

OUTLOOK

GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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YEARS 2021



BCYP CASINO NIGHT



Barton County Young Professionals is excited to invite members of the community to their 6th Annual Casino Night on April 29th, 2023.

The event will be held at the Knights of Columbus on Main St. and promises to be an unforgettable evening of games, entertainment, and a mouth-watering dinner.

The event is open to all community members over the age of 21 and offers a chance to enjoy the thrill of the casino while supporting a great cause. The funds raised from the event will be used to support various community initiatives that aim to promote the growth and development of young professionals in Barton County.

Tickets for the event are \$35 each and can be purchased in advance or at the door on the night of the event. Only 200 tickets will be sold with any remaining tickets sold at the door at an increased price of \$40-\$45. In addition, corporate sponsor tables are available for \$400 and include 8 tickets to the event, as well as special recognition during the evening.

“We are delighted to host our Annual Casino Night and bring the community together for a night of fun and entertainment while supporting our community,” said Katie Hales, President of Barton County Young Professionals. “This year, we’re thrilled to offer dinner to our guests, which will be served at 7 pm sharp followed by a brief program, and then the casino games and entertainment will commence from 8-10 pm. We’ll have an array of exciting prizes to be won in the Prize Drawings scheduled at 10:30 pm.”

The evening will feature a variety of casino-style games, including blackjack, poker, and roulette, with a range of exciting prizes up for grabs. Guests will also enjoy a cash bar during the social hour at 6 pm before the dinner is served.

Purchase tickets at greatbend.org.



CASINO NIGHT

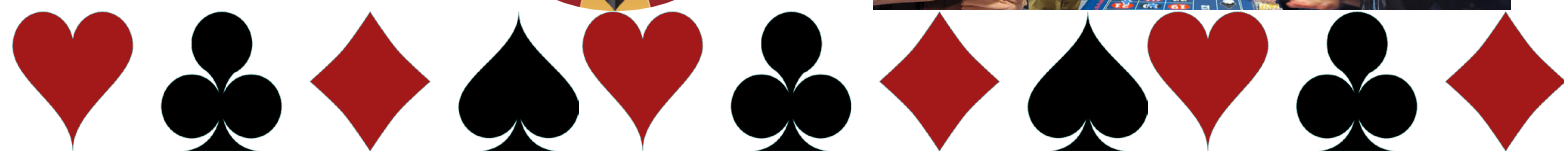
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GTR Limousine and Party Services Named Emerging Business of the Year at E3 Small Business Awards

Every year, eight regional Kansas SBDC offices nominate their existing, emerging, and exporting businesses of the year. Ruth Joiner and GTR Limousine and Party Services was one of those businesses and was recognized as a 2023 Emerging Business of the Year! Ruth Joiner was one of 17 businesses recognized at the annual E3 Small Business Awards ceremony, which was held at the State Capital in Topeka, KS, on Thursday, 3/2/23. It was an all day event with special recognitions during the House of Representatives and Senate meetings. The awards ceremony opened up with a motivational speech from Governor, Laura Kelly, followed by a few other keynote speakers. Ruth was nominated by her FHSU SBDC Business Advisor, Susan Penka who assisted Ruth in developing a business plan to secure enough funding to start her business.



Great Bend Alive and Lovegrass Music Festival Association Partner for Fridays on Forest Kick-Off Event, April 28th

Great Bend Alive, the downtown arm of Great Bend Economic Development (GBED), and the Lovegrass Music Festival Association (LMFA) are excited to announce their partnership for the upcoming Fridays on Forest Kick-Off event on April 28, 2023. The event will take place on Forest Avenue, from Williams to Main, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5 p.m. to open the entertainment district for the 3rd season. Ahead of their three-day music festival at Lake Wilson State Park in August, Lovegrass is bringing bluegrass to Fridays on Forest with three highly acclaimed bands, Gravel Yard from Arkansas, the Brook Blanche Band from Wichita, and Old Fangled from Lawrence, KS.



“We are thrilled to partner up to bring the ‘Lovegrass Experience’ to the Great Bend community for our kick-off event!” said Sarah Arnberger, President of GBED. “Our organizations have the shared goal of wanting to see more fun events and shared cultural experiences within our communities. Fridays on Forest is a great opportunity for our community to come together to enjoy fantastic music, food, and drinks. We are really excited to bring a new music genre to Fridays on Forest with the partnership with Lovegrass for our inaugural event!”

In addition to great music, attendees can also enjoy delicious food from Lumpy’s, Los Dos Potrillos, Brand 17 BBQ, and The Spread, in addition to our alcohol vendors, Los Dos Potrillos, Lumpy’s, Charlie’s Place, and Dry Lake Brewing.

