A DIGITAL VERSION OF THE OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL, A PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

YEARS

2021

Chamber Blue of Kansas Survey is now LIVE!

1921

business journal

Employer Interest Survey

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is excited to offer another benefit to our members. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas (CCEKS) and local Chambers across the state have created an association health plan (AHP) – Chamber Blue of Kansas. This AHP offers member businesses access to health insurance associated with large group medical coverage.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey: <u>Chamber</u> <u>Blue Survey</u>, found at GreatBend. org. Completing this survey allows your business to be eligible to enroll in Chamber Blue effective January 1, 2023. If your business is currently enrolled with BCBSKS,

Click to jump to the story or links

COFFEE SCHEDULE

you will simply include your business information and group number. If your business is not currently enrolled with BCBSKS, please complete the census which will include the name, date of birth, gender and zip code for each employee, spouse and dependents covered under your current plan or those you believe will want coverage under this plan. The deadline is August 18, 2022. The survey is to be completed one time per business by the person responsible for the decisions of the health benefits for your company. It is not to be passed to the employees to complete.

If you would like more information before completing the survey, check out the <u>Employer Guide</u> and <u>Benefit</u> <u>Brochure</u> on the Chamber Blue

of Kansas website (<u>https://www.</u> <u>bcbsks.com/chamberblueks</u>).

GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OLUME 101 NO. 8

Please note there will be a separate process to enroll your business in Chamber Blue. Completing this survey does not obligate your business to enroll in the program. If you have additional questions, you can contact your BCBSKS representative or complete the form on the website.

For more information regarding the qualification criteria and more, visit <u>https://www.bcbsks.com/</u> <u>chamberblueks</u> or contact the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce by phone at 620-792-2401 or by email at <u>mbarfield@greatbend.org</u>.

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NEW MEMBERS

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FEATURED AMBASSADOR

Three generations: Kids Ag Day coming full circle for Koelsch family

By MIKE COURSON

Great Bend Post

Each fall, there's a special day when area fourth graders head out of the classroom

and onto the farm. Kids Ag Day is shaping up to be a little extra special for the Koelsch family on Sept. 7. Josh Koelsch was part of the first group of fourth graders to experience an Ag Day nearly three decades ago. Josh hosted last year's Ag Day, and their daughter, Lennon,

gets to experience her first Kids Ag Day this year.

"That's pretty exciting to think I was the first class and now she's going into it at nine years old," Josh said. "It's kind of cool to see that space in between and still see Kids Ag Day is going strong. I know my daughter's really excited about having it at our farm and she gets to be out here."

Josh's father, Ron Koelsch, was on the Ag Committee that helped create Kids Ag Day in 1994. The committee picked fourth graders for the event, and Josh lucked into his first Ag Day.

"The first year we went around touring farms, and we were trying to figure out whether to do fourth, fifth, or sixth grades," Ron said. "We found out the fifth and sixth grades already had activities, so that's why we went with fourth grade at that time. It just happened to be my son was a fourth grader that year."

The first Ag Day was held at 4M Farm owned by Kevin Mauler, and the event



remained there for the next nine years. Since then, Ag Day has been held at the late Roger Brining's farm near the airport once, but has mostly switched back and forth between 4M and Diamond K, the farm operated by the Koelsch family.

CLICK TO READ THE FULL STORY



Kids Ag Day Committee is accepting donations

Humane Society hosts Garage Sale

Golden Belt Humane Society/Adopt a Pet will be hosting a huge garage sale on August 19, from 2pm until 8pm & on August 20th from 8am until 2pm at the Events Center, 3111 10th Street in Great Bend.



Holaday treats all wound-care patients at Pawnee Valley Community Hospital

Since Heather Holaday, nurse practitioner,

has completed advanced training in wound care, she now provides all treatment in this specialty at Pawnee Valley Community Hospital. A HAYSMED PARTNER

Previously, Holaday

worked side-by-side with Kelly Miller, advanced practice registered nurse certified in wound care. Miller traveled regularly to Larned from HaysMed, her home base. Miller and Dr. Zurab Tsereteli, HaysMed general surgeon, provided the specialized training.

"I was so fortunate to learn from their expertise," said Holaday, who also earned a doctor of nursing practice degree. "I absolutely loved the training program and getting to work with Kelly on a regular basis. She is a phenomenal nurse practitioner and co-worker who takes pride in her work."

Miller no longer travels to PVCH, 923 Carroll, each week but she is available to collaborate with Holaday.

"Although we are an hour apart, I consider us a team; it is a blessing PAWNEE VALLEY

to have her continued expertise available," Holaday commented. "She was and

still is a huge asset

to our team at Pawnee Valley Community Hospital."

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Wound care is offered from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays each week. Flexible scheduling accommodates most patients.

This service is crucial for people with conditions such as diabetic foot ulcers, pressure ulcers, venous or arterial ulcers, burns, peristomal ostomy

ulcers and non-healing surgical incisions.

Inpatient and outpatient treatments can prevent or address infection, ensure adequate healing and reduce healing time associated

with wound closure.

"I feel very fortunate to provide this valuable wound-care service to our local community and surrounding area," Holaday noted. "It is something I am passionate about and truly feel

privileged to be part of it. Anyone concerned about wound care is encouraged to contact their healthcare provider."

