



**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

# OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE

*online* 

Inspiring our Members to

**CREATE**    
**& INNOVATE**

**at the 98th Annual Chamber Banquet & Awards**

**cre·ate** /krē'āt/  
*verb*

1. bring (something) into existence.

**in·no·vate** /'inə,vāt/  
*verb*

1. make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products.

The actions of these two words embody all that we, as a community, must continue to do in 2020 in order to thrive!

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is proud to present "Create & Innovate," at the 98th Annual Chamber Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, February 22nd, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street. The evening will celebrate accomplishments of 2019 and inspire those in attendance to dig deep when considering ways to create and innovate not only within their own businesses but within the community of Great Bend, within Barton County and the state of Kansas.

Thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Spectrum CPA Partners and Chamber Ally Sponsor, First Kansas Bank, the banquet will feature a look into what our members are doing and plan to do in 2020 in the way of creating and innovating their business and community, and what is needed to accomplish their goals! In addition, Tucky Allen, Business Services Director/Rapid Response Coordinator for Kansas WorkforceONE will deliver keynote presentation titled "Workforce Innovation." Tucky will walk attendees through the maze of workforce development and address the hard truth that cultivating the workforce now requires a different approach when recruiting and sustaining that workforce. Low unemployment brings low skilled jobseekers. Now, more than ever, employers have to be ready to take an unskilled jobseeker and give them the tools to become a valued and energetic employee. Seeing potential and developing that potential into tangible skills requires partnership and programs designed to meet your needs. Kansas WorkforceONE is "the" source for a well-trained and competitive workforce qualified to meet the needs of employers both now and in the future creating economic growth and vitality.

Following a delicious steak dinner prepared by A & G Catering with cupcakes created by the talented Kat King, and our keynote speaker, the evening will conclude with the highly anticipated announcements of community award winners for Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, and NextGen Leader of the Year, as well as a special Legacy Award. Visit [greatbend.org](http://greatbend.org) to reserve a table or purchase individual tickets. Or, stop by the Chamber office, 1125 Williams, during normal business hours (Mon-Fri; 9AM-3PM).

# **Office Products Inc., Fuller Industries team up to serve customers**

Two Great Bend-based companies have joined forces to provide virtually all the products and services that businesses of any size may need.

Office Products Inc., a family-owned business, is now an Authorized Distributor for the full line of Fuller Industries LLC commercial cleaning products. OPI recently celebrated its 60th anniversary and Fuller also has been a fixture here for decades.



Kenny Vink, OPI co-owner, and Brett Hughes, Fuller vice president of sales and marketing, encourage central Kansans to support this new partnership in the spirit of "Buy Local/Buy Kansas." Terry Vink, Kenny's brother, views this partnership as "another building block in encouraging people to buy local. And we will make it as convenient as possible."

"Customers can expect better pricing and convenience when placing an order in an OPI store or on our website. They can also just give us a call and we will deliver, as always." The two companies mesh well together to serve other local and area businesses, Hughes said. "We complement one another to bring the best in products and services to the business community," Hughes commented. "Anyone who supports this venture is helping keep local dollars in our local communities. These dollars multiply throughout the area, which strengthens the tax base. "We wanted a distributor right here in Great Bend and OPI is a perfect fit," he added. "Three generations of the Vink family are the backbone of OPI; they know their business and they know their customers. This partnership provides the best in office products and supplies, along with Fuller's building-maintenance solutions."

Fuller commercial products include general and specialty cleaners, floor care and disinfectants, as well as mops, brooms and brushes.

OPI's product and service list is lengthy; a few highlights include computers, networking, copiers and other up-to-date technology; office supplies and furniture; graphic design; copying; and banners and vehicle wraps.

For example, he said, Fuller products will be linked to the extensive OPI website, [www.opikan.com](http://www.opikan.com). OPI supplies pricing information and Fuller offers product descriptions. "The extensive catalogs from both businesses will be in one place," Terry said. "Customers can choose the way they want to order. And if anyone wants to set up a schedule for the purchase and/or delivery of specific products, we would be happy to sit down and talk with them."

OPI locations are 1204 Main in Great Bend; 516 Broadway in Larned; 724 N. Main in Russell; and 1218 E. 27th in Hays. The Fuller Outlet Store remains open to serve walk-in customers.

# Rosewood Employees Awarded for Combined **115 YEARS** of Service

Thirteen Rosewood Services employees achieved milestone work anniversaries in 2019. They were recognized during the employee Christmas party this month, representing a total of 115 years of service.



Rosewood employees reaching 20 years of service this year were Andy Hammond and Judy Shelton. Achieving 15 years of service was Linda Burton. Janice Folkerts and Kenneth Shelton were each recognized for 10 years of service. Kendra Beakey, Dan Haselhorst, Juanita Heinrich, Amy Kilwein, Ashley Mallow, Melissa Swift, Patricia White and Tandy Webb were each awarded plaques for five years of service.

"The large group of employees we recognize this year represent longevity and consistency in providing supports and care to those we serve," said Rosewood Services Executive Director Tammy Hammond. "I appreciate each and every one of them for the efforts they give everyday in making a positive difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities."

