucial role of accessible childcare in supporting families, stating, "There's no question that more Kansas families need access to childcare to support their child's development, enter the workforce, and contribute to our economy." The IGNITE Innovation Center, a collaborative effort with various partners, aims to address local workforce and childcare needs, adding 28 childcare slots to the area.

Funded through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), the U.S. Department of Treasury Capital Projects Fund awarded \$40 million to Kansas in early September. Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, expressed excitement about the projects, stating, "These are exciting projects that will improve the quality of life, support job seekers, provide innovative resources for continuing education, and improve health outcomes for families."

Chair of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, Don Hineman, commended the collaborative efforts of communities across Kansas, stating, "It is impressive to see communities come together to develop such innovative approaches to meeting their childcare needs. It is truly an honor to have the opportunity to support these efforts."

Elevate Your Leadership Journey with Kimberly

Join us at Move Your Mountain Coaching & Consulting for an exclusive leadership journey with the dynamic Kimberly Becker. Brace yourself for "Elevate Your Leadership Experience" - a 7-session workshop designed for individuals in roles of influence.

Schedule: 7 Tuesday session from 8 AM - 12 PM (first 6 sessions)

Grand Finale: All-day event at the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita

Limited Spots: Only 12 individuals can embark on this transformative adventure. Secure your spot ASAP by scanning the QR code on the special insert found in this publication.

Why Attend?

- Elevate leadership skills
- Gain effective influence insights
- Network with professionals
- Transform your leadership game

Contact Kimberly Becker at 620-282-8970 or moveyourmountain19@gmail.com



Would you or your business like to participate in the **Great Bend Alive Parade through Time**? Pick an era and join us on May 31st! gbedinc.com/mainstreet
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GREAT BEND CELEBRATES TAMMY HAMMOND'S ENCHANTING CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES

The heartwarming tales of Christmas find a new voice in the works of local businesswoman and now author Tammy Hammond. Her latest release, "The History of Santa Claus," and its enchanting sequel, "Santas Around the World," are now available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Kindle.

"The History of Santa Claus" delves into the rich legacy of the beloved figure, unraveling tales that resonate with the magic of the holiday season. Building on this success, "Santas Around the World" takes readers on a global journey, celebrating the diverse traditions that make Christmas special across cultures.

Great Bend takes immense pride in Tammy Hammond's literary achievements, hailing her as a cherished contributor to the Christmas spirit. Both books serve as a poignant tribute to our Christmas city, capturing the essence of the festive season. This is a wonderful extension of Great Bend's beloved Santas Around the World Display, Dolley Trolley and Trail of Lights!

These heartwarming tales are a must-read for anyone who cherishes the magic of Christmas. Embrace the holiday spirit and order your copies today.

"The History of Santa Claus" and "Santas Around the World" are available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Kindle.

For media inquiries or to request an interview with Tammy Hammond, please contact: Michael Dawes at michaeld@rosewoodservices.com.



HearingLife Hearing Aid Center

March 1st marks Shelly Koontz's 4-year anniversary as the dedicated provider at HearingLife, located at 1925 Main Street, Great Bend. Reflecting on this milestone, Shelly expresses gratitude for the privilege of helping patients hear to the best of their ability.

HearingLife, a Demant company and a global hearing healthcare leader founded in 1904, operates over 600 hearing care centers across 42 states. The organization is committed to a results-oriented approach, where skilled professionals deliver personalized hearing care.

Shelly Koontz, Licensed Hearing Aid Consultant #1792, originally from Pratt, KS, entered the hearing healthcare industry in 2008 as a Patient Care Coordinator. Transitioning to a Hearing Aid Consultant in 2019, Shelly is passionate about improving the quality of life through better hearing.

Contact Shelly Koontz at 620.603.6445 or via email at shko@hearinglife.com. Learn more about HearingLife at www.hearinglife.com.

Join us in congratulating Shelly on her 4-year anniversary and her commitment to enhancing the lives of those with hearing challenges at HearingLife!