Holaday is a family-medicine provider at Pawnee Valley Medical Associates, 713 W. 11th. She cares for patients with chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, anemia and depression/anxiety. Acute conditions include

Heather Holaday

infections, lacerations and other injuries.

Holaday also is experienced in workman's compensation issues, women's health, physical exams and well-child checks.

AABP Member, Dr. Ty Brunswig receive prestigious KSU award 2022 Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Dr. Ty Brunswig, Great Bend, Kansas, is the recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award for his notable achievements since graduating from Kansas State University. The award is presented by the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine and the K-State Veterinary Medical Alumni Association during the Awards Brunch at the Reunion Weekend held June 5.

Dr. Brunswig was raised in WaKeeney, Kansas. Growing up, he helped his father, Dr.

Brian Brunswig, a veterinarian who graduated from the veterinary college at K-State in the class of 1984, and his mother, Trish, at their animal clinic, serving as everything from veterinary technician to janitor. The Brunswigs also had a 150 head cow herd and 450 head backgrounding operation at the family farm outside WaKeeney. It was there that their son learned the basics of cattle management and medicine.

Dr. Brunswig attended Fort Hays State University where he played as Tiger defensive tackle and received a degree in animal science. He then attended Kansas State University where he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2014. He is now a is a

Bend.

"I am very honored that I was chosen for this award," Dr. Brunswig said. "I am surrounded by a team of awesome people that are the reason I have been successful. My amazing wife and children; my parents Bryan and Trish

Brunswig; my business partner, Dr. Nels; the numerous mentors and friends all over the

> veterinary community; and our entire veterinary staff that dedicate themselves to changing ples and animals lives every day — all of these folks are the real reason any of us have success in our lives."

"We are excited to have this opportunity to recognize a second-generation K-State veterinarian who is making an impact for the veterinary profession and cattle industry in Kansas," said Dr. Bonnie Rush, Hodes Family Dean. "He is

meeting the needs of livestock producers in a sustainable practice environment, and with his expertise and commitment, we believe he will influence the future of food animal practice and livestock production throughout his career."

Dr. Brunswig enjoys all aspects of veterinary

medicine and makes it a point to stay current in all species and specialties; small animal to large animal, medicine to surgery and consultation.

> His special interests include bovine reproduction and artificial insemination, small and large animal ultrasound diagnostics including fetal sexing in cattle.

Outside of work, Dr.

Brunswig is an avid hunter and marksmen, spending lots of time outdoors and custom reloading his own ammunition. He and his wife, Courtney, have three daughters, plus a poodle/bichon mix named Rusty and a Yorkie named Reesie. Most of his free time is spent with his family, coaching his children in sports and raising the next generation of "go-gitten"

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Web address: www.greatbend.org

for a complete list of staff and board members CLICK HERE



Dr. Ty Brunswig



United Way of Central Kansas Announces Pacesetter Awards

The United Way of Central Kansas Board of Directors and staff are proud to announce the 2022 Campaign Pacesetters. Each campaign, UWCK calculates the top Workplace Campaigns-combining donor contributions and corporate dollars to determine the Campaign Pacesetters.

These 15 Workplace Campaigns brought in 42% of the total raised for the 2022 Campaign, contributing just shy of \$100,000.

Top 15 Workplace Campaigns Gold Overall – Dillons–Great Bend and Larned

Silver Overall – Marmie Auto Group Bronze Overall – First Kansas Bank **Bronze **Giving Per Capita** Adams Brown, LLC **Silver **Giving Per Capita** Farmers Bank & Trust Midwest Energy Northern Natural Gas One Gas ONEOK Spectrum CPA Partners, LLC **Gold Giving Per Capita Sunflower Electric Superior Essex University of Kansas Health Systems-Great **Bend Campus** USD 428 **Venture Corporation**

2022 Highest Percentage Change Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency 2022 Business Leadership Award First Kansas Bank 2022 Leadership Award

Derek & Ashley Vonada

"Derek & Ashley have been supporters of United Way of Central Kansas for more than a decade. Throughout those years, they have shown true generosity and a deep commitment to their community. We are grateful that they choose to support United

> Way, our 22 Community Partners, and our Impact Programs. Their continued support allows us to help our neighbors in need and support initiatives

> > that strengthen our

United Way of Central Kansas

community. Thank you, Derek and Ashley, for Living United." Charell **Owings, UWCK Executive Director**

Funds raised through the Workplace Campaign support UWCK's 22 Community Partners and Impact Programming across Barton & Pawnee Counties. With a focus on Health, Education, and Financial Stability, United Way provides financial support to non-profits across Central Kansas who are doing the work to help those in need. To learn more about their work visit www. uwck.ora.



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CONTACT INFORMATION (620) 603-8348 www Rosi oodServices.com

The Mission of Rosewood ecycle is to provide work-related training and employment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities.



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UWCK Community Partners



Barton County Young Men's Org, Barton County Youth Care, Caring Hands Daycare Center, Hoisington Trolley, Ellinwood Heritage Senior Center, Hoisington Community Food Bank, Hoisington Historical Society, Orphan Grain Train, Hoisington Toys for Tots

GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEATURED AMBASSADOR

Megan Hammeke **Great Bend Rec**

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

My husband and I are both Great Bend natives who moved back after graduating college. We love our community here and are excited to raise our kids in the town we grew up in. It takes a village, and we have that here among our families and close group of friends.