*Pictured are six Rosewood Services employees who received their service award plaques at this year. Back row, left to right: Rosewood Senior Director Vicki Schmitt, Director of Service Amanda Hammond, Dan Haselhorst, Executive Director Tammy Hammond. Front row: Juanita Heinrich, Tandy Webb, Linda Burton, Melissa Swift, and Amy Kilwein. Those awarded who could not attend because of work or other commitments were: Kendra Beakey, Ashley Mallow, Patricia White, Janice Folkerts, Kenneth Shelton, Andy Hammond and Judy Shelton.*

## **Central Kansas CASA, Inc. Named Winner at 2019 Fourth Quarter** Giving Meeting for 100+ People Who Care



Central Kansas CASA, Inc. is pleased to announce they are the 2019 fourth quarter recipient of the 100+ People That Care of Barton County group. Members

of the group selected Central Kansas CASA, Inc. from three charitable organizations who presented. The mission of Central Kansas CASA, Inc. is to serve as an advocate for abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities in Russell, Barton, Stafford, Rice and Ellsworth counties. CASA volunteers speak for the best interest of a child until a safe, loving and permanent home is found. These volunteers foster a personal, consistent relationship with the child, as their schools, foster homes, and therapists may change throughout their case.

Central Kansas CASA, Inc. plans to utilize the funds to recruit, train, and maintain volunteers to serve six additional children. Volunteers receive 30+ hours of training and materials and also require certification paperwork and additional in-services for retention. CASA currently has 30

certified volunteers, who serve a family during the length of their case, anywhere from two months to ten years. Their need for volunteers continues to be great, as 140 children remain on their list, with 46 served in Barton County.

To learn more about Central Kansas CASA, please contact staff at (620) 792-5544, and be sure to like the organization's [Facebook page](#). The next giving meeting for the 100+ People Who Care group will be held on Tuesday, February 11th, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., at the Best Western Angus Inn Courtyard. At that time, representatives from Central Kansas CASA will return to provide an update on their progress utilizing the \$10,000 gift. Members will also vote to select and nominate local, charitable organizations to receive future funds. More details can be found on the group's website, [www.100bartoncounty.org](http://www.100bartoncounty.org), or on their [Facebook](#) page.





## FEATURED AMBASSADOR

**Kris Sundahl**

### About Chamber Ambassadors:

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Club is made up of 30 men and women from the Great Bend business community who represent the Chamber in a number of ways.

They host the weekly Chamber Coffees, 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 and Hemp Expo, Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament and the Annual Banquet and Meeting.

To find out how you can become a member of the Ambassador Club, contact Lee Ann June at the Chamber office, 620-792-2401,

[marketing@greatbend.org](mailto:marketing@greatbend.org), or  
[www.greatbend.org/ambassadors](http://www.greatbend.org/ambassadors)

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

I grew up in Great Bend and have many friends and family in the area. This is why I moved back home a little over a year ago to be closer to family and build my business in my hometown. Being back has allowed me to get involved in the community in so many ways.

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

I have been a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Investments for since 2016. At Edward Jones, we focus on serving the financial needs of individual investors of all ages and financial means.

My primary goal is to help individual investors develop an investment strategy geared toward their unique, long-term goals. Whether you need to save for a child's college education, reduce taxes or plan for retirement, I can help.

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

I officiate college basketball.

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

Coaching my boys and other kids in youth sports has been a very rewarding side passion of mine. I coach baseball, basketball, and I am even learning about how to coach soccer as my boys love it. It is very rewarding seeing the life lessons you can instill in kids through sports.

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

Well, you probably wouldn't want to hire me as a contractor! Honestly though, any job where I wasn't around people I would be terrible at.

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

I am starting my second year as an Ambassador. I have really enjoyed being a part of the group as it allows me to give back to the community and be involved with multiple businesses in town. Most importantly for me though, is the relationships and friendships I have developed through my time as an Ambassador with our Ambassador group as well as other people in the community. I look forward to continuing this most of all.



## March 7 date set for next **Legislative Coffee**

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce recently announced that it will host a Legislative Coffee event in the coming weeks, designed to give local constituents the chance to network directly with their elected officials serving in Topeka.

The date for the next 2020 Legislative Coffees will be

Saturday, March 7th held at 10 a.m. in the Spray-Holt Family Board Room at the Chamber office, 1125 Williams in downtown Great Bend.

This event is open to the public. The 2020 Legislative Coffees are sponsored by Hutchinson Regional Medical Center.



# **Chrest awarded** Patriot Award

Aflac Insurance District Manager AJ Chrest was recognized and given an award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) January 27th at the Aflac office in Great Bend. Chrest was given the Patriot Award for being a supervisor that supports employees that serve in the National Guard or Reserve through flexible schedules.

Davis Jimenez works at the Great Bend Aflac office and also serves in the military. Jimenez nominated Chrest for the award. "My Aflac team back home kept me up to date on everything," said Jimenez. "The care packages, the Doritos, the Oreos, the letters, were all amazing."

The ESGR, a Department of Defense office, is comprised



of volunteers. The group promotes employer support for the Guard and Reserve by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

"We appreciate Davis for being deployed two times to the Middle East," said Mike Frederiksen with ESGR. "All these servicemen and servicewomen are worried about their jobs. You (Chrest) make it so he does not have to worry about it."



## **TCI** connecting you to your customers 24/7

TCI Answering Service is now offering Live Web Monitoring. This service monitors your website in real-time. They are able to capture leads that you might normally miss after hours. Giving your customers a quick and easy way to reach you. Chats are transcribed automatically, saved and emailed to you after every chat.

For more information on this and other services available, call Shelly Peacock, owner, at 620-617-4238, [shelly@tciansweringservice.com](mailto:shelly@tciansweringservice.com), or [www.tciansweringservice.com](http://www.tciansweringservice.com)

# Gotsche enters GBHS Hall of Fame, career and community impact celebrated

For more than 10 years, Great Bend High School has been proud to honor the accomplishments and career achievements of its graduates through the Great Bend High School Hall of Fame awards. On Friday, January 3, the community celebrated the induction of Steve Gotsche with a luncheon, followed by the official induction that evening as the Great Bend Panthers took on Buehler on the basketball court.



