Great Bend CHAMBER of COMMERCE and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Outlook Business Journal

www.greatbend.org

A Monthly Publication of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development

February 2014 • Volume 93, No. 2

Great Bend... This is Home

Join Us...

for the **92nd Annual Meeting & Banquet**

for the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development

Saturday, February 22nd

at the Great Bend Convention Center

6:00 - Social & Cocktail Hour
7:00 - Dinner & Program
9:00 to Midnight - Dance ft. *The Blades*

Presenting Partners

COLDWELL BANKER SELL REAL ESTATE

Burton Real Estate

REAL ESTATE John Jaco INSURANCE

KELLER REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Seeking to support and propel the Great Bend business community, the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development will host its annual banquet to celebrate accomplishments of the past year. You are invited to attend the 92nd Annual Chamber Meeting & Banquet on Saturday, February 22nd at the Great Bend Convention Center. This year's theme, "Great Bend... This is Home" reflects community's emphasis on housing development and real estate in the coming year.

Beginning with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. catered by Bernard's Catering, the evening concludes with the annual business meeting and then a dance from 9 p.m. to midnight, featuring The Blades.

This year's annual meeting will include recognizing Chamber volunteers, as well as announcing the Business of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and NextGen Leader of the Year award winners. Members pay $50 per person or $400 per table of eight.

Enjoy our NEW online registration! Just go to www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx and click "Register Here" for the 92nd Annual Chamber Meeting & Banquet. You may also register by filling out a form at the Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, during regular business hours. For more information, contact Chamber Office Manager Roxanne Rich, 620-792-2401 or rrich@greatbend.org.

Register at the Chamber Office - OR - Online:

www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx

For more information, call 620-792-2401

"Outlook Business Journal"
A monthly publication of the

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development

1125 Williams,
Great Bend, KS 67530
Phone: 620-792-2401
Fax: 620-792-2404

Web address: www.greatbend.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman
Curt Mauler, L&M Contractors

Vice Chairman
Kenny Vink, Office Products Inc.

2nd Vice Chairman
Derek Fredrick, Waters True Value

Immediate Past Chairman
Erika Brining, CPI Qualified Plan Consultants

Treasurer
Alan Burton, Fuller Industries Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Bitter
Kustom Floors, Inc.

Taylor Calcara
Watkins Calcara, Chtd.

Frank Callahan
American Family Insurance

Pam Chambers
Great Bend Regional Hospital

Matt Fehr, DVM
Animal Medical Center

Dr. Jesse Grove
Grove Chiropractic & Sports Injury, P.A.

Lynda Jamison
Adams Brown Beran & Ball, Chtd.

Jim Johnson
Sunflower Diversified Services

Kevin Keller
Keller Real Estate & Insurance Agency

Kevin Mauler
4M Farms

Dennis Neeland
Great Bend Co-op Association

Chris Smith
Smith Supply LLC

Julie Smith
United Way / Chamber Ambassador Club

Chris Spray
Venture Corporation

Kristy Straub
Straub International / Young Professionals

Jan Westfall
Harden Hospice Kansas

EX-OFFICIO

Cris Collier, Great Bend CVB
Dr. Carl Heilman, Barton Community College
Ken Roberts, City of Great Bend
Chris Thexton, USD #428
Jennifer Schartz, Barton County Commission

CHAMBER STAFF

Jan Peters, *President/CEO*
jpeters@greatbend.org

Rachel Mawhirter, *Marketing Director*
rmawhirter@greatbend.org

Andrea Bauer, *Director of Sales & Member Services*
abauer@greatbend.org

Roxanne Rich, *Office/Business Manager*
rrich@greatbend.org

Dates Announced for Chamber's 2014 Legislative Coffee Events

Mark your calendars with the 2014 Legislative Coffees, scheduled February 1st and March 15th. These events give local individuals the chance to network with our legislators directly. After hearing a brief update from each legislator present, the audience is given an opportunity to ask questions about hot topic issues, such as health care, education, budget concerns, etc. All state senators and representatives are invited to these events.

All Legislative Coffees are held at the Kansas Oil & Gas Museum at 5944 10th Street and begin at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., and donuts and coffee are provided. Legislative Coffees are sponsored by AT&T.

at&t

Heartland Cancer Center to Host After Hours Event Feb. 11

Heartland Cancer Center will co-host a Business After Hours Event on Tuesday, February 11th from 5-7 p.m. with Central Care Cancer Center, 204 Cleveland Street in Great Bend, Kansas. Chamber members are invited to come enjoy hors d'oeuvres and meet Dr. Thomas Hegarty, the newest oncologist serving the Great Bend area at Heartland Cancer Center.

Dr. Hegarty practices the diagnosis and management of cancers involving all body sites, with an expertise in radiation therapy techniques. He is certified by the American Board of Radiology and is a member of the American Society for Radiation Oncology. For more information about Central Care Cancer Center, visit them online at www.cccancer.com.

CENTRAL CARE CANCER CENTER

ChamberConnect Radio Show Airs Feb. 6 on KVGB

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 Mawhriter. The February edition of ChamberConnect will air on KVGB on Thursday, February 6th at 11:35 a.m.

Chamber Connect 1590 KVGB AM

WELCOME to our NEWEST Members!

Murphy Family Enterprises, Inc.
Andrew Murphy
P O Box 2029
1910 18th St
Great Bend, KS 67530
620-796-2323
Investments

Key Office
Bill Dinkel
2010 Vine
Hays, KS 67601
Office Products and Document Solutions

Ace Hardware
West 10th Street
Great Bend, KS 67530
Hardware Supplies

Joiner Properties. LLC
P O Box 238
411 E Santa Fe
Ellinwood, KS 67526
Rental Properties

TECH EDGE
Brought to you by NEXTECH

The center of the country - the edge of technology.

