

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SEPTEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 99 NO. 9

# OUTLOOK BUSINESS JOURNAL

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## THE ALIGNED LEADER

PROGRAM POWERED BY Renzo



### Announcing The Aligned Leader, a Six Week Virtual Leadership Series

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is excited to bring a unique and powerful program to the area in a time when many business owners and leaders are uncertain of just where and how to proceed. We believe now is the time grow your leaders from within and arm yourself and your team with the tools and resources needed to take your business to the next level.

The business environment has changed dramatically in the past several months. As more and more companies have remote workers, the need for Aligned Leaders has never been greater. It's easier to stay "on the same page" when you're working within close proximity to your team. However, when Microsoft Teams, Zoom Meetings, and GoToWebinars are a main source of connection, there is "team energy" that is tangibly lessened.

The Aligned Leader is unique, both in the way that the material is delivered (by the best and brightest in the industry) AND by the fact that what you learn through the course is an example of how you'll lead virtually (and in-person) with your own team.

#### **Our goal is for you to feel more confident and comfortable when:**

- Conducting the ritual weekly meeting to keep people on track
- Handling one-on-one conversations with your team members
- Providing feedback, whether positive or negative
- Holding yourself and others accountable to stated outcomes
- "Leading up the chain" and clarifying expectations from your higher ups
- Conducting difficult conversations with clients, co-workers, or supervisors

Being an Aligned Leader means

fully engaging with your team at all levels and making sure that they have: clarity around what needs to be done, alignment on who is doing what by when, and purpose in their work.

#### **The 'Aligned Leader' Workshop Series will**

- Ensure that your meetings are purposeful, productive and on-point
- Create clarity between and amongst your team
- Arm you with tools and resources to be an aligned leader
- Help you shine with senior execs and direct reports alike

The Great Bend Chamber session is starting on October 14th and it **WILL FILL UP QUICKLY.**

Instead of spending thousands of dollars in travel and hotel expenses, leaving family for days on end, and then forgetting half of what you learned before returning, how about this:

Participate in this six week virtual leadership development program. Learn the dead-simple tactics, practiced in real-time, and then apply them immediately after the 2.5 hour sessions. The best way to learn is not over two or three jam-packed days, but in bite-sized blocks where you can both learn and practice before implementing.

#### INVESTMENT

*The Aligned Leader Program normally carries an investment of \$997, though we're offering an early bird price that is 20% off the stated ticket price. For just \$797 per person, you can go through Renzo's Aligned Leader Program and within six weeks have the tool chest to lead your team effectively (whether at home or at work).*

*And thanks to the Golden Belt Community Foundation, scholarships ranging from \$100-\$300 are available to the first 40 registrants. To claim your scholarship and unique code, call the Chamber at (620) 792-2401. Registrants will be given a unique code to enter when completing their registration and will then have the option to pay in full or take advantage of a payment plan allowing every budget to take advantage of this opportunity. A special allotment of scholarships has been set aside for non-profit organizations.*

*Learn more and register at [www.renzoprograms.com/greatbendchamber](http://www.renzoprograms.com/greatbendchamber). Questions can be directed to the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce.*



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## Be counted, Barton County!

Have you sent in your 2020 census? A committee at the First Congregational United Church of Christ asked this question to church members and friends. Of all the calls and emails sent, they got a 100% – YES response! People of faith can play an important role in making sure everyone is counted. Faith reminds us that every person carries within the image of God and every person counts in the well-being of the whole community. Communities of faith are critical in making sure that historically undercounted communities are counted.

The 2020 Census is our chance to shift the historical narrative that has excluded so many from being counted, and move to a more vibrant, inclusive picture of “we the people.” Spread the word about getting counted!

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2020**

Learn more at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

Shape the future of your congregation, neighborhood, and community by supporting the 2020 Census before **September 30, 2020**, be a 100% counted church. Find more information about the 2020 Census including a sample questionnaire at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020.

## Heart of Kansas sees more patients for behavioral- health issues

When the global pandemic first surfaced earlier this year, Heart of Kansas Family Health Care staff noticed a bit of an increase in behavioral-health services, said Carie Brown, director of behavioral health.

That increase has maintained a steady upward pace during recent months.

“We are seeing a lot of patients who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 due to the illness itself or other effects,” Brown said. “These effects include smaller or no paychecks, and social isolation.

“Patients are reporting depression and anxiety that normal coping skills have been unable to manage,” she continued. “Some are dealing with the added stress of schools being closed for this extended period of time. This can create significant distress.”