While Gotsche's accomplished and extensive professional golf biography impressed all in attendance, comments of Gotsche's community involvement and generosity left a lasting impact as guests departed.

Gotsche earned nine invitations to the US Open, 70 mini-tour wins, and celebrated many other milestones while on the PGA and Nike tours. While these wins are very impressive, the community remembers his impact at home, in Great Bend. Gotsche made a lasting impact as golf coach at Barton Community College, Club Professional at Stoneridge Country Club, and mentor to many young golfers. Gotsche was a dedicated volunteer for Kars for Kids, Secret Santa, and the Perfect Attendance Bikes Program for USD 428. In his role at Stoneridge, he assisted many local non-profits in their fundraising efforts by administering top-notch golf tournaments.

During the luncheon, Gotsche shared stories of his path to the PGA as well as personal remarks about his respect for the game, instilled in him by several high school coaches and mentors. Gotsche also took time to express his gratitude to unnamed guests in the room

who were financial sponsors in the early stages of his career, helping to make his dreams a reality.

## Great Bend High School Hall of Fame Inductees:

2008 - Skip Yowell, John Keller and Jack Kilby

2009 - Jack Bowman, Sean Murphy and Tim Weiser

2010 - Jenny Allford and Glenn Opie

2011 - Don Halbower and Dan McGovern

2012 - Karla (Bender) Leibham and Bill McKown

2013 - Allen Keiswetter and Celia LaBranche

2014 - George Nossaman and Randy Goering

2015 - Shannon Schartz and Ty Cobb

2016 - Jean Cavanaugh and Mike Goss

2017 - Larry Becker and Jim Calcara

2018 - Dr. Matt Friedeman

2019 - Steve Gotsche

Gotsche was officially welcomed into the Hall of Fame Friday evening, center court at the Panther Basketball Game. A plaque highlighting Gotsche's career and accomplishments joins to the 23 other Hall of Fame members on display in the Jack Kilby Commons at Great Bend High School.



# GIVING TUESDAY Campaign raises over \$214,000 for area non-profits

Golden Belt Community Foundation just completed its sixth Giving Tuesday campaign, wrapping up and announcing the results during a Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Coffee Thursday morning.

Giving Tuesday started as a day for anyone, anywhere to give, and it's grown into the biggest giving movement in the world. Giving Tuesday harnesses the generosity of millions of people around the world to support the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live. Celebrated on the Tuesday following U.S. Thanksgiving, Giving Tuesday inspires millions of people across the globe to show up and give back to causes and issues that matter to them.

This year over 450 gifts were made to support 90 local charitable organizations and endowment funds raising a total of \$214,470.42. "This year marked GBCF's 6th year to be a Giving Tuesday partner," stated Christy Tustin, Executive Director, "and again this year we invited all charitable organizations in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford counties to participate."

Tustin further explained that there were 14 new organizations participating, and that each organization chose whether to get any gifts received as a grant back to their organization - or to use the gifts to build their endowment fund at GBCF. About half of the organizations will be receiving the gifts as grants to be put to immediate use supporting a wide variety of missions and causes.

"GBCF's Giving Tuesday campaign is only possible because of everyone who supported a cause they care about," said Tustin, "thank you for your support, participation, and spreading the word about Giving Tuesday."

The "All In" award and a \$100 grant was given to Locust Grove Village in La Crosse, which had 100% of its board of directors donate on Giving Tuesday.

A new award this year was the Most Generous City award, which was calculated with gift totals by zip code per capita. Olmitz received the 2019 Most Generous City award and the foundation will make a grant of \$2,500 to an organization or project in that community.

For questions about Golden Belt Community Foundation or Giving Tuesday, please contact the foundation at [gbcf@goldenbeltcf.org](mailto:gbcf@goldenbeltcf.org) or (620) 792-3000.

## 2019 Top Ten Giving Tuesday organizations:

- 1) Forever Rush County Endowment \$28,787.66
- 2) Barton County Emergency Aid Assoc. \$16,425.00
- 3) Almost Home, Inc. \$14,739.48
- 4) Forever Rozel & Burdett Endowment \$11,621.83
- 5) Prairie Godmother Funds \$10,804.88
- 6) Holy Family School \$10,804.10
- 7) United Way of Central Kansas \$7,103.17
- 8) Sunflower Diversified Services Foundation \$6,641.97
- 9) Golden Belt Humane Society \$6,519.75
- 10) Family Crisis Center \$5,543.82



# WELCOME to Our **NEWEST** Chamber Members

## KANSAS TROPHY EXPERIENCE

Trevor Olsen, Owner  
54B SE 10 Road  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
(620) 786-1482

[kansastrophyexperience@gmail.com](mailto:kansastrophyexperience@gmail.com)

**Hunting Guide, Lodging**

## ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Geneva Benton - Walk Manager  
1820 E. Douglas Ave.  
Wichita, Kansas 67214  
(316) 267-7333 (work)

[gebenton@alz.org](mailto:gebenton@alz.org)

**Non-Profit Organizations / Clubs**

## 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!

You can also sign up to attend one of our Chamber Member Orientation & Marketing Services Seminars. These seminars happen throughout the year, members are encouraged to send at least one team member to get acclimated and stay up-to-date on the free or low-cost marketing opportunities available through the Chamber.

**Sign up on our website:**

[www.greatbend.org/eventregistration](http://www.greatbend.org/eventregistration)

# Shafer Gallery to host Jee Hwang exhibit Feb. 7

The Shafer Art Gallery will unveil the work of Jee Hwang, Assistant Art Professor at Hays State University, with an opening reception for her exhibit Feb. 7 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. The reception will feature an artist talk and refreshments. Admission is free. The exhibit will run through Feb. 28.