JUNE 12, 2014

Join us for this one-day business technology conference. Register at:
nex-tech.com/techedge.

Conrade Insurance Group, Inc.

Serving Individuals, Families, and Businesses in Kansas for over 100 Years!

Independent Insurance Agent

Trusted Choice

Contact Jim Briel for a quote!
Office: 620-792-4515 Cell: 620-617-3596
jbriel@conradeinsurance.com
www.conradeinsurance.com

Studio C Celebrates Grand Opening

Cierra Dixon has been dreaming of owning her own salon since she graduated from the Hays Academy in 2011. After renting booth space in other people's salons for several years, she wasn't sure the right opportunity would ever come along. But late last year, Cierra was pleasantly surprised when the perfect location became available and all the pieces fell into place.

"The right place came open at the right time, and it fit my vision perfectly," Dixon says. "Within a matter of weeks, we were open for business and things have been going great since then."

Studio C is Cierra's dream come to life, located at 3108 10th Street next to Sherwin Williams in Great Bend. The modern décor and lively atmosphere is something Dixon says her clients can't find anywhere else. "We have youthful stylists who play fun music and get along in a friendly environment," she says. "This is not your average salon, and we invite new clients to come in and give us a try."

In addition to Cierra, Studio C has two other stylists and a nail technician working to serve their clients. Mallory Ehrlich, Cierra Dixon, and Bonnie Ramirez are all stylists, offering the latest in beauty services. These include haircuts for men, women, and children, coloring and highlighting, styling and up-do's for special events, facial waxing, and more. Flower Ramirez is the nail technician on staff, and specializes in pedicures, acrylic nails, shellac and gel manicures, etc.

Studio C is typically open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and walk-ins are welcome. The stylists also accept Saturday and evening appointments. "We work hard to serve our clients, and even offer monthly specials that we post on our Facebook page," Dixon says. "We also offer gift certificates for specific services or for specific dollar amounts, which make great gifts."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 620-796-2192 or like their page at Facebook.com/SalonStudioC.

Update from Great Bend Optimist Club

Submitted by Shane Dicks, Club Member

The Optimist Club of Great Bend is known for its Motto, "Friend of Youth". Thirty-six diversified members, one college member, eleven Young Optimists, and one Friend of Optimist comprise the club membership this year. The members live the tenets of the Optimist Creed to benefit and promote our young people to reach their full potential. Most recently, Optimist Club members helped welcome people into the Trail of Lights offering a smile and positive comment for our Holidays.

At year end, Junior Optimists Austin Habash and Austin Morgan, who are both past Hugh O' Brien Youth Leadership Seminar attendees sponsored by the Great Bend Optimist Club, came back to give us a status report and thanks for sponsoring them. Austin Habash is a college student at KU majoring in Pre-Med and has a tremendous entrepreneurial drive as well. Austin Morgan is also attending KU majoring in Pre-Pharmacy and is a member of the Navigators, a faith-based organization. Both were active in school and community when they were here and continue to make us proud of the men they are becoming.

As our main budget tool, we sold Christmas trees at Waters True Value, and were pleased to welcome back so many repeat customers to round out a great year. This, along with assisting with other quality projects such as Party in the Park, allow us to carry out the ever-important mission to promote kids and our community. In the near future, we will continue to assist the Great Bend High School Future Business Leaders of America to promote young minds as they develop leadership talents and become the best people they can be. We look forward to the positive things we can make a reality in our New Year. Sincerely,

Shane Dicks, Optimist Club Member & Program Officer

Winter Technology Roundtable Luncheon Scheduled Feb. 12

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development would like to invite local businesses to participate in our quarterly Technology Roundtable Luncheons that give tech-savvy professionals or curious lifelong learners an opportunity to keep up with trends and developments in business technology. The winter quarter meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 12th in the Spray-Holt Family Board Room at the Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, starting at 11:30 a.m. To register, go to www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx.

Leaky faucets? Clogged pipes? Stool overflowing? Furnace busted?
Turn to the Experts!
Carrier
Heat & Air • Plumbing • Electrical
ISERN
Carl Isern & Dan Mawhirter
iserninc@hbcomm.net
620-564-3377

cpcs
Central Plains Computer Service
• COMPUTER SALES • COMPUTER SERVICE
• GRAPHIC DESIGN • WEB DEVELOPMENT
www.cpcis.net
(620) 793-5398
608 Patton Road, Great Bend, KS 67530

Peterbilt
DOONAN GMC
Visit the Doonan Truck Museum
(Tours available by appointment)
Jct. 56 & 156 620-792-2491
Doonan GMC Pre-Owned Lot
10th & Washington in Great Bend
www.doonantruck.com

Reserve Exhibitor Space Now Farm & Ranch Expo Apr. 9-11

The 3rd Annual Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo will return to the Great Bend community April 9-11, 2014 – bigger and better than ever. The 500+ exhibitors from 27 states and Canada and Australia spread out over 80 acres will draw thousands of spectators to the annual event, which takes place at the Great Bend Expo Complex located 2.5 miles west of Great Bend's City limits on W. Barton County Rd.

Several new attractions will be added to the show schedule. Read more about the event highlights in the section below.