PAWESOME EASTER EGG HUNT

1:00 PM

Vet's Memorial Park

\$5 per dog



2 EVENTS - 1 DAY

MARCH 23

FLASHLIGHT EGG HUNT

8:00 PM

GB Sports Complex

\$5 per kid

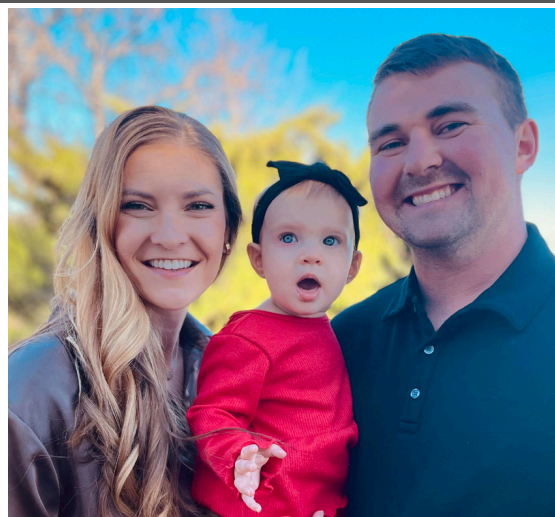
Pre-Enroll Required



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GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FEATURED AMBASSADOR

TARYNN KIRMER
STUEDER CONTRACTORS, INC.

What brought you to Great Bend?

I am proud to be a Barton County native. I graduated from Great Bend High School, and now I reside near Claflin. My husband, Benn Kirmer and I are blessed to have our families in the Barton County area. Between spending time with our family and friends we stay busy with community involvement. We love calling Barton County our home and raising our family in the community.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I work at Stueder Contractors where I have the opportunity to work for my parents. I have been around Stueder Contractors my entire life, you might even remember me as the toddler in commercials back in the day. It really is a full circle to now be a part of the Stueder Contractors team. I have been able to see first-hand all the hard work and commitment it has taken to grow Stueder Contractors over the past 40 years into the business it is today. I complete client billing and look forward to growing with the business.

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

I love the thrill of an adrenaline rush. The feeling of your stomach leaping up into your chest is my favorite feeling. I have been skydiving, scuba diving, parasailing, and paragliding.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

"I find excitement in trying new things. This can be trying a new resolution when problem solving, learning a new activity, visiting a new location, or trying unique food.

Also, I am inspired by helping those in need. In college I took the leap of faith and went on a mission trip to Haiti, where I had the opportunity to help those most in need. I continue to try to make positive impacts in any way that I can, even small acts of kindness make a difference. "

At what job, would you be terrible?

I would be a terrible nurse or doctor, due to the fact I faint at the site of blood and needles. I am very grateful for those individuals who find this occupation as their calling and do it well.

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

This is my second year serving as a Chamber Ambassador, and I have really enjoyed my time as an

ambassador. My favorite part of being involved with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is how so many people all with different backgrounds come together with the common goal to improve the businesses in the Great Bend area, making Barton County a better community to live and work in.



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MARCH 16TH

**GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER
9:00 - 3:00**

Ribbon Cuttings!

JACOB FRYBERGER AGENCY OPENS DOWNTOWN OFFICE

Jacob Fryberger with American National, welcomed chamber members to his new downtown location at 1411 Main St, Great Bend, KS with a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Chamber Coffee and Ribbon Cutting ceremony February 15th, 2024. The event was attended by members of the local community in support of his downtown presence.

Attendees had the opportunity to meet the American National team and learn about their comprehensive insurance offerings. His team members include Bob Roller and Mike Burnham. Jacob Fryberger, a native of Great Bend, is licensed in a 7 state area including: KS, NE, MO, AR, TX, CO, and OK.

“With a variety of options available, we can accommodate many of your insurance needs, so let’s talk through what will work best for you.



Reach out to request an appointment and start the conversation,” said Fryberger.

For more information about Jacob Fryberger Agency - American National, please visit their downtown office at 1411 Main St., Great Bend, KS, or contact them at jake.fryberger@american-national.com or 620-639-5097.

FRESH START WOODWORKS READY TO SERVE

Fresh Start Woodworks, a new manufacturing venture based in Great Bend, celebrated its grand opening with a Chamber Coffee and ribbon-cutting ceremony, hosted by sister company Just In Time Remodeling. Owned by Justin Mawhirter, both businesses are located at 135 SW 30 Ave in Great Bend, conveniently located just 1 quick mile west of town off Highway 56.

