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Outlook Business Journal

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Great Bend... At Your Service Chamber & CVB Partner on Hospitality Award Program

Great Bend... At Your Service. That's the name of a new contest and award program being co-sponsored by the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce in an effort to stimulate improved customer service and hospitality awareness for front line staff in our community.

Earlier this year, the State of Kansas launched a FREE online customer service training called "Kansas At Your Service." The need for such a training has been discussed for several years by retail, lodging, and dining establishments. This state tool is a certification program designed to create enhanced guest experiences by educating frontline staff to answer questions about area attractions and how to provide quality service across the State. The web-based certification training, available in both English and Spanish, is offered at no charge.

Loren Unruh, local hotel and restaurant owner and Chairman of the CVB Board of Directors is a firm supporter of the program. He says, "The development of this online customer service and regional host training is certainly one of the greatest accomplishments by the Kansas tourism industry. It will be a valuable resource for all Kansas businesses and educational facilities."

Loren was among the first to have 100% participation among his employees, meaning that all of his staff completed the online training. He was recognized in May with a local award provided by the Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau in partnership with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. The local award is called "Great Bend... At Your Service" and since that time, two more businesses have earned this distinction. For June, the Kansas Wetlands Education Center and Rana Luna Boutique are the proud recipients of the "Great Bend... At Your Service" award.

"Our staff comes in contact with so many birders, hunters, and visitors to our community and this training was an easy and effective way for me to train my staff consistently on customer service and hospitality," says Curtis Wolf with the KWEC. "I would highly recommend that other organizations in our community make it a priority for their staff as well. It'll help us present a consistent front and engage our visitors."

Each employee who completes the state and regional training will get a printable certificate that the employer is asked to track until all they have 100% employee participation. Each month between now and the end of the year, the Chamber and CVB will give up to two awards per month to businesses who can achieve 100% participation. Award recipients will receive a photo and write-up in the Outlook Business Journal, along with a framed award certificate to display in their business.

"Our retail store interacts with a lot of the Hispanic population, so it was convenient for my bilingual staff to take the training in Spanish," says Ana Hayson, owner of Rana Luna Boutique. "It's important for businesses with a diverse customer base to cater to everyone, and this training made it very easy to train my staff appropriately."

As an added incentive, all individuals that complete both the basic and regional portions of the At Your Service training will be entered to win one of three \$100 cash prizes that will be given away later this year. The contest runs until November 1st so employers are encouraged to facilitate the training opportunity prior to that date for maximum participation. To take the Kansas At Your Service program, visit www.KansasAtYourService.com. Businesses interested in receiving the "Great Bend... At Your Service" award for 100% employee participation should contact the Convention & Visitors Bureau at 620-792-2750.



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Technology Roundtable June 17th "Virtualization & Tablets"

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development would like to invite you 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 next Technology Roundtable Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, June 17th in the Spray-Holt Family Board Room at the Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, at 11:30 a.m. The topic for this guided discussion will be Virtualization & Tablets.

Lunch will be catered, and cost per person will be \$10. The fee will include the meal, a beverage, and the discussion handouts. If you plan to attend the luncheon, you must register online by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior at www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx.

Chamber Seminar June 10th "LinkedIn for Professionals"

Members of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development get access to special training opportunities. On Wednesday, June 10th members are invited to take part in special workshop on "LinkedIn for Professionals" facilitated by Chamber Marketing Director Rachel Mawhirter. This one-hour seminar will begin at 10 a.m. and is designed to teach professionals and small business owners how to use LinkedIn for networking, recruiting, and career growth.



Participants should already have a LinkedIn profile created prior to attending, and are welcome to bring a laptop or tablet with them so they can start practicing right away.

The seminar will begin at 10 a.m. with coffee and rolls served. Cost per person to attend this valuable workshop is \$15, which includes the refreshments and handout materials. Seating is limited, so register early at www.greatbend.org/ChamberEvents.aspx.

Great Bend Public Library Re-Opened After Renovations

The Great Bend Public Library has returned to its home location on Williams Street after undergoing recent renovations. The library's new geo-thermal HVAC system offers more even temperature control building-wide and should make for a comfortable environment with the library's upcoming summer plans. Library patrons will also notice many additional changes throughout the building.

The children's department has rearranged their floor plan to allow for a new seating area and the adult department has undergone a more extensive layout change, moving entire collections of books. The library's Teen Spot has also added additional lounge seating that has been funded by the Barton County Quality of Life Endowment.

As the library prepares for its upcoming Summer Library Programs and its Argonne Rebels Exhibit, both beginning June 1st, the staff and the patrons are excited for these and other changes to the library building. The public is encouraged to stop by the library and take a tour of the new layout. A ribbon cutting will be held Thursday, June 4th at 10 a.m. For more information, visit greatbendpl.info.