Admission and Parking are free to the public, and the concessions vendors are better than ever! The Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo is a proud member of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. The Expo is brought to you by these fine sponsors: KSN and The American Hat Company. For more information, visit the show website at www.greatbendfarmandranchexpo.net.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Horse Training Demonstrations feat. Scott Daily**
  Scott started training horses about 15 years ago, and has developed and perfected his own techniques for building trust between horse and rider.
- **Cattle Handling Demo feat. Dr. Tom Noffsinger**
  This presentation will include applications of Low Stress Handling Concepts as a dimension of management that enables caregivers to have positive effects on cattle health and performance.
- **Genex Chute-Side Cattle Service Demonstration**
  Genex Cooperative, Inc. will demonstrate chute-side service using portable breeding barns, a convenient and cost effective tool for large operations to improve their genetics and profitability through artificial insemination (A.I.).
- **Loos Tales feat. Storyteller Trent Loos**
  Saddle up with Trent Loos as he talks about his ventures cross-country and around the globe.
- **KSN Broadcasting LIVE from the Farm Show**

For more information or to reserve exhibit space, visit www.greatbendfarmandranchexpo.net.

Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of January, Barton County Young Professionals members took on their 2nd Annual Charity Supply Drive, partnering with the Great Bend Rotary Club and several area charities. The YP Community Impact Team set out with the goal of collecting non-perishable food and household supplies for the numerous agencies in the area that need the support in the post-holiday doldrums. After the drive was over on January 18th, the group was overwhelmed by the generous support of local shoppers, collecting a bus full of donations that were split between the Life Giving Center, the Catholic Social Service Non-Food Pantry, and the Barton County Food Bank.

In the month of February, BCYP members are invited to attend a Networking Mixer on Friday, February 21st sponsored by the Barton Booster Club. The casual event will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the Best Western Angus Inn Courtyard, 2920 10th Street in Great Bend. YP Members are invited to enjoy free appetizers, adult beverages, and door prize drawings. New members are always encouraged to sign up during the quarterly mixer events, which are always free to attend.

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.

Heart of Kansas Family Health Care, Inc.
Phone: 620-792-5700
1905 19th, Great Bend
Family Practice & Mental Health Services
Preventative Care • Prescription Assistance • Diabetes Management
Evening Appointments • Open to Everyone • Bilingual Staff
All Insurance Accepted - Including Medicare, Medicaid & KanCare
"We Care about your Health"
www.HeartofKansas.com

Chlumsky Liquormart
2204 Kansas
Great Bend
620-792-1929
Let Ours Be Your Favorite Store

AMC Animal Medical Center
Your pet won't remind you. But we will.
It's Pet Dental Month!
$20 OFF
Pet Dentals & 25% Off Dental Treats
Animal Medical Center
622 McKinley Ave
620-792-1265

Highlighted Events in February

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

1... Legislative Coffee, KS Oil & Gas Museum, 5944 10th, 10 a.m.
1... CASA Chocolate Auction, Knights of Columbus Hall, 723 Main, 6 p.m.
3... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main, 9 a.m.
3... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
6... Chamber Coffee: Up N Rollin Skate Center, 2805 9th, 9:30 a.m.
8... High School Senior Day at Barton Community College, 245 NE 30 Rd, 2 p.m.
10... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main, 9 a.m.
11... Business After Hours: Heartland Cancer Center, 204 Cleveland, 5-7 p.m.
12... Technology Roundtable Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 11:30 a.m.
13... Chamber Coffee: Advanced Therapy, 3715 10th, 9:30 a.m.
15... Submission Deadline for March Newsletter, 5 p.m.
17... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main, 9 a.m.
17... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
20... Chamber Coffee: Golden Belt Community Foundation & Prairie Godmother Funds, Front Door, 1615 10th, 9:30 a.m.
21... Young Professionals Networking Mixer sponsored by BCC Booster Club, Best Western Angus Inn Courtyard, 2920 10th, 6-9 p.m.
22... Chamber Meeting & Banquet, Convention Center, 3017 10th, 6 p.m.
24... Barton County Commission Meeting, 1400 Main, 9 a.m.
24... Flyer Insert Deadline for March Newsletter, 5 p.m.
27... Chamber Coffee: Best Western Angus Inn, 2920 10th, 9:30 a.m.

GBHHH Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser Returns Feb. 22

GBHHH Staff display an afghan that will be raffled off during the Chili Cook-Off.

Things are starting to simmer for the 15th Annual Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice (GBHH&H) Chili Cook-off to raise money for local and area hospice patients. The event is scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd at the American Legion, 1011 Kansas Avenue in Great Bend. The Bikers of Central Kansas (BOCK) sponsors the event.

Admission is $6 and desserts will be available for $1 each; all proceeds go directly to hospice patients. Tasting and judging are set for 5 to 6:30 p.m.

There is no entry fee for the cooks and pre-registration is open until the limit of 17 entries is reached; about 10 have registered so far. Chili cooks should bring a roaster-full of chili that is heated and ready to serve, if at all possible, BOCK President Danny Riggs said.

"We hope local and area residents can mark this popular event on their calendars," Riggs said. "Golden Belt Home Health & Hospice does great things for families. I used their services for my mother. The hospice staff and nurses make things easier when a family is going through a difficult time."

The best chili will win $100, and second and third places will receive plaques. The traveling trophy will be presented for the best presentation.

For more information about the chili cook-off or to register, contact Riggs by calling 620-786-1225 or any other BOCK member.

GBHH&H, a non-profit agency, is part of the St. Rose Ambulatory & Surgery Center family. It has served central Kansans since 1979. St. Rose is part of Centura Health, which connects individuals and families across western Kansas and Colorado with more than 6,000 physicians, 15 hospitals, seven senior-living communities, physician practices and clinics, and home-care and hospice services.

WANT YOUR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES on DISPLAY HERE? WE CAN HELP!
CALL RACHEL @ 620-792-2401

Appliances
Electronics
Furniture
HOMETOWN BRAND CENTER
Maytag
DELL • LG
Whirlpool
4908 10th Street
Great Bend, KS
620-792-7368
Rent-to-Own, Retail, & 90 Days Same-as-Cash
We have payment plans to meet your needs!