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

The Rec world is different every day! I oversee the Enrichment/Fitness programs for our Adaptive patrons and 50 Plus age group year-round. This can be anything from cooking class and Halloween dances to Tai Chi and Water Aerobic classes. Then March roles around and my Aquatic position kicks into gear until the end of August. I certify most of the lifequards in the surrounding area and then get to oversee the daily operations for the Wetlands Waterpark.

Getting to interact with the citizens of Great Bend during their leisure time is one of the best parts of my job. We work hard to bring them events/programs that allow them to find connections within our community, to get to be engaged, and to just have fun and play!

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

I have a playlist designed for every moment in life. These playlists cover every genre, and I am probably listening to them way too loud in my vehicle or shaking the windows of my house.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

My family energizes me daily and a killer playlist of course. Besides their word's encouragement, my family has showed up multiple times to help me have a successful event or to just show their support. I am blessed by some of the best for sure.

At what job, would you be terrible?

I would be an awful waitress. Even in High School my parents steered me away from it. I am not coordinated enough to carry a tray of drinks and plates full of food.

How long have you been a Chamber Ambassador and what do you

like most about it?

This is the end of my second term (6th year) as an ambassador. I have loved



getting to help make an impact on our business community along with the many great relationships that I have made over the years.

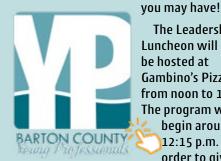
About the Ambassadors:

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, attend Business After Hours and Ribbon Cuttings, serve on Chamber committees, and assist with member recruitment and retention efforts.

Learn more: www.greatbend.org/ambassadors GET INVOLVED: Call us to get on the list: 620-792-2401

BCYP Leadership Lunch set for August 16 with City Administrator

Join Kendal Francis on August 16th at noon to get updated on all the is new with the City of Great Bend. He will be discussing hot topics including the new police station, the Quality of Life sales tax improvements and answering any questions



The Leadership Luncheon will be hosted at Gambino's Pizza from noon to 1 p.m. The program will begin around 12:15 p.m. in order to give

you time to grab a plate from the buffet and get settled in.

Join BCYP on August 16th!



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or greatbend.org/eventregistration

Thank You to Our Event Sponsor:



Brush Up GB: An Exterior Home Assistance Program

The Brush Up program exists to provide paint and supplies to citizens to paint the exterior of their home. The first home Brush Up GB had the opportunity to accomplish belongs to Robert and Ruby Wright. Robert said he's tried for years to get his house painted, but is no longer able Brush Up GB to climb a ladder, making it a challenging task. He tried several options to remedy the solution,

even taping a paint brush to the end of a broom handle to give him some more height! In the end the task was too much for him to accomplish on his own. Cue Brush Up Great Bend! Robert became aware of the program and submitted an application. The Brush Up team was more than excited to tackle this first project and even more excited to get the opportunity to get to know Robert.

> If you or someone you know are financially and/or physically unable

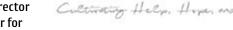
Click this graphic to see photos

to get your house painted, fill out the application above. Together we'll "Brush up Great Bend!"

The Center's director shares new 988 crisis line information

Now that the 988 suicide-prevention and crisis-care phone number is in effect, those who need immediate assistance

have easier access to highly trained crisis counselors, said Julie Kramp. executive director of The Center for



Counseling & Consultation, 5815 Broadway.

"Be assured that The Center's crisis line continues for anyone who chooses that option," Kramp said. "But 988 is sometimes a better choice simply because the number is easy to remember.

"One goal of making contact easier is the de-escalation of a crisis; this saves lives," Kramp stressed. "988 allows more options to connect people with local and area resources quickly."

The Center's crisis line remains 800-875-2544. The National

Suicide Prevention Lifeline number, 1-800-273-8255, also remains in effect. The Lifeline is a national network of more than 200 crisis centers and 988 doesn't replace it.

Sometimes, Kramp noted, those in crisis hesitate to make the call for help.

"There is no need to put off making the call," she said. "If you think you are facing a crisis and not sure where to turn, call 988 before the problem intensifies," she recommended. "The trained crisis counselors who answer the phone are there to help. You are not a burden to them."

Kramp likened early treatment for

AUGUST 2022 • PAGE 6

mental-health issues to addressing a physical ailment in the early stages.

"Catching a physical problem early often



leads to a better prognosis," she explained. "The same goes for mental-health concerns. We

encourage people to call as early as possible."

The 988 number, which went into effect July 16, isn't designed only for those contemplating suicide. It also is an avenue for help with other mental-health or substance-use crises, or any other emotional



distress.

Those who want to meet with professional counselors face-toface may walk in to The Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday to begin services.

"We offer this access to those who are seeking information about our many services," Kramp said. "Once someone becomes a client, visits are by appointment."

The Center for Counseling & Consultation is a Community Mental Health Center serving Barton, Pawnee, Rice and Stafford counties. Professionally trained personnel offer: individual and group therapy; marriage and family counseling; community-support services; communitybased services; psychosocial rehabilitation; peer support; and medication management. The confidential 24/7 crisis hotline number is 800-875-2544.

New Hires & Promotions

Tonya Miller joins USD 428 as HR Director

Great Bend Public Schools welcomes Tonya Miller, SHRM - CP to the position of Human Resources Director.

Miller started in the new position on June 1, bringing eight years of experience in human resources to USD 428 from previous roles at Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and The University of Kansas Health Systems, Great Bend Campus.