Behavioral health focuses on emotional and mental-health needs, Brown summarized. “Just like our medical health, behavioral health is very important to an individual’s overall well-being.

“Life can be stressful,” she added. “Too many times we set our mental health aside, which can impact our physical health. Professionals are just a phone call away.”

Heart of Kansas offers behavioral and many other health services in-person and via telemedicine. Various telemedicine formats are used to accommodate individual needs; staff members guide patients on the easy-

to-use formats.

“With our expanded options for telehealth, attending an appointment is easier and more confidential than ever,” Brown commented.

The behavioral health director offered a few tips for those battling depression and anxiety.

These include: maintaining a support system through social-distancing means; engaging in physical exercise to maintain a healthy balance; and keeping a journal about concerns and gratitude.

“And if you find yourself becoming overwhelmed by news coverage of the pandemic, limit your viewing to maybe just once a day,” Brown advised.



Carie Brown

All Heart of Kansas healthcare providers are well-trained and experienced in helping people with behavioral needs, Brown noted. “Since we have offices in Great Bend, Larned and Stafford, our patients have easy access to these services.”

The three clinics are located at 1905 19th, Great Bend; 522 Broadway, Larned; and 412 Grand Ave., Stafford.

Heart of Kansas Family Health Care is a Federally Qualified Health Center, which allows it to be a safety net for patients who are uninsured or underinsured. Its professional providers also welcome those with insurance at the Great Bend, Larned and Stafford locations. Heart of Kansas is open to everyone.



## Ribbon Cuttings!

### Family Crisis Center rebrands logo



Family Crisis Center has been in the process of rebranding with the emphasis of a more family focused positive image in the community. They began by wanting a new logo and having a contest that invited high school art classes within the counties they represent. Coryn Reif (center with the scissors), a Sophomore from Hoisington High School ultimately won the competition. Coryn also utilized the colors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Ribbons which made it a perfect new logo choice. The Family Crisis Center is moving forward as a collaborative community driven, family friendly agency. For more information on the Family Crisis Center find them on Facebook, call: 620-793-9941, or email: [info@familycrisisctr.org](mailto:info@familycrisisctr.org). They are available 24/7, call 620-792-1885 or 1-866-792-1885.

### Inspire Fitness celebrates five years in business



Carla Jecha (center with the scissors), owner/ trainer, celebrated five years in business with a ribbon cutting. Jecha has been a personal trainer for 9 years. Personal training is for young, old, and in between; training is not always about weight loss, but keeping your body mobile, and your bones strong. Inspire Fitness adapted training to fit anyone's needs. Call for pricing and availability. For more information on Inspire Fitness find them on Facebook, call: 620-923-6195, or email: [jecha@gbta.net](mailto:jecha@gbta.net).

## Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## FREE E-WASTE RECYCLING



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Rosewood Bargain Barn  
1215 Main St., Great Bend  
Mon - Fri, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

By recycling with us, you benefit your community, the environment, and you help create jobs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

You will receive a tax deduction receipt when you drop off unwanted electronics.

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2200 Main St.  
Great Bend  
South of the Dairy Queen!



CONTACT INFORMATION  
(620) 603-8348  
www.RosewoodServices.com

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

## Seventh-day Adventist Church Promotes InStep For Life (Let's Move Day)

The Great Bend Seventh-day Adventist Church and School will be hosting Let's Move Day on Sunday, September 27 starting at 9:45 A.M. at the Great Bend Seventh-day Adventist Church parking lot across from the Great Bend Trailhead on West 10th Street. This event is being sponsored by Dr. Bell Razafindrabe, the Pain and Spine Clinic and the Great Bend Seventh-day Adventist Church. For advance registration call 620-792-2991 or 620-791-7314 or register at 9:45 the day of the events. Water and fruit snacks will be provided along the trail.

### Free Events include:

- **Walking: 2+ miles**
- **Running: 3-5+ miles**
- **Road Cycling: 10+ or 20+ miles**

Nearly one in three children in America is overweight or obese, increasing their risk for asthma, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high



blood pressure, sleep problems, depression, and bullying.

Some of the contributing factors are decreased exercise, large portion sizes, too much refined foods, not enough whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, and the inability for low-income families to access healthy foods.

In Step For Life has been designed to address one of these issues by encouraging exercise.

## Sunflower seeks community support for Stroll Around the Square

Even though the annual Pancake Feed has been canceled because of the global pandemic, Sunflower Diversified Services is planning a new event to raise funds for and awareness about the people it serves.

