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Outlook Business Journal

www.greatbend.org

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9th Annual Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament Slated May 30th

The Ninth Annual Gary Gore Golf Tournament will be held Friday, May 30th at The Club at StoneRidge. Members are encouraged to sponsor and participate in a fun-filled event. The tournament is a way to link business with pleasure, and provides an opportunity for participants to network with other business professionals in a casual and relaxed environment. Registration begins at 11 a.m., with a Shotgun Start at 1 p.m.

The tournament memorializes Gary Gore, who died in a watercraft accident at Wilson Lake in 2005. Gore was serving as the Chamber's Executive Director at the time of his death, a position he held for five years. Local golf professional Steve Gotsche will administer the tournament as one of his last in Great Bend before relocating to Manhattan, Kansas. Proceeds from the tournament support the operations of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development.

Players can look forward to a four-man scramble format with over \$4,000 in prizes and raffle drawings. Hole contest prizes will be sponsored by Bauer & Pike, LLC and Bentley & Associates Inc. A beverage cart will be available, sponsored by Benefit Management Inc.

"We are excited about a new addition to the fun-filled event," says Andrea Bauer, Director of Sales & Member Services. "After the tournament play is wrapping up, all of our members are invited to participate in the first ever Patio Party, which will include dinner, drinks, and door prize drawings." The Patio Party & Awards Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and is sponsored by CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions. Guests can attend the Patio Party and dinner for just \$15 per person.

Cost to enter the tournament is \$100 per player, or \$400 per team, which includes green fees, raffle tickets, and admission to the Patio Party & Dinner. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams, and everyone is eligible to win over \$2,500 in prizes and raffle drawings! Mulligans are available for \$5, paid the day of the tournament. Hole sponsorships are still available for \$100 per company, and include recognition on the Chamber website, signage on a hole at the tournament, recognition in the Outlook Business Journal following the event, and recognition in one of our email Updates.

Look for the insert/registration form in this month's newsletter packet, or register for the tournament on the Chamber website at www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx. For more information, contact Bauer at 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org. —



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Jan Peters, President/CEO
jpeters@greatbend.org
Rachel Mawhirter, Marketing Director
rmawhirter@greatbend.org
Andrea Bauer, Director of Sales & Member Services
abauer@greatbend.org
Roxanne Rich, Office/Business Manager
rrich@greatbend.org

Chamber Closed for Memorial Day

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. We will resume our normal business hours on Tuesday, May 27th, which are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For Chamber information available anytime, visit www.greatbend.org.

Teams Now Being Recruited for Great Bend Business Olympics

The City of Great Bend will present the 2nd Annual Great Bend Business Olympics on Saturday, June 7th as part of the June Jaunt Festival. Businesses are encouraged to have teams of four sign up to participate in these wacky olympic games, designed to facilitate fun social networking and good 'ol fashioned camaraderie. Teams will begin gathering at 1 p.m., and the competition will begin at 1:30 p.m. in Jack Kilby Square, 1400 Main Street.



Games slated for the 2014 competition include a 3-legged race, an egg race, a tricycle race, a secret tie-breaker race, and more. Last year's winning team from Champion Service will be back to defend their title and present the traveling trophy to the 2014 winners. A new level of competition is also being added. The winning team from the Great Bend event will be sent to represent the winners from the other Barton County communities at a county-wide competition to be set for later this year.

Cost per four-person team is \$50 if registered by May 15th, or \$60 after the deadline. Registration forms are available at the City of Great Bend (1209 Williams) and Great Bend Chamber (1125 Williams) Offices. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Barton County Young Professionals program. For more information, contact the City of Great Bend's Community Coordinator Christina Hayes at 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net.

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Tune in for ChamberConnect Radio Program May 1st

Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month to hear Eagle Radio's Patrick Burnett discuss the latest Chamber happenings with Marketing Director Rachel Mawhirter. The May edition of ChamberConnect will air Thursday, May 1st at 11:35 a.m.

This month's show will be centered around Job Fest and the annual Chamber golf tournament. Topic ideas can be submitted anytime to Chamber staff members.



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OPI Celebrates 55th Anniversary with Business After Hours May 8th



There have been some twists and turns since Melvin Vink started what would become a fixture in central Kansas 55 years ago. But each of those paths has led to Office Products Inc.'s continued growth with a strong emphasis on customer service, the current owners said.