Fresh Start Woodworks, under the leadership of owner Justin Mawhirter, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support received by the community for Just In Time Remodeling, which was established in 2017. The event showcased the company’s commitment to growth and innovation in the local business landscape.

Fresh Start Woodworks is not just a woodworking enterprise; it is a beacon of hope with a two-fold mission. The company aims to deliver

the highest quality cabinetry to contractors and industry dealers while simultaneously providing mentorship and job training opportunities for individuals seeking a fresh start after overcoming addiction or other life-controlling issues.

“Fresh Start Woodworks is not just about creating exceptional cabinetry; it’s about building a community that supports each other through craftsmanship and compassion,” said Justin Mawhirter, owner of Fresh Start Woodworks.

The company’s faith-based mission is evident in every piece crafted by master craftsman Justin Mawhirter, ensuring that each item is not just a functional addition to a home but a lasting work of art. Dennis Morrison, Fresh Start Woodworks’ Production Lead, brings a wealth of experience to the team, contributing to the company’s dedication to excellence.

For more information about Fresh Start Woodworks and to explore their custom cabinetry offerings, please visit www.freshstartwoodworks.com.



Counting down to Spring and Growing Kelly's Greenhouses: The Diamond in the Dirt

Did you know that Kelly's Garden Sense has two enchanting Greenhouses? Named after her grandfathers, Bill and Milt. Bill, the larger of the two, is the Retail Shopping and Event Greenhouse and Milt is the Growing Greenhouse. Milt is currently undergoing a 40 ft. expansion to the East of the property and will be celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, March 21 following the Chamber Coffee.

The crew has termed the Greenhouse shopping experience the "Diamond in the Dirt," situated just one block East of the City limits (on a dirt road) at 134 NE 10 Ave. Great Bend, KS. Kelly's Greenhouse provides a unique plant shopping experience worth the extra minute drive. From locally grown annuals resilient to the Kansas heat to exotic tropical plants and succulents that add a distinctive touch to your landscape, and even rare house plant varieties for year-round enjoyment – the Greenhouses are a haven for plant lovers and gardening enthusiasts alike. Pottery, Trees, shrubs, and more await discovery and change every season, making every visit an adventure.

2024 will mark growth for Kelly's Garden Sense, an expand the greenhouse, increased shopping hours daily from 8-5, an array of the most unique plants and products you'll find in the area, and additional Greenhouse Events and Workshops, everything from hosting local groups to photography sessions and more! We look forward to welcoming you to the Greenhouse and the countdown to Spring.

Join Kelly's Garden Sense for a **Ribbon Cutting and Open House on Thursday, March 21 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.** (Ribbon Cutting around 10:30 a.m. following the Chamber Coffee) and enjoy discounts on plants in the Retail Greenhouse, plus a sneak peek at the expansion of the Growing Greenhouse, Milt!



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HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN MARCH

