

OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



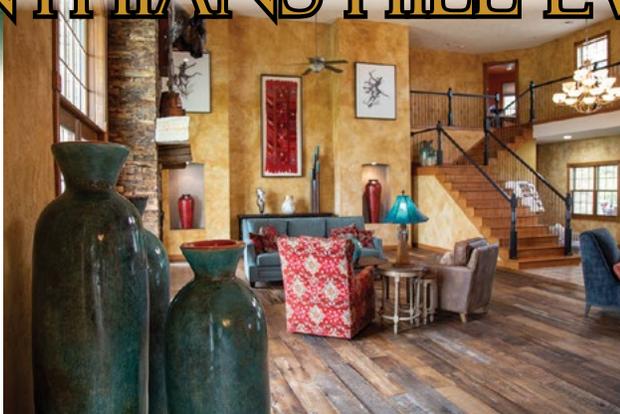
CORINTHIANS HILL EVENT CENTER

Anyone who calls on Debbie Stark-Deutsch for professional guidance with a special event or design project might discover they hit a trifecta.

Stark-Deutsch and her staff offer Weddings by Cornerstone and Cornerstone Interiors; and now the home base for both is a new venture called Corinthians Hill Event Center, LLC.

Whether plans call for a wedding or other small or large gathering, Corinthians Hill Event Center provides a “wonderful scenic location. The possibilities are endless,” Stark-Deutsch said.

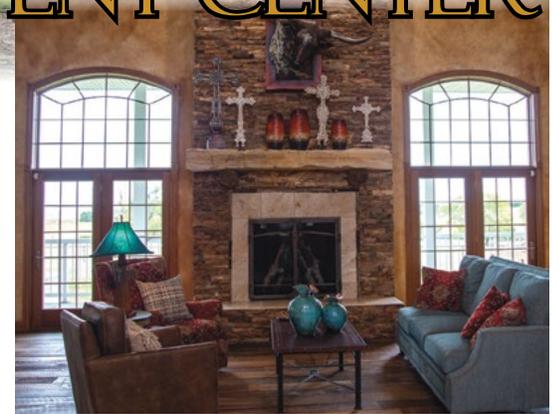
Corinthians Hill is located five miles northeast of Great Bend at 464 NE 20 Ave. Cornerstone



Interiors moved to this site from 1405 Main in March.

Weddings by Cornerstone provides decor options for items such as centerpieces, chandeliers, tablecloths, chair covers and florals. The team offers full installation, as well as do-it-yourself rentals.

“I kind of fell into this wedding business several years ago,” Stark-



Deutsch recalled. “A design client asked me to arrange her daughter’s wedding. I said ‘I could probably do that.’ Before I knew it, we were a full-fledged business.”

However, the client’s event wasn’t the only reason for opening Weddings by Cornerstone.

“When events leave town, it hurts our local economy,” Stark-Deutsch

explained. “I know of instances where people spent \$100,000 on out-of-town weddings. But the money spent on vendors, food and alcohol is only part of the loss to the economy.

“It doesn’t include what out-of-town guests would have spent on



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Pawnee Valley Community Foundation Golden Tickets Now on Sale

Chance to win \$4,000!!

The Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation is currently selling a limited number of Golden Tickets for a \$100 suggested donation. If you purchase a ticket before October 15th, 2020 you will be put in the early bird drawing of \$250, those who purchase a ticket by November 16, 2020 you will have a second chance of another \$250 early bird drawing. All entries will be put in for the final drawing of \$4,000 on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

Must be 21 and you do not need to be



present to win. Purchase the tickets online by going to <https://PVCHFoundation.cbo.io> or contacting Julie Bugner-Smith: jbugnersmith@kumc.edu or 620-285-8632

MyChart Patient Portal Debuts in Great Bend

Patients at The University of Kansas Health System locations in Great Bend, Kansas, now have enhanced access to their healthcare teams and personal medical records.

The new MyChart patient portal went live August 24 along with the Epic electronic medical record (EMR) healthcare providers and staff will use. These systems will be available to Great Bend Campus and St. Rose Medical Pavilion patients, providers and staff.

"We are excited to roll out these enhanced services for our patients and their families," said Jesse Mock, administrator for Great Bend Campus. "MyChart allows quick, convenient and secure access to your care team and personal medical information."