Great Bend Alive is looking forward to another great season of Fridays on Forest with a few new additions, and many amenities Great Bend has gotten used to having in the entertainment district. Mark your calendar for the last Friday of each month between April and October for all the Fridays on Forest events. Many sponsorships and partnerships are already in place but if you, your business, or your organization would like to get involved, please reach out to GBED staff at 620-796-2407 or marketing@gbedinc.com.

A couple of other new partnerships include Identifications, Co., and Volunteers in Action. Identifications will have an online store open soon for the purchase of Great Bend Alive merchandise. Volunteers in Action is allowing GBED to utilize its platform to source volunteers for events. Fridays on Forest is always needing gatekeepers. Specifically, 12 volunteers are needed for each event. These one-hour shifts cover the three entrances to the entertainment district. Curious about volunteering? Sign up at: <https://volunteersinaction.galaxydigital.com>, and become a fan of Great Bend Economic Development to stay up to date on projects/events for which you can provide assistance. Another way to stay informed is to follow Great Bend Economic Development and Great Bend Alive on social media.



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speak to our experienced roofers, you will quickly realize why we're a cut above the storm chasers and big-name brands. Call today for your free estimate. "We are thrilled to be part of the Great Bend community and look forward to serving our new customers here," said Ryan Shull, the owner of Shull Construction. "Our team is committed to providing top-quality roofing and guttering services to homes and businesses in the area." Visit them at www.shullroofing.com.



Sunflower Massage

Owner and Licensed Massage Therapist, Sandra Burton, brings over 24 years of experience to her new business, offering an integrated approach to custom massage sessions with a range of techniques, including Swedish, targeted deep tissue, trigger point therapy, and fascia lengthening. Her clients, some who have been with her for her entire career, have praised the quality of touch and focused attention they receive during each session. "Massage is not just an occasional treat. It is a proven method of self-care, injury rehab, and treatment for repetitive motion and repetitive position injuries," said Sandra Burton. "I look forward to bringing

relief, relaxation, and renewal to the people of Great Bend and Barton County." Sunflower Massage is located in Great Bend and is open Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 7 PM, by appointment only. To book a session, call 512-773-6927 or visit sunflowermassage.com. Sessions start at \$60 for 60 minutes and \$85 for 90 minutes. For more information, contact Sandra Burton at sandraborntonmassage@gmail.com or 512-773-6927.



Outlook Business Journal

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GREAT BEND

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Feeling like you paid too much in taxes this year?

Contact your financial advisor today to learn about investing strategies that could benefit you.



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FAP-1942N-A-AD

Ribbon Cuttings!



Harper Camperland

Harper Camperland has been a staple in the Great Bend community for four decades, serving customers across the country with their sales, service, and accessories. The dealership has a wide variety of new, used, and consignment RVs to offer, with a full line of Jayco and Grand Design models. Harper Camperland has earned several awards for their exceptional customer service, and has even worked with FEMA to provide units during national disasters. “We are excited to celebrate this milestone with the Great Bend community,” said Katie Zimmerman, the office manager at Harper Camperland. “We have built strong relationships with our customers over the years and are grateful for their support. We are also proud to have been a part of many important moments in our customers’ lives, from family vacations to retirement adventures.” Harper Camperland has over 25 employees at their Great Bend location and has served over 1000 customers from almost every state in the US. They can be found on their website, hclrv.com, on Facebook (Harper Camperland - Great Bend), and by phone at 6207925170. The company was recently sold to Blue Compass RV, the largest RV dealer group in the nation, which is committed to continuing Harper Camperland’s tradition of exceptional customer service.



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Xpress Wellness

Xpress Wellness Urgent Care is excited to announce the addition of a new pediatric-themed exam room and kids’ corner! The new exam room and kids corner have been designed with a Finding Nemo theme, and have been brought to life by local artist Tabitha Schenk. In addition to the colorful and engaging environment, the room also features a TV playing kids shows all day to keep young patients occupied during wait times. The front lobby also has a special kids corner with puzzles and coloring activities to help entertain little ones while their parents are checking in. “We realized that our clinic had a very sterile medical feel to it and was not as kid-friendly/welcoming as we would like it to be. We wanted to create an environment that would make our young patients feel comfortable and at ease during their visit,” said Kristen Yarmer, APRN and owner of Xpress Wellness Urgent Care in Great Bend. Xpress Wellness Urgent Care is an urgent care facility that offers a wide range of services, including acute illness treatment, lab testing, in-house radiology, and occupational medicine services. The Great Bend clinic has six employees, including Kristen Yarmer, APRN; Kelsea Kirmer, MA; Sydnee Carder, PSS; Kristin Zenner, APRN; Chantelle Brown, MA; and Desiree Workman, PSS. Xpress Wellness Urgent Care has been serving patients for three years in Great Bend and across Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. “We want to provide quality and timely medical care to our patients and their families. We aim to treat each patient as a valued individual, and strive to make their experience with us as positive and stress-free as possible,” added Yarmer.



HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN APRIL

- 1-June 16th...Barton County Fair Yoder Pie Sale, visit bartoncountyfair.com for order forms.
- 1...PAWsome Easter Egg Hunt, Vets Park (dog park), 1pm
- 1...Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, GB Sports Complex, 8pm-9pm
- 4...Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Teal Day, Snap a photo & tag Family Crisis Center, All day
- 6...Chamber Coffee: Barton County Historical Society, 85 US-281 HWY., Doors Open at 9am, Program at 9:30am. Can't make it? Watch online on the Chamber's Facebook Page or Youtube Channel.**
- 6...Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Tellers 1872, 1919 Lakin St., 10am (following the coffee)**
- 6...Barton County Historical Society Volunteer Orientation, 85 US-281 HWY, 1:30pm-3pm
- 7...Chamber Closed: Good Friday**
- 7...Sexual Assault Awareness Month - We are Barton: Building Together in Partnership, GB Rec, 10am-3pm
- 8...Encounter Church Candy Blast, 601 Patton Rd., 12pm-3pm
- 11...Shafer Gallery Exhibit Opens, 235 NE 30 Rd., 10am-5pm
- 11...Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Community Wide Photo, Jack Kilby Sqaure, 5:15pm
- 13...Chamber Coffee: Sunrise Staffing, 2015 Forest Ave. (Rm #202), Doors Open at 9am, Program at 9:30am. Can't make it? Watch online on the Chamber's Facebook Page or Youtube Channel.**
- 13...Instrumental Concert "With Strings Attached," BCC (245 NE 30 Rd.), 7:30pm
- 14...VFW Post 3111: Karaoke Night!, 504 Washinton St., 9pm-12am
- 15...Laundry Love, Discount Laundry (924 Jefferson St.), 10am-2pm
- 16...13th Annual Barton Foundation Sporting Clay Shoot Fundraiser, Camp Aldrich, 884 NE 110 Ave., 9am-4pm
- 16...Barton Library Book Fair, BCC (245 NE 30 Rd.), 1pm-5pm
- 18...Sexual Assault Awareness Month - In Her Shoes Activity, Public Library, 9:30am-11:30am
- 19...VFW Post 3111: Cornhole, 504 Washinton St., 7pm-9pm
- 20...Chamber Coffee: Kelly's Garden Sense, 134 NE 10th Ave., Doors Open at 9am, Program at 9:30am. Can't make it? Watch online on the Chamber's Facebook Page or Youtube Channel.**
- 20...The Entrepreneurial Equation, Edward Jones (2016 19th St.), 12pm-1pm
- 20...Great Bend Community Theatre Presents "Guess Who's Coming To Supper," 1905 Lakin, 7:30pm-9:30pm
- 20...Spring Choral Concert, BCC (245 NE 30 Rd.), 7:30pm
- 21...Guest Artist Piano Recital, BCC (245 NE 30 Rd.), 7:30pm
- 27...Chamber Coffee: United Way, Marmie Ford (1815 10th St.), Doors Open at 9am, Program at 9:30am. Can't make it? Watch online on the Chamber's Facebook Page or Youtube Channel.**
- 28...Military & First Responders Night Out, 916 Williams St., 6pm-8pm
- 28..."Moving in the Heartland," Dance Festival Night One, BCC (245 NE 30 Rd.), 7pm
- 29...BCYP Casino Night, Knights of Columbus (723 Main St.), 6pm-10:30pm**

Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams, 6:30 pm
Barton County Commission Meetings, Wednesdays, Barton County Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106, 9am.

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GREAT BEND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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to Our **NEWEST**
Chamber Members

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Awards & Accolades/People on the Move

Richard Thompson Recognized as One of LPL Financial’s Top Financial Advisors

RICHARD THOMPSON, an independent LPL Financial advisor at WADDELL & REED in GREAT BEND, today announced his inclusion in LPL’s Director’s Club. With more than 21,000 LPL-affiliated advisors nationwide, LPL awards this distinction to select advisors based upon their business success*. “On behalf of LPL, I’m thrilled to congratulate Richard, said Angela Xavier, LPL executive vice president, Independent Advisor Services. “It is an honor to support Richard with the technological infrastructure, integrated products and differentiated services that help advisors run a thriving practice. We wish Richard and his entire team even greater success as they continue to help their clients work towards their financial goals in the years ahead.” Thompson serves clients based in Kansas and 11 other states and provides a full range of financial services, including retirement and financial planning, individual money management, individual stocks and bonds, mutual funds, annuities and more. Thompson is affiliated with LPL Financial, a leading wealth management firm. LPL provides the resources, tools and technology that support advisors in their work to enrich their clients’ financial lives.