DAYTON SECURITY, INC.
Since 1973
(800) 707-9369
24/7 Protection:
Burglary
Fire & Arson
Vandalism
Intrusions
www.daytonsecurityinc.com
We sell peace of mind! 620-792-9735

M&F
Heating • Plumbing
Air Conditioning
State Certified Radon Testing
www.mfplumbing.com
Great Bend, KS
620-793-3529
Carrier
Turn to the Experts
Larned, KS
620-285-3966

Hoffman Hired as Early Education & SLP Instructor for Sunflower Diversified

The new speech-language pathologist (SLP) at Sunflower Diversified Services understands that the first three years of life are critical to overall development and is using her skills to help children ages birth to 3.

Heather Hoffman, a Great Bend native and certified SLP, recently joined the staffs at Sunflower's Early Education Center (EEC) and Incredible Years Preschool.

"I work with the little ones in their natural environments," Hoffman said. "This means going to their homes, day-care centers, our preschool or any other setting that is appropriate."

Hoffman's responsibilities include working with families that have children with speech and language delays, swallowing and feeding difficulties, hearing impairments and/or social-communication concerns.

"It is so rewarding for all of us to see the impact we have on children at such an early age," Hoffman commented. "It is clear that a child's brain develops exponentially in the first three years of life. If children receive early intervention services before age 3, it may reduce or even eliminate the need for ongoing services as they enter school."

Hoffman graduated from Great Bend High School in 2004, and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Kansas State University. She began her career as an SLP in an assisted-living/skilled nursing facility in Wichita before pursuing her long-time goal of working with children. Hoffman worked in the Circle School District before returning home to Great Bend.

"These were all great experiences but I wanted to move back home to be with my family," Hoffman said. "Our early ed center and preschool provide exceptional programs for young children. I look forward to reaching out and serving so many families in the surrounding communities."

Cathy Estes, Sunflower's children's services coordinator, said she is excited to have Hoffman on the team, especially because the greatest early developmental need is language communication.

"Since children develop on an individual basis, there is quite a range of time during which language development occurs," Estes said. "Many children who need this intervention eventually will no longer need services."

Evidence shows, Estes added, that early intervention emphasizes the team approach, which provides all services for the overall development of every eligible child under 3.

Services at the EEC are free, while tuition is income-based at Incredible Years Preschool. For more information, contact Hoffman at 620-792-4087.

Entrepreneurs Now Being Accepted for 8-Week Kansas Ice House Program

Do you want to be extraordinary? Are you determined to make your life count? Entrepreneurship is a mindset that can empower ordinary people to accomplish the extraordinary. The Kansas Ice House Entrepreneurship Program is designed to inspire individuals or groups to change their lives, become better employees, and empowering them to be extraordinary.

This is not about starting a business – or it could be.
This is not about quitting our jobs – or it could be.
This is about thinking differently about our future.
This is about being a better employee.
This is about being a better community member.
This is about creating and living the life that we imagine.
This is about expecting more for our lives.
This is about empowering ordinary people to be extraordinary!

Session Dates:

March 12 – Great Bend
March 19 – Hoisington
March 26 – Great Bend
April 2 – Hoisington
April 9 – Great Bend
April 16 – Hoisington
April 23 – Great Bend
April 30 – Hoisington

Eight community courses will be held between March 12th and April 30th in Great Bend and Hoisington at 6 p.m. each Wednesday evening. Participants are encouraged to arrive early for a light supper before class. Fee is $50 per person with $25 refunded upon completion of the course. Space is limited, so register today by visiting www.kansasicehouse.com or contacting Jan Peters at 620-792-2401 or Jonathan Mitchell at 620-653-4125.

The Kansas Ice House Program is sponsored by the Great Bend/Barton County E-Community, Hoisington E-Community, and NetWork Kansas.

Collaborate & Strategize During City of Great Bend Retail Roundtable

The City of Great Bend is extending an invitation to all retailers in the Great Bend area to get involved with the Retail Roundtable group. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 4th at 12:30 p.m. at the City of Great Bend Offices, 1209 Williams in Great Bend. Participants are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

"At each meeting, we discuss upcoming events in the City and make decisions on cooperative advertising, free promotions available to businesses, and ideas for working together to attract people into our stores," Community Coordinator Christina Hayes says. "Ideally, we'd have someone from every business in town participating so that everyone is on the same page."

The meeting is open to anyone in the community that is affiliated with a retail business or that is interested in assisting with the cooperative efforts. For more information or to RSVP for the roundtable meeting, email Hayes at chayes@greatbendks.net.

Nex-Tech Employee Recognized with Top User Award by N-Able

Nex-Tech Inc., a leading managed services provider (MSP) based in Hays, Kansas, today announced Mike Doerfler, Network Technology Supervisor, was named Top Tech User for North America by N able/SolarWinds®, a global leader in remote monitoring and management (RMM) and service automation software.

Presented at N-able's 2013 Global Partner Summit in Arizona recently, the MSP Partner of the Year Awards honor top-performing partners for their outstanding achievements in leveraging N-able's N central® MSP service automation platform to deliver exceptional IT service to customers. Partners were selected across seven categories and came from every corner of the globe to accept their awards, from Europe and South Africa to North America and the Asia-Pacific region.

"Earning this prestigious recognition from N-able is an honor and speaks to the growing success of our business," says Mike Doerfler, Network Technology Supervisor. "At Nex-Tech Inc., enabling our customers to use technology to achieve their business goals is a top priority. With N-able's advanced technology, business support and development services, we are able to build a better business while exceeding our customers' highest expectations."

As an N-able 2013 MSP Partner of the Year, Nex-Tech joins an elite group of MSPs who have differentiated themselves as exceptional professionals in a competitive market, and are recognized among the world's most advanced and successful MSPs. For more information, visit www.nex-tech.com.

