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Outlook Business Journal

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June 5-8
2014

96

June Jaunt
get your "fix" on K-96

For the third year in a row, the regional June Jaunt Festival will bring the City of Great Bend to life during the first weekend of June. From Thursday, June 5th through Sunday, June 9th, thousands of travelers will take in parts of the jaunt from Tribune, Kansas to Ellinwood, Kansas along Highway 96 to experience arts, antiques, cuisine, and music at its grass roots. Since Great Bend is the largest community along the route, the event schedule is busier than ever!

Great Bend Community Coordinator Christina Hayes is not only responsible for the Great Bend events, but also serves as the regional chair for the representatives from each community who collaboratively present the annual festival. "The idea for the festival actually started in Dighton and Scott City based on the antiquing and swap meets happening in other states along rural highways," Hayes says. "We are proud to collaborate with seven other communities to present a long weekend full of good old fashioned family fun and entertainment."

The communities of Tribune, Leoti, Scott City, Dighton, Ness City, Rush Center, Great Bend, and Ellinwood each buy in to the promotional expenses required to present a regional festival. Pamphlets are produced, advertising is placed, and word of mouth spreads about the exciting line-up of activities. New this year is a Community Garage Sale element, which will be incorporated in a majority of the participating towns.

"The City of Great Bend focuses our efforts on both attracting visitors and providing entertainment for local residents," Hayes says. "June Jaunt truly offers something for every age and interest group, and we hope our community comes out to enjoy the festival and try something new."

For families with children, June Jaunt offers lots to see and do. A few of the highlighted events might include the outdoor movie on Friday, June 6th where Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory will be shown at no charge in Jack Kilby Square.

The next day, bring the kids back to the square to check out the Relay for Life Kids Zone with inflatables, face painting, and more. Jumbo yard games, a model train display, and a "Be a Princess" photo booth will keep the family busy all morning. — *Cont. on Page 2*

Arts • Antiques • Crafts • Cuisine • Garage Sales • Music • And More!

— Cont. from Page 1

"Outlook Business Journal"

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There will even be a Children's Stage with performances from

Matthew the Magician and Tricks of Light Fire at various times on Saturday. After eating with one of the concessions vendors, jaunt north down Main Street to check out the Nex-Tech Zoo Fest inside the Great Bend Brit Spagh Zoo before exploring the Parking Lot Flea Market at 2100 Kansas Avenue.

Sunday after a morning rest, join the crowds at Veterans Memorial Park for the Optimist Club Fun Zone with more inflatables, kite flying, and a community barbecue. Coolers are allowed, but no glass. United Way will be selling hot dogs for those who don't want to pack their own picnic.

For those without children, there is still a huge list of activities to check out! Thursday night things will kick off with the Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market and Kansas Speedweek Cruise Night, followed by the City Band Concert at Jack Kilby Square. Friday night, cosmic bowling will be available at Walnut Bowl from 10 p.m. to midnight. But don't stay out too late. Saturday will start early with the 12h Annual MDA Run Because You Can event at the Great Bend Fire Department, followed by the Outdoor Vendor Fair, Flea Market, and Sunflower Diversified Services Community Garage Sale. Saturday at 1:30 p.m., over a dozen teams from local businesses will converge at Jack Kilby Square to compete in the 2nd Annual Great Bend Business Olympics – a wacky spectacle you won't want to miss. Dodgeball tournaments, Model Airplane demonstrations (weather permitting), live entertainment, and many other activities will provide lots to see between events. Saturday night, wind down in the Community Beer Garden while you enjoy free live music in Jack Kilby Square. On Sunday, a Sand Volleyball Tournament and Community Barbecue will bring hundreds to Veterans Memorial Park, while others will be out enjoying the birdhouse tour, scavenger hunt, bead workshop, Gardens Galore event, and more.

Community Coordinator Christina Hayes works tirelessly to organize the huge four-day festival, but she doesn't do it without help. "It takes a lot of people pitching in to pull off all the events that happen during June Jaunt," Hayes says. "Organizations involved include the Great Bend Recreation Commission, the Model Association of Central Kansas (MACK), the GBHS Marketing Class, the Barton County Young Professionals group, the Golden Belt Model Train Club, the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau, the City of Great Bend staff, and countless businesses who give of their time and resources to add something to the festivities."

With more activities than could possibly be listed in one article, business owners and residents are encouraged to pick up one of the Great Bend Schedule of Events pamphlets from the City offices (1209 Williams) or the Chamber Office (1125 Williams) to reference throughout the festival weekend. A complete schedule of events can also be viewed at www.k96junejaunt.com by going to the Great Bend page and clicking the "Events" button.

