



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

OUTLOOK

NOVEMBER 2019 ISSUE

online

Great Bend: *Better Than Great!*

A Note From Co-Chairs Mark Mingenback & Regan Reif



As we embarked on this journey in the Fall of 2018, we didn't know exactly where the roadmap was headed or what our final destination would look like. When we began, there was a common theme and that was the desire for a united vision for our community. The dreamers, the realists, and the "do-ers" were then enlisted to help us form the roadmap to our community's future.

The community was invited to participate and share their perspectives, and in true Great Bend fashion, many showed up. Over 200 people showed up to participate in two community meetings, a Steering Committee of over 50 members contributed over the course of five meetings, and over 500 residents voiced their opinions through community and business surveys. In all honesty, we were blown away with the energy and passion exhibited by the community.

In a collaborative fashion, many community members made connections with fellow residents and discussed innovative ideas for our future. They brainstormed numerous solutions and opportunities that our community could focus on over the next 20 years to make Great Bend - Better than Great!

As Warren Buffett once said, "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." Whether you joined us to create your 'shade,' or perhaps you wanted better 'shade' for your co-workers, grandchildren or neighbors, we are grateful for your energy and passion in making our community better. Now is the time to put our plan in motion. Great Bend will always be great, but with your help, it will certainly be BETTER THAN GREAT!

Our Vision:

In 20 years, we are...

A diverse community of welcoming, engaged people leading Great Bend to shine as a regional economic, educational, and cultural center offering an energetic and inclusive experience built on a unique community spirit.



Sweet Dreams Candy Shop Opens Downtown

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed a new downtown business bringing lots of smiles to many with their wide array of candies and build-your-own trail mix bar! Owners, Shane and Skylar Meeker are fulfilling a lifelong dream of owning their own business comprised of selections of candy typically found in larger communities allowing central Kansas to have access to their favorites. Meekers hope patrons will enjoy the ability to pick and choose from the offerings, be it for personalized gifts or individual enjoyment. In addition to candy, Sweet Dreams Candy Shop also offers specialty glass bottled soda, nuts, gift ideas and Dippin' Dots. Candy bouquets and buffets are also available.

Need a client gift for the holidays? Sweet Dreams offers gift packaging for all deluxe nuts, trail mixes and candies. If you have an event coming up or need a gift idea, Sweet Dreams Candy Shop want to help you make it sweet!

Sweet Dreams Candy Shop is located at 1917 Lakin, downtown Great Bend. Hours are Tuesday - Friday, 10:00a.m.- 6:00p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00a.m. - 3p.m. Find them on Facebook!



MANUFACTURING DAY Deemed a Huge Success

On behalf of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development and Fuller Industries, we would like to thank our participating manufacturers, Jennifer Hopkins, JAG-K Career Specialist, USD 428 and Barton Community College for taking part in our first local Manufacturing Day. Held annually on the first Friday in October, Manufacturing Day helps show the reality of modern manufacturing careers by encouraging thousands of companies and educational institutions around the nation to open their doors to students, parents, teachers and community leaders.

Local businesses partnering in 2019:

- Fuller Industries LLC
- Great Bend Industries
- Eldridge Fencing
- Superior Essex

Approximately 100 JAG-K (Jobs for America's Graduates - Kansas) students from Great Bend High School and 10 Barton Community College automotive students spent a morning touring and hearing from these local manufacturing plants to learn the job opportunities available right here in Barton County.



WELCOME to These *NEW* Chamber Members

620 DETAILING & TRUCK ACCESSORIES

Alberto Montelongo, Owner
1008 Hubbard St
Great Bend, KS
Kustomz620@gmail.com
(620) 797-9780
Auto Accessories & Trim

STATE FARM INSURANCE - DEANNA VANNOSTER

165 S Main St.
Hoisington, KS
deanna@deannavannoster.com
(620) 653-2332
deannavannoster.com
Insurance

ARIAS AUTO ACCESSORIES, LLC

Erick Arias, Owner
900 Harrison St Building A
Great Bend, KS
ariasautoaccessories@gmail.com
(620) 639-5136
Auto Accessories & Trim

SCOOTER'S COFFEE

Donny Huber, Owner
3501 10th St.
Great Bend, KS
www.scooterscoffee.com
Coffee Shop



Allie Cartwright Joins Chamber of Commerce

Join the Chamber in welcoming Allie Cartwright! Allie is a professional speaker and coach with an interest in helping you and your team live your best lives through understanding the benefits of meditation. Offerings include coaching packages for individuals, teams and conference attendees. Allie engages her audience through one-on-one sessions,

online sessions and has recently launched her popular Q & Allie episodes on alliecartwright.com. Allie Cartwright is available for staff trainings, conferences and retreats.

Allie has recently been invited to speak during a free online global event, "Attracting Your Greatest Love: Allowing in the deep, meaningful love you heart and soul craves and deserves," for women survivors of abuse who have all but given up on health relationships. Speakers will share their stories, struggles, and breakthroughs while busting popular myths and beliefs about what it takes to attract and create meaning. Summit begins December 1st with registration opening November 13th.



Marketing Maven Expands with New Entity, Brand Nation

Locally owned brand management firm, Marketing Maven Consulting, recently hosted a Chamber Ribbon Cutting to commemorate their business growth in two important ways. Owners Rachel Mawhirter and Josh Blankenship moved their company to a new location at 1311 Williams late this summer,

and have also expanded their presence with a new online entity known as Brand Nation. "At Marketing Maven, we sell our time to help small businesses manage their marketing and advertising every month - a service we have coined 'brand management.' But there is only so much time to sell," says Mawhirter. "Brand Nation allows us to sell our ideas, education resources, and ready-made social media graphics through an online retail store. Brand Nation also has a free weekly podcast and blog - all designed to provide ideas and inspiration for brand builders."

Marketing Maven was founded in 2016 and serves small and medium sized companies all over the Midwest. In addition to Brand Management services, their team also provides graphic design, video production, website development, and other services on a project basis. Learn more at www.HireAMaven.com and check out their new project at www.DigitalBrandNation.com.

