

# OUTLOOK

**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OCTOBER 2023  
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GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## business journal

1921



Businesses create employment opportunities, putting money into the pockets of Kansans, and contribute a significant portion of the taxes that fund essential services such as ambulances and public parks. Without businesses, communities struggle to thrive and may eventually decline.

In Kansas, the Latino community is one of the fastest-growing groups of entrepreneurs, serving as a driving force behind the state's economy, which is its lifeblood.

Last month, Yeraldi's Boutique, 1908 Broadway, hosted the Great Bend Chamber's first chamber coffee in both Spanish and English! The store's owner, Nereyda Sanchez, shared her love of Great Bend and her interest in connecting with everyone.

Sanchez is just one example of a growing number of Hispanic entrepreneurs in Great Bend and throughout Kansas. Latinos now own 5.6% of small businesses in the state and roughly 10% nationwide, a figure that has been steadily increasing. Before the pandemic, Hispanic business ownership saw a remarkable 34% increase over a decade, compared to a mere 1% increase among non-Hispanic owners, according to the Small Business Administration.

### ***Building Bridges Through Shared Stories***

As the heart of the Great Bend community beats with diversity, the Chamber of Commerce is committed to fostering unity and celebrating the unique stories and successes of its residents. Hispanic Heritage Month provides a special opportunity to recognize the hardworking men and women who contribute to making Great Bend the vibrant and inclusive city that it is.

Yeni Silva-Renteria, with the Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission (KHLAAC), highlighted the rapid growth of Hispanic-owned businesses in the region. She emphasized that owning a business, whether you're Latino or from any other background, requires tremendous dedication and often means working around the clock.

While the odds of success in the business world are often slim, Latino businesses in Kansas are defying the statistics, lasting longer than the average due to the strong community support they receive. The culture of collective support within the Latino community plays a significant role in the resilience and success of these businesses.

At the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to celebrate the rich and diverse contributions of our Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month.

### **How to get involved:**

To actively participate in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, the Chamber encourages the community to:

1. **Educate:** Take the time to learn about the history, culture, and achievements of Hispanics in the United States and beyond.
2. **Support Hispanic-Owned Businesses:** Try something new! Explore and patronize local Hispanic-owned businesses, contributing to their success and growth.
3. **Attend Cultural Events:** Seek out local events and activities that showcase Hispanic traditions, arts, music, and cuisine.
4. **Share Success Stories:** The Chamber invites community members to submit success stories of individuals, businesses, neighbors, friends, or family members who identify as Hispanic. These stories can be submitted using the QR code provided.

"We're excited to hear from the community and gather stories that highlight the impactful contributions of our Hispanic community members. These stories will be shared giving us all a chance to learn and be inspired," added Megan Barfield, CEO/President. Join us in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, and let's continue to build a more inclusive and diverse Great Bend together!



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## Committed to Caring for the Great Bend Community

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## People on the Move!

### Chamber Welcomes Newest Hire: Jaimee Beckwith



Jaimee Beckwith is a seasoned professional who has left an indelible mark on the hospitality and interior decor industries through her unwavering dedication and exceptional expertise. With 6.5 years of invaluable experience as a bar manager and event planner, Jaimee has consistently demonstrated her exceptional customer service skills, ensuring memorable experiences for all patrons. Her profound passion for interior decor became unmistakable during her illustrious 5-year tenure at Cornerstone Interiors, where she crafted and curated stunning environments that left lasting impressions. Her creative prowess extends to her ongoing involvement in wedding events, where she adds an exquisite touch to couples' special days.

Beyond her professional life, Jaimee holds family dear and finds solace in the tranquility of sunset and sunrise drives, reflecting her appreciation for life's simple pleasures.

Recently welcomed into the ranks of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, Jaimee has swiftly embraced the fast-paced and dynamic environment that defines this vibrant community. Eager to connect with the diverse and energetic chamber community, she looks forward to fostering relationships and making meaningful contributions. Her enthusiasm knows no bounds as she prepares to lend her skills, creativity, and passion to upcoming community events and projects in her exciting new role. Jaimee Beckwith is poised to continue making a significant impact, not only in her chosen fields but also within the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and the community it serves.

### GBHS Senior Sydney Mattison Embarks on Fall Internship Journey with Great Bend Chamber of Commerce

We're thrilled to introduce our newest addition to the team, Sydney Mattison! Sydney joins us as an intern from Great Bend High School, and we couldn't be more excited to have her on board.

Sydney brings with her a passion for learning, creativity, and a fresh perspective that we know will be a tremendous asset to our organization. As we continue to work on exciting projects and initiatives here at the Chamber, Sydney's energy and enthusiasm are sure to make a positive impact.

Please join us in giving Sydney a warm welcome to our Chamber family. Let's show her the incredible support and camaraderie that makes our community so special.

Sydney, we're excited to embark on this journey with you, and we're confident you'll do amazing things during your internship with us. Let's make this internship experience one to remember!