"Hwang's work represents the best in contemporary figurative painting," he said. "At first glance, it is strikingly beautiful and masterful, but upon further reflection powerful content and meaning also begin to emerge. We oftentimes assume that sophisticated art informed by an urban art school background will be somewhat inaccessible and difficult to understand. Hwang's work defies that assumption. It delights on multiple levels. It will not disappoint even the casual viewer and will satisfy those who like art to challenge and inspire their own creativity. I couldn't be more excited about having it in the Shafer Gallery."

Hwang said the intricacies of human relationships, the depths of the human mind and how they're connected to the physical human presence inspire her work.



"My works speak about different forms of human desire," she said. "I see the human body as a metaphoric vessel holding individual desire, memories, and history. Through representational figurative paintings in oil and water media, I explore how bodies transmit desire and form relationships through metaphoric gestures that reveal the border between an individual's psychological state and the desires of groups of people, community and the public."

"Hwang received her MFA in painting from Pratt Institute and her BFA from Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland. She has been awarded residencies from Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, ChaNorth Artist residency, Wassaic Project, Vermont Studio Center. Hwang is also the recipient of an Emma Bee Bernstein award from A.I.R. Gallery and their Fellowship program in Brooklyn, New York. Hwang has actively participated in solo and group exhibitions at a diverse range of venues including A.I.R. Gallery, Korean Cultural Center in New York, The Wassaic Project, Museum of Northern California in Chico and have been represented Accola Griefen Gallery in New York. Hwang is currently based in Hays, Kansas, teaching painting as an Assistant Professor in painting at Fort Hays State University." - [jeehwangstudio.com](http://jeehwangstudio.com)

More work by Hwang is available at [jeehwangstudio.com](http://jeehwangstudio.com). For more information, contact Shafer Gallery Director Dave Barnes at (620) 792-9342 or [barnesd@bartonccc.edu](mailto:barnesd@bartonccc.edu). Keep up with the latest Barton news here: [news.bartonccc.edu](http://news.bartonccc.edu)



# People on the Move - New Hires & Promotions

## Nicole Koelsch, CPA, Promoted to Principal at ABBB

The certified public accounting firm of Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered (ABBB) is pleased to announce the promotion of Nicole Koelsch, CPA, to principal.

A member of the ABBB team since 2012, Koelsch leads the firm's oil and gas niche and consults with oil and gas clients on a wide variety of strategic challenges.



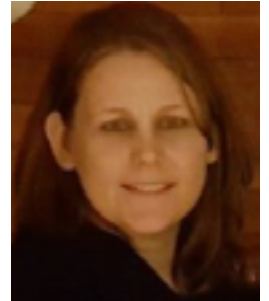
"Nicole's dedication to the firm and our clients is impressive," said Brian Staats, CPA, CGMA, managing partner of ABBB. "We look forward to witnessing her success and all she'll continue to do for our clients in her new role. Congrats, Nicole!"

Koelsch earned both a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2008 and a Master of Accountancy in 2010 from Kansas State University. She earned the CPA Green Belt certification with Lean Six Sigma in 2016. Koelsch's involvement in the CPA profession and oil and gas industry includes membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Kansas Society of CPAs (KSCPA), Petroleum Accountants Society of Kansas (PASOK), and Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA). Raised in Claflin, Kansas, Nicole and her husband, Matt, live in Hoisington, Kansas, with their two young daughters, Brynn and Chloe.

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered provides a wide range of traditional and non-traditional CPA and consulting services to clients throughout Kansas, including agriculture organizations, construction companies, feed yards, financial institutions, governmental and not-for-profit organizations, manufacturers, medical practices, oil and gas companies, professional service firms, real estate companies and small businesses. Founded in 1945, today the firm maintains 15 office locations throughout the state. For more information about Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, please visit [www.abbb.com](http://www.abbb.com).

## Zuniga returns home to CFO position at Sunflower Diversified Services

A Great Bend native is bringing her accounting experience and familiarity with central Kansas to her new position as chief financial officer at Sunflower Diversified Services. Shelby Zuniga, certified public accountant, anticipates her professional and personal background will allow her to make a smooth transition.



For the past 11 years, Zuniga worked in several capacities for the city of Midland, Tx. "My work for Midland is comparable in some ways to my new responsibilities here at Sunflower," Zuniga said. "Both involve working with multiple departments and multiple programs. "In addition," she noted, "both jobs focus on serving people and working with budgets, while being a good steward of taxpayers' dollars."

At Sunflower, a non-profit agency serving people with special needs, Zuniga's day-to-day responsibilities include: overseeing financial operations; supervising others on the fiscal team; and providing financial services to some Sunflower clients.

"It is neat to see how important Sunflower is to the whole community too," she added. "For example, clients and staff are involved in the manufacturing plant, Westside Market and our extensive recycling operation. And they enjoy participating in a wide variety of community events."

"I am eager to become involved in the community," the CFO said. "I have stayed up-to-date on what is happening here and am passionate about Great Bend and the surrounding area. I am glad to be back."

A 1998 Great Bend High School graduate, Zuniga earned an associate's degree in business administration at Barton Community College before being awarded a bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting in 2002 at Fort Hays State University. She then received a master's of professional accountancy in 2012 at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa, Tx. She became a CPA in 2015.

Jon Prescott, Sunflower executive director, said "Shelby has been nothing short of amazing during her first several weeks on the job. We are very fortunate that a Great Bend native wanted to return home and chose to serve people with special needs.

Sunflower serves infants, toddlers and adults in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. It is in its 53rd year.



# People on the Move - New Hires & Promotions

## Family nurse practitioner joins Heart of Kansas in Great Bend



The new family nurse practitioner at Heart of Kansas Family Health Care in Great Bend knew she wanted to care for medically underserved patients. And now she is.