Sunflower, a non-profit agency, serves people with special needs in central Kansas.

Stroll Around the Square is set for 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, which coincides with the Art & Wine Walk and Farmer's Market in downtown Great Bend.

"We are disappointed about having to cancel our popular Pancake Feed but the Stroll will be a great substitution," said Connie Oetken, Sunflower's director of development. "It provides another opportunity for our clients to be active participants in their community.

"We are already looking forward to this safe, outdoor activity," Oetken added. "Yes, we want to raise some much-needed funds but we also want to support the community that supports us."

Stroll Around the Square participants will walk around Jack Kilby Square as many or as few times as they want. The registration fee is \$10 and t-shirts will be available.

"We are asking people in our community to sponsor a walker for \$50," Oetken said.

"This provides donors the opportunity to participate even if they aren't available to walk that day."

The Sunflower Board of Directors and Foundation Board of Trustees are also being encouraged to be part of this new event.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and a drink will be available for

sale; Sunflower staff will cook and serve. The number of servings is limited.

"We are hoping for a good turnout in support of the children and adults we serve with many services and programs," Oetken commented. "Like many other non-profit agencies, we had to cancel many events and a fundraiser this year. But the needs never stop.

"We also are excited about helping to attract even more people downtown to the Art & Wine Walk and Farmer's Market," Oetken added. "It promises to be a great evening for family and friends to gather and support one another."

Sunflower will host the Sept. 17 Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Coffee. More information will be announced later.

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



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# HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

- 3... **Virtual Chamber Coffee: MPIRE Realty Group, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel**
- 5...Hahn Supercross Shootout
- 7...**Chamber Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day**
- 10...Face Your Shift: Virtual Workshop with Mediation & Mindfulness Expert, Allie Cartwright, 8:00am & 6:00pm
- 10... **Virtual Chamber Coffee: United Way of Central Kansas, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel**
- 11...15th Annual Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament @11:00am
- 11 & 12...SRCA Points Race #10, SRCA Drag strip
- 14...**Chamber Chat, Virtually @2pm on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel**
- 14...Lake Barton Golf Course- Board Meeting @7:00pm
- 15...Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St @11:00am
- 17...**Virtual Chamber Coffee: Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel**
- 17...Sunflower Diversified Services Pancake Feed, 4:00-8:00pm
- 17...Downtown Art & Wine Walk and Summer Street Stroll with Food Trucks from 4:30-7:30pm
- 17...Lake Barton Golf Club- Men's Association ABCD Scramble @6:00pm
- 18 & 19...Pontiac Uprising Race, SRCA Drag strip
- 21...**Chamber Chat, Hosted by Nex-Tech, Virtually @2pm on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel**
- 22...First Day of Autumn
- 22... Great Bend Tribune Women's Expo, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St, from 3:30-7:00pm
- 24... **Virtual Chamber Coffee: Kelly's Garden Sense, Program @9:30am on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel**
- 24-27...Lucas Oil Drag Races, SRCA Drag Strip
- 28...**Chamber Chat: What's up, Great Bend! Virtually @2pm on the Chamber's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel**

## Recurring Events:

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

STAY INFORMED AT [GREATBEND.ORG](http://GREATBEND.ORG)

## "Face Your Shift" with Allie Cartwright

If you are locked in a battle for more time, caught up in a rush until bed, and want out of this vicious cycle, get ready to face your shift!

In this live virtual workshop you will learn the keys to developing a healthy relationship with yourself and with time. Meditation Muse Allie Cartwright teaches you how to get what you truly need for your unique self. You can level up your life naturally and experience all of the joy. You just have to be willing face your shift.

DATES: Thursday September 10th: 8-10 AM & 6-8 PM ; Saturday September 12th 11 AM -1 PM

TICKETS: \$48 LOCALS ONLY: \$20 use coupon code BARTONSTRONG

Register at [www.AllieCartwright.com](http://www.AllieCartwright.com).  
 Questions to [team@alliecartwright.com](mailto:team@alliecartwright.com).

Face Your Shift

## No Show Gala Kickoff



Instead of Buying a table, provide literacy kits for an elementary school (\$400). Instead of a night out supporting UWCK, provide Reality U for a classroom of 8th graders (\$100). Instead of buying raffle tickets for a chance to win, provide a dozen Boxes of Love for a homebound senior (\$50). Text UWCK to 313131 to donate or call 620-792-2403.