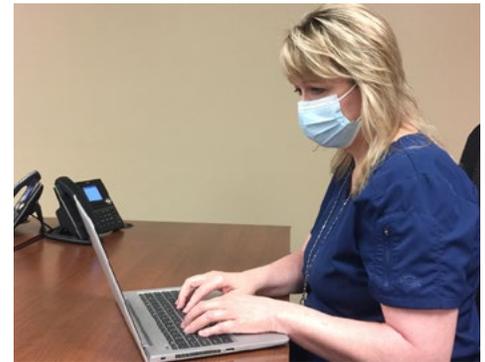
MyChart can be accessed through an app on a smartphone as well as on laptop and desktop computers 24/7. It replaces the former patient portal used in Great Bend and offers greater functionality. All information is password-protected, private and secure.

Examples of information available in MyChart include reviews of medications and immunizations, lab and radiology results, the time, location and instructions for upcoming visits to a healthcare provider and summaries of past visits.

Patients can use MyChart to ask questions of their care teams in a secure message center, pay bills, check in for visits in advance and get cost estimates for healthcare services.

Parents and guardians can take advantage of proxy access to their children's medical information in MyChart accounts. Adults can give a trusted friend, family member or caregiver access to their accounts, too.

"We encourage patients and families to talk to their care teams about the options they want to explore," Mock said. "Our professional staff is happy to guide you through these easy steps."



Stephanie Oglesbee, manager of the medical/surgical unit at The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus, signs up for MyChart.

This service, which has been available in the health system's Kansas City-area locations, "has earned good feedback from patients," Mock said. "They really like all the features and advantages of MyChart."

The enhancement goes hand-in-hand with the new EMR system at Great Bend locations.

"This completely new Epic EMR system replaces 3 disparate systems that didn't talk to each other," Mock said. "When patients need to be transferred to another health system location or see a specialist in Kansas City, their medical records will be readily available."

"Epic set the stage for MyChart availability," Mock added. "As a result of these enhancements, we are more efficient and effective with our patient care. We think our patients will be more than pleased with the results."

Additional health system locations, including HaysMed and Pawnee Valley Campus, will soon join Great Bend in the use of Epic and MyChart.



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kansashealthsystem.com/community

Ribbon Cuttings!

GB Car Care joins the Chamber



The Chamber and the Chamber Ambassador's Club welcomed Leon & Lance Haselhorst, co-owners of GB Car Care to the chamber and the business community. For more information on GB Car Care find them on Facebook @GBCarCare. On Facebook, customers can find pictures of before and after photos, and some other fun things that GB Car Care participates in. People can also go to our website gbcarcare.com, or just call at 620-786-8880.

Iron Therapy Training offers new program to GB



The Chamber and Ambassador's Club celebrated the opening of Iron Therapy Training located inside Anytime Fitness of Great Bend. Aaron and Ashley Raney are personal trainers who offer online or one on one training programs. Iron Therapy Training offers 3, 6 or 12 month programs. They provide nutrition and exercise components required for results. For more information see their Facebook page: Iron Therapy Training or call Aaron 217-827-1084 or Ashley 217-343-7565 or through Anytime Fitness of Great Bend.

Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

GREAT BEND
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New Hires:

General surgeon joins staff at Great Bend Campus

The new physician in Great Bend is eager to lay the groundwork for a new program dedicated to general surgery in central Kansas.

Jason Wiltshire, MD, opened his practice Sept. 1 at The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus. His office is on the second floor of the Medical Pavilion, adjacent to the hospital at 514 Cleveland St.

"I am looking forward to establishing a program focused on general surgery," Dr. Wiltshire said. "We hope to build a team that involves more surgeons."

Dr. Wiltshire performs procedures related to bowel and breast cancers; hernia repair; diseases of the thyroid; endoscopies; wound care; and others.

The surgeon is excited to be here because "Great Bend is a good location for a surgery practice, and I am able to work for my alma mater. Patients benefit because we have all the resources of The University of Kansas Health System at our fingertips. Specialists are always available.

"In addition, the staff here is very professional, and I am impressed with the other services offered in Great Bend."

Dr. Wiltshire, originally from Towanda, Kansas, graduated in 1993 from Pittsburg State University with a bachelor's degree in biology and from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1997.

He completed his internship and residency in 2002 at Mount Carmel Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio. He was chief surgery resident there.

Most recently, Dr. Wiltshire performed surgeries at South Central Kansas Regional Medical Center at Arkansas City. He also treated patients at Pratt Regional Medical Center in

Pratt, where he served as chief of staff, and Edwards County Medical Center in Kinsley.

Dr. Wiltshire is board-certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

He also authored several articles that were printed in professional publications.

"I will use this background and experience to care for and treat patients from Great Bend and the surrounding area," Dr. Wiltshire said. "Everyone has been very open and welcoming, and I look forward to getting to know my patients and their families."