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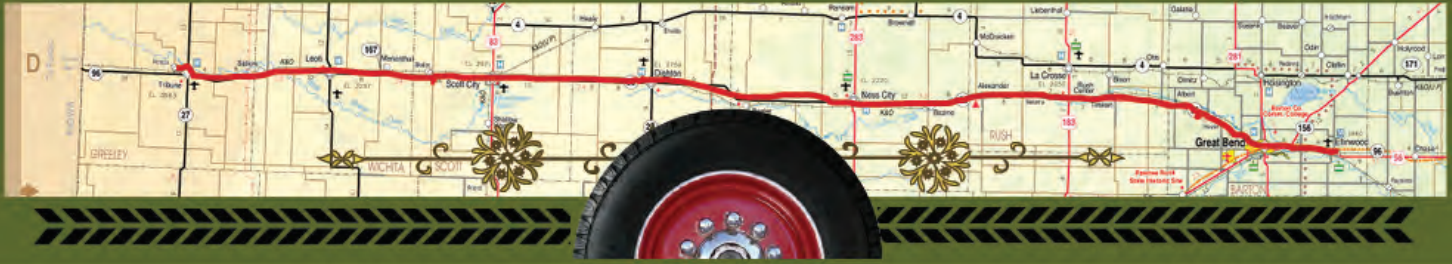
 

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Annual June Jaunt Festival Promises More Fun Than Ever Before!

Friday, June 5th

- 10 to 6 Trash the Dress, Beautiful Beginnings Bridal Boutique, 1523 Main
- 5 to 7 Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market, Jack Kilby Square
- 7 p.m. June Jaunt Cruise Night & Car Show,
- 9:30 p.m. Outdoor Movie, Showing 'An American Tale'

Ongoing Events

- Fire Chief & Police Chief Badge Hunt, Check Explore Great Bend Facebook Page for clues at 8, Noon & 6
- Soles for Souls - Collecting pairs of shoes for mission trip to Haiti, Jack Kilby Square (Friday & Saturday)
- Train Rides & Quilt Display at the Barton County Historical Museum & Village, 85 S. Hwy 281
- Native American Beading Demonstrations, Family Jewels & Silver, 1911 Lakin (10-4 Daily)
- Wine Tastings at Rosewood Wine Cellar, 1901 Lakin
- June Jaunt Barn Quilt, Jack Kilby Square Bandshell
- Argonne Rebels Display, Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams (Friday & Saturday)
- Kansas Wetlands Education Center & Cheyenne Bottoms Tours
- HAP Dumont Baseball Tournament, Sports Complex
- Retail Shopping & Dining at Local Businesses!

Saturday, June 6th

- All Day Vendor Fair, Jumbo Yard Games, Children's Stage, & Live Music, Jack Kilby Square
- 7:30 a.m. Teen Challenge 5k, Brit Spaugb Park N. Side
- 9-11 a.m. Breakfast at the Rosewood Wine Cellar (First 100 People), 1901 Lakin
- 9 to 3 Vintage Market, 2015 Lakin (Alley Entrance)
- 9 to 4 Relay for Life Kids Zone, Jack Kilby Square Inflatables, Face Painting, and more!
- 10 to Noon Cheyenne Bottoms Tours with KWEC, Meet at Courthouse, 1400 Main (Pre-Register)
- 10 to 5 June Jaunt Art Alley, 28 Different Artists Hosted by Petr's Frame House, 16th & Main
- 11 to 3 Tatse of Kansas, Samples at Heart of Kansas Mercantile, 1212 Main
- 1 to 3 Business Olympics, Jack Kilby Square
- 1 to Dusk GBRC MACK Day, Patton & Railroad Ave
- 2 to 11 Beer Garden & Live Music, Jack Kilby Square
- 5-7 p.m. Visage Art Reception, Petr's Frame House, 2009 16th Street

Sunday, June 7th

- 10 to 5 Sand Volleyball Tournament, Vets Park
- 11 to 2 Community BBQ & Kids Zone, Vets Park
- 1-4 p.m. Gardens Galore, Participating Homes
- 2-6 p.m. Soap Making Workshop, KWEC

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Nueterra Announces Acquisition of Benefit Management, Inc. (BMI)

Nueterra, the largest privately-held organization in the U.S. specializing in developing equity partnerships with health systems, governments, hospitals, and physicians, announced today their acquisition of Benefit Management, Inc. (BMI) in Great Bend. The acquisition was sought shortly after Nueterra announced it had shifted much of its focus to facilitating programs and services targeting the consumer population.



BMI has long been a Midwest leader in the development and administration of custom benefits solutions demanding flexibility and efficiency. BMI will be instrumental in Nueterra's new pay-for-value strategy targeting employers and U.S.-based payers. "Right now, Nueterra is drawing physicians and facilities together, uniting them clinically and financially into integrated networks across the country," explained Dan Tasset, chairman, Nueterra. "As we do that, we'll be in a unique position to offer bundled payments for medical conditions for commercial populations."

Both Nueterra and BMI see opportunities to lead the healthcare industry in developing pay for value models. Bundled payments for medical conditions are one way for self-funded plans to begin incorporating value-based reimbursement into provider network strategies. BMI will play a strategic role in this new Bundle Payment Adjudication (BPA) process.

The current leadership team at BMI will remain in place and will continue to guide the organization under the Nueterra Innovations Group. BMI will retain its name, location, employees, and structure, and will continue to provide health plan administration for its clients across the nation – while also offering employers the option of utilizing Nueterra's value-based reimbursement models.

"BMI has a long history of innovation and consistent growth," says Chad Somers, CEO and President of BMI. "We expect to expedite this growth as a part of Nueterra. This move is very good for our self-funded health plan employers and broker partners." Somers expects the acquisition to create new jobs and opportunities for its Great Bend team.