American Plains Co-op Welcomes Mark Bauer as Assistant Grain Merchandiser



American Plains Co-op is pleased to announce the hiring of Mark Bauer as the new Assistant Grain Merchandiser. Mark brings a wealth of experience to the team with his strong agronomic knowledge and robust grower relationships, gained from his previous role as a Precision Ag Specialist that he held for the past 6 years. “We are excited to welcome Mark to our team and are confident that he will bring great value to our grain department with his fresh perspective and insights,” “His extensive experience and knowledge of the industry will be an asset to our organization as we continue to strive for excellence in serving our customers.” As Assistant Grain Merchandiser, Mark will be responsible for analyzing market trends, negotiating prices with buyers, and developing relationships with new and existing customers. He will also work closely with the rest of the grain team to ensure the efficient and timely handling of all grain deliveries.

Move Your Mountain Coaching & Consulting Hosts Leadership Golden Belt Community Program to Empower Leaders

Move Your Mountain Coaching & Consulting is once again hosting their renowned Leadership Golden Belt community program, aimed at empowering participants to explore their leadership skills and capabilities in Barton, Pawnee, Rush, and Stafford Counties. This program will help individuals understand adaptive challenges contextually and bring their challenges to the table to leave the final session with confidence and experiencing movement. The program will run for seven sessions starting on May 10th, 2023, and continuing every Wednesday until June 21st, 2023, from 8 am-12 pm. Participants will learn how to diagnose situations, manage themselves, energize others, intervene skillfully, and ask powerful questions.

The program will provide a safe space for participants to explore tough interpretations and distinguish between technical and adaptive work. They will understand process challenges, test multiple interpretations, and identify who needs to do the work. Managing vulnerabilities and triggers to stay engaged and present, knowing the stories others tell about you to continue leading, choosing among competing values, getting used to uncertainty and conflict, experimenting beyond your comfort zone, and taking care of oneself will be key areas of focus for managing self.

Participants will learn to engage unusual voices, work across factions, start where they are, speak to the loss, inspire a collective purpose, and create a trustworthy process for energizing others. They will learn how to make purposeful choices, raise the heat to make movement happen, give the work back and empower through the process, hold to purpose, speak from the heart to the heart, and act experimentally to intervene skillfully.

Finally, the program will teach participants to ask powerful questions that move individuals from delegating and telling people to unlocking the potential they already have. With open-ended questions, individuals will be more invested and feel more energized to follow through, creating an action plan, timeline, and accountability.

Move Your Mountain Coaching & Consulting’s Leadership Golden Belt community program promises to be an exciting, informative, and transformative experience for all participants. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to develop and enhance your leadership skills. Register now to reserve your spot in the program.



Barton Community College Passes OER Milestone with Certification of 100th Course

Barton Community College celebrated another milestone in its Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative by certifying its 100th course. The three-credit-hour Computer Concepts and Applications course joined the OER line-up to help make Barton classes more accessible and affordable for students. The foundational computer course became the second-course Business Computer Management Instructor Deanna Heier certified for the College's initiative. The transition of this course to OER represents a significant step towards additional initiative goals since the course is required to complete an associate degree.



BARTON
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"Many of my students, both online and on-campus, made inadequate attempts to complete the course without the textbook because it is expensive," said Heier. "Cost saving is great, but a student's opportunity for success increases with the new course transition. It is one barrier that could be resolved for both the course and degree with this OER revision."

The Barton Bookstore has supported the initiative from the beginning in its own unique way. The institutionally owned bookstore differs from many of its peers in that a third party does not own and operate it. Bookstore Manager Cecelia Nicolet said it fully supports the use and expansion of the OER initiative across the institution. "It is the policy of the Barton Bookstore to uphold and support Barton's mission to provide affordable learning opportunities and resources for students," she said. Director of Innovation and Compliance Lee Miller said the support of our campus bookstore is one of the reasons Barton has made significant progress with the OER initiative. "Thank you to all the faculty and staff who helped us reach this new milestone," she said. For more information, contact Director of Innovation and Compliance Lee Miller millerle@bartonccc.edu or (620) 786-7453.