In addition to her industry experience,

Miller earned her Bachelor's in Organizational Leadership and Certified New Supervisor Training from Fort Hays State University. Miller is also a SHRM Certified Professional.

"I'm excited to use my HR expertise to assist district leaders," said Miller. "While I'm new to the field of public education, best practices and strategies for recruitment, retention, employee relations, and development can be used

"With nearly 700Tonya Milleremployees, our district willworlbenefit greatly from the addition of aworlHuman Resources Director," said John Popp,Thassistant superintendent for USD 428. "In alocaltime where workforce challenges are hittingcentevery industry, we want to ensure ourinforprocesses are effective in both recruitingor leand retaining talented employees."oppo

to foster and grow the positive work environment in USD 428."

The USD 428 Human Resources Office is located at the USD 428 District Education Center at 201 S Patton Road. For more information, please call 620-793-1500 or learn more about current employment opportunities by visiting <u>428jobs.net</u>

Ally Stocker joins Spectrum Team

Spectrum CPA Partners would like to welcome Ally Stocker to our firm! Ally is a Great Bend native, having graduated from Great Bend High School and Barton Community College. Ally then went on to Fort Hays State University, graduating in May of 2022, with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Ally enjoys spending time

with her family and doing any outside activities. Ally and her boyfriend, Mason, have 4 dogs, including Kano who is Kansas' first pit bull police dog. He even appeared on America's Top Dog!

Ally will be assisting clients with tax returns, bookkeeping and payrolls. Please join us in welcoming Ally!



Ally Stocker

The Beauty Bar Welcomes Stylist

The Beauty Bar is excited to announce that Amy Schwager will be returning as a stylist. Lexie Schneider, owner, says they are so excited to have Amy's expertise and energy back at the salon. Amy is a Barton County native where her and her husband are raising their two beautiful children. She will be bringing years of experience back into the salon offering manicures, pedicures, shellac, acrylics, and facial waxing.

Amy is scheduling appointments now! Call The Beauty Bar at 620-796-2001 or visit them on Facebook and at <u>www.</u> <u>thebeautybarsalongb.com</u>.



Amy Schwager

GREAT BEND

Kendal Francis Earns ICMA Credential Managers Certification

ICMA



Kendal Francis, Credentialed by International City/County Management Association

Kendal Francis, City Administrator of Great Bend, Kansas recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from ICMA, the International City/ County Management Association. Mr. Francis is one of over 1,300 local government management professionals, worldwide, currently credentialed through the ICMA Credentialing Program.

ICMA's mission is to advance professional local government through leadership, management, innovation, and ethics and by increasing the proficiency of appointed chief administrative officers, who serve local governments around the world. ICMA identifies leading practices to address the needs of local governments and professionals serving communities globally. The management decisions made by ICMA's members affect millions of people living in thousands of communities, ranging in size from small towns to large metropolitan areas.

To receive the prestigious ICMA credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government; have earned an advanced degree, preferably in public administration; and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development.

Mr. Francis is qualified by 27 years of professional local government experience, 10 of which were at the executive level. Prior to his appointment in Great Bend, he served as City Manager/Administrator in Coffeyville and Lakin, Kansas.

Heartland Farm's Farm to Table Fundraising Dinner is back!

Join us for a night to remember on Saturday, September 17th while helping to raise funds for a great cause. While details are still coming together, know that you'll experience a fabulous meal in a unique atmosphere with great people! Mark your calendars, and watch our Facebook page (HeartlandFarmKS), our Instagram (heartlandfarmks), or our website



(heartlandfarm-ks.org) as details unfold.

We're excited to host this wonderful event at Heartland Farm once again!

Great Bend Pilot Club Shines at Annual Convention

The 2022 Pilot International Annual Convention and Leadership Conference was held in Rochester, New York at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center from June 29 -July 2. The theme for the Convention was, "Challenges, Choices, and Changes for a New Century". We congratulate our newly installed Pilot International President, Rhona Espinoza and her team and pledge our support to

all of them. This was the One Hundred and One (101) Anniversary for Pilot International.

A delegation of four members, headed by President Barbara

Watson attended from the Pilot Club of Great Bend, in addition to President Barbara, were Renee Johnson, Mary Cramer and Daniel Watson. The Pilot Club of Great Bend was recognized at the highest Gold membership level with several awards. Our Great Bend chapter placed first in four major categories: First in Community Service, First in Service hours with our club members logging over 12,000 volunteer service hours this past year. We also placed first in Visibility, and Second in Pick Me Up projects, which club Pilot International Founders Found representative Nancy Schuetz led our club to acknowledge with gratitude various care provider organizations for their unwavering service in our community.

The highlight was our club's recognition as Outstanding Pilot Club chapter overall. All four attendees were able to walk across the international stage and accept

> awards for our outstanding club's accomplishments and service this year.

Club President Barbara Watson commented," the Convention experience was awesome. Pilots had a wonderful

time learning, sharing and spending time with each other at all the events, as we renewed friendships and made new friends with Pilots from around the world."

As they begin this new Pilot year the Pilot Club of Great Bend will continue to Do More, Care More and Be More in the Community. To learn more about Pilot club of Great Bend contact Joyce Beadles Fry or Nancy Schuetz, membership chairs to join in the mission, to improve the quality of life in the community.



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Activities back on track at Sunflower Diversified Services

After almost two years of changing schedules and curtailing activities, clients and staff at Sunflower Diversified Services are back to a regular routine and enjoying a few new ventures.