FEATURED AMBASSADOR: *Lexie Schneider, The Beauty Bar*

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

Family and job opportunity brought me to Great Bend. I stay here because Great Bend is the perfect size of town, not too big, not too small and now perfect to raise a family in. Great Bend has also been very supportive of my career and business.

Where do you work and what do you do there?

I am the owner of the Beauty Bar Salon. I've been a cosmetologist for 12 years and have been a salon owner for 5 years.

What is one thing about you that would surprise people?

I had dreams of opening a bakery when I was younger.

What energizes you and brings you excitement?

Coffee! "Coffee in one hand, confidence in the other."

At what job, would you be terrible?

A zookeeper because I'm terrified of birds.

How long have you been an Ambassador and what do you like about it?

I have been an Ambassador for 3 years. My favorite part is all the new people I have met and all of the local businesses I have had the opportunity to work with and learn more about.

About Chamber Ambassadors:

The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Ambassador Club is made up of 30 men and women from the Great Bend business community who represent the Chamber in a number of ways. They host the weekly Chamber Coffees, attend Business After Hours and Ribbon Cuttings, serve on Chamber committees, and assist with member recruitment and retention efforts. They also volunteer at numerous Chamber events, such as the Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo, Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament and the Annual Banquet and Meeting. [Learn more: greatbend.org/ambassadors](http://greatbend.org/ambassadors)



REAL ESTATE Professionals Come Together for Property Tours

Recently, the Great Bend Realtors Association hosted a property tour showcasing available commercial and office space real estate in Great Bend to local bankers in commercial lending, economic development committee members and city officials. This tour was in an effort to facilitate growth and economic development by connecting these various sectors in Great Bend.



Beautification Committee Completes Upgrades at Great Bend Public Library

Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development's Beautification Committee celebrates two year project to improve library gardens located at the northwest corners of the Great Bend Public Library. This \$17,000 project was completed thanks to donations from the Thelma Faye Harms Trust. Northview Nursery of Great Bend, which offered the group a discount, handled the brickwork and the Barton County Master Gardeners planned and planted the flora. "The plants will have new signage in the spring making it a teaching garden," said committee Chairman Linda Dougherty.

Pictured are Great Bend Beautification Committee members Linda Dougherty, Deon Lupton, Dorothy Piland, Janis Williams and Carol Schremmer, and Chad Lagerman of Northview Nursery. Other master gardeners who took part were Tonni Bodine, Barbara Davenport, Veronica Coons and Monica Bowers.



Ambassadors Receive Special Recognition

Special thanks to these grateful businesses and chamber members for hosting the first Ambassador Appreciation BBQ on October 10th last month.

- Sunflower Diversified Services Inc.
- MPIRE Properties
- Marketing Maven
- CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions
- Aflac - AJ Chrest
- Gallagher - Mike Minton



Sonya Rein Joins Edward Jones Team

Sonya Rein recently joined the Great Bend office of the financial services firm Edward Jones as a branch office administrator (BOA).



"A branch office administrator is not only responsible for the daily operation of the branch, but also must provide top-level client service and marketing support for my activities," said Kris Sundahl, local financial advisor for the firm.

Kris added that he was impressed not only with Sonya's office skills and efficiency but also with her knowledge of the community. "I know she will be a terrific asset to our team as we strive to provide our clients unparalleled personal service," Sundahl said.

Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in St. Louis, provides financial services in the U.S. and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the investments its financial advisors offer to the location of its branch offices, caters to individual investors. The firm's 18,000-plus financial advisors serve more than 7 million clients and care for \$1 trillion in assets under management. Visit our website at edwardjones.com and recruiting website at careers.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.

Straub's Powersports Welcomes Pebley

Straub's Powersports welcomes new employee Jake Pebley. Straub's Powersports will now be able to offer motorcycle and dirt bike service and repair work because of Jake's expertise. Jake will also work on Polaris units to help with quicker turn around in the shop for your UTV/ATV's. With the Straub's Powersports purchasing Pro-tint Jake will also be able to assist on many other projects including wheels and tires and other auto accessories. We are excited to have Jake added to our team and are looking forward to continued growth which allows us to offer new services for the community in the process. Please give us a call for any auto glass, auto accessories quotes, spray-in bedlines, exhaust work, UTV/AVT service and repair, motorcycle/dirt bike service and repairs, and all your Polaris needs.



HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE -

Minimum Salary Level Increases Jan. 1st

Written by Erika Brining, The HR Pro

Many employers may remember the proposed change to the minimum salary level that was expected in 2016 (hard to believe that was three years ago). At the eleventh hour, it was delayed, and then later cancelled entirely, unfortunately after many employers had already made and communicated changes to their employees.



Now the government has announced another try at a final rule change, to take effect January 1, 2020. Fortunately, this one is a little more reasonable than the 2016 version, and seems much more likely to actually take effect.

The new rule will raise the salary threshold to \$684 a week (\$35,568 annualized) from \$455 a week (\$23,660 annualized). If you have employees who are fully salaried (that is to say, exempt from the overtime rules), you'll need to consider the impact of this change on your business.

Under the new rule, nondiscretionary bonuses and incentive payments (including commissions) paid on an annual or more frequent basis may be used to satisfy up to 10 percent of the standard salary level. The new rule also does not include scheduled increases to the level (as the 2016 version did), but the Department of Labor has expressed an intention to raise the level more regularly than in the past.

What to Do Now:

1. Review job descriptions to ensure employees are correctly classified.
2. For positions close to the threshold, weigh the cost of raising employee salaries above the new threshold against the cost of reclassifying employees as nonexempt and paying overtime.
3. For positions that will need to change to nonexempt, develop a training and communication strategy for the transition.

Be aware that paying an employee on a salary basis is not a matter of convenience – the position must qualify for an exemption based on the job duties. Does the person supervise others, for example? There are a number of exemptions available for executive, administrative, professional and other types of positions, but getting it right is very important, as the penalties can be significant. If there is any doubt, it is much safer to pay overtime.