## Thank You, teachers!

Missing the Business Showcase? Trust us, so are we! After much deliberation with USD 428, it was decided to cancel this year's annual event. With so much interaction and foot traffic, both parties felt it best to not bring any additional chances of contact and quarantine to the staff, allowing them to focus on the education ahead. We know the value and importance of thanking our teachers and staff, especially this year and will continue to look for ways to connect our business community with our educators. Consider sending a card to area schools or making a public "thank you" using your business social media page. Whatever way you find, we are sure it will be appreciated by the hundreds of educators and supporting staff right here in Barton County.

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Winter storage available through the Chamber

Wondering where to store your RV, boat, antique car, or motorcycle this winter? The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is now accepting reservations for the 2020/2021 Winter Storage season. Reservations are first come, first serve for spaces inside of Expo II located at the Great Bend Expo Complex. All stored items are secured in a locked facility from November 5th, 2020 through March 6th, 2021 with rates starting at \$225. To reserve your spot, please call (620) 792-2401 or email [gbcoc@greatbend.org](mailto:gbcoc@greatbend.org).





# Hospitality adjusts amid COVID-19

Lacey Schofield acknowledged that the effects of COVID-19 “have been rough” on business but the good news is things are looking up.

Schofield is general manager of Best Western Angus Inn, 2920 10th.

“We have lost a lot of business,” Schofield said. “Some examples involved guests that would have

attended the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Show, multiple ball tournaments, weddings, class and family reunions, and several corporate conventions.

“However,” she added, “on the upside, almost all have rescheduled for next year. So, we do have many things to look forward to.”

In mid-August, Schofield noted that Sunday-through-Thursday business “has greatly improved over the last few weeks. On these days, we rely heavily on our truck drivers and work crews. We are fortunate this business has returned, for the most part.”

Nevertheless, weekend business has not yet recovered. Many events that would draw large crowds were canceled.

Since the start of the pandemic earlier this year, prospective guests have been asking questions about the Angus Inn’s cleaning procedures, especially people from areas where the virus is more prevalent. When these

calls come in, Schofield and her staff offer reassurance about their enhanced protocols.

“We have made many changes in the rooms,” the general manager commented. “We have pulled virtually all items that cannot be sanitized, such as pads of paper and pens, laundry bags, amenity trays, etc. And we removed decorative items such as bed scarves and accent pillows.

“In addition, we have purchased an electrostatic sprayer to sanitize all areas in the lodging room after a guest checks out. We want the room to be ready for the next guest. These are just a few examples of the many procedural changes we have in place.”

Schofield, who has worked at the Angus Inn since February 2007, said she has “always loved the hospitality industry. I have wanted to be in the hotel business since I was in high school. I think it started with my love of traveling.”

The fringe benefit is “I have an amazing boss in Loren Unruh and the staff here is fantastic.”

Unruh opened the hotel with 48 rooms and added on twice; now it has 90 rooms, the Courtyard and indoor pool. Originally, the pool was inside the Courtyard but was eventually moved to its current location, which is much easier to secure.

The Courtyard is a “huge piece of the hotel,” Schofield said. “It is a great spot just to hang out, or enjoy the indoor pool, hot tub, video games, pool table, ping pong table and the big-screen TV.”

In addition to reunions, the Courtyard is home to receptions, graduation parties, election-watch parties, vendor shows, corporate and family holiday parties, convention banquets and other meals, and many more events. “My husband and I even had our wedding ceremony there,” Schofield noted.

Pool parties, with up to 25 people, are \$30 per hour. Both pool and Courtyard activities must be booked in advance.

Room amenities and features include free WiFi and Netflix, smart TVs, Blue Ray players, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, coffee makers, hair dryers and ironing boards. A shuttle is provided to guests at no charge.

“And we are pet friendly and smoke free,” Schofield pointed out.

The Page and Perkins also are big attractions for some guests. “They love the convenience of walking across the parking lot for their meals and to have a beverage,” Schofield explained.

## THE CITY OF GREAT BEND

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Electrostatic sprayer for sanitizing

Best Western is a member-owned, non-profit company. Each location is independently owned and operated. The Great Bend property, which employs 20-25 people, was constructed in 1976 and opened in 1977.

During these years, “Great Bend has been a wonderful location for travelers,” Schofield said. “We have a unique situation because three highways converge in one spot – K-96, U.S. 56 and K-156. A lot of people pass through our area.

“There also is a long, long list of activities pertaining to Mother Nature and the big outdoors. This is especially important now because of the importance of social distancing.”