Rosewood Services Employees Honored for 130 Years of Collective Service

Thirteen Rosewood Services employees were recognized for their years of service recently, including six employees who have been with the agency since its beginning 15 years ago. There are 130 years of service provided between the 13 employees recognized.

Rosewood Services founder and executive director Tammy Hammond recognized each of the employees at the employee Christmas party in late December. "It's especially exciting this year because, for the first time, we are able to recognize six of our employees for 15 years of service," said Hammond. "I thank each one of them for sticking with our goals and our dreams and helping our clients succeed through the years. I'm also honored to recognize those celebrating 10 years and 5 years with our agency."

The 13 employees recognized are Vicki Schmitt (15 years), Patty Halseth (15 years), Ruth Shank (15 years), Christy Smith (15 years), Virginia Jacobs (15 years), Hazel Grace Johnson (15 years), Amanda Hammond-Fellers (10 years), Tess Bradley (5 years), Karen Andrulis (5 years), Bryan Freeman (5 years), Anna Hammond-Bodine (5 years), Freida Jobes (5 years), and Dave Tudor (5 years).

American State Bank Promotes Tustin

Great Bend native Steve Tustin has been promoted to Senior Credit Analyst at American State Bank and Trust Company, Great Bend. He's been a credit analyst for the bank since 2008. In his new position, he will supervise two other analysts, review information on current and potential bank customers and assist with lending decisions.

Tustin graduated from Great Bend High School in 1996, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics from Kansas State University in 2000 and a Master's degree in business in 2002. He was employed by Venture Corporation and by Barton Community College before joining American State in 2008. He is a member of the K-State Alumni Association and lives in Great Bend with his wife Christy.

Rick Chochon, American State Bank president and CEO added, "We are very grateful for the strong background and extensive experience that Steve has provided for our organization over the years. His knowledge and years of service to the banking industry continue to greatly benefit American State Bank and its customers."

For more information, call 620-792-8353 or visit www.americanstatebankna.com.

Kansas Wetlands Education Center to Host Winter Family Program Series this Month

The Kansas Wetlands Education Center will offer several winter programs, guaranteed to chase away the winter blahs. These programs are designed for children ages 6 through 12.

The one-hour programs will be offered at no charge, but donations for supplies are always appreciated. Children age 7 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. The maximum number per class is 20 children. To register for classes, or for more information, call 620-566-1456 or 1-877-243-9268.

Masters of the Night Sky: Feb. 8 @ 10-11 a.m.

Are owls really wise or an omen of death? Explore owl folklore and discover the true wonder of this group of raptors with special appearances by live owls. Participants will create an owl and, for those who want to stay longer, the opportunity to dissect an owl pellet and make a bone chart. *Registration Deadline: Feb. 5th*

Celebrate Birds!: Feb. 15 @ 10-11 a.m.

Learn to identify the hardy birds that stay through the Kansas winter and their songs, then go outside and find them during the national Backyard Bird Count. Participants will also complete a gourd bird house for their own backyards in honor of National Bird Feeding Month. *Registration Deadline: Feb. 12th*

What Does the Fox Say?: Feb. 22 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

What do foxes say? Quite a bit, as it turns out. Learn how Kansas' three species of fox communicate, their fascinating behaviors and if they are really as sly as folk lore tells us. Participants will make their own fox to take home. *Registration deadline: Feb. 19th*

Farmers Bank Names Rugan Bank President

Farmers Bank and Trust, with over 100 years of service and commitment to Kansas, named bank veteran Robert Rugan as the new Central Kansas Market President. He will be based at the headquarters in Great Bend and will be responsible for all Central Kansas bank locations.

A native of Barton County and graduate of Wichita State University with an MBA in Finance, Mr. Rugan brings years of banking and farming experience to this new responsibility.

He is a graduate of both the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA) Commercial Lending School and KBA Agriculture Lending School. He is a current student at the Graduate School of Lending at the University of Colorado.

Active in community involvement, Robert currently serves as Director of Central Kansas Development Inc., Past Chamber Ambassador, Board Member GBHS School Booster Club, and a member of Noon Lions Club and Grace Community Church.

Robert has served as past Director of Central Kansas Renewable Fuels, Director of Barton Community College Foundation, and Director of Barton County Extension Council. He served as a member of Optimist Club and an officer of Jefferson School PTO.

Robert resides in Great Bend with his wife Cheryl and children Wyatt and Olivia.

"Since the beginning, Farmers Bank and Trust has been committed to growing and expanding our organization as a premier regional bank focused on customer service and improving our local economy," said W.R. Robbins, CEO and Corporate President of Farmers Bank and Trust.

"Attracting someone with Robert's background, knowledge of the market, relationships, and leadership capabilities made him uniquely qualified for this position. We are very pleased to have him join our team."

Farmers Bank & Trust is headquartered in Great Bend, operating with total assets of $685million and a strong capital account base of over $90 million dollars. The bank serves customers in six communities in Central Kansas and a location in Overland Park, Kansas.

For more information, call 620-792-2411 or visit their website at www.farmersbankna.com.

Office Products Inc (OPI) Recognizes Achievements for Two Employees

Two of OPI's employees were recently recognized for their achievements at the growing local company.

Nikki Snow was presented an Achievement Award for her exemplary customer service, and Nathan Hass was recognized for completing a two-week Canon Applied Technology training course.

OPI management recently presented Nikki Snow with an Outstanding Professional Achievement certificate for her contributions to the family-owned business. "Nikki has proven herself to be a real asset to OPI," Sales Manager Jim Grabbe said.

"Customers may know her as their first contact when they call in. But she also handles many other duties that may not be apparent to our customers. Suffice it to say, she is a key factor in helping our business run smoothly."