Melanie Emily, who is no stranger to central Kansas, recently joined Heart of Kansas, 1905 19th, and is now seeing patients there.

"I started my nursing career 13 years ago and have always been passionate about rural health and increasing access to care," Emily said. "This calling was fueled by the mission of Frontier Nursing University and then amplified as I worked on my doctorate.

"I saw first-hand how difficult it is for uninsured patients to receive the treatment they deserve for preventive, primary and chronic care. The mission of Heart of Kansas answers the call to my heart."

The family nurse practitioner was born in Wichita but lived, worked and attended school in central Kansas; she moved to the area at age 11. Emily lived in Macksville, Garfield, Pawnee Rock, Larned and now Belpre. She attended school in Macksville and Lewis, and worked in Larned and Dodge City.

Her nursing education began with an associate's degree in

nursing at Barton Community College in 2007. Next came her bachelor's in nursing in 2011 and her master of professional studies - public health administration - in 2014, both at Fort Hays State University.

In 2018, Emily earned her master's degree in nursing - family nurse practitioner - and recently was awarded her doctorate in nursing, both from Frontier Nursing University at Hyden Ky.



Emily's professional background includes positions as family nurse practitioner at Western Plains Physician Practices in Dodge City; assistant director of nursing at Hodgeman County Health Center; registered

nurse at Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility; director of nursing at Diversicare in Larned; and RN/shift supervisor at Larned State Hospital.

"I am using this educational and professional background to fulfill my calling to care for the underserved and underinsured," Emily commented, noting she treats patients of all ages. "I want to empower my patients through education on health promotion and disease prevention."

Brett Middleton, Heart of Kansas chief executive officer, said "all of us at Heart of Kansas are extremely excited to have Melanie join the family. Her experience, education and patient-centered approach result in high-quality care. Melanie is a great addition to Heart of Kansas, and her patients and their families will benefit."

## Three advanced practice nurses join Heart of Kansas in Larned

The three advanced practice registered nurses who recently began caring for patients at Heart of Kansas Family Health Care in Larned bring about 75 years combined experience to the clinic.

Brett Middleton, Heart of Kansas chief executive officer, said "we are extremely excited" to have Kara Keenan, Bonnie Landgraf and Jenny Manry join the Heart of Kansas family.

"Each of these experienced, compassionate practitioners is a great asset to Heart of Kansas," Middleton commented. "They are dedicated to their patients and families, as well as their community. Larned and nearby communities can count on high-quality service with a personal touch.

"We are looking forward to expanding our services in our Larned clinic," he added. "Residents in this area deserve the best health-care services possible and these three professionals will help deliver them."

# HIGHLIGHTED FEBRUARY EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

- 1... Chamber Legislative Coffee, The Sunflower Center, 1125 Williams St. Program @10am
- 5... Great Bend Better Lunch N Learn, Great Bend Rec Activity Center, 2715 18th St, noon
- 6... Chamber Coffee: Central Kansas Christian Academy, 215 McKinley, Program @9:30am**
- 7... FiberSpace 2020, Heartland Farm, 1049 CR 390, Pawnee Rock @7pm
- 7... Jee Hwang Artist Reception, Shafer Art Gallery Barton Community College 245 Ne 30 Rd Great Bend, 6:30 pm to 8 pm.
- 8... FiberSpace 2020, Heartland Farm, 1049 CR 390, Pawnee Rock @9am
- 10... Barton County Economic Outlook Event, Holiday Inn Express, 3821 10th Street, 8AM - 10AM, \$50 registration
- 13... 2020 Census Presentation, Shape your future, 2020 Census - *English Presentation*, Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, 1125 Williams, @ 4PM
- 13... Shape your future, 2020 Census - *Spanish Presentation*, Lincoln Elementary School Gymnasium, 5630 Broadway, Great Bend @ 7PM
- 13... Chamber Coffee: Bling Inc., 2019 Lakin Ave. Program @9:30am**
- 14... Great Bend High School - Winter Homecoming, 6pm - Girls Varsity Game, 7:15pm - King/Queen Crowning, 7:45pm - Boys Varsity Game, 6-9 PM
- 14... KWEC Turtle Tot Club, Kansas Wetlands Education Center 592 NE K-156 Hwy Great Bend, Admission - Free, 10-11AM
- 18... Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St. @11am
- 20... Chamber Coffee: P & S Security, 255 W Barton County Road. Program @9:30am**
- 20... Great Bend USD 428-Early Dismissal, 11:30am
- 20... Barton County Conservation District Annual Meeting, Knights of Columbus, 114 North Main, Hoisington, KS, 5:30pm
- 21... Great Bend USD 428-No School
- 22... 98th Annual Meeting & Banquet-Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, 6pm**
- 24... Great Bend USD 428-No School
- 24... GBRC Babysitting 101, Cottonwood Extension District Office, Fees \$10, 12 PM
- 25... 100th Anniversary Women's Right to Vote, Great Bend Public Library 1409 Williams St, 2PM - 3PM
- 27... Chamber Coffee: First Assembly of God, 601 Patton Rd. Program @9:30am**
- 27... Almost Home's Ask the Expert, KVGB 1590, 8:30am
- 29... 15th Annual Sunflower Diversified Services Gala, Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th, 5:30pm
- 29... Celebrate Leap Day 2020: Reflective Journey, Heartland Farm, 1-4 PM, Registration Fee: \$25, Reg. Deadline: Feb 26, see Facebook for more details

## 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

Visit [greatbend.org/events/calendar](https://greatbend.org/events/calendar) for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!

# Health system offers specialized therapy for balance disorders



The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend has added physical therapy expertise in helping people with dizziness, balance disorders and vertigo.