## Sydney Mattison



**Host Internship Site:** Great Bend Chamber of Commerce

**GBHS Activities/Organizations:**  
Pep Club Board, Kayettes Board, Yearbook, and Cheer

**Plans for After High School:**  
Attend Fort Hays State University and major in Marketing and Leadership.

*GBHS Fall Intern*



## Ribbon Cuttings!



## Newly Rebranded Bank of The Plains Welcomes Cadey Dick as Their New Branch Manager

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce celebrated a ribbon-cutting event at the newly rebranded Bank of the Plains, formerly known as Plains State Bank, now located at 1000 Adams Street in Great Bend. The event marked an exciting chapter for the bank and the community as they unveiled their refreshed brand and welcomed Cadey Dick as the new branch manager.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in September in conjunction with the new location's first Chamber Coffee surrounded by Chamber members, community leaders, and residents eager to see the new facility. Prior to Bank of the Plains, residents will remember The Medicine Shoppe occupying the space.

Cadey Dick, who was introduced as the new branch manager, expressed her enthusiasm

for her new role and the Great Bend community. Having moved to Great Bend from Hutchinson, KS, Cadey fell in love with the community's warmth and hospitality. "I was thrilled to join the Great Bend community and serve as the branch manager of Bank of the Plains. Everyone I met, from the moment I arrived has been incredibly kind and welcoming," said Cadey Dick. "Great Bend has a special place in my heart, and I am committed to ensuring that Bank of the Plains continues to provide exceptional financial services while contributing to this wonderful community."

The rebranding of Bank of the Plains reflects their commitment to modernizing and enhancing their services while maintaining the trusted values and principles they have upheld throughout their history.

## Passages of Hope Counseling Center, LLC Celebrates Grand Opening With Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce the grand opening of Passages of Hope Counseling Center, LLC, a new Counseling Center located at 2008 11th Street. Owned by Joanne and Steve Wondra, Passages of Hope Counseling Center, LLC aims to provide comprehensive therapeutic services and medical management to empower individuals and families on their journey towards growth and healing.

The official ribbon cutting ceremony, hosted by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, took place on September 7th. Passages of Hope Counseling Center, LLC is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of its clients by offering a range of specialized services to expand access to mental health support in the area.

Passages of Hope Counseling Center, LLC boasts a team of dedicated professionals, including three experienced counselors (Joanne Wondra, Karina Weigel, Bridgett Schneeweis) and a nurse practitioner (Amanda Lakin), with Candace Murphy and Jamie Fager also on staff supporting the new office. Their services include child and teen therapy, couples counseling, family therapy, play therapy, and grief therapy. In addition, their nurse practitioner provides medical assessments and offers genetic testing to better understand how the body metabolizes medications, a valuable service open to everyone in the community.

## Outlook Business Journal

A monthly publication of the

## GREAT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## Barton Community College President to Retire June 2024

Barton Community College President Dr. Carl Heilman announced his intent to retire during the College's Board of Trustees study session Sept. 12. Heilman will retire effective June 30, 2024.

Heilman has served as the College's fifth president for over 17 years, beginning his tenure in July of 2006. Under his leadership, a focus on new and diverse programming and affordable, accessible options for all students established his commitment to students and the communities the College serves.

"My service to the College has been a highlight of my career," Heilman said. "There is still much to accomplish, and I look forward to continuing to guide progress for the next nine months while also paving the way for new leadership to move forward."

Prior to serving Barton, Heilman was Campus President for Lincoln Trail College – Illinois Eastern Community College District; Vice President for Student Services and then Vice-President for Instruction and Student Services at Northland Pioneer College in Arizona; and Chairperson/faculty, Iowa Lakes Community College in Iowa.

The Board will begin the process of searching for Heilman's successor in the coming months. Further details of the search will be available at the upcoming board meeting on Sept. 26, along with regular updates throughout the process.





### BE A SPONSOR FOR OUR COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT

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Jack Kilby Square



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## Sponsor The Community Trunk or Treat!

Is your business looking to support your community? We offer an approachable advertising opportunity during our Community Trunk or Treat (in conjunction with the Kiwanis Halloween Parade). For just \$50, you provide enough candy and toys for one trunk, and a sign with your logo and "Proudly Sponsored By" will go on the trunk. Last year, we served almost 1,000 people within our community and had about 45 trunks. If you're interested, please scan the QR code and select "Sponsor a Trunk," or you can email Joseph S. at fccgbyouth@gmail.com for more information.

## FALL FEST RETURNS OCT. 8TH

Get ready for an unforgettable family adventure at the Long Pumpkin Patch as the Barton County Young Professionals proudly present their 2023 Fall Festival on October 8th, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Thanks to the generous support of The University of Kansas Health System, this year's Fall Fest is all about creating cherished family memories!

Immerse yourself in the joy of the season as you explore the enchanting Long Pumpkin Patch. This is the perfect opportunity to make lasting memories with your loved ones. Capture the magic with face painting, create fun snapshots at our photo booth, savor delicious snacks, and navigate the exciting corn maze. It's an evening of pure family fun you won't want to miss!"