For more information about June Jaunt, contact Community Coordinator Christina Hayes, chayes@greatbendks.net, and don't forget to like the Explore Great Bend Facebook page and follow @exploregbks on Twitter. —



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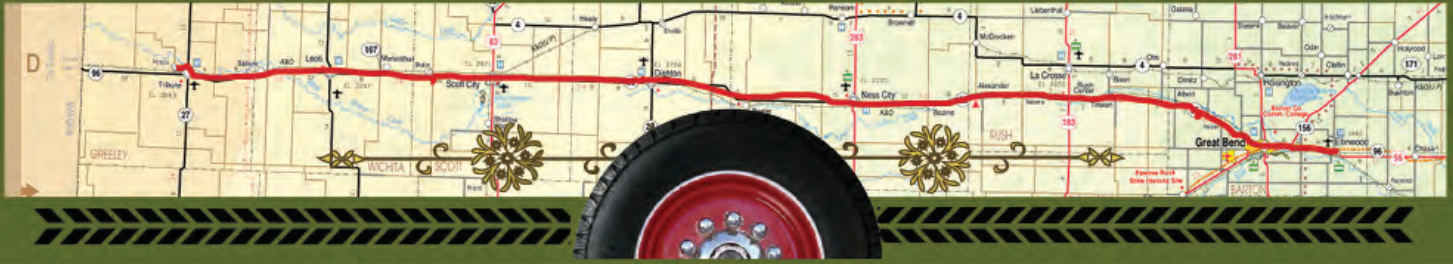


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3rd Annual June Jaunt Festival Promises More Fun Than Ever Before!

Thursday, June 5th

- 5-7 p.m. Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market, Jack Kilby Square
- 7 p.m. Kansas Speedweek Cruise Night & Car Show, Jack Kilby Square
- 8 p.m. Great Bend City Band Concert, Bandshell
Bring your lawn chairs!

Friday, June 6th

- 9:30 p.m. Movie in the Park, Showing Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory, Jack Kilby Square
- 10 p.m. Cosmic Bowling & Putt Putt Golf, Walnut Bowl Family Fun Center, 3100 Washington

Ongoing Events

- Birdhouse Art Tour & Scavenger Hunt
- Barton County Historical Museum & Village
- Wine Tastings at Rosewood Wine Cellar, 1901 Lakin
- Fashion Art Contest & Paint the Dress at Beautiful Beginnings Bridal Boutique, 1523 Main Street
- Great Bend Photo Contest Display at the Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams
- Kansas Wetlands Education Center & Cheyenne Bottoms Tours
- Retail Shopping & Dining at Local Businesses!

Saturday, June 7th

- All Day Vendor Fair, Jumbo Yard Games, Children's Stage, & Live Music, Jack Kilby Square
- 8 to 5 SDS Community Sale, Jack Kilby Square
- 8 to 5 Huge Parking Lot Flea Market, 2100 Kansas
- 8 a.m. 12th Annual MDA Run Because You Can, Great Bend Fire Department, 1205 Williams
- 9 to Noon Open Jam, North Side of Jack Kilby Square
- 9 to 3 Be a Princess Photo Booth, Jack Kilby Square
- 9 to 4 Relay for Life Kids Zone, Jack Kilby Square
- 10 to Noon Cheyenne Bottoms Tours with KWEC Staff
- 10 to 1 GBRC Dodgeball Tourney, City Auditorium
- 10 to 5 Golden Belt Model Trains Display, Barton Arts Council, 1401 Main Street
- 11 to 2 Nex-Tech Zoo Fest, 2123 Main Street
- 1 to Dusk MACK Model Airplane Day, Flying Field, 114 SW 20 Ave (Railroad Avenue & Highway 56)
- 1:30-3 p.m. 2nd Annual Great Bend Business Olympics
- 3-11 p.m. Community Beer Garden, Jack Kilby Square

Sunday, June 8th

- 10 to 5 Sand Volleyball Tournament, Vets Park
- 11 to 2 Community BBQ & Kite Flying, Vets Park
- 1-4 p.m. Gardens Galore, Participating Homes
- 1-4:30 p.m. GBRC Tennis Tournament, Vets Park
- 2-4 p.m. Bead Making Workshop, KWEC

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See the regional schedule of events at www.k96junejaunt.com!

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Duke's Bar & Grill Celebrates Grand Opening with Chamber Ribbon Cutting

Duke's Bar & Grill, located at 619 Main Street in Great Bend, recently celebrated their grand opening with a Chamber Ribbon Cutting ceremony. The restaurant is owned and managed by Amy Ferguson, who greeted Chamber Ambassadors and visitors during the event. "To me, the name for Duke's comes from being prepared to fight. We will fight our way to the top with 'our dukes up' so-to-speak," Ferguson says. "We have great food and a friendly staff that we know our customers will enjoy."