- 1...Smothered Pork Chops with Fish available, 1011 Kansas, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- 2...Barton County Young Professionals Casino Night, Columbus Club, 723 Main St., 6:00 PM - 10:30 PM
- 6...Barton County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, 3111 10th St, 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
- 6...SBDC/SBA Class: Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contracting, Online, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 6...Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Club 1 Fitness, 3806 Broadway Ave., 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM**
- 6...Central Kansas Christian Academy Book Fair: 215 McKinley St, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- 7...Kansas Farm & Ranch Transition Conf, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- 7...Chamber Coffee: BCC Upward Bound Program, Plaza De Cavanaugh in the Learning Resource Center, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**
- 8...American Legion Chicken Fried Steak Night, 1011 Kansas Ave, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- 8...VFW Post 3111: Karaoke Night, 504 Washington Ave, 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM
- 9...Club 1 Fitness 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, Great Bend Events Center, 5:30 PM
- 9...BCC Theatre - Alithea Mime Theatre, Fine Arts Auditorium, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
- 10...VFW Post 3111: Brunch, 504 Washington Ave, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- 11...USD 428 Spring Break, March 11th - 15th, 2024
- 11...Central Kansas Partnership Community Meeting, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
- 13...SBDC/SBA Class: All Things Canva, Online, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- 14...Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Eldridge Fencing, 80 10th St, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**
- 14...Ladies Night Out: St Patrick's Day, Shop local participating stores, 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- 14...Dry Lake Brewing: Fox Animation Domination Trivia, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- 15...American Legion Spaghetti Night with Fish available, 1011 Kansas Ave., 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
- 16...Eagle Radio Home and Garden Show Presented by Comfort Pro, 3111 10th St, Doors open at 9:00 AM
- 16...UWCK: Laundry Love, Discount Laundry, 924 Jefferson St, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- 16...Dilly & Doc Spring Pop-up Market, 1119 Main St, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- 17...VFW Post 3111: Brunch, 504 Washington Ave, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- 18...Presidential Preference Primary Election, In-Person advance party voting, ends at 12:00 PM
- 21...Shafer Art Gallery Exhibit Opens: The Vortex High School Exhibit, Mon-Sat 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- 21...Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Magna-Dry, 1724 Main St., 9:00 AM**
- 21... Chamber Ribbon Cutting: ICT Insurance, 1724 Main St., 10:00 AM**
- 21... Ribbon Cutting: Kelly's Garden Sense, 134 NE 10th Ave, 10:00 AM**
- 21...Sunflower Diversified Services: 21st Annual Pancake Feed, 4100 Broadway, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- 21...BCC: Free Workshop/Writing Workshop, Cavanaugh Room in the Barton Library, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- 22...BCC: Free Workshop/Lyricist Workshop, Fine Arts Auditorium, 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM
- 22...Family Crisis Center: Red Shoes & Bunco Too!, 3111 10th St, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- 22...Military and First Responders Night Out, 916 Williams St, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- 26...Storm Spotter Training, Crest Theater, 1905 Lakin Ave, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- 28...Chamber Coffee: Hertz Rental Car, 2602 10th St, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**
- 28... Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Happy Girl Flower Shop, 109 A St., Claflin, 10:30 AM**
- 29...American Legion Chicken Fried Friday with fish available, 1011 Kansas Ave, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

RECURRING EVENTS

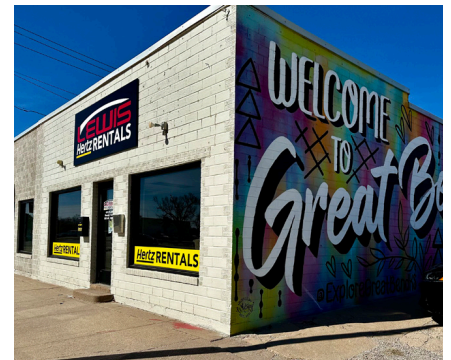
- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams, 6:30 PM
Barton County Commission Meetings, 1500 Kansas Ave., Tuesdays, 9 AM

GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WELCOME to Our **NEWEST** Chamber Members

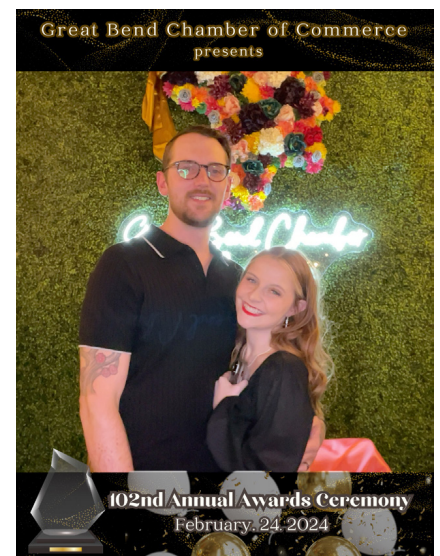
HERTZ

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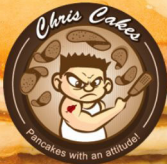


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21st Annual Pancake Feed*

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MARCH 21
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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

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

March 7th

BCC UPWARD BOUND

**Plaza de Cavanaugh - Learning Resource Center
BCC Library | 245 NE 30 Rd**

Barton Community College first sponsored the Barton County Upward Bound (BCUB) Program in 1999. BCUB prides itself on serving students from diverse backgrounds who aspire to complete a college degree. Students attending high schools located in Ellinwood, Great Bend and Hoisington work year-round in preparation for their eventual college success.