Chamber Office Closed Fourth of July

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development will be closed Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day. We will resume normal business hours on Monday, July 6th. For more information, visit www.greatbend.org or contact a member of the Chamber Staff at 620-792-2401.

Young Professionals Spotlight

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

During the month of May, the Young Professionals group was very busy! After a successful fundraiser for The Tot Spot on May 1st in partnership with the Rotary Club, the group met for a Personal Development Lunch on May 5th and a networking mixer on May 8th. Three events in one week was a new record for the growing networking group! At the mixer hosted by Sunflower Diversified Services, approximately 50 people attended with four being new members.

In June, members of the Young Professionals group are invited to participate in a leadership training event called "Paving the Path to Success" featuring Kari Smith, Executive Vice President of Stores for The Buckle, Inc. Kari is a Great Bend native and still resides in Great Bend while juggling a busy executive career for one of the largest clothing franchises in America. Kari will share her insights into professional success, alongside local sponsor Desa Marmie Behr, Sales Manager for Marmie Ford. As the sponsor for the event, Desa will inspire attendees with her experiences as a community leader and how volunteerism and community involvement can positively impact career growth. The training will take place on Wednesday, June 17th from 2-5 p.m. in the Chamber Board Room, 1125 Williams. Space is limited to 20 participants, and registration is being accepted online. Access the link through the Facebook event at www.facebook.com/bartonyp.

Volunteers from the Young Professionals group are still actively working on The Tot Spot project, which will come to fruition later this summer. The equipment has been ordered, and plans are being finalized for signage, benches, and the last-minute details that go into launching a new playground. The Tot Spot will be catered to children under the age of five, including infants who are just learning to crawl. Keep up with this project's successes by liking the Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/TheTotSpotGreatBend.

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 details or to join, email bartonyp@gmail.com. And be sure to join the Facebook group!



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Highlighted Events in June

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

- 1... BCYP Steering Committee Meeting, 1125 Williams, 4 p.m.
- 1... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 2... Central Kansas Catbacker Golf Tournament & Dinner, Stoneridge Country Club, 12:30 p.m.
- 4... Chamber Coffee: Sunflower Bank, 3600 10th Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 4... Ribbon Cutting: Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams, 10 a.m.
- 4... ChamberConnect Radio Show Airs, KVGB 1590 AM, 11:35 a.m.
- 4... Chamber Ambassador Club Luncheon, 1125 Williams, 12 p.m.
- 4... Great Bend City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.
- 5-7... June Jaunt Festival, Great Bend Parks (see schedule on page 2)
- 6... Ellinwood Rotary 5k Run/Walk, Ellinwood City Park, 7:30 a.m.
- 6... Teen Challenge 5k, Brit Spaugh Park, 7:30 a.m.
- 6... Relay for Life Horseshoe Tournament, Wolf Park in Ellinwood, 9 a.m.
- 7... KWEC Soap Making Workshop, 592 NE 156 Hwy, 2-6 p.m.
- 7... United Way Hot Dog Feed, Veterans Memorial Park, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 9... Cheyenne Bottoms Naturalists Meeting, KWEC, 592 NE 156 Hwy, 6 p.m.
- 10... Chamber Seminar "LinkedIn for Professionals", 1125 Williams, 10 a.m.
- 11... Chamber Coffee: Faith Community Church, 293 W. Barton County Road, 9:30 a.m.
- 11... Great Bend City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.
- 12... Relay for Life, Jack Kilby Square, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- 12-13... NHRA Summit Points Race #4, SRCA Dragstrip
- 14... United Way Duck Race, Santa Fe Trail Days, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 15... Submission Deadline for July Issue of Outlook Business Journal
- 15... Great Bend City Council Meeting, 1209 Williams, 7:30 p.m.
- 17... Technology Roundtable "Virtualization & Tablets", 1125 Williams, 11:30 a.m.
- 17... Young Professionals Leadership Training, 1125 Williams, 2-5 p.m.
- 18... Chamber Coffee: Link Inc., 1103 Main Street, 9:30 a.m.
- 18... Great Bend City Band Concert, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.
- 22... Flyer Insert Deadline for July Issue of Outlook Business Journal
- 23... Presentation for 60th Anniversary of SRCA Dragstrip, Historical Society, 85 S. Hwy 281, 7 p.m.
- 24... Camp Hope Golf Tournament & Scavenger Hunt, Stoneridge Country Club
- 25... Chamber Coffee & Ribbon Cutting: Sterling House / Brookdale Living, 1206 Patton Road, 9:30 a.m.
- 26-27... NHRA Summit Points Race #5, SRCA Dragstrip

Recurring Events

- Barton County Commission Meetings, Mondays, Courthouse Room 106, 9 a.m.
 GBHHH Grief Support Group Meetings, Mondays, 3520 Lakin, 6:30 p.m.
 American Legion Bingo, Tuesday & Thursday, 1011 Kansas Ave, 7 p.m.
 Free Story Time at Everything Under the Sun, 407 McKinley, 10 a.m.
 Dinner Served at American Legion, 1011 Kansas Avenue, Wed. & Fri. at 6 p.m.
 City of Great Bend Band Concerts, Thursdays, Jack Kilby Square, 8:15 p.m.