In addition to customer service, Snow also is the bookkeeper who handles payroll and accounts receivable in the service and supplies departments. "I do my best to tend to these responsibilities in a timely manner, which helps us better serve the customer and streamline our in-house record-keeping," said Snow, who is based in OPI's Great Bend location.

"I have been with OPI only a short time but it was obvious from the beginning that customer service is the priority here."

Snow, who was born and raised in Great Bend, graduated from Ellinwood High School in 2009. She also earned an associate's degree in science from Barton Community College in 2012.

Her colleague, Nathan Hass, completed Canon's Applied Technology course last month, and is now certified in Canon copier service and maintenance.

"This type of in-depth training benefits our Canon customers who rely on our quality service," Hass said. "We are trained by the people who manufacture the copiers, which makes us familiar with all the inner workings of the machines. This type of training allows us to know exactly what we are working with."

The service technician lived in Albuquerque, N.M., until he was 16. He is a Quivira Heights High School graduate and has lived in Great Bend since 2007. Hass attended Barton Community College from 2007-2009, and took business-related courses.

OPI is located at 1204 Main in Great Bend, 516 Broadway in Larned, and 724 N. Main in Russell. For more information, visit OPI online at www.opigreatbend.com or call 620-793-8479.

Nex-Tech Wireless introduces
Total Share
UNLIMITED TALK, TEXT AND SHAREABLE 4G DATA!
• Share data with up to 10 wireless devices
• Smartphone plans include mobile hotspot
• Keep your unused data and use it the next month with Carryover data
Certain restriction apply. Visit store for details.
Visit www.nex-techwireless.com or 3705 10th St. to compare your current plan with Total Share!
NEXTECH wireless Authorized Agent

CONCRETE SERVICE
221 Baker St.
Great Bend, KS 67530
For ALL your CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION needs!
Owners: Roy & Dale Westhoff
Call: 620-792-2558

It's in our Nature to Inspire!

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

2014 Kansas Official Visitors Guide Available

The Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau has received a supply of the 2014 Kansas Visitors Guide just released by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

The Visitors Guide is a full color publication and it is the perfect tool to plan a Kansas vacation. The Guide provides a look at the unique travel experiences Kansas offers. Beautiful photography, entertaining and informative writing, and a vibrant creative look make the guide useful for both Kansas residents and visitors. Editorial features explore the continent's largest remaining tallgrass prairie and discover sweeping horizons, towns with storied pasts, and genuine cowboy-style adventures.

There is also comprehensive information on Kansas Byways, attractions, accommodations, campgrounds, recreational areas, guest ranches, hunting lodges, bed & breakfasts, antiques, retail, dining, motor sports, golf courses, and retreat centers.

To get a free copy of the 2014 Kansas Official Visitors Guide, stop by the Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau, 3007 10th Street. Or receive a copy of the guide by mail by visiting http://www.travelks.com/guide.asp or by calling 1-800-2KANSAS.

Eagle Radio Welcomes Meteorologist Dan Holiday to Four Local Broadcast Stations

Eagle Radio in Great Bend is excited to announce the addition of Meteorologist Dan Holiday to their on-air team. After growing up on a farm east of El Dorado, Kansas, Dan earned his certification as a meteorologist in 2006 and will bring concise, detailed forecasts to Eagle Radio Stations 100.7 Eagle Country, 1590 KVGB, B104.3 The Point, and Hull Broadcasting Station Hits 106.9 on an hourly basis. Dan is also a member of the National Weather Association and the American Meteorological Society.

Cathy Carrier will continue to deliver forecasts each weekday morning with Scott Donovan on 100.7 Eagle Country and Patrick Burnett on 1590 KVGB. Cathy will also continue to bring her insight to serious weather situations that threaten Central Kansas.

"At Eagle Radio, we pride ourselves with what we feel is the most comprehensive weather coverage for Barton and the surrounding counties," says General Manager Rick Nulton. "The addition of Dan Holiday to our weather team brings an additional level of experience and professional training to our already award winning weather broadcasts."

For more information, call 620-792-3647 or visit GreatBendPost.com.

Curves of Great Bend Introduces NEW Jillian Michaels Workouts

Curves of Great Bend is now offering Curves Workouts with Jillian Michaels, cutting-edge total body workouts that feature the Curves Circuit strength training machines in conjunction with functional bodyweight-based exercises that ramp up metabolism and transform physique.

Jillian Michaels is best known as America's health and wellness expert. The workouts boost intensity, build strength, burn fat and prevent plateaus. The new Curves Workouts with Jillian Michaels are designed for women at every fitness level and include simple modifications for each movement. Metabolic conditioning exercises will be done in between each strength machine within the Curves Circuit, all within a 30-minute class.

Curves
The power to amaze yourself.™

The Curves Workouts with Jillian Michaels will be showcased on a large screen TV, set to upbeat music, within each Club and a Curves Coach who has been trained to deliver the moves will be present in every Circuit to ensure safety and effectiveness.

Class times for the Curves Workouts with Jillian Michaels will vary by location and the workouts will be refreshed frequently with new functional moves introduced each month throughout 2014.

"We are excited to offer our members these new cutting-edge workouts," says Great Bend owner Ashley Baldwin. "By amplifying our Curves Circuit with Jillian's innovative workouts, along with a trained Coach for everyone, we are very confident our members will get off to a healthy start in 2014."

Curves Workouts with Jillian Michaels are available at participating Curves Clubs. Also available at participating Curves Clubs is Curves Complete. With Curves Complete, women have a fully integrated, personalized weight loss and weight management solution that includes the Curves Fitness program (30 minute Circuit with a Coach), a customizable meal plan and one-on-one coaching and support.