Physical therapist Melanie Schroeter, DPT, located at St. Rose Medical Pavilion, recently earned certification in vestibular rehabilitation and concussion from the American Institute of Balance. The institute is one of the country's largest multispecialty centers for balance concerns.



"Many factors can cause dizziness," Schroeter said. "I learned how to appropriately test for these factors and treat them. In addition, I learned how to treat the various disorders causing vertigo."

One reason Schroeter chose to pursue this education is because benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV) is the No. 1 cause of dizziness in patients over 60.

BPPV results when a person changes the position of their head, looks upward or rolls over in bed. While the vertigo is short-lived, it can cause a person to feel unbalanced all the time.

"Some people feel as if the world around them 'bounces' when they walk quickly," Schroeter said. "Or they may get dizzy if they turn their head or body too quickly. Some have difficulty walking on uneven surfaces or in the dark, or when they close their eyes in the shower."

Some people also suffer from oscillopsia, blurred vision that can occur with or without head movement. Blurred vision can cause problems with daily activities such as reading signs while walking and grocery shopping.

Falling because of a balance disorder can cause concussion in many instances. In addition, balance-related falls are the leading cause of accidental death in people over 65.

"When people fall, they often have a fear of falling in the future," Schroeter said. "Restoring balance with therapy can alleviate this fear as they become more confident. People do not have to wait until they fall to seek therapy."

Schroeter also treats cervical dizziness with neck pain from possible whiplash. "This can result in being unsteady and light-headed, with a feeling of being clumsy and dizzy upon moving your head and neck," she said.

Schroeter, who has a doctorate in physical therapy, stressed that it's important to receive therapy that is based on research instead of getting advice on the internet.

"The balance system is complex," she said. "And the head must be in a very specific position during therapy. This is very difficult to treat appropriately on your own."

To schedule an appointment, call 620-786-6515.



**SAVE THE DATE**



Mark your calendars for the return of Job Fest slated for Thursday, April 30th.

Employers looking for employees and added exposure are encouraged to register early with Sponsorship Opportunities available. This is also a great service to Chamber Members to have their promo items included in registration packets handed out that day to all registered employers.

Watch for more information as they become available on Barton Community College & Chamber Facebook Pages.

## **Autism Workshop planned for April 18**

The Pilot Club of Great Bend is sponsoring our second Autism Spectrum Disorder workshop - This 2020 workshop is Strategies for Children with Autism at Home and in the Classroom Workshop on Saturday, April 18, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Barton Community College in Great Bend. The workshop is open to the public. Educators and families associated with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are encouraged to attend.



Attendees can view the brochure on Pilot Club of Great Bend's webpage: [www.greatbendpilotclub.com](http://www.greatbendpilotclub.com) or on their [Facebook page, Great Bend Pilot Club](#). Registrations can be mailed to Pilot Club of Great Bend, P.O. Box 503, Great Bend, Kansas 67530. You can also register and pay with a credit card on [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com). Attendees can also pay at the door on the day of the workshop.

The costs to attend are \$75 for professionals and \$25 for families, students and daycare providers. CEU's are available for teachers, Social Workers, OT's., PT's., speech therapists and daycare providers. After the deadline of March 25, registration and admission at the door will have an added fee of \$5. We are working for CE credit to be made available to educators and other professionals from Baker University.

Keynote speaker will be Beth Aune, a pediatric occupational therapist from Palm Desert, CA. She enjoys working with children with special needs in their natural settings at school and providing ongoing information, support and strategies for educators and paraeducators. Her two best tips for parents and teachers is to celebrate the child's special needs and recognize his/her unique talents and gifts, rather than hyper-focus on "fixing" him/her. She is the author of three books on autism; Behavioral Solutions for the Inclusive Classroom, Behavioral Solutions in and Beyond the Inclusive Classroom, and Behavioral Solutions for the Home and Community. Her books will also be available for sale at the workshop.

For more information about the workshop contact Ros Neeland at 620-786-0243 or [ros.neeland@gmail.com](mailto:ros.neeland@gmail.com). For registration questions contact Betty Schneider at 785-342-5112 or [bettalou45@gmail.com](mailto:bettalou45@gmail.com)

### **Breakout Sessions on:**

**Creating an Optimal Learning Environment for Students to Support Behavioral Sensory Challenges**

**Behavioral & Sensory Challenges-Practical Solutions & Strategies for Educators**

**Behavioral & Sensory Challenges-Practical Solutions & Strategies for Parents & Caregivers**

**Increasing Social Interest & Engagement to Increase Child Success**

**Primitive Reflexes & Rhythmic Movement**

**Using Movement to Integrate Commonly Retained Reflexes in ASD**



Coffee Provided By:



# Join Us for Weekly *Networking Coffees*

Every Thursday • Doors Open @ 9:00 • Program @ 9:30

**February 6, 2020**

**CENTRAL KANSAS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

**215 McKinley in Great Bend**

Central Kansas Christian Academy is a non-denominational community Christian school, which provides an exceptional educational opportunity for children in Kindergarten through the Eighth grade. Our strong curriculum not only promotes learning, but also growth in the student's Christian spirit. CKCA combines Christian character training with an excellent academic program that we believe will build a strong foundation for your child's future.

**February 13, 2020**

**BLING INC.**

**2019 Lakin Ave. in Great Bend**

Bling, a full-service women's retailer based out of Kansas reaches the tail-end of a decade this month. Since their beginning in 2009, Bling has opened twelve thriving locations across Kansas and, most recently, Nebraska. Owners Mark and Nicole Campos, along with their Bling team, have brought trendy, affordably priced fashions along with five-star service to shoppers across the state of Kansas while focusing on keeping their business as personal to the customer as possible.