BCYP Takes Over The 1st Annual Kansas Young Professionals Day at the Capital

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce staff members and Barton County Young Professionals President, Katie Hales, recently attended the first Young Professionals Day at the capital hosted by Topeka Forge on Feb. 16. This event brought together young professionals from around the state to build civic engagement and promote networking. Representatives from Barton County had the opportunity to meet with Kansas State Representative, Tory Marie Blew, District 112, and participate in a variety of activities, including legislative 101 sessions, lunch with peers and Legislators and the chance to attend committee meetings or schedule meetings with officials from their local delegation. The event also featured remarks from elected officials, statehouse tours and attendance at legislative sessions.

Chamber President, Megan Barfield, expressed excitement about bringing similar opportunities to young professionals in the Great Bend area.

"We are thrilled to have had the chance to participate in this inaugural event and to connect with peers from across the state," said Barfield. "The opportunity to engage with our state representatives and to learn more about the legislative process was invaluable." The Young Professionals Day at the Capitol provided a platform for young professionals to connect, learn and engage with their state government.



Join Kris Sundahl of Edward Jones to Learn Financial Strategies for Entrepreneurs at 'The Entrepreneurial Equation' Presentation on April 20th

Edward Jones, a top US financial services firm, will host "The Entrepreneurial Equation" on April 20th, 2023, at one of their Edward Jones locations, 2016 19th St. The presentation, led by financial advisor Kris Sundahl, will provide attendees with valuable insights on financial tools and strategies to ease entrepreneurship. The event, from 12pm-1pm, is free but requires registration as lunch will be served. Edward Jones believes financial education is crucial to entrepreneurial success and encourages all business owners to attend. Attendees will learn about cash flow management, tax, and retirement planning, and more. To register for this event call (620) 603-0340 or you can email sonya.rein@edwardjones.com.



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

United Way of Central Kansas is Bringing a New Funding Option to Barton & Pawnee Counties

United Way of Central Kansas is introducing Impact Grants to the area. These funds are available for specific programs or projects lead by any 501c3 non-profit in Barton or Pawnee Counties for up to \$1,000. Priority funding will be given to projects that present innovative approaches to meeting the health and human services needs of our community. Other factors for funding consideration will include measurable outcomes, programs that meet current needs in the community, and the organization's ability to secure funds to continue the project, if applicable.

Total funds for this first year is \$5,000 which will be awarded on a first come, first served basis starting April 1st. Grants will be awarded for programs or projects in the fields of health, education, and financial stability. These grants will be acted on a rolling deadline basis throughout the year, with applicants being notified within 4-6 weeks of the application submission.

Funding will not be considered for annual fund drives, building funds, operating deficits or after the fact support, direct or grass roots lobbying, religious purposes, hospitals, medical research, academic research, or event sponsorships.

"UWCK is excited for the opportunities that this funding option will present to the community. Projects that need initial seed money or programs that would be beneficial to the community, we can help fund them with a short and simple application. Additionally this also allows us to build relationships with more non-profit organizations across our area, fostering unity for the betterment of our community as a whole. We are stronger together and we look forward to seeing the great ideas fellow non-profits have and how we can help." Charell Owings, Executive Director.

If your organization is interested in applying for these funds, contact UWCK at 620-792-2403 or unitedwaycentralks@hotmail.com for more information.

2023

UWCK IMPACT GRANTS

Up to
\$1,000

The United Way of Central Kansas Impact Grant program will make awards of up to \$1,000 per year to a non-profit organization project/program benefiting Barton or Pawnee Counties. The total awarded throughout the year will not exceed \$5,000.

12
Month
Cycle


Mini grants will be accepted on a rolling deadline basis throughout the year. Applicants will be notified within 4-6 weeks of the decision and funds dispersed within 2 months of application.

Make
An
Impact

Project/Program must be related to the fields of Health, Education, or Financial Stability. Must be a 501c3 non-profit organization. Priority funding will be given to projects that present innovative approaches to meeting the health and human services needs of our community.

MORE INFORMATION

620-792-2403
www.uwck.org



United Way of Central Kansas

Barton County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Awards Student Entrepreneurs

Barton County's third annual Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge was an eye-opener for the new competitors, while the seasoned competitors took their presentations up a few notches. On March 8, 2023, Barton County's YEC Tradeshow was held at the Great Bend Event Center. 7th Grade to 12th Grade student participants competed for cash prizes and can go on to the State Level with NetWork Kansas.