For a complete list of community events, visit our web site:

www.greatbend.org

If you would like to submit an event to be published in the print or online calendars, post it from our Events Calendar at www.greatbend.org or email your event information to marketing@greatbend.org. Be sure to include a title, description, date, times, location, and contact person.



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The Page & Perkins Celebrate Upgrades & Enhancements to Guest Experience

Two of Great Bend's restaurants recently underwent major renovations and upgrades. Perkins and The Page were proud to host a Chamber ribbon cutting in May to unveil the new atmosphere and enhanced customer experience. "I've been investing in these restaurants every year since I became the owner 18 years ago," says Dan Edmond, owner of The Page and the local Perkins franchise. "We've remodeled about every five years, with continual investments in technology and the very best menus in town."

Perkins received numerous upgrades from restroom improvements, new tables and chairs, flooring and lighting, paint and artwork, and an all new bakery. The lobby is more open and welcoming for restaurant patrons. The Page received all new flooring, tables, a new granite bar top, lighting and fans, high end wine cabinets, and custom metal booth dividers. On both sides of the building, the renovations were completed by local contractors, so the significant capital investment impacts the local economy.

"Not only are we trying to enhance the guest experience and improve the quality of life for Great Bend residents, we also made a commitment to using local contractors and vendors for the renovations," Esmond says. "That includes our new digital signage and new menu design."

Edmond owns five restaurants around the State of Kansas, but he says The Page is his favorite. "We have transformed this place from a sports bar with burgers and wings to a gourmet, bistro-style restaurant with made-from-scratch recipes and only the finest quality ingredients," Edmond says. "We also try to stay on the cutting edge of technology, which is why we've invested in an iPad point of sale system and video monitors in the kitchen."

The iPads allow servers to send customer orders to the kitchen right at the table. When the kitchen receives it, the new video monitors help the chefs coordinate the timing for the various items that need prepared so that the sides, pastas, and steaks will all be ready at the same time. Guests can also use the iPads to check out right at their table.

What separates The Page from other restaurants in the area is the unique menu with a wide variety of options, all of which are made from scratch in Great Bend. They use the highest quality beef rich with omega 3, supplied by a local vendor so that the meat is never frozen and is cut in house.

"We continue to offer a full bar with 25 selections of premium wines including a few varieties made by Rosewood Winery of Great Bend," Esmond says. "We have happy hour specials, including our new gourmet pizzas made fresh to order."

Both Perkins and The Page also aim for the highest customer satisfaction and customer service standards.

Both restaurants offer dine-in, carry-out, and banquet catering services with meeting facilities in the north end of the facility. For more information or to book a meeting or event with either of the local restaurants, contact Perkins at 620-792-4386 or The Page at 792-8700.



New and Improved Camp Aldrich Dining Hall Taking Shape After Fire

The ashes of the original Camp Aldrich Dining Hall, a building storied with weddings, reunions, summer camps and much more, have been removed to make room for a new facility for the next generation of central Kansas families to enjoy. The foundation of the new dining hall has been poured and basement walls are being finished. Opening date is slated for April 2016.

The original Dining Hall burned down due to accidental causes in April of 2014. "The fire was a terrible thing," Dean of Finance Mark Dean said. "But, we are going to end up with a nicer facility than what we had before."

Some key features include the following:

- Lower level is two times larger
- Elevator and other ADA compliance upgrades
- Restrooms on both levels
- Outdoor patio

One thing that won't make a return, Dean said, is the fire pit and fireplace. "We had to focus on ensuring it won't burn," he said.

This also means the building will be made of steel and concrete instead of wood. The siding will be Hardieshingle to have the appearance of wood to match the décor of the rest of Camp Aldrich. A new sprinkler system and water source will also be added.



Cherry Village Welcomes Mingenback as New Dietary Manager for Residents

The new dietary manager at Cherry Village Benevolence Inc., 1401 Cherry Lane, understands the importance of good nutrition for residents and is pursuing even more formal education. Tina Mingenback has completed ServSafe management training and is working to become a certified dietitian. Her background includes 15 years of management experience in the private and public sectors.

"We want to ensure our meals are tasty and appropriate for our residents," Mingenback said. "We serve only high-quality meals and snacks, and buy products only from approved vendors."

Nutrition requirements are especially important for residents of long-term care facilities, she noted. "With the help of our great kitchen staff, we are diligent about serving the proper food and supplements to our residents," Mingenback commented. "We monitor this on a daily basis so all residents get what they need and are not served something they don't need."

The two cooks, Dee Godfrey and Riva Vazquez, have both completed their ServSafe course work related to their positions. "We want to meet and even exceed industry standards, while keeping up-to-date with new information," Mingenback said. "All of us are one team with one purpose – to ensure the safety and comfort of our residents."

Mingenback is currently enrolled in the dietitian program at the University of North Dakota. She graduated from Ottawa (Ks.) University in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. Mingenback and her husband, Andy, have one daughter, Alyvia.

Dream Center Hosts 24-Hour Outreach

The Central Kansas Dream Center is hosting a 24-hour outreach called "24-hours Beyond Ourselves" from Friday, June 12th at 5 p.m. to Saturday, June 13th at 5 p.m. The Dream Center's purpose is to reconnect isolated people to God and a community of support by providing human services that address immediate and long-term needs in the areas of homelessness, hunger relief, life-controlling issues and education.