For more information call 620-792-3541.







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## Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic provides mask packs to USD 355 and St. Joseph students and faculty

Going back to school during a global pandemic is a daunting task.

USD 355 and St. Joseph Catholic School administrators, staff, and teachers are working diligently to provide a safe environment in which they provide our students an education, and Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic is assisting in those efforts. The school plans focus on social distancing and mask wearing throughout the schools.

The hospital is providing a mask pack to all students, staff, and teachers at Ellinwood Grade School, Ellinwood Middle/High School, and St. Joseph Catholic School that will include three 3-ply cotton masks with adjustable ear loops, a travel bottle of hand sanitizer that can be attached to a backpack, and an information sheet with protective measures and a symptom checklist. The mask packs will be given to students on the first day of school, August 27th.

"It is critical that different community organizations and agencies work together to protect our students, teachers, and staff. It is also important that parents support the safety measures in place and encourage compliance in their students. Wearing a mask and social distancing are simple ways



to ensure that activities can continue to take place," reports Cassie Stevenson, Infection Prevention Nurse at Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic and USD 355 parent. She has assisted the school administration in best practices and safety protocols, in addition to detailing the process of identification, testing, and contact tracing protocols.

"It is our responsibility and our privilege to help our local schools navigate this return to school," says Kile Magner, Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic CEO. "By providing these masks, we ensure that every student has access to tools that can protect their peers, their parents, their teachers, and their community as a whole."

For more information about the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [ellinwooddistricthospital.org](http://ellinwooddistricthospital.org). For more information about your specific school's reopening, keep an eye out for upcoming parent's meetings or contact your school.

## Rosewood AKTION Club Conducting Drive

Rosewood Miracle Workers AKTION Club wants to brighten the moods of children who require a visit to the hospital. The group is conducting its annual Coloring Book and Crayon Drive from now through Sept. 30. Upon completion of the drive, club members will distribute the donated items to Clara Barton Hospital, Hoisington; Ellinwood District Hospital; and University of Kansas Health System - Great Bend Campus.

"The coloring book and crayon drive is one that we've conducted annually each fall for several years, but we have moved it to a summertime drive," explained Rosewood AKTION Club sponsor Frankie Pelster. "We are excited to be working with each of the Barton County hospitals to make a

difference in children's lives when they may need that extra gesture of support."

### COLORING BOOK AND CRAYON DRIVE

People can drop off coloring book and crayon donations, along with monetary donations for the purchase of coloring books and crayons to two locations in downtown Great Bend. Those locations are Rosewood Furniture Gallery, 1607 Main Street; and Rosewood Bargain Barn, 1215 Main Street.

Rosewood AKTION Club is an affiliate of the national Kiwanis organization that promotes service in action for people with developmental disabilities. The area club allows Rosewood clients to be actively involved in the community and to positively impact the lives of others.

Find more about Rosewood Services online, <http://rosewoodservices.com>

## New Hires & Promotions:

### Watkins, Calcara Chtd, welcomes Kuhlman

The law firm of Watkins Calcara Chtd., in Great Bend, is pleased to announce Jeffrey Kuhlman joined the firm as an associate attorney. Jeff is a western Kansas native who grew up in Ness City, Kansas. He went to Kansas State University and earned a bachelor's degree in History. After graduating from K-State, he went on to earn his law degree, cum laude, in 2015 from Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia.

After law school, Jeff returned to Kansas and was honored by his selection to serve a prestigious two-year term as a judicial law clerk for United States District Court Judge Eric F. Melgren in Wichita. There, he gained invaluable experience in all

phases of the law. Following his clerkship, Jeff worked as a litigation associate at Hinkle Law Firm in Wichita, Kansas for several years, where he litigated a wide variety of cases and appeared in courtrooms across the state. At Watkins Calcara, Jeff's practice will focus on a wide array of civil litigation, including municipal law, constitutional law, commercial disputes, and personal injury.

Jeff and his wife Lauren, who is originally from Albert, have four young children and are happy in their new home



Jeffery Kuhlman

in Great Bend. The Kuhlman's are excited to be closer to their families and to the communities where they were raised.

Mark Rondeau, one of the senior members of the firm, said: "We couldn't be more pleased to have Jeff join our firm. He is a perfect fit for us and for our community. We are fortunate he and his family saw the benefits of coming home to the life and opportunities found here." Jeff can be contacted at Watkins Calcara Chtd., 1321 Main Street, Great Bend Kansas; (620) 792-8231.