Jason Wiltshire, MD

Great Bend Rec Employee Earns National Certification for Parks and Recreation

Megan Hammeke, Aquatic/Enrichment Director for the Great Bend Recreation Commission, was recently certified as a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

The CPRP certification is granted to individuals employed in the recreation, park resources, and leisure services professions who meet the eligibility requirements of higher education and have successfully completed the national CPRP examination. CPRP professionals are tested on the comprehensive aspects of administration, programming, and operations management

for parks and recreation.

Hammeke was hired with the Great Bend Recreation Commission in March 2011. She worked in the front office and Aquatics Programming before transitioning to the Aquatics/Enrichment Director in September 2011. Hammeke is also a certified Aquatics Facility Operator (AFO) and is currently serving as a board member of the Kansas Recreation and Parks Association (KRPA) Aquatics Branch. Hammeke is a graduate of Fort Hays State University where she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Human Performance.



Megan Hammeke



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HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- 1-14...Applications Open for Barton County SPARK Business Assistance Grant Program**
 1-16...the 50lb Box of Art: A Robert Joy Disrespective on display @the Shafer Art Gallery
- 1...Virtual Chamber Coffee: The Center for Counseling and Consultation, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 1...Ribbon Cutting: Cards on Yards, Jack Kilby Square @10:30am**
 2-3...F&E Auto Auction @Expo I&II
 3...Rosewood Rodeo @Expo III
 4-10...Restaurant Week
 4...Lake Barton Golf Club-4 Man Scramble Tournament from 10am-3pm
 5...USD 428-No School, Teacher In-Service
- 5...Chamber Chat: Chamber Focus, Virtually @2pm on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 8...Virtual Chamber Coffee: Pampered Chef, Debbie Kuhlman, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 8...Ribbon Cutting: Golden Belt Community Foundation @10:30am, 1307 Williams Street**
 9-10...SRCA Points Race #11
 11...4-H BBQ from 11am-1pm @Old 4-H Grounds
 11...Lake Barton Golf Club-Men's Association Pink Ball Tournament from 1-5pm
- 12...Chamber Chat, Virtually @2pm on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
 12...Lake Barton Golf Course-Board Meeting @7pm
- 14...The Aligned Leader Program Session begins online from 9-11:30am**
 14...Completed SPARK Grant applications and required documents due by 3:00 p.m. to the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce
- 15...Virtual Chamber Coffee: Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
 16...USD 428 No School, Teacher Grading/Collaboration
 16...Cram the Van Lunch from 11:30am-1:30pm @Great Bend Events Center Parking Lot
 19-20...USD 485 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 19...Chamber Chat, Hosted by Nex-Tech, Virtually @2pm on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
 22...USD 428 11:30am Dismissal
- 22...Virtual Chamber Coffee, Pawnee Valley Hospital Sleep & Diagnostic Center, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 22...Ribbon Cutting: RePerks Coffee Shop @10:30am, 1216 Main Street**
 23...USD 428-No School
 23...SRCA Points Race #12
 24...Downtown Halloween Parade
- 26...Chamber Chat, Virtually @2pm on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 28...The Aligned Leader Program Session Online from 9-11:30am**
- 29...Virtual Chamber Coffee: USD 428 Foundation, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
 31...Halloween

Recurring Events:

- Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams St, 6:30pm
 Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am
Virtual Chamber Events (Chamber Chat & Virtual Coffees) can be found: via Facebook (www.facebook.com/gbcoc) or YouTube (tinyurl.com/ybepgrt6)

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Megan's Corner

The Chamber has been busy as of late with several member initiatives all with a focus to promote and improve our business climate. Now, more than ever, we feel a certain level of urgency in what we do and why we do it. Businesses in Barton County are persevering and innovating like never before and we couldn't be prouder!

On Patriots' Day, following a moment of silence for those lost on 9/11, nearly 90 golfers took to the greens at Lake Barton Golf Club for the 15th Annual Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament. That day we remembered not only the fallen from 9/11, but Gary Gore and Mike Boys. Special thanks to family members of both Gary Gore and Mike Boys for being present and allowing us to show our appreciation and respect for such wonderful men!