CKDC has focused the first 2 years working on programs inside the former Roosevelt school building, and now CKDC is going to start working on outreach to the community. The outreach will consist of a mailbox program where individuals without a physical address can use the Dream Center as their physical address to receive mail. They will also do community outreaches involving food, clothing and hygiene distribution to meet people's needs where they are. Our goal is to use the 24-hour Beyond Ourselves outreach to kick off these new programs.

The 24 hours will start at 5 p.m. on June 12th in the chapel of the Dream Center with praise and worship, prayer, a cookout, and activities on the lawn of the CKDC. The rest of the first night, volunteers will do to those living under the bridge and along the river by taking our bus down there and cooking out, giving out clothes, food and hygiene. We will also have our newly redecorated Kingdom Kloset open during that time for free clothing, linens and household items. Breakfast will be served at the CKDC soup kitchen from 6-8 a.m., activities will be held on the lawn, and volunteers will do crosswalk ministry around town. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the day will finish up a service in the chapel from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Saturday. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, call Kimberly Becker at 620-282-4014.

American AgCredit Reports \$99m Earnings

American AgCredit, a farmer-owned financial cooperative, today announced net income of \$98.9 million for the 2014 calendar year along with a cash dividend distribution of \$39 million to its shareholders. This compares to net income of \$111 million and a cash dividend of \$37 million in 2013. American AgCredit has returned over \$250 million to its customer-owners since 2005.



"American AgCredit experienced another successful year, and we're proud to once again pay a strong cash dividend to our customer-owners," said Byron Enix, President and CEO. "With an increase of 5.2% in loan volume, we continue to see solid growth in agriculture. American AgCredit is well positioned to support this growth through our strong capital position and consistent earnings. We are continuously improving our operations to better serve our customers as we strive to be the very best lender to agriculture."

Serving farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness through eight locations in Kansas and Oklahoma—Concordia, Salina, Great Bend, Pratt, Hutchinson, Kingman, Wichita, and Ponca City, OK, American AgCredit is the premier lender in agriculture. In addition to customized and competitive loan packages, American AgCredit provides Crop Insurance, Leasing, and Appraisal services to its customers, and continues its ownership interest in the highly-successful equipment financing program, AgDirect®.

About American AgCredit:

Founded in 1916, American AgCredit is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, and is the nation's 7th largest Farm Credit cooperative. American AgCredit specializes in providing financial services to agricultural and rural customers throughout California, Nevada, Central Kansas, Northern Oklahoma, Central and Western Colorado, and Northern New Mexico – as well as to capital markets customers throughout the country. Financial services include production and mortgage financing, equipment and vehicle leasing, crop and life insurance, lines of credit, and more.

Grateful Giving Launched at HRMF

The Hutchinson Regional Medical Foundation has established Grateful Patient programs to provide patients, residents and family members of three healthcare system affiliates a method to show appreciation for staff members who went above and beyond the call of duty to provide exceptional care.

A Grateful Patient Program has been established at Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, along with several of its affiliates. To recognize an employee, go online to www.HutchRegional.com and click "Give to HRHS" to donate.

Credit Union Promotes Kelly Higgins

Credit Union of America (CUA) announces the promotion of Kelly Higgins of Great Bend. Higgins was promoted to Assistant Vice President, Retail Operations. Kelly has been with CUA since May, 2009 as CUA's Great Bend Branch Manager at 4708 W. 10th Street. Kelly is coming up on 25 years combined experience in financial services including his time at CUA. For more details, visit www.cuofamerica.com or call 620-792-2554.

Clara Barton Hospital Welcomes New CEO

In a unanimous decision on April 21, the Board of Directors of Clara Barton Hospital promoted Jim Blackwell to president and chief executive officer of the Hoisington hospital. Taking on this role is not a first for Blackwell, who served as interim CEO in 2006 and has been performing in the role since January of this year. "Not many have proven their love for our facility like Jim," said Troy Bailey, chairman of the board. "He has the experience, the values, and the reliability that Clara Barton needs to be able to continue to grow."

Blackwell's plan for Clara Barton is one of stability and growth. "This hospital has an incredibly bright future," he said. "I have had the good fortune to have worked with four of the best administrators that practice in this industry. It is an honor to represent this outstanding medical community and loyal employees."

While Blackwell has already assumed president/CEO responsibilities, he will continue to be involved in financial operations and is still developing a strategy to delegate some of his finance responsibilities, a strategy that may allow for even more advancement for other employees within the Hospital.

Blackwell has a business administration degree from Sterling College. He joined Clara Barton Hospital in February 2001, as the director of finance and was quickly promoted to chief financial officer. He served as interim CEO in 2006 and was promoted to vice president/CFO in 2007. In 2008, Blackwell was nominated for, and completed, the Kansas Hospital Association Leadership Institute program.

In addition to responsibilities at Clara Barton, Blackwell has served on the KHA Council on Health Care Finance and Reimbursement and was appointed chairman of this committee in 2012. Additionally he has served 15 years as a member of Hospital Financial Management Association. Prior to serving at Clara Barton, Blackwell worked as the plant accountant at Superior Essex in Hoisington.