**February 20, 2020**

**P & S SECURITY**

**255 W Barton County Road in Great Bend**

Whether you're a seasoned hunter or choosing your first personal firearm, count on the experts at P & S Security in Great Bend, KS to impress you not only with our great selection, but with years of experience and brand expertise, too.

**February 27, 2020**

**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

**601 Patton Rd in Great Bend**

First Assembly of God is a great place to raise a family. We emphasize Christ-centered worship, preaching, and small group teaching. If you are looking for a place to get connected to others pursuing a relationship with God, First Assembly is the place for you. We would love to have you join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m., and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

**March 5, 2020**

**GREAT BEND COFFEE**

**2015 Lakin Avenue in Great Bend**

Great Bend Coffee serves breakfast 7-10a.m., Mon-Fri and 8-10a.m. on Saturdays. We have 65 different sandwiches, salads, wraps, and pizzas with specials daily. We take reservations for Friday & Saturday evening dinners with a full menu including steaks, pasta, seafood, as well as other specials. AND we do Coffee! Come and see us at 2015 Lakin Ave.

# Show Them Some Love for Homebound Senior Citizens



Boxes of Love will once again be delivered to homebound seniors in Barton & Pawnee Counties. This is the fourth year for this project, and is a collaboration of United Way of Central Kansas, ElderCare Home Services, Meals on Wheels, and RSVP/Volunteers in Action. Partnering together, these non-profits work to brighten the day and warm the hearts of hundreds of seniors throughout Central

Kansas. Each box is filled with items for these seniors, some of them just for fun as well as some practical items. Items range from stationary and cough drops to shampoo and conditioner. Due to the size of the box and transportation of the packages, we do request that items be travel sized. Each box also gets topped off with homemade Valentine's Day cards made by children at UWCK Community Partner's Great Bend Children's Learning Center and Caring Hands Daycare as well as other children throughout Barton and Pawnee Counties. The project is already off and running with donations from Thrivent Financial and Midwest Energy. Thanks to these generous donations we can ensure that each box will have chocolates, stamps, and a special gift from UWCK.

If you would like to make a donation to Box of Love to show love to a homebound senior this Valentine's Day, you can drop off your donations at: Clara Barton Hospital, University of Kansas Health System-Pawnee Valley Campus, First Kansas Bank (Hoisington & Great Bend), Sunflower Bank (Ellinwood & Great Bend), Farmers Bank & Trust (Great Bend & Larned), and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. If you don't have a chance to run to the store to make a donation, cash donations are accepted and will be used to purchase items for each box. Please make checks payable to United Way of Central Kansas, 1125 Williams, Great Bend, KS 67530.



## Fuller Industries donates scooter to Sunflower's Charity Gala

The folks at Fuller Industries wanted to find a home for a gently used scooter and they found it at the Sunflower Diversified Services Charity Gala auction.

The EWheels scooter has about 10 miles on it and is in excellent condition. The one-person, four-wheel electric vehicle, which is referred to as the "Buggie," can travel 15 miles per hour with a range of about 40 miles.

It has a full top cover, full front windshield, footbrake, executive seat and digital electric dashboard. The color is burnt orange. For more detailed information, visit the EWheels website; the model is EW-54. A new one goes for around \$3,400.

It could be used by a business with a plant or large warehouse. It also can be operated on sidewalks but not on streets, except to cross them.

Mark Chalfant, Fuller chief executive officer, said "we want to do what we can to support people with special needs. As a non-profit agency, Sunflower must rely on private donations and those of us at Fuller are happy to do our part."

Sunflower serves children and adults with intellectual disabilities and delays in central Kansas.

Jon Prescott, Sunflower executive director, appreciates Fuller's generosity. "We are so blessed to

be in central Kansas where the business community supports our many programs and services. We are truly grateful to Fuller for this donation."

The Gala, which is set for 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29 at the Great Bend Events Center, is the non-profit agency's biggest fundraiser of the year. The agenda includes silent and live auctions.

"We are hoping for a great turnout at our 15th annual Charity Gala," Prescott commented. "This is an opportunity for friends of Sunflower to demonstrate their support for the people we serve every day."

"One hundred percent of all private donations remain right here in the five central Kansas counties we serve. Our fundraisers allow us to supplement tax dollars, which don't come close to meeting all the increasing needs. Those who support the Gala will have the personal satisfaction of helping their neighbors with special needs and have a good time in the process."





# People on the Move - New Hires & Promotions

## CHAMBER WELCOMES Angie Hicks and Lee Ann June to Staff

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the recent hire of staff, Angie Hicks and Lee Ann June.

Angie is a motivated and driven professional with a background in Office Management and Administrative Assistance. She brings with her excellent communication skills and an eye for detail to the table, as she begins her role as the Business Office Manager.



Angie lives with her significant other, Eric Stevenson and her teenage daughter Hailey. Angie volunteers as a 4-H Community Leader as well as Co-sponsors of the Cottonwood District 4-H Ambassadors. As a lifetime resident of Great Bend and graduate of Great Bend High School, she feels pride in her community and is excited to be a part of the Chamber of Commerce in 2020. She is looking forward to getting to know the business community

through her new role at the Chamber.

Lee Ann is also a life-long resident of Great Bend. Her deep connections to the community have been through her time as a graphic artist and dance instructor. Although she does not currently own a dance studio, she continues to do choreography for show choirs, and the occasional adult ballroom class.



Lee Ann has two children, 10 year old, Leo, and 13 year old, Clarissa. She has a wonderful and supportive family helping her transport children, sit in stands, and cheer on the Bashor kids.

As a creative and former business owner, Lee Ann brings her unique perspective to her position as Communication and Program Coordinator. She is excited to advocate for her community and the businesses in it.