Tournament Results:

First Flight

1. Barton County Treasurer: Jim Jordan, Darren Williams, Todd Milsap, and Chuck Fellhoelter
2. Panzer Insurance: Shawn Panzer, Jim Vopat, Kevin Sundahl, and Neil Werth
3. Watkins Calcara, Chtd.: Travis Ternes, Jeff Kuhlman, Molly Rondeau, and Cole Schwarz

Championship Flight

1. (pictured below) Moeder Plumbing Heating & Air, Inc.: Alan Moeder, Kenny Alfes, Ryan Alfes, Jeremy Long
2. MPIRE Realty Group, LLC: Aaron Andrews, Martin Cairney, Jason Mayers, and MacHolman
3. Corrosion DC, Inc.: Nick Klug, Chance DeForest, Jake Werth, and Luke Fanshier



continued on page 7



To see more tournament photos, visit:
[flickr.com/photos/greatbendchamberofcommerce/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/greatbendchamberofcommerce/)



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Great Bend Zoological Society Annual Meeting

The Great Bend Zoological Society (GBZS) Board of Directors and our wonderful Zoo Crew invite GBZS Members, and anyone wishing to join, to our annual meeting. The meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Saturday, October 17th, 2020. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the meeting will be held via Zoom. A link will be provided to members before the meeting day.

Non-members can join while there for just \$25 for a year, which includes all immediate family with your membership. Anyone wishing to join the GBZS can contact the Zoo at 620-793-4226 or send an email to gbzoosociety@gmail.com.

A brief business meeting, including election of board members, will be held. Interested in getting more involved? Any

member can be elected to a board position. Ballots will be distributed and members will be given the chance to vote for three open seats. Board members are expected to come to a monthly meeting that usually lasts about an hour, spend 2-3 hours per month preparing for tasks assigned during the meeting, attend Members

Only events as they occur, and help plan and execute fundraisers throughout the year. And of course be proud supporters of our wonderful zoo!

Following the meeting will be a brief program by Curator & Zoo Supervisor Ashley Burdick on all that has been going on at the zoo this past year.

Thank you for your continued support of our zoo! We hope to see you (digitally) there!



Megan's Corner continued from page 5

Barton County SPARK Business Assistance Grant Program Open Now

Three days following the golf tournament, September 14th saw the opening of the application period for the Barton County SPARK Grants by the Chamber as appointed by the County. Applications are still being accepted from for-profit businesses operating in Barton County with 100 or fewer employees and demonstrating negative impacts from COVID-19. Approximately \$131,701.30 has been allocated to support Barton County businesses with a focus to address disproportionate impacts on racial minority owned businesses. To that end, we have worked hard at having all materials translated in Spanish with a strong push to personally deliver Barton County SPARK applications to nearly 15 of our Hispanic owned businesses and friends in Barton County.

This is not a first-come, first-served grant program, but rather an attempt to fully serve our county with the allocated dollars available currently. Applicants will be notified as soon as possible following the close of application period. Completed applications must be received by 3:00 p.m., October 14, 2020. Submit applications via mail, in-person, or email to the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. For details and to view the application, please visit greatbend.org/spark-grants. Questions and completed applications can be directed to myself at mbarfield@greatbend.org.

Creators Wanted!

Modern manufacturing's biggest stage to educate and excite the next generation about opportunities to create the future is just about here and we are so excited to celebrate Manufacturing Day in Barton County once again, beginning October 2nd. Watch your emails and Chamber's social media for more information on how you can get involved in helping celebrate throughout October and beyond. The Chamber is committed to promoting the jobs and skills needed right here by helping connect students in exploring careers with major potential for growth.

Use the hashtags #MFGDay20 and #CreatorsWanted to drive attention to MFG Day, maybe by recognizing a creator you know who inspires you or by sharing some facts about the opportunities in modern manufacturing.

MFG Day is a grassroots movement—led by manufacturers—that relies on each of us to do our part to share the "Creators Wanted" message. By 2028, America will need to fill 4.6 million modern manufacturing jobs—rewarding careers that lift up everyone and make a difference. Amid this difficult time for the country and world, we must stand together with a positive and uplifting call to action for our future.

Join us as we support our area manufacturers and creators, tomorrow's workforce, and our county's economy.

MFG DAY

#MFGDay20

CREATORS WANTED

Mi



MFG Day 2020 is the central anchor of our Creators Wanted efforts in 2020. October is Manufacturing Month and the first Friday of the month, October 2, is MFG Day, organized nationally by The Manufacturing Institute.

CREATORSWANTED.ORG

Corinthians Hill Event Center continued from page 1

food and lodging at our local businesses. That money is circulating elsewhere.”

Yet an equally important part of the back story of the three ventures is the passion for entertaining that Stark-Deutsch brings to the table. She comes by it naturally – her parents and grandparents loved to entertain.