Erika Brining is The HR Pro, a Human Resources Consultant in Great Bend. Learn more about The HR Pro at www.thehrpro.net.

Golden Belt Bicycle Co. Celebrates Successful 1st Year Under New Ownership

Todd and Amanda VanSike knew that their first year as business owners might not be easy, but all their hard work is paying off now as they look back on a successful first year owning Golden Belt Bicycle Company in downtown Great Bend. "I knew I wanted to work with bikes. I had worked in the bike shop since 2008 and I'm passionate about cycling and building custom bikes," Todd says. "But when the shop was for sale, we had talked to numerous banks and we didn't have the collateral to meet traditional financing requirements. And that's where CKDI came in."

The young couple were relieved to find out about Central Kansas Development Inc, a for-profit investment company in Central Kansas that exists to promote economic development through gap financing and non-traditional business loans. "Not only was getting the loan from CKDI so much easier than the traditional loan programs, but it was also great to have someone to hold our hand for the first year in business," Amanda VanSike says. "The board members met with us monthly, and helped us think through big decisions and plan for the future. They pointed out things we wouldn't have thought of, and it was great to have their expertise in our corner."

Central Kansas Development Inc (CKDI) was founded more than 60 years ago to promote economic development by financing new opportunities for entrepreneurs and business leaders in Central Kansas. Since the 1950s, the group has helped dozens of companies expand their operations, purchase new equipment, acquire real estate, and overcome barriers keeping them from growth and success. "More than 20 percent of small businesses fail in their first year, and 30% fail in the second year. CKDI exists to provide confidential financing, but also to help ensure the success of the businesses we partner with through mentorship," says Barry Bowers, CKDI Board President. "All of our volunteers live and work here, and we want to invest in the future of this community."

And in the case of Golden Belt Bicycle Company, CKDI was able to help with the initial purchase and inventory. Since last summer, Todd and Amanda VanSike have learned a lot about inventory management, bookkeeping, marketing, business forecasting, etc.

Golden Belt Bicycle Company is located at 1111 Main Street in downtown Great Bend and offers a wide variety of recreational and competitive bicycles for sale, as well as repairs and maintenance. Their retail location is open five days per week, with group rides and other local cycling events outside of those hours. For more information, look them up on social media or contact them at 620-793-7060.





WIN \$1,000 to Explore Great Bend!

\$500 2nd place

\$250 3rd place

**Businesses You'll
Want to Explore:**

November 2nd

Grow Great Bend Day - You know that shopping small helps grow our community. We will ask customers to give input and we will reward some lucky winners with gift cards!

November 9th

Open Houses - See new fall or holiday products and services. Take this opportunity to see what features and products our stores have this holiday season for you and all your gifting needs!

November 16th

Find A Turkey Day - Find the hidden turkey in the participating stores and you could win various discounts or prizes!

November 23rd

Share Your Favs Day - Go into your favorite participating store, find your favorite items, take pics of it and share it to your social media...you just might win extra store rewards!

November 29th

Black Friday - Doorbuster deals, great specials, wonderful bargains. Shop early, late or all day but be sure to get some of the best savings of the year from local businesses!

November 30th

Small Business Saturday, Cookie Contest & Home for the Holidays Parade! \$1000 Giveaway will be after the Parade that starts at 5:30pm in Downtown Great Bend!

Explore

GREAT BEND

Shop • Stay • Play



Contest Rules: There is no cost to register. You may register one time per business per day. Prize money must be spent at participating businesses. Store hours may vary.

A440 Music
Beautiful Beginnings
Bling Great Bend
Essential Elements
Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo
Great Bend Coffee
Kiowa Kitchen
Kustom Floor Designs
Miss Pretty Pickles/Heart of Kansas
Office Products, Inc
Poppy Petals Boutique
P&S Security
Renue Salon, Spa & Fashion Boutique
Rana Luna Boutique
Refined Medley
Rosewood Bargain Barn
Rosewood Furniture Gallery
Rosewood Wine Cellar
Sutherland Lumber Company
The Wright Place
That Hipster Place
Waters Hardware
Yours Truly Gift Store & Flower Shoppe

BARTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

FRIENDS

COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION

FEATURED
ARTISTS:
MANTRA CORA +
PHILIP JACOBSON

NOV. 1ST - DEC. 13TH

+ACQUAINTANCES

BILL J. MCKOWN ENDOWMENT
/GOLDEN BELT FOUNDATION

RADIO
KANSAS

89.5
FM
90.1
FM
90.9
FM

SHAFER
ART GALLERY

GIVING TUESDAY - A Day for Anyone, Anywhere to Give on Tuesday, December 3rd

Giving Tuesday started as a day for anyone, anywhere to give, and it's grown into the biggest giving movement in the world.

Giving Tuesday harnesses the generosity of millions of people around the world to support the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and fueled by the power of social media and collaboration, Giving Tuesday inspires millions of people across the globe to show up and give back to causes and issues that matter to them.

As an official partner and Giving Tuesday champion, Golden Belt Community Foundation inspires giving from all ages; and, invites the community to support the many local charities participating this year. Giving Tuesday is about people coming together doing extraordinary things. We believe we are better together, and that means giving together, too, this December 3rd.

MANY WAYS TO GIVE

Donations are accepted from November 1st through December 3rd, 2019. Visit www.goldenbeltcf.org for a Giving Form and list of participating organizations.

1. NEW! TEXT TO GIVE Text GOLDEN to 41411 to receive a link directly to the Giving Tuesday donation page
2. Give in-person at the GBCF office, 1307 Williams St., Great Bend, KS
3. Mail your donation to GBCF, P.O. Box 1911, Great Bend, KS 67530
4. Give online at www.goldenbeltcf.org
5. Give on December 3rd at any of the giving locations from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. See website for a list of locations

A \$10,000 match fund will be awarded in proportion to the total amount raised from November 1st through December 3rd. (For example, if Organization A raises 10% of all gifts received, then Organization A receives 10% of the matching funds pool. Organizations that have endowment funds with GBCF are eligible to receive matching funds.