Covid had brought a number of outof-the-ordinary challenges to Sunflower, which serves people with developmental disabilities and delays in central Kansas.

"Life was put on pause for everyone but sometimes it was even more difficult for the people we serve," said Amanda Urban, compliance and quality assurance

director. "Structure and predictability, which are extremely important to clients, were lacking during the pandemic.

"For example, we had to rotate work hours at the manufacturing plant to maintain our physical distance from one another. Residential services continued throughout the pandemic too – just on staggered schedules."

In addition, Urban noted, the pandemic was difficult for many individuals because they don't have family members nearby. "Our staff did their best to fill the gaps but we realize we cannot replace family."

Today, the future looks much brighter. The manufacturing plant and other areas at Sunflower are back to normal, with more opportunities for employment, leisure and community involvement.

For instance, the number of packaging/ assembly jobs has increased and the Aktion Club is back to serving its community. The club's newest effort is participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

> Sarah Stromski, advocacy training and activities manager, said the Aktion Club has adopted two miles on U.S. 281, from mile markers 101 to 103, just south of Great Bend

DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, INC. Great Bend.

"The catalyst was Earth Day, April 22," Stromski noted. "We wanted to tackle a project to help the environment and improve quality of life. This seemed like a good fit."

The 17-20 club members pick up litter on both sides of the highway after gathering trash bags and safety vests from the local Kansas Department of Transportation office. All participants took safety classes.

The Kiwanis Club sponsors the Aktion Club; Sunflower's group, which started in 2005, was the second to be chartered in Kansas.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL STORY



David Brack, left, and Robbie Davis, participate in the recent Special Olympics Torch Run. Donnie Lewis is in the background at right. Clients at Sunflower Diversified Services are returning to regular activities in this post-pandemic climate.

Candidate Conversations



The Kansas Chamber recently hosted its 2022 primary edition of Candidate Conversations in Wichita. At this important event, candidates for

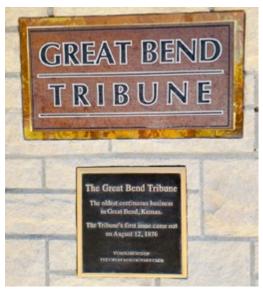
statewide office who have competitive primary elections discussed their positions on issues important to the Kansas business community.

Click here to watch the candidates for Secretary of State answer questions and share their positions.



Click here to watch the candidates for State Treasurer answer questions and share their positions.

STATE TREASURER



Rotary Club of Great Bend



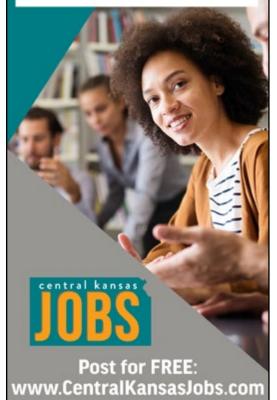
The Great Bend Rotary Club kicked-off a new project when debuting a bronze plaque at the Great Bend Tribune mid-July. This new project where will place bronze plaques on some of the most significant historical buildings in downtown Great Bend. The Club is excited to share the first plaque has been installed at the Great Bend Tribune. The Tribune is the oldest continuous business in Great Bend and it's first issue was published August 12, 1876. Pictured are club members along with Tribune publisher, Judy Duryee.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS KIDS DAY OUT CAMPS FITNESS CLASSES PICKLEBALL CLINICS AND MORE



ARE YOU GROWING YOUR TEAM?



Ribbon Cuttings!

Chamber Commemorates New Management



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce commemorated the new store manager at Nex-Tech Wireless in Great Bend, Sarah Panning with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Panning is not only the new store manager but a Chamber Ambassador as well, so her peers and new store were excited to celebrate her success. If you are interested in learning more about Nex-Tech Wireless, find them online: www.nextechwireless.com, text or call 877-621-2600, or visit in Great Bend at 2827 10th St.

The Great Bend Optimist Club joins the Chamber of Commerce



The Great Bend Optimist Club was chartered on May 5, 1949 and has served the community since. The club is a civic group dedicated to being the Friend of Youth. All club projects support the youth in our community. Randy Goering, Club President, shared that the club has a membership drive, so if you are interested in joining the Optimist Club, contact Randy or any other Optimist Club Member. For more information about the Great Bend Optimist Club find them on Facebook.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CHAMBER MEMBERS

DUNN SWINE, LLC Jan Dunn, Owner dunnswine@gmail.com 863 NW 10th Ave, St. John, KS (620) 549-6511 Livestock Production, Agricultural

ERNSTING'S INC. Brent Schartz, Owner shelly_ernrad@hotmail.com 180 SE 100 Avenue, Ellinwood, KS (620) 564-2793 Manufacturers

LZS HOLDINGS, LLC

Dan Lear, Owner dlear@hclrv.com 1822 24th, Great Bend, KS (620) 793-2962 Rental Property

STATE FARM INSURANCE AGENT LANDON ERWAY

Landon Erway, Agent landon@erwayplanning.com 621 Broadway, Larned, KS (620) 285-6955 www.erwayplanning.com

Insurance

SURVIVING SUICIDE FOUNDATION

Miai Lewis, Director Miailewis8@gmail.com

1411 Wilson St, Great Bend, KS (402) 831-1165 Mental and Behavioral Health Services



More Ribbon Cuttings!