“I know how to throw a party,” she commented.

In addition to weddings, Corinthians Hill is the destination for church events, Christmas parties, reunions and birthday parties, as well as bridal and baby showers. Nevertheless, if a client chooses a different location, Stark-Deutsch and team will still handle all the arrangements.

“We will go anywhere you need us – even if it is in a field where we set up tents. We take care of everything. However, you can choose to perform some tasks yourself. We only ask that you consider your guests’ comfort and realize how time-consuming it is to plan an event.”

Part of the planning process for Stark-Deutsch is preparing a computerized drawing of the location’s layout and design “so there is no confusion. It takes strategic planning but when we handle all the big and little details, it is stress-free for you.”

While Corinthians Hill has hosted some small events this year, with pandemic protocols in place, the first big wedding is set for next April. All big events for this year were rescheduled for next year.

The upstairs area seats 100 people and downstairs it is 50. A backyard firepit area seats about 40. An additional structure, which will be available next spring, will seat 400.

Other future plans include sleeping quarters for bridal parties, hunters and other guests.

The event center is named after 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and is operated by 1 Corinthians 16:14, which says “Let all that you do be done in love.”

Stark-Deutsch is quick to give her husband, Randy, and their six employees much credit for the success of each business venture. “Randy is a huge part of this and has been for years. He is the muscle,” she laughed. “He helps load and unload delivery vans and is helping even more with the events.

“I couldn’t do any of this without him and our great team. They are the backbone of our businesses.”

Stark-Deutsch has been “graciously blessed” with design abilities and has more than 40 years of experience in the profession. She earned a degree in interior design and fine arts, and trained in various locations in the United States and Europe. Her local design business was established in 1981; it now reaches into several other states.

In addition, Stark-Deutsch has been published in *Cowboys & Indians*, a magazine that features higher-end design and western design. The article was about her design project at a working ranch in the Flint Hills, including the main house, and bunk and guest accommodations.

A Great Bend project will be featured in a publication later.

Corinthians Hill has added that important extra layer to her ventures, she summarized. “It is near Cheyenne Bottoms, the largest interior wetlands in the country. There are breathtaking views of the wetlands and surrounding area, along with a welcoming countryside atmosphere that your guests will fall in love with.

“Great Bend and Barton County are where God planted me,” she added. “And this is where I needed to bloom. That’s what I did.”



Above: Patty Grauer sets a sample place setting for a prospective client’s event. Below: (From front to back) Parker (granddaughter of Stark-Deutsch), Debbie Stark-Deutsch, Lisa Koochel, and Patty Grauer.



30 Years of Dedicated Service at Stueders

Terry Stueder, President of Stueder Contractors in Great Bend, recognized Gary Wondra (L) and Alan Crowther (R) for 30 years of dedicated service. Terry Stueder stated, “We started Stueders 36 years ago and these two have been a huge part of our success! Gary (HVAC & Plumbing Sales Manager) and Alan (Plumbing and Spa Manager) have provided invaluable knowledge and experience to our customers plus leadership to fellow employees. We are very thankful for their commitment to Stueder Contractors.”



Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation Reaches Goal for 3D Mammography Campaign

The Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation has successfully achieved its goal of raising \$300,000 as part of the 3D mammography campaign that began in October 2019. The campaign goal, through the generosity of donors, business leaders, grateful patients, friends of the foundation and foundation trustees, was reached in record time of less than a year.

“I was humbled and pleasantly surprised the fundraising went so quickly, especially because of COVID-19 and canceled fundraisers,” said Julie Bugner-Smith, director of the Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation. “Raising approximately \$300,000 ahead of schedule speaks volumes about our community. Local and area residents saved the hospital several years ago and remain invested in providing the best of the best in healthcare services.

“Backing from the community is at the forefront of Pawnee Valley Campus being able to offer high-tech services,” she continued. “The foundation’s support from the community and the substantial gift from Lewis Young is deeply appreciated.”

The generosity of the Larned-area community will result in the earlier-than-expected arrival of new 3D mammography equipment, said Shelly Stanton, director of imaging at The University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus.

“Our hospital is extremely blessed and so grateful for generous donations and community support through the years,” Stanton said. “Pawnee Valley Campus wouldn’t be here without the support of everyone who chooses our services, as well as our benefactors who donate time and money. We are thriving and offering state-of-the-art equipment because of our community.”

The new technology will arrive this fall, but the hospital will continue using the 2D equipment until the 3D unit is installed. Originally, the equipment wasn’t expected until late in 2021.