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

### FALL FESTIVAL

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# HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- 1... UWCK Beer & BBQ, Dry Lake Brewing, 2PM
- 2... Hamburger Night, American Legion Post 180, 1011 Kansas, 5:30PM
- 5... **CHAMBER COFFEE: Long Pumpkin Patch, 163 NE 30 Rd, 9AM**
- 5... IGNITE Competition, 1905 Lakin Ave., 7PM
- 5... 2023 Candidate Forum, Great Bend Senior Center, 2005 Kansas Ave., 6PM
- 5... Autumn Arts Concert, BCC Fine Arts Auditorium, 7:30PM
- 6... Taco Bar Night, American Legion Post 180, 1011 Kansas, 5:30PM
- 7... Walk to End Alzheimer's, Jack Kilby Square, 9AM
- 7... Whitetails Unlimited Banquet, Great Bend Event Center, 5PM
- 8... BCYP Fall Fest, Long Pumpkin Patch, 163 NE 30 Rd, 5PM
- 8... American Legion Argonne Post 180 Brunch, 1011 Kansas, 9AM
- 10... GBCCA - Here Comes the Sun, City Auditorium, 7:30PM
- 11... **RIBBON CUTTING: USD 428 Support Services, 625 10th St., 5PM**
- 12... **CHAMBER COFFEE & RIBBON CUTTING: Abbey Carpet & Floor, 1500 US Hwy 281, 9AM**
- 13... Free Shred Day, Landmark National Bank, 1623 Main St, 11AM
- 13... Karaoke Night, VFW Post #3111, 504 Washington, 9PM
- 15... VFW Post #3111 Brunch, 504 Washington, 9:30AM
- 18... Doonan Specialized Trailer's 50th Anniversary, Open House
- 19... **CHAMBER COFFEE: Sunflower Massage, Chamber Board Room, 1125 Williams St., 9AM**
- 19... **RIBBON CUTTING: Corinthians Hill Event Center, 464 NE 20 Ave, 10:15AM**
- 19... **CHAMBER AFTER HOURS: Barton Community College, Camp Aldrich, 5PM**
- 20... **CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE: Great Bend Justice Center, 1121 Baker, 10AM**
- 20... Spaghetti Dinner Night, American Legion Argonne Post 180, 1011 Kansas, 5:30PM
- 20... Opening of Barton Arts Council Friends and Acquaintances Community Art Exhibit, Shafer Art Gallery, 10AM-5PM (open through Nov. 18)
- 21... UWCK Laundry Love, Discount Laundry, 924 Jefferson, 10AM
- 26... **CHAMBER COFFEE: USD 428 Foundation, 201 S. Patton Rd, 9AM**
- 26... Barton Theatre Presents "Puffs", BCC Fine Arts Auditorium, 7:30PM
- 27... Fridays on Forest, 5PM
- 27... Fried Chicken Fridays, American Legion Argonne Post 180, 1011 Kansas, 5:30PM
- 27... Military and First Responders Night Out, 916 Williams, 6PM
- 27... Shafer Art Gallery Masquerade Ball, 6:30PM
- 28... BCC's Third Annual Haunting on the Hill, Fine Arts Auditorium, 4PM

## RECURRING EVENTS:

Long Pumpkin Patch Hours through October 31: Saturdays 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sundays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
 Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams, 6:30 pm  
 Barton County Commission Meetings, Tuesdays, Barton County Courthouse, 1500 Kansas St., 9am.

STAY INFORMED AT [GREATBEND.ORG](http://GREATBEND.ORG)

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## WANT TO JOIN?

If your company is interested in joining the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, fill out the online application on [www.greatbend.org](http://www.greatbend.org).

# Manufacturing Institute's MFG Day: Inspiring the Future of Manufacturing

In the heart of Great Bend, Kansas, local manufacturers like Primus Sterilizers, T & C Manufacturing, Fuller Industries, Great Bend Industries, and KMW Loaders are the driving force behind the town's thriving manufacturing sector. These companies are not just names on the local business landscape; they are pillars of the community and key players in the global manufacturing arena.

Great Bend, Kansas, is not only a hub of manufacturing excellence but also a place where innovation shines. Two local manufacturers, T & C Manufacturing, Primus Sterilizers and Ellinwood's Kansas Earth & Sky, have earned well-deserved recognition by being included in the prestigious "Coolest Thing Made in Kansas" competition, as hosted by the Kansas Manufacturing Council of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce.

As we approach Manufacturing Day on October 6, 2023, it's important to recognize that these local manufacturers are not only making waves in their respective industries but also contributing to the broader narrative of innovation and excellence that defines manufacturing in Great Bend, Kansas. Their participation in such competitions highlights the cutting-edge technologies and products that are being developed right here in the heartland, ultimately impacting the global manufacturing landscape.



## Beautification Committee's Most Recent Projects Enhance Great Bend's Beauty and Community Spirit

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee recently gathered to celebrate the successful completion of two stunning projects that have further enhanced our city's appeal and charm. These projects, the 10th & Washington Project and the Courthouse Lily Garden Project, reflect the dedication and vision of the committee members who have worked tirelessly to beautify our community.

The collaborative effort spearheaded by the Beautification Committee, the 10th & Washington Project, has metamorphosed a previously ordinary corner of our city into a charming oasis. Furthermore, complemented by the eye-catching "Welcome to Great Bend" mural, organized by the Barton Arts Movement, these two outstanding projects have collectively revitalized the 10th & Washington corner. Northview Nursery, a local landscaping company, played a pivotal role by constructing a brick retaining wall surrounding a small garden. This garden has been adorned with a delightful array of succulents, adding a touch of nature's beauty to the busy highway. A particularly heartwarming touch to this project was the generous donation of a decorative birdhouse by Denis Kephart in memory of his beloved late wife. This thoughtful addition adds a special element of nostalgia and warmth to the garden.