With a huge grand opening bash in early May featuring live music, food and drink specials, and much more, the business has already made quite an impression on a large segment of the population. "We would like to have bands and a DJ on a regular basis," Ferguson says. "It's like throwing a miniature party. When people have fun, they want to come back."

With a change in ownership comes a change in menu, but with all the old favorites, Ferguson says. "We still have Taco Tuesday with homemade taco shells by popular demand, but we've also added new items such as the Chicken Fried Hamburger."

Ferguson and her husband, Darwin, were approached by the previous owner to purchase the businesses when he decided to sell. "It was an opportunity we couldn't pass up, and we've put a lot into cleaning up the restaurant for the public," Ferguson says. "We encourage families to dine with us, as we are a family friendly establishment."

Duke's is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., with occasional food and drink specials. Grill closes at 10 p.m. For more information or to place an order, call Duke's Bar & Grill at 620-792-2619. And be sure to like "the Duke's Bar 'N Grill" page on Facebook!



Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of May, more than 60 members of Barton County Young Professionals gathered at Marmie Ford for a networking mixer, where 20 new members were welcomed. Free beer and tacos, along with a flat screen television giveaway, helped draw an energetic crowd.

In the month of June, several members will be participating in the Great Bend Business Olympics as part of the June Jaunt Festival. The 2013 winners from Champion Service are members of BCYP, so our membership will be there to cheer them on as they defend their title.

On Tuesday, June 17th, new and existing members are invited to a Personal Development Luncheon from 12-1 p.m. at the Pizza Hut Buffet, 4101 10th Street. The topic will be "Life Insurance" and participants will hear an objective presentation from local insurance agent and BCYP member Shawn Panzer. The meeting will not be a sales pitch, but rather an overview of what to consider when purchasing life insurance and why it is important. No advance reservation is required, but each participant pays for their own buffet meal after the meeting has concluded.

Barton County Young Professionals recently surpassed 525 members, and still counting! With lots of exciting volunteer projects and events in the summer months, we encourage employers to get their staff members involved.

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

Want to Join?

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



Want to Host a Young Professionals Event?

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



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Highlighted Events in June

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

- 1... GBRC NBC Hap Dumont Baseball Tournament, Great Bend Sports Complex
- 1... Relay for Life Co-Ed Softball Tournament, Ellinwood Softball Complex, 8 a.m.
- 2... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 2... GBHHH Grief Support Group Meeting, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 2... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 5... Chamber Coffee: Clara Barton Hospital, 250 W. 9th in Hoisington, 9:30 a.m.
- 5... Ribbon Cutting: Thrivent Financial, 1311 Williams, 10:15 a.m.
- 5... Chamber Ambassador Club Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 12 p.m.
- 5-8... June Jaunt Festival, See Schedule of Events on Page 3
- 5... Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market, Jack Kilby Square, 5-7 p.m.
- 5... Kansas Speedweek Cruise Night & Car Show, Jack Kilby Square, 7 p.m.
- 5... Great Bend City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.
- 6-8... Speed Scene Live Nationals, SRCA Dragstrip, Great Bend Expo Complex
- 6... GBPL After School Movie, 1409 Williams, 3:30 p.m.
- 6... GBPL Adults Night Out Movie, 1409 Williams, 7 p.m.
- 7... MDA Run Because You Can, Great Bend Fire Department, 1205 Williams, 8 a.m.
- 7... Nex-Tech Zoo Fest, Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 7... Great Bend Business Olympics, Jack Kilby Square, 1:30 p.m.
- 7... Community Beer Garden & Live Music, Jack Kilby Square, 3-11 p.m.
- 7... Relay for Life Horseshoe Tournament in Ellinwood
- 8... Sand Volleyball Tournament, Veterans Park, 10 a.m. Start
- 8... Community BBQ & Kite Flying, Veterans Park, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 8... Gardens Galore Beautification Fundraiser, Participating Homes, 1-4 p.m.
- 8... KWEC Bead Making Workshop, 592 NE Hwy 156, 2-5 p.m.
- 9... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 9... GBHHH Grief Support Group Meeting, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 11... Free Lunch and Learn "Lung Cancer Updates," Hutchinson Clinic Specialty Building, 514 Cleveland, 12-1 p.m.
- 12... Chamber Coffee: Doonan Peterbilt & GMC of Great Bend, Highway 56 & 156 Junction, 9:30 a.m.
- 12... Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market, Jack Kilby Square, 5-7 p.m.
- 12... Great Bend City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.
- 13... Clara Barton Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament, Dinner & Auction
- 13-14... Relay for Life of Barton County, Jack Kilby Square, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- 14-15... Great Bend Legion Baseball & USSA Softball Tournaments, Great Bend Sports Complex
- 14... Marmie Ford Safety Awareness Day, 1815 10th Sreet, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 15... Submission Deadline for July Issue of *Outlook Business Journal*
- 16... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 16... GBHHH Grief Support Group Meeting, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 16... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 17... Young Professionals Luncheon "Life Insurance," Pizza Hut, 4101 10th, 12 p.m.
- 17... Ribbon Cutting: Seaport Airlines, Great Bend Municipal Airport, 1 p.m.
- 19... Chamber Coffee: SRCA Dragstrip, Great Bend Expo Complex, 9:30 a.m.
- 19... Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market, Jack Kilby Square, 5-7 p.m.
- 19... Great Bend City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.
- 20-21... SRCA Points Race #5, Great Bend Expo Complex
- 20... Shafer Art Gallery Fiesta, Fine Arts Building, 245 NE 30 Rd, 6-8 p.m.
- 21-22... VIP ASA Softball Tournament, Great Bend Sports Complex
- 21... Human eMotion Event, Great Bend Regional Hospital, 514 Cleveland, 6 a.m.
- 23... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 23... GBHHH Grief Support Group Meeting, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
- 23... Flyer Insert Deadline for July Issue of *Outlook Business Journal*
- 26... Chamber Coffee: Angels Care Home Health, Chamber Board Room, 1125 Williams, 9:30 a.m.
- 26... Great Bend City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.
- 28-29... GBRC Youth Softball & Baseball Championship Tournaments, Great Bend Sports Complex
- 30... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main Room 106, 9 a.m.
- 30... GBHHH Grief Support Group Meeting, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.