Golden Belt Community Foundation joined the Giving Tuesday movement six years ago and promotes Giving Tuesday as a day where everyone gives and has opportunity to help build local endowment funds and help many community organizations. For questions about GBCF's Giving Tuesday campaign, please call (620) 792-3000 or email gbcf@goldenbeltcf.org.



USD 428 Education Foundation Celebrates 30 Years of Philanthropy

This year, the USD 428 Education Foundation is proudly observing its 30th anniversary of philanthropy in Great Bend. Since its inception in 1989, the organization has raised and donated more than \$370,000 to enhance education in the district.

The community is invited to attend the organizations' primary fundraiser, the Annual USD 428 Education Foundation Dinner and Auction. Scheduled for Thursday, November 14 at the Great Bend Events Center, the evening begins at 6:30pm with a social hour and will include entertainment provided by members Great Bend High School Orchestra. The "walking buffet" dinner allows guests to mingle while enjoying savory and sweet items from some of Great Bend's best restaurants and caterers. The evening will include both a silent and live auction comprised of items handcrafted by GBHS students, as well as unique experiences created for Panther enthusiasts of all ages.

Reservations can be made by calling Andrea Bauer, USD 428 public information director at 620-793-1500. Tickets are \$50 per person and corporate sponsorships are also available.

The USD 428 Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization and exists to support innovative instruction in USD 428.

Tammy Hammond & Rosewood Services Named Woman Owned Business of the Year by the State of Kansas

Tammy Hammond and Rosewood Services were honored in Topeka on Oct. 10 by the Kansas Department of Commerce as the recipient of the 2019 Woman Owned Business of the Year in Service Industry.

The award recognizes Rosewood's outstanding achievement in business under Hammond's leadership, along with the business's significance related to employment, economic benefit, and support to the local community.

David Toland, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce, addressed the event audience stating there are more than 77,000 women-owned businesses in Kansas. "These businesses are an integral part of the Kansas economy," he stated. "We greatly value the contributions these businesses and advocates provide to our state, from the jobs they create to the way they enrich communities and lives. On behalf of Governor Kelly, the Department of Commerce and citizens across the state, thank you for keeping our economy strong and vibrant."

Hammond accepted the award, surrounded by family, along with several Rosewood employees, state and local officials, and business colleagues. "It is an honor to be selected for this award, but the tireless daily effort of all who work at Rosewood is what makes this moment possible," said Hammond, addressing the keys to success for her company.

"I believe the culture we work daily to create and maintain in our business plays a huge role in our success," she continued. "We can develop plans, have vision, and create opportunities, but without a culture of respect for each other and those we are privileged to serve, it would be a constant struggle, and would produce few results. Whether it is a business or a community, a culture of respect for others is the foundation for growth."

Rosewood Services was founded by Hammond in 1998 and has grown into one of Barton County's largest employers, employing more than 250 people, plus supporting employment for more than 150 additional individuals with disabilities. Rosewood has also grown into one of the largest service providers to individuals with developmental disabilities in the State of Kansas by offering creative services and employment opportunities. For more information about Rosewood call 620-793-5888, or visit www.rosewoodservices.com.



Eagle Radio Announces Holiday Shopping Spree Promotion

Again this Holiday Season, Eagle Communications and their advertisers will be giving someone a chance to spend \$10,000 just in time for Christmas. Presenting sponsors for The Shop at Home for Holidays \$10,000 Shopping Spree are Bauer Computers and Moeder Plumbing Heating and Air conditioning. Over 20 additional advertisers are participating in the promotion. Eagle Promotion Director Shannon Stafford explains that the winner will have \$10,000 to spend with those advertisers. Listeners can qualify to become a finalist by registering at any of the participating sponsors, and by attending special Instant Finalists Days. All the finalists will then gather the morning of Dec. 14th at the Knights of Columbus for the giveaway. Stafford says "Thanks to our Presenting sponsors and advertisers, we're able to do a promotion of this magnitude in a market our size." Listen to the Eagle Radio Stations or visit the Great Bend Post for more details and Instant Finalist Days.



6th Annual Jeans Day for United Way

Jeans Day for United Way is happening **Wednesday, November 13th** this year! With a \$1 donation to the United Way of Central Kansas all employees in the area are encouraged to wear jeans. Show the community how much your business and employees care by participating in this easy fundraiser that helps to support 22 local non-profit organizations.



Sponsored by:

The Buckle, Sally Mauler Mgr.
1313 Main Street, Great Bend
Contact Them: 620-793-9338

Buckle 
buckle.com

Additional Information About United Way "Dress Down the Town" Nov. 13

Get the word out to your employees that for a \$1.00 donation they can wear jeans on November 13th. They will then be entered into your businesses drawing for a chance to win a free pair of Buckle jeans. They can earn more chances to win with every \$1.00 they donate (if they donate \$5, they can enter the business drawing 5 times).

United Way will provide stickers for your employees to wear, drawing slips, and a tracking sheet. Please provide UWCK with the number of items needed. All money earned by your company will be applied to your Pacesetter total. All proceeds raised will benefit United Way of Central Kansas agencies.

Each business will hold a drawing of all their participants and select one name to be turned into United Way. We will then hold the final drawing at The Buckle to determine the winner of the free jeans. Must be present to win. Drawing will be held on Thursday, December 5th at 6:00 pm.

Please return the tracking sheet no later than November, 22nd for your employee to be entered in the drawing for the jeans.

For more information contact UWCK at 620-792-2403, email admin@uwck.org, or stop in and see us at 1125 Williams St, Great Bend. Join the [Facebook event](#) for more details!

LIVE UNITED



United Way of Central Kansas

Get Your Co-Workers Involved / Request a Starter Kit from United Way

Contact United Way at 620-792-2403 or email admin@uwck.org to request a starter kit of stickers your office can sell to employees for a \$1 donation. Everyone that participates is entered to win the Buckle jeans!