Melvin Vink and Charles Perry opened what became Great Bend Office Products a few blocks away from the current 1204 Main location in 1959; the name was changed to OPI in 1995. Melvin Vink passed away in 2007. "Our dad is the reason for the business opening and the reason we are still here today," said Kenny Vink, Melvin's son. "He taught us to work together and support our community. Dad taught us to treat people like we want to be treated."

Kenny and his brother, Terry, are based in the Great Bend store; their brother, Craig, manages the Larned site at 516 Broadway. The Russell location is 724 N. Main. As OPI has extended its business reach throughout central Kansas, it also has lived up to its reputation for community service, Kenny commented. "Because of the great community support we receive, OPI encourages our staff to return the favor," Kenny commented. "Some coach sports teams, and some are volunteer firemen and storm watchers. Others serve on community boards and all of us support local businesses."

On the business side of the equation, OPI has a full line of office supplies, equipment and furniture. Its website for ordering products and its Copy Center also are popular with customers. "We now have three graphic artists on staff and can take care of all our customers' needs – from letterhead to full-color banners and vehicle decals."

One of the biggest OPI attractions continues to be the Canon Color ImageRunner, a high-tech machine that prints, copies, scans, faxes and connects to the Internet. This high-tech equipment goes hand-in-hand with their computer and service departments. But OPI's staff hasn't forgotten how to meet low-tech office supply needs as well.

Terry and Kenny also recently purchased Golden Belt Printing; they retained its professional staff and hired a new graphic artist. For more information, visit www.opigreatbend.com.

Join Us for a Chamber After Hours May 8th

Office Products Inc. will host a Business After Hours Event on Thursday, May 8th from 5-7 p.m. in the alley behind their Great Bend location at 12th & Main. The Vink family would like to invite you to celebrate their 55th anniversary with brats, hamburgers, and cold beverages. Door prize drawings will be held at approximately 6 p.m. Visit with their friendly staff to learn more about the online price look-up and ordering capabilities.

Barton Community College Commemorates Recent Fine Arts Auditorium Renovations

Barton Community College officially unveiled its newly remodeled Fine Arts Auditorium during an open house event in late March. Following remarks from the college president Dr. Carl Heilman, chair of the Board of Trustees Mike Johnson, chair of the Foundation Board Judy Fox, and Foundation Executive Director Darnell Holopirek, members of the community were invited to enjoy a special presentation featuring live performances from Barton students.

More than a year of planning went into the renovation of the Fine Arts Auditorium. New features include a reconfiguration of seating to create aisle accessibility and a better viewing experience. One of the most notable upgrades was with the equipment behind the scenes. State-of-the-art sound and lighting will enhance the audience experience, making it easier to see and hear the events on the stage.

Gary Parr with Parr Sound & Lighting, the company who installed much of the new high-tech equipment, explained to audience members the benefits of utilizing the latest technology. "These students are being trained with the same equipment being used in the performing arts industry today, not the stuff of decades ago," Parr said. "This means they are better equipped for the real world. This set-up also uses less than half the power to operate even more equipment, so it's a win-win."

The foyer area of the Fine Arts Building received new paint, soffit, display cases, lighting, artwork and an ornate, wall-sized donor plaque that pays tribute to all who have donated funds to various fine arts enhancements. The project was funded by the college as a capital improvement along with fundraising efforts by the Barton Foundation, which included the "Dancing with the Barton Stars" event and the "Take A Seat" campaign. For more information, visit www.bartonccc.edu.



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Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice Celebrates 35th Year Providing Services

It was 35 years ago this spring that Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice (GBHH&H) offered services to its first patient. When 1979 came to an end, the non-profit agency had cared for 43 patients. Today, at any given time, GBHH&H is serving 60-100 patients for an average of almost 300 per year.

Donita Wolf, GBHH&H director, recently outlined the agency's background and services during a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Coffee. Under the leadership of Sister Dominic, the local Dominican Sisters determined there was a need for home-health care, Wolf said.

"The Sisters were out in the community doing their volunteer work with the elderly and soon realized professional nursing services were needed in family homes," Wolf explained. "Our agency became Medicare certified and began providing nursing and nursing-aide services."