### Jessica Kirmer joins MPire Realty Group

Born in Nebraska and raised in Topeka, Jessica Kirmer moved "home" to Claflin, Kan. with her husband in 2007 after graduating from Emporia State University with a degree in education. After five years in the classroom, she decided to apply her child development skills to raising her own family.

Jessica's entrepreneurial and creative skills support these endeavors as well as her own art business called The Pink Dandelion.

Jessica brings energy and enthusiasm to the Central Kansas Real Estate Market. Pairing her knowledge of Barton County with a friendly smile and top-notch customer

service, Jessica looks forward to serving the community and her clients.

"As a Realtor, my first priority is to connect with my clients," said Kirmer. "Buying or selling a home is a big decision in someone's life and I want to make it as enjoyable and stress-free as possible."

While working to build her real estate experience, Jessica and her husband Drew are busy with three boys, Huntley, Holter, and Hollis. An active member

of the community, Jessica is involved in Barton County Young Professionals, has volunteered at the local library, and has served as a leader for Great Bend MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers).

Jessica Kirmer is an agent at MPIRE Realty Group located in Great Bend, Kan.

To connect with Jessica, please call 785-383-2352 or email [jkirmer@mpirerealtyks.com](mailto:jkirmer@mpirerealtyks.com). More information about MPIRE Realty can be found at [www.MPIRErealty.com](http://www.MPIRErealty.com).



Jessica Kirmer

### Joiner Construction adds Gardner as new Roofing Manager

Joiner Construction Inc (JCI) is excited to announce Ryan Gardner as its new Roofing Manager and Sales Representative. Ryan joins JCI from another roofing company where he served as their top salesman for the past 4 years.

Ryan is a graduate from Great Bend High School and received his degree from the University of Central Missouri in Business Marketing and Criminal Justice. He served for the Great Bend Police Department for 5 years and then 12 years for the Kansas Department of Corrections before diving into the roofing construction business.

Ryan and his wife Nicole, live in a rural location between Great Bend and Ellinwood. His son Drexler will be a sophomore at Great Bend High School.

"We believe this to be an outstanding hire for JCI and we feel fortunate to convince Ryan to join our team," says Derek Joiner, Vice President of JCI. "Ryan's record in sales speaks for itself. But in my time with Ryan, it's clear that his values and work ethic are more in line with our company values. Ryan is a Faith-driven and strong family man. Ryan is very detail oriented and thorough. He's not a guy that will over-promise and under-deliver. He will be diligent about serving customers and getting back with them over any concerns they may have."

"We've been fortunate to be serving the local roofing market for over 22 years as Joiner Construction," Joiner continues. "We believe the combination of JCI's longstanding commitment to our community along with Ryan's focus on customer satisfaction will enable JCI to serve our customers better than ever before."

For any roofing, siding, gutter, or window needs, call Joiner Construction at 620-564-2818.



Ryan Gardner

### Tara Bunker joins Adams Brown as Staff Accountant

The certified public accounting firm of Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered is pleased to announce the addition of Tara Bunker to their professional team. After serving as an intern with the firm in 2018 and 2019, Bunker joins the firm as a staff accountant in both the tax and audit departments.

"Welcome to the Adams Brown team full-time, Tara," said Brian Staats, CPA, CGMA, managing partner. "Tara served our clients well as an intern. We're excited to witness her continued professional growth as an accounting professional!"