In addition to the 10th & Washington Project, the Beautification Committee also added to an already existing project located on the north end of Jack Kilby Square. The Courthouse Lily Garden Project, a captivating addition to our city's iconic courthouse, showcases a striking metal sculpture called "Cattails," crafted by local metal artist Mark Rondeau. The sculpture not only adds an artistic dimension to the courthouse grounds but also pays homage to our local talent.

These two projects exemplify the Beautification Committee's dedication to enhancing our city's visual appeal and creating spaces that foster a sense of community pride. We invite everyone to visit these newly transformed areas, enjoy their beauty, and celebrate the hard work and passion of the Beautification Committee.

The dedicated members of the Beautification Committee are Jolene Biggs, Linda Daugherty, June Hillman, Eric McClary, Dorothy Piland, Carol Schremmer, Diana Schuster, and Janice Williams. Their unwavering commitment to enhancing the aesthetics of Great Bend is truly commendable.

For more information about these projects or to get involved with the Beautification Committee, please contact the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce at (620) 792-2401.

# Celebrating A Swinging Success At The 18th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament



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The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the wonderful sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who made the 18th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament, presented by Nex-Tech Wireless, a resounding success. With the picturesque backdrop of Lake Barton Golf Club and 29 teams hitting the greens, it was a truly beautiful day filled with camaraderie and competitive spirit.

## Sponsors Who Made It All Possible

We would like to express our deepest thanks to our dedicated sponsors whose support helped elevate the tournament to new heights:

**Corporate Sponsor:** University of Kansas Health System

**Scorecard Sponsor:** Equity Bank

**Mulligan Ball Sponsor:** MPIRE Realty Group

**Beer Cart Sponsor:** Spectrum CPA

A special mention goes to Russell Snyder at Ice for Less/Windows for Less on Main Street for generously providing the ice that kept our beverages perfectly chilled throughout the day.

## Delicious Food and Refreshments

Lana's Catering & Goodies, a valued Chamber member, delighted everyone with a scrumptious lunch and snacks at the Clubhouse Awards & Social. This delectable feast was sponsored by Kris Sundahl Edward Jones, Brentwood Builders, Wheatland Electric, and Bauer Pike Law.

And let's not forget the unforgettable experience offered by Dry Lake Brewery out on hole 5, where they served up Oktoberfest cheer and a wide array of Jell-O fun. Thank you, Dry Lake Brewery, for adding such a fantastic touch to the tournament!

## The Thrilling Results

In the Championship Flight, it was a nail-biting competition with the following winners:

- 1st Place: Kansas Adjusting Services (54)
- 2nd Place: Moeder Plumbing (54)
- 3rd Place: Watkins Calcara (56)

In Flight 1, the competition remained fierce:

- 1st Place: Peoples Bank & Trust (61)
- 2nd Place: Magna Dry (61)
- 3rd Place: Dry Lake Brewery (61)

And in Flight 2, the teams gave it their all:

- 1st Place: City of Great Bend #1 (69)
- 2nd Place: City of Great Bend #2 (69)
- 3rd Place: Great Bend Police Dept. (69)

## Hole-in-One Thrills

Lastly, a thrilling highlight of the day was the \$10,000 Hole-In-One challenge on Hole #5, a par 3. We extend our congratulations to the following individuals for their remarkable shots:

- Jack Dennis (First Kansas Bank), whose drive landed within 4 feet.
- Evan McAllister (Adams Brown), whose shot landed within 8 feet.

Once again, we extend our deepest thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to making this event a monumental success. Your support ensures that the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce can continue its mission of fostering a vibrant and thriving community. We look forward to many more memorable golf tournaments in the years to come!







## 29th Annual Kids Ag Day Cultivates a Growing Passion for Agriculture Among Local 4th Graders



The 29th Annual Kids Ag Day, organized by the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ag-Business Committee, was a resounding success, thanks to the tireless efforts of dozens of businesses and dedicated volunteers. This cherished event, held in early September, continues to be a vital educational experience for hundreds of enthusiastic 4th graders from Claflin, Hoisington, Ellinwood, Otis-Bison, Pawnee Rock and Great Bend, offering them a unique opportunity to explore the fascinating world of agriculture right in their own backyard.

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce extends its heartfelt gratitude to Josh Koelsch, Diamond K Farms owner of our host farm, all the businesses and volunteers who played a pivotal role in making this event a reality. Their unwavering support and commitment are the driving force behind the continued success of Kids Ag Day.

Year after year, this event has proven to be an invaluable educational experience for young minds. It not only fosters a deeper appreciation for agriculture but also provides a hands-on learning experience that can shape future generations' understanding of farming and its significance in our lives.

Through interactive exhibits, engaging demonstrations, and informative presentations, the 4th graders had the chance to immerse themselves in the world of agriculture. From learning about crops, livestock, and farm equipment to understanding the importance of sustainable farming practices, these young participants left the event with a newfound knowledge and appreciation for the agricultural industry.

The 29th Annual Kids Ag Day was not just a day of learning; it was also a day of fun and excitement. The children were able to see, touch, and experience various aspects of farming that are typically out of reach in their daily lives. This hands-on experience helps them connect with the agricultural heritage of their community and fosters a sense of pride in their local agricultural industry.

As the event came to a close, it was clear that the Ag-Business Committee, along with its generous sponsors, had once again created an unforgettable experience for the young learners in the community. Kids Ag Day continues to be a shining example of how collaboration between local businesses, dedicated volunteers, and educational institutions can have a lasting impact on the lives of our youth.