In 1982 the agency expanded to include hospice services - also in family homes. Medicare changes in 2000 brought about the closure of four other home-health agencies but GBHH&H remained open. "We were going strong then and continue to do so to this day," Wolf said. "We have a great staff of medical and clerical personnel. There are 21 of us who are dedicated to patients and their families."

Home health includes a wide variety of services such as wound care; IV therapy; physical, speech and occupational therapies; and rehabilitation after an accident or stroke. "Home-health services are available to anyone who has had a change in medical status for whatever reason," Wolf said. "We will take care of them for as long as there is a need."

Hospice services, which also are provided in the home, are needed when the patient is terminal. "Our hospice team provides comfort when the patient is no longer receiving traditional medical treatment," Wolf said. "We can help manage their symptoms and be helpful to the family at this difficult time. Our grief support group also is helping many families in the area."

In addition to the patient's physician, the hospice team includes the medical director, nurses, a social worker, chaplain, aides and volunteers. "I am very proud of this compassionate group of caregivers," Wolf said.

GBHH&H, 3520 Lakin, is part of the St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center family. St. Rose is under the umbrella of Centura Health. GBHH&H serves families in Barton, Pawnee, Rush and parts of Stafford counties. For more information, call 620-792-8171.

Young Professionals Spotlight

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

On April 3rd, three of the Steering committee members for the Barton County Young Professionals group attended the YP Summit in Salina, Kansas. Candice Moeder, Regan Ochs, and Rachel Mawhirter represented our communities at the statewide event. Later that week, more than 190 Barton County Young Professionals members gathered for the largest event of the year, the annual Casino Night on Saturday, April 5th. This year's festivities included dinner, casino games, a photo booth, and prize drawings for over \$4,000 in product donated by local businesses! Presenting sponsor was Adams Brown Beran & Ball, Chtd.

During the month of May, members of the networking group are invited to attend a Quarterly Networking Mixer sponsored by Marmie Ford. From 5-8 p.m. in their Ford Showroom at 10th & Baker, new and existing members can come to enjoy free beer and free tacos, and enter for a chance to win a flat screen television! These events are perfect for signing up new members, so bring a friend! No RSVP's are required.

Keep up with news and events for Barton County Young Professionals by joining the Facebook group and by signing up for the YP email newsletter.

Want to Join?

Anyone who works in Barton County between the ages of 21 and 40 is welcome to join the growing group at any time. For more information or to join, email us at bartonyp@gmail.com. And be sure to join the group on Facebook!



Want to Host a Young Professionals Event?

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

Camp Aldrich Closed for the Summer

The dining hall at Camp Aldrich caught fire last month, resulting in the camp being deemed unsafe for the public until further notice. Camp Aldrich will be closed for the summer into the fall. For more information about the Camp Aldrich closing, call 620-792-2701.



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Highlighted Events in May

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

- 1-5... KCAC Baseball & Softball Tournament, Great Bend Sports Complex
- 1... Chamber Coffee: P&S Security, 1705 K-96 Hwy, 9:30 a.m.
- 1... Chamber Ambassador Club Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 12 p.m.
- 1... Job Fest, Best Western Courtyard, 2920 10th Street, 3-6 p.m.
- 1... Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes Event, Jack Kilby Square, 1400 Main, 6-8 p.m.
- 2... USD 428 Education Foundation Golf Tournament, StoneRidge, 11:30 a.m.
- 2... Catholic Social Service Wine Tasting, Knights of Columbus, 723 Main, 7 p.m.
- 3... Heartland Farm Spring Blessing, 1049 CR 390 Pawnee Rock, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 5... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 5... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 8... Chamber Coffee: Alliance Insurance, 2120 16th Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 8... Business After Hours: OPI, 12th & Main (In the Alley), 5-7 p.m.
- 9... Young Professionals Quarterly Networking Mixer, Marmie Ford Showroom, 10th & Baker, 5-8 p.m.
- 10... Petr's Frame House Gallery Opening, 2009 16th Street, 4:30 p.m.
- 10... Ellinwood Chamber Chat with Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, Wolf Hotel, Santa Fe & Main in Ellinwood, 10 a.m.
- 12... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 13... Sunflower Diversified Benefit Bowling Tournament, Walnut Bowl, 3200 N. Washington, 6:30 p.m.
- 15... Chamber Coffee: High Call Outfitters, 4100 10th Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 15... Submission Deadline for June Issue of Outlook Business Journal
- 17... Nature Photography Workshops, Wetlands Education Center, 592 NE Hwy 156, 9 a.m.
- 19... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 19... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 22... Chamber Coffee: Manweiler Chevrolet, 271 S. Main in Hoisington, 9:30 a.m.
- 22... Flyer Insert Deadline for June Issue of Outlook Business Journal
- 26... Chamber Office Closed for Memorial Day
- 27... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 29... Chamber Coffee: TLC Pet Setters, Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, 9:30 a.m.
- 29-31... KSHSAA State Baseball & Softball Tournament, Great Bend Sports Complex
- 30... Chamber Golf Tournament & Patio Party, Club at StoneRidge, 1 p.m.
- 31-1... Hap Dumont Baseball Tournament, Great Bend Sports Complex