The judging panel was made up of a wide array of business professionals including Jessica Milsap, MPIRE Realty Group, David McMillan, representing the Masonic Lodge, Shawn Powelson, Landmark Bank, Regan Reif, University of Kansas Health Systems, and Krystal Scharz, Peoples Bank & Trust. Before the students took to the trade show floor, GBED hosted a lunch/mixer for judges and students as an icebreaker to help the students to connect with the judges before presenting before them. Students were given some questions to ask the judges, such as 'How do you handle the work-life balance?'. Regan Reif answered this by saying that she prefers to say it is a "work-life integration", and she turned it around to ask those students with functioning businesses how they handle it as well. All in all, it was an impactful dialogue between the two groups.

Following the trade-show portion of the event, the winners were announced. For the third and final year she could compete, Kiley Stevenson won first place and walked away with \$1000 in prize money. Kiley is a senior from Ellinwood High School and will go on to the State Level of Competition with NetWork Kansas. This year she pitched her business The Cookie Caddy. Second place went to Danielle Davis, Sugar N Spice Co, and she received \$750 in prize money. Danielle was new to the competition but has been running the business for a



few years already. Third place went to a team from the Great Bend Middle School. Sydney Bailey and Callie Umphres competed with their concept business, Little Friends Daycare, and walked away with \$500. Fourth place went to Tucker Loesch with his business Loesch Mfg. Tucker walked away with \$200, plus \$250 for winning the People's Choice Award! People's Choice was a close race again this year! Thank you to everyone that came to the event and supported our youth entrepreneurs!

This competition, brought to Great Bend by Great Bend Economic Development and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, was created to challenge our youth, encourage our business community to partner with and mentor our younger generations, and foster an entrepreneurial spirit, and is a partnership with NetWork Kansas. Event Sponsors included Barton Community College, Nex-Tech, and Gottschalk Equipment Sales.

BARTON COUNTY
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE



Business & Education Tours Return

In the 1950's the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce introduced Business & Education Tours to connect and educate members. While it is uncertain how long those were hosted, the current staff and board of directors are excited to bring those back in 2023. The initial business to business (B2B) tours will have a goal of educating one another in an effort to increase and refer customer traffic and will kick off on April 25th.

Creating and referring customer traffic within the community is essential for the success of local businesses. By working together, businesses can leverage each other's strengths to drive more traffic to their locations and increase sales. Building a network of local businesses that refer customers to each other creates a win-win situation for everyone involved. The customer benefits by finding a wider range of products and services in one location, and the businesses benefit by gaining new customers and increased revenue.

Businesses who participate in the tours will have the opportunity to showcase their products and services, learn more about their peers, and build relationships that can lead to future collaborations. In turn, the attendees can learn more about the products and services offered by their peers, which will enable them to refer customers more effectively. This kind of collaboration is a powerful tool for generating customer traffic within the community.

The Business 2 Business Tours will also provide an opportunity for local businesses to connect with their neighbors and build relationships that can lead to future collaborations. The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce's board of directors feels the B2B Tours are an important initiative for building a strong local business community who champion one on another to thrive and grow together.

The first two sets of four tours will take place on April 25th and May 9th during two different 90-minute sessions (8:30AM & 7PM). To learn more about how to get involved, contact Megan Barfield at mbarfield@greatbend.org.



Kansas Farm Bureau Local Election Resources

Engaged Kansas www.engagedkansas.org is a central hub of nonpartisan, unbiased resources and training materials to help individuals understand how to navigate the election process and effectively advocate for their communities. Please let me know if you would like more information on Engaged Kansas or a presentation on it in your community.

Partners include:

- Kansas Association of Counties
- Kansas Association of School Boards
- Kansas Chamber
- Chamber of Commerce Executives of Kansas
- Kansas Leadership Center
- League of Kansas Municipalities
- Kansas Farm Bureau

Campaign School - April 19th- 20th in Manhattan.

Participation is open to 20 people, and they DO NOT have to be KFB members to attend. The training is designed for candidates, managers, and lead volunteers of campaigns for the state legislature, school board, city council, county commission, or another public office. With over 20 years of experience presenting a nonpartisan nonissue-specific campaign theory and simulation school, the program has over a 75% winning percentage. Kansas Farm Bureau's Campaign School teaches the nuts and bolts of campaigning and how to execute a winning campaign. The program's content is agnostic on policy and political affiliation. Anyone considering elected office is welcome to attend.

An agenda with specific topics covered and a registration link for the 2-day event can be found here www.kfb.org/campaignschool. I've attached a flyer you can distribute as you see fit.

We share this information because the Kansas Farm Bureau Board believes in educating and encouraging more Kansas to consider public service. We ask that you consider sharing this information with your network as you see fit. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you or anyone else has further questions.



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KANSAS FARM BUREAU'S CAMPAIGN SCHOOL

APRIL 19-20, 2023

KFB HEADQUARTERS

2627 KFB PLAZA, MANHATTAN KS

THINKING ABOUT RUNNING FOR
STATE LEGISLATURE, SCHOOL BOARD,
COUNTY COMMISSION, OR OTHER PUBLIC OFFICE?