## Measuring America, making sure Great Bend counts in the 2020 Census

In partnership with the regional U.S. Census Office, USD 428 and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce invite the community to attend an informational meeting about the 2020 Census.

The census is an important tool in measuring America - people, places and economy. Data collected in the 2020 census will directly affect our representation

and funding for a wide variety of services across our community. Health clinics, fire departments, roads, schools, congressional representation, and more, it's imperative that our community understand the impact of the census and the importance of their response.

On Thursday, February 13, there are two opportunities to hear from

the U.S. Census team. Topics will include... how to respond, why your answers matter, and individuals' privacy and security of data collected.

For more information on these presentations, please contact Andrea Bauer, director of public information for USD 428, [andrea.bauer@usd428.net](mailto:andrea.bauer@usd428.net) or 620-793-1500.



### Did you know?

Children under the age of 5 are the most commonly overlooked/missed age demographic on census responses? Counting ALL children is vital, as they will be greatly impacted by services for the next 18+ years.

Barton County has had a response rate of 79% for the past two census reports, 2000 & 2010.

## Shape your future, 2020 Census

### English Presentation

Thursday, February 13 @ 4:00 p.m.  
Great Bend Chamber of Commerce  
1125 Williams, Great Bend

### Spanish Presentation

Thursday, February 13 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Lincoln Elementary School Gymnasium  
5630 Broadway, Great Bend

## Beugelsdijk has iTrac Spine Remodeling Chair

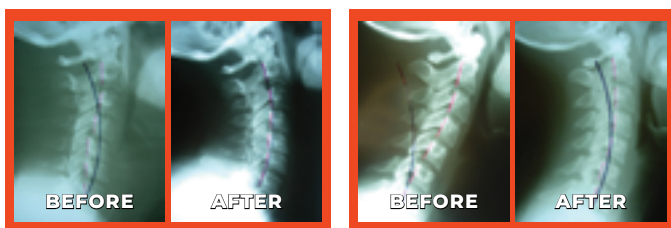
The iTrac® is an FDA-approved cervical spine remodeling system that structurally corrects cervical curve loss.

More than 10 years of research went into the development of the hardware and computerized software, with focus on effective, measurable, and consistent correction.



Great for treating neck pain, upper back pain, tech neck, forward head posture, headaches/migraines, TMD, and Thoracic outlet syndrome.

For more information on this and other services, please call (620) 792-3678 or [info@greatbendchiropractic.com](mailto:info@greatbendchiropractic.com).



## It's out with the old, *in with the new*

Join Debbie Kuhlman on Sunday, February 16th at 1:00 pm for a Pampered Chef Open House where the New Spring Product Line will be introduced. You will also see the products that are retiring from the product line. Door prizes and food samples will be available as well.

We will be celebrating at the Kansas Trophy Experience facility. See link below for information on the location <https://evolvevacationrental.com/kansas/436222?sleeps=1>. For more information visit her Facebook page [Dish With Debbie Kuhlman](#) or 620-617-4780 Or [DebbieKuhlman.com](http://DebbieKuhlman.com).



**FEB16**

**1pm Open House  
3pm Power Tool Presentation**

## Golden Belt Community Foundation Scholarship Applications Due

Golden Belt Community Foundation (GBCF) provides local college students with a free scholarship search and application process. The goal is simple, to connect students with donors providing financial assistance for education. Last year the Foundation awarded over \$75,000 to students in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford counties.



GBCF has dozens of scholarship funds, all having a deadline of February 28th. Some funds are designated for students that are not receiving substantial financial aid, which cannot be determined until after colleges, high schools, or merit-based scholarships have been awarded.

The Foundation also has scholarship funds available to students attending vocational schools or colleges with other types of educational delivery methods.

The online search tool makes it easy for students to find funding that aligns with their educational goals. Whether a student is in high school, enrolled in college or a returning student, they will be matched with scholarships that fit their educational career. Students throughout Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford County are invited to apply online.

Search and apply for scholarships at [www.goldenbeltcf.org/scholarships](http://www.goldenbeltcf.org/scholarships). Please note all scholarship deadlines are **February 28th**. For questions, please contact Teresa Mazouch, Program Officer, at 620-792-3000 or email [teresa@goldenbeltcf.org](mailto:teresa@goldenbeltcf.org).

### GOLDEN BELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

At \$23.6 million in total assets and more than 180 funds under management, Golden Belt Community Foundation has been connecting people who care to causes that matter since 1996. Golden Belt Community Foundation exists to provide non-profit organizations in central Kansas with a permanent source of support and to serve as a vehicle for charitable giving for donors. GBCF serves the counties of Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford. For more information about Golden Belt Community Foundation, call (620) 792-3000 or visit their website at [www.goldenbeltcf.org](http://www.goldenbeltcf.org).

# HOST A PINWHEEL GARDEN AT YOUR BUSINESS

April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month. In 2019, 88 businesses displayed a Pinwheel Gardens in Barton, Stafford, and Rice Counties! We're inviting YOU to host Pinwheel Garden in 2020.

We NEED sponsors too! On average, it costs approximately \$5 to construct each Pinwheel Garden.

Questions? Or interested in having a Pinwheel Garden at your business? Please contact Jamie, at 620-603-6515 or [jamief@familycrisiscntr.org](mailto:jamief@familycrisiscntr.org). Our Pinwheel Gardens are perfect for the entry way/front desk area of your business- we'll deliver the gardens and pick them up!

Thank you!

Child Abuse Awareness Month Supported By:  
Family Crisis Center, Inc.  
20th Judicial District Juvenile Services  
Kansas Children Service League  
Department of Children & Families  
Child Abuse Prevention Education  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
and other community partners