HIGHLIGHTED NOVEMBER EVENTS IN GREAT BEND

- 1... Explore Great Bend: Grow Great Bend Day, Participating Businesses
- 2... TBRI Caregiver Training, BCC Room F30 @9AM
- 2... Barton Men & Women's Basketball @5:30PM
- 2... PVCH Foundation "An Evening in Paris", 923 Carroll Ave., Larned @6PM
- 2... Scooter's Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting**
- 4... Barton Planetarium, "Adventure", BCC Planetarium @7PM
- 5... Adult Life Skills: Stress Management, Public Library @6:30PM
- 7... Ribbon Cutting: Edward Jones - Kris Sundahl, 2016 19th St. @9AM**
- 7... Chamber Coffee: SS Graphics, 2114 Washington St., Program @9:30AM**
- 7... BCC Center for Adult Education Open House, 1025 Main St. @3PM
- 7... Great Bend Fire Department Spaghetti Feed, Columbus Club, 723 Main St. @5PM
- 7... Great Bend - Better Than Great Master Plan Unveiling, Events Center @7PM**
- 9... Explore Great Bend: Open Houses, Participating Businesses
- 9... Dominican Sisters Bazaar, 3600 Broadway Ave., 7AM-1:30PM
- 9... Panther Paw Craft Festival, 2027 Morton St., 9:30AM-2:30PM
- 9... Dilly & Doc Open House/Open Studio, 1119 Main St., 10AM-3PM
- 9... Guardians of the Santa Fe Trail, Public Library @Noon
- 11... Veteran's Day
- 11... Barton Men & Women's Basketball @5:30PM
- 11... Barton Planetarium, "Cosmology", BCC Planetarium @7PM
- 14... Chamber Coffee: Ellinwood Hospital Foundation, 605 N Main St. Program @9:30AM**
- 14... USD 428 Education Foundation Annual Dinner & Auction, Events Center @6:30PM
- 14-16... GBCT Production: Church Basement Ladies, BCC Fine Arts Building @7:30PM (Sun@2:30PM)
- 15... Barton Men & Women's Basketball @5:30PM
- 15... Barton Theatre Production: "Alice in Wonderland," Barton Planetarium @6:30PM (Sat@2PM)
- 16... Explore Great Bend: Find a Turkey Day, Participating Businesses
- 16... Opening of Christmas Craft Mall, Central Baptist Church, 3301 Lakin Ave. @9AM
- 16... TBRI Caregiver Training, BCC Room F30 @9AM
- 18... Barton Planetarium, "Physics Magic Show", BCC Planetarium @7PM
- 19... Central Kansas Partnership Meeting, Barton County Health Department, 1300 Kansas Ave #B @11am
- 21... Chamber Coffee: Eldridge Fencing, 80 10th St. Program @9:30AM**
- 21... Adult Life Skills: Resumes & Interviews, Public Library @6PM
- 21... BCC Instrumental Concert, Fine Arts Auditorium @7:30PM
- 23... Explore Great Bend: Share Your Faves Day, Participating Businesses
- 23... Water's Hardware Holiday Open House, 1649 W K-96, all day
- 23... UKHS Lab Fair, 514 Cleveland St. @6AM
- 24... Water's Hardware Holiday Open House Live Reindeer, 1649 W K-96, @3PM
- 28... Thanksgiving
- 29... Explore Great Bend: Black Friday, Participating Businesses
- 30... Explore Great Bend: Small Business Saturday, Cookie Contest & Home for the Holidays Parade!

Recurring Events:

Great Bend City Council Meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, City Hall, 1209 Williams St @6:30pm
Barton County Commission Meetings, Every Monday, Courthouse, 1400 Main St, Rm 106 @9am
Visit greatbend.org/events/calendar for a full list of great events taking place throughout the month!

Results from the 14th Annual Gary Gore Memorial Golf Tournament

Championship Flight

- 1st Place: MPIRE Realty Group (Aaron Andrews, Mac Holman, Martin Cairney,
- 2nd Place: Jerry Ney, Mike Schettler, Craig Smith, Mark Connell
- 3rd Place: Moeder Plumbing (Alan Moeder, Tony Chambers, Kelby Titus, Kenny Alefs

Second Flight

- 1st Place: Kevin Sundahl, Shawn Panzer, Jim Vopat, Neil Werth
- 2nd Place: Kenny Vink, Craig Vink, Steve Black, Steve Johnson
- 3rd Place: JD Rein, Brad Brack, Dennis Sherman, Scott Brack

Thanks to our event sponsors!

- Nex-Tech
- Wheatland Electric
- Nex-Tech Wireless
- The University of Kansas Health System



Deanna Vannoster Takes Over Hoisington State Farm Insurance Office



Beginning September 1, Deanna Vannoster began serving Central Kansas as the new State Farm Agent. Completing her internship with State Farm, and embracing her new role after previous Agent, Kathy Burt's retirement. Deanna is honored to serve the insurance and financial product needs of our community. A 12-year Barton County resident, Deanna and her husband, Gregg call Central Kansas home. Together they enjoy the outdoor opportunities that Central Kansas has to offer. Deanna was previously a retail banking center manager, local home improvement sales representative, and an insurance professional. She is passionate about providing personalized service and is committed to truly putting her customers' needs first. She is actively involved in community events and in her church, and was previously a member of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. She is excited to be joining State Farm and has found the company's values closely align with her own; helping people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams.

Deanna is joined by her two team members, Hilarey Samora and Krista Wright. Hilarey and Krista are fully licensed and able to meet all of their customers' needs. They, too, are passionate about putting their customers first and being customers' advocate in providing the protection they need. The team are active participants in community events, so it's likely to see them out and about! Deanna, Hilarey, and Krista can be reached by a visit the agency 165 S Main St in Hoisington, by phone 620-653-2332, or by visiting our website www.deannavannoster.com. Please like and follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/deannavannosteragent/> for agency happenings and insurance industry tips and information.

Aster Estates Offers New Senior Living Option - Opens this Fall in Great Bend

About a week after Pam Lewis retired from Cherry Village, a long-term-care residence in Great Bend, her 97-year-old mother fell and broke her arm. Doris Johansen, who is now 98, stayed in a nursing home for a short time but when she returned home Lewis moved in with her. "Mom didn't need 24/7 nursing care but needed help with meals, laundry, housekeeping and other day-to-day tasks," Lewis said. "I soon realized that other people are in similar situations."