Great Bend Chamber commemorates First Congregational United Church of Christ 150th Anniversary with a Ribbon Cutting



The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff, ambassadors, and community joined the First Congregational United Church of Christ staff and congregation for a coffee and ribbon cutting to celebrate the church's 150th Anniversary in Great Bend. On Sunday, August 7, the church will celebrate its 150th year with a special worship service at 11 am and an Anniversary service at 2 pm. Following the 2 pm service, the church will hold a reception in the Fellowship Hall. For more information on the church or their upcoming celebration, find them on Facebook: <u>First Congregational</u> UCC Church; or by phone at 620-792-5346

Barton Community College Nursing program to celebrate partnership with Pratt Community College

Barton Community College and Pratt Community College (PCC) have teamed up to provide Nursing education for students in Pratt and the surrounding area and will celebrate their partnership with a come-andgo reception Aug. 4 from 9-10:30 a.m. on the PCC Campus in Chandler Hall, which will feature light refreshments, a signing ceremony and short comments from college representatives from both schools.

The inaugural class will begin Aug 15.

Pratt Community College President Dr. Michael Calvert is pleased the partnership between PCC and Barton will restore the ADN (RN Nursing Program) curriculum back to the Pratt County area. "We are grateful the State Board saw the need for the training in our area, and we are grateful Barton Community College is willing to partner with us in that endeavor. We are also able to offer a mutual benefit for students that may wish to continue their training in Barton Community College programs upon completing their training at Pratt Community College." Barton Community College Vice-President of Instruction Elaine Simmons appreciates the

opportunity to expand education and training services in healthcare.

"Partnerships are an essential ingredient to higher education operations and provide an opportunity to expand education and training service to communities, employers and students. Barton looks forward to extending its Associate Degree

in Nursing (RN) program in the Pratt and surrounding community. We appreciate the collaboration with Pratt Community College and the support extended from the healthcare industry. We celebrate the recent approval received from the Kansas State Board of Nursing to offer the program and look forward to a similar outcome with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) as we seek program accreditation."

For more information, contact Director of Nursing Education Renae Skelton at skeltonr@bartonccc.edu or (620) 792-9355.



CELEBRATING OVER 56 YEARS OF SERVING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES!

There is a 1

EARLY EDUCATION CASE MANAGEMENT DISABILITY SUPPORTS RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT RECYCLING & MANUFACTURING GENERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & MUCH MORE!

620-792-1325 WWW.SUNFLOWERDIV.COM



Every Thursday! Doors open at 9am, program at 9:30am

Can't make it in person? Watch on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel

August 4, 2022 AZRIA HEALTH 1560 K96 HWY in Great Bend

Azria Health Woodhaven provides excellence at every level, delivering exceptional service to each individual – from their inviting welcome program to their individualized care planes. They are with you every step of the way. Their team considers every detail in making you feel at home, providing a high level of personal attention. The entire Azria Health Woodhaven experience is designed to encourage social activity and maintain regimens that foster health and well-being.

August 11, 2022 KELLY'S GARDEN SENSE 134 NE 10 AVE - Greenhouse in Great Bend

Join Kelly's Greenhouse for Coffee and a sneak peek behind the scenes, plus a preview of Fall plants already growing. Kelly and Paul Moeder, own/lead Kelly's Garden Sense to create beautiful, elevated landscapes and colorful outdoor spaces in Great Bend and the surrounding area! Services available include: Residential and Commercial Landscape Design & Implementation, Plant & Tree Consulting, Drip Irrigation & Timing Systems, Rock-scapes, Garden Fountains, Potted Arrangements, KS Grown Annuals, and More! Get ready for a POP of Color and call (620) 282-7170 for a free estimate and we'll bring the Greenhouse to you!

August 18, 2022 CENTRAL PLAINS COMPUTER SERVICE 608 S. Patton Rd. in Great Bend

Central Plains Computer Service has been a provider of computer sales and service for over 30 years. CPCS is also a local internet service provider, which includes high-speed wireless broadband internet, web hosting, email hosting, web, and graphic design services. They are now serving 3 communities: Great Bend, Ness City and their NEW location in Pratt.

August 25, 2022 FIRST KANSAS BANK 4001 10th Street in Great Bend

First Kansas Bank prides itself on highly personalized customer care delivered by local decision-makers. We are pleased to say, for 122 years our Bank Team has provided key leadership in the four communities we serve. First Kansas Bank is committed to serving our Customers, Communities and Bank with these Core Values-Integrity and Teamwork, Exceed Customer Expectations, Operate a Sound Bank, Balance Family, Work and Community.

September 1, 2022 UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL KANSAS Adams Brown, 2006 Broadway, Main Floor Foyer in Great Bend

United Way of Central Kansas works in Barton & Pawnee Counties to improve lives through funding of 22 non-profit agencies and numerous Community Impact Programs. With a focus on the health, education, and financial stability of those in our communities, UWCK partners with organizations on programs and initiatives that will create lasting change. Working together, we can do so much-that's what it means to Live United.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530 **McDonald's** is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.