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Ambassador Profile - Ronda Sjogren

The 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. They also volunteer at numerous Chamber events, such as the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo and the Big Bend Bike Rally. To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact us, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org.



Where I Work

I am the Retail Service Manager at Sunflower Bank, which means that I manage day-to-day operations of the bank, as well as helping customers with their banking needs. I also do medical transcription from home, which I started during my time as a stay-at-home mom.

Educational Background

I am originally from Lindsborg, Kansas. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Finance and Management from Bethany College before working for Bank IV in McPherson, KS and then Phillips Credit Union in Bartlesville, OK before moving to Barton County 13 years ago.

My Family

My husband, Eric, and I have lived in Barton County for 13 years since my husband accepted the position of Elementary School Principal and Assistant Middle School Principal for USD 355 in Ellinwood. We have a 16-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter.

As an Ambassador

I have been an ambassador about a year and a half. I have really enjoyed getting to know the other ambassadors as well as business people in the community. And even though I haven't lived in Great Bend my entire life, it has been fun to see the growth and change over the years.

Hobbies & Interesting Facts

I love spending time with my family and attending activities that my children are involved in. I also enjoy running, and will recently completed my 15th half marathon.

Great Bend High School Named Best High School By U.S. News & World Report

In April, U.S. News and World Report released their annual ranking of the United State's best high schools, and Great Bend High School made the list. "We've always thought we do a pretty good job of educating our students and we keep striving to do better," said GBHS Principal Tim Friess. "It's nice to get a little recognition."



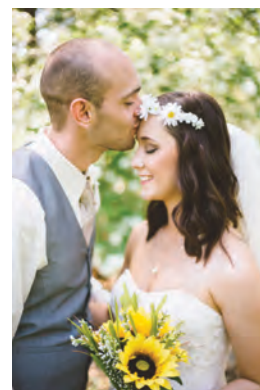
Out of 312 high schools in Kansas, Great Bend was among the 32 that made the national rankings. Two schools received silver badges, and the remainder received bronze badges. The report listed 500 gold ranked schools, based on highest college readiness. Silver ranked schools included high-performing schools with lower college readiness.

East High School in Wichita was ranked first in the state, and Liberal Senior High was ranked second. The remaining 30 schools were not individually ranked. Proficiency in Math and Reading were key factors in ranking. Great Bend is 88 percent proficient in math, higher than both top ranking Kansas schools and 87 percent proficient in reading.

First Assembly of God Welcomes New Youth Pastor, Ryan McCallum

First Assembly of God Church, located at 601 Patton Road, would like to welcome Ryan McCallum as the new Youth pastor. "I have felt called into ministry since the age of 19, with a passion for middle school through college age students," McCallum says.

McCallum graduated from Timberline High School in Boise, ID and attended Boise State University. He later transferred to James River Leadership College, graduating with an Associate of Arts in Leadership. Currently, he is enrolled and pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Church Ministries from Evangel University, expecting to graduate in the summer of 2015. McCallum also serves in the Army Reserves.



Ryan's wife, Kara, is also from Missouri. She graduated from Fox Senior High School in 2011, and then attended James River Leadership College, where she and Ryan met. She has been actively involved in ministry for over two years, and has felt called since she was 19 years old. She and Ryan were just married last month in St. Louis, Missouri.