Great Bend Co-op Distributes Funds to Members

The Great Bend Coop held their Annual Meeting on April 7, 2015. Another successful year was reported. As a Cooperative, the Coop pays back margins in the form of Capital Credits. The Great Bend Coop paid back to their members \$ 4,978,214 in capital credits in 2015 of which \$ 1,991,286 was paid in cash. As well, the Board approved to pay Capital Credits up to the year 1999 in the amount of \$ 485,956. This amounts to \$ 2,477,242 paid to patrons in the Coop's trade area, for 2015. Over the past five years the Coop has paid \$ 6,778,269 in cash to patrons.

The Great Bend Coop serves patrons at 15 locations in central Kansas with branches at Great Bend, Ellinwood, Boyd, Pawnee Rock, Albert, Radium and Seward. Learn more at www.greatbendcoop.com.



Mayberry Earns Proprietor Award

James Mayberry, owner and operator of Walnut Bowl in Great Bend, has recently been recognized as Kansas Proprietor of the Year by the Bowling Proprietor's Association of America (BPAA). He is being recognized for contributions, accomplishments, and excellent entrepreneurial efforts. His award was specifically based on his many donated hours to revitalize the Kansas USBC Youth Program. After years of neglect, the organization was in financial trouble and had not filed required reports. Mayberry spent countless hours cleaning up financial records, balancing bank accounts, and filing all required reports.

He has also helped form a new task force to develop new tournament formats and modernize the older events. James is also very active in High School bowling, as he is the assistant coach for the Great Bend High School team and a director for the Kansas High School Bowling Association. The KHSBA is responsible for establishing new rules for high school players as well as selecting the High School All-State Team and hosting a banquet to honor them. He will be recognized in Las Vegas in June for these accomplishments. He will be accompanied by his wife, Linda, who is also a partner at Walnut Bowl.

For more information about Walnut Bowl & Mini Golf, visit www.walnutbowlgb.com.

Waters True Value Welcomes New Store Manager Michael Mayhill

After 19 years with the Waters True Value franchise and 8 years as the Great Bend store manager, Derek Fredrick announced last month that he was leaving Waters to relocate to Derby, Kansas to be closer to family. Derek and his wife, Tina, want to be closer to their daughter who is pregnant with their first grandchild, due in September.

"I would like to take a moment to thank all of great friends that I have been able to meet over the years," Fredrick says. "That includes my customers, fellow Optimist club members, and especially my co-workers."

Waters True Value would like to welcome the new store manager, Michael Mayhill, who has been with the company for nearly three years. With over 20 years of experience in the hardware industry, Mayhill spent the last two years as a supervisor in the Manhattan, Kansas location.

Mayhill moved to Great Bend with his wife and two daughters. Michael also has a daughter who just graduated from K-State and a son who is engaged to be married later this summer. For more information, visit www.waterstruevalue.com.



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Danceography Celebrates Grand Opening with Ribbon Cutting

Laura Klima has been dancing since she was a little girl. But recently, she learned the fulfillment that comes from sharing her passion with others. Klima opened Danceography in time for fall enrollment in 2014, and has seen tremendous growth since then. "I've been dancing since I was 2 years old and could never get enough of it. It's my number one passion in life," Klima says. "After teaching dance to young girls for a few weeks for the Hoisington Recreation Commission, I quickly realized this was something I wanted to do full time."

Klima immediately began searching for a location, with no luck in the beginning. After exhausting her options, she gave up the search on a Sunday. The following Saturday, Klima says that God brought everything together for her. "I got a call that the perfect opportunity became available, and then it was a whirlwind week getting my business together. I decided to name it Danceography because that is what my passions are – dance and choreography."

Danceography is located at 1403 Main Street in downtown Great Bend. Dance students participate from as early as walking age for classes ranging from 30 minutes to 1.5 hours each. Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Contemporary, and Ballet are just a few of the classes that are offered. Klima also offers dance camps in the summer, and adults' couples classes in five-week sessions on Sundays. Another option for adults is the Body Boot Camp, offered daily in two week sessions in the early mornings. In June, boot camps are available June 15th through 26th and again July 20th through 31st. These boot camp classes include total body toning, Zumba, Butz n Gutz, Killer Core, Fit & Fabulous, and more.

"I am so thankful for the support from God, from my family, and from the community thus far," Klima says. "I pray that I can teach my students more than just dance. We also try to teach respect, integrity, and hard work."

Fall enrollment is taking place now, so students are encouraged to sign up early to reserve a spot: 620-617-1933 or DanceographyGB.com. Be sure to engage on Facebook and Twitter.



St. Rose Welcomes New Care Providers

Pulmonologist Joins St. Rose Specialty Clinic

Roman Reznik, M.D., pulmonologist, recently started seeing patients at the St. Rose Health Center. His main office is at Hays Medical Center. A referral from another doctor, such as a general practitioner or surgeon, is required for an appointment with Dr. Reznik. He is in Great Bend on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.



Dr. Reznik completed medical school at New York University School of Medicine, where he also performed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology. In addition, he completed a residency in internal medicine at Lennox Hill Hospital; he also completed a fellowship at Lennox Hill in pulmonary medicine. He is board certified in pulmonary medicine and critical care, and treats patients in the HaysMed intensive care unit.