March 14th

ELDRIDGE FENCING

80 10th St. Great Bend

Eldridge Fencing is celebrating 30 years in business! Join us for this Chamber Coffee and Ribbon Cutting and hear from owner, Wally Eldridge, on how their success is because of this community. Learn more at eldridgefencing.com and find them on Facebook.

March 21st

MAGNA-DRY OF CENTRAL KANSAS

1724 Main St. Great Bend

Magna-Dry of Central Kansas invites Chamber Members to the first Chamber Coffee in their new location at 1724 Main Street, downtown Great Bend. Magna-Dry was also a recipient of the Barton County Facade Grants. Come meet the team and see their space!

March 28th

HERTZ RENTALS W/ RENT LEWIS

2602 10th St. Great Bend

Big News! Hertz and Rent Lewis are on the move, and we're thrilled to announce our expansion to serve you in Newton, Winfield, Emporia, and **Great Bend!** Whether you're planning a trip, need a rental for business, or just exploring what Kansas has to offer, we've got you covered. Ready to hit the road? Book your ride easily by calling (620) 276-6884 or visit us at rentlewis.com. Let's make your travel plans seamless and exciting with Hertz.

April 4th

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC

200 E 10th St. Great Bend

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an electric distribution co-op serving southwest/central KS. Attend this Chamber Coffee to learn the power of the cooperative difference. Learn more at weci.net or connect on Facebook.

Host a
**CHAMBER
COFFEE IN
2024**



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GREAT BEND AIRPORT AIRFEST

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2024

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100% of sponsor donations will be used for these costs:

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FRIEND OF AIRFEST

\$100 - \$249

NAME ON WEBSITE, NEWSPAPER & PROGRAM

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GREAT BEND AIRPORT AIRFEST

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Please Return by July 1st to Airport Manager 9047 6th St., Great Bend, KS 67530 or email greatbendairport@ruraltel.net or for more questions call 620-793-4168

Elevate Your Leadership Experience



Dates:
May 7th-
June 18,
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8-noon.

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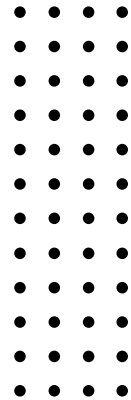


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The toughest challenges get solved when everyone leads!

We will explore:

- Redefining Leadership.
- What prevents progress?
- Where do we start?
- What is the productive zone?
- How can everyone lead?



The first 6 classes will be at the Great Bend Chamber, the final class will be at the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita.



Contact Kimberly
620-282-8970
moveyourmountain19@gmail.com
with any questions.
Scan the QR code to register.

Financial investment is \$350



AskGBK



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SPECIALTY SANDWICHES

PIZZA PANINI - \$5.99

Zesty pizza sauce, pepperoni, Italian sausage, bell peppers, black olives, onions, and melted mozzarella cheese pressed between two slices of bread for a taste of Italy.



TURKEY APRICOT SANDWICH - \$6.99

Tangy Dijon mustard, sweet apricot spread, turkey, bacon, onions, and Swiss cheese pressed between slices of bread for a flavorful delight.

CLUB SANDWICH - \$7.99

Toasted bread filled with ham, turkey, bacon, lettuce, tomato, onions, and cheese, cut in half for easy enjoyment

ITALIAN SANDWICH - \$6.99

Italian dressing, ham, pepperoni, salami, banana peppers, tomato, and provolone cheese pressed between slices of bread for a flavorful treat.

BBQ CHICKEN PANINI - \$5.99

BBQ sauce, honey-drizzled chicken, and Swiss cheese pressed between slices of bread for a smoky-sweet delight.

GENERAL ZARAH'S PANINI - \$6.99

Chipotle mayo, ham, bacon, onions, bell peppers, and pepper jack cheese pressed between slices of bread for a spicy kick

TUNA MELT - \$5.99

English muffin topped with savory tuna, mayo, and melted cheese.

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HAM SALAD - \$4.99

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TUNA SALAD - \$5.99

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