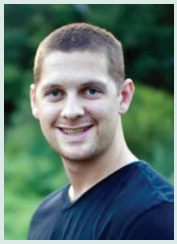
You can contact a staff member at Curves of Great Bend at 620-792-9154 or visit the club at 2100 Washington Street. For more information about Curves, please visit www.curves.com.

Advanced Therapy
& SPORTS MEDICINE
Ask your physician to refer you to Advanced Therapy for all your physical therapy needs.
Teresa Malone, PT
3715 10th Street
Great Bend, KS
Megan Beahm, PT/DPT
Phone: 620-792-7868
Fax: 620-792-7867
www.AdvancedTherapyGB.com

KELLER
REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
"Serving Great Bend Since 1968"
www.kelleragency.com
620-792-2128 or 1-800-281-2181
1101 Williams, P.O. Box 945
Great Bend, Kansas

CB
Member FDIC
Community Bank of the Midwest
2220 Broadway
Great Bend, KS
620-792-5111
We are 100% committed to our customers and the communities we serve. It's our way of doing business, today and tomorrow.
www.CommunityBankMidwest.com

Ambassador Profile - Chris Berger



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 work at Club 1 Fitness as the Membership Director. I handle the enrollment process, cancellations, and corporate membership programs.

Educational Background

I am originally from Ellinwood, Kansas. After earning an Associate's Degree in Athletic Training from Barton Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Health & Human Performance from Fort Hays State University, I moved back in 2011 to help take care of my family.

My Family

I have been married to my beautiful wife, Megan, for a little over three years. We just had our first child, Landon, in August of last year.

As an Ambassador

I have been an Ambassador for one year, and am enjoying getting to know the group and being more involved.

Hobbies & Interesting Facts

I enjoy playing guitar, hiking, riding my bike, fishing, and going to concerts.

SAVE THE DATE - Marketing Seminar Mar. 12

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development will host its next Marketing Seminar on Wednesday, March 12th at 10 a.m. The seminar is open to all businesses who want to learn more about what we can do to help grow your business! To register, go to www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx.

Relay for Life Hosts Chamber Ribbon Cutting

Relay for Life has been a staple event in Barton County for two decades, but this year the fundraising organization is making an extra effort to expand their community presence by joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. Roger Friedly of Hoisington has underwritten the costs of Chamber membership so that co-chairs Kandi Wolf and Mariann Shook can use all the marketing services available through the Chamber.

"We are excited to be new members of the Chamber, and are very grateful to Roger for sponsoring our fees for this year," Wolf says. "We look forward to being more connected with the business community in Great Bend."

The 2014 Relay for Life event will be held on Friday, June 13th in Jack Kilby Square starting at 6 p.m. The walk will continue throughout the night, concluding at 6 a.m. the following morning. "The significance of the walk through the night is that when someone is diagnosed with cancer, it's a very dark hour for them," Wolf says. "With the support of family and friends who help fight for their lives, they can come out the other side and see the light at the end of their journey."

The event theme for this year's Relay is "Music from Around the World," but the group has also adopted the slogan "Purple is Powerful."

"When you attend Relay and look out among the crowd at the sea of purple survivor shirts, you understand the full weight of how important funding for research is," Wolf says. "If it weren't for the funds raised by Relay for Life events all over the country, which benefit the American Cancer Society, we would not be as advanced as we are in the treatment of all types of cancer."

Businesses interested in forming a Relay for Life team among their employees should contact Kandi Wolf at 620-797-5651 or visit them online at www.relayforlife.org/bartoncoks.

SaGE
Your local janitorial provider.
800-825-5475
www.officialsageproducts.com
sageproductsinc@yahoo.com

Entertaining Family?
✓You take care of their plans.
✓We'll take care of their comfort.
Best Western
BEST WESTERN Angus Inn
2920 10th Street • Great Bend, KS
Take a virtual tour at bwangus.com!
620-792-3541

MURRAY
CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
Danny Murray, D.C. • Sclie Murray, D.C.
2100 Kansas Avenue • Great Bend, KS
620-792-1386
www.murraychiropracticcenter.com

M&F Plumbing's Raymond Brown Now Certified to Offer Radon Testing

Since Raymond Brown knows there is no way to tell if radon gas is a problem without a proper test, he suggests all home and business owners have their properties checked.

Brown, estimator and troubleshooter at M&F Heating, Plumbing and Air Conditioning, 1020 Frey, is now state-certified to conduct that test. He also is certified to mitigate the problem if radon is detected. "There is nothing like peace of mind," Brown said. "Radon is a naturally occurring gas that you cannot see, smell or taste. It is everywhere but the problem occurs if there is too much of it."

The specific problem is an increased risk of lung cancer. In fact, Brown said, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

When a customer asks for a radon test, Brown inspects the property and sets it up for testing. The property remains closed for at least 12 hours. Brown returns the next day to set up the meter that will measure the amount of radon over a two-day period. "Then, when I go back after 48 hours, the machine will tell me the measurement," Brown said. "If there is too much radon, I can suggest one of a number of remedies."

Those remedies include ventilating the property's slab foundation or crawlspace, or installation of an Energy Recovery Ventilator. "There are quite a few ways to affect the transference of air and we will find the best way for each customer," Brown commented, noting the problem can be worse in the winter because windows remain closed.

Brown noted that radon-testing kits are available for purchase at the Barton County Extension Office. "They certainly can do the testing themselves or they can call a professional," he said. "The important thing is to have it checked."

Radon comes from the natural radioactive decay of radium and uranium found in soil beneath structures. The amount depends on soil chemistry, which varies from one house to the next.

In some cases, well water may also be a source of radon exposure. The gas can accumulate inside structures by seeping through crawlspace soil, sump pits, or through seams and cracks in concrete basement walls.