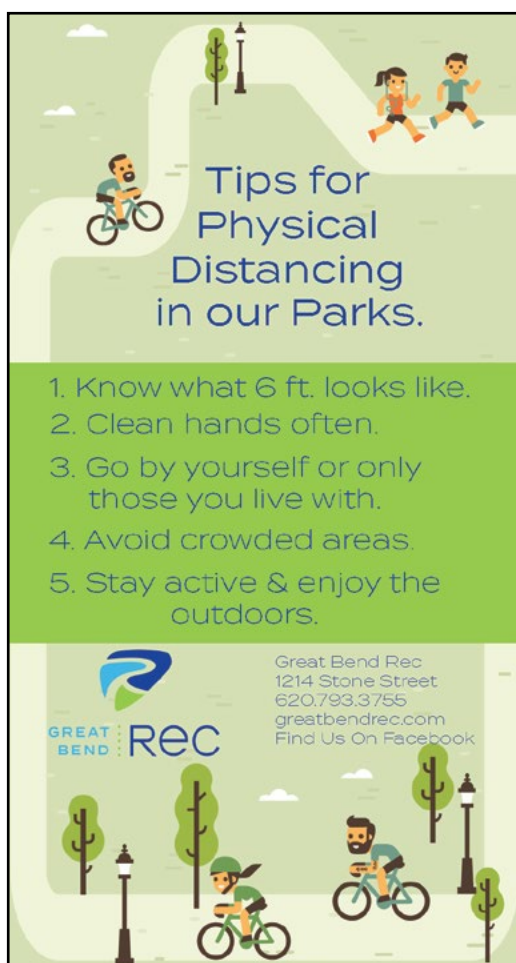
Originally from Macksville,

Bunker graduated magna cum laude with both a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Master of Accountancy from Kansas State University. Outside of the office, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing volleyball, reading, and going to concerts. Bunker is a 2015

graduate of Macksville High School.

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered provides a wide range of traditional and specialized CPA and consulting services to clients throughout the central United States. For more information about Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, please visit [www.abbb.com](http://www.abbb.com).





## Tips for Physical Distancing in our Parks.

1. Know what 6 ft. looks like.
2. Clean hands often.
3. Go by yourself or only those you live with.
4. Avoid crowded areas.
5. Stay active & enjoy the outdoors.

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gbcc@greatbend.org**

## Ambassador Profile: Megan Wells Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate



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

I am a Great Bend native. I have lived in Great Bend all but 3 years of my life so it's definitely the place I call home. My husband Brandon and I have chosen to raise our 3 kiddos here also. Our oldest Taylor will be a senior at GBHS and our younger kids Crew(5) and Luxe(3) are in Pre School and go to Daycare. Being from here has a few perks; we have bunch of friends here raising their kids, and our parents and most of our siblings have chosen to stay here. I would say those things are what keep us here along with the rest of the perks our small town has to offer.

### **Where do you work and what do you do there?**

After owning and operating a Salon for 11 years I chose my new role 3 years ago as a Realtor at Coldwell Banker Sell Real Estate in Great Bend. This has been a calling for awhile so I thought I would start it out part-time and manage to keep my salon. Luckily, knowing so many people and being personable my job took off and I went full-time at a fast pace. One of the most rewarding things about my job is helping clients make the big decision on a place to call Home, to start their new journey and make memories in. I also help clients sell properties. Whether they need to resize, relocate or whatever else it may be, I love helping guide them through the transaction. I am lucky to work in a fun, knowledgeable environment and look forward to the future of Great Bend.

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

It may surprise people that I love to stay busy. Some people may just think I do it just because that has been what has thrown my way but I truly enjoy it. I do better with a lot on my plate.

### **What energizes you and brings you excitement?**

I love to learn as I go in life, that is how things come to me. Action creates momentum and momentum energizes me to keep going and that keeps excitement generating for me.

### **At what job, would you be terrible?**

That is a great question but I would have to say something slow paced or something that doesn't provide a passion for helping others. Oh, and technology, no patience for it when its not working right!

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

I am in my 2nd year as an Ambassador for the Chamber and I would have to say that what I enjoy the most is being a face in our community that I am proud of. We come together to help other local businesses strive to grow and support other local businesses. We have a fun group of all ages that learns, networks and brainstorms ideas off each other.

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

## Barton Co. Farm Bureau's 2020 Friend to Ag

This award recognizes individuals that have made significant contributions to the organization and agriculture. Keith has volunteered his time and ag expertise to the organization at the local, state, national and international level.

Keith serve as Kansas Farm Bureau State Board of Director and has serve as Chairman of American Farm Bureau Federation International Trade Committee. Mr. Miller has traveled overseas four times on international trade missions. Keith Chaired the United States Meat Export Federation and presently is a member of



**Keith Miller**

the Kansas Soybean Commission as well as Rac Committee.

Keith has volunteered his time not only to Farm Bureau but to his church, St. John Lutheran in Ellinwood, USD # 355, and to the community including serving on the Barton County Economic Development Committee, as Barton County Soil Conservation Board member as well as serving for 28 years on the Midwest Energy, Inc Board.

Barton County Farm Bureau wants to honor Keith with this award as a thank you for giving countless hours to the Ag profession, his community, and church.

# Cole Schwarz sworn in as newest Barton Community College Trustee

Local financial planner Cole Schwarz gave his oath of office and joined the Barton Community College Board of Trustees during the board's meeting Tuesday evening.

Schwarz said he believes the college is a tremendous asset to Barton County and central Kansas.