HIGHLIGHTED AUGUST EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

- 1-6...Missoula Children's Theatre Johnny Appleseed, 1905 Lakin Ave, The Crest Theatre
- 2...Primary Election *Polling locations are open from 7am to 7pm on Election Day only
- 2...Leadership Golden Belt, Golden Belt Community Foundation, 1307 Williams St., 8 am
- 2...Mental Health Awareness Day, Jack Kilby Square, 3:30 pm
- 4...Chamber Coffee: Azria Health, 1560 KS-96 HWY, Doors open at 9:00 am with the program at 9:30 am. Can't make it, watch online on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel
- 4...Summer Street Stroll, Jack Kilby Square, 4 pm
- 5...Be Well Barton County Family Friendly Bike Ride, starts at Jack Kilby Square, 6 pm
- 5...VFW Post 3111, Corn Hole League, 504 Washington St., 7 pm
- 6...UWCK Fundraiser Dueling Pianos, Knights of Columbus, 723 Main St. Great Bend, 5:30 pm
- 8...Central Kansas Partnership Community Meeting, Barton Co Court House, 1400 Main St., 1:30 pm
- 10...Member Services & Marketing Seminar, Chamber Board Room or via Zoom, 1125 Williams St., 8:30 am
- 11...Chamber Coffee: Kelly's Garden Sense, 134 NE 10 Ave, Doors open at 9:00 am with the program at 9:30 am. Can't
 - make it, watch online on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel
- 11...Summer Street Stroll, Jack Kilby Square, 4 pm
- 12...Cast with a Cop, South side of Vet's Lake, 8 am
- 12...Be Well Barton County Family Friendly Bike Ride, starts at Jack Kilby Square, 6 pm
- 12...VFW Post 3111, Corn Hole League, 504 Washington St., 7 pm
- 12...KWEC Perseid Meteor Shower Watch Party! 592 NE K-156 HWY, 8:30pm
- 13...10th Annual Party in the Park, Vet's Park, 8:30 am
- 15...Business Showcase, Panther Activity Center, 2027 Morton, 8:30 am
- 16...Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St., 11 am
- 16...Barton County Young Professionals Leadership Lunch, Gambinos 1309 Main, noon
- 18...Chamber Coffee: Central Plains Computer Service, 608 S. Patton Rd, Doors open at 9:00 am with the program at 9:30 am. Can't make it, watch online on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel
- 18...Summer Street Stroll, Jack Kilby Square, 4 pm
- 19-20...Golden Belt Humane Society's Annual Garage Sale, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St, 8 am
- 19...Be Well Barton County Family Friendly Bike Ride, starts at Jack Kilby Square, 6 pm
- 19...VFW Post 3111, Corn Hole League, 504 Washington St., 7 pm
- 20...Urban Defense Dynamics Basic Handgun Course, 916 Williams, first class at 1 pm and second class at 4pm, Registration Required
- 21...VFW Post 3111, Sunday Brunch, 504 Washington St., 9:30 am
- 25...Summer Street Stroll, Jack Kilby Square, 4 pm
- 25...Chamber Coffee: First Kansas Bank, 4001 10th St, Doors open at 9:00 am with the program at 9:30 am. Can't make it, watch online on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel
- 26...GB Alive Final Friday, Forest Ave. and Williams St., 5 pm
- 26...Barton County Young Professionals Mixer Sponsored by Peoples Bank and Trust and Kansas Trophy Experience, 54 South East 10 Road, beginning at 6 pm
- 26...Military and First Responders Night Out: Dropping 22 Inc., Registration is required, 916 Williams St., 6 pm
- 26...Be Well Barton County Family Friendly Bike Ride, starts at Jack Kilby Square, 6 pm
- 26...VFW Post 3111, Corn Hole League, 504 Washington St., 7pm
- 27...Urban Defense Dynamics Basic Handgun Course, 916 Williams, first class at 1 pm and second class at 4pm, Registration Required

Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, 1209 Williams St., 6:30pm

Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Wednesday, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am *Can't make it to the Weekly Chamber Coffee, watch online*: <u>The Chamber's Facebook Page</u> or <u>YouTube Channel</u> *Visit greatbend.org/events/calendar* for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!





FRIDAY | 2022

10 AM SHOT GUN START

4 PM AWARDS

PRIZES AWARDED TO TOP TEAMS

LAKE BARTON GOLF COURSE GREAT BEND, KS

\$115 \$450 FOURSOME

INCLUDES: HOLE CONTESTS & MULLIGANS GRAB & GO LUNCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: LEE ANN 620-792-2401 CUT DOWN ON THE LONG LINE AT REGISTRATION WITH A PREPAY OPTION!

DURITE RECEIVERDANNY AUORANI AUORANI AUORA





8:30AM:	Obstacle Mud Run
9AM:	Oozefest Mud Volleyball Tournament
9:30-Noon:	Paint in the Park – Sun Catcher Mandalas
10AM:	Wet/Dry Parade on 17th St. Terrace
10-4PM:	All American Mega Kite Display
11-2PM:	Encanto Key Hunt in Park with Rana Luna
11-4PM:	Optimist Kids Fun Zone
11:15AM:	Kiwanis Anything That Floats Race
Noon:	Lunch with Vendors
2PM:	Car Show Starts
3PM:	Froot Loop [®] Eating Contest (Kids, Adult & Team)
6PM:	Gates Open for Concert & American Mullet Contest!
6:15PM:	Crash Dadeez Kids Concert (Kids 10 & Under get in Free with Parent)
7:30PM:	Fool House - Ultimate Dance Party
10PM:	Fireworks
10:30PM:	Kory Brunson Band

Rec

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2ND

3:30-7:30 PM BARTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE SQUARE 1400 MAIN ST. GREAT BEND, KANSAS

For more information call- 620-792-2544

Event Includes: Community Partners, Informational Booths, Food/Drinks, Yard Games, Drum Circle, Art Display and More!