Interested in joining the planning committee for the 30th annual event? Call the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce at (620) 792-2401.

## Learning Through Play, Little Panthers Preschool Receives COPE Grant For New Playground Equipment

Little Panthers Preschool is enjoying new play structures thanks to a grant from Communities Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE) and Heart of Kansas Healthcare. This grant has breathed new life into playtime and the surrounding neighborhood at 21st & Polk by providing a safe place for over 50 enthusiastic students each day and the neighborhood community outside of school hours. "The grant provides students with a safe and engaging play structure that will nurture their physical, social, and emotional development," said Kris Thexton, superintendent for USD 428. "In addition to COPE, we also want to express our gratitude for the USD 428 Maintenance & Grounds team for assembling the playground and getting it installed before the start of school this August."

The play structure located at the First Congregational United Church of Christ at 3400 21st St. in Great Bend, features two towers, a connecting bridge, opportunities to climb, swing, slide, and more. The \$5,000 grant also covered the purchase of 4 convertible tricycles that foster the development of motor skills and balance.

For more information about Little Panthers Preschool, please contact the coordinator, Amanda Moran-Jones at 620-793-1662. For additional information regarding the Barton County COPE program, contact the group's Lead Liaison, Callie Miller, at 620-792-3299.



## The 10th St Eyecare Announces Trunk Show Event

The 10th Street Eyecare Center invites you to their Fashion Eyewear Trunk Show on Thursday, October 19th from 3:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. As a showcase event, their fashion reps will bring in hundreds of frames and styles you can't normally see in person. You can enjoy a tasty treat while you try on the latest high-fashion eyewear from Luxottica, featuring frames from Versace, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Armani Exchange, Coach, Michael Kors, and more!

They will have a huge selection of frames for women, men, teens, and kids on display and available for special order. While you're there, make sure to register for the door prize drawings. You do not have to be present to win, as the drawing winners will be contacted after the event is over. Stop by their office at 2601 10th Street in Great Bend and browse anytime that afternoon or evening while you're out and about. Their team will be on hand to help answer any questions and to show you all the latest in fashion eyewear.

The 10th Street Eyecare Center is a leader in optometric healthcare, offering everything from routine eye exams and diagnostic testing to retail glasses and contacts and frame repair. With four optometrists and a team of friendly support staff, the growing practice is always accepting new patients. The clinic is open six days per week, and office hours are published on their website at [www.10thstreeteyecare.com](http://www.10thstreeteyecare.com). For more information or to make an appointment, call 620-792-2020.



## D&A Testing Pros Stands United in Observance of National Substance Abuse Prevention Month



D&A Testing Pros, a leading provider of comprehensive drug and alcohol testing services, is proud to announce its active participation in National Substance Abuse Prevention Month this October. We are dedicated to promoting a drug-free and safe environment, recognizes the importance of prevention, education, and support in the fight against substance abuse.

As the nation comes together to raise awareness about the devastating effects of substance abuse and addiction, D&A Testing Pros reaffirms its commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions that empower businesses to maintain secure and drug-free workplaces.

### Services Tailored to Your Needs:

D&A Testing Pros offers a wide range of services to address the diverse needs of its clients, including:

**Mobile Testing:** Providing convenience with on-site testing services, ensuring minimal disruption to business

operations.

**Post-Accident Testing:** Ensuring rapid and accurate post-accident testing to determine the presence of drugs or alcohol and maintain workplace safety.

**Random Drug Testing:** Implementing effective random testing programs to deter substance abuse and reinforce workplace integrity.

### Advocates for Workplace Safety:

The company understands that maintaining a drug-free workplace not only safeguards the well-being of employees but also enhances productivity and minimizes risks. By partnering with D&A Testing Pros, businesses can uphold high standards of safety, compliance, and responsibility.

### Supporting a Drug-Free World:

National Substance Abuse Prevention Month serves as a powerful reminder of the collective responsibility to combat substance abuse. D&A Testing Pros encourages businesses and communities to come together, promote awareness, and support those on their journey to recovery.

As a trusted ally in the pursuit of a drug-free world, D&A Testing Pros invites organizations of all sizes to join forces in raising awareness and implementing robust substance abuse prevention measures. Together, we can make a lasting impact on workplace safety and community well-being.

For inquiries, consultations, or to learn more about D&A Testing Pros' services, please visit [www.DATestingPros.com](http://www.DATestingPros.com) or contact Ruth Joiner at 620-603-6107.

## Party On The Hill October 20th!

Join Corinthian Hills for an unforgettable evening of fun and entertainment at PARTY ON THE HILL, located at 464 NE 20 Ave. Great Bend, KS, on October 20th, 2023, from 5:30 PM to Midnight! Get ready to groove to the electrifying tunes of Brady Nichols & The High Plains Drifters as they take the stage live. Indulge in delicious bites from a variety of food truck vendors and quench your thirst with a selection of beverages, including beer, liquor, pop, and water available for purchase. Please note that no outside food or drinks are allowed, so come prepared to savor the flavors and soak in the vibrant atmosphere as we celebrate under the stars. Don't miss this fantastic event!

Tickets can be purchased for \$5 online or \$10 at the door. Visit [www.corinthianshilleventcenter.com/current-events](http://www.corinthianshilleventcenter.com/current-events) to learn more.