Surgeon Brings Robotics to Outreach Clinic

A physician trained not only in traditional surgery, but also robotic procedures, is now seeing patients twice a month in Great Bend. Dr. Paul Teget recently started an outreach clinic at the St. Rose Specialty Clinic. Dr. Teget recently began traveling to Great Bend on the first and third Tuesdays of each month; his main office is at Southwind Surgical at Hays Medical Center.

Dr. Teget uses the da Vinci Surgical System for robotic procedures performed at HaysMed. Dr. Teget earned his medical degree at Kirksville (Mo.) College of Osteopathic Medicine and performed his general-surgery residency at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Dr. Doerfler Joins St. Rose Family Medicine

The new physician at St. Rose Health Center, who has started seeing patients, brings years of experience in family medicine to her new position. Originally from Hays, Jill Doerfler, M.D, recently joined the St. Rose Family Medicine team and is accepting new patients. She will care for and treat patients of all ages with anything from the flu, to aches and pains, to chronic conditions. Dr. Doerfler has sports medicine training too.

She earned her medical degree at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2005, after receiving a bachelor's in sociology at Fort Hays State University and completing post-graduate medical school prerequisites at Wichita State University. Dr. Doerfler performed her family medicine residency at Via Christi Family Medicine at Wichita.

Learn more at www.stroseasc.org. Follow St. Rose on Facebook.

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ABBB Announces Three Employee Promotions

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered (ABBB) is pleased to announce the promotions of Regan Ochs, Nancy Peschka and Brad Shirer.

Ochs, previously HR/Marketing Associate, now serves as the firm's Executive Administrator & Marketing Specialist. In this role, she will manage all university recruitment efforts and coordinate the TALENT internship program for the firm. In addition, Ochs will be responsible for all internal and external marketing efforts. She will support the firm's Managing Partner and the Board of Directors by assisting with strategic objectives and special projects. Ochs is a 2013 summa cum laude graduate of Fort Hays State University where she received her Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership. She is active in the community serving as an ambassador of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce; Prairie Godmothers member and volunteer; and the vice chair and leadership committee chair of the Barton County Young Professionals. She is also involved at Prince of Peace Parish, where she leads the Dante Deo Catholic college ministry program at Barton Community College. Ochs, originally from Hoxie, Kansas, moved to Great Bend and joined the ABBB team in May 2013.

Peschka, previously Chief Operations Officer, now serves as Internal Consultant & Project Manager. In her new role, she will provide strategic guidance to the firm's Board of Directors and partner group. Peschka originally joined the ABBB team in 2000. Born and raised in Great Bend, Kansas, Peschka currently resides in Lincoln, Nebraska with her husband, Dan. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, including her daughter, Kimberly Peschka Bilder, son-in-law and two grandsons.

Shirer, previously Chief Financial Officer, now serves as the Chief Administrative Officer. He oversees ABBB's financials and will also take on the oversight of the firm's day-to-day operations, facilities, the HR team and its functions, and organizational development. Shirer has been with the firm for 25 years and has served in various capacities, including: Staff Accountant, Manager, Firm Administrator, and Director of Administration. Shirer received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Kansas State University, where he was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. Currently, he is a member of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Trinity United Methodist Church in Hutchinson, Kansas. Shirer is a Hoisington, Kansas native. He currently resides in Great Bend with his wife, Sarah.

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, Chartered provides a wide range of traditional and non-traditional CPA and consulting services to clients throughout Kansas, including agriculture organizations, construction companies, feed yards, financial institutions, governmental and not-for-profit organizations, manufacturers, medical practices, oil and gas companies, professional service firms, real estate companies and small businesses. Founded in 1945, today the firm maintains 13 office locations throughout the state. For more information about Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, please visit www.abbb.com.



Panzer Insurance Agency Celebrates Grand Opening

After 19 years in the insurance industry, Shawn Panzer decided to become an independent agency. "I represented the same company for many years. With all the changes in the industry that are happening right now, I decided to go independent," Panzer says. "It gives me a lot more opportunities to find products that fit my customers' needs better."

Panzer partnered with a group out of Denver for property and casualty insurance products that gave him instant access to major companies such as Hartford, Travelers, Nationwide, and more. He also partnered with a group out of Hutchinson that lets him write with over 40 life and health companies. "It has been an incredible transition, and it gives me so much more flexibility than before," Panzer says.

Panzer Insurance Agency is open Monday through Friday from 9 to 5:30 p.m. or by appointment. He and licensed customer service representative Dana Warburton are based out of an office at 1023 Jackson in Great Bend. For more information or to request a free quote, contact Panzer or Warburton at 620-792-9000 or email shawn@panzerinsurance.com.



A440 Music Buys Used Instruments

A440 Musical Instruments firmly believes that every child deserves the chance to play a musical instrument. Studies have shown playing an instrument improves cognitive function, increases standardized test scores, and develops fine motor skills necessary for success in other activities. A440 Music is searching for quality used instruments that can be repaired, refurbished, and resold. Sellers are paid based on fair market value less a resale fee. A440 Music is located at 1207 Main Street, and is open weekdays 12-6 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Like their Facebook page.



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Gardens Galore Event Returns June 7th Beautification Committee Raises Funds for Projects

The Great Bend Beautification Committee will present its annual Gardens Galore event on Sunday, June 7th from 1-4 p.m. Six residences will be available for tours around the City of Great Bend. Maps and addresses for the six homes are provided on the tickets, which are available for \$5 per person in advance from the Chamber Office, 1125 Williams, or from any garden location on June 7th.