One thing led to another and Lewis will open Aster Estates this fall at 155 NW 10th Ave., a short distance from the city limits on the west side of North McKinley.

Lewis, a registered nurse, and her mom plan to make their home at Aster Estates, which provides a "living style that promotes and supports independence, with caring professionals and para-professionals on staff," Lewis said. "This model of care is often referred to as 'home plus.'"

"We are hiring several care professionals to help with tasks that don't require a registered nurse. Our nurse's aides, medication aides, and a licensed practical nurse or RN will always be on hand to help.

Aster Estates' residential capacity is eight people in the almost 3,600 square feet of living space. The basement, which has more than 2,600 square feet, will be home to staff offices. To enjoy all amenities, residents must be ambulatory on their own or with a walker, and be able to stand and walk with minimal assistance. Everyone will have a private suite; most suites have either full baths or half baths. The home, including all bathrooms, has been extensively remodeled.

Other Aster Estates features include: three home-cooked meals a day, and snacks; a swimming pool for water aerobics and relaxation with supervision; outdoor pool table and firepit; and large outdoor sitting/activity area. "We encourage people to join in activities and get involved in helping with meal preparation, if they are so inclined," Lewis said. "However, we understand that sometimes residents just want their privacy. We respect that too."

In addition, staff members are available to take residents to medical appointments. "We realize that family members don't always live close by," Lewis commented. "If the resident chooses, we will provide transportation and attend appointments to ask questions and alleviate the stress of doctors' visits."

Lewis retired from Cherry Village in July of 2018. "It became difficult to focus on resident care as a stand-alone non-profit facility. I felt as if the volumes of regulations were forcing me to choose between residents' needs and regulations."

Lewis and her family have been involved in the care of elders for nearly 50 years. Aster Estates is licensed by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. "Yes, the state will monitor us, as it should," Lewis said. "But the federal government is not making decisions about how people in Great Bend live their lives."

Erin Lewis, Pam's daughter-in-law, worked at Cherry Village and is now the business manager at Aster Estates.

"We want everyone to feel at home; that is the most important thing," Erin said. "We don't want anyone to feel like they have been stuck somewhere without having a purpose in life. This is a setting as much like home as we can possibly make it."

Remodeling began soon after the purchase of the house in February. An architect and designer were involved, and Just In Time Remodeling, 1311 Williams, has handled the job from start to finish. "They have been great to work with and the house is so light and airy now," Erin commented. "We have all collaborated to marry the comfort of home with individualized care and service. Each resident will enjoy personal attention."

When the remodeling project is complete, the residence will be professionally cleaned from top to bottom. For more information about residency, contact Erin Lewis by calling 620-282-3733.



Sunflower Div. Remodels Recycling Center

The recent remodeling project at Sunflower Recycling has given the staff extra elbow room in a more efficient setting. Sunflower Diversified Services operates the drop-off site at 5523 10th, Great Bend, as part of its multi-faceted recycling operation.

The non-profit agency serves people with intellectual disabilities and delays in central Kansas. Sixty-one clients at Sunflower work in recycling. "We wanted to make the setting more efficient for the staff and customers at the drop-off site," said Jon Prescott, Sunflower executive director. "We expect the operation to grow and want to be better prepared."

"For example, we are looking at the possibility of new equipment to enable us to process more glass."

The remodeling project included: moving excess items to storage at the recycling processing plant near the airport; and the installation of an industrial water cooler for better climate control. "Our major recycling goal is to create more jobs for clients," Prescott said. "Many of the folks we serve are able to work and want to work for their own paychecks."

Currently, an average of 100 vehicles visit the center on 10th Street each day. However, this is only part of the recycling operation. Sunflower also offers a drop-off trailer at 18th and Williams, and serves hundreds of businesses on pickup routes. The materials are taken to the processing plant for shipment. "Any extra revenue we make from this operation goes directly to the people we serve," Prescott noted. "This could be in the form of new jobs, services and equipment. Every penny stays in our local five-county service area."

The executive director also pointed out that a board of directors governs the non-profit agency and determines how funds are spent. "Our great volunteer board always looks for ways to increase revenues in recycling and other areas so we can enhance services," Prescott said. "Board members are good stewards of tax dollars and crucial private donations that allow us to serve children and adults."

"As a non-profit entity, Sunflower does not have stockholders who expect dividend checks. The only stockholders we have are the people we serve."

Sunflower became responsible for all recycling management and daily operations in January 2000. The drop-off center's hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.



OPI Extends Reach Into Hays; Opens Fourth Retail Location

The newest member of the Office Products Inc. (OPI) family will open its doors in Hays at 1218 E. 27th on Nov. 1, extending the reach of the Great Bend-based, family-owned business. OPI has been in business for six decades in Great Bend and also has stores in Larned and Russell.

Kenny and Terry Vink, who are brothers, co-own the new location; they collaborated on the venture with their brother, Craig. "We always look for ways to grow our business," said Kenny Vink. "Our family has served central Kansans for more than 60 years and we have a strong core business. But if a business doesn't grow it stagnates."

The new store in Hays will offer many of the same products and services as the locations in Great Bend and other communities. These include: sales and service for Canon, HP and Brother copiers and printers; office furniture; custom office design; and a wide variety of office supplies.

"We will continue this legacy and grow for our employees and the communities we serve."



Celebrating 100 Years of Women Voting A Traveling Exhibit by the League of Women Voters

A traveling exhibit that brings to life the history of the women's suffrage movement in Kansas will visit towns across the state over the next 14 months in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Brought to you by the League of Women Voters of Kansas and its Centennial Celebration Committee, "Learning from the Past, Imagining the Future," is the theme of the seven-paneled "mobile museum."