"We are excited to be in Great Bend working with youth and young adults," McCallum says. "We will be pasturing SALT Youth Ministries on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., along with leading other young adults and missions programs."

For more information about First Assembly of God's staff or ministries, visit www.greatbendfamily.com or call 620-792-5211.

SeaPort Airlines Hosts Reception June 17th

The City of Great Bend recently signed agreements with SeaPort Airlines to provide air service to the Great Bend Municipal Airport, starting in early June. The airline is based out of Portland, Oregon, and will begin daily round-trip service from Great Bend to Wichita and Kansas City.

Please join us for a ribbon cutting photo at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17th in the terminal at the Great Bend Municipal Airport. A brief presentation and cake reception will follow. For more information, visit www.seaportair.com.



Midwest Energy, Inc Celebrates 75 Years of Service

Midwest Energy is a utility cooperative unlike any other. The Midwest Energy you know today has in its DNA more than a dozen electric and natural gas companies, cooperatives and municipal utilities, all brought together to form a cooperative with one goal in mind: providing safe, reliable and efficient energy services for our customer-owners.

It all began in July 1939, when 20 incorporators from the rural areas around Great Bend formed Central Kansas Electric Cooperative. W.D. Essmiller, one of the 20, was elected President of the Board, and oversaw the cooperative's growth from 68 customers in 1940 to more than 4,700 when he left the Board in 1959.

Jack Goodman served as CKEC's General Manager for four decades beginning in 1951, and led the cooperative through a series of acquisitions and mergers, the most notable being the purchase of the investor-owned (and much larger) Central Kansas Power Company, which was finalized in 1981. The form of closing resulted in CKEC merging into CKP, with the surviving corporation renamed Midwest Energy, Inc. The new company served more than 30,000 customers in central and western Kansas.

"Our roots are deep in the Great Bend area, and we've grown the company from there for 75 years," said Earnie Lehman, Midwest Energy's General Manager. "Some of our longest-serving employees are from Great Bend, and we have several second-generation families who have grown up with the company over all those years."

Since 1981, Midwest Energy has grown significantly, expanding its electric and natural gas operations through more than a dozen acquisitions of municipal, investor-owned and cooperative electric and natural gas systems. Today, the cooperative continues to grow, serving more than 50,000 electric and 42,000 natural gas customers in 41 Kansas counties. Great Bend remains a key location for Midwest Energy, with 36 of the company's 288 employees operating from facilities on Patton Road.



ABOVE: More than 3,000 members attended Central Kansas Electric Cooperative's annual meeting in 1953, held at Great Bend's Municipal Auditorium. The meetings were major community events, with elaborate electricity presentations and state-of-the-art door prizes.



LEFT: Don Meyer, a long-time CKEC employee, worked for a time in the power plant in the 1950's; today, his son Mark Meyer works for Midwest Energy as a serviceman.

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Tune in for ChamberConnect Radio Program June 5th

Tune in to KVGB 1590 AM on the first Thursday of every month to hear Eagle Radio's Patrick Burnett discuss the latest Chamber happenings with Marketing Director Rachel Mawhrer. The May edition of ChamberConnect will air Thursday, June 5th at 11:35 a.m.

This month's show will be centered around the 3rd Annual June Jaunt festival, with special guest Christina Hayes, the Community Coordinator for the City of Great Bend.



Midwest Energy, Inc.

It's in our Nature to Play!

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



"Great Bend ... It's In Our Nature To Play!" That's one of the great tag lines from the GBCVB's marketing plan and one we love to use as we promote Great Bend to visitors of all kinds.

Lots of people come to Great Bend to play. Reunions, wedding parties, drag racing enthusiasts, and ball teams fill our hotel rooms, restaurants and businesses during the summer months. Great Bend can accommodate reunions of every size. Small families plan get-away weekends around the hotel pool and a visit to Brit Spaugb Zoo & Raptor Center. Large family & class reunions make full use of the facilities and services at the Great Bend Convention Center. Wedding planners find romantic venues, local entertainers, catering & reception services, and lodging to suit every budget.

Great Bend has local ball teams competing on ball fields all over the city this summer. And with the addition of the brand new Great Bend Sports Complex, Great Bend is becoming a real tournament destination for families and players. Tournaments bring in lots of people who are looking for things to do, places to eat and a comfortable hotel room. Great Bend can offer all of this and more.

Ballplayers and their families are good business for Great Bend and so are the racing fans who spend weekends here enjoying the sport of drag racing. Visitors and residents alike soak up the sun and watch the dragsters run at Sunflower Rod & Custom Drag Races at the Expo Complex. The drag races are one of Great Bend's unique attractions.