“We want the least amount of service interruption as possible,” Stanton commented. “We anticipate about two weeks of downtime for installation, physics



testing and training.” 3D mammography takes images in slices, allowing radiologists to see layers of tissue separately. This makes 3D superior for women with dense breast tissue and allows for detection of 20-60 percent more invasive cancers.

“The new machine’s ability to distinguish different tissues results in fewer false positives,” Stanton noted. “And this, of course, means fewer patients have to return for follow-up testing. Mammography is so important because it can detect cancers as small as a grain of sand – long before they are big enough to be felt during a self-exam. Finding cancers early saves lives and helps prevent more extensive treatments.”

This new addition to the hospital illustrates that “we strive to provide the most advanced imaging equipment,” Stanton added. “Patients can be screened locally and know they are not compromising their care in any way. We realize patients have choices. But choosing Pawnee Valley Campus’ top-of-line equipment and professional staff can reduce travel time, expense and stress.”

The American College of Radiology and Society of Breast Imaging recommend annual mammograms beginning at age 40. Women of higher-than-average risk because of family history should start earlier, also according to the ACR. Supplemental screenings, such as breast MRI and ultrasound, may also be considered. Treatment is determined on an individual basis.

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More New Hires:

The Plains State Bank Welcomes Amy Hofeling

The Plains State Bank is pleased to announce the addition of Amy Hofeling to their Great Bend Branch located at 800 Coolidge Street in Great Bend. Amy will hold the title of Vice President Retail Lender. Amy has 13 years of consumer and commercial real estate lending experience. Amy will primarily focus on assisting customers with consumer and real estate needs.

In making the announcement, Christy Kuhn, Executive Vice President Corporate Management said the bank is proud to attract Hofeling to this position. "We are looking forward to the partnership, experience, qualities, and background that Hofeling brings to Plains State Bank."

Amy enjoys working in the

banking industry and assisting customers with their banking needs. "I have a passion for putting people in houses," Hofeling said. "This started with selling and moving on to financing. I enjoy offering first time homebuyers' guidance, available grants, and the best loan product for them. Homeowners can take advantage of current low interest rates by calling me to refinance, cash out on their equity or visit about a HELOC."

Amy and her husband Bruce



Amy Hofeling

are longtime residents of Great Bend and are active in the Great Bend community.

The Plains State Bank was chartered in 1906. At The Plains State Bank we are, "Financing Your Future" and our Employees, Officers and Directors are committed to our customers. Today the bank has expanded to the communities of Plains, Lakin, Great Bend, Hutchinson, and Salina, Kansas. For more information about Plains State Bank visit their website at www.plainsstatebank.com.

Clara Barton Hospital and Clinics welcomes Dr. Renner to team

Clara Barton Hospital and Clinics Welcomes Family Practice Physician, Dr. Renner as Newest Member of Healthcare Team



Kyle Renner, MD

Clara Barton Hospital and Clinics is pleased to announce the addition of Kyle Renner, MD as the newest member of the Clara Barton healthcare team. Dr. Renner will be joining the medical staff at Clara Barton Medical Clinic as a family practice physician, seeing both children and adults.

Renner grew up in Garden Plain, Kansas. He attended Pittsburg State University where he completed his undergrad with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Minors in Chemistry and Physical Science. After graduating from Pittsburg State, he continued his education at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita and completed his residency at the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho in Boise.

Renner and his wife, Jami, have been married for three years and have a daughter, Elsie, and two dogs, Goose and Coach. Both Renner and his wife were drawn to the area as they share a love of the outdoors and look forward to spending time at Cheyenne Bottoms in the winter and Wilson Lake and the surrounding golf courses in the summer. Aside from work, Renner is an avid waterfowl and big game hunter. He enjoys watching a variety of sports and supporting Chiefs football in the fall and winter.

Practicing family medicine, Renner enjoys the relationships he is able to form with patients and their families. This unique aspect drove him to family medicine and ultimately motivated him to return to rural Kansas to begin his career.

Renner is now accepting new patients at both Clara Barton Medical Clinic in Hoisington and Great Bend. To make an appointment with Renner please call 620-653-2386.

Clara Barton Hospital and Clinics adds Dr. Ken Baxa to medial staff

Rheumatic diseases affect over 25% of the U.S. population, both young and old, who commonly live with joint and muscle pain associated with musculoskeletal and autoimmune disorders. Even with the prevalence of these conditions, rheumatology specialists are especially hard to come by in Kansas rural communities. Clara Barton Hospital and Clinics is pleased to announce the addition of Rheumatology to its clinical services, as Dr. Ken Baxa joins the Clara Barton medical team.