Brown's state-certification training in Wichita, which was sponsored by Kansas State University, entailed a week's worth of classes. He also successfully completed two tests – one for measurement and one for removal, or mitigation, of the problem.

For more information or to schedule a radon test or other service with M&F Plumbing, call 620-793-3529.

Save the Date - Sunflower Diversified Gala Mar. 1

The Sunflower Diversified Services 9th Annual Charity Gala is Saturday March 1, 2014 at the Great Bend Convention Center. There will be a gourmet dinner, open bar, live and silent auctions, our version of Deal Or No Deal, and lots more! You may help by donating items for the auctions, attending or be a sponsor. Please mark your calendar and join us for this fun and informative evening.

Sunflower Diversified Services is a non-profit agency serving babies, toddlers and adults with developmental disabilities and delays in Barton, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties. For more information, call 620-792-1321 or visit www.sunflowerdiv.com.

United Way of Central Kansas

1125 Williams in Great Bend, KS 67530
Office Phone: (620) 792-2403
unitedwayofcentralks@hotmail.com
Submitted by Executive Director Julie Smith

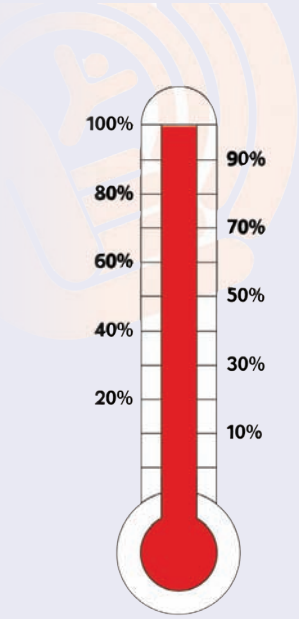
United Way Campaign Update

Last month, the United Way of Central Kansas celebrated the bittersweet close of the 2014 fundraising campaign. After months of payroll presentations at local businesses and numerous fundraising events, the United Way Board of Directors announced that they had met its goal of $250,000! But the announcement followed the death of United Way's part-time employee Delores Newell, who passed away the week before in her home. "We are dedicating the campaign to her," Executive Director Julie Smith says. "She was an awesome asset to United Way and was a team player helping in the office."

Spearheading the effort this year were co-chairs Bill and Angie Maddy, Jerry and Linda Marmie, and Kevyn and Paulette Soupiset. The Soupiset couple has also decided to become more active in 2014 by joining the United Way Board of Directors. Kevyn is co-owner of Advanced & Progressive Therapy & Sports Medicine in Great Bend, Larned, and Hays. The couple have three children and are also active with the Prince of Peace Parrish and the Larned Area Chamber of Commerce.

The 2014 United Way campaign included the first-ever paint run in August designed for youth participation, the "Sail Away with United Way" kick-off event in September and the Stuff the Bus events in Great Bend, Ellinwood and Larned. These were in addition to the traditional business contributions, payroll deductions and other donations.

"United Way is proud that 99 percent stays local in the community," Smith said. "The need is larger than ever before. This involvement among the communities makes sure the services can build stronger families, provide health care, food, intervention, prevention and treatment for those in need. Thank you to everyone for their continued support."



Started by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and local business leaders 51 years ago, the fundraising effort evolved from a community drive to a county-wide drive. Today, it is an effort that combines Barton and Pawnee counties.

For more information, visit the office at 1125 Williams in Great Bend, call 620-792-2403 or visit their website at www.uwck.org.

Sunflower
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, INC.

Celebrating 48 years of serving people with developmental disabilities.

"The Choice for Growth."

www.sunflowerdiv.com

NEW YEAR SALE
OVER 50 NEW 2014
CARS - TRUCKS - CROSSOVERS
IN STOCK NOW!

2014 CHEVY SILVERADO
2500 CREW CAB 4WD DURAMAX DIESEL
St# 14V54 SAVE $10,250 MSRP $54,965
SALE PRICE $44,715*
DOVE Chevrolet Buick Cadillac
4217 10th Street in Great Bend, KS
620-792-8266
www.dovechevy.com

Chamber Coffee Schedule
Thursdays at 9:30 am

February 6, 2014
Up N Rollin Skate Center • 2805 9th Street

Up N Rollin Skate Center is a family friendly roller skating rink with open sessions on Fridays and Saturdays from 6-8 p.m. and 8-10 p.m., and on Sundays from 3-5 p.m. We also offer Cheap Skate on Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. and Holy Roller Night the first Wednesday of each month from 6-8 p.m. Private party bookings are available.

February 13, 2014
Advanced Therapy • 3715 10th Street

Come enjoy a Mini Health Fair to help get your life back! Balance testing, body mass testing, flexibility testing, and guidance in starting a general fitness program. Do them all or pick your favorites! We will also have information for Work Comp issues through a Work Fit Demo, followed by Q&A. And everyone will get a chance to win Valentine's Gift Baskets!

February 20, 2014
Golden Belt Community Foundation
Front Door • 1615 10th Street

The Prairie Godmother Funds at the Golden Belt Community Foundation provide grants to improve the health and well-being of Barton County women by addressing critical needs not met by other community resources. The concept is simple: women helping women. To date, over 200 women have joined in this effort.

February 27, 2014
Best Western Angus Inn • 2920 10th Street

March 6, 2014
Johnson Electric • 2212 10th Street

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

Economic Outlook

Employment – Barton County	November 12	November 13
Labor Force	15,828	16,644
Employment	15,226	16,138
Unemployment	602	506
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.0%
KS Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.1%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report	November 12	November 13
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	$434,430	$396,563
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	$221,271	$197,402

Building Permits	November 12	November 13
Commercial – GB	8	5
Residential - GB	13	10

Great Lakes Airlines Flights - November 2013

Flights from Denver	29
Flights to Denver	28

Boarded 71 Passengers