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Some of the oilfield guys who became acquainted with David Thill referred to him as that “crazy banker.” But they may have changed their tune in recent years - now that Thill’s company handles about 40 percent of the vertical oilfield casing business in Kansas.

Thill is co-owner of D & S Casing Crews LLC with his wife, Shellie; their initials created the company name. “I was president of Sunflower Bank in Great Bend and Ellinwood,” Thill said. “I was there for eight years and decided I wanted to do something different.

“I knew the oilfield casing business because I put myself through college working for Francis Casing Crews, which was a long-time family business here,” he noted. “This was a major change. I was in a suit-and-tie profession and went to the oilfield. I left job security and benefits, along with an inside desk environment, which is why I became known as the ‘crazy banker.’”

D & S Casing Crews, 4713 8th, opened in March 2008. Thill and two investors started in 25-by-50-foot mechanic-shop spaces just to the east of this current location. “We started with one space, big enough for one truck, then two, then three,” Thill recalled. “In January of 2013, we moved into this 7300 square foot building, which we designed specifically for a casing business.

“For one type of job you need specific equipment and for another job, different equipment,” he explained. “So we put in a bridge crane to go from one set of tools to the next. Before this, trucks had to be moved in and out of the building. This crane makes us more efficient and safer.”

When D & S opened early in 2008, there were 95 drilling rigs operating in western Kansas; by the end of that year, there were only 27 still operating. “That’s when we questioned what we had done,” Thill laughed. “But we used that time as an opportunity. Then the price of oil started going back up.”

Before Thill started the business, he analyzed the competition and decided he would have to take service to the next level. “I knew we would have to be better than our competition,” he explained. “So we decided to focus on three priorities – being clean cut, well-trained and drug tested.”



David & Shellie Thill, owners of D&S Casing Crews, pose for a photo next to David’s vehicle. The name of the business comes from their first initials.

D & S Casing started with four employees and now has 28, including a safety manager. “This is an unbelievable group of people, that I’m proud of” Thill said. “This is one of the most physically demanding jobs in the oilfield and we are on 24-hour call. Maybe other jobs are as physically demanding but they don’t go day and night. Our guys need agility and strength; they are like the athletes of the oilfield.

“I have a high level of respect for our employees,” he added. “They stick with us and we take care of them. Our focus is to improve on a superior level of service. It is our competitive edge.”

Since the entire state of Kansas is D & S’s territory, the crews work with different people and companies on a regular basis. “Our guys adapt to this,” Thill commented. “We even help the drilling companies with the changeover to get ready to run the casing. They appreciate this so much; it cuts time and, therefore, cuts costs. Another plus, it creates a great working relationship with our customers.”

“This is our philosophy on how to grow the business – bring service to a higher level,” he added. In the early days, Thill went to rig locations with his employees and performed all the casing tasks. “That’s how we grew our market; I can’t do that as often now.”

D & S receives calls from rotary rigs that need a casing crew on site in 8-12 hours. “You either commit or you don’t,” Thill said. “You have to have a crew on stand-by, ready to go. We are dedicated to hiring responsible people but if someone is unavailable, I will get out of bed and go.”