A Kansas native, Baxa grew up in Salina and attended undergraduate school at Fort Hays State University and then Kansas Wesleyan. After obtaining his undergrad, he attended medical school at the University of Pikeville Kentucky

College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating at the top of his class. Baxa then completed his Internal Medicine, Neuromuscular Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulation residency at Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville, Missouri. After recently completing his fellowship in Rheumatology at Bayonet Point Regional Medical Center in Hudson, Florida, Baxa and his family wanted to return to Kansas and give back to the communities that helped raise him.

Baxa's primary goal is to help his patients achieve a

better state of health. He is very passionate about the musculoskeletal system and uses a multi-faceted approach to treat such disorders. Rheumatologists, like Dr. Baxa, diagnose and treat a variety of disorders affecting the joints, muscles, ligaments and autoimmune system, such as: inflammatory disorders, fibromyalgia, osteoporosis, arthritis, lupus, gout, tendinitis, and vasculitis.

Dr. Baxa is now accepting new patients at Clara Barton Medical Clinic in Hoisington. To make an appointment, please call 620-653-2386.



Dr. Ken Baxa

Congratulations!

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Ambassador Profile: Eric Fox American State Bank and Trust Company



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

Well, I was born and raised in Larned and still call Larned my home. However, Great Bend has always been a part of my life for many aspects. Such as going to the movies, bowling, shopping, eating, and doctors visits. Most importantly, I've been commuting to Great Bend daily for the past two years to work at the Bank.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I've been working at American State Bank since 2010. I started in Macksville as the Branch Manager/Ag Lender and stayed in that role until the summer of 2018. Now, my primary job role is agricultural and commercial lending. I still work with all of my clients from Pawnee, Stafford, Edwards, and Pratt counties. Now, I'm working

on building relationships in Barton County.

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

Prior to my banking career, I worked at the prison in Larned as an Activity Therapist and Risk Management at Larned State Hospital.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

My family, my boys sports, the lake and wheat harvest. I absolutely love the weekends where I get to spend quality time with my wife, Jessie and my three boys. They are very active in sports and we are excited to watch them be competitive, learn, and grow as individuals. Outside of sports, Lake Wilson is our favorite spot to be in the summer. Finally, I grew up helping my Grandpa on his farm and harvest is now "in my blood".

At what job, would you be terrible?

Veterinarian.

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

I've been with the Ambassador group since January of 2019. I must say that the Chamber Ambassadors and Chamber Staff have been great to work with and were very welcoming from the start. Pre-COVID19, the best part was getting out and attending the Coffee Hours and meeting the business members in the community.

About Chamber Ambassadors: The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Club is made up of 30 men and women from the Great Bend business community who represent the Chamber as volunteers. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact the Chamber: 620-792-2401 or marketing@greatbend.org

CRAM THE VAN 2020 is coming!

It's that time of year again—it's time to help Wheatland Electric CRAM THE VAN! This year, we're trying something new and we invite

you to cruise on by with your food bank donation in return for a hotdog or hamburger, chips, and a cookie. We'll be parked outside the Great Bend Events Center on Friday, October 16th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Follow the signs, drive up, donate, and leave with your lunch, knowing that you've made a positive difference in your community by helping to fight hunger. All donations will remain local and benefit The Community Food Bank of Barton County.

Since 2014, Wheatland Electric has collected over 47 Tons (95,527 lbs.) of food for local food banks in the communities we serve. Also new

this year, is the ability to make a monetary donation online. You can visit www.weci.net and click "Donate Now" and select "The

Community Food Bank of Barton County" to keep your donation in Great Bend!

Wheatland Electric is proud to be partnering with Hiss-Sherman Wealth Management to once again host the CRAM THE VAN School Competition where

schools compete against one another for cash prizes. The school competition will take place from October 12-16. In 2019, Great Bend collected over 10,200 pounds of food and we hope to beat that total this year! You can learn more about CRAM THE VAN on Wheatland Electric's social media pages or website (www.weci.net).



Sunflower Diversified teams up with Ferguson Production, creates jobs

A phone call from a Great Bend non-profit agency to a McPherson business has led to a brand-new production line and more employment options for people with special needs.

Sunflower Diversified Services is now packaging dog treats for Ferguson Production Inc., McPherson.

Shawn Bates, Sunflower director of production, recently called Scott Ferguson to determine if his company could provide job opportunities for people served by the non-profit agency.