## 75 YEARS OF "THE REC"

It's been 75 years of FUN & PLAY spearheading events, creating innovative recreation programs and services, tournaments, the development of new recreation & park facilities and playgrounds, including the Great Bend Activity Center, MyBackyard Playground, Fitness Trail, & Veteran's Toddler Playground.

We love getting to LIVE, PLAY, & EXPLORE here in our community and we can't wait to see what the next 75 years bring.



Great Bend Rec 1214 Stone Street 620.793.3755 greatbendrec.com



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Joanne Wondra, Owner, and Therapist, stated, "Our mission is to empower all who enter our doors with hope during their journey towards growth and healing by giving them the support they need through therapeutic services and medication management, we will work together for a future of complete mind and body wellness."

Passages of Hope is open from Monday through Friday, with extended evening appointments available based on the counselor's schedule. Passages of Hope Counseling Center, LLC can be reached at

620-796-2788, and appointments can be scheduled by phone or by visiting their office at 2008 11th Street.

"We are excited to be a part of the community and helping as many people as possible is our mission. No one needs to suffer alone," added Wondra.

For more information about Passages of Hope Counseling Center, LLC and the services they offer, please visit [passagesofhopecounseling.net](http://passagesofhopecounseling.net) or follow them on Facebook at [facebook.com/passagesofhopecounseling](https://facebook.com/passagesofhopecounseling).

## Great Bend Rec Celebrates 75th Anniversary



The Great Bend Recreation Commission staff gathered recently alongside community members and representatives of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce to celebrate a momentous milestone in its history, 75 years of dedicated service to the Great Bend community. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to mark this significant occasion and show off the completion of a remarkable face-lift to the historic City Auditorium, located at 1216 Stone Street.

The stunning transformation of the City Auditorium has been revitalized to not only honor its historic significance but also to offer state-of-the-art facilities for the community. This renovation reflects the Great Bend Rec's commitment to preserving the city's rich heritage while embracing modern amenities that will enhance the

quality of life for all residents.

Chris Umphres, Director of the Rec, expressed his excitement about this moment, saying, "Our journey over the past 75 years has been defined by dedication to community and personal growth through lifelong recreation experiences. We are thrilled to unveil the new face of the City Auditorium as a testament to our respect for our past, pride in our present, and our unwavering passion for the future."

For more information about the Rec and the 75th-anniversary celebration, please visit [www.greatbendrec.com](http://www.greatbendrec.com) or contact the Great Bend Recreation Commission at 620-793-3755. The community can also connect with the Rec on Facebook and Instagram



# Great Bend Economic Development Announces Exciting New Workforce Partnership Initiative: Hireworks

Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) is thrilled to introduce a new opportunity for employers and jobseekers in the Barton County area. This year's workforce event, HIREWORKS, organized by the Grow Workforce Partnership, promises to inform and connect the local workforce.

## Event Details:

Date: November 8, 2023

Panel Discussion & Networking Social: 2:00 pm to 4:00 PM

Job Fair & Business Expo: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Location: Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street

HIREWORKS is set to bring together employers, hiring managers, and business leaders from across Barton County for an afternoon of engaging discussions, invaluable networking opportunities, and the chance to establish meaningful connections. This event has been crafted to equip attendees with essential resources, expert insights, and actionable strategies that will enhance their hiring and management practices while fostering a positive company culture. Job seekers are encouraged to attend to get support and training to be competitive in today's job market. In breakout sessions, led by KansasWorks, Barton Community College, and career coaches, jobseekers will learn what employers are looking for today and how to apply those characteristics to be successful in the job market. These breakout sessions are provided to teach jobseekers to master the soft skills necessary to land their dream job!

Key Highlights:

Panel Discussion: An hour-long panel discussion featuring industry experts who will share their insights on employment resources, effective hiring strategies, and successful management techniques. This session promises to equip attendees with practical takeaways to optimize their workforce processes.

## Key Highlights:

Panel Discussion: An hour-long panel discussion featuring industry experts who will share their insights on employment resources, effective hiring strategies, and successful management techniques. This session promises to equip attendees with practical takeaways to optimize their workforce processes.

Networking Social: Following the panel discussion, participants will have an hour to network, delve deeper into the panel discussions, share experiences, and forge valuable connections that can potentially lead to collaboration and growth.

Job Fair & Business Expo: The job fair and business expo provide businesses with the opportunity to showcase their organization and connect with potential candidates. Job seekers can participate in breakout sessions throughout the event and have a chance to win prizes at the end of the evening.

The presence and active participation of Barton County employers in HIREWORKS can have a significant impact on their organization's growth trajectory. By joining this event, attendees will not only gain access to valuable knowledge but also establish a strong network within the local business community.

To reserve a spot at HIREWORKS or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lee Ann June, GBED Communications Director at [marketing@gbedinc.com](mailto:marketing@gbedinc.com) or visit [www.gbedinc.com/growworkforce](http://www.gbedinc.com/growworkforce). Early registration is highly recommended, as space is limited. Let's unite to elevate our workforce strategies, empower our businesses, and contribute to the continued prosperity of the Barton County area. We eagerly await your participation at HIREWORKS and look forward to sharing this enriching experience with you.



# Get Ready For a Chamber After Hours at Camp Aldrich!

Mark your calendars because something exciting is brewing in Great Bend on October 19th! The Great Bend Chamber After Hours, hosted by Barton Community College, promises an evening of fun, food, and fabulous prizes that you won't want to miss.