The business started with one crew and recently added a sixth. These crews help install the production casing, which is a large-diameter pipe that is assembled and inserted into a recently drilled section of a borehole. It is typically held in place by cement. “One thing people don’t understand is that if a rig drills a dry hole, we don’t work,” Thill noted. “But 3D seismic technology has increased the percentage of producing wells. Instead of one out of three, it is now closer to two out of three that we can run casing on.

“We chose to stay out of the horizontal-drilling market,” he added. “It is a different market and the equipment is different. The horizontal jobs can take 20 to 36 hours; our jobs take six to twelve. We chose to stick with what we know and are good at.”

Thill is a 1981 graduate of Great Bend High School; he earned a degree in business and minor in finance at Fort Hays State University in 1986. He has been in management and sales positions throughout his career. So, Great Bend is home, but it is also “a good, central location for us to operate our business from,” Thill commented. “Great Bend is the oil-service hub of Kansas.” —



It's in our Nature to Inspire!

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



INTERACTIVE MAP - The Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway is excited to announce the debut of its online interactive map, a first for Kansas byways.

The map is easy to use and offers visitors a fun and powerful tool to help plan their trip in advance. The map will also be a beneficial resource for visitors once they are in the region as well. The iMap controls provide the ability to navigate the map with ease, connecting visitors with the many assets of the byway and its corridor communities of Claflin, Ellinwood, Great Bend, Hoisington, Hudson, Stafford, and St. John. The map provides categories of:

- Where to Stay (hotels, B&Bs, camping, RV parks)
- Where to Eat (local faves, bar & grills, diners, coffee shops, etc)
- What to Do (attractions, tours, recreation, theatre, museums, etc)
- Where to Shop (antiques, unique retail, grocery, gifts, etc)
- Individual Community Lists (all of the above, specific to any community)

The listings consist of comprehensive information including addresses, phone numbers, websites, emails, and even hours of operation. In addition, the iMap provides expanded functionality that traditional maps cannot offer such as GPS coordinates, websites, virtual tours, images, videos, and details that allow trip planners to create and share customizable itineraries or download ready-made itineraries.

"We are very excited to have this expanded online service available for all visitors to our region" said Loren Unruh, Chairman of the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau. Unruh went on to note, "As a hotel owner, I am also glad to have this resource available for staff. They can use the iMap to assist visitors and answer specific questions for the entire byway region."

Currently, the map can be found at www.VisitGreatBend.com and will soon be accessible from many of the corridor community's sites as well as the byway website, www.KansasByway.com. The map is also available on the Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau mobile site, m.visitgreatbend.com.

For more information about the Interactive Map and the byway's online tourism efforts, contact the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau at cvb@visitgreatbend.com or 620-792-2750. Find us online at VisitGreatBend.com (Facebook & Twitter too!)



Walk-a-Mile In Her Shoes Fundraiser Returns May 1st in Jack Kilby Square

The 5th Annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, benefiting the Family Crisis Center, will take place Thursday, May 1st from 6-8 p.m. in Jack Kilby Square in Great Bend.



Activities will include a pledge walk, kids' events, and the infamous red heels team race. The event is designed to raise awareness about sexual and domestic violence, as well as raise money to provide services for survivors through the Family Crisis Center and its numerous anonymous services.

There are several reasons why the Crisis Center staff recommends people get involved. First, people have to walk the walk. "There is an old saying that you can't understand a person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes," says Crisis Center Executive Director Laura Patzner. "The event is a fun way to let men literally 'walk in her shoes' while raising awareness to fight domestic violence."

Second, Patzner says people need to talk the talk. Opening up communication about sexual and domestic violence helps those who experience it feel like they are not alone in their situation and can reach out to those who can help. The Walk a Mile event is a great way to get people talking.

Third, sexual and domestic violence is not just a women's issue, as it affects the men who care about them. These atrocities are an epidemic, with someone being raped in America every two minutes.

"As we work to bring awareness to the community, please join us to show support for the brave men who will be walking in those red high heels," Patzner says. "Or better yet, ask your family and friends to sponsor you and join us as we Walk a Mile in Her Shoes."

Registration is \$25 for youth participants and \$50 for adult participants. The Ruby Red Prize will be awarded for Top Fundraiser in Youth, Adult and Team categories. Sponsorships are available at 4 levels and can include thirty second commercials during the television special along with other promotional incentives.