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Current officeholders
- Potential candidates
- Campaign managers
- Campaign volunteer leaders

WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

- Learn the nuts and bolts of campaigning
- Receive non-partisan, unbiased guidance
- Participate in a program with a 78% national win percentage
- Gain confidence to execute a winning campaign

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GREAT BEND

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEATURED AMBASSADOR

MATT ALTHOUSE

EAGLE COMMUNICATIONS



What brought you to Great Bend?

I came to Great Bend in 2008 looking to grow my career in radio. I found an opportunity at Eagle and was excited at the prospect of working for a well respected and employee owned company. Since then I've formed many personal and professional friendships that I truly value. Great Bend is also a terrific place to raise a family, there's always something going on! One thing I find unique about our community is how many truly generous people live here, there's always someone willing to help out financial, or through their time and talents. It's refreshing to live along side so many people who deeply care about where we work and play.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I've been blessed to do almost every job here at Eagle at some point. The only thing I haven't done is sports broadcasting, and once was only 15 minutes away from doing that too. That would have been rough! Now as manager I try to make sure our team has everything they need to bring a fantastic product to our community. Whether that's news, entertainment or marketing opportunities for local business. I'm fortunate to work with veterans of this business who have irreplaceable experience, to young talented individuals with a passion for our community and are always thinking of new ways to keep us and our customers engaged.

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

I have a small YouTube channel where I fix old junk.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

I love a win, win, win. When we have an idea that excites our audience, helps promote local business, and helps us pay the bills. It's very rewarding to be part of something that benefits everyone involved.

At what job, would you be terrible?

I was fired as a short order cook. I'm a single-tasker for sure and that's bad for the lunch rush. Haha.

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

This is my first year as a Chamber Ambassador. I love how the Chamber shines a bright spotlight on the awesome things local businesses are doing in our community that people need to see and hear about. That's a mission we share here at Eagle and I'm grateful for the opportunity as an Ambassador to help promote that goal of making Great Bend a place known as a desirable place to live and do business.

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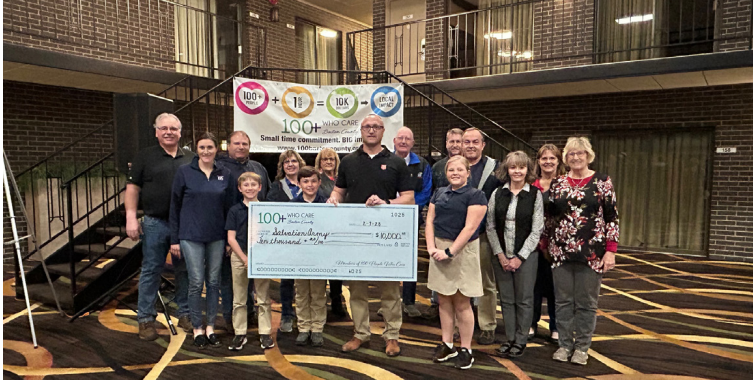
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Salvation Army To Receive \$10,000+ from Members of 100+ People Who Care Group



The Salvation Army of Barton County is pleased to announce that they are the 2023 first quarter recipients of \$10,000+ in charitable donations from members of the 100+ People Who Care in Barton County group. As the group celebrated the start of their giving year, the Salvation Army joined past charitable organizations in sharing \$200,000 of support since the group's formation in 2017.

The Salvation Army's founders sought to bring salvation to the poor, destitute, and hungry by meeting both their "physical and spiritual needs." The organization's charity shops, youth camps, shelters for the homeless, and humanitarian aid to developing countries and during disaster relief can be found in 133 countries world-wide. The quarterly pledges of the 100+ People Who Care members will assist the organization in funding their emergency assistance program. This program assists struggling families in Barton County with rent and utilities, prescription assistance, and gas vouchers.

The next giving meeting for the 100+ People Who Care group will be held Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at the Best Western Angus Inn Courtyard. At that time, representatives from the Salvation Army will return to provide an update on how the organization is 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, or on their Facebook page.

100+
WHO CARE
Barton County

Great Bend Industries Kicks Off CKCA Campaign for New Lunchroom Tables

Central Kansas Christian Academy (CKCA), a Christian school in Great Bend, recently received a generous donation from Great Bend Industries (GBI) toward their new fundraising campaign for lunchroom tables. "At Great Bend Industries, one of our core goals is to become a recognized community leader by contributing time and money to projects with local schools, charities, and special events," says Thad Bogle, of GBI. "This is what led us to contribute to CKCA. We recognize and appreciate the great work that CKCA and all area schools are doing to develop the next generation here in Great Bend. We're proud to support their cause."