Check out what's happening in Great Bend. Visit us on Facebook: Facebook.com/GreatBendKS Find us on Twitter: Twitter.com/GreatBendKS or contact the GBCVB by email: cvb@visitgreatbend.com or phone 620-792-2750. The GBCVB web site is at www.VisitGreatBend.com and our mobile site is m.visitgreatbend.com. Both website and mobile site contain the new interactive map.

Marmie Ford Presents Safety Day June 14th

Marmie Ford, located at 1815 10th Street in Great Bend, will host a Safety Awareness Day on Saturday, June 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This FREE community event will include car seat safety inspections, K-9 demonstrations, child identification kits, Bumpy Knuckles the Clown, a live remote radio broadcast from 10 a.m. to noon, and lots of emergency vehicles on site for you to explore. Come see a fire truck, ambulance, ATV, and police car up close! Safety is key at Marmies, and this free event will help residents learn what it means to be safe.

For more information about Marmie's and their multiple dealerships, visit www.marmies.net or call 800-284-4941.

Beautification Committee Presents Gardens Galore Fundraiser June 8th

The Great Bend Beautification Committee will present its annual Gardens Galore event on Sunday, June 8th from 1-4 p.m. Six residences will be available for tours around the City of Great Bend. Maps and addresses for the six homes are provided on the tickets, which are available for \$8 per person in advance from the Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, or from any garden location on the day of the tour. Proceeds benefit the Great Bend Beautification Committee and their projects to improve the look and feel of our community.



GARDEN LOCATIONS:

Fleske Residence, 4508 Quail Creek
Martin Residence, 3900 17th Street
Boeckman Residence, 3712 17th Street
Leiker Residence, 3718 McKinney Drive
Kuhn Residence, 2112 Lincoln Street
Lang Residence, 2301 Kansas Avenue

The Beautification committee coordinates projects that improve the visual appeal our community. Projects vary from year to year. The committee also gives out the Beautification Award to businesses who make significant strides to improve the look of their storefront location. For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 620-792-2401.

Light Up the Sky for the Fourth of July!

To celebrate Independence Day on July 4, 2014, the City of Great Bend - along with Sunflower Diversified Services and many other sponsors - will host a Community Fireworks Display at the Great Bend Expo Complex at approximately 9:30 p.m. Donations are currently being solicited to help fund this Community Fireworks Display (no taxpayer dollars are used to pay for the show).

Sunflower Diversified Services encourages businesses and individuals to help light up the sky on the Fourth of July! Checks can be mailed to Sunflower Diversified Services, 1521 K-96 Highway, Great Bend, KS 67530. To donate, call Connie Oetken, 620-792-1325.

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*Certain restrictions apply. See store for details. Nex-Tech Wireless is eligible to receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in designated areas. As a result, Nex-Tech Wireless must meet reasonable requests for service in these areas. Questions or complaints concerning service issues may be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0027.



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Kansas Doors Welcomes New Sales Manager

Kansas Doors, Inc. is pleased to welcome Justin Mawhirter as their new Sales Manager. The locally-owned company has store-fronts in Great Bend and Dodge City, with their main office at 5223 10th Street in Great Bend.

Mawhirter is a Great Bend High School graduate of 2003, with an Associate of Applied Science from Butler Community College. After working in the Plumbing, HVAC, and construction industries for over six years, he is no stranger to home improvement.

"We are so pleased to have Justin on our Sales team, especially given his vast experience with home improvement and remodeling," owner Jim Gretz says. "His personality and customer service focus will be a great addition, and we know he'll do a good job serving our clients in Central and Western Kansas."

Kansas Doors specializes in commercial and residential doors and windows, but their product lines extend far beyond that. They sell and install overhead doors, industrial doors, security gates, gate operators, walk-through doors, commercial operators, entry/front doors, storm doors, garage doors, patio doors, awnings, patio covers and patio awnings.

Kansas Doors, Inc. is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed from 12-1 p.m. daily. They are also available on evenings and weekends by appointment for consultations. For more information or to request a free quote, contact Mawhirter at 620-793-7600 or jmsales@rural-tel.net. Also be sure to like their page on Facebook!



Cornerstone Orthodontics Supports Soles for Souls with Shoe Drive

From now until the end of June, Cornerstone Orthodontics will be collecting new or gently used shoes in an effort to help fight the impact of poverty and devastation.



Soles4Souls is a global not-for-profit organization that distributes shoes and clothing to people in need, both in the U.S. and overseas. They also sell the used shoes and clothing to micro-enterprise organizations who, in turn, provide shipping, financing, inventory and training to support small businesses in countries with very few jobs.

Soles4Souls distributes shoes to disaster relief areas, orphanages, homeless shelters, abuse shelters, inner city hospitals, and micro-enterprise organizations.