To find out more about how you can get involved with the annual Walk a Mile fundraiser or as a Crisis Center volunteer, visit the Family Crisis Center's web site at www.familycrisis-cntr.org or stop by the office at 1924 Broadway in Great Bend.

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Golden Belt Community Concert Association Membership Drive Concludes May 17th

The Golden Belt Community Concert Association has launched its 2014-2015 Membership Campaign, continuing through May 17. With the campaign under way, the association is introducing its new concert schedule, contacting present members for their renewals and inviting new members.

The new season, beginning in September, will feature six concerts: "Simply Sinatra," with Steve Lippia's remembrance of "Old Blue Eyes," Sept. 18; "Let's Hang On," paying tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Oct. 18; Fernando Varela, talented in both rock and opera, Nov. 6; Paul McDermand, Caribbean/pop steel drum and marimba percussionist, Jan. 16; Jason Coleman, continuing his grandfather Floyd Cramer's legacy, Feb. 12; and "Live From Nashville," a Matt Davenport production, April 2. Admission to concerts is by season membership only. No single concert tickets are available.

Memberships will be counted May 16 and 17 at GBCCA Headquarters located at the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, 1125 Williams. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 16 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 17. Anyone wishing to inquire about a membership may do so in person by going to the headquarters on one of those dates.

Membership dues received by May 31st for the Early Bird Special are \$45 for adults; \$10 for full-time enrolled students; \$100 for a family membership including two adults and all dependent children living in the same household; and \$100 for a grandparent package for two adults and up to four minor grandchildren.

After May 31, dues will be raised to \$55 for adults; \$10 for full-time enrolled students; \$120 for a family membership; and \$120 for a grandparent package. Dues after July 15th will be \$65 for adults; \$10 for full-time enrolled students; \$140 for family membership; and \$140 for a grandparent package. For more information, visit the association's web site: www.goldenbeltcca.org or contact Linda Jerke, 620-793-2748.

SeaPort to Provide Air Service to Great Bend

The City of Great Bend recently signed agreements with SeaPort Airlines to provide air service to the Great Bend Municipal Airport, starting in early June. The airline is based out of Portland, Oregon, and will begin daily round-trip service from Great Bend to Wichita and Kansas City. It will offer 18 round-trip flights per week. The company will also be providing flight service from Hays to Denver. For more information about the airline, visit www.seaportair.com.



Catholic Social Service Sells Out 13th Annual Wine Tasting Event

Catholic Social Service is pleased to invite you to the 13th Annual Charity Wine Tasting Event & Auction on May 2, 2014 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Great Bend KS! Treat your palate to delicious wines from around the world, local award-winning wines from Kansas Vintners, and specialty beers and spirits. Enjoy live entertainment from classical guitarist, Richard J Falcon Jr. and an evening of fun with your Master of Ceremonies, Scott Donovan from Eagle Radio, and Auctioneer,



T.R. Esfeld. Tickets are \$35 per person, or \$250 for a table of eight. The event is sold out, but a waiting list is being kept for those still interested in attending. Call 620-792-1393 for more information or to be added to the waiting list.

Heartland Farm Completes Projects in Time for Spring Blessing May 3rd

During spring break in March, students from McPherson College stayed at Heartland Farm to refurbish the solar shower, empty a huge oat bin, do trail maintenance, clean up the alpaca pen, trim shrubs, clean the chicken house, and lots more.

These projects are complete, just in time for the retreat's biggest spring event. Heartland Farm would like to invite the public to their Open Farm Day Spring Blessing on Saturday, May 3rd from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy tours, prayers, and a guided nature walk at 2 p.m. Homemade items will be for sale, games for children and refreshments will be available. For more details, visit heartlandfarm-ks.org.



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Barton Community College Now Offers Manufacturing Skills Certificate Program

Barton is pleased to offer the Manufacturing Skills Certificate program – beginning

June 2nd. The eight credit hour certificate consists of five different courses to provide students with the skills necessary to obtain an entry level manufacturing job. The classes are as follows:



- **Occupational Safety and Health-** This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of current safety regulations, established safety practices, hazard recognition, and the impact of behavior and environment on injury.
- **Applied Shop Mathematics-** This course shows workers how to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers, fractions, and decimals, as well as other basic activities, such as rounding numbers and calculating averages.
- **Employability Skills-** This course will ensure students will have the skills necessary to take full advantage of employment opportunities in terms of employment applications, application cover letters and resume writing.
- **Blueprint Reading-** This course will develop workers' abilities to locate and interpret dimensions on engineering drawings – skills which are essential to the success of any quality improvement or scrap reduction efforts.
- **Precision Measurement & Quality Control-** This course will ensure students quickly master the most common gages on measurement tools used on today's production floors.

Program classes will be offered on the Barton Campus, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Training weeks occur in June and July. The program is offered in a compressed manner to aid students to complete the coursework and seek employment. The program is WIA approved and three of the classes are SB #155 approved. Textbooks will cost approximately \$128. For more information or to enroll, contact Tina Grillot, Coordinator of Industrial Technology Programs, at 620-792-9325 or grillott@bartonccc.edu.

Benefit Bowling Tournament May 13th

Sunflower Diversified Services will host a Bowling Tournament on Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m. to raise funds and awareness for their clients with developmental disabilities in Central Kansas. Two-person teams are being recruited to play in the benefit event, with a \$40 entry fee per team. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. For more information or to sign up, call 620-792-1321.

USD 428 Education Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament Scheduled May 2nd

The USD 428 Education Foundation will host its 16th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament on Friday, May 2 at the Club at StoneRidge in Great Bend. The four-person scramble will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch, followed by a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

Entry fee is \$100 per person or \$500 for major tournament sponsors. Entry includes green fees, carts, favors, refreshments and range balls. Proceeds from the event will enhance learning opportunities for students in USD 428 schools. To register or sponsor the tournament, contact Tom Vernon, 620-793-1500.

Clara Barton Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament Slated June 13th

Clara Barton Hospital Foundation's 21st Annual Benefit – Golf Tournament, Dinner and Auction will be held Friday, June 13th. The four-man scramble will be held at Lake Barton Golf Course with tee times beginning at 8 a.m. through 12:50 p.m.

Cost to enter the tournament is \$90 per player, or \$360 per team. Advanced registration is encouraged by June 9th. Registration includes green fees, golf cart rental, lunch on the course, a player gift, and a ticket to the dinner and auction later that evening.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams in two flights. For the 16th year, golfers will have the opportunity to win a 2014 Chevy with a hole-in-one on the fifth hole, sponsored by Manweiler Chevrolet. In addition, the tournament will offer prizes for hole-in-one on holes 7, 9, 12, and 16. Other hole games include a chipping contest, longest drive, longest putt, closest to the hole, and straightest shot for both men's and women's divisions.

The benefit dinner sponsored by Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hoisington with doors opening at 6 p.m. Tickets for this year's "Kentucky Derby" themed buffet and dinner are \$17.50 per person. The evening will include a silent and live auction. Proceeds from this year's "Race to the Finish" event will go to support the Clara Barton Hospital Expansion Project.

Anyone interested in registering or supporting the event to benefit quality healthcare in our community should contact Clara Barton Foundation at 620-653-5012 or mmoshier@clara Barton.hpmin.com.



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Sunflower EEC Welcomes New Teacher

Chelsea Alexander will become a familiar face to many local and area families that have children with developmental delays. As the new early childhood special education teacher at Sunflower's Early Education Center, she is visiting family homes and sharing her expertise. Alexander helps children with motor skills, speech, cognitive abilities, social-emotional concerns and self-help skills.



"Whatever the issue, we can help families reach their goals," Alexander said. "It is extremely important that parents contact us with any of these concerns. Early intervention is the key to helping a child overcome or alleviate a development delay."

Alexander is a 2013 graduate of Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in early childhood unified. She said her love of children was reinforced during her internship at the Hays Area Children's Center.

The Early Ed Center, 1312 Patton in Great Bend, is part of the 37-member tiny-k network in Kansas. Services at the non-profit center are free. For more information, call 620-792-4087.

Dance by Design Spring Recital May 3rd

After a successful winter recital, Dance by Design now is gearing up for their 8th Annual Spring Recital, entitled "Dance Happy." The studio's spring recital involves the entire studio; dancers, from Great Bend, Hoisington, Ellinwood, Larned and Lyons. Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical and Hip hop routines are performed by dancers ages almost 3 years through 18 years. The two performances are on May 3rd at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Hoisington High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$6 for reserved seats and general admission is \$5 for the balcony seats. Tickets are available at studio or at the door.



Dance by Design will offer a handful of classes for youth and adults through the summer months. Summer classes are a great way to test drive the studio or stay active over the summer. Classes include soft shoe tap, Jr hip hop, adult partnership dance classes and more. Like the Dance by Design page on Facebook. For information call or email the studio gbdance@cox.net 620-792-9712.

Seventh Day Adventist Church to Host Two Free Space Shows May 2nd & 3rd

The public is invited to attend two free award-winning space shows on May 2nd and May 3rd at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Great Bend. Both shows will begin at 7 p.m., and will be different each night. Jim Burr, founder of JMI Telescopes, will be presenting video clips taken with a Hubble camera, valued at over \$125 million. Both shows are free to attend.

Burr has presented lectures on Astronomy from a Biblical Perspective to thousands in churches, youth groups, elementary and high schools, colleges, universities, retirement centers and home-school associations, and television programs in multiple countries. He is recognized throughout the world for his achievements in telescope design and manufacturing and his design patents for telescopes and astronomy accessories.

St. Rose Rehab Services Welcomes Schneweis, New Physical Therapist

When a patient indicates that physical therapy may not be necessary, Alesia Schneweis takes the opportunity to explain that a little therapy today means a much healthier tomorrow. Schneweis, a Hoisington native, is the new doctorate-level physical therapist in Rehab Services at St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center.



Schneweis treats a wide variety of conditions including low-back, neck and knee pain; muscle strains; dizziness from inner ear problems; and balance concerns. Some patients have recently undergone total hip or knee replacement. Schneweis collaborates with her colleagues to devise rehab plans and help patients learn to use medical equipment, when necessary.

Schneweis has an associate's degree in biology from Barton Community College and a bachelor's in biology of science from Southwestern College. She earned her doctorate of physical therapy at the University of Missouri. During her final year of school, Schneweis received Missouri's Physical Therapy Student of the Year Award. Her professional background includes clinical positions at a variety of facilities.

"I am so pleased to be using my academic and clinical background to care for St. Rose Rehab patients," Schneweis said. "This is a great team of compassionate professionals."

St. Rose is part of Centura Health, which connects individuals and families across western Kansas and Colorado with more than 6,000 physicians, 15 hospitals, seven senior-living communities, physician practices and clinics, and home-care and hospice services.

HCC's Dr. Fesen Appointed to National Healthcare Advisory Committee in D.C.

When Mark Fesen, M.D., was invited to serve on a nationwide health-care advisory committee, he jumped at the chance. What better way to learn more about new health-care issues and share his real-world input with national lawmakers. Dr. Fesen is a medical oncologist at Salina-based Central Care Cancer Center. He treats patients at Heartland Cancer Center at Great Bend in partnership with St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center, and Garden City in partnership with St. Catherine Hospital. He also sees patients at the Central Care facility in Wichita.



"I wanted to be part of this because there are so many changes affecting access to health care," Dr. Fesen said. "These changes can be scary for everyone – patients, providers and health-care facilities."

The invitation to serve on the panel came from Republican U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions, who represents the 32nd District in Texas. The approximately 35 physicians from around the country keep in contact on a regular basis and have met twice so far. A third meeting will be scheduled.



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May 8, 2014

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May 15, 2014

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June 5, 2014

Clara Barton Foundation • 256 W. 9th, Hoisington

Clara Barton Hospital Foundation was founded in 1990 with its mission to secure and expend financial aid to Clara Barton Hospital. The Foundation is celebrating 21 years of the community coming together for the benefit of quality rural health care. The 21st Annual Benefit – Golf Tournament, Dinner and Auction will be held June 13th!



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Employment – Barton County	February 13	February 14
Labor Force	16,268	17,007
Employment	15,580	16,335
Unemployment	688	672
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.0%
KS Unemployment Rate	5.8%	4.9%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report	February 13	February 14
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$454,387	\$492,726
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$248,602	\$273,851

Building Permits	February 13	February 14
Commercial – GB	2	5
Residential - GB	6	9

Sources:

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