"Student debt has become one of the more significant issues facing today's young adults," he said. "Barton provides young adults the opportunity to acquire quality education for a fraction of the price and gives them a chance to get into the workforce with the experience they need without leaving them in a situation where they have to push back some of life's other goals, such as homeownership or starting a family. It is bringing young adults to our community and providing education to our military."

Schwarz said he will use his experience as a financial planner to bring thoughtful

advice and creative solutions to address the situations brought to the board.

He is originally from Silver Lake, Kan. and attended Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. He then lived in Topeka for a few years before moving to Great Bend, where he began working at Anderson Financial.

"The Great Bend community has been nothing but warm and welcoming to me over the past few years, allowing me to feel at home quickly," he said. "Buying a

house almost two years ago here became a simple decision after the warm welcome; that, and the relationships I have been able to develop with clients and our staff make it easy for me to call Great Bend home."

Schwarz' appointment filled a vacancy on the board left by the late Trustee Mike Boys, who passed away in early June.

For more information about the Barton Board of Trustees, trustees.bartonccc.edu.



**Cole Schwarz**

## Annual Women's Expo around the corner

This marks the 22nd year that area women and businesses alike have eagerly anticipated the annual Great Bend Tribune Women's Expo. Now, this September tradition is just around the corner, set for 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St.

There will be some differences due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendees will be required to wear face coverings as mandated in city-operated facilities like the center (a limited number of masks will be available at the front desk) and the event has been arranged with fewer booths to allow easier social distancing.

"We understand this is inconvenient," said Tribune Publisher Mary Hoisington. "But, this has always been a fun event and we want to make sure it stays that way while keeping everyone safe."

Admission is free and tickets are available at the Tribune office, 2012 Forest, at the door, or online at gbtribune.com/womensexpo.

Hoisington said they do ask attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Barton County Food Bank. Wheatland Electric will be handling the collection again this year as part of their annual Cram the Van food drive event.



"It's an easy, enjoyable way to give a business a boost, chat with current customers and discover new ones," Hoisington said. "The Women's Expo gives area businesses and organizations personal contact with individuals that may not normally walk through their doors. Expo attendees get the chance to learn about products and services they may not otherwise be exposed to."

There will be exhibits, demonstrations, as well as a plethora of door prizes from the vendors. Winners are announced throughout the event.

For more information about this year's Expo, contact the Great Bend Tribune at 620-792-1211.

## GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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### 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](http://www.greatbend.org).

Membership is quick and easy to get started, and it is affordable, too!

For more information on your member benefits or questions, please contact the Chamber office.

Call 620-792-2401 or email [marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org)





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# **VIRTUAL CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE**

**Every Thursday | Program at 9:30 am**

**Tune in on Facebook or YouTube for Virtual Coffees**

**September 3, 2020**

## **MPIRE REALTY GROUP**

At MPIRE Realty Group, our team is committed to keeping our clients the focus of everything we do. Our agents are here to help home buyers navigate one of the most important transactions of their lives with an unmatched attention to detail.

**September 10, 2020**

## **UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL KANSAS**

United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good. United Way envisions a world where every individual has an opportunity to succeed, and entire communities thrive as a result. We're getting a little closer every day, with help from millions of people around the world.

**September 17, 2020**

## **ELLINWOOD HOSPITAL AND CLINIC**

Ellinwood District Hospital is a 23-bed Critical Access Hospital with a 24/7 Emergency Room with 2 beds, providing inpatient acute care, skilled swing bed, and intermediate swing bed care and many outpatient services: physical and occupational therapy, a full service laboratory, and a full range of imaging services – traditional x-ray, CT, mobile mammography, mobile US/sonography, mobile MRI.

**September 24, 2020**

## **KELLY'S GARDEN SENSE**

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 More! Call (620) 282-7170 for a free estimate.

**October 1, 2020**

## **THE CENTER FOR COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION**

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

## **Rosewood Roots and Wings Foundation Announces Downtown Christmas Window Decorating Contest**

Please join us as we bring back Downtown Holiday Window Decorating to help entice shoppers and visitors to our beautiful and historic downtown!

The Rosewood Roots and Wings Foundation is accepting applications now for the Downtown Window Decorating Contest. Retailers

must submit their application by 5:00pm on November 8th to be included in the judging. A panel of seasoned specialists will judge the overall Best Christmas Window. And special People's Choice Awards as the public vote for their favorite via FaceBook like votes. Please see enclosed flyer for more information.