Cornerstone Orthodontics offers metal braces, clear braces, Invisaline, self-ligating braces and more. Their highly trained and qualified staff uses the latest technology, such as digital x-ray equipment, to ensure accuracy and efficiency with every treatment plan. Cornerstone also accepts all types of insurance and offers flexible payment plans to accommodate every budget. For more information or to donate new or gently used shoes for charity, visit www.cornerstoneorthodontics.com or call 620-792-4217.

CPCS Welcomes New Networking Specialist

Central Plains Computer Service recently hired Networking Specialist Terry Crouch, from Los Angeles, California. Prior to working at CPCS, Crouch worked in the I.T. profession for 22 years at California companies specializing in IT consulting and problem solving for both local and wide area computer networks. He holds certifications in Microsoft and Juniper. Crouch grew up in Fresno, CA and moved to Great Bend from LA this year to reconnect with family and continue work in the IT profession. He has a passion for making technology work for businesses, local communities, as well as individuals. In his free time he enjoys playing the guitar, listening to music and golfing.



For more information, call Central Plains Computer Service at 620-793-5398 or visit www.cpcsgb.com.

Schoendaler Completes School of Banking

Eric Schoendaler, Loan Officer, for First Kansas Bank in Hoisington, graduated from the 2014 School of Banking Fundamentals in Topeka, Kansas. The School of Banking Fundamentals is sponsored by the Kansas and Nebraska Bankers Associations, and is designed to instruct students in core banking concepts as they relate to the overall functioning of a bank. Completion of this course assists students in developing skills that will allow them to better serve their communities, customers and bank. Eric is the son of Ron and Deloris Schoendaler from Grinnell, Ks. While growing up, Eric worked in the family farming operation near Grinnell. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Fort Hays State University. Eric was on the Deans honor roll at Fort Hays State University. First Kansas Bank has offices in Hoisington, Claflin and Great Bend. For more information, call 620-793-7005.

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Masters Designation Awarded to Technicians at Two Local Pest Control Companies

The Kansas Pest Control Association, Inc. recently announced that 21 pest management professional earned the designation of KPCA Master Technician. Technicians from two local companies are proud to announce that they were among the elite group of professionals who participated in the program. From Champion Service in Great Bend, Kyle Roberts is now a Master Technician. From Sunflower Services in Otis, Mark Havaty, Warren Meitler, Shonda Meitler, and Robert Trapp are all Master Technicians.

The program is only the third of its kind in the United States, and is designed and administered by the KPCA and Kansas State University to provide in-dept, hands-on training using state-of-the-art equipment. This series of workshops investigates major pest groups, including blood feeders, rodents/wild-life, termites, commercial/stored product pests, cockroaches, pest ants, occasional invaders, flies, and more.

"The technicians who participated can now say they are truly top in their industry," says Travis Aggson, A.C.E., president of the Kansas Pest Control Association. "The programs conducted were advance classroom and hands-on situations that usually only scientists and researchers are able to conduct. These technicians should be proud of this accomplishment."

The Master Technician class includes classroom study of life cycles, environmental impact, pesticide safety and health issues, chemical calculation, as well as insect identification under a microscope, chemical experiments, and hands on treatment demonstrations.

For more information about the designation or to schedule a consultation with one of the Master Technicians, contact Champion Service at 620-792-4351 or Sunflower Services at 785-526-7185. You can also follow both companies on Facebook.



Insurance Planning Named Agency of Year

Insurance Planning Inc. was recently named the Region Agency of the Year for 2013 by the United Fire Group (UFG), an insurance company and its subsidiaries that are engaged in the business of writing property and casualty insurance and selling annuities.

"It's a great honor to be named Agency of the Year," said Larry Caspers, President of Insurance Planning Inc. "We have a great working relationship with UFG and it is always nice to be recognized for our accomplishments. UFG is a user-friendly company and we are proud to represent them."

Insurance Planning was founded in 1968, and has more than 40 years of experience serving the business and personal insurance needs of western Kansas residents. They are the largest independent insurance agency in the region and have four convenient locations to better serve their clients. In Great Bend, Insurance Planning is located at 1901 12th Street, 620-792-1297.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrates Successful Bowling Fundraiser

Big Brothers Big Sisters would like to recognize Bretly Steinert, the top fundraiser for the recent Bowl for Kids Sake event. Steinert is a first grade student at Roosevelt Grade School in Hoisington. Although this was his first year to participate, he collected \$557, including a small contribution of his own money he raised working for his grandmother, PoEllen Anderson. They were members of the CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions team, which was also the top fundraising team this year.



Shown in the photo is Diane Shoemaker, Area Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters, as she presents Bretly with the top prize, a television donated by Cornerstone Automotive.

Second place fundraiser was Amy Hofeling, with the Farmers Bank & Trust team. She received an Android tablet donated by Bauer Computers. Thanks to all the participants and sponsors!