Visitors will become acquainted with some of the historic women who led the women's right to vote movement in the early 20th century. Beginning with Clarina Nichols in the late 1800s, women in Kansas fought for decades to ensure their inclusion in civic life. Kansas was on the leading edge as women could vote in all elections in Kansas in 1912, eight years before the 19th Amendment extended that right to the rest of the country.

The exhibit also traces the history following 1920, including the influence of African-American and Native American women, who had an integral part in the process even as the right to vote did not include them until much later. Illustrating the difference women's involvement in the political process has made in the lives of all Kansans through the present day, the exhibit's final panel issues a call to action to vote in every election.

Funded in part by a grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, the Kansas Health Foundation and Humanities Kansas also provided generous donations to "Learning from the Past, Imagining the Future." Kansas-owned businesses, universities, and individuals across the state also helped make this exhibit possible.



Locations in Great Bend include:

- **December 1-7: Barton Community College Library**
A public reception will be held on Sunday December 1st at 2:00 PM in the Barton Library. Please contact Krystall Barnes at 620-792-9332 for more information.
- **December 9-14: Great Bend High School Library** - 2027 Morton St.
- **December 16-21: Great Bend Public Library** - 1409 Williams St.

For More information, contact:

Janice Walker, League of Women Voters
Email: janicew1949@gmail.com

Scooter's Coffee Opens New Location in Great Bend

Scooter's Coffee, best known for its convenient drive-thru specialty coffee and baked-from-scratch pastries, added a new location to the state of Kansas with the company's debut store in Great Bend on 10th & Grant (3501 10th Street).



With the Scooter's Coffee app, customers earn 3 "Smiles" for every dollar spent, and once they reach 180 Smiles, they earn a free drink. All customers start in the Scooter Doodle status level, with perks that include a free drink on their birthday and one surprise reward per month, exclusive to the mobile app only. After earning 500 Smiles, customers move into the Caramelicious® status level with additional perks, including another surprise reward each month.

To pay with the app, customers simply need to link a credit card and tap "Pay in Stores" from the home screen. Then, if they choose to tip, they can select a custom amount or percentage prior to scanning their app. Customers also have the option to pay with cash or a gift card and still earn loyalty through the app by using the "Scan to Earn Loyalty" Only QR code.

The new location is owned and operated by Donny and Lindsay Huber. The Huber's also plan to open a location in Liberal by year end. "Lindsay and I were born and raised in Garden City and just recently opened our first Scooter's Coffee location there," said Donny. "Now opening our second location in Great Bend, it's been amazing seeing the overwhelming support in both communities. We chose Scooter's because their core values align perfectly with ours, and we can't wait to share them within the communities we will be serving."

Scooter's Coffee is a drive-thru franchise that has been serving world-class coffee for more than 20 years and has more than 220 locations in 15 states across the nation.

Rube's Heating & Air Conditioning Receives Distinguished Dealer Award

Rube's Heating and Air Conditioning of Great Bend was recently presented with the Trane Company Distinguished Dealer Award for 2018.

Rube's has received the Distinguished Dealer Award for more than 30

years, representing Trane. The award was presented in recognition of the company's continued growth, dedication to Trane and community involvement.

Brian Pedigo, owner of Rube's, accepted the award on behalf of all of their employees, stating, "An award such as this is a reflection of the entire organization. We are dedicated to providing the best in home comfort to all of our friends and neighbors. We don't just sell heating and cooling. We provide comfort and peace of mind."

Scott Percival, territory manager for the O'Connor Co., the Trane distributor, stated, "Once again the team at Rube's, who has been in business in Great Bend for 86 years, has displayed the very best in providing customer comfort and satisfaction. I am extremely privileged to once again present this award to Brian, Carie and their fine organization."



Banquet Room for Perkins / The Page Newly Remodeled & Ready for Events

Just in time for the upcoming holiday season, The Page and Perkins Restaurant & Bakery Banquet Room has undergone a complete remodel and renovation! Book those holiday parties now in the new updated facility by contacting Christy Turner, Banquet Coordinator. Christy can be reached at ourbanquetrooms@gmail.com.



15-Year Journey Makes for Memorable Rosewood Rodeo

Fond memories were abundant at this year's Rosewood Rodeo, held at Great Bend Expo III Arena last Saturday. It marked the 15th consecutive October that Rosewood held its therapeutic rodeo for people with developmental disabilities. More than 30 equine therapy riders from Rosewood Ranch took part in the milestone rodeo, including five horse riders who have participated in every Rosewood Rodeo since the inaugural one in 2005.

Competing in their 15th Rosewood Rodeo were Robin Bethel, Shaun Ledesma, Jere McCutchen, Mary Minear, and Josh Trimmer. They were joined this year by participants Crystal Alkire, Pam Babcock, Kammi Bennett, Keith Boyer, Darren Brown, Vance Cornwell, Chris Devine, Jonathan Folkerts, Codie Hardie, Taylor Hertach, Ashley Hullet, Johnathan Howe, DJ Johnson, Rita Mestas, Tyler Michaelis, Samantha Purcell, Josh Rader, Angie Rogers, Josh Trimmer, Andy Schultz, Dawn Specht, Abbey Stanley, Debbie Wasinger, and Jim Wonsetler.

All rodeo riders participate in equine therapy throughout the year at Rosewood Ranch, which exists to help people with disabilities, and is located approximately five miles north of Pawnee Rock. The rodeo is the day they get to showcase their abilities to family and friends.

Immediately following the rodeo, awards were presented. Keith Boyer earned the medal for "Best Cowboy Spirit;" Josh Trimmer was named "Most Improved Rider," and Tyler Michaelis won the "Most Inspirational Leader" award.

Ribbons were presented to participants for Trails, along with Barrel and Horsemanship events. The clients competed in three levels, depending on

their riding ability: rider with lead and side-walker, rider with lead, and independent rider.

This year's rodeo was made possible with the help of 18 sponsors.



United Way Campaign Update

United Way of Central Kansas hosted their 4th annual Reality U event at Great Bend Middle School. Nearly 250 8th grade students from GBMS and CKCA participated in this event that actively engages the students to help them understand the importance of education to their financial future. It also engages the community in supporting student learning and developing their understanding of the world of work.