The school's current lunchroom tables are very old and unsafe. "These tables aren't very stable when they're folded up to clean the floors of the lunchroom," says Melanie Schroeter, CKCA's Parent Teacher Fellowship Chair. "We want to replace these tables with ones that lock more securely while folded. The new ones also feature individual stool seating instead of bench seating, which makes them easier to use for school events where different age groups are using the lunchroom."

The school's Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) will be raising funds throughout the spring semester. Letters will be going out to potential donors, and the proceeds from this year's Butter Braid fundraiser will go to the lunchroom table project as well.

Central Kansas Christian Academy is a nondenominational community Christian school for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, with a positive environment that combines Christian character training with an excellent academic curriculum. The core classroom studies are supplemented with a variety of enrichment courses, such as physical education, music, band, art, library, and computer applications. Students also have opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities and athletics, such as basketball, cheerleading, and Student Council. This spring, CKCA will complete a multi-year accreditation process through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).



**CENTRAL
KANSAS
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY**

"Feel the POWER" as Wheatland Electric Celebrates 75 Years at Annual Meeting on April 26th



Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) will be celebrating 75 years of cooperative history at this year's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at the Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Rd., in Scott City, Kan., and in seven other remote meeting locations across its service territory: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper, and Caldwell.

This year's theme, "Feel the POWER," reflects WEC's long history and continued commitment to the communities it serves. In addition to celebrating 75 years of community ownership and control, WEC will be sharing important news and information from the past year as well as future challenges and opportunities in providing reliable and affordable electric power to rural America.

All Wheatland Electric members (all account holders) are invited to attend and exercise their POWER by nominating and voting for their trustee representation and cooperative governance bylaws. Members in attendance at any meeting location can register to win one of dozens of door prizes. Each member household attending will also receive a special 75th anniversary gift.

Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. CT, and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. CT at all meeting locations. The business meeting will commence at noon. Members must be in line to register by noon in order to be eligible to vote.



CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Every Thursday | Doors Open at 9am | Program at 9:30am

Tune in on Facebook or YouTube for Virtual Coffees

April 6th, 2023

BARTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
85 US-281 HWY

The Barton County Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Barton County, located in the state of Kansas. Founded in 1951, the society operates the Barton County Historical Museum, which features exhibits on the area's indigenous peoples, pioneers, agriculture, industry, and military history. The museum also hosts educational programs and events for the community, including lectures, tours, and hands-on activities. Through its collections and outreach efforts, the Barton County Historical Society seeks to enrich the understanding and appreciation of the region's diverse cultural heritage.

April 13, 2023

SUNRISE STAFFING SERVICE
2015 Forest Ave. (Rm #202)

Sunrise Staffing Services, LLC is a full-service staffing agency committed to meeting your recruitment needs. Whether you're a job seeker or an employer, you can count on us. With 40 years of combined experience, we take great pride in our work and have built a reputation for providing unparalleled staffing services.

April 20, 2023

KELLY'S GARDEN SENSE
134 NE 10 Ave

Kelly's Garden Sense creates beautiful landscapes and colorful outdoor spaces in Great Bend, KS, and the surrounding area. Kelly is your premiere Landscaper and outdoor designer in central Kansas. We bring the Greenhouse to you and take a truly, personal approach. We work to help you design a landscape that is uniquely YOU but stands out from the crowd!

April 27, 2023

UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL KANSAS
Marmie Ford (1815 10th St.)

United Way envisions a world where every individual has an opportunity to succeed, and entire communities thrive as a result. We're getting a little closer everyday, with help from millions of people around the world. Our work is fueled by the passion of 2.8 million volunteers and 9.8 million donors who give their time, their money and their voice to improve the lives of others. Every day, our volunteers, donors and advocates are making a lasting difference in so many ways. That can mean helping a child learn to read, donating money to make sure people have access to quality medical care, speaking out in support of policies that provide training for in-demand jobs and so much more. We focus on education, financial stability and health, the building blocks for a good life and a strong community.

May 4, 2023

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2123 Forest Ave.

We are a group of believers on a journey to GROW in Faith, SHARE in Worship, and SERVE Others. You may know us by our red brick building at the corner of Forest and Stone, it's here we have a long, proud history of serving the people of Great Bend and sharing God's message of Hope.

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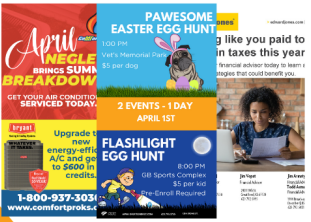
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