This family-friendly event is open to everyone and has something for everyone. Here's a sneak peek of what's in store:

**\*\*Delicious Delights:\*\*** Indulge in mouthwatering cinnamon rolls, hearty chili, and crisp cider. Plus, for those looking to unwind, there will be a selection of adult beverages.

**\*\*Exciting Giveaways:\*\*** Get ready to win big! We have cozy fall baskets and exclusive Barton experiences up for grabs. Will you be the lucky winner?

**\*\*Lawn Games:\*\*** Challenge your friends and colleagues to outdoor lawn games that are sure to add a dash of excitement to the evening.

**\*\*Scenic Strolls:\*\*** Take a leisurely walk around the beautiful grounds of Camp Aldrich and soak in the breathtaking beauty of fall foliage.

**\*\*Discover Camp Aldrich:\*\*** Learn about the myriad of uses and features of this exceptional facility, and explore how it can benefit you and our community.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to connect, unwind, and celebrate the autumn season with friends and neighbors. Mark the date, invite your friends and colleagues, and get ready for an evening of camaraderie, delicious food, and exciting surprises. We can't wait to see you there!





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**GREAT BEND**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## CHAMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

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

Tune in on Facebook or YouTube for Virtual Coffees

### October 5th **LONG PUMPKIN PATCH** 163 NE 30 Rd.

In our 2023-2024 season, we celebrate the Golden Belt Community Concert Association's 85th anniversary of providing high-quality, affordable musical entertainment to the Golden Belt community. The 2023-2024 season features seven concerts selected by the association's local board members with the goal of pleasing a variety of musical tastes. Concerts are performed at the Great Bend Municipal Auditorium, located at Lakin and Stone, Great Bend, KS.

### October 12th **ABBEY CARPET & FLOOR** 1500 US Hwy 281 Bypass

Abbey's is celebrating 50 years in business providing the best and largest selection of waterproof flooring, carpet, ceramic, and porcelain tile. Join us for a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate their 50th anniversary and the reveal of their new showroom.

### October 19th **SUNFLOWER MASSAGE** GB Chamber (1125 Williams St.)

Sunflower Massage is owned by Sandra Burton. Sandy has 24 years of experience, is licensed, and has over 750 training and education hours. She graduated from Great Bend High School and marched with the Argonne Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps.

### October 26th **USD 428 FOUNDATION DISTRICT EDUCATION CENTER** 201 S Patton Rd.

The USD 428 Education Foundation is an independent community-based organization dedicated to improving the quality of education in our schools by directing its resources toward areas of identified need. Our legacy as a volunteer organization is to fund innovative educational ideas and programs outside the scope of the public-school budget.

### November 2nd **CENTRAL KANSAS PARTNERSHIP** TBD

Central Kansas Partnership (CKP) has been building a vibrant culture of programs and grassroots efforts that promote health, wellness, and rural community prosperity since 1991. The coalition now includes multiple task force initiatives that promote quality of life and build a prosperous community in Central Kansas: Be Well Barton County, Summer Street Stroll Farmers Market, Central Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Suicide Prevention, Youth Crew, and Rise Up Central Kansas.



3307 10th Street • Great Bend, KS 67530

**McDonald's**

is providing coffee for Chamber of Commerce coffees.



GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER

*Nov 8*

# *Fire*works



**GROW WORKFORCE**

EMPLOYER AND JOBSEEKER SUMMIT

## WORKFORCE PANEL

An hour-long panel discussion featuring industry leaders who will share their insights on employment resources, effective hiring strategies, and successful management techniques. This session will equip you with takeaways to optimize your processes.

## NETWORKING BREAK

Following the panel discussion, there will be an hour of networking and a deeper dive into some of the panel discussions, share experiences, and forge valuable connections that can potentially lead to collaboration and growth.

## JOB FAIR/BUSINESS EXPO

The job fair and business expo provide businesses with the opportunity to showcase their organization and meet potential candidates. Job seekers can participate in breakout sessions throughout the event, and be entered to win prizes at the end of the evening.\*