This event would not be possible without the support of our sponsors; Adams, Brown, Beran, & Ball, Benefit Management, LLC, City of Great Bend, Credit Union of America, Farmers Bank & Trust, First Kansas Bank, Marmie Auto Group, MPIRE Realty, Nex-Tech, Nex-Tech Wireless, Spectrum CPA, University of Kansas Health Systems-Great Bend, and Wheatland Electric. Numerous individuals and organizations also assist with this program by speaking throughout the day to the students in the breakout sessions, and the Great Bend Middle School Booster Club will be providing lunch for all the volunteers.

In order to continue bringing events such as Reality U to Central Kansas, as well as supporting our 22 Community Partners we are asking our supporters to participate in Giving Tuesday this year! You can make a world of difference on GivingTuesday by choosing to donate to UWCK through the Golden Belt Community Foundation.

On Giving Tuesday, you'll have the chance to be part of something that's bigger than yourself. GivingTuesday is a global day of generosity fueled by social media and collective giving. Its impact is felt in every corner of the world. And, when you give, you truly have the power to change the world.

On Dec. 3, every single act of volunteerism or donation to United Way will be amplified by the sheer number of people joining in.

Together we can strengthen communities. Help people thrive through education, jobs and health. And change lives forever. If you've never taken part in GivingTuesday, this is your year to do a world of good. Mark your calendar to give on December 3rd! Follow UWCK on Facebook or check out our website for more information about how to give, www.uwck.org.



CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions

Awards Grants to Deserving Organizations

CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions awarded several local organizations with a grant from their endowment fund, the CPI Great Bend and Barton County Donor Advised Fund, held at Golden Belt Community Foundation. These organizations were presented with a check and thanked for their contributions to our communities.

The CPI Great Bend and Barton County Donor Advised Fund was established in 2009 through the Golden Belt Community Foundation when CUNA Mutual Group acquired CPI Qualified Plan Consultants, Inc. (CPI) and made a generous donation establishing the corporate grantmaking fund. Since then, the fund has grown and CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions' Philanthropy committee members continue to review projects that will benefit Barton County.

To involve its employees in giving and to simplify the giving process, CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions chose to manage its giving through a donor-advised fund at the Golden Belt Community Foundation. Corporate donor-advised funds allow a company to make a charitable gift, establish a fund in the company's name, and remain involved by recommending grants to charitable agencies or projects. Each year employees accept grant applications and make grant recommendations to the foundation Board of Directors regarding the charitable agencies or projects they wish to benefit. With each grant awarded, CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions will further its corporate philanthropy and community involvement.

CUNA Mutual Retirement Solutions requested online grant proposals for funding with the intent of providing assistance to a local cause. Since the fund was established in 2009, it has paid out more than \$135,000 to Barton County organizations. They received several applications from deserving area organizations and three nonprofits were selected for funding.

Clara Barton Hospital was awarded \$4,350 to help provide a course redesign and upgrade to the current Disc Golf course in Hoisington. The Hoisington Recreation Commission supports this project and has contributed \$5,000. The grant will help provide 9 new Dynamic Discs Veteran baskets, 9 new disc tee signs as well as some new course signage. A professional designer will be used to redesign the layout of the current outdated course. The course will be designed to be safe, environmentally friendly and tournament ready. Dynamic Discs who designed the course at Vets Park will be used for this project to ensure the course layouts complement each other.

Friends of Recovery was awarded \$2,500 to provide a part-time program coordinator in Great Bend to help open new houses and support the house with case management, including mediation and education. Specifically, this will include understanding Medication Assisted Treatment, new member orientation, trauma informed care workshops, parenting classes to the Oxford Houses and education to the community on addiction, recovery and the Oxford Houses. The Oxford Houses serve the homeless and near-homeless who are in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction with transitional housing.

Barton County Emergency Aid was awarded \$4,618 to support rent and utility assistance along with aid to the homeless and transients. Financial support is also given to RSVP to aid in transport of those in need to appointments. The goal of emergency aid is to provide aid to those who are in an 'emergency state' of being evicted due to inability to pay rent or utilities being shut off due to nonpayment. Assistance is also offered to the homeless and transients.





JOIN US FOR WEEKLY *Networking Coffees*

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

November 7, 2019

SS GRAPHICS

2114 Washington Avenue in Great Bend

Join us at SS Graphics, owned by Heather Nicolet and learn how they can customize thousands of items for any occasion and any budget. Office or home, SS graphics is your one-stop shop for customization of clothing, drinkware, gifts, promo items and more!

November 14, 2019

ELLINWOOD HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

605 N. Main Street in Ellinwood

Ellinwood Hospital Foundation is a non-profit, philanthropic organization dedicated to the improvement of healthcare, through the services of Ellinwood Hospital and Clinic and its cooperating organizations. Learn more about the exciting new services offered in Ellinwood, and see the facility improvements being made!

November 21, 2019

ELDRIDGE FENCING, INC.

80 E. 10th Street in Great Bend

Eldridge Fencing started in 1994 in the family garage and within a year needed more room. In 2005 we moved to a 800 sq. ft. fencing superstore complete with showroom, vinyl and metal shops plus a yard that has allowed for almost triple the inventory and selection. We have an Outdoor Cooking showroom displaying our three grill lines, meat processing products, spice & sauce lines, and grill accessories. Come see us!

November 28, 2019

THANKSGIVING - NO CHAMBER COFFEE

Enjoy the Holidays with Loved Ones!

There will be no Chamber Coffee due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Chamber Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th so our staff can enjoy the holiday with their families. We will resume normal business operations on Monday, December 2nd.

December 5, 2019

FAMILY CRISIS CENTER

1924 Broadway in Great Bend

The Family Crisis Center, Inc., based in Great Bend, Kansas, provides advocacy and support to all survivors and secondary victims of domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect while encouraging social change through awareness, education and prevention. From our 24-hour crisis hotline to supportive services to professional training, we offer hope and healing for families experiencing domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect.