

OUTLOOK

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

business journal **ONLINE**

MAY 2021

VOLUME 100 NO. 5

1921



YEARS

2021



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It's an interactive
issue of the OBI

Focusing on Workforce

With many businesses struggling to find employees, Sara Hayden, Great Bend Economic Development president reminds us that Great Bend is not unique in our struggle to attract workers in this current market; we are in the company of most rural communities across the country!

Hayden comments, "Although our struggles are universal, I think it's vitally important that we work together to understand our existing workforce and

industry as well as work to create solutions to attract more people to the area to expand our current labor force."
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#GBSignWar

COFFEE SCHEDULE



FEATURED AMBASSADOR



CALENDAR



NEW MEMBERS



Matching Up People for the Right Jobs

A business could save thousands of dollars by hiring the right employee.

A 20-minute clinic about how this is done will be given to the Great Bend Rotary Club and guests at their noon-hour meeting on May 24 in the spacious dining room/gymnasium of First Assembly of God (now known as Encounter Church) at 601 S. Patton Road.

Attendees are encouraged to use the east entrance. Those unable to attend may “livestream” the event on the Encounter Church’s Facebook page: facebook.com/greatbendfamily.

Bob Broeckelman, a retired Farm Credit Association executive from Wichita, will give a presentation, “How to Match People Up with the Right Jobs.” Dr. Broeckelman has led discussions on this topic with 80 groups over the years.

“There are 10,000 “Baby Boomers” retiring every day and employers need to avoid costly mistakes in replacing them,” he says.

It is a “can’t miss opportunity” for community business leaders, school and hospital administrators, etc., according to Lee Musil, Rotary program co-chairman.

Dr. Broeckelman, a native of rural Oakley, earned three degrees from Kansas State University and has a storied career that includes being named Kansas Outstanding Ag Teacher in 1976, Executive Secretary of the State FFA Association, and assistant director of marketing for Federal Land Bank. In 2016, he received the KSU Distinguished Ag Alumni Award and was the K-State Graduation Commencement Speaker to an audience of 6,000 in the College of Agriculture.

During his 33 years with the Farm Credit System, Broeckelman developed and validated employee selection systems that dropped turnover from 28.7 percent



down to 3 or 4 percent in five years, thus saving the Federal Land Bank millions of dollars in recruiting and selection expense. He ended his Farm Credit career as Vice President of Recruiting and Selection.

Using proper interview techniques and his “Predictive Index,” employers were able to match applicants with the right jobs 92 percent

of the time. Attendees at the Rotary meeting who wish to review Broeckelman’s “Predictive Index” ahead of time may contact the Great Bend Chamber Office (620.792.2401) to have a few salient slides emailed to them.

“Businesses often think turnover is a cost of doing business,” Broeckelman concludes. “It doesn’t have to be that way.”

Guests are welcome to attend both the 12 p.m. catered lunch (at their own expense) but it is essential that they RSVP no later than **Wednesday, May 19**, to club treasurer Devin McMillen (620.792.2588). RSVPs for lunch (Rotarians and guests)

will be limited to 150. The Powerpoint program will begin about 12:20 p.m.

Great Bend Rotary Club is part of a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends and problem solvers who share ideas, join with leaders and take action to create lasting change--across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

“Rotary isn’t just a club to join but an organization with endless opportunities,” says club president and librarian Gail Santy. “It is the greatest humanitarian organization in the world. We Rotarians are doing what we love for the betterment of humanity.”

Mrs. Santy may be reached at (620.792.4865 W) or (620.282.9372 M). Membership Chairman is Craig Neeland, (620.792.2411 W) or (620.792.7165 M).



Bob Broeckelman

Ribbon Cuttings!

Chamber celebrates Kansas CPR Training membership with a Ribbon Cutting



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador's Club hosted a Ribbon Cutting at the Sunflower Center, 1125 Williams on April 22nd to commemorate Kansas CPR Training joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. To schedule an upcoming class or learn more about Kansas CPR Training find them on Facebook, Google and online at: www.kansascprtraining.com; email: kansascprtraining@gmail.com or call 620-786-5372.

Chamber Welcomes Smart Wash of Kansas



Wrapping up day one of the 10th Annual Great Bend Farm, Ranch & Hemp Expo, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed locally owned Smart Wash of Kansas, LLC as new member and business in the area. Owned and operated by Derik Schneider of Great Bend, Smart Wash of Kansas serves central and western Kansas.

Derik lives in Great Bend with his wife, Lexie, and their two-year-old daughter, Maren. Call or email Smart Wash of Kansas today for a free estimate at (620) 793-6756 or smartwashofkansas@gmail.com.

Chamber Commemorates Triple Creek Outfitters Lodge completion



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador's Club hosted a Ribbon Cutting to commemorate the completion of a newly constructed 10 bedroom lodge, now home to Triple Creek Outfitters, owned by Richard and Kristi Blakeslee. Chamber members were invited to attend TCO's first Chamber Coffee preceding the celebratory ribbon cutting, and tour the lodge, located 15 miles south of Great Bend. Triple Creek Outfitters hosts 200 out-of-state hunters per year, plus hundreds of Airbnb customers. To learn more about Triple Creek Outfitter go online: www.triplecreekoutfitters.com, or find/ follow them on Facebook and Instagram, hunttriplecreek@gmail.com or 620-617-7550 for questions. Click the image above to see a short video.

Chamber welcomes Heather Nicolet to Aflac



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassador's Club were invited to a ribbon-cutting celebrating one of their own, Heather Nicolet. The group celebrated Heather's new venture with Aflac as a Benefit Advisor. Serving the needs of those in Kansas, individuals or businesses that are wanting to find out more about the benefits of partnering with Aflac, can reach Heather by any of the below modes of contact; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hdnicolet/>, Heather_Nicolet@us.aflac.com, or 620.792.1154 (Office). Click the image above for a short video from the ribbon cutting



City of Great Bend Picks a Fight and We All Win!

Check out the latest in the Great Bend Sign War. [Click the image to the left for a search on facebook with the hashtag #GBSignwar](#). The

fun competition spurred on by Christina Hayes with the City of Great Bend, had businesses using their best puns on their marques & front windows.

The Pilot Club of Great Bend, Celebrates Pilot International's 100th Anniversary

In 2021, Pilot International our parent organization of great bend Pilot is reaching the milestone of 100 years as an international service organization. Pilot International's mission is to influence positive change in communities throughout the world. To do this, the local clubs of Pilot International come together in friendship and service, focusing on encouraging brain safety and health and supporting those who care for others. Locally Great Bend Pilot Club has made a difference for 33 years with our mission; to Improve the quality of life in our community. The club has historically done this with their brain related education and awareness outreach campaigns and local service projects.

With uncertainty for local club members to attend the grand celebration taking place at the Pilot International Annual Convention being held in July in Atlanta, GA; the Pilot Club of Great Bend recently celebrated this 100-year milestone on a local level by finding ways to "Touch a 100 Plus Lives" in their local community with service projects and ways to recognize those who care for others.

For Pilot service year, 2020-2021 Pilot as a local non-profit organization has struggled meeting in person during this pandemic, but has found ways

to come together, (ZOOM & Email) to meet and carry out projects to recognize caregivers with "PICK-ME UPS". Because of the pandemic the club focused on Healthcare providers and caregivers like the "The Center for Counseling and Consultation", Barton County Health Department and area Hospitals. 100+ lives were touched, with gifts of gratitude and recognition for the hardworking and dedicated caregivers in these organizations who work tirelessly for individuals and families in need in Barton County and all the areas they service. The club also came together to touch at least 100 youth/student lives with innovative and pandemic safe projects called "Front Porch POP-UP Projects". The year began with a "POP UP Project" for school supplies for Grade school aged children and finished with a "POP UP project" where, again, over 23 Great Bend Pilot members collected, made, or purchased over 200 hygiene items for the Great Bend High School Hygiene closet. The students in need of personal hygiene

items can weekly or monthly get items from the GB High hygiene closet as needed. Items sometimes taken for granted, but because of the pandemic families have suffered economically and the kids have been affected with lack of basic needed hygiene products. The school will also now be able to provide a summer back pack to help the individual students when school is out so they need not go without over the summer.

These are just a few of the projects during this difficult time that Pilots, as a community-based service organization, have found for the club to contribute and reach out to touch hundreds of lives in the community.

For more information about the Pilot Club of Great Bend, please visit www.greatbendpilotclub.com or check out our Facebook page; www.facebook.com/pilot.greatbend/. Pilot Club of Great Bend is currently seeking new members who wish to join a great organization of friendship and service who make a difference in their local community.



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Michael Miller

Ronald L Miller
Public Accountant

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

I grew up in Great Bend. I had lived in Wichita for several years. I came back to work with my father in his Accounting Firm. My family keeps me here. I have a large extended family in the area. My kids have had the opportunity to get to know them.



Where do you work and what do you do there (describe your role)?

I work for Ronald L Miller Public Accountant. I am an Accountant. The goal is that I will assume ownership someday. I perform bookkeeping, Payroll, Tax Preparation, business consulting and farmland management.

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

I love to cook. I enjoy making new types of food. I experiment a lot with cooking.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

I enjoy feeling like I can help others. When you can see potential in a person, an organization or an area. You help them realize how much potential there is in something or someone.

At what job, would you be terrible?

Door to Door Sales, I tried selling Door to Door right after college. I only lasted about a week. The amount of self confidence to sell to people in a cold call or knock situation isn't for me. I applaud people that can do it.

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

I'm in my second year of being a Chamber Ambassador. I enjoy the networking and getting to know people here 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 in a number of ways.

They host the weekly Chamber Coffees, Cuttings, serve on Chamber committees, retention efforts.

They also volunteer at numerous Farm Ranch and Hemp Expo, Gary Gore Banquet and Meeting.

To find out how you can become a Ann June at the Chamber office, 620-
marketing@greatbend.org, or
www.greatbend.org/ambassadors

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**for a complete list of staff and board
members [CLICK HERE](#)**



RANA LUNA BOUTIQUE

CLOTHING, BALLOONS, AND GIFTS, OH MY!



Just like any savvy businesswoman, Ana Hayson adapted to the marketplace when she discovered a new way to diversify her services.

Hayson, owner of Rana Luna Boutique, has been offering a wide variety of products for girls and women since the day she opened her doors at 1910 Broadway more than 10 years ago.

Of course, she continues with the retail side of the business in downtown Great Bend but has added a new service – balloon décor.

“This was not in my business plan,” Hayson laughed. “But the

market took me in this direction. I am going with the flow.

“Balloon décor looked like a good opportunity,” she continued. “So, I have been taking classes and going to conventions. My goal is to be a certified balloon artist.”

Rana Luna provides this special décor for birthdays, family and class reunions, weddings, and baby and bridal showers. She has decorated for prom and other school events too.

In addition to the custom-made balloons, Rana Luna provides fabric backdrops, draping and tablecloths.

“We decorate for any special event in whatever venue the client wants, including private homes, offices, schools and convention centers,” Hayson said. “The balloons’ designs and shapes can be simple or fairly intricate. A client’s order is customized to fit the special occasion.”

It just so happens that the largest balloon company in the world, Pioneer Balloons, is based in Wichita and operates one of its manufacturing plants in El Dorado.

“This has become a huge part of our business,” Hayson noted. “We found this niche and have put a lot of effort into it.”

The retail side of the business offers shoes, clothing and bedroom décor for young girls. However, many of the accessories lining the shelves are geared to women.

These accessories include purses, wallets, sunglasses, hats and scarves. There are also some decorative items for the home.

In addition, Hayson offers specialized gift-wrapping services. “I try to do something with packages that they can’t do at home. I will customize the wrapping and bow to fit whatever you need.”

Hayson acknowledged that the pandemic had many negative

effects on both sides of the business – balloon décor and retail.

“People were not



getting together for celebrations and e-commerce is a big problem because customers started ordering online,” Hayson explained. “It was not easy to keep the doors open; I will never recover the lost income.”

The good news is the business is beginning to recover. “People are scheduling events again and we hope local people will shop at local businesses. We are developing our website and hope to have it available for local online shopping soon.”

Hayson’s formal education includes a bachelor’s degree in marketing and business development and a master’s in marketing and business.

As she tends to her local ventures, Hayson relies on this academic background, along with what she has learned in her personal and professional lives.

“Before I moved to the United States from Colombia, I had a store in a huge mall,” she recalled. “It was different from this store but my goal was to keep going with a business of my own. My dream was to be independent.”

Past employment includes positions as a pharmaceutical company representative, receptionist at Heart of Kansas Family Health Care and manager of Picture Me, a photography business.

“It is difficult being an immigrant anywhere you go,” Hayson commented. “But these jobs gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of people and make friends. Eventually, we bought the Rana Luna building and began going to trade shows in Las Vegas, Dallas, Atlanta and other cities.”

Hayson’s husband, Sam, is from Minnesota but has family roots in Kansas. “We started looking for a place to live and



work that was different than Minnesota – too cold. I chose Kansas because of family and we rented a home in Hutchinson.

“Sam got a job as a truck driver, delivering mail from Hutch to Great Bend, with a layover of 10 hours. We then decided to buy an inexpensive home in Great Bend, and went back and forth. Until, one day, we decided this is silly. So, we moved to Great Bend.”

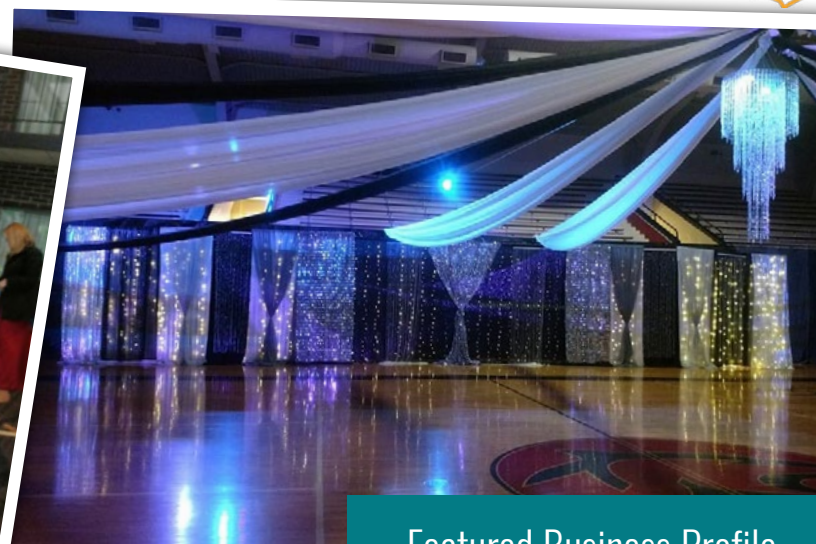
At around the same time, the Haysons started a transportation company. Kansota Transport operates in several states, including Minnesota and Oregon.

Rana Luna employs one other full-time person, in addition to Hayson. She also hires subcontractors for special events.

“We are so proud of what we have accomplished. We want to support our community that supports us.”



Click here to view some more pictures and videos from Rana Luna Boutique!



Featured Business Profile

Reality U Sending First Group into Real World

United Way of Central Kansas first brought Reality U to Great Bend in 2016. The success of that program inspired UWCK to take it one step further, with the hopes of imparting a little more "reality" on students before they head off to college.

This year's graduating class was the first class to go through Reality U and will now be the first class to go through #RealWorld.

The goal: To start the journey away from home with the life skills they will need to venture out on their own.

UWCK has a lineup of local speakers ready to get them started on the right foot.

Money Matters-Becca Maxwell, Sunflower Bank will be speaking about budgeting and basic banking know how.

Renting 101-Aaron Andrews and Jessica Milsap, MPIRE Realty will be speaking about knowing their rights as tenants as well as how to be a good tenant, how to apartment hunt and how to set up utilities.



Consequences of Decisions-Katie Hales, Central KS Community Corrections, will share how criminal activities can affect their future and the punishments that come with those crimes.

Finding Balance-A panel of experts will speak to the students about how to balance work, school, family and friends. Our local experts include: Alisha Bell-Markley, LPC-Alisha Markley Therapist LPC, LLC, Kelley Johnson, LCPC-S, LCAC-Avenues for Change and Shanna Long, LMSW-Center for Counseling.

Healthy Relationships-Kasey Dahlke, Family Crisis Center, will address stalking, manipulation, and how to be a part of a respectful relationship.

"From the time we first brought Reality U to the area, it has been a goal of the United Way board and staff to take this concept to the next level. We could not be more proud of and honored by USD 428 embracing this partnership and helping us to bring this new program to their seniors." Gaila Demel, UWCK Executive Director.

Local contracting firm honored for years of service

L&M Contractors Inc., based in Great Bend, was recently recognized in the Kansas Association of Contractors monthly newsletter for its half century in business. The firm constructs bridges, culverts, and concrete paving throughout Kansas and Oklahoma.

Ed Mauler and his former partner, Kenneth Langley, founded L & M Contractors Inc. 50 years ago. The two had previously worked for A.L. Beller Company in Great Bend in the bridge construction industry for a number of years prior to purchasing Beller's bridge construction division.

Mauler was an estimator/project manager and Langley a general superintendent for the company. Langley retired in 1996 at which time Curt Mauler, Ed's oldest son, came into the business.



Curt Mauler, right, current president of L & M Contractors Inc. and Ed Mauler, original founder of L & M Contractors Inc. are pictured in front of their office in Great Bend.

Curt is currently president of L & M Contractor's Inc. and has served in this role for the past several years.



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Janet Galan-Holguin Joins the Team at The Beauty Bar

Help The Beauty Bar welcome their newest cosmetologist, Janet Galan-Holguin! Salon owner, Lexie Schneider, says, "We could not be more excited to have Janet as our fourth stylist - she's an awesome addition." Janet is a graduate of Hays Academy of hair design and is passionate about making sure her clients feel refreshed and renewed and can't wait to have you in her chair! She will be offering a full array of services including hair cuts, manicures, pedicures and facials with an emphasis on acrylics, nail art and hair color! Janet is currently taking new clients with online scheduling available at www.schedulicity.com or by calling 620-796-2001.



Janet Galan-Holguin

Caitlyn Eakin welcomed as the new State Director of CASA

Please join the Kansas CASA Association in welcoming Caitlyn Eakin as the new State Director, effective April 26th.

Caitlyn has been in the CASA Network for the last six years as the Great Bend Program Director. The KCA Board of Directors believes her experience and passion will help us further our mission to enhance the success of local CASA programs so that victims of child abuse and neglect in the court system have volunteer advocates focused on their best interests.

Caitlyn is so excited to join us, "I am thrilled and honored to have been selected to serve as the next State



Caitlyn Eakin
Director of Kansas CASA Association. I am excited to work together with the KCA Board of Directors and the Kansas CASA Programs Counsel to grow our advocacy throughout the state of Kansas." Congrats to this young professional representing Great Bend and Barton County!

Congratulations!

Deist promoted at Renue Salon, Spa & Fashion Boutique

Kelsey Hofeling Deist is no stranger to downtown Great Bend where she is now filling a new position at Renue Salon, Spa and Fashion Boutique, 1419 Main.

A 2018 graduate of Great Bend High School, Deist returned to her hometown last fall and is the new spa and retail coordinator at Renue.

"My husband, Alex, and I are so excited to be back with our family and the friends we grew up with," Deist said. "There are many awesome aspects to Great Bend and downtown is one of my favorites.

"I helped my dad at Brown's Shoe Fit where he was the manager," she explained. "This created some of my fondest memories. I am so blessed to work just down the street from where those memories were made."

After she moved back home from Park City last October, Deist began working at Renue as the front-desk coordinator. Today, in addition to her administrative duties, Deist serves clients with hair and nail services.

Deist is a graduate of Hays Academy of Hair Design where she earned her cosmetology license and "received business training in the basics of how to operate a salon. This education will be invaluable to me at Renue."

Since graduation, Deist worked at salons in Great Bend and Newton. She was trained by a National Paul Mitchell Educator who worked at the Newton salon.

"I gained business experience, while expanding my knowledge of hair color and technical skills," she noted. "I



Kelsey Hofeling Deist

love using these skills to help people realize their beauty, allowing them to feel confident in who they are."

Deist's parents are Scott and Karen Reddig and Bruce and Amy Hofeling.

Allene Owen, who served as Renue's manager since it opened in 2008, said "when

Kelsey came here, I knew she was the right person for the new position. She is sharp, catches on quickly and is great with our clients. And she even knows computers. Kelsey is a Godsend for Renue."

Owen, who has 52 years of experience, is not retiring; she is staying on as cosmetology consultant and serving clients. "I am just stepping back a little. I continue to see my long-time salon clients and welcome newcomers. But I will have more time for golf and maybe some travel."

A Barton County native, Owen is grateful to MyTown, a local organization that supports new businesses. "They helped Renue and other ventures get up and running. MyTown has been and continues to be great for Great Bend."

Sheryl Cheely, MyTown board member, said Owen "deserves to slow down a little and make more time for herself. We are thankful she is still taking care of clients, serving as a consultant and mentoring her colleagues."

Cheely also is impressed with Deist's "maturity and her ideas for the business. Kelsey is a quick study and knows what she is talking about. She is doing a great job and is good with clients."



2021 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

April 17 – Youth USSSA 1 Day Softball (8U-14U)

April 24/25 – Youth Hap Dumont Baseball Points Tournament (7U-14U)

April 28/1 – KCAC College Conference Championship

May 22/23 – Youth USSSA Baseball (8U-14U)

May 27/28 – KSHSAA State 2-1A Baseball

May 29/30 – Youth IFA Softball Tournament (8U-18U)

June 5/6 – Youth June Jaunt Hap Dumont Baseball Feature Points Tournament (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U)

June 12/13 – Youth USSSA Softball (8U-18U)

June 18/19/20 – Legion Baseball Classic TBD

June 26/27 – Youth Hap Dumont Baseball Points Tournament (7U, 9U, 11U, 13U)

July 9/10/11 – Youth Hap Dumont 11U Baseball State

July 16/17/18 – Legion Zone Tournament

Dates still available. To schedule GB Sports Complex call GB Rec. Note: Games played at Sports Complex, Veteran's Sports Complex, Brit Spough Fields, Harms Fields.



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New Hires & Promotions

Marketing Maven Welcomes Kaycee Vosberg, Design & Digital Media Specialist

Marketing Maven Consulting, a brand management firm located in Great Bend, Kansas, is pleased to announce the addition of a new full-time employee. Kaycee Vosberg started with the company at the beginning of April as a Design & Digital Media Specialist. "After owning her own design business for several years, we are thrilled to have recruited Kaycee's many talents to expand the number of clients we are able to serve and meet the growing demand for brand management and graphic design in Central and Western Kansas," says Rachel Mawhirter, Marketing Maven's owner and founder. "Kaycee will serve as a graphic designer, branding specialist, and all around creative kaleidoscope."



Kaycee Vosberg

the growing list of Marketing Maven clients stand out with great design."

Vosberg will be working on logo designs, print publication design, advertising design, website design, social media content, copy writing, and lots of other projects that involve creatively displaying information to grab attention in print, in person, or online. When she's not creating content from

her desk, you can catch her at the gym, going on adventures with her husband, Otto, or hanging out with her cat, Charlie, watching scary movies.

Marketing Maven Consulting is a full-service brand management and design firm, specializing in mobile-friendly websites, social media management, print and digital design, and video production. The locally owned company services much of Central and Western Kansas and works with other clients scattered throughout the Midwest. Learn more at www.HireAMaven.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram. You can also get branding ideas and marketing advice by listening to their free podcast called Brand Nation, available on all your favorite listening apps. Learn more at www.DigitalBrandNation.com.

Mental Health Awareness Day is May

This past year has brought so many challenges for many. Our agency is here to provide the Tools2Thrive in this year's

p.m. Barton County Courthouse Square.



Mental Health Awareness Day. Please join us in promoting Mental Health Awareness as we celebrate on Main Street in Great Bend. Tuesday, May 25th 3:30 to 7:30

See what your community has to offer. If interested in a Free booth space, Contact Billie Downum (620)792-2544. Click The Center logo above for more information.

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Education

WANT TO JOIN THE CHAMBER?

If your company is interested in joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, fill out the online application on our website: www.greatbend.org. Membership is quick and easy to get started, and it is affordable, too!

Sign up on our website:

JOIN NOW



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Not only PAWsome, but successful new event was hosted by the Rec

Great Bend Recreation Commission held their first, Pawesome Easter Egg Hunt, on March 27th. The festivities for our four-legged friends included a photo booth, egg hunt for small breeds and large breeds, and other Easter activities. Easter eggs were filled with pet-friendly treats inside of them, and others contained vouchers for larger prizes like dog toys and rawhide bones. Proceeds from the event will go to the local dog park.

"We had around 40 dogs join us for our first event and many requests for us to continue the event next year. It was great to be able to see families get out and enjoy this time together, especially after so many events were



canceled last year," said Megan Hammeke, Great Bend Rec Enrichment Director.

Associate of the Quarter award honors three at Pawnee Valley Campus



From left to right, Kate Reid, Deb McAlister and Tina Gladow were recently recognized with the Associate of the Quarter award at The University of Kansas Pawnee Valley Campus.

When three co-workers heard about a patient's final wish, they teamed up to make his dream come true at The University of Kansas Health System Pawnee Valley Campus.

Because of their teamwork, all three recently were recognized with the Associate of the Quarter

award at the hospital.

Recipients were Tina Gladow, social work case manager; Deb McAlister, charge nurse; and Kate Reid, former patient care technician.

The hospital associates collaborated with local businesses and a church

to grant the patient's final wish.

"All of us are grateful for this great community support," Gladow commented. "Local and area residents have a long history of lending a hand in a wide variety of ways. We are gratified to know that our community supports our wonderful hospital."

"I also am thankful to be part of a nursing team that always considers the whole patient," she continued. "Our nurses take care of patients' medical needs but provide much-needed emotional and spiritual support too."

Gladow added that she and her colleagues appreciate the Associate of the Quarter award. "It is always humbling to be recognized by your peers," she said. "This award means a lot to all three of us."



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CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Every Thursday at 9:30am

Tune in to the Chamber's [Facebook Page](#) or [YouTube Channel](#)

VIRTUAL ONLY

May 6, 2021

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.

May 13, 2021

BARTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

85 South Highway 281

Visit the Barton County Historical Society Museum and Village for a fascinating glimpse into the past. Located on five acres, just south of Great Bend on US Highway 281, across the Arkansas River Bridge, the Village boasts several authentically furnished period buildings and collections which tell the story of this area from the Paleo Period through the Indian Wars to World War II and beyond.

May 20, 2021

CITY OF GREAT BEND CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU - GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER

3111 10th Street

The Great Bend Events Center has grown and been updated each year since 2016! The City of Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau is excited to host a coffee and ribbon cutting to show the new addition and officially name the new breakout rooms as the premier event location in Great Bend! Hope to see you there!

May 27, 2021

KELLY'S GARDEN SENSE

1212 McKinley Street

Owned by Kelly Moeder, Kelly's Garden Sense aims at creating beautiful landscapes and colorful outdoor spaces in Great Bend and the surrounding area! Services available include: Landscape Design & Implementation, Plant & Tree Consulting, Drip Irrigation & Timing Systems, Rock-scapes, Garden Fountains, Potted Arrangements and

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June 3, 2021

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McDonald's
is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.

HIGHLIGHTED MAY EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

- 1-7... BarTaRT Festival: Student, Faculty and Staff Art Exhibition at Barton Community College Shafer Art Gallery
- 5-8...KCAC Championship Tournament
- 6...Virtual Chamber Coffee: The Center for Counseling & Consultation, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 6...Ribbon Cutting: Sweet Dreams Candy Shop, 1403 Main Street in Great Bend @10:30am**
- 6...Ribbon Cutting: Dry Lake Brewing, 1305 Main Street in Great Bend @Noon**
- 6...Chamber Turns 100! Visit us on Main Street between Golden Belt Bicycle and Dilly & Doc. We will have giveaways, snacks, and some fun photo opps! #GBChamber100**
- 6...[Downtown Art and Wine Walk](#)
- 7-9...Great Bend High School Variety Show, GBHS Auditorium, 2027 Morton @7:30pm
- 7...Self-portrait drawing/painting workshop with Mantra Cora PART 2 at Yoga Central, 6003 10th Street @9am
- 8...Credit Union of America's Great Bend Shred Day at 4708 10th Street from 9am-Noon
- 8...[Cinco de Mayo Festival](#)
- 9...Mother's Day
- 13...IN-PERSON Chamber Coffee: Barton County Historical Society in person at 85 U.S. 281 Highway in Great Bend Program @9:30am and on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 13...Ribbon Cutting: Move Your Mountain Counseling & Consulting, 1125 Williams Street in Great Bend, @10:30am. For more information: moveyourmountain19@gmail.com**
- 13...Sports KS Meeting with guest, Jackie Stiles, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street, Great Bend 10am-3pm
- 14...Barton Community College 51st Annual Commencement, Barton Gymnasium, 245 NE 30th Road @7pm
- 18...Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, Barton County Courthouse @11am
- 20...IN-PERSON Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: The City of Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau at the Great Bend Event Center, 3111 10th Street in Great Bend. Program @9:30am and on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 20...Tentative Date: Legislative Update following Chamber Coffee at the Great Bend Events Center**
- 22 & 23...Great Bend Spring Shopping Fair, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street from 9am-3pm
- 22...Sunglass Show, 10th Street Eyecare Center, 2601 10th Street from 8am-2pm
- 23...Great Bend High School Graduation, Memorial Stadium, 2027 Morton @5pm
- 25...Ribbon Cutting: The Center for Counseling & Consultation Heritage Building, 1225 Patton Road in Great Bend @10:30am**
- 26...Member Services & Marketing Seminar, 1125 Williams Street @8am [Click here for more info](#)**
- 26...USD 428: Last Day of School
- 27...IN-PERSON Chamber Coffee: Kelly's Garden Sense, 1212 McKinley in Great Bend. Program @9:30am and on the Chamber's Facebook Page or You Tube Channel**
- 27...Ribbon Cutting: Barton Community College Child Development Center, 245 NE 30 Road Street in Great Bend, @10:30am**
- 27...KSHSAA 1-2A State Baseball Championship
- 28-29...SRCA Summit Points Race #1 at the SRCA Drag Strip

Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, Events Center, 3111 10th St, 6:30pm

Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am

Visit greatbend.org/events/calendar for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!

PVCHF Announces New Trustees

Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation is pleased to announce two new Trustees, Meribeth

Busenbark and Vicki Spina. Julie Bugner-Smith, Foundation Director along with Trustees, Laura Smith,

Jim Delaney, Janis Yeager, Jon Skelton and Administrator Melanie Urban are thrilled to have such caliber of people as Meribeth and Vicki to continue the mission of the PVCH Foundation and betterment of health care in our community.

With over 28 years of banking experience, Vicki Spina is an Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager of American State



Meribeth Busenbark

Bank and oversees their locations in Larned, Macksville, and St. John. Vicki was raised in Newark Valley, NY, but after living here for 29 years, she and her husband, Charles, consider Larned to be their hometown. As a long-time Larned resident, she has participated in organizations and projects that help the community thrive. For many years, Vicki served as a Larned Chamber Ambassador and was instrumental in starting the Ambassador Flag Program. The Flag Program is a service project of the



Vicki Spina

Ambassadors that provides funds for Larned's annual fireworks display. She is a proud supporter of the Pawnee Valley

Community Hospital Foundation and its commitment to provide quality health care for Pawnee County and the surrounding area through various fundraising efforts. "It's truly an honor to be nominated to serve as a Trustee for the PCVH Foundation, and I'm looking forward to working with the other Trustees, Foundation Director, and the PVCH Administrator."

Meribeth Busenbark is returning as a Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation Trustee after 9 years as founding member of the PVCH Foundation. Meribeth



has been instrumental with the creation of the Healing Garden, Legacy Tree and several major improvements to the hospital, including

MRI, Respite and Bariatric rooms to name a few of the many projects. Her last capital campaign before rejoining was the 3D mammography machine currently brought to the Radiology Department. Meribeth is very involved with the PVCH Auxiliary as a Gift Shoppe Chairman, volunteers with the Foundation Gala and is a bright spot in the community. "I have rejoined the PVCH Foundation Board because I believe in their mission and the importance of the Foundation to the community and the hospital."

Tim George Retires After Long Career in Finance

It is with mixed emotions Plains State Bank announces the retirement of veteran ag lender, Tim George. It is difficult if not impossible to sum up his achievements over forty years of dedicated service.

Tim attended Pittsburg State University on a track scholarship, graduating in December 1979, with a BBA, majoring in Finance.

Commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer in the U.S Army in December 1979, Tim fulfilled his service requirement in the Army National Guard, retiring with rank of Major in March 2000.

Tim & Teresa were married in Pratt, KS May 1982, moving to Larned in May 1986. They have three children: Staci (Ryan) Cook,

Austin (Kayla) George, and Brenna (Jake) Dainty. They have seven grandchildren: Marisa, Weston & Ellie Cook, Breckyn, Berkley & Bailee George, Bronson Dainty (and baby brother Dainty due in October).

Tim started with American Ag Credit (then known as Federal Land Bank) in January 1980, working in Dodge City, Pratt, Larned, Hutchinson and Great Bend until August 2015 when he joined the team at Plains State Bank.

Tim currently serves on the Pawnee County Public Building Commission, Larned Zoning Board, Pawnee County Crime Stoppers,



Tim George

Water PACK Board, and Pawnee Valley Pheasants Forever Board.

Plans for retirement include hunting, golfing, traveling, volunteering, and serving on his various boards. Most importantly, Tim is excited to watch his grandchildren grow up and they are all so excited to have "Papa" available to spoil them full-time after his retirement.

We here at Plains State Bank wish Tim and his family nothing but the best as they move into this next chapter in their lives.

A retirement reception for Tim will be held on Friday, May 28th, from 10am to 2pm, at Plains State Bank (800 Coolidge St) in Great Bend. The public is invited to come wish Tim well and to enjoy some refreshments.

Golden Belt Printing II offers enhanced large-format printing

Matt Mai has heard two layman's descriptions of the new large-format printer at Golden Belt Printing II, 1125 281 Bypass. And he agrees with both.

One description is the machine is comparable to a Swiss Army knife because of its multiple functions.

The other is the new equipment is the Rolls Royce of the large-format printing industry.

"This new printer is definitely the go-to machine for decals, signs and banners, as well as our vehicle wraps," said Mai, graphic artist. "And it can handle anything in between."

"This is a replacement machine that greatly enhances our capabilities," Mai added. "There are many new functions that can satisfy our customers' requests."

The Roland TrueVIS 64-inch printer also is faster and more convenient for the operator, "which means we can finish a client's project more quickly than in the past," Mai commented.

For example, the machine is equipped with clamps that don't interfere with sheet-cutting.

"We no longer have to constantly remove these clamps during a project," Mai said. "They are built in."

The graphic artist also is impressed with the "greatly enhanced color gambit. We

now have six colors, instead of the usual four, and numerous shadings of all these colors.

"The printer can make signage that really pops," Mai said. "We can share your message on many types of signs using media such as magnetic, aluminum and acrylics."

"Vehicles wraps are very popular but we can do other types of wraps too," he added. "If you want it wrapped, we can wrap it. I heard of an instance in which a piano was wrapped to change it from black to red for a Christmas program."

Wraps can be a solid color, print or pattern, along with the text.

In addition to the printer, Mai and his team also now have a new laminator and plotter for cutting.

"The laminator allows a variety of finishes such as glossy, matte, satin and the linen look," Mai said. "We can also work with an artist's canvas. The laminator and plotter complement the large printer's capabilities."

Golden Belt Printing works hand-in-hand



Matt Mai, graphic artist, unloads a project from the new 64-inch large-format printer at Golden Belt Printing II. Click on the image above for more on this new printer!

with Office Products Inc.; Kenny and Terry Vink co-own both businesses.

"We work with OPI's Copy Center, which can professionally handle many smaller projects," Mai explained. "We do a majority of the heavy production."

Golden Belt Printing's products also include mailings, envelopes, letterhead, forms, booklets, flyers, brochures and business cards with or without protective coating.

CKPP Distributed Pinwheel Gardens in Observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month

Central Kansas Pinwheels for Prevention (CKPP) distributed 159 pinwheel gardens to five different counties for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. Forty plus pinwheels were painted on business windows in Great Bend and Ellinwood.

CKPP wishes to thank all the businesses who supported this year's Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Member agencies of CKPP include the Family Crisis Center, KCSL Healthy

Families, 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services, The Center for Counseling and Consultation, Child Abuse Prevention Education (CAPE), Central Kansas CASA and the Department for Children and Families.



Main Street Studio Owner Featured at International Main Street Conference after Covid Comeback

[Great Bend, KAN April 13, 2021]
– Phyllis Brack, owner of Dilly & Doc Creative Studio, was featured as a model of best business marketing practices at Main Street America's Main Street Now 2021 conference. She was part of a presentation by Destination Business expert Jon Schallert, "The Post-Covid Comeback: The New Requirements to Build a Destination Downtown."

The virtual conference on April 12-14 has thousands of viewers from around the world, including small business owners, community leaders, and economic development and revitalization professionals. Sessions focused on Recovery and Resilience, Equity and Inclusion, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Brack was among a small group of 12 business owners Schallert featured in his presentation whose approach was highlighted for practical, affordable, immediately implementable steps that can be employed by any business.

"My goal was to highlight the most innovative business owners from North America who have experienced the pandemic and successfully emerged from it. I wanted to show owners how best to position themselves so they can succeed in the new normal of 2021 where every business can thrive," Schallert said. "Dilly & Doc is already ahead of the game with what they've done this last year under extremely difficult conditions."

"The pandemic has been a challenge to every small business, we changed our regular in-person class model to virtual early on in April 2020 to meet the needs of our customers' safety, to help them get through stay-at-home-orders with entertainment and creativity, and to keep our business running." Brack said. "It is great that our business was featured in this worldwide conference so other business owners can benefit from

what we learned. The unknown can be exciting, just take a chance and try something new, sometimes you have to break the mold to find success!"

The business owners that Schallert featured learned his 14-step Destination Business Strategy at his Destination BootCamp course.

Schallert's process was learned after interviewing over 10,000 independent business owners over the course of three decades.

"2-years-ago at Destination BootCamp, Jon told me that selling kits was the next step I needed to take." Brack said. "I had kept the idea in the back of my mind but had not acted on it until Covid hit and I knew it was the time to update our storefront (Digitally) to offer virtual instruction with #FridayNightLive! We've now completed over 50 weeks of #FridayNightLive classes and it has kept our doors open through a difficult year. We've found a new way of operating our business that reached new customers



Jon Schallert (left), President of The Schallert Group, and Phyllis Brack, owner of Dilly & Doc Creative Studio, stand outside her Storefront at 1119 Mainstreet in Great Bend, KS during a site visit in 2019, months after Brack attended Destination Bootcamp seminar to learn how to make her store a retail destination and small business success.

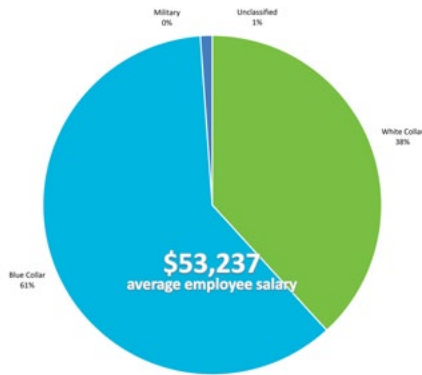


near and far and one we plan to continue to expand."

"Many things about running a small business have been profoundly changed by COVID-19, but for independent businesses, being the first choice with a consumer remains the same," Schallert said. "My goal is to make sure owners in every community have the best tools possible to flourish in 2021 as we come out of this pandemic."

If you are interested in a #FridayNightLive class, private party, Dilly & Doc Chalk Paint, or purchasing a project to complete at home visit www.DillyandDoc.com.

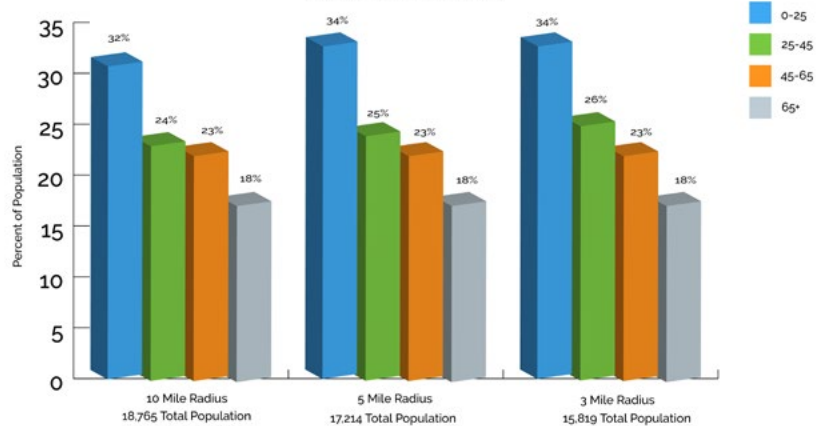
Great Bend Workforce Today, continued from page 1



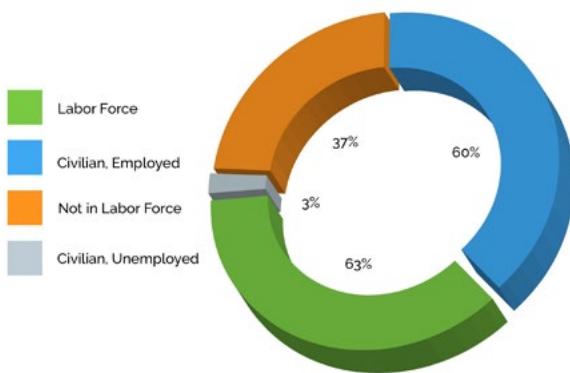
You'll notice that Great Bend average employee salary is higher than most would assume!

You can also see that a major portion of the workforce is concentrated in the educational, health and social services category and the

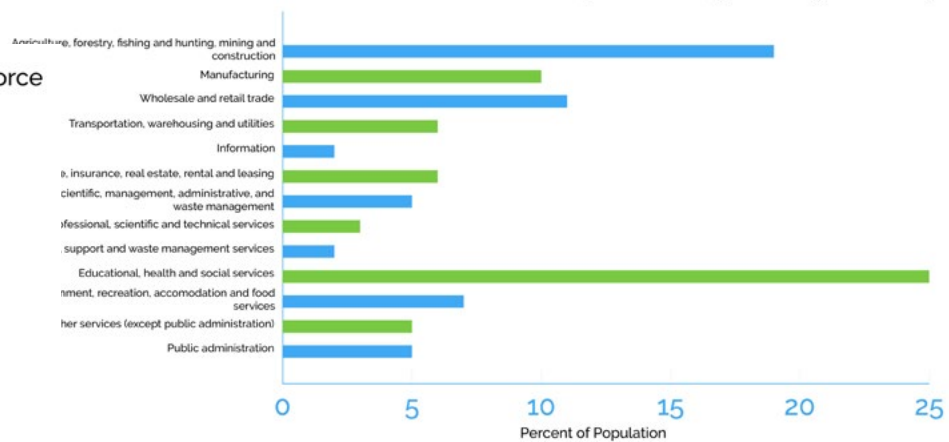
Current Year Estimated Population by Age
(Centered on Great Bend Wal Mart)



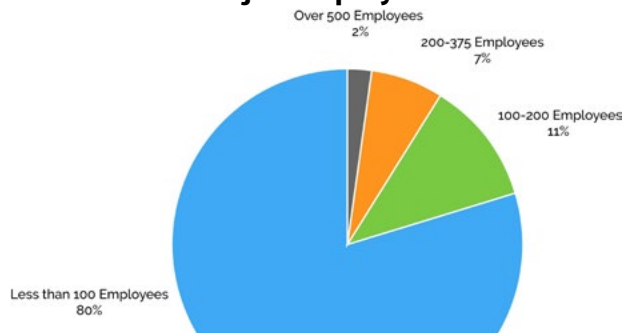
Current Year Estimated Population by Labor Force



Current Year Estimated Population Age 16+ by Industry



Major Employers



agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, mining, and construction category.

This data is created combining many different, up-to-date and credible sources as shown below in the data sources graph. Knowing this information will undoubtedly stir some questions and creative ideas! Share your thoughts with Sara Hayden at director@greatbend.org.

Together we will #growgreatbend.

10th Street Eyecare Center hosts Sunglass Show

The 10th Street Eyecare Center is thrilled to be hosting an outdoor Sunglass Show on Saturday, May 22nd from 8 AM - 2 PM at 2601 10th Street in Great Bend, Kansas. Not only will there be hundreds of sunglasses on display from the biggest brands - Rayban, Ted Baker, Champion, Maui Jim, and many others - but Oakley reps will be on site to showcase the latest debuts with tons of

giveaways and prizes. And, you can register to win the Ultimate Spectacles Sweepstakes, with the winner taking home three pairs of eyewear - one for normal wear, one for computer wear, and one for outdoor wear! The event will be socially distanced outdoors with so much to see. Bring your family and friends for this one-day-only event in Great Bend.

Saturday, May 22nd @ 8 AM - 2 PM





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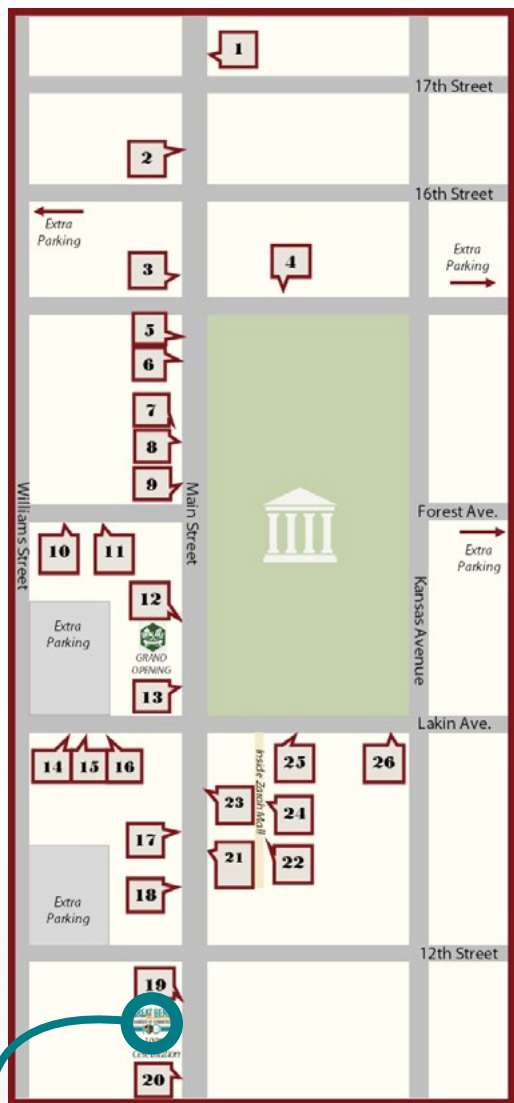
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Art & Wine WALK

DOWNTOWN GREAT BEND

Thursday, May 6, 2021 • 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

1. **The Lox Salon** - 1700 Main
Diane Engle - Photography & Paintings
2. **Rosewood Furniture Gallery** - 1607 Main
Nancy Rogers - Oil Paintings
3. **Kustom Floor Designs** - 1515 Main
Delores Baker - Ceramic Vases & Plaques
4. **Rana Luna Boutique** - 1910 Broadway
Miraya Starnes - Screen Printing, Wood & Lino Blocks
5. **Images by Emily Photography** - 1419 A Main
Emily Kennedy - Photography
6. **Renue Salon, Spa & Fashion Boutique** - 1419 B Main
Christy Tustin - Paper Art & Wind Chimes
7. **Perfectly Paisley Boutique** - 1409 Main
Jennifer Christiansen - Pottery
8. **Sweet Dreams Candy Shop** - 1403 Main
Kara Kitchen - Watercolor & Acrylic Painting
9. **Chelsea Mitchell Photography** - 1401 Main
Chelsea Morris - Photography & Mommy Pop Up Market
10. **The Gallery** - 2021 Forest Ave.
Loretta Miller - Hand crafted Santas & Witches
11. **Poppy Petals Boutique** - 2015 Suite 101 Forest Ave.
Daphne Copp - Photography
12. **The Buckle** - 1313 Main
Pam Martin - Silk Eco Printing & Ceramics
13. **Dawson Jewelers** - 1301 Main
Various Jewelers - Custom Made & Unique Jewelry
14. **Bling** - 2019 Lakin
Kara Feist - Paintings
15. **Yours Truly Gifts & Flower Shoppe** - 2017 Lakin
Dan Witt - Wildlife Beauty Photography
16. **Great Bend Coffee Co.** - 2015 Lakin
Don Crouse - Ceramics
17. **Rosewood Bargain Barn** - 1215 Main
Tami Branham - Hand Painted Wood Earrings
18. **A440 Music** - 1207 Main
Jalyn Lear - Drawings & Paintings
Patrick Heath - Fine Art, 2D
19. **Dilly & Doc Creative Studio** - 1119 Main
Featuring **Flavored Celebrations Sweets**
Margaret Bartholomew - Paintings: oil, watercolor, acrylic
20. **Golden Belt Bicycle Co.** - 1111 Main
Bob Mix - Metal Art
21. **Heart of Kansas Mercantile & Miss Pretty Pickles** - 1212/1214 Main
Addison Westhoff - Drawings, Paintings, & Prints
Christy Tustin - Paper Art & Wind Chimes
Barry Bowers - Wood Carvings
22. **Just Say It Though** - 1919 Lakin St. 109
Christen Markovich - String Art, Wood Stain & More
23. **RePerks Coffee Shop** - 1216 Main
Anna Popp - Drawings, Paintings, Sculpture
24. **Mike & Ice** - In Zarah Mall 1919 Lakin
Marissa Hoisington - Resin Art
25. **The Wright Place** - 1913 Lakin
Susan Wright - Handmade Jewelry
26. **Rosewood Wine Cellar** - 1901 Lakin
Various Members - Soap, Wine & More

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100th CELEBRATION

1115 Main

Thursday, May 6th

4:30-7:30pm

Cool Beverages

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Mirror of Memories Photo Booth

Live Remote with Eagle Radio from 5-7PM

1921



YEARS 2021



Chamber Night @ the Bat Cats

SEASON OPENER
JUNE 1ST

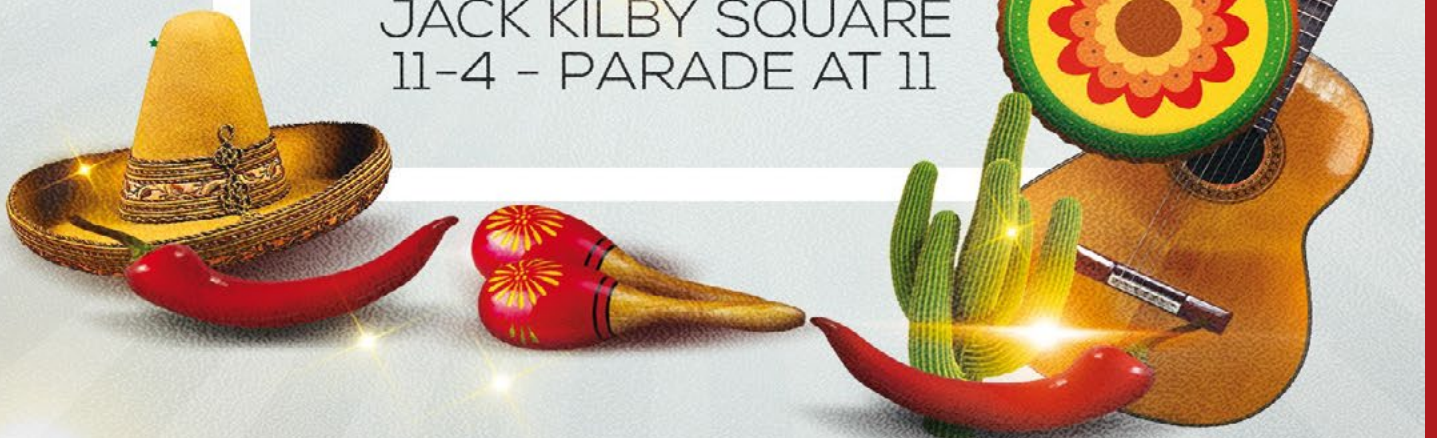


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MAY 8, 2021

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