"Scott was happy to set up a meeting and the next thing we knew, we were on our way to McPherson," recalled Bates, who worked for Ferguson a few years ago. "Ferguson is one of the premier injection molders in Kansas."

In this new partnership, Ferguson molds the dog bones and then ships them to Sunflower where clients blister-seal individual packages.

Mark Wells, Ferguson senior vice president and chief financial officer, said the company's sales orders are "rapidly growing, which creates significant challenges for us to adequately staff our three shifts and meet customer expectations."

"After talking with Shawn Bates, we decided Sunflower would be a great fit. In addition to providing a valuable service to us, it is equally gratifying to provide people with special needs a rewarding job that makes a difference in their lives."

"We anticipate this project will be a great success for Sunflower and Ferguson," Wells commented. "Sunflower has been very accommodating and easy to work with. I would not hesitate to recommend Sunflower to other companies."



Robbie Davis stamps a card before it is blister-sealed to another card while packaging dog bones at the Sunflower Diversified Services manufacturing plant. Davis is a client at Sunflower.

Jon Prescott, Sunflower chief executive officer, commended Bates and Ferguson Production for getting this project off the ground. "Shawn is a great asset to Sunflower. Because of his willingness to go the extra mile, Ferguson now provides job opportunities for the people we serve."

Prescott also noted the new business partnership has a positive economic impact on Sunflower's five-county service area. It allows more people with special needs the opportunity to earn part of a \$302,000 annual payroll. They earn an hourly rate.

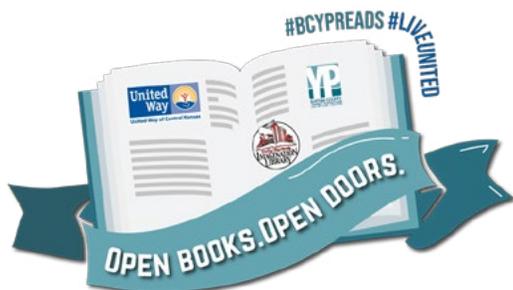
"But the biggest reward for everyone here is the excitement on their faces when they pick up their paychecks. They are being recognized for a job well done," Prescott said.

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. It is in its 54th year.

Get ready to support literacy!

In October to celebrate National Book Month, the United Way of Central Kansas (UWCK) will be partnering with Barton County Young Professionals (BCYP) to host an online Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) fundraiser.

There are two reasons for this campaign—the first is to bring awareness to the DPIL program and the second is to help raise funds to continue the program in Barton and Pawnee Counties. The organizations will be seeking \$30 donations, which cover the average cost



to send monthly DPIL books to an area child for one year. Thanks to business partnerships, each \$30 donation raised during the month of October will be matched, allowing us to get more books in the hands of children ages 0-5. Over 25,000 books have been delivered to area children since the program was launched in 2012.

Make sure you Follow Barton County Young Professionals-BCYP and United Way of Central Kansas on Facebook to learn more about DPIL, our generous business partners, and support children's literacy!

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October 1, 2020

THE CENTER FOR COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION

The Center for Counseling and Consultation is the licensed community mental health center (CMHC) for Barton, Pawnee, Rice and Stafford Counties and offers a wide range of services including individual and family counseling, medication consultation, addiction assessment and recovery, case management and peer support.

October 8, 2020

THE RESERVES AT TRAIL RIDGE

The Reserves provides income-eligible individuals and families with affordable, quality housing within the Great Bend Community. The Reserves at Trail Ridge incorporates quality, function and design into 96 units of one, two and three-bedroom apartments. A clubhouse, fitness facility, BBQ area, and playground are also located on-site.

October 15, 2020

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October 22, 2020

PAWNEE VALLEY HOSPITAL SLEEP & DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

At Pawnee Valley Hospital focuses on delivering quality patient care. They do this through a team of trained physicians, nurses and other professionals committed to putting patients first and working collaboratively to provide the best care possible

October 29, 2020

USD 428 FOUNDATION

The USD 428 Education Foundation is an independent community-based organization dedicated to improving the quality of education in our schools by directing its resources toward areas of identified need. Our legacy as a volunteer organization is to fund innovative educational ideas and programs outside the scope of the public-school budget. Join our virtual coffee to learn more about our efforts to raise funds for classroom mini-grants in conjunction with Giving Tuesday!

November 5, 2020

BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Barton Community College Foundation has been transforming into the multi-faceted face of Barton Community College along with the communities and students we serve. In addition to creating funds and making scholarship awards, the foundation raises funds for special projects, builds strong business relationships and coordinates funding sources that enhance college goals and dreams.