Big Brothers Big Sisters helps boys and girls, most of whom are considered at-risk and live in single parent families, achieve their full potential through long-term personal relationships with carefully screened and caring volunteers. For more information about getting involved as a "Big" for a child in Central Kansas, contact Shoemaker at 620-797-5005 or dshoemaker@ksbbbs.org.



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Make a MOVEment Event Returns July 12th

In an effort to provide continued services to children and their families, and to further educate the community, the Dell Hayden Memorial Child



Advocacy Center, part of the Family Crisis Center, is working with local businesses to host the "Make A MOVEment" fundraiser on Saturday July 12th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. This fundraiser will be used to support victims of child sexual abuse and to raise awareness within the communities it serves.

The "Make A MOVEment" fundraiser encourages individuals to participate in their activity of choice (i.e. walking, running, Jeep/ATV riders, motorcyclists, bicyclists, and car enthusiasts). Any individual can participate by simply donating a new stuffed animal or new blanket to the CAC when you meet at your designated location for your activity. Routes will be established in which individuals can participate based on their activity of choice, and everyone will meet up back at the Barton County Fairgrounds for some family friendly fun and activities.

In addition to the activities at the Fairgrounds, there will be a drawing for donated prizes valuing over \$10,000. Tickets for this drawing will go for a suggested donation of \$20 each and can be purchased at the Family Crisis Center, Broadway & Main in Great Bend. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.family-crisiscntr.org/ChildAdvocacyCenter or call 620-603-6515.

Sunflower Bank & BCC Recognize Klima as Outstanding Graduate & Employee

Jordan Klima, an employee of Sunflower Bank, was named one of Barton Community College's 2014 Outstanding Graduates. Klima was presented with an award and asked to address his fellow graduates during the 44th commencement ceremony on May 16th. Klima shared inspiring words with his classmates. "There is not a community college out there that cares more about their students than Barton," he said. "Life is too short to be unhappy. Cut out your negative influences and be that positive influence on others' lives."

Klima is the son of Rhonda and Dennis Klima. He is employed at Sunflower Bank and will transfer to Fort Hays State University where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in finance. While at Barton, he competed for the Barton Forensics Team, served as a board member for the Community Service Student Organization and was the vice president for PTK. His career goals include working in the banking industry and becoming a chief financial officer.

For more information about Sunflower Bank and its many services, visit www.sunflowerbank.com or call 620-792-2181.

Cheyenne Travel Now Proudly Offering International Travel Protection Insurance

Travel Insured International, a privately held travel insurance supplier, recently designated Cheyenne Travel / Please Go Away Vacations as one of their premier international travel insurance providers. Cheyenne Travel/Please Go Away Vacations offers escorted group travel programs to all seven continents, as well as independent travel experiences with travel protection insurance available. The locally owned company was founded in 1966. To schedule your next vacation, contact the agency at 800-362-9347.

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June 5, 2014

Clara Barton Foundation • 256 W. 9th, Hoisington
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Clara Barton Hospital Foundation was founded in 1990 with its mission to secure and expend financial aid to Clara Barton Hospital. The Foundation is celebrating 21 years of the community coming together for the benefit of quality rural health care. The 21st Annual Benefit – Golf Tournament, Dinner and Auction will be held June 13th!

June 12, 2014

Doonan Peterbilt GMC • Hwy 56 & 156 Junction

Being in business since 1947 and presently employing 41 people, Doonan Peterbilt/GMC continues to supply the heavy duty and light duty market in our community in sales, parts and service. Our employees bring over a combined 750 years of experience to our customers.

June 19, 2014

S.R.C.A. Dragstrip • Great Bend Expo Complex

The SRCA Dragstrip right here in Great Bend was home of the first ever NHRA National Event in 1955, which hosted 219 drag racers and 15,000 spectators! With numerous improvements and maintenance over the years, races currently take place about twice per month from March to October. See the full schedule of races at www.SRCADragStrip.com.

June 26, 2014

**Angels Care Home Health at the
Chamber Office, 1125 Williams**

Angels Care Home Health is a Medicare certified home health agency providing skilled nursing physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy to residents of Great Bend and the surrounding areas.

July 3, 2014

Jacam Chemical • Chamber Office, 1125 Williams

Jacam is a chemical manufacturer headquartered in Sterling, KS, that serves the oil and gas industry. More than half of Jacam's 400 employees work in Kansas, with 13 working at its Great Bend warehouse.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

McDonald's

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.

Employment – Barton County	March 13	March 14
Labor Force	16,260	17,040
Employment	15,581	16,414
Unemployment	679	627
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	3.7%
KS Unemployment Rate	5.8%	4.9%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report	March 13	March 14
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$429,688	\$418,217
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$218,214	\$215,153

Building Permits	March 13	March 14
Commercial – GB	5	6
Residential - GB	10	42

Sources:

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