GARDEN LOCATIONS:

Hart Residence, 2511 Canterbury
Steffen Residence, 2416 White Sands Drive
Thill Residence, 2623 Dry Creek
Schrader Residence, 3106 25th Street
Penka Residence, 3201 16th Street
Refined Medley, 16th Street & Kansas Avenue

Proceeds from the ticket sales benefit the Great Bend Beautification Committee, under the auspices of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development. The Beautification committee coordinates projects that improve the look and feel of our community. Planting flowers in public spaces, weeding gardens, organizing the grooming of Great Bend's distinctive Broadway islands, and more. Projects vary from year to year. The committee also gives out the Beautification Award to businesses and organizations who make significant strides to improve the look of their storefront location. For more information, call the Chamber at 620-792-2401.

Central Kansas Family Practice Now Accepting New Patients

Central Kansas Family Practice is currently accepting new patients. Dr.

Keener and Dr. Hatesohl specialize in taking care of the entire family, and both are board certified in family medicine. They are here to provide advice and medical attention for everything from the common cold to ongoing issues like diabetes and COPD.

For more information or to make an appointment, contact Central Kansas Family Practice, 1309 Polk Street in Great Bend, at 620-792-5341.

Central Kansas
FAMILY PRACTICE



Tune in to ChamberConnect Show June 4th

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 Mawhirter. The April edition of ChamberConnect will air Thursday, June 4th at 11:35 a.m. This month's show will be centered around the Chamber's newest services, including the online Member Information Center and its upcoming seminar "LinkedIn for Professionals."



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 Upcoming Events

Duck tickets are now available for our Duck Race in Larned at the Santa Fe Trail Days. You can pick up your tickets at the Chamber offices in Larned or Great Bend, at any United Way agency, or at Larned State Hospital. You can purchase 1 duck for \$10 or a quack pack of 6 ducks for \$50. Top prizes are \$1,000, \$500, and \$250, all of which will be doubled if you are present at the Duck Race. We have t-shirts and drawstring bags also for sale for \$10, which can be purchased now or at the event.

June Jaunt is a big weekend for United Way! On Sunday, June 7th we will be at Veterans Memorial Park all day with a Sand Volleyball tournament, Hot Dog Feed, and bounce houses for the kids. Sign up today for the Sand Volleyball tournament! Teams are co-ed, 4-6 players for \$15 a person. Check-in starts at 10 a.m. for the tournament, the hot dogs will be going on the grill at 11 a.m., and the bounce houses will be up and running at 11 a.m. as well. Come out and see the United Way team for a fun-filled day! Proceeds from the day will go to fund Literacy Kits for the Pre-K students in Ellinwood, Great Bend, and Larned.

Save the Date - Upcoming After Hours

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development places a heavy emphasis on providing ample networking opportunities for its members. One of the ways you can network through the Chamber is by attending our events, such as weekly Chamber Coffees and periodic Business After Hours events. Here are a few After Hours events to put on your calendars:

Friday, July 24th - American Legion Post #180
Thursday, July 30th - Grand Opening of The Tot Spot (tentative)
Thursday, September 3rd - K96 Block Party
Tuesday, October 6th - Oktoberfest

If you are interested in hosting a Chamber event at your business, contact Director of Sales & Member Services Andrea Bauer, abauer@greatbend.org or 620-792-2401. Currently, there are no fees associated with hosting an After Hours!

WELCOME to these NEW Members!

Danceography

Laura Klima
1403 Main Street
Great Bend, KS
620-617-1933
Dance Studios
danceographygb.com



Shoe Sensation, Inc.

Julie Gagel
3407 10th Street
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June 4, 2015

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June 11, 2015

Faith Community Church • 293 W. Barton Co. Road

For 63 years, Faith Community Church has ministered the good news of Jesus Christ, the life changing truth of the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. www.faith4greatbend.com

June 18, 2015

Link, Inc. • 1103 Main Street

June 25, 2015

Sterling House (Brookdale) • 1206 Patton Road

Brookdale is the nation's largest owner and operator of senior living communities and a leading national provider of senior-related services. Brookdale provides active retirement living and care services for thousands of seniors and their families. Our assisted living facilities, independent living communities and continuing care retirement communities offer trained and dedicated staff. For more information or to locate the nearest Brookdale Community, visit us at www.brookdale.com.

July 2, 2015

Great Bend Tribune • 2012 Forest Avenue

As the local news and multi-media leader, The Great Bend Tribune informs the community about matters of importance and interest. Featuring a blend of print, social media and digital products, the Tribune will be introducing its latest community project.



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McDonald's

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Employment – Barton County

	March 14	March 15
Labor Force	17,041	15,843
Employment	16,414	15,192
Unemployment	627	651
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	4.1%
KS Unemployment Rate	4.9%	4.2%

City/County Local Sales Tax Distributions Report

	March 14	March 15
Sales Tax for Barton County at 1.00%	\$418,217	\$399,050
Sales Tax for Great Bend at 0.75%	\$215,153	\$205,923

Building Permits

	March 14	March 15
Commercial – GB	7	3
Residential - GB	41	44

Sources:

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