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Aetna Better Health[®] of Kansas



Put your skills to the test with the Kiwanis Anything That Floats Race.

- Registration open now.
- You can use "anything that floats" except a boat!
- Top two receive cash prize plus most creative float
- Must be 18 or older to participate
- Life jackets required. Free entry with signed waiver.
- Rules and regulations available at the City Building.

Contact Christina Hayes to register today. CHayes@greatbendks.net



AUGUST 13TH

You're Invited

• Veteran's Park during Party in the Park

- Registration is open now (and free!)
- Businesses, non-profits, youth groups and more are encouraged to participate.
- Floats and walkers welcome.
- Prizes will be announced soon.
- Email Christina Hayes (CHayes@greatbendks.net) to register now.

Brought to you by Kiwanis of Great Bend

As this year's Kids Ag Day is approaching on September 7th we are looking forward for another fun learning experience for the local 4th Grade students at the Koelsch Family Farm.

For the past 28 years over 400 Forth Graders attend this event just a few miles west of Great Bend, the idea is to give the students a first-hand look at a working farm and all of the many components of agriculture. Throughout the year over it takes over 60 volunteers work to prepare and implement this event!

The committee contacts schools, presents and media: prepare lunch for volunteers; make name tags for students and teachers: collect educational material to hand out to students; host visitors at the event; and coordinated schedules for the schools. Volunteers come together the night before and prepare the site, load the trailers with straw bales and set up demonstration sites with tents, tables and chairs and signage.

We are very thankful to Jim and Kathy Armatys for donating another enclosed trailer for storing tables, chairs and tents. This will be the second enclosed trailer that has been donated to the event the first being donated by James and Linda Essmiller. We are also very fortunate to receive a new 40x60 tent donated by Great Bend Coop this year.

Developing a Kids Ag Day can provide quite a challenge but with the support from the local community, local farmers, businesses, county extension office, FFA, Farm Bureau, Barton County Community College, and the Barton County Conservation District, this event continues to be a community success!

Thank You

We truly appreciate any and all donations from local businesses to make this a success! We just want to say thank you to all the past, present and future sponsors.

If you would like to sponsor this special event please mail check to:

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce

1125 Williams

Great Bend, KS 67530

C/O Kids Ag Day

Thank you,

Scott Dewerff

C/O Chairman

To: Central Kansas media From: SDS Contact: Amanda Urban, 620-792-1321

July 2022

For immediate release with photo

CUTLINE: David Brack, left, and Robbie Davis, participate in the recent Special Olympics Torch Run. Donnie Lewis is in the background at right. Clients at Sunflower Diversified Services are returning to regular activities in this post-pandemic climate.

SUGGESTED HEADLINE: Activities back on track at Sunflower Diversified Services

After almost two years of changing schedules and curtailing activities, clients and staff at Sunflower Diversified Services are back to a regular routine and enjoying a few new ventures.

Covid had brought a number of out-of-the-ordinary challenges to Sunflower, which serves people with developmental disabilities and delays in central Kansas.

"Life was put on pause for everyone but sometimes it was even more difficult for the people we serve," said Amanda Urban, compliance and quality assurance director. "Structure and predictability, which are extremely important to clients, were lacking during the pandemic.

"For example, we had to rotate work hours at the manufacturing plant to maintain our physical distance from one another. Residential services continued throughout the pandemic too – just on staggered schedules."

In addition, Urban noted, the pandemic was difficult for many individuals because they don't have family members nearby. "Our staff did their best to fill the gaps but we realize we cannot replace family."

Today, the future looks much brighter. The manufacturing plant and other areas at Sunflower are back to normal, with more opportunities for employment, leisure and community involvement.

For instance, the number of packaging/assembly jobs has increased and the Aktion Club is back to serving its community. The club's newest effort is participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

Sarah Stromski, advocacy training and activities manager, said the Aktion Club has adopted two miles on U.S. 281, from mile markers 101 to 103, just south of Great Bend.

"The catalyst was Earth Day, April 22," Stromski noted. "We wanted to tackle a project to help the environment and improve quality of life. This seemed like a good fit."

The 17-20 club members pick up litter on both sides of the highway after gathering trash bags and safety vests from the local Kansas Department of Transportation office. All participants took safety classes.

The Kiwanis Club sponsors the Aktion Club; Sunflower's group, which started in 2005, was the second to be chartered in Kansas.

"We are thrilled to revive our club," Stromski said. "It is important to continue our Aktion legacy by getting out and supporting our community."

Stromski was promoted to her current position just about the time the pandemic started; this led to a number of learning curves.

"When I started, everything was coming to a halt," she recalled. "I had to learn through the not-normal. Then, I had to learn what was normal. But it was worth it. I love teaching classes and organizing activities."

The Aktion Club is once again involved in its many annual parades and is gearing up for Party in the Park in August. Other volunteer efforts entail the Dream Center, senior boxes, second-grade education bags, Advocacy Day and the upcoming Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas conference.

Recent client activities also include: attending wrestling tournaments in Hoisington and Larned; dancing at the Great Bend Recreation Commission; swimming; eating at restaurants; shopping; and attending a comedy show at the Crest Theatre. A visit to the Sternberg Museum at Hays is in the works.

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. It is in its 57th year.