*Employer*  
*and*  
**Job Seeker**  
**WORKFORCE EVENT**

GREAT BEND EVENTS CENTER | NOVEMBER 8

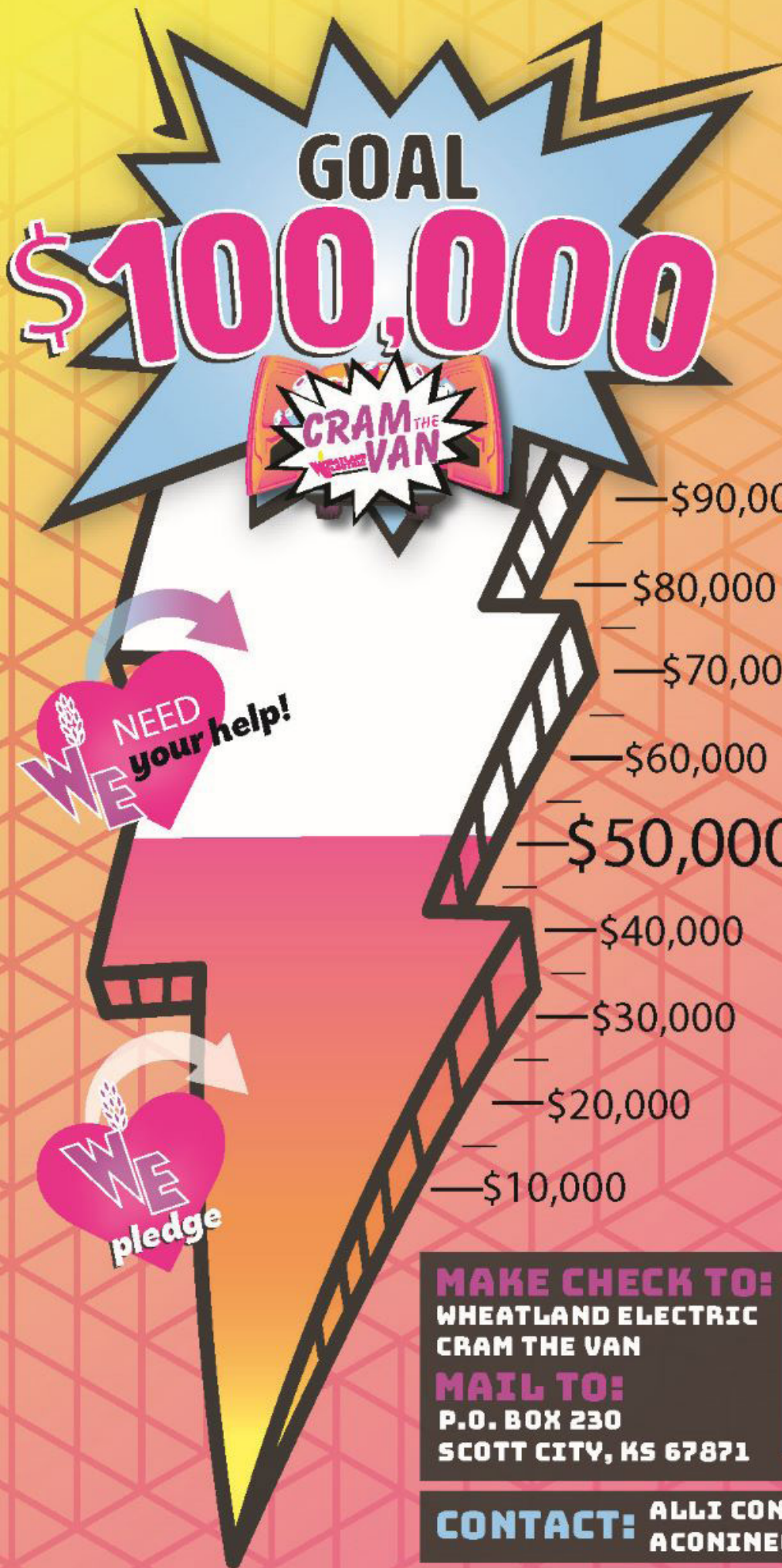
WORKFORCE PANEL | 2 PM

JOB FAIR & BUSINESS EXPO | 4 PM - 7 PM

**CURIOUS ABOUT SPONSORSHIPS? EMAIL US AT [MARKETING@GBEDINC.COM](mailto:MARKETING@GBEDINC.COM)**

\* Job Seekers have a chance to win one of 3 prizes (each valued at \$320 or more)!





# **WE** **POWER** *the* **PANTRY** *in 2023*

Over the past **10** years we have collected **113 tons** or **226,908 lbs** of donated food through **Cram the Van**, our annual campaign to support our local food banks.

This year, **Wheatland Electric is committing \$50,000** to a dozen local food banks to **Power the Pantry in 2023**. These dollars will directly impact those in our community who need it most.

Help us reach our **\$100,000** goal to help **power your local pantry!**

## **FOOD BANK LOCATIONS**

- ♥ Scott City
- ♥ Leoti
- ♥ Tribune
- ♥ Syracuse
- ♥ Holcomb
- ♥ Garden City
- ♥ **GREAT BEND**
- ♥ Harper
- ♥ Caldwell
- ♥ Conway Springs

**MAKE CHECK TO:**  
**WHEATLAND ELECTRIC**  
**CRAM THE VAN**  
**MAIL TO:**  
**P.O. BOX 230**  
**SCOTT CITY, KS 67871**

**SCAN**  
**TO DONATE**  
**NOW**



[www.weci.net/cram-van-food-drive](http://www.weci.net/cram-van-food-drive)

**CONTACT:** **ALLI CONINE | 620-874-4563**  
**ACONINE@WECI.NET**



Together **WE** will make a difference.

# A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

*Help us **DOUBLE** the impact to directly benefit our local food banks!*

## WHY NOW?

By partnering with us, you're not only investing in your local community but also leveraging a powerful campaign that reaches over 32,000 people across southwest and central Kansas through our existing communication efforts.

NEWS  
RELEASES

CHECK  
PRESENTATIONS

SOCIAL  
MEDIA

WEBSITE

## WHY CASH?

- ♥ eliminates waste & unusable items
- ♥ helps meet specific needs
- ♥ offers flexibility
- ♥ reduces need for storage
- ♥ allows for perishable items

TOGETHER LET'S RAISE

**\$100,000**

CRAM-VAN

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

6,615

7,081

9,363

19,332

22,382

30,754

32,206

44,576

54,599

100,000

*Pounds of